

leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we proceed to executive session.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consider Calendar Nos. 161, 266, 268, 209, 263, 281, 283, 368, 370, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, and 414 and all nominations on the Secretary's desk at NOAA; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Jeffrey D. Feltman, of Ohio, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Near Eastern Affairs).

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Jo-Ellen Darcy, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Colin Scott Cole Fulton, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Philip L. Verveer, of the District of Columbia, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Communications and Information Policy in the Bureau of Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs and U.S. Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy.

María Otero, of the District of Columbia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Democracy and Global Affairs).

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Craig E. Hooks, of Kansas, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Carlos Pascual, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Mexico.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Wilma A. Lewis, of the Virgin Islands, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Robert V. Abbey, of Nevada, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Francis S. Collins, of Maryland, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

James A. Leach, of Iowa, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities for a term of four years.

Rocco Landesman, of New York, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts for a term of four years.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Raymond M. Jefferson, of Hawaii, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Ertharin Cousin, of Illinois, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture.

Kerri-Ann Jones, of Maine, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

David Killion, of the District of Columbia, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

Glyn T. Davies, of the District of Columbia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Vienna Office of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

Glyn T. Davies, of the District of Columbia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Representative of the United States of America to the International Atomic Energy Agency, with the rank of Ambassador.

PEACE CORPS

Aaron S. Williams, of Virginia, to be Director of the Peace Corps.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Michael Anthony Battle, Sr., of Georgia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the African Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Martha Larzelere Campbell, of Michigan, 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 Republic of the Marshall Islands.

John R. Bass, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Georgia.

James B. Foley, of New York, 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 Republic of Croatia.

Kenneth E. Gross, Jr., of Virginia, 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 Tajikistan.

Teddy Bernard Taylor, of Maryland, 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 Papua New Guinea, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Solomon Islands and Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Vanuatu.

John Victor Roos, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Japan.

Judith Gail Garber, 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 Republic of Latvia.

James Knight, of Alabama, 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 Benin.

Karen Kornbluh, of New York, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador.

Bruce J. Oreck, of Colorado, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Finland.

Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., of Utah, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the People's Republic of China.

Douglas W. Kmiec, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Malta.

Jonathan S. Adleton, of Georgia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Mongolia.

Matthew Winthrop Barzun, of Kentucky, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Sweden.

William Carlton Eacho, III, of Maryland, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Austria.

Philip D. Murphy, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Republic of Germany.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

James J. Markowsky, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Fossil Energy).

Warren F. Miller, Jr., of New Mexico, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Nuclear Energy).

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Susan L. Kurland, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

Christopher P. Bertram, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Dennis F. Hightower, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Christopher A. Hart, of Colorado, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2012.

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Patricia D. Cahill, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2014.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Daniel R. Elliott, III of Ohio, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2013.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Robert S. Adler, of North Carolina, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 2007.

Anne M. Northup, of Kentucky, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 2004.

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S
DESKNATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC
ADMINISTRATION

PN846 NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION nominations (22) beginning DENISE J. GRUCCIO, and ending SARA A. SLAUGHTER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2009.

NOMINATION OF FRANCIS COLLINS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, few people have had as significant an impact on the scientific world over the past two decades as Dr. Francis Collins, President Obama's nominee to head the National Institutes of Health. As director of the National Human Genome Research Institute from 1993 to 2008, Dr. Collins has led the way in medical innovation.

As his most renowned accomplishment at NHGRI, Dr. Collins achieved unparalleled success leading the revolutionary Human Genome Project. Established in 1990, the Project's goal was to map out the thousands of genes that make up the human genome in order to better understand the genetic makeup of humans and to ultimately reveal the cures for our most challenging diseases. In 2003, the Human Genome Project, under the guidance of Dr. Collins, released its completed version of the entire human genome, an unprecedented achievement. Dr. Collins' work has led to some ground-breaking medical discoveries, including the identification of genetic variants associated with type 2 diabetes and the genes responsible for cystic fibrosis, neurofibromatosis, Huntington's disease and Hutchinson-Gilford progeria syndrome. To allow this data to be used as effectively as possible, Dr. Collins has ensured that all of the data obtained by the Human Genome Project be made available to the entire scientific community without restrictions on access or use.

Among other prestigious honors, Dr. Collins has been elected to the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences, two of the most influential medical organizations in the world. In addition, on November 5, 2007, Collins received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civil award, for his remarkable contributions to the field of genetic research.

Not only has Dr. Collins proven himself to be a brilliant and revolutionary scientist, but he is also a remarkably effective leader. Perhaps the greatest evidence of this quality is displayed by his ability to finish the human genome sequence both ahead of schedule and under budget. It is clear why President Obama selected him to lead this important agency.

Last week, I met with Dr. Collins to discuss his vision for the future of NIH. He is my constituent, as are many of the scientists who work at the Rockville campus, and the academic institutions and businesses that thrive due in no small part to NIH grants and other

extramural programs. I am extremely proud to represent all of them.

During our meeting, I raised serious concerns about recent actions of NIH leadership with regard to two grant programs, the Small Business Innovation Research program and the Small Technology Transfer Program. Federal law requires departments that award more than \$100 million in extramural grants annually to devote a total of 2.8 percent to small businesses to foster innovation. These programs are catalysts for job creation and job growth, and a recent study found that 25 percent of all new product innovations were brought to market by SBIR grantees. But a provision—encouraged by NIH—was inserted during conference into the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, with no notice to the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, where I serve, although we have jurisdiction over these programs. That provision excluded the NIH funds in ARRA from the SBIR and STTR requirements, effectively denying small businesses \$230 million in research grant opportunities. Its origins are still unknown.

The effect on small businesses has been devastating, leading some biotechnology firms in my State to lay off employees or close due to lack of funding. In June, I chaired a field hearing about this issue in Rockville, and although the hearing location was minutes away from the NIH campus, the agency did not send a witness. NIH staff promised to submit testimony, but it was faxed to us 2 hours after the hearing had ended. In addition, during the hearing, we received testimony citing a history of perceived bias among NIH review panels against SBIR applications. I raised these concerns with Dr. Collins, and we had a frank and open discussion. Dr. Collins spoke of his high regard for the SBIR program and noted that he could not have completed the Human Genome Project in such a timely and cost-efficient manner absent the involvement of small biotechnology companies. He has promised to work with me and other members of the Committee to ensure that NIH participation in SBIR and STTR proceeds according to congressional intent. I am encouraged by his support for these programs, and I believe that the Small Business Committee, will have a much improved working relationship with NIH going forward. I left that meeting with confidence in Dr. Collins' ability to lead this essential agency very effectively.

Going forward, Dr. Collins faces numerous challenges, implementing the new policy on federally funded stem cell research, moving forward on promising cancer research, and developing strategies to combat the global AIDS epidemic, among others. These challenges require a visionary leader with the level of expertise and management experience that Dr. Collins possesses.

I am pleased to express my support for the nomination of Dr. Francis Col-

lins to be the next Director of the National Institutes of Health, and I look forward to working with him in the years to come.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have the attached letter of support from the March of Dimes for the nomination of Francis Collins to be Director of the National Institutes of Health be printed in the RECORD.

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

MARCH OF DIMES FOUNDATION,
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, August 5, 2009.

Hon. EDWARD KENNEDY,
Chairman, Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN KENNEDY: On behalf of the 3 million volunteers and 1,400 staff at the March of Dimes Foundation I am writing to highlight Francis Collins's, MD PhD exceptional contributions to biomedical research and to acquaint Congress with Dr. Collins' long standing relationship with the Foundation. This letter is submitted for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The Foundation's investments in biomedical research are a cornerstone of the March of Dimes mission. March of Dimes programs fund several different types of research, all aimed at preventing birth defects and infant mortality and securing reproductive health. These programs and projects include basic research into life processes, such as genetics and development; clinical research applied to prevention and treatment of specific birth defects and prematurity; the study of environmental hazards; and research in social and behavioral sciences relevant to our mission. In 1985, the March of Dimes recognized Dr. Collins's promising talent, naming him a Basil O'Connor Research Scholar and awarding him a grant the Foundation reserves for young investigators at the start of their independent careers. This award marked the beginning of a long and productive relationship with Dr. Collins.

Throughout his career, Dr. Collins has focused on advancing scientific knowledge that has laid the foundation for identifying and treating genetic disorders. For example, Dr. Collins was instrumental in the discovery of the gene responsible for cystic fibrosis, thereby providing the opportunity to design interventions for managing this complex birth defect and accelerating the search for its amelioration and potential cure. As Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute, Dr. Collins oversaw the sequencing and mapping of the human genome, a major contribution to scientific research and one that has already led to the development of strategies for preventing and treating various birth defects and hereditary diseases.

The March of Dimes continues to invest in intellectually gifted young investigators because it is they who hold the greatest promise for progress in research and science. All of us at the Foundation look forward to the forthcoming confirmation and to working with you and Dr. Collins to improve the health of women and children here and around the world.

Sincerely,
DR. JENNIFER L. HOWSE,
President.

NOMINATION OF JON HUNTSMAN, JR.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to support the nomination of the Honorable Jon Huntsman, Jr., to be the U.S. Ambassador to China.