DEAR COLLEAGUE: We write as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, with the full support of the former Chairman and Ranking Republican Member, to inform you of a change in Committee practice with respect to nominations. We write because the Committee has traditionally sent home State Senators to ask their views on nominees to be U.S. Attorneys, U.S. Marshals and federal judges, to be treated as public information. We both believe that such openness in the confirmation process will benefit the Judiciary Committee and the Senate as a whole.

Further, it is our intention that this policy openness with regard to “blue slips” and the blue slip process continue in the future, regardless of who is Chairman or which party is in the majority in the Senate.

Therefore, we write to inform you that the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, with the full support of the former Chairman and Ranking Republican Member, is exercising his authority to declare that the blue slip process shall no longer be designated or treated as Committee confidential.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Leahy,
Chairman.

Orin G. Hatch,
Ranking Republican Member.

June 29, 2001

ORGANIZATION OF THE SENATE

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 120, the organizing resolution submitted earlier today by myself and Senator LOTT.

The PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 120) relative to the organization of the Senate during the remainder of the 107th Congress.

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

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that three letters with reference to the resolution be printed in the Record.

The PRESIDENT. Without objection, the letters were ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:


Dear Colleague:

The letter below is not an appointment but an expression of the views of the Chairman and Ranking Republican Member of the Judiciary Committee to inform you of a change in Committee practice with respect to nominations. We write because the Committee has traditionally sent home State Senators to ask their views on nominees to be U.S. Attorneys, U.S. Marshals and federal judges, to be treated as public information. We both believe that such openness in the confirmation process will benefit the Judiciary Committee and the Senate as a whole.

Further, it is our intention that this policy openness with regard to “blue slips” and the blue slip process continue in the future, regardless of who is Chairman or which party is in the majority in the Senate.

Therefore, we write to inform you that the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, with the full support of the former Chairman and Ranking Republican Member, is exercising his authority to declare that the blue slip process shall no longer be designated or treated as Committee confidential.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Leahy,
Chairman.

Orin G. Hatch,
Ranking Republican Member.

June 29, 2001

rules and Administration to continue such practice.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Dodd,
Chairman.

Mitch McConnell,
Ranking Member.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. 120) was agreed to, as follows:

S. Res. 120

Resolved, That the Majority Party of the Senate for the 107th Congress shall have a one seat majority on every committee of the Senate, except that the Select Committee on Ethics shall continue to be composed equally of members from both parties. No Senator shall lose his or her current committee assignments by virtue of this resolution.

2 Noticed: The provisions of Rule XXV the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate are hereby authorized to appoint their members of the committees consistent with this resolution.

Sec. 3 Subject to the authority of the Standing Rules of the Senate, any agreements entered into regarding committee funding and space prior to June 5, 2001, between the Chairman and Ranking member of each committee shall remain in effect, unless modified by subsequent agreement between the Chairman and Ranking member.

Sec. 4 The provisions of this resolution shall cease to be effective, except for Sec. 3, if the ratio in the full Senate on the date of adoption of this resolution changes.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, the resolution we have just adopted is one that provides for the reorganization of the U.S. Senate.

This is a unique time of transition for the Senate, and I understand that it is a difficult time for many of my Republican colleagues. If there is one thing that supercedes the status of any Senator or any party, it is our desire to do the work that we were sent here to do. That, of course, requires getting the Senate organized to do it.

By passing this resolution, our colleagues can take their rightful places on committees, committees can take action on legislation, and importantly, we can move forward with Presidential nominations.

This organizing resolution is the result of thorough bipartisan negotiations over the last several weeks.

Many people deserve credit. First and foremost, I thank Senator LOTT. Senator LOTT and I have been through many challenges together. Each of those challenges has strengthened our friendship and, of course, our relationship, and this is no exception.

I also thank Senators McCONNELL, DOMENICI, GRAMM, HATCH, and SPEECHER. Their good faith in the negotiating process, and their patience as the process played out, were instrumental in helping us reach this point.

This resolution provides for a one seat margin on Senate committees,