

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

after September 11, 2001. Much attention has been paid, as it should, to the economic effect of the terrorist attacks on our major centers of commerce. Primarily America's largest cities and the coasts. However, the impact has been felt equally as hard in rural America where the economy was already slowing.

In addition to the wood products industry, agricultural commodities which are the lifeblood of Montana and rural America are hurting worse than ever before. The past 3 years have been disastrous due to drought. Now Montana's farmers are faced with sharply escalating operating costs due to higher energy and fertilizer prices. According to the most recent projections provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, total farm expenses are expected to rise again this year, right on the heels of a \$10 billion increase last year.

As costs spiral out of control, farm income has not kept pace. Last year net farm business income was at a decade low according to USDA. Unless Government assistance is continued, net farm income in 2001 is projected to be even lower.

The downturn in rural America is especially calamitous because prolonged economic depression often means extinction for these rural communities. A few bad years forces everyone out of business, not just those that sell commodities for a living. The very people and places that make up the fabric of the American economy are forced to seek opportunity elsewhere. This is a price that I am not willing to pay.

As we consider economic recovery measures we cannot forget rural America. We must not let the immediate damage that we see every night on the evening news blind us to the crisis that is happening in rural communities across America. We simply do not have a choice. The cost is simply too high.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred May 30, 1993, in Concord, CA. A gay man was sprayed with mace and threatened with a golf club by a neighbor who used an anti-gay slur. The assailant, Gilbert Lucero, 37, was arrested on assault charges.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol

that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF THE JEWISH BOOK FAIR

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask that the Senate join me today in congratulating the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit on the occasion of the golden anniversary of the Jewish Book Fair. Since 1951, the book fair has nourished the literary appetite of the metropolitan Detroit community.

Along with the Book Fair, the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit has enriched Jewish life and supported Jewish unity in and around the Detroit area for 75 years. The Community Center also strives to enhance life in the general community and welcomes all those in southeast Michigan to take advantage of the Center's facilities and programs.

The Jewish Community Center's Annual Book Fair is the largest and oldest in the country, and its programs are offered free of charge to the public. This November, 40 authors of national and international acclaim will come to the week long fair. Participants at this year's fair will include a diverse range of authors from noted attorney Robert Shapiro, to the author of the Scooby Doo Mysteries, James Gelsey, to Dr. Ruth Westheimer. In addition, the fair will offer the largest selection of books by Jewish authors and of Jewish content available in the Detroit area. The organizers of the fair expect over 20,000 visitors.

The Jewish Community Center has long enriched the lives of those residing throughout southeast Michigan. This year's book fair will surely continue this worthy legacy. I trust that my Senate colleagues will join me in recognizing The Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit on the Occasion of the 50th Annual Book Fair.●

RAMAPO COLLEGE

• Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I honor today Ramapo College and welcome its new president, Dr. Rodney Smith.

As those of us in New Jersey have known for many years, Ramapo's real strength lies not just in its academics, but also in its emphasis on global and hands-on learning. In recent years, this fine institution has also become nationally recognized as one of the top liberal arts colleges in the northeast, offering degrees in fields as diverse as the arts and humanities, and the sciences and business. Ramapo's reach extends far beyond its Mahwah, NJ, location. The strength of Ramapo's aca-

demic reputation attracts students seeking a varied and quality education—students from not only every county within my home State of New Jersey, but also from neighboring states, across the country and around the world.

On November 14, 2001, Dr. Smith will offer his first State of the College to the students, faculty and friends of Ramapo College. Accepting this prestigious post as Ramapo's third president, Dr. Smith joins the college at an exciting time in its history. With enrollment and applications continuing to rise, the college continues to grow, both in the number of programs it offers and the number of students it serves.

An accomplished author and educator, Dr. Smith joins Ramapo College from Hampton University, where he served in several capacities, most recently as Vice President for Planning and Dean of the Graduate College. Prior to his tenure at Hampton university, Dr. Smith held positions at a number of esteemed institutions, including Harvard University. As we enter into a new century and mark the beginning of the College's fourth decade, Ramapo can be confident in Dr. Smith's ability to lead, guiding one of New Jersey's premier colleges in its present course of providing progressive programs and a concerned and committed faculty.

Mr. President, I am pleased to invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating Dr. Smith's distinguished career and his future endeavors at Ramapo College.●

HONORING JULIA CHILD

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, it is a special honor for me to celebrate one of Massachusetts' most famous citizens and one of America's most famous chefs, Mrs. Julia Child. For over 40 years she has brightened our lives with recipes, books, and television shows that have broadened our palettes as well as our understanding of the world and on November 7 her peers will gather to honor her invaluable contributions to her craft. I am proud to join so many of Greater Boston's restaurants in celebrating this remarkable career at this and the many other events planned to recognize a uniquely American journey.

Over the past four decades, Julia revolutionized the way America cooks and eats, expanding and elevating the sophistication of the American appetite. Her influence can be seen in the bookstores of the country, where dining and cooking sections have grown to compete with history and commerce, and on the television, where cooking shows have proliferated and now present and celebrate traditions from all over the world.

Julia is widely credited with exposing the American kitchen to the tastes,