

fair-minded individuals with appropriate judicial temperament and who are committed to upholding the Constitution and following precedent. When the President sends judicial candidates who embody these principles, we have tried to move quickly. When he sends controversial nominees whose records demonstrate that they lack these qualities and whose records are lacking, we will necessarily take more time to evaluate their merits.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise today in support of the confirmation of Terrence McVerry, who has been nominated to serve as a U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Terrence McVerry has the breadth of experience and accomplishment we look for in a Federal judge. After graduating from law school, Mr. McVerry served in the U.S. Army Reserves and the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. He then went to work as an assistant district attorney for Allegheny County, prosecuting hundreds of trials with an emphasis in major felonies and homicides.

Mr. McVerry also has 17 years of civil litigation experience representing individuals in a variety of matters including personal injury, real estate, contracts, family matters, estate planning, and small businesses and corporations.

Mr. McVerry has been an able legislator, winning election to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1979 and serving there for 21 years. In 1998 Governor Tom Ridge appointed him to fill a judicial vacancy on the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County in the Family Division. Currently Mr. McVerry is the solicitor of Allegheny County, acting as the chief legal officer and director of a governmental law department comprised of 36 attorneys.

I thank my colleagues for joining me in my unqualified support for Mr. McVerry.

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#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will return to legislative session.

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#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:01 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CLELAND).

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#### HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to proceed under Senator LIEBERMAN's time.

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

#### TERRORISM INSURANCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have to believe that the President is not getting the right information from his staff; otherwise, knowing him, I cannot believe he would say some of the things he has said recently.

I was running yesterday morning, and on Public Radio I heard a preview of the speech the President was going to give before a union in Pennsylvania. And I thought they must have made a mistake. Then, later in the day, I heard him complete that speech, and he went ahead just as they had said on Public Radio.

As we consider homeland security and the measures we should take to defend America, I think it is important we talk about terrorism insurance. That is the issue I want to talk about. I believe the President has not received the proper information from his staff.

Following the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon about a year ago, many American businesses have had trouble purchasing affordable insurance covering acts of terrorism.

As a consequence, many construction projects and real estate transactions have been delayed, interrupted, and in some cases canceled. We are talking about billions of dollars worth of projects that have been stalled, some terminated, solely because of the lack of being able to purchase terrorism insurance.

These problems cost many American workers their jobs and prevent businesses from being as productive as they could be. Clearly, the lack of affordable terrorism insurance has had a harmful effect on our Nation's already troubled economy.

I am glad we are back from our break and the President is back from his vacation. However, as I have indicated, yesterday, the President made some statements relating to terrorism insurance, about the need for Congress to move forward on terrorism insurance, that simply were without any fact.

As millions of students across the country go back to school, I want them to understand that they must speak the truth. I repeat, I do not think the President said what he said yesterday based upon full knowledge of all the information.

The truth, Mr. President, is Senate Democrats—because I have been here offering the unanimous consent request for months—have been leading the effort to pass an effective terrorism insurance bill—and we started on this last year—while Republicans have delayed and attempted to thwart this important legislation time after time. The President should know that. The leadership in the Congress of his party has not allowed us to go forward on this legislation.

One of the statements he made before the union is: I am for hard hats, not trial lawyers.

This is terrorism insurance. We should move it forward. I am confident everyone can see through these state-

ments the President made as being without fact.

I want to remind him and the people who give him advice—give him good information, good background information so he can speak with the full knowledge of the facts.

We are eager to pass terrorism insurance. We have done everything within our power to do that. This would help workers, businesses, and the Nation's economy.

Shortly after the terrorist attacks last year, our colleagues—Senators DODD, SARBANES, and SCHUMER—developed a strong bill to help businesses get the affordable terrorism insurance they badly need.

When we attempted to move this bill last December, the minority voiced no fundamental disagreement with the bill but argued over the number of amendments to be offered. This was done in an effort to prevent us from moving forward on this legislation. So we could not do it in December. We came right back and started on it. After having had many private attempts to get this legislation moving, we decided to go public and try to move it from the floor, right from where I stand.

We tried offering in early spring unanimous consent agreements to take up the terrorism insurance legislation. Again, there was no objection to the base text or that the Dodd-Sarbanes-Schumer bill should be the vehicle we would bring to the floor. They wanted some amendments. We wanted to treat this as any other legislation. They said let us agree on the number of amendments. Whatever number we came up with wasn't appropriate. We could not move it. Finally, they simply disagreed with bringing up the bill at all.

It is the right of the majority leader to decide which bills are brought to the floor. If the minority is opposed, they have the right to offer amendments and attempt to modify the text of the bill. We have offered to bring the bill up with amendments on each side so everyone could have the opportunity to make changes.

Nevertheless, the minority continued to object and further prevented us from passing the terrorism insurance legislation.

In April, the importance of the terrorism insurance legislation was enunciated by Secretary O'Neil in his testimony before the Appropriations Committee that the lack of terrorism insurance could cost America 1 percent of the GDP because major projects would not be able to get financing.

Finally, we were able to get an agreement that we could bring the bill to the floor. We passed the legislation. And then came weeks and weeks of more stalling by the minority. We could not get agreement on appointing conferees. We attempted and attempted and attempted. First, they were upset because the ratio was 3 to 2, which is fairly standard. They said they wanted 4 to 3. So we came back