Two Farewells

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No one has rushed to more municipal fires in this time of crisis than John Zuccotti. As First Deputy Mayor, he was virtually New York's indispensable man. Yet suddenly he is gone, to rest and to make some money. It is hard to imagine John Zuccotti remaining on the side-lines for long.

He contributed enormously to the city's resuscitation. And so long as officials remember how he did it, he will continue to contribute. He did it with negotiating skills and respect for community confidence brought to City Hall from his job as chairman of the City Planning Commission. He did it by retaining his credibility, in the neighborhoods and in executive suites. He did it with incredible energy and oft-tested loyalty. And he did it with imaginative improvisation in the service of genuine planning—in a world where most officials are content to get through each day an hour at a time.

Such a servant must not be left out of New Yorkers' long-term planning.

When Ewald B. Nyquist steps down today as State Education Commissioner he completes a process set in motion last November by a vindictive Board of Regents. The case against him was partly personal—a reaction to sarcastic wit and independence—and partly rebellion against his defense of the cause of school integration and of his legal powers.

Mr. Nyquist's 25 years of service in the Education Department were distinguished by liberalism and rationality, and it is heartening to see his policies vindicated even as he departs. For after a long search for a successor, the Regents have turned to Gordon M. Ambach, the retiring Commissioner's executive deputy, who has proudly identified himself with his predecessor's views.

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