

Mar. 22 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

And so, I have proclaimed April 5 to 7, 1991, as National Days of Thanksgiving. Once again, I urge Americans to unite in prayer and turn to our greatest power.

We give thanks for the remarkable unity of our people throughout the conflict and especially for the strong support shown for our troops in the field. I am confident that our nation will emerge stronger and more united to face the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Though we thank God that our prisoners are home and our casualties were fewer than widely predicted, we must not forget all the innocents who have suffered as a

result of the war. We hope for the immediate return of divided families and for the swift recovery from illness and injury.

Finally, let us look to the future and pray for a world marked by peaceful relations between people.

As we mark these National Days of Thanksgiving, may God bless the United States of America.

Note: This address was recorded March 11 at 3:01 p.m. in the Private Dining Room at the White House and was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 22.

Nomination of David T. Kearns To Be Deputy Secretary of the Department of Education

March 22, 1991

The President today announced his intention to nominate David T. Kearns as Deputy Secretary of the Department of Education. He would succeed John Theodore Sanders.

Mr. Kearns, chairman of Xerox Corp., currently serves on the President's Education Policy Advisory Committee. He also serves as a member of the board of trustees of the Ford Foundation, the National Urban League, and the University of Rochester.

Mr. Kearns has written and spoken widely on education issues, including a 1988 volume he coauthored with Denis Doyle, "Winning the Brain Race: A Bold Plan to Make our Schools Competitive."

Mr. Kearns is a Navy veteran and a graduate of the University of Rochester (B.S., 1952). He is married, has six children, and resides in New Canaan, CT.

Nomination of John T. Sanders To Be Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Under Secretary for Planning, Budget and Evaluation at the Department of Education

March 22, 1991

The President today announced his intention to nominate Dr. John Theodore Sanders, of Illinois, to be Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Under Secretary for Planning, Budget and Evaluation. He would succeed Charles Edward Mealey Kolb. The President indicated that he will ask the Congress to combine those roles into one position with the title of Under Secretary and Chief Financial Officer of the Department of

Education.

Dr. Sanders, a Texas native, was nominated by President Bush as Under Secretary of Education on March 10, 1989, and was confirmed by the Senate on April 19, 1989. He became Deputy Secretary on November 5, 1990, when President Bush signed legislation elevating his position to that level.

An activist in education, Dr. Sanders formerly served as president of the Council of

Chief State School Officers. He served as Nevada's superintendent of public instruction and before coming to the Department of Education in 1989, as State superintendent of education in Illinois.

Dr. Sanders graduated from Wayland

Baptist University (B.S., 1964); Washington State University (M.A.T., 1970); and from the University of Nevada, Reno, (Ed.D., 1987). He is married, has four children, two grandchildren, and resides in Springfield, IL.

Remarks at the Swearing-In Ceremony for Lamar Alexander as Secretary of Education

March 22, 1991

The President. Thank you all. Thank you, Bill Carl. It's a pleasure to be here to witness the swearing-in of our new Secretary of Education, Governor Lamar Alexander. To the members of the Cabinet—and I see so many here; distinguished Members of the United States Congress—and I see many here; to former Secretaries—I'm told—don't spot them right now—that Bill Brock and Mel Laird were here.

Let me just welcome all of you—those from the White House. I'd like to, at the outset of this, pay my respects to the man who is going to do the honors, Judge John Minor Wisdom, one of the most distinguished jurists in the United States, who is with us here today.

For a challenge of this magnitude, it is my very good fortune to be able to call on a man with Lamar Alexander's considerable experience. He comes to this task the son of teachers. He's served as a very valued member of our Education Policy Advisory Committee, and most recently he's served the students of his home State as president of the University of Tennessee. Five years ago, as chairman of the National Governors' Association, he piloted the 50-State education survey, "Time for Results," a report that put us on the path to the six national education goals that guide our efforts from now to the year 2000.

As a public servant, educator, and author, Lamar Alexander is a true renaissance man—a man with great common sense, who knows what works. And he's also one of Tennessee's leading philosophers. He's got a saying you've probably already heard: "Today a rooster. Tomorrow a feather duster." [*Laughter*]

Our setting today in this great Air and Space Museum is a fitting site for this ceremony. It reminds us of another time when this nation set for itself a national goal, that of landing a man on the moon. And we did it.

Lamar Alexander understands that real reform, real restructuring of American education can only take place at the State and local level. And that's one of the key reasons that I've asked him to become Secretary Alexander. He knows the key to success is to make certain education reform is national, not Federal. Nationally, we have established goals. We're setting standards, establishing priorities, and in the process, we're raising expectations. We must bring all levels of government and all Americans together—parents, teachers, students, civic and business leaders, and all interested citizens—to achieve our goals.

On the Federal level, we can serve as a catalyst for change. We can point the way forward, contribute ideas, and help States and schools meet higher, better standards.

The Department of Education, through research and development, can help identify practical ways to improve teaching and learning for all students. We also can create incentives for change, and we can start with freedom of choice.

I know this idea has generated its share of controversy. But it isn't radical; it's common sense. It rests on a principle central to democratic society: the idea that individuals are capable of making wise decisions for themselves. In education, the concept of choice recognizes that parents are the real