Speech - June 8, 1999
Armed Services Committee
Nomination of General Shinseki
As I said, when I was there one week ago with General Jackson, General Clark, Admiral Ellis, and other military colleagues, it is clear that the magnitude of the uncertainty relating to the landmines and booby traps, and indeed the problems associated with moving the Serb forces out, pose a challenge that, in many respects, has never been faced by a U.S. military force. But I have confidence in those commanders and in the men and women who will boldly undertake this task.

So I wish to just pay my humble respects, and I will follow this operation very clearly, in terms of our duties in the Senate and on the Armed Services Committee and, most assuredly, in our prayers for their safety and for the safety of those Kosovars who were driven from their homes and now have hope to once again return.

**NOMINATIONS OF GENERAL SHINSEKI AND GENERAL JONES**

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, the Armed Services Committee met yesterday under the advise and consent role with respect to General Shinseki to be Chief of Staff of the United States Army, and General Jones to become Commandant of the Marine Corps. I want to say with the deepest personal reverence that in my 21 years in the Senate, I cannot recall ever being moved as strongly by the remarks of a fellow Senator as I was yesterday when the senior Senator from Hawaii, Mr. INOUYE, addressed the Armed Services Committee and introduced General Shinseki.

While I would like to read these remarks, it is better that they just be printed in the RECORD. I urge all Senators to examine these remarks. They are extraordinary. They come from the heart of a Senator who has served his country with the greatest distinction, and his praise for a fellow Hawaiian who came up under circumstances not unlike his, although removed by a generation or so.

I ask unanimous consent to have the remarks of Senator INOUYE printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**STATEMENT OF HONORABLE DANIEL K. INOUYE, U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII**

Senator INOUYE. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to say a few words in behalf of our President's nominee for the 34th Chief of Staff of the United States Army, General Shinseki. General Shinseki began his military career as a commissioned officer 34 years ago, almost exactly, on June 9, 1965. He received his commission as a Second Lieutenant after receiving a baccalaureate degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point.

After a few weeks of preparation, he was sent to Vietnam in his first tour of duty there he distinguished himself, and he received his first purple heart. He was sent back to the States to be hospitalized, and a few years later he was back in Vietnam. On his second tour of duty there as a captain he once again distinguished himself, but he was wounded very seriously, losing part of his foot.

Notwithstanding that, he applied for a waiver and requested that he be given the opportunity to continue his service to our Nation. This was granted, and he continued his illustrious career, and in 1997 became a four-star General. As Chairman Warner indicated, in March of 1998 he was made Commanding General of the First Cavalry Division.

In July 1997 he became Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army in Europe, and Commander-in-Chief of the Seventh Army. He also was Commander of the Stabilization Force on Bosnia.

As indicated by Chairman Warner, there is no question that General Shinseki is eminently qualified for this, and if I may at this juncture be a bit more personal, this is a special day for many of us in the United States. In February of 1942, the United States Selective Service System, because of the hysteria of that time, that all Japanese, citizens or otherwise, be designated 4-C, 4-E, as you know Mr. Chairman, is the designation of an enemy alien.

It was a day of shame for many of us, although it was not deserved, and we petitioned the Government to permit us to demonstrate ourselves and a year later President Roosevelt declared that Americanism is a matter of the heart. Americanism is not, and has never been, a matter of racial color, and authorized the formation of a special Japanese-American combat unit, and the rest is history.

But what I wish to point out is that this young man sitting to my right was born in 1942 in Hawaii, the son of a merchant, his father was an enemy alien, and today, to the great glory of the United States, I have the privilege of presenting him as the 34th Chief of Staff, Army nominee. This, Mr. Chairman, can happen only in the United States. I cannot think of any other place where something of this nature can happen.

He is the grandson of a Japanese laborer from Hiroshima who arrived in Hawaii in the late 1800s, about 1888, raised his children, and raised his flag over America, and I believe he succeeded eminently.

Mr. Chairman, on this day the shame that has been on our shoulders all these years has been clearly washed away by this one action, and for that I am very grateful to this Nation. I am grateful to the President, and I believe that we have saved one of the great illustrious warriors of our Nation. And I hope that this committee will vote to approve his nomination as the 34th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

It is my pleasure, Mr. Chairman, to present to the Committee, General Shinseki.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, this afternoon, the Senate Armed Services Committee reported out favorably the nominations of General Shinseki and General Jones, and I anticipate tomorrow the Senate will move on those nominations.

As chairman, I designated Senator ROBERTS, a former U.S. Marine, to place the nomination by the committee, as approved, of General Jones to the Senate, and Senator CLELAND of Georgia to the nomination of General Shinseki.

Once again, I close by saluting the Secretary of Defense, the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States, and our allies for their courage and perception in meeting the challenges proposed in Kosovo. I wish them well in the future.

**APPOINTMENT**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to Public Law 96-114, as amended, the appointment of George Gould of Virginia to the Congressional Award Board.

**ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1999**

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 10. I further ask that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of the proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be devoted to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that the Senate then resume consideration of S. 96, the Y2K liability legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**PROGRAM**

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, tomorrow, the Senate will immediately resume consideration of the Y2K legislation. The Senate hopes to complete action on that legislation tomorrow afternoon. Following the debate on S. 96, the Senate may begin consideration of the State Department authorization bill, any appropriations bills available, or any legislative or executive items on the calendar. Therefore, Senators can expect votes throughout tomorrow's session of the Senate.

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW**

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:35 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, June 10, 1999, at 9:30 a.m.

**NOMINATIONS**

Executive nominations received by the Senate June 9, 1999:

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

JOHN E. LANG, OF WISCONSIN: A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE CLASS OF COUNSELOR TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA.

SEAN EUGENE LEWIS, OF NEW MEXICO: TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA.

**IN THE NAVY**

The following named Officers for Regular Appointment in the Grades Indicated in the United
UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

There will be a meeting of the Committee on

ARMED SERVICES

Room SH-216 *
Hart Senate Office Building

Tuesday, June 8, 1999 -- 10:00 a.m. **

OPEN

To consider the nominations of General Eric K. Shinseki, USA, for reappointment to the position of Secretary of the Army of the United States Army, and of John C. Mccarthy, USA, for the position of Chief, Staff, United States Army.