

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of James Edwin Williams, of Utah, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Labor; and Mark Schneider, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Institute of Education Science, Department of Education for a term of six years?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 616, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 759, 760, and 761.

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

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Carlos Trujillo, of Florida, to be Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Organization of American States, with the rank of Ambassador; Robert Frank Pence, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Finland; Edward Charles Prado, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Argentine Republic; Trevor D. Traina, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Austria; Erik Bethel, of Florida, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years; Judy Lynn Shelton, of Virginia, to be United

States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; Kevin Edward Moley, of Arizona, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs); Josephine Olsen, of Maryland, to be Director of the Peace Corps; and Marie Royce, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Educational and Cultural Affairs)?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

#### NOMINATION DISCHARGED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged and the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: PN1369.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Tim Thomas, of Kentucky, to be Federal Cochairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Thomas nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of Executive Calendar Nos. 742 through 751 and all nominations on the Secretary's Desk; that the nominations be confirmed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

#### IN THE ARMY

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

#### To be major general

Brig. Gen. Timothy J. Hilty

#### IN THE NAVY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

#### To be vice admiral

Vice Adm. Matthew J. Kohler

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

#### To be major general

Brig. Gen. Vincent K. Becklund  
Brig. Gen. Charles S. Corcoran  
Brig. Gen. Barry R. Cornish  
Brig. Gen. Christopher E. Craig  
Brig. Gen. Andrew A. Croft  
Brig. Gen. Allan E. Day  
Brig. Gen. Eric T. Fick  
Brig. Gen. Chad P. Franks  
Brig. Gen. John R. Gordy, II  
Brig. Gen. Gregory M. Guillot  
Brig. Gen. Stacey T. Hawkins  
Brig. Gen. Cameron G. Holt  
Brig. Gen. Kevin A. Huyck  
Brig. Gen. David J. Julazadeh  
Brig. Gen. Kevin B. Kennedy  
Brig. Gen. Kyle J. Kremer  
Brig. Gen. Peter J. Lambert  
Brig. Gen. William J. Liguori, Jr.  
Brig. Gen. Randall Reed  
Brig. Gen. Lenny J. Richoux  
Brig. Gen. Carl E. Schaefer  
Brig. Gen. John E. Shaw  
Brig. Gen. Brad M. Sullivan  
Brig. Gen. Stephen C. Williams

#### IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

#### To be major general

Brig. Gen. James W. Bierman, Jr.  
Brig. Gen. David J. Furness  
Brig. Gen. John M. Jansen  
Brig. Gen. Michael E. Langley  
Brig. Gen. David A. Ottignon  
Brig. Gen. Thomas D. Weidley

#### 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:

#### To be general

Lt. Gen. Timothy M. Ray

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. David D. Thompson

#### IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

#### To be admiral

Vice Adm. Christopher W. Grady

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

#### To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Timothy J. White

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. David A. Welch

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be vice admiral*

Rear Adm. Scott A. Stearney

#### NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1684 AIR FORCE nomination of Arthur W. Primas, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2018.

PN1685 AIR FORCE nomination of Gregory J. Payne, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2018.

PN1686 AIR FORCE nomination of Michael J. Patterson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2018.

PN1687 AIR FORCE nomination of Brad R. Matherne, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2018.

PN1688 AIR FORCE nomination of Jonathan A. Morris, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2018.

##### IN THE ARMY

PN1563 ARMY nominations (533) beginning RACHEL L. ADAIR, and ending D014124, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1564 ARMY nominations (35) beginning ROSE ABIDO, and ending JOSEPH P. WZOREK, II, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1575 ARMY nominations (2) beginning JOHN P. KILBRIDE, and ending JOHN J. NEAL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1581 ARMY nominations (530) beginning GREGORY J. ABIDE, and ending G010452, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1582 ARMY nominations (993) beginning STEVEN ABADIA, and ending G010479, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1629 ARMY nomination of Steven M. Hemmann, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2018.

PN1691 ARMY nominations (35) beginning HAYLEY R. ASHBAUGH, and ending JORDAN N. YOLLES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2018.

PN1692 ARMY nominations (62) beginning JEFFREY A. ANDERSON, and ending D012878, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2018.

PN1693 ARMY nominations (169) beginning AHMAD B. ALEXANDER, and ending STEVEN D. ZUMBRUN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2018.

PN1694 ARMY nominations (137) beginning ASHLEY K. AITON, and ending TRACY L. ZINN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2018.

PN1695 ARMY nomination of Wilson R. Ramos, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2018.

PN1696 ARMY nomination of Curtis D. Bowe, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2018.

PN1697 ARMY nomination of Carl E. Foster, III, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2018.

PN1698 ARMY nomination of Michael A. Fowles, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2018.

PN1699 ARMY nomination of Andrew K. Sinden, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2018.

PN1700 ARMY nominations (2) beginning D013264, and ending D013298, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2018.

PN1701 ARMY nomination of Christopher F. Ruder, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2018.

PN1736 ARMY nominations (2) beginning JOHN J. MORRIS, and ending MIN S. RO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 12, 2018.

PN1737 ARMY nominations (2) beginning CHRISTOPHER M. BELL, and ending ADRIANA B. DEJULIO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 12, 2018.

PN1738 ARMY nomination of Mikal L. Stoner, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 12, 2018.

##### IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1432 MARINE CORPS nominations (7) beginning ERIC G. BURNS, and ending DAVID P. SHEEHAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 8, 2018.

PN1491 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning THESOLINA D. HUBERT, and ending TIMOTHY W. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1592 MARINE CORPS nominations (337) beginning BENJAMIN S. ADAMS, and ending CARL L. ZEPPEGNO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1611 MARINE CORPS nomination of Aaron J. King, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.

##### IN THE NAVY

PN1740 NAVY nomination of Jeffrey G. Benson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 12, 2018.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### RECOGNIZING IRISH IMMIGRANTS AND IRISH-AMERICANS IN ILLINOIS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this past Saturday was St. Patrick's Day. The city of Chicago celebrated, as it has every St. Patrick's Day since 1962, by dyeing the Chicago River a deep emerald green.

In the Windy City and in cities and towns throughout Illinois, across America, and around much of the world, people wore green and attended St. Patrick's Day parades and parties.

No nation—including Ireland herself—celebrates St. Patrick's Day with as much enthusiasm as Americans do. Whether your ancestors came to this country from Dublin or the Dominican Republic, from Galway or Greece, on March 17, as the saying goes, everyone is Irish.

But America didn't always love the Irish. From the middle of the 19th century and well into the 20th century, it was not uncommon for employment ads in America to carry the warning: "No Irish Need Apply." In 1857, Harpers Weekly asserted that "nearly 75 percent of our criminals and paupers are Irish . . . [and] 75 percent of the crimes of violence committed among us are the work of Irishmen."

Irish immigrants had been an integral part of America since our earliest days as a nation. Nine of the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence were Irish Americans. They included four men who were born in Ireland. And Irish Americans fought and died in the Revolutionary War to secure America's freedom from England.

The Irish who came to America beginning in the mid-1840s, however, were different than the earlier arrivals from Erin's shores. These were "the Famine Irish." They fled Ireland to escape one of the greatest catastrophes ever to befall that nation.

We know it today as "the potato famine." In Ireland, it was called "the Great Hunger" or, in Gaelic, the old Irish tongue, "An Gorta Mor."

In 1845, a fungus, carried to Ireland from America, destroyed all of Ireland's potato crops. All across Ireland, potato fields turned black and rotted from the blight.

Ireland was not an independent nation then, as it is now. It had been occupied and ruled for hundreds of years by England, and most of the land was owned by absentee English landlords.

The native Irish were mostly tenant farmers, what Americans would call "sharecroppers," allowed to farm only tiny plots of land. The calorie-rich potato became the subsistence crop for the Irish, the one crop they could grow on their small parcels of land that could feed a family.

When the potato crops failed, England refused to intervene. Some in England warned that providing emergency food relief to the starving Irish would disrupt with the workings of a free market. Others declared that famine