

The Senator is right, this issue is defining it. I will probably want to speak on it, and others may want to do the same. We have at least a 2-hour time-frame to get some work done. I hope we can do it.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I didn't mean to say that anybody speaking on the amendment is a waste of time. I meant to say there is no need to be speaking unnecessarily when we can do other things. If the Senator or people who oppose his amendment want to speak, that will be helpful to the Senate. What I am saying to the Senator from Idaho is, you don't need to maintain the floor to protect your rights, nor do we. I have received calls, as has the majority leader, from some Democratic Senators who believe there may be some ability to work out a compromise.

Mr. CRAIG. Good. I thank the Senator for saying that. I did not take that characterization in any critical way.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF TIMOTHY J. CORRIGAN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will go into executive session to proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 960, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Timothy J. Corrigan, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 10 a.m. shall be equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee.

The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, how much time is available to the Senator from Vermont in his capacity as chairman of the Judiciary Committee?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Three minutes 40 seconds.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the distinguished Presiding Officer.

Yesterday marked the first anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States. Americans, very appropriately, honored the memory of the brave men and women who died in that terrible time. Our thoughts were and are with those who perished that day, the loved ones they left behind, and the heroes who acted with fearlessness, bravery and hope.

The world has changed during the last year, but, fortunately, the prin-

ciples on which this country was founded have not changed. I want to especially commend Chief Judge William Sessions of the U.S. District Court for the District of Vermont for proceeding with an immigration and naturalization ceremony in Vermont yesterday. What a wonderful gesture, granting citizenship to a new group of Americans and reminding us that we are a nation of immigrants and that our borders are open to immigrants who come to America seeking freedom, opportunity and a better life for their children. Whether our relatives came here for religious or political freedom in the 17th or 18th centuries, or to escape famine and persecution in the 19th and 20th centuries, many of us are descendants of those immigrants. Senator KENNEDY reminded us all earlier this year that immigrants are not the problem, terrorists are the problem. When the President appeared last night on Ellis Island, framed against the backdrop of the Statue of Liberty, that setting likewise reminds us that we are a nation of immigrants. Let this country, and what it stands for, always be a beacon of hope and freedom for the oppressed and downtrodden.

I am glad to see the President before the U.N. today. When our President speaks before the United Nations, we should not be looking at it as Democrats or Republicans, but as Americans. We want him, in his representation of our Nation and as our chief spokesperson on foreign policy, to be successful, and I wish him that success. I also appreciate his invitation to be there for the speech. Of course, our Senate votes will keep me here.

The Judiciary Committee continues working hard to make progress on judicial nominations and on legislation to respond to the new challenges that face our great nation. The Senate met on September 12 last year, and the Judiciary Committee held a business meeting on September 13. I kept the agenda that day to consensus items and bipartisan legislation. I felt strongly that we did not need partisan bickering but that we needed to come together and show that we can unite and that there is much that unites us all. We were able to report the first United States Attorneys nominated by President Bush. We worked on our bill to authorize the activities of the Department of Justice, a bipartisan drug use prevention, treatment and rehabilitation bill and the bipartisan Drug Competition Act.

That same afternoon we held a confirmation hearing for judicial nominations, including a judicial nominee from Mississippi. Just as we continued to meet and work in the immediate aftermath of the attacks on September 11, we also proceeded with hearings through and in the immediate aftermath of the receipt of the anthrax letters sent to Majority Leader DASCHLE and to me.

We worked hard to improve what became the USA PATRIOT Act with bi-

partisan support in the weeks that followed in September and into late October. In addition to our work on this landmark legislation, as well as continued oversight of the Justice Department, the FBI and the INS, we continued to hold judicial nominations hearings to help fill vacancies in our Federal courts with fair-minded judges.

We have now reported 80 judicial nominees out of committee. With today's confirmation of Judge Corrigan for the Middle District of Florida, we will confirm our 75th judicial nomination from President George W. Bush. We have confirmed more of President Bush's nominees in less than 15 months—75—than were confirmed in the last 30 months that a Republican majority controlled the Senate and the pace of judicial confirmations—73. We have also now confirmed more of President George W. Bush's judicial nominations since July, 2001—75—than were confirmed in all of 1989 and 1990, the first 2 years of the term of his father President George H.W. Bush—73.

As I have noted through the year, we could have accomplished even more with a modicum of cooperation from the White House. I regret that the administration and some Senate Republicans have been unwilling to acknowledge what we have accomplished in this regard but have, instead, chosen a strident posture and rejected our efforts toward bipartisan cooperation. The administration has chosen division rather than consensus with respect to its selection of Federal judges, which is unfortunate and unnecessary. The White House has insisted on sending forth a number of nominees who are divisive. Their records evidence judicial activism to reach ultra-conservative outcomes. Thus, in addition to reporting favorably 80 judicial nominees since the change in majority, the Judiciary Committee has, after a hearing and careful consideration, voted against reporting two nominations.

I regret that with respect to the important matter of our independent Federal judiciary, a matter that affects all Americans, the White House has chosen the path of partisanship. I regret that some in the White House and among Republicans would rather raise campaign funds and stir up their most extreme supporters than fill judicial vacancies quickly with consensus nominees.

Senate Republicans are running away from their own record. It is revealing that they refuse to make a fair comparison to the actual results during their most recent period of Senate control, which shows starkly how far we have come. Had they, in the 6½ years they were in the Senate majority, acted as fairly and as quickly on President Clinton and President Bush's judicial nominees as we have, we would have far fewer vacancies.

The truth is that we have done about twice as much as they. With today's vote, the Democratic-led Senate will confirm its 75th judge—exceeding the