

to life. Unique among the molecules, water is lighter in its solid form than in its liquid form. Ice floats. Every country boy knows that—a country boy like ROBERT BYRD. I learned a long time ago that ice floats—not just Ivory soap, but ice floats. If it did not float, the oceans would freeze from the bottom up, killing all forms of life therein, and the Earth would now be covered with solid ice.

Witness the vast order that pervades the universe! Could random variation have, even in the longest stretch of the imagination, created such magnificent order in the universe? Could chance have hit upon the order that we see all around us? To believe that it could is to believe that a monkey with a typewriter would eventually type the complete works of Shakespeare. But would he? Would he not more likely produce an infinity's worth of gibberish? Regardless of the number of days or the length of time available, what monkey could ever provide a single day's worth of typing Shakespeare—by random, by accident, by chance—let alone the complete works? The works of Shakespeare are complex enough, but they are small potatoes compared to the universe.

Random selection is not the magic bullet that some biologists would hope. One cannot explain away the order in nature by reference to a purely random process. To pretend otherwise is the stuff of science fiction.

Mr. President, as we depart this city for the holidays, let us remember the old, old story. Let us pause at Easter time and think on these things. I close with the reading of the 23rd psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. Happy Easter!

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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 PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session, and I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of the following nominations, and further that the Senate immediately proceed to their consideration: Chris Spear and Kristine Ann Iverson.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

Chris Spear, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Kristine Ann Iverson, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

NOMINATION OF CHRIS SPEAR

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of President Bush's nomination of Chris Spear to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Policy. I truly believe that President Bush could not have selected a more competent person for this crucial position nor could he have picked a person of better character. Chris served as my Legislative Director for over a year before his nomination. In that time, I found his counsel to be invaluable and of great aid in forwarding my legislative priorities, and I am proud to say that he is not only a former employee but also a good friend. And, I know that I am not alone in wishing Chris well today, as he has previously served on the staffs of my good friends Senator ENZI and former Senator Alan Simpson. I wish Chris the best of luck in his new position and continued success in his career.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no further business to come before the Senate, the Senate stands adjourned until the hour of 12 noon on April 23, under the previous order.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 4:02 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 23, 2001, at 12 noon.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate April 6, 2001:

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

THELMA J. ASKEY, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, VICE J. JOSEPH GRANDMAISON.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

PIYUSH JINDAL, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE MARGARET ANN HAMBURG, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CHARLES A. JAMES, JR., OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE JOEL I. KLEIN, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

MARIA CINO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SERVICE, VICE MAJORY E. SEARING.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

MAJ. GEN. DONALD A. LAMONTAGNE, 0000

To be lieutenant general

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. LANCE W. LORD, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. BRIAN A. ARNOLD, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. TIMOTHY A. KINNAN, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. RICHARD V. REYNOLDS, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. WILLIAM J. BEGERT, 0000

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ROY E. BEAUCHAMP, 0000

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. GARRY L. PARKS, 0000

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WADE F. HORN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FAMILY SUPPORT, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE OLIVIA A. GOLDEN, RESIGNED.

SCOTT WHITAKER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE RICHARD J. TARPLIN, RESIGNED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 6, 2001:

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

TIM S. MCCLAIN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

CHRIS SPEAR, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR.

KRISTINE ANN IVERSON, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR.

(THE ABOVE NOMINATIONS WERE CONFIRMED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEES' COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE CONSTITUTED COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE.)

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH M. COSUMANO JR., 0000