

I commend the President on the manner in which he and his staff worked with me and Congressman HUNTER and others to resolve this question. So we had finally concluded and listened diligently today to the members of the committee who had some views and closed it out at 2:30.

Now this has arisen. Again, people over on the other side, the other body, have a perfect right to exercise their rights, but I have to indicate, and I think in fairness to the leadership of the Senate and the leadership of the House, my steadfast opposition to this procedure. There has to come a time around here when conference reports are closed, as it was indicated to us, signature sheets provided, and we should go forward.

This bill is vitally necessary to this Nation at this hour. When every day we are losing men, killed and wounded, and the horrific damages to them and their families, we must be steadfast in our resolve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

COMMENDING SENATOR WARNER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish I had the words to express the thoughts I have in my heart now. I love history. I love the Senate. I have spent a lot of my life here. The mere fact that I am a Senator is, every day, hard for me to comprehend. But I am, and I am so thankful to the people in Nevada for allowing me to serve.

But I want to say to the senior Senator from the State of Virginia that

when the history books are written about this institution and someone flips through like a dictionary, wanting to have described what a U.S. Senator should be, JOHN WARNER has to be near the top of that list, if not at the top. He is a man who is a gentleman. I have served with him now for 23 years. He is a man who believes in this institution and has the record to prove it. He is a person who is a good member of his political party, but he is also a patriot. As important as the two-party system is to our country, to the Senator from Virginia, party comes second, country comes first.

As I said, I don't have the ability to express my conviction about this man. But the statement he just made, his off-the-cuff statement, is what the Senate is all about. It is about protecting this country, the individual rights of Members of the Senate, and that is why JOHN WARNER is a great Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, with a deep sense of humility, I thank my colleague. I am undeserving of those remarks. Each day I am here, each day I grow a little older, I grow more humble and thankful to the good Lord for allowing me to greet each day and do what I feel is best in the interests of this country.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 4 P.M. TOMORROW

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate this evening, I ask unani-

mous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:42 p.m., adjourned until Saturday, December 17, 2005, at 4 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate December 16, 2005:

THE JUDICIARY

NORMAN RANDY SMITH, OF IDAHO, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT, VICE STEPHEN S. TROTT, RETIRED.

MICHAEL RYAN BARRETT, OF OHIO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO, VICE WALTER HERBERT RICE RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

REGINALD I. LLOYD, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE J. SOUTH THURMOND, JR., RESIGNED.

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

DAVID M. MASON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 30, 2009. (REAPPOINTMENT)

STEVEN T. WALTHER, OF NEVADA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 30, 2009, VICE SCOTT E. THOMAS, TERM EXPIRED.

HANS VON SPAKOVSKY, OF GEORGIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 30, 2011, VICE BRADLEY A. SMITH, RESIGNED.

ROBERT D. LENHARD, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 30, 2011, VICE DANNY LEE MCDONALD, TERM EXPIRED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. STEVEN WESTGATE