

There are many both inside and outside Congress, including this Senator, who believe that the statute has many flaws, but so long as the law is on the books it must be applied fairly and consistently. This Department of Justice has not done so, and I place a large part of the blame on the Criminal Division.

Congress has responded to the unacceptable levels of crime by increasing the Department of Justice's budget: in fact, the Department's budget has skyrocketed since 1994, rising from under 11 billion dollars in FY 1994 to over 20 billion dollars in FY 1998. However, I am concerned about the decline in federal prosecutions in several critical areas despite this increased funding. First, at a time when the administration is calling for more gun control, I am concerned that the Department of Justice is not adequately enforcing current gun laws. The annual number of weapons and firearms prosecutions brought by this Administration has plummeted. For example, federal weapons and firearms prosecutions are down 18.7 % since 1992.

More importantly, I am concerned that the Department of Justice is not enforcing current laws meant to punish gun-toting criminals. Specifically, the number of prosecutions made under Project Triggerlock has collapsed. Initiated by the Bush Administration, Project Triggerlock targets federal prosecution and tough federal sentences on the worst violent offenders committing crimes with guns. In its first year, FY 1992, the program worked remarkably well: 4,353 federal cases were brought against 7,048 defendants for violations of federal law involving the use of a firearm. Yet, the number of these cases has fallen throughout the Clinton Administration, and in FY 1997 the Department of Justice reported only 2,844 cases under Project Triggerlock, a stunning 34.6% decrease since 1992. Through the effective use of federal powers and resources, U.S. Attorneys can greatly assist state and local law enforcement in keeping the most dangerous offenders off the streets. Unfortunately, this extremely effective program has lost priority in the Clinton Administration.

I have been concerned about the performance of the Criminal Division and the United States Attorneys in a number of additional areas over the past several years. Whether it has been the intentional failure of U.S. Attorneys in California to enforce Indian gaming laws, the unfortunate surrender of our borders to drug trafficking, the recent decision to distort the Controlled Substances Act to allow doctors to use drugs to assist suicides, or the repeal of a memorandum by Attorney General Richard Thornburgh which ensured federal prosecutors did not settle with charging defendants with lesser violations while more serious offenses were ignored, the administration's crime fighting decisions have, in some areas, not met the high standard the public

deserves. These concerns, however, do not diminish my recognition of the work of the thousands of federal law enforcement officials who ably carry out the responsibility of enforcing our federal laws.

As I pointed out at his confirmation hearing, Mr. Robinson has been nominated to a position of great trust. If confirmed, he will play a key role in advising the nation's chief law enforcement officer on matters of serious national concern. Mr. Robinson assured the Judiciary Committee that although he naturally would feel loyalty to the administration which selected him, he would stand above politics and serve the public.

During his confirmation hearing, I raised many of these important issues with Mr. Robinson. Although he was not in a position to have formed concrete opinions on some issues which have been debated between the Congress and the administration, I was heartened by his promise to work with the Congress and to bring fresh approaches to tough issues. By moving this nomination without further delay, the Congress will ensure that the Criminal Division once again will have the leadership it sorely needs to play a leading and effective role at the vanguard of federal law enforcement.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1998

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 16. I further ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted, and that the Senate then begin a period for morning business until 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each, with the following exceptions: Senator MACK, 15 minutes; Senator ROBERTS, 15 minutes; Senator DORGAN, 30 minutes.

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

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of S. 1415, the tobacco bill.

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

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. tomorrow to allow the weekly party conferences to meet.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the Senate will reconvene tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. and begin a period for morning business until 10:30 a.m. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the tobacco bill with the Gorton amendment pending regarding attorneys' fees. It is expected that a time agreement will be reached with respect to the Gorton amendment with a vote occurring on, or in relation to, the amendment Tuesday afternoon. Following disposition of the Gorton amendment, it is hoped further amendments will be offered and debated throughout Tuesday's session. Therefore, rollcall votes are possible throughout tomorrow's session as the Senate continues to make progress on the tobacco bill.

As a final reminder to all Members, the official photo of the 105th Congress will be taken tomorrow at 2:15 p.m. in the Senate Chamber. All Senators are asked to be in the Chamber and seated at their desks following the party luncheons.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order, following the remarks of the Senator from Minnesota, Mr. WELLSTONE.

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

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEARS 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, AND 2003

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces that H. Con. Res. 284, the concurrent resolution on the budget, having been received from the House, the order of April 2, 1998, will be executed as follows: all after the resolving clause is stricken and the text of S. Con. Res. 86, as amended by the Senate, is inserted, and the resolution as thus amended is agreed to. It is further ordered that the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House, and the Chair appoints the following conferees on the part of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER appointed Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. GRAMM of Texas, Mr. BOND, Mr. GORTON, Mr. GREGG, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. FRIST, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. SARBANES, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. DURBIN conferees on the part of the Senate.

Mr. WELLSTONE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.