

nominations promptly and provide the Ninth Circuit with the judicial resources it needs and to which it is entitled.

I am likewise concerned that the Fourth, Sixth and District of Columbia Circuits are suffering from multiple vacancies.

I continue to urge the Senate to meet our responsibilities to all nominees, including women and minorities, and look forward to action on the nominations of Judge James Wynn, Jr. to the Fourth Circuit, Enrique Moreno to the Fifth Circuit, Kathleen McCree Lewis to the Sixth Circuit and Judge Johnnie Rawlinson to the Ninth Circuit. Working together the Senate can join with the President to confirm well-qualified, diverse and fair-minded judges to fulfill the needs of the federal courts around the country.

Having begun so slowly in the first five months of this year, we have much more to do before the Senate takes its final action on judicial nominees this year. We should be considering 20 to 40 more judges this year. Having begun so slowly, we cannot afford to follow the "Thurmond rule" and stop acting on these nominees at the end of the summer in anticipation of the presidential election. We must use all the time until adjournment to remedy the vacancies that have been perpetuated on the courts to the detriment of the American people and the administration of justice. I urge all Senators to make the federal administration of justice a top priority for the Senate for the rest of this year.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

RETIREMENT OF STEVE HEMMINGSEN

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, this day marks the retirement of a legend in broadcast journalism in South Dakota. Steve Hemmingsen, who has faithfully delivered news to living rooms in my home state for over twenty-five years, will give his last regular broadcast tonight.

There's an old story about Calvin Coolidge, told shortly after he left the White House. He was filling out a standard form, which asked for standard information. Line 1 asked for his

name and address. Line 2 asked for his "Occupation", for which he answered "Retired". Line 3 was titled "Remarks." Mr. Coolidge responded "Glad of it."

I hope that Steve Hemmingsen will share that sentiment: glad to be retired from the rigors of his job—but never fully removed from his audience, the thousands of people who have relied on him for their news for more than two decades.

Steve grew up just across the border in Minnesota, and after graduating from high school, he landed his first job in broadcasting at the "Polka Station of the Nation" in New Ulm. Later, he studied at the Brown Institute and was hired by KELO-TV in 1969. He has been a fixture there and on our nightly news ever since.

It has been estimated that since Steve began working the 6:00 and 10:00 pm news at KELO, he has delivered about eighteen thousand newscasts. He's shouldered the responsibility of helping our state get through some of its most trying times—such as the devastating Rapid City flood in 1972, the tragic plane crash that took the lives of Governor George Mickelson and several of South Dakota's economic development leaders in 1993, the horrible tornado in Spencer two years ago and countless South Dakota blizzards. When South Dakotans have faced adversity, Steve's steady voice and calm demeanor brought us up to speed on the latest events and talked us through each crisis we encountered.

But Steve has been there through the good times as well. When we celebrated our state's centennial in 1989, Steve reported on the numerous celebrations going on around South Dakota, giving us insight on where our state had been, and where it was going. When Scotland, South Dakota's own Chuck Gemar went into space, Steve helped express the collective sense of pride that was felt throughout the state. You could say that during his career at KELO, Steve's familiar voice was the first that brought news of noteworthy events to the people in South Dakota.

Over the last twenty-five years, Steve Hemmingsen has earned the trust of the people of South Dakota. Although Steve and I haven't always seen eye-to-eye on some issues, I have never had a reason to question his dedication as a broadcaster, his fairness as a reporter or his integrity as a person. In my years in public service, I have had the opportunity to work with hundreds of reporters both in South Dakota and across the nation and there is no doubt in my mind that Steve Hemmingsen is one of the best. Today we congratulate him, but tomorrow he will certainly be missed.

It brings me great pleasure to join all of KELO-Land in wishing Steve the best as he signs off tonight. The evening news will never be the same.

MITCH ROSE TO LEAVE THE HALLS OF CONGRESS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, Mitch Rose, my chief of staff, who before that was my press secretary, will leave the Senate within the next few days.

Mitch has been a great member of our staff, with his understanding of the nuances of legislation, his ability to articulate concerns, and his courage to challenge debate when he believes strongly in an issue. His talents with words, written and spoken, are really legendary.

But no matter how tough the argument, or how serious the discussion, Mitch's sense of humor always helps to keep things in perspective.

It's safe to say that he's not only famous for that sense of humor, but at times, he's infamous.

Born in Alaska, a product of a great family and of Alaska's public schools, Mitch came to Capitol Hill after graduation from the University of Washington, almost 15 years ago.

He first went to work for our friend and former colleague Bob Dole, and later toiled for the other members of our Alaska delegation, DON YOUNG in the House and FRANK MURKOWSKI here in the Senate.

When Mitch joined our staff, he took on the added responsibility of attending law school at night. His wife, Dale Cabaniss, attended a different law school in the evenings, while she worked for Senator MURKOWSKI.

Mitch's work on aviation and telecommunications issues has been particularly important. As chief of staff, he has kept ahead of the curve on all of our concerns, providing insight and guidance to my staff and me.

The Alaska Humanities Forum has created a program named after Mitch, based on his experience as a youngster, when his parents made sure he knew how life in a rural Alaska village contrasts with life in urban Alaska. The Rose Urban-Rural Alaska Partnership Program will take urban youth to rural villages to promote better understanding of the very different ways of life in our small communities. It will provide the same type of opportunity his parents, Dave and Fran Rose, provided for Mitch when he was a young Anchorage school boy.

Mitch is an example, Mr. President, of the best of his generation. He's worked hard, taken on heavy responsibilities at work and at home, maintained close and good relationships with Alaska and Alaskans, and with those with whom he works.

He and Dale, who is now a Commissioner of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, are the parents of Ben 5, and twins Haley and Shelby, eight months.

There is no question that we will miss Mitch. But there's also no question that he will be a valuable member of the private sector.