The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.
The joint resolution will receive a second reading on the next day.

AUTHORIZATION OF TESTIMONY, DOCUMENT PRODUCTION, AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 136 submitted earlier today by the majority and other Republican leaders.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 136) to authorize testimony, document production, and legal representation in the State of Connecticut versus Kenneth J. LaFontaine, Jr.

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

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, this resolution concerns a request for testimony and document production in a criminal case in the Superior Court in Hartford, CT. A resident of Connecticut has been charged with inciting injury to a person, second-degree harassment, and threatening. The criminal charges arise out of threatening and abusive telephone messages left on an answering machine at Senator LIEBERMAN's Connecticut district office, located in Hartford, CT, threatening, among other things, to inflict bodily injury through an attack on a Federal building.

This resolution would authorize an employee on Senator LIEBERMAN's staff who heard the threatening messages to testify and to produce evidence of the calls, with representation by the Senate Legal Counsel.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolution and preamble be agreed to; the record be laid upon the table en bloc, and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Alabama.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I appreciate the opportunity just to say a few words. I thank Senator Reid for his leadership and effort to move the legislation that has been moving forward pretty well so far. I think this side has certainly been cooperative. We have not had anything like the 100-plus amendments that we had when this side was trying to move bills last year. We have been very cooperative.

There is a real concern that this administration, as it gets itself into office facing all kinds of challenges, needs to get its people on board as soon as possible. We are now entering the seventh month of President Bush's administration. Maybe 15 percent of his term has been used up, and we now have 150 nominees who have not been confirmed. Maybe there will be some objections to some and they will need some scrutiny, but most of them are nominations which, if called up and are voted upon on the floor, are going to pass virtually unanimously.

These are good men and women who have left their jobs and careers. They are committed to public service for a period of time. We need to give them an up-or-down vote.

I think we need to set a higher standard than we have done before. I do not object to a Senator who has a concern over a nominee to raise that concern, to highlight the problem, to ask questions, even delay a nominee. But when we have a nominee nobody objects to—and this is true of the overwhelming majority of the 150 or so—we believe they ought to be moving forward promptly. That is why we are at loggerheads a little bit here. There are some strong feelings that we need a good, firm commitment we will move these nominations before we leave in August for a month away because then...