

San Diego, as well as two in the western district of Texas. The western district of North Carolina receives one. It converts four temporary judgeships to permanent judgeships: One in the central district of Illinois, the northern district of New York, the eastern district of Virginia. And it creates seven new temporary judgeships, one in each of the northern districts of Alabama, Arizona, central district of California, southern district of Florida, district of New Mexico, western district of North Carolina, eastern district of Texas. It extends the temporary judgeship in the northern district of Ohio for 5 years.

I have heard Members of this body implore the Judiciary Committee about the need for additional judgeships. The Southern District court in San Diego, for example, has the heaviest caseload in the nation. This court has operated in a state of emergency since September, 2000. The Southern District handles complex litigation as well as major drug cases that emanate from the closeness of San Diego to the Mexican border. The district is relying on temporary and senior judges. The bench has been close to real catastrophe. This bill finally brings relief.

This bill improves civil justice; has motor vehicle franchise fairness; the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act; and the Antitrust Technical Corrections Act. There are a number of things in this bill to improve immigration procedures: The J-1 visa program, the H-1B visas, help to children, and more.

I conclude by noting that this bill is not unrelated to our present place in time. It is not unrelated to the need to protect our borders, to seeing that our nation has adequate border security, to seeing that FBI agents have hazardous duty pay, and to seeing that our visa program is improved. The bill provides authorization for the payment to State and local jurisdictions for the incarceration of illegal immigrants and for the addition of additional judgeships. It is a very important bill.

Again, I particularly thank the Chairman and the Ranking Member. Without them, this bill would not be on the floor today. It is a very important bill. I urge an "aye" vote.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### TRIBUTE TO JO-ANNE COE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, last week we regrettably learned of the passing of Jo-Anne Coe. She served the Senate and Senator Dole for many years. She was an admirable public servant.

From 1985 to 1987, during the 99th Congress, she became the Senate's first

woman to serve as Secretary of the Senate. Our condolences and prayers go out to her daughter Kathryn Coombs, her niece Kindra, her nephew Kevin, and of course to our former colleague. Senator Bob Dole not only had an ally, a friend, a staff person, he had someone who was his presence on the floor on so many occasions. We regret her loss, not only the loss of an employee, not only the loss of an important public servant, but the loss of a friend.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, there will be no further rollcall votes today. I yield the floor.

#### 21ST CENTURY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT—CONFERENCE REPORT—Continued

##### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

##### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2215, the 21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act.

Harry Reid, Jeff Bingaman, Jean Carnahan, Hillary Clinton, Thomas Carper, Richard Durbin, Paul Sarbanes, Daniel Inouye, Bill Nelson of Florida, Jack Reed, Patrick Leahy, Benjamin Nelson of Nebraska, John Edwards, Tim Johnson, Joseph Lieberman, Byron Dorgan, Tom Daschle.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I want to speak briefly on the reauthorization conference report that is before the Senate today. There are many parts of this legislation I want to talk about. One part that is very important to me is the new judgeships that would be created in the border areas of our country, including two new district judgeships in the western district of Texas, and one temporary judgeship in the eastern district of Texas.

The conference report contains language that Senator FEINSTEIN and I put forward because of the judicial emergencies that we find in our States. Largely in the border regions, we have had an onslaught of caseload that has made it very difficult for our judges to

not even stay even but just to try to handle the most important cases. So we have been trying to add some judgeships, both in California and in Texas, to relieve some of this emergency.

The judgeships in the western and eastern districts of Texas have been declared "judicial emergencies" by the nonpartisan Judicial Conference of the United States. The creation of new judgeships will certainly bring much needed relief.

Of all the courts in the country that are desperate for judges, the United States-Mexico border courts have the most critical need. According to the statistics from last year, the western district of Texas handles the most criminal cases in the country; last year, 4,434.

Currently, the western district of Texas is facing a criminal caseload of 1,987 pending cases; that is 2,758 defendants. In El Paso, 884 cases are pending overall—more than any other region in the district. Each day, more cases are added, overwhelming an already overburdened western district.

As our war against terrorism is advancing, as well as our war against drugs, it is even more crucial we have highly qualified judges and law enforcement officials in charge of our justice system.

Mr. President, I really appreciate the fact that we do have a cloture motion on this conference report. I hope very much we will be able to pass this legislation and create these courts. Hopefully, they will be able to be up and running sometime next year and try to bring justice. Justice delayed is justice denied in many instances. We would like to clear out the backlog and let people face trials and either serve their sentences or, if they are acquitted, of course, allow them to go free. Right now, they are incarcerated, and it is creating not only a burden on the court system but on the prison system. Many of our county prisons and State prisons are overloaded and trying to help with the backlog, but it is very hard for these counties to justify the costs when they do not get full reimbursement.

So we would appreciate passing this bill so we could get these courts. I hope the Senate will act expeditiously on this bill.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAYTON). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to speak a few minutes on the Department of Justice conference report that is before the Senate.

The Department of Justice is one of the great Departments of our Government. It is one of the oldest, one of the