

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

THE JUDICIARY

Paul C. Huck, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, vice Kenneth L. Ryskamp, retired.

John W. Darrah, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, vice George M. Marovich, retired.

Joan Humphrey Lefkow, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, vice Ann C. Williams, elevated.

George Z. Singal, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine, vice Morton A. Brody, deceased.

CONFIRMATION OF GEORGE SINGAL

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate has confirmed George Singal, the President's nominee for a seat on the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine, and rise to express my strong unequivocal support for his nomination.

In advance, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator HATCH, for proceeding so expeditiously on Mr. Singal's nomination—especially when considering his nomination was transmitted to the Senate just six weeks ago. In addition, I would like to thank the Majority Leader for bringing his nomination to the floor so rapidly—just three days after being reported by the Judiciary Committee.

George Singal immigrated along with his family to the United States at a very young age, and has become a living embodiment of the American dream. He possesses a superior legal mind, has distinguished himself within the legal profession, and is deeply committed to upholding the very highest standards of our nation's judicial system.

Moreover, Mr. Singal has a wide range of experience serving as both a prosecutor and as a defense attorney—a deep understanding and appreciation for the constitutionally mandated roles of the three branches of government—and the enormous respect of his colleagues, a number of whom have contacted me in support of his nomination. Finally, and just as telling, he enjoys bipartisan support across the State of Maine.

Consider what George's background says about his character and qualifications. Born in a refugee camp in Italy after his family fled before the German invasion of his native Poland, he arrived in Bangor along with his sister and widowed mother in 1949.

After graduating summa cum laude from my alma mater, the University of Maine in 1967, and becoming only the second recipient of the highly respected Root-Tilden Scholarship in the history of the university, George briefly left our state to receive his law de-

gree from Harvard University three years later.

Indeed, not one to forget his roots, George immediately returned to Maine to begin his legal career in Bangor, serving as the Assistant County Attorney for Penobscot County from 1971 to 1973, even as he worked his way to a partnership in the respected law firm of Gross, Minsky, Mogul, & Singal—the firm in which he has remained to this day.

Having served on a wide variety of professional committees—including the advisory committee for the District of Maine that was assembled pursuant to the Civil Justice Reform Act—George's impeccable credentials and reputation for impartiality led to his appointment in 1993 to the Governor's Judicial Selection Committee by my husband, Governor McKernan.

That appointment, and the fact that he now chairs this prestigious committee that assists in the appointment of judges across the state under Independent Governor Angus King, is why it's a special pleasure for me to speak on his behalf today.

Of note, the enthusiastic support George has received from both sides of the aisle in Maine speaks volumes about Mr. Singal's talents and work ethic, as well as the universal respect he has earned over his years of work in the Maine judicial system.

Throughout his career, Mr. Singal displayed remarkable legal acumen, thanks in large part to his thorough, reflective and balanced approach to his work. This approach has justifiably earned him accolades throughout his career, including his selection to the American College of Trial Lawyers—an award given to less than one percent of trial lawyers nationwide—and his naming to the Best Lawyers in America, a designation that is made by his colleagues in the legal profession.

Mr. Singal possesses precisely the kind of judicial temperament and experience I think we should expect from all our judicial nominees. I am certain this is due, in no small part, to his family's background and the perseverance and work ethic they instilled in him as an immigrant brought to the United States by the ravages of World War II.

Further, his work during the late-1960s in the office of then-Congressman Bill Hathaway undoubtedly impressed upon him the need for balance between the three branches of government. In fact, it is his broad range of experiences that has undoubtedly instilled in Mr. Singal a proper perspective on the appropriate role and appropriate constitutional limitations of each branch of our government.

Clearly, George Singal has not only the professional qualifications to serve us well on the federal circuit, but also the personal credentials to match.

My work with George over the past few weeks has only confirmed what I

had already heard—this is a man of the highest integrity and personal character.

In conclusion, I am most proud to be able to express my support for Mr. George Singal. He has the qualifications, the intellect, the experience, the perspective, and the integrity to be an outstanding judge. Accordingly, I am pleased that my colleagues support his confirmation to the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

MEASURE INDEFINITELY POSTPONED—S. 2553

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 2553 be indefinitely postponed.

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

ORDER FOR COMMITTEES TO FILE LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate, committees have from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Wednesday, July 5, in order to file legislative matters.

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

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING VALUE OF EDUCATION IN U.S. HISTORY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 129, submitted earlier today by Senators LIEBERMAN, SMITH of Oregon, CLELAND, and others.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 129) expressing the sense of Congress regarding the importance and value of education in United States history.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution and the preamble be agreed to, en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 129) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 129

Whereas basic knowledge of United States history is essential to full and informed participation in civic life and to the larger vibrancy of the American experiment in self-government;

Whereas basic knowledge of the past serves as a civic glue, binding together a diverse people into a single Nation with a common purpose;

Whereas citizens who lack knowledge of United States history will also lack an understanding and appreciation of the democratic principles that define and sustain the Nation as a free people, such as liberty, justice, tolerance, government by the consent of the governed, and equality under the law;

Whereas a recent Roper survey done for the American Council of Trustees and Alumni reveals that the next generation of American leaders and citizens is in danger of losing America's civic memory;

Whereas the Roper survey found that 81 percent of seniors at elite colleges and universities could not answer basic high school level questions concerning United States history, that scarcely more than half knew general information about American democracy and the Constitution, and that only 22 percent could identify the source of the most famous line of the Gettysburg Address;

Whereas many of the Nation's colleges and universities no longer require United States history as a prerequisite to graduation, including 100 percent of the top institutions of higher education;

Whereas 78 percent of the Nation's top colleges and universities no longer require the study of any form of history;

Whereas America's colleges and universities are leading bellwethers of national priorities and values, setting standards for the whole of the United States' education system and sending signals to students, teachers, parents, and public schools about what every educated citizen in a democracy must know;

Whereas many of America's most distinguished historians and intellectuals have expressed alarm about the growing historical illiteracy of college and university graduates and the consequences for the Nation; and

Whereas the distinguished historians and intellectuals fear that without a common civic memory and a common understanding of the remarkable individuals, events, and ideals that have shaped the Nation, people in the United States risk losing much of what it means to be an American, as well as the ability to fulfill the fundamental responsibilities of citizens in a democracy: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—*

(1) the historical illiteracy of America's college and university graduates is a serious problem that should be addressed by the Nation's higher education community;

(2) boards of trustees and administrators at institutions of higher education in the United States should review their curricula and add requirements in United States history;

(3) State officials responsible for higher education should review public college and university curricula in their States and promote requirements in United States history;

(4) parents should encourage their children to select institutions of higher education with substantial history requirements and students should take courses in United States history whether required or not; and

(5) history teachers and educators at all levels should redouble their efforts to bolster the knowledge of United States history among students of all ages and to restore the vitality of America's civic memory.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, will the distinguished majority leader yield?

Mr. LOTT. I will be happy to yield.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry. Is my name on the matter that was just acted on?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Chair.

#### ELECTRIC RELIABILITY 2000 ACT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 642, S. 2071.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2071) to benefit electricity consumers by promoting the reliability of the bulk-power system.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources with an amendment, as follows:

(The amendment will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, today I urge the Senate to unanimously adopt S. 2071, my bill also known as "the Electric Reliability 2000 Act." The bill consists of a striking amendment adopted in the Energy Committee and sponsored by Senators MURKOWSKI, BINGAMAN, and myself. It includes the original legislation and compromise language that addresses the concerns of the States on this issue.

We should be pro-active in addressing electricity reliability, and S. 2071 is the correct approach at this time. The language has been endorsed by all of the major groups associated with the electricity industry, including investor-owned utilities, public power, rural cooperatives, states groups, reliability groups, power producers, and consumer organizations. Not only does this bill provide a long-term solution to electricity reliability by creating a national reliability organization—modeled loosely on the Securities and Exchange Commission—it will give the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission immediate authority to prevent blackouts this summer.

Enacting S. 2071 is critical for all electricity consumers in the United States. This Nation's interstate electric transmission system is an extremely complex network that connects with Canada and Mexico. It developed over decades with various voluntary agreements that allow areas to work together depending on changing power needs that vary from minute to minute. Yet a fundamental change has made this voluntary system unworkable. The system of buying and selling

wholesale power is now many times more complex than it was just a decade ago. With a stronger economy, electricity usage and its importance to the economy has increased. Due to the uncertain nature of evolving retail and wholesale electricity markets, many utilities have cut investment that traditionally enhanced the reliability of the nation's grid.

The fact is that the voluntary agreements just do not work any longer because there is no enforcement. With the beginning of competition, we need a referee on the bulk-power system. A multitude of studies and incidents over the past several years show that the Nation's reliability is at its lowest point in decades. Certain entities can "game" the transmission system—with potential of causing brownouts and blackouts within a region—and suffer no consequences for such actions. With continued extreme heat predicted for this summer, the problem will continue. Blackouts hit the San Francisco area and Detroit in the past month, and even the Northwest is facing shortages this summer.

As I said in February when I introduced this bill, reliability is more than creating legally-enforceable rules on the electricity transmission grid. It also includes cost-effective conservation and demand-side management. Reliability will be enhanced with open-access transmission policies and with more generation distributed throughout the grid, whether it is small fuel cells or larger plants with clean technology. Sending the right signals to the investment community will be aided by passage of a truly comprehensive bill next year that allows all regions of the country—including the Northwest—the ability to benefit from a truly open and competitive marketplace. All of these factors, along with S. 2071, contribute to electricity reliability.

The Electric Reliability 2000 Act is not a total solution to the electricity reliability problem in this nation, but it is a solid start. Enacting this legislation will have immediate benefits for American consumers and the economy of the United States.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise in support of S. 2071.

S. 2071 will promote the reliability of our electric power grid.

I strongly support the enactment of this legislation, but there should be no misunderstanding that it does only part of the job of protecting consumers.

It establishes enforceable rules for the use of the interstate transmission grid, but it does not stimulate the construction of new generation and transmission.

New transmission and generation are essential if we are going to avoid electricity shortages this summer and in the future.