

Parker was confirmed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit last year and Judge Billings assumed senior status. Vermont has been without its complement of two U.S. District Court judges. Vermont deserves to have its Federal judges considered, confirmed and in place ready to rule on important matters.

I thank the President for nominating Bill Sessions and thank my colleagues for expediting his confirmation. I commend them all for recognizing the merit of this extraordinary nominee.

NOMINATION OF JILL L. LONG

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I strongly support the nomination of Jill Long to be the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Economic and Community Development. As chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, I successfully urged my colleagues on that committee to support my fellow Hoosier for this key position. The committee approved her nomination by a unanimous voice vote on August 9.

Many Senators have worked with Jill as a respected and valued colleague on the House Agriculture Committee. She served on that committee with distinction from the time of her election to Congress in 1989.

Jill Long was raised on a grain and dairy farm in Whitley County, Indiana. Her active involvement in helping to manage the farm continued through the difficult period of the 1980s.

At the same time, she began her public service in 1983 on the Valparaiso City Council. She has a distinguished teaching career at Valparaiso University, Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne, and Indiana University in Bloomington.

The nominee has had a long interest in rural development issues. During her chairmanship of the Congressional Rural Caucus, that group's membership more than doubled. She has a reputation for approaching issues thoughtfully and with common sense.

Although we are of different parties, we have often worked together in a bipartisan way on issues that affected our State. Last year, we joined in promoting legislation to roll back unnecessary and intrusive federal environmental regulations that, in effect, treated soybean oil as the equivalent of toxic petroleum oil.

The agencies and programs Ms. Long will oversee are important to rural America's future. We must consolidate an array of existing programs into a more coherent economic development effort. The Agriculture Committee voted to do precisely that when it approved a rural development title for the 1995 farm bill last month.

The nominee will need both creativity and perseverance to manage effectively her substantial portfolio at USDA. She will need to set priorities and identify opportunities. She must decisively correct problems and insist on efficient management. She will need to provide focus to a part of USDA that

is very important—but suffers from a lack of clear direction.

I believe Jill Long is well qualified for the position to which she has been nominated. She acquitted herself ably during her confirmation hearing, and I urge Senators to vote in favor of her nomination.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, are we back to legislative session?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is back in legislative session.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1995

Mr. DOLE. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate reconvene on Tuesday, September 5, at 10 a.m., and that following the prayer the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved to date, no resolutions come over under the rule, the call of the calendar be dispensed with, the morning hour be deemed to have been expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate immediately resume consideration of S. 1026, the DOD authorization bill, under the previous consent agreement.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1026, the DOD authorization bill, with 24 amendments in order. Senators who have amendments are expected to be present to offer and dispose of their amendments. Under a previous consent, a rollcall vote will occur on passage of the DOD appropriations bill on Tuesday, September 5, 1995, which will be the first rollcall vote of the day.

Senators should also be on notice the Senate will remain in session on Tuesday until the DOD authorization bill will be completed. Therefore, a late session can be anticipated.

Also, following the DOD authorization bill, on Wednesday, the Senate will resume consideration of the so-called welfare bill, the Work Opportunity Act of 1995. Therefore, late sessions and votes can be expected throughout the first week after the August recess. I think I can add throughout the month of September.

BLOCKING OF WTO

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, while we are waiting, I would just say I regret the Senator from West Virginia, Senator BYRD, without any notification to me, has chosen to block the WTO legislation, on which I have worked with the administration, which I was promised by the administration if I would support GATT. It was part of the agree-

ment in an effort to gain my support. I kept my word and did, for the President of the United States and, more importantly, for the country.

I was advised, after being told today by the chairman of the Finance Committee that the WTO legislation had been cleared, late this afternoon the Senator from West Virginia, Senator BYRD, as he has a right to do, would not permit it to go forward. At that point, the leader had either the choice to block all the nominees or to do what I have just done. It is unfair to the families to have another 3 or 4 weeks' wait because of an unexpected hold put on legislation, which had been cleared by the committee of jurisdiction, cleared by the minority leader, cleared by the administration, and blocked by someone who I have tried to accommodate at every turn in this Chamber, the Senator from West Virginia, Senator BYRD. That certainly is not right.

I must say, this legislation was very important to me and will remain very important to me. I am disappointed that he chose not to even contact me before taking this action. Now the Senator from North Carolina is here so we can do some treaties.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

INCOME TAX CONVENTION WITH SWEDEN

INCOME TAX CONVENTION WITH UKRAINE

EXCHANGE OF NOTES DATED AT WASHINGTON MAY 26 AND JUNE 6, 1995, RELATING TO THE IN- COME TAX CONVENTION AND PROTOCOL WITH UKRAINE

ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL MODI- FYING THE INCOME TAX CON- VENTION WITH MEXICO

INCOME TAX CONVENTION WITH THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

INCOME TAX CONVENTION AND PROTOCOL WITH PORTUGAL

REVISED PROTOCOL AMENDING THE TAX CONVENTION WITH CANADA

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar Nos. 4 through 10.

I further ask unanimous consent that the treaties be considered as having passed through their various parliamentary stages up to and including the presentation of the resolutions of ratification; that all committee provisions, reservations, understandings, et cetera, be considered agreed to.