

To keep the Promise of Virginia, to succeed, we will embrace our best, historic values and we will work together. Ours will be a non-partisan, Virginia agenda that includes all. At the heart of what I pledge to you today is the desire to keep Virginia moving forward.

To the people of Virginia: I pledge an administration that will keep the Promise of Virginia strong. An administration guided by the Virginia values of courage, opportunity and community. We will lead boldly and manage wisely; we will protect the liberties endowed by our Creator; we will affirm that family and faith is our bedrock, hard work our way and education our path to progress. When we are true to that promise, we will succeed and truly honor the legacy we inherit.

To the parents of Virginia: I pledge that our top priority will be raising the focus of our public education system from competence to excellence.

Thomas Jefferson wrote that progress depends on the broadest possible diffusion of knowledge among the entire population. More than ever, we are now in a position to provide all children with the opportunity to learn and fulfill their God-given potential. And we acknowledge that lifelong learning—from the expansion of early childhood education to world-class higher education, and beyond—is our Commonwealth's top priority.

To the taxpayers of Virginia: I pledge that we will always remember that what government spends is not its money. It's your money. We will place a premium on accountability; ensuring that your dollars are used responsibly in meeting the priorities that we share.

To those who commute and travel in Virginia: I pledge that my administration will begin immediately and work urgently to address the transportation dilemma that complicates our lives and threatens our prosperity. Together, let us find answers through a dialogue that is shaped not simply in terms of dollars and cents, but also by new solutions and common sense. A lack of coordination and planning has us stuck where we are today. Let it not be fear and politics that leaves us stranded here.

To the working families of Virginia and those that employ them: I pledge an administration focused on fostering opportunity and encouraging the entrepreneurial spirit; an administration focused on ensuring that every hard-working Virginian—no matter where they live—has access to a good paying job to provide for their family.

We will also work with you to find solutions to the problem of accessible, affordable health care; a burden that is overwhelming working families, small businesses and government budgets.

To those who protect us, our guardsmen, law enforcement officers, firefighters and EMTs: I pledge an administration that will work to ensure you have the resources and the support you need to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. The work you do is dangerous and essential. And we salute your dedication.

To those who serve in local governments: I pledge an administration that is a good partner with a focus on cooperation and collaboration. The people we serve are the same people you serve. When we work together, we serve them better.

To those who love Virginia's natural beauty: I pledge an administration that will be a good steward of Virginia's blessings of natural beauty. Our natural resources are essential to both our way of life and our ability to make a living. The streams we fish, the trails we hike, the fields that we harvest and the hills that we hunt with our children today must be protected for them and their children tomorrow.

And to the children of Virginia: I pledge an administration that will do its all to leave you with a Commonwealth greater than the one we found; filled with opportunities, greater than those of our dreams; a Commonwealth where the Promise of Virginia rings true for every son and daughter.

I seek the help of all Virginians—regardless of party or region, race or religion—in keeping the promise of Virginia.

Let us rise to the leadership example of Virginia's first four hundred years. Let us affirm and carry forward our values of courage, opportunity and community.

Let us remember that civility is not a sign of weakness—that cooperation and compromise are necessary for progress and for the sensible solutions we can all embrace to keep the promise of Virginia strong. Under God's hand, we have thrived. If we stay faithful to our history, we will succeed.

Let us work together.

Let us begin.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2006, AT 10 A.M.

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 10:52 a.m., adjourned until Friday, January 20, 2006, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate January 18, 2006:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

GALE A. BUCHANAN, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS, VICE JOSEPH J. JEN, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PRESTON M. GEREN, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, VICE R. L. BROWNLEE, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JAMES S. SIMPSON, OF NEW YORK, TO BE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATOR, VICE JENNIFER L. DORN.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

ROBERT M. COUCH, OF ALABAMA, TO BE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION, VICE RONALD ROSENFELD.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROGER SHANE KARR, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, VICE NICOLE R. NASON.

TYLER D. DUVALL, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, VICE EMIL H. FRANKEL.

DAVID C. SANBORN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION, VICE WILLIAM SCHUBERT.

NICOLE R. NASON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION, VICE JEFFREY WILLIAM RUNGE.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

JAMES B. GULLIFORD, OF MISSOURI, TO BE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE STEPHEN L. JOHNSON, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD A. BOUCHER, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS, VICE CHRISTINA B. ROCCA.

MARK D. WALLACE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR U.N. MANAGEMENT AND REFORM, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR, VICE PATRICK FRANCIS KENNEDY.

MARK D. WALLACE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR U.N. MANAGEMENT AND REFORM.

JACKIE WOLCOTT SANDERS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

JACKIE WOLCOTT SANDERS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

PATRICIA A. BUTENIS, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH.

DONALD T. BLISS, OF MARYLAND, FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

BEN S. BERNANKE, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES ALTERNATE GOVERNOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE ALAN GREENSPAN.

OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION

JOHN A. SIMON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION, VICE ROSS J. CONNELLY, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

DAVID L. NORQUIST, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE ANDREW B. MANER.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on January 18, 2006 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

EUGENE HICKOK, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2008, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON OCTOBER 17, 2005.