includes extensive transparency obligations with respect to national laws and regulations and commitments to transparency in dispute settlement. The Parties also recognize that it is inappropriate to encourage investment by weakening or reducing the protections afforded in domestic environmental and labor laws. I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 106-398, as amended by Public Law 108-7, in accordance with the qualifications specified under section 1238(b)(3)(E) of Public Law 106-398, and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, in consultation with the chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, reappoints the following individual to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: Mr. Peter Videnieks of Virginia, for a term beginning January 1, 2009 and expiring December 31, 2010.

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order from September 27 regarding tributes to retiring Senators be modified so that Senators be permitted to submit such tributes for inclusion in a Senate document until Friday, December 12, 2008.

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

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with not standing the pending recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority 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.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2008, THROUGH MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2008

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until the following days and times for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted: Monday, November 24 at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, November 26 at 10 a.m.; Saturday, November 29 at 2 p.m.; Tuesday, December 2 at 10:30 a.m.; and Friday, December 5 at 11 a.m.; and that when the Senate recesses on Friday, it stand in recess until 3 p.m., Monday, December 8; that following the prayer and pledge, the duration of unread messages be specified, to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, over the next few weeks, Senators will be continuing to negotiate a bill to provide assistance to the auto industry. If an agreement is reached—for the information of the Members—the Senate will turn to consideration when the Senate returns on December 8.

That is a message from the majority leader, Senator Reid.

RECESS UNTIL MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2008, AT 9:30 A.M.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:03 p.m., recessed until Monday, November 24, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

FOREIGN SERVICE

The following-named career member of the Foreign Service of the International Broadcasting Bureau to the Senior Foreign Service to the classes indicated:

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CONSUL, AND CONSULAR OFFICER AND FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASSES INDICATED:

DAVID J. STRAWMAN, OF ILLINOIS

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JAMES E. ROGERS

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations and the nominations were confirmed:

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ASIP J. CHAUSHBY AND ENDING WITH ALAN D. BRAPSEY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 17, 2008.

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination and the nomination was confirmed:

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CAPTAIN JOHN H. KORN AND ENDING WITH CAPTAIN MELODY N. FARKH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2008.

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations and the nominations were confirmed:

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RYAN A. WAISTICK AND ENDING WITH RYAN A. WAISTICK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 1, 2008.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANDREW R. COLEGROVE AND ENDING WITH FAITH C. OPATRNY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 1, 2008.

The Senate Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination and the nomination was confirmed:

RICARDO H. HINOJOSA OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR A TERM Expiring May 1, 2013.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination and the nomination was confirmed:

GEOE ALLAN CRITEL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CONSUL, AND CONSULAR OFFICER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND plenipotentiary OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO LIBYA.

The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations and the nominations were confirmed:


RAY M. BOWEN, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 10, 2014.


BARBARA ERNST PREY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 1, 2014.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW T. MCKINNA AND ENDING WITH JOHN J. MURPHY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 1, 2008.


The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations and the nominations were confirmed:

ALFRED S. IRVING, JR., OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE ON THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

KATHRYN A. OBERLY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate, Thursday, November 20, 2008:

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 271:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPTAIN JOHN H. KORN