

careers and personal lives held in limbo. Our institutional integrity requires an up-or-down vote.

Until Marsha Berzon and Richard Paez get votes, this nominations process will remain tainted.

I assure my colleagues in the Senate that the nominations of Marsha Berzon and Richard Paez will not fade away. We will keep pressing for these nominees until they get the vote they deserve.

• Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, it is a great pleasure for me to support—on the Senate floor—the confirmation of a judicial candidate who is the epitome of good character, broad experience, and a judicious temperament.

First, however, I think it appropriate that I spend a moment to acknowledge the minority for relenting in what I consider to have been an ill-conceived gambit to politicize the judicial confirmations process. My colleagues appear to have made history on September 21 by preventing the invocation of cloture for the first time ever on a district judge's nomination.

This was—and still is—gravely disappointing to me. In a body whose best moments have been those in which statesmanship triumphs over partisanship, this unfortunate statistic does not make for a proud legacy.

My colleagues—who were motivated by the legitimate goal of gaining votes on two particular nominees—pursued a short term offensive which failed to accomplish their objective and risked long-term peril for the nation's judiciary. There now exists on the books a fresh precedent to filibuster judicial nominees whose nominations either political party disagrees with.

I have always, and consistently, taken the position that the Senate must address the qualifications of a judicial nominee by a majority vote, and that the 41 votes necessary to defeat cloture are no substitute for the democratic and constitutional principles that underlie this body's majoritarian premise for confirmation to our federal judiciary.

But now the Senate is moving forward with the nomination of Ted Stewart. I think some of my colleagues realized they had erred in drawing lines in the sand, and that their position threatened to do lasting damage to the Senate's confirmation process, the integrity of the institution, and the judicial branch.

The record of the Judiciary Committee in processing nominees is a good one. I believe the Senate realized that the Committee will continue to hold hearings on those judicial nominees who are qualified, have appropriate judicial temperament, and who respect the rule of law. I had assured my colleagues of this before we reached this temporary impasse and I reiterate this commitment today.

This is not a time for partisan declarations of victory, but I am pleased that my colleagues revisited their decision to hold up the nomination. We are

proceeding with a vote on the merits of Ted Stewart's nomination, and we will then proceed upon an arranged schedule to vote on other nominees in precisely the way that was proposed prior to the filibuster vote.

Ultimately, it is my hope for us, as an institution, that instead of signaling a trend, the last two weeks will instead look more like an aberration that was quickly corrected. I look forward to moving ahead to perform our constitutional obligation of providing advice and consent to the President's judicial nominees.

And now, I would like to turn our attention to the merits of Ted Stewart's nomination. I have known Ted Stewart for many years. I have long respected his integrity, his commitment to public service, and his judgment. And I am pleased that President Clinton saw fit to nominate this fine man for a seat on the United States District Court for the District of Utah.

Mr. Stewart received his law degree from the University of Utah School of Law and his undergraduate degree from Utah State University. He worked as a practicing lawyer in Salt Lake City for six years. And he served as trial counsel with the Judge Advocate General in the Utah National Guard.

In 1981, Mr. Stewart came to Washington to work with Congressman JIM HANSEN. His practical legal experience served him well on Capitol Hill, where he was intimately involved in the drafting of legislation.

Mr. Stewart's outstanding record in private practice and in the legislative branch earned him an appointment to the Utah Public Service Commission in 1985. For 7 years, he served in a quasi-judicial capacity on the commission, conducting hearings, receiving evidence, and rendering decisions with findings of fact and conclusions of law.

Mr. Stewart then brought his experience as a practicing lawyer, as a legislative aide, and as a quasi-judicial officer, to the executive branch in state government. Beginning in 1992, he served as Executive Director of the Utah Departments of Commerce and Natural Resources. And since 1998, Mr. Stewart has served as the chief of staff of Governor Mike Leavitt.

Throughout Mr. Stewart's career, in private practice, in the legislative branch, in the executive branch and as a quasi-judicial officer, he has earned the respect of those who have worked for him, those who have worked with him, and those who were affected by his decisions. And a large number of people from all walks of life and both sides of the political aisle have written letters supporting Mr. Stewart's nomination.

James Jenkins, former president of the Utah State Bar, wrote, "Ted's reputation for good character and industry and his temperament of fairness, objectivity, courtesy, and patience [are] without blemish."

Utah State Senator, Mike Dmitrich, one of many Democrats supporting this

nomination, wrote, "[Mr. Stewart] has always been fair and deliberate and shown the moderation and thoughtfulness that the judiciary requires."

And I understand that the American Bar Association has concluded that Ted Stewart meets the qualifications for appointment to the federal district court. This sentiment is strongly shared by many in Utah, including the recent president of the Utah State Bar. For these reasons, Mr. Stewart was approved for confirmation to the bench by an overwhelming majority vote of the Judiciary Committee.

To those who would contend Mr. Stewart has taken so-called anti-environmental positions, I say: look more carefully at his record. Mr. Stewart was the director of Utah's Department of Natural Resources for 5 years, and the fact is that his whole record has earned the respect and support of many local environmental groups.

Indeed, for his actions in protecting reserve water rights in Zion National Park, Mr. Stewart was enthusiastically praised by this administration's Secretary of the Interior.

And consider the encomiums from the following persons hailing from Utah's environmental community:

R.G. Valentine, of the Utah Wetlands Foundation, wrote, "Mr. Stewart's judgment and judicial evaluation of any project or issue has been one of unbiased and balanced results."

And Don Peay, of the conservation group Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, wrote, "I have nothing but respect for a man who is honest, fair, considerate, and extremely capable."

Indeed, far from criticism, Mr. Stewart deserves praise for his major accomplishments in protecting the environment.

Ultimately, the legion of letters and testaments in support of Mr. Stewart's nomination reflects the balanced and fair judgment that he has exhibited over his long and distinguished career. Those who know Ted Stewart know he will continue to serve the public well.

On a final note, Ted Stewart is needed in Utah. The seat he will be taking has been vacant since 1997. So, I am deeply gratified that the Senate is now considering Mr. Stewart for confirmation.●

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The Senate resumed legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period of morning business with Senators to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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