

Bettis Rainsford has chronicled for you the history of the Edgefield County Courthouse. There may not be many other courthouses in America, certainly not in South Carolina, with a pedigree to match that of this building. I am certain that there is no courthouse anywhere with so many portraits of notable leaders—statesmen, generals, lawyers and judges. I distinctly remember my first visit to this courthouse with my father. The portraits on the walls left a lasting impression on me. I particularly remember my father singling out Senator STROM THURMOND, pictured on these walls when he was a young Circuit Judge, as well as his father, John William Thurmond, one of the most able lawyers our state has ever produced.

But what does all this history mean to us as we are about to embark on a new century? As South Carolinians and, especially as Edgefieldians, we have a rich heritage. We are each of us the sum total of generations of growing, yearning, of planning and failing, of building and destroying and building again.

This is an exciting time for Edgefield County. Our area is growing, our young people have a place to come back to, our schools are moving ahead, industry is recognizing the virtues of small town life and good work ethic that goes with it. Edgefield County is on the move.

This building is a monument to the hands, hearts and minds of our forebearers. Not just the dignitaries on these walls—not just the statesmen, the generals, the lawyers and the judges—but also the public servants behind the scenes, like Miss Martha Rich, the merchants, the ministers, the school teachers, the sharecroppers, the industrialists, the artists and the artisans who have gone before us to help make this corner of God's earth a special place in our hearts.

Thank you again for inviting me.

OPERATION GRADUATION WEEKEND

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, Operation Graduation is a six-state campaign devoted to the safety of high school seniors on graduation night. The campaign is designed to fund alcohol-free/drug-free graduation parties that are safe, memorable, and fun.

In an effort to encourage high schools to hold alcohol-free/drug-free graduation parties, local cable systems in the Midwest are donating money to corresponding area high schools. This project also provides high schools with information kits containing an Operation Graduation How-to-Guide, pamphlets, and brochures on the dangers of drunk driving, and other resources for promoting Operation Graduation.

Together, local cable system employees in Missouri are fighting to stop needless deaths on our roads and highways that result from reckless behavior on graduation night.

I would like to commend all the people working to make the weekend of May 29, 1998, "Operation Graduation Weekend."

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, yesterday, XAVIER BECERRA, JOSÉ E. SERRANO and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus called upon the Republican leadership to vote upon the Latino nominees to

judgeships who have languished in the Senate far too long. I welcome the views of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to the debate and I ask unanimous consent that a copy of their letter be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
(See Exhibit No. 1.)

Mr. LEAHY. I have spoken often, too often, about the crisis in the Second Circuit and our need for the Senate to move forward to confirm the nominees pending on the Senate calendar to that important court.

Judge Sonia Sotomayor is a qualified nominee who was confirmed to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York in 1992 after being nominated by President Bush. She attended Princeton University and Yale Law School. She worked for over four years in the New York District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney and was in private practice with Pavia & Harcourt in New York. She is strongly supported by Senator MOYNIHAN and Senator D'AMATO. She is a source of pride to Puerto Rican and other Hispanic supporters and to women. When confirmed she will be only the second woman and second judge of Puerto Rican descent to serve on the Second Circuit.

By a vote of 16 to 2, the Judiciary Committee reported the nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the Senate. That was on March 5, 1998, over two months ago. No action has been taken or scheduled on that nomination and no explanation for the delay has been forthcoming. This is the oldest judicial nomination pending on the Senate Executive Calendar. In spite of an April 8 letter to the Senate Republican Leader signed by all six Senators from the three States forming the Second Circuit urging prompt action, this nomination continues to be stalled by anonymous objections. Our bipartisan letter to the Majority Leader asked that he call up for prompt consideration by the Senate of the nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor. That was over one month ago. I request unanimous consent that a copy of that letter be included in the record at the conclusion of my remarks.

Nor is Judge Sotomayor the only woman or minority judicial nominee who has been needlessly delayed. Indeed, if one considers those nominees who have taken the longest to confirm this year, we find a disturbing pattern.

Hilda Tagle, the only Hispanic woman the Senate has confirmed this year, took 32 months to be confirmed as a District Court Judge for the Southern District of Texas—that was over two and one-half years. As I have noted, Judge Sotomayor's nomination to the Second Circuit is the longest pending on the Senate calendar, another qualified Hispanic woman nominee. Judge Richard Paez, currently a District Court Judge and a nominee to the Ninth Circuit, was first nominated

in January 1996. Twenty-eight months later, Judge Paez's nomination remains pending on the Senate calendar. Nor have we seen any progress with respect to the nomination of Jorge Rangel to the Fifth Circuit or Anabelle Rodriguez to the District Court for Puerto Rico, although her nomination was received in January 1996 almost 28 months ago.

For that matter, we have seen the President's nomination of the Judge James A. Beaty, Jr., the first African-American to the Fourth Circuit stalled for 29 months, since December 1995.

We have seen the attack on Judge Frederica Massiah-Jackson, who would have been the first African-American woman to serve on the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, but who was forced to withdraw. We have seen the nomination of Clarence Sundram held up since September 1995, almost 32 months.

With the delays in the Senate consideration of Margaret Morrow and Margaret McKeown earlier this year, we had the opportunity to consider why it is that the Senate takes so much longer to consider and confirm so many woman nominees. That question has yet to be answered adequately.

Margaret Morrow was targeted by some and debate on her nomination was delayed for more than a year. She was first nominated in May 1996 and was not voted on for 21 months. When we finally got a vote, she was confirmed by a vote of more than two to one. Margaret Morrow was the first and only woman to serve as the President of the California State Bar. The ABA gave her its highest rating. She had strong bipartisan support. She was held up for a judicial emergency vacancy for many months without cause of justification.

Nor was Margaret Morrow an isolated case. Consider the nomination of Judge Ann Aiken to the District Court in Oregon. That nomination was received in November 1995 but not considered by the Senate until January 1998, 26 months later. She, too, was confirmed by a vote of more than two to one.

Then we had the case of Margaret McKeown who was nominated to a vacancy on the Ninth Circuit in March 1996 but not considered until two years later in March 1998. When she received a Senate vote, she was confirmed by a vote of 80 to 11.

We still have Susan Oki Mollway pending before the Senate without a vote although she was first nominated back in December 1995 for the vacancy on the District Court in Hawaii—that was more than 29 months ago and still she is without a vote.

In his annual report on the judiciary last year, the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court observed: "Some current nominees have been waiting a considerable time for a Senate Judiciary Committee vote or a final floor vote. The Senate confirmed only 17 judges in 1996 and 36 in 1997, well under the 101 judges it confirmed

in 1994." He went on to note: "The Senate is surely under no obligation to confirm any particular nominee, but after the necessary time for inquiry it should vote him up or vote him down."

For some unexplained reason, judicial nominees who are women or racial or ethnic minorities seem to take the longest. Of the 10 judicial nominees whose nominations have been pending the longest before the Senate, eight are women and racial or ethnic minority candidates. A ninth has been delayed in large measure because of opposition to his mother, who already serves as a judge. The tenth is one who blew the lid off the \$1.4 million right-wing campaign to "kill" Clinton judicial nominees.

Pending on the Senate calendar, having been passed over again and again, are Judge Sonia Sotomayor, Judge Richard Paez and Susan Oki Mollway. Ronnie White has now finally been reported, as well. Held up in Committee after two hearings is Clarence Sundram. Still without a hearing are Anabelle Rodriguez, Judge James A. Beaty, Jr., and Jorge C. Rangel. What all these nominees have in common is that they are either women or members of racial or ethnic minorities. That is a shame.

EXHIBIT No. 1

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 21, 1998.

Hon. TRENT LOTT,
Senate Majority Leader, Russell Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. ORRIN G. HATCH,
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee, Russell Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. FRED THOMPSON,
Chairman, Senate Government Affairs Committee, Dirksen Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. LEADER AND MR. CHAIRMAN: As Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), we are writing to express our grave concern with the lack of progress and consideration of judicial nominees before the Senate. In particular, we are profoundly distressed that several of those nominees are highly qualified individuals of Latino descent. While this Congress has seen a slowdown in the confirmation process it is notable that Latino judicial nominees have been subjected to inexplicable delays.

Of the Federal judges confirmed in the 105th Congress (1997 and 1998), only 2 have been Latinos. At present, there are a number of Latinos with strong judicial and academic qualifications pending Senate judicial confirmation. Yet, several Latino judicial nominees have languished unjustifiably in the Senate for over two years and only two of the candidates have been reported out of committee.

The delay in the confirmation process results in significantly higher caseloads for existing Federal judges, and a system that guarantees frustration for those who utilize it. Already, and Second Circuit has been declared a "judicial emergency"—the circuit has seats that have been vacant for more than 18 months. Overburdened judges and a slowdown of court proceedings undermine faith in our judicial system and our democracy as a whole.

Inaction by the Senate is contributing to the underrepresentation of Latinos on the Federal bench. Latinos make up less than 5%

of all Federal judges. We urge your prompt and favorable action in confirming judicial candidates.

Sincerely,

XAVIER BECERRA,
JOSÉ E. SERRANO.

TRIBUTE TO MS. ROSELLA
SCHNAKENBERG

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Ms. Rosella Schnakenberg, a woman who has served her friends and fellow Missourians for more than 50 years. Although this service has transcended occupational boundaries, the most prominent way Ms. Schnakenberg, a lifelong resident of the Cole Camp community, has benefitted her fellow citizens has been to hold a pivotal role at the First Community Bank in Ionia, Missouri.

During her time as an employee of First Community Bank, Ms. Schnakenberg has helped customers open accounts, fill out and process loan applications, save for the future, balance checkbooks, and cash pay checks. In addition to this long list of responsibilities, what is remarkable about this versatile employee is that she performs her duties with enthusiasm and concern. That attitude has helped propel Ms. Schnakenberg from a teller who earned \$75 a month to a Vice President and Facility Manager, overseeing day-to-day operations of the bank. During her lengthy tenure, she has observed the bank change and grow from an establishment that applied for deposits by hand and lacked indoor plumbing to an institution that functions and flourishes in the modern world.

First Community Bank has not only prospered economically, under Ms. Schnakenberg's leadership, it has also benefitted from her research and recording of the bank's colorful history. That history includes a Depression-era incident when one of the bank managers had cashiers band a high-value bill on both sides of the \$1 bill stacks.

Mrs. Schnakenberg has also touched the lives of the people around her through the unselfish distribution of her time, such as serving in community activities, visiting friends in nursing homes, and playing the organ at St. John's Lutheran Church services.

To honor Ms. Schnakenberg, First Community Bank hosted a reception in her honor on Sunday, March 22, 1998, in Ionia, Missouri. It is an honor for me to recognize such a fine Missourian and to serve her in the U.S. Senate.

THE SCHOOL TRAGEDY IN
SPRINGFIELD, OREGON

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, we were all shocked and saddened by the tragic shooting incident at the Thurston High School in Springfield, Oregon. I listened with sympathy this morning to my colleagues from Oregon, and share their sentiments. My heart goes out to the victims of this horrendous crime,

and my prayers are with the injured, and with the families of all the victims in the Springfield community. I know that every parent or grandparent who sends a child to school shares the grief of the Springfield families.

This kind of tragedy has become far too common. It was only two months ago that we were shocked by the violence and horror of the schoolyard shooting in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Every day, it seems, we are assailed by new stories of senseless crimes committed by juveniles who should be too young to be capable of such acts.

Our juvenile crime problem has taken a new and sinister direction. I can imagine few acts more heinous than some of the crimes recently committed by juveniles around the country. We seem now to be in a new era, in which juveniles are committing sophisticated adult crimes. This disturbing trend demonstrates the need to reform the juvenile justice system that is failing the victims of juvenile crime, failing too many of our young people, and ultimately, failing society.

The Senate has before it comprehensive youth violence legislation. S. 10, the Hatch-Sessions Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offender Act, reported out of the Judiciary Committee last year on bipartisan vote. The goal of S. 10 is to reform and redirect the role played by the federal government in addressing juvenile crime in our Nation.

Responding to the testimony and advice of many state and local officials, S. 10 reauthorizes and streamlines the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), which provides assistance to the states in fighting juvenile crime. S. 10 also creates a \$500 million per year incentive block grant program for the states. These block grants can be used for a multitude of purposes, such as incarceration, graduated sanctions, serious and habitual offender programs, juvenile criminal record sharing, drug testing and treatment of juvenile arrestees, and numerous prevention programs.

In the face of tragedies such as the Springfield and Jonesboro murders, it is tempting to look for easy answers. I do not believe that we should succumb to this temptation. We are faced, I believe, with a problem which cannot be solved solely by the enactment of new criminal prohibitions. It is at its core a moral problem. Somehow, in this case and too many others like it, we have failed as a society to pass along to the next generation the moral compass that differentiates right from wrong. This cannot be legislated. It will not be restored by the enactment of a new law or the implementation of a new program. But it can be achieved by communities working together to teach accountability by example and by early intervention when the signs clearly point to violent and antisocial behavior, as seems to be the case in some of these tragedies.