

thereby prevented us from having the time to do any meaningful review. We are now in the position of trying to rush through too many nominees too quickly for us to give them real consideration.

The White House continues to undermine our process. Instead of working with us and focusing on consensus nominees, the President sent back to us five highly controversial nominees who had been returned to the White House. Sadly, the Senate Republican leadership, which has rubberstamped a number of very poor nominations, may force us to spend time and energy debating troublesome nominations, rather than reviewing and confirming good ones.

We have been accommodating, and we will continue to be, but the Judiciary Committee and the Senate should not be a rubber stamp for the President's nominations. We should be taking our constitutional responsibility to advise and consent seriously. That means carefully reviewing the nominees' records and making sure that these are appropriate nominees for lifetime appointments to important Federal judgeships.

A customary practice in the Senate would have been for the leaders, the Republican and Democratic leaders, to have sat down with the Chairman and the Ranking Member by now and have worked out a process to conclude the year with respect to judicial nominations. I would have urged that we concentrate on completing our work on those nominations most likely to be confirmed and to maximize the number of confirmations. Sadly, that meeting has not occurred and apparently will not.

I congratulate Francisco Besosa and his family on his confirmation today.

Mr. President, in the absence of any other Senator seeking recognition, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Francisco Augusto Besosa, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico? The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senators were necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN),

the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL), and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENEDEZ) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAHAM). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 87, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 253 Ex.]

YEAS—87

Alexander	Dorgan	McConnell
Allard	Durbin	Mikulski
Allen	Ensign	Murkowski
Bennett	Enzi	Murray
Bingaman	Feingold	Nelson (FL)
Bond	Feinstein	Nelson (NE)
Boxer	Frist	Obama
Bunning	Graham	Pryor
Burns	Grassley	Reed
Burr	Gregg	Reid
Byrd	Hagel	Roberts
Cantwell	Harkin	Rockefeller
Carper	Hutchison	Salazar
Chafee	Inhofe	Sarbanes
Chambliss	Isakson	Schumer
Clinton	Jeffords	Sessions
Coburn	Johnson	Shelby
Cochran	Kennedy	Smith
Coleman	Kerry	Snowe
Collins	Kyl	Specter
Conrad	Landriau	Stabenow
Cornyn	Lautenberg	Stevens
Craig	Leahy	Sununu
Crapo	Levin	Talent
Dayton	Lieberman	Thomas
DeMint	Lincoln	Thune
Dodd	Lott	Voinovich
Dole	Lugar	Warner
Domenici	Martinez	Wyden

NOT VOTING—13

Akaka	DeWine	Menendez
Baucus	Hatch	Santorum
Bayh	Inouye	Vitter
Biden	Kohl	
Brownback	McCain	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARTINEZ). The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business.

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

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS NICHOLAS A. MADARAS

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to PFC Nicholas A. Madaras, U.S. Army, of Wilton, CT.

While in Boqouba, Iraq, with the 168th Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Private Madaras died on September 3, 2006, of injuries he sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his dismounted patrol.

He is remembered by those who knew him in the community as a leader on the soccer field, a sharp and focused student, a quiet but intense warrior, and as a caring and creative young man. He is remembered by his comrades as a good-humored soldier in a league of extraordinary heroes, mature beyond his years. Described as having tremendous potential with a heart of courage, he caused many to wonder why he had interrupted a promising education and chose the Army instead. Feeling uncomfortable just watching others serve, he responded to them that he was compelled to do his part for his country.

Private Madaras epitomizes the American spirit which permeates our great Nation. Living as a true patriot and defender of our principles of freedom and justice, he consistently put others ahead of himself. While I am saddened by his loss, I am also both proud and grateful that we have the kind of fighting force exemplified by Private Madaras serving in our Armed Forces.

Our Nation extends its heartfelt sympathy to his family. I offer my condolences to his father William, to his mother Shalini, to his sister Marie, and to his brother Christopher. We extend our appreciation for sharing this outstanding soldier with us, and we offer our prayers and support.

#### SUCCESSFUL NEW MEXICO PROGRAMS

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss some successful Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security programs created in my home State of New Mexico.

One project, the foreign language translator, is a hands-free, voice-activated translator that allows troops to speak English phrases that are automatically broadcast in Arabic. The electronics for the translator are built by Crane Corporation of Albuquerque, NM and Laguna Industries assembles and tests the units in Cibola County, NM. I secured \$1.4 million for this project in fiscal year 2005 Department of Defense funding, and its usefulness was highlighted in a June 19 Forbes article which quoted a Coast Guardsman as saying the device is the best interpreting tool available to date.

Another project, the National Infrastructure Simulation and Analysis Center, or NISAC, is a joint Sandia/Los Alamos National Laboratories initiative that was created in 2000. NISAC studies critical infrastructure and models the effects of a potential terrorist attack on such infrastructure. This work has proven invaluable to our Nation. NISAC accurately predicted