

S 1442

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

February 2, 1987

ROBERT GATES TO BE DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, we have learned the sad news that William Casey is stepping down as the Director of Central Intelligence Agency, although it is not perhaps surprising since he has undergone medical care that requires a longer convalescence than would permit a continuation of his position as DCI and permit his absence from that position for such an extended time. The President has indicated he will appoint Mr. Robert Gates, the present Deputy, as the new Director.

I would rise simply to note that in 1984, as the period of our terms as chairman and vice chairman respectively of the Senate Intelligence Committee drew to a close, Barry Goldwater, our beloved friend of so many years in this Chamber, and I jointly introduced a bill that provided that henceforth the Director of CIA should be a person who has been a career civilian or military intelligence officer.

It was our thought that the problems of political associations in the directorship worked to the disadvantage of the community and, indeed, ultimately and often to the disadvantage of the President who needs as much as possible an absolutely neutral career adviser in that post.

The choice of Mr. Gates is the choice of such a person. I welcome that.

I would note that although Senator Goldwater has, of course, left, on the first day of this 100th Congress I introduced S. 43, the identical bill, indicating nothing more than we felt two things had happened: One, the time had come that there was a large number of career intelligence officers, both civilian and military, from which one could choose such a director.

This was not the case in 1947 when the Defense Act of that year established the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency.

From time to time we have had career officers. Rear Adm. Roscoe Hillen Koepter was such an officer, a very distinguished one, the very first one in such an agency. Rather surprisingly, though you might think it would move the other way, at first the very political persons would have come in because of the absence of career officers, and then later more career officers.

Of late, we have seen more political than career officers in that position. I do not think that this always served the best interests of the intelligence community, nor did my colleague, Chairman Barry Goldwater. So, to see this come about, to see come about a development that we had thought might be necessary to legislate, is welcome.

It is also, perhaps, suggesting that the legislation is, even so, in order. You might suggest that the President himself has reached a not dissimilar

conclusion for the purposes, of course, of only this one appointment; but it might indicate a general movement of opinion in the executive branch not different from that which was expressed here by Senator Goldwater and myself.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair for his courtesy in giving me the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Minnesota seeks recognition.

The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

Mr. DURENBERGER. Mr. President, I will be glad to yield a couple of minutes to my colleague from Pennsylvania who I suspect has some special references.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator from Minnesota for yielding.

NOMINATION OF ROBERT GATES AS DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. DURENBERGER. Mr. President, I rise today as we learn that our intelligence community and America is experiencing a changing of the guard. Mr. William Casey, who has been Director of Central Intelligence since 1981, who may have been the longest serving Director of Central Intelligence had it not been for his recent illness, has resigned from that position.

Since Bill Casey entered the hospital last December for removal of a brain tumor, we have all prayed for a swift and complete recovery. We are told that Mr. Casey is progressing well since his surgery; for that we are all thankful.

Mr. Casey became the Director of Central Intelligence at a time when more was demanded of the intelligence community of this country than ever before. The Director became the major player in such areas as counterterrorism and drug interdiction in addition to the normal intelligence requirements. He did not, as some insist, solicit this business. It was delivered because of the special and unique capacity of the intelligence community under Bill Casey's leadership. Technological advances continued at a rapid pace. The requirements for timely and accurate intelligence increased while collection of such intelligence has become increasingly difficult and resources are more constrained than ever.

My membership on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence spanned all of Bill Casey's tenure as DCI. From his initial appointment until less than 1 month ago, I witnessed his stewardship of our intelligence community first hand. I saw many successes that others will not and cannot see, successes that would have not been possible without the diligence and commitment of his effort. The agreement between the executive and legislative branches on the need for a national intelligence strategy, which lays out requirements and goals for intelligence policy, was a striking success. The quality of analysis within the CIA has improved substantially under Casey's tenure. When I first came to the Select Committee on Intelligence in 1978, we were discussing how to avoid intelligence failures such as those experienced in analyzing events in the Shah's Iran and

Somoza's Nicaragua. We have not had comparable failures under Mr. Casey.

Bill Casey deserves much credit for his leadership of the intelligence community during a dynamic and complex 6 years. Under his leadership, morale throughout the intelligence community is far better now than when he took over. Through his tireless support of the people who are our most precious intelligence asset, Bill Casey re-instilled a sense of pride in those who have dedicated their lives to the intelligence profession. Through his patient and painstaking work, he restored the national and international credibility of our intelligence agencies.

Bill Casey earned my respect for his performance as DCI. As our intelligence community moves toward the 21st century, his contributions will continue to make a substantial mark. I am sure I speak for many when I voice my hope that his recovery will continue to proceed rapidly and we look forward to his future contributions in American public life.

President Reagan accepted DCI Casey's resignation with regret and quickly moved to nominate Robert Gates as Mr. Casey's successor. Robert Gates first joined the CIA 20 years ago; his confirmation as DCI would make him the first CIA career official to hold that position in over a decade. Mr. Gates has been acting DCI during Casey's absence; he has been Deputy Director of Central Intelligence since April 1986. Bob Gates was confirmed for that post while I was chairman of Select Committee on Intelligence. At his confirmation hearing, I pointed out the major strength he brought to the position of DDCI: His ability to state the facts as he knew them regardless of the political environment. That is an essential quality in any professional intelligence officer. Bob Gates has handled his responsibilities well, demonstrating commitment, integrity, and ability.

As I was convinced that Bob Gates was an excellent choice for Deputy Director last April, today I am convinced that he will be an effective Director of Central Intelligence. At the helm of one of the most sensitive positions in Government, Bob Gates will assume the responsibilities for guiding at a time when his ability to insure its accountability to Congress, and to the American people is most important.

I wish him the best during the nomination process, and trust he will be confirmed without delay. I am pleased to offer my congratulations to Bob Gates for his nomination, to the President for his thoughtfulness in making the recommendation, and look forward to Mr. Gates' meeting of the challenges facing U.S. intelligence in the late 1980's.

Mr. President, I thank you and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New York is recognized.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I wish to join my distinguished col-

league and friend from Minnesota in welcoming the President's nomination of Mr. Gates to be the Director of Central Intelligence.

As I remarked earlier, toward the end of the period which Senator Goldwater served as chairman and I served as vice chairman of the Intelligence Committee, we jointly introduced legislation that provided that this position, Director of Intelligence, should be given to a career civilian or military intelligence officer. I reintroduced this legislation on the first day of this Congress. It reflected our judgment of what was best for the intelligence community and, in the end, of course, the only criterion could be what best served the President and the Congress, as well.

The tendency in recent Presidencies—and it goes a long way back—to turn to political advisers to direct a basically nonpolitical organization has not been effective. I do not think it has served the President.

So, I welcome the President's decision to turn to the career service. I found him extraordinarily able and dedicated, and a man who has risen at an early age to phenomenal heights, to what is a large bureaucracy and necessity.

I think the confidence which the distinguished Senator from Minnesota has expressed would be shared by any of us who has worked with Mr. Gates and certainly is shared by me. I am happy to see, once again, we are in convergent views in matters of this kind.

Thank you, Mr. President. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.