

The amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title III, add the following:

SEC. 349. PROHIBITIONS REGARDING EVALUATION OF MERIT OF SELLING MALT BEVERAGES AND WINE IN COMMISSARY STORES AS EXCHANGE SYSTEM MERCHANDISE.

Neither the Secretary of Defense nor any other official of the Department of Defense may—

(1) by contract or otherwise, conduct a survey of eligible patrons of the commissary store system to determine patron interest in having commissary stores sell malt beverages and wine as exchange store merchandise; or

(2) conduct a demonstration project to evaluate the merit of selling malt beverages and wine in commissary stores as exchange store merchandise.

Mr. WARNER. This amendment is cleared. I join the Senator in urging its adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 2860) was agreed to.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. WARNER. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3001

(Purpose: To provide a substitute that clarifies that additional museums may be designated as "America's National Maritime Museum")

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Senator MOYNIHAN, I offer an amendment which designates the Mariner's Museum in Newport News, VA, and the South Street Seaport Museum in New York City as America's National Maritime Museum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER], for himself and Mr. MOYNIHAN, proposes an amendment numbered 3001.

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert:

SEC. 1064. DESIGNATION OF AMERICA'S NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM.

(a) DESIGNATION OF AMERICA'S NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM.—The Mariners' Museum building located at 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, Virginia, and the South Street Seaport Museum buildings located at 207 Front Street, New York, New York, shall be known and designated as "America's National Maritime Museum".

(b) REFERENCE TO AMERICA'S NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the buildings referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to America's National Maritime Museum.

(c) LATER ADDITIONS OF OTHER MUSEUMS NOT PRECLUDED.—The designation of museums named in subsection (a) as America's National Maritime Museum does not preclude the addition of any other museum to the group of museums covered by that designation.

(d) CRITERIA FOR LATER ADDITIONS.—A museum is appropriate for designation as a museum of America's National Maritime Museum if the museum—

(1) houses a collection of maritime artifacts clearly representing America's maritime heritage; and

(2) provides outreach programs to educate the public on America's maritime heritage.

Mr. WARNER. I believe this amendment has been cleared by the other side. I urge its adoption.

Mr. LEVIN. The amendment has been cleared on this side, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3001) was agreed to.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LEVIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, at this time I would like to thank particularly Senator KENNEDY, the ranking member of the Seapower Subcommittee, for his assistance in developing this amendment, and other Senators who likewise concurred in the merits of the amendment.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I just want to thank my good friend from Virginia and congratulate him on that last amendment, and Senator MOYNIHAN, I know how hard he works on those matters. It is always a pleasure working with him.

I thank the Chair for his usual courtesies.

SKANEATELES, NEW YORK

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, before we step down and proceed to do the closing business for the Senate—Senator ENZI, I think, will take over. But we are fortunate that one of our most valued senior staff members of the Armed Services Committee, a fine woman who has served many, many years in the Senate, is familiar with this particular town. And the proper pronunciation is—what is it? Phonetically, it is written out as Skaneateles. I think that is it.

How close your rendition was, I know not.

Mr. LEVIN. A lot closer than I feared. Apparently it is Skaneateles.

Mr. WARNER. Skaneateles.

Mr. LEVIN. We have reached another consensus in the U.S. Senate.

Mr. ENZI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from the great State of Wyoming.

MORNING BUSINESS.

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

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

JUDICIAL NOMINEES DESERVE FAIR TREATMENT

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, we are in the midst of a disturbing slowdown in the confirmation of judicial nominations, especially when the nominees are women or minorities. A few days

ago, on June 22, the Senate finally confirmed, by a vote of 56 to 34, Susan Oki Mollway, a Japanese-American nominated by President Clinton almost 3 years ago to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii.

Ms. Mollway was first nominated in the 104th Congress and was renominated again in the 105th Congress. She was favorably reported out of the Judiciary Committee, not once but twice. It took 3 years for Republicans to bring her nomination to the Senate floor despite the fact that a judicial emergency was declared in her district.

I am particularly concerned about the lack of progress in the consideration of Hispanic judicial nominees before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Of the 36 judges confirmed in 1997, none were Latino, although six Latinos had been nominated. Thus far in 1998, 2 of the 26 judges confirmed were Latino and five are currently awaiting confirmation. It took the Senate 32 months to confirm Ms. Hilda Tagle, the only Hispanic woman the Senate confirmed this year. Why are the nominations of these qualified individuals taking so long? These nominees and the American people deserve an explanation.

The nominations of Emilio Cividanes, Richard Paez, Jorge Rangel, Annabelle Rodriguez, and Sonia Sotomayor have been pending before the Senate for months. Two of these 5 nominees had to be renominated this Congress because their nominations expired in the 104th Congress without Senate action.

Sonia Sotomayor, a nominee for Second Circuit Court of Appeals, was reported out of committee on March 5, 1998. Nominee Richard Paez for the Ninth Circuit was reported out of committee on March 19, 1998. No Senate action has been taken or scheduled on either nominee, and no explanation of the delay has been forthcoming. My colleague, XAVIER BECERRA, Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, said it best when he stated, "This is a crisis. . . . Only two Latino judges have been confirmed this Congress out of a total of 62 confirmations."

The Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee, Senator PATRICK LEAHY, has come to the floor 3 times in the past month to demand Senate Republican action. He pointed out that "We are having hearings at the rate of one a month, barely keeping up with attrition and hardly making a dent in the vacancies crisis . . . confronting the judiciary."

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, William Rehnquist, calls that "vacancy crisis" a "most serious problem." He warns that "vacancies cannot remain at such high levels indefinitely without eroding the quality of justice that traditionally has been associated with the federal judiciary."

We cannot wait for the judicial system to collapse before the Senate acts. I call upon Senate Republicans to reject partisan politics and significantly