

Within 2 days of the terrible events of September 11, I chaired a confirmation hearing for the two judicial nominees who were able to drive to Washington while interstate air travel was still disrupted.

At our committee meeting on October 4, 2001, we reported those two judicial nominees and held another confirmation hearing on five judicial nominees that same day.

On October 18, 2001, in spite of the closure of Senate office buildings in the wake of the receipt of a letter containing anthrax spores and Senate staff and employees testing positive for anthrax exposure, the Committee proceeded with its previously scheduled business meeting under extraordinary circumstances in the United States Capitol and reported four judicial nominees favorably to the Senate. On that same day, despite the unavailability of the Judiciary Committee hearing room and the closure of Senators' offices, we proceeded with another confirmation hearing for an additional five judicial nominees.

Two weeks ago, while the Senate Republicans were shutting down the Senate with a filibuster preventing action on the bill that funds our nation's foreign policy initiatives and provides funds to help build the international coalition against terrorism, the Judiciary Committee nonetheless proceeded with yet another hearing for four more judicial nominees on October 25, 2001, our third hearing involving judicial nominees in October.

Tomorrow morning we are holding another hearing for five more judicial nominations.

The facts are that since the committee was assigned its members on July 10, 2001, the committee will have held nine hearing involving 28 judicial nominees. By tonight the Senate will have already confirmed 16 judges, including four to the Courts of Appeals. These numbers show that there have been more hearings for more nominees, more confirmations of more judges to the District Courts, and more confirmations of more judges to the Courts of Appeals this year than by the same date in either the first year of the first Bush administration or the first year of the Clinton administration. The facts are that the Judiciary Committee and the Senate are ahead of the confirmation pace for judicial nominees in the first year of the first Bush administration or the first year of the Clinton administration.

I know that Karon Bowdre has the strong support of the senior Senator from Alabama who came to introduce her at her hearing. I am told that Senator SESSIONS came to the floor earlier today to speak in support of this nomination. I recall that the senior Senator from Oklahoma came to the hearing to speak in favor of Stephen Friot and that he has the support of Senator INHOFE, as well.

Both these nominees were among those District Court nominations sent to the Senate just before the August recess. They had to be returned to the White House without action when the Republican leader objected to retaining them here over the recess. They were nominated in early September and the Committee received their ABA peer review ratings in early October. They were then scheduled to participate in a hearing on October 18, considered by the committee at last week's business meeting and are being confirmed today, November 6, which is approximately 1 month after receiving the ABA ratings.

I congratulate the nominees and their families on these confirmations.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—H.R. 2944

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes consideration of H.R. 2944, the D.C. appropriations bill, tomorrow at 10 a.m., Wednesday November 7, after the bill is reported, Senator ALLEN be recognized to offer an amendment regarding needle exchange; that there be 60 minutes for debate prior to a vote in relation to the amendment, with the time equally divided and controlled in the usual form; that no amendment be in order to the amendment prior to a vote in relation to the amendment; that upon the use or yielding back of the time, the Senate vote in relation to the amendment; that upon the disposition of the Allen amendment, Senator HUTCHISON be recognized to offer an amendment relating to attorneys fees; that there be 60 minutes for debate with respect to the amendment; that no second-degree amendment be in order; that upon the use of 15 minutes each for proponents and opponents of the Hutchison of Texas amendment, the amendment be set aside until 2:30 p.m. the same day, with the remaining 30 minutes of debate equally divided; that upon the use or yielding back of the time, the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the Hutchison amendment, with no further intervening action.

I further ask unanimous consent that upon the use of 30 minutes of debate on the Hutchison amendment, there then be a period of morning business until 2:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the majority and Republican leaders or their designees.

We have a very important briefing by one of the President's Cabinet Members tomorrow afternoon. That is the reason for the extended morning business time.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative 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 ask unanimous consent to proceed in morning business.

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

(The remarks of Mr. SESSIONS pertaining to the introduction of S. 1641 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. SESSIONS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant 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.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to explain my absence during yesterday's roll call vote on the nomination of Larry Hicks to be U.S. District Judge of the Nevada District. I do not dissent on Mr. Hick's nomination and if I had been present, I would have voted aye.

Unfortunately I was absent during yesterday's rollcall vote because my attendance was necessary at a meeting to discuss the economic future of my home State of Montana. I discussed the State of Montana's timber industry with Plum Creek Timber Co., the largest wood products business in Montana. To be specific, we discussed what tools are necessary to ensure that business in Montana survives our Nation's current economic downturn.

The future of a specific industry in my State brings me to a larger point, the economic state of rural America