The PRESIDING OFFICER. The following nominations were made by the President:

The chart I was just showing was in readiness for the Senate's review. What we see with this chart is the corresponding escalation in terms of the total number of children who are going to higher education. That is enormously important in terms of acquiring different kinds of skills so that we can have able and important players in a modern economy. Everyone has understood that for the longest period of time.

We ought to have that debate—which this budget that we should have next week is going to take, with consideration the long-range interests, not just the problem that we have $130 billion of needs currently in terms of bringing our elementary and secondary schools up to par, in terms of safety and security, and in terms of their ventilation and electronics so that they will be able to have the modern computers. That is $130 billion and is not even talking about current needs but about future needs.

Should we have that out here alongside of what is going to be allocated and expended in terms of this tax cut? But, oh, no, we can’t have that. We can’t wait 2 weeks. We can’t wait 2 weeks, 3 weeks, 4 weeks, to be able to get that information out so we can have that informed debate. No, we are not going to do that.

So I join those who have expressed their concern about this process. I had a good opportunity of listening, with great interest, to my friend and colleague from West Virginia this afternoon back in my office. I hope other Members listened to his excellent presentation in outlining the challenges of this moment because he brings to this debate and discussion not only the sweep of history with his own extraordinary career in public service, but he brings to it, in addition, the most exhaustive understanding and awareness in the country of this institution and its development, and even more than all of that—on top of that, his own experience and his understanding of the history—is his love of the institution and his deep commitment to it.

So, Mr. President, when he warns about the real implications for this institution as a servant of the people, it needs to be a warning that is well heeded. And it is not being well heeded. If we are to move ahead the way it has been outlined that we will by the majority leader and the Republican leadership, at the end of next week this will be a lesser institution in terms of representing the people of this country, and that I hope to be able to avoid.

If you yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator from Massachusetts withhold his suggestion?

Mr. KENNEDY. I withhold, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair thanks the Senator.


IN THE MARINE CORPS


IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 434:

To be commander

EDWARD SCHAEFER, 0000


THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 434:

To be commander

JAMES G. LIDDY, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 434:

To be lieutenant commander

ANTHONY W. MATTHEW, 0000