

other issues and it will be harder than ever to get up nominations. Even more of them will be in the system by then, having been submitted by the President. It is going to be a big problem if we do not move promptly.

I think this is a reasonable request. I know Senator REID, Senator DASCHLE and others, have indicated they will make some progress, but we are not confident we have made a strong enough determination and commitment at this point in time to ensure those nominees move forward. I hope maybe this cloture motion can be vitiated and we will be able to reach accord and move forward, but I just want to say for the record that the matter is very serious. We have probably taken too long to move nominations as we go forward.

I think the ones that have little or no objection certainly ought to be moved forward.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my friend from Alabama is right. There is no question that the process is very cumbersome. I hope in the future that we can maintain our record. We have a clear conscious. We cleared 54 last week. It was really the first week that we were in power because committees were just organized. With the leadership having changed, it slowed things down a little bit. But there wasn't much the Republicans could have done while they controlled the Senate because of the funnel that just doesn't allow these nominations to get here.

We have worked diligently today. Our staff worked. I told one of Senator LOTT's staff people just a minute ago that I spoke to Senator BIDEN earlier today, and we had told him that prior to the August recess we would clear all of those that already had hearings. We received a call back from Senator BIDEN's staff, and he told us that he spoke to Senator BIDEN and Senator BIDEN hopes to clear as many as 20 from the Foreign Relations Committee prior to the recess.

We recognize it is an embarrassment to this country—as powerful as the United States is—not having an Ambassador in a country. That is something that is good for the country. It is not because of Democrats or Republicans.

The Senator from Alabama is absolutely right. For the vast majority of these people, there is no problem at all. We just have to get them through the hearing process, which is sometimes cumbersome.

If there is somebody who has some objections, we can arrange something just like Graham. We are going to debate the Graham nomination when we finish the energy and water bill. There is time. I wanted to finish it tonight.

I wish right now that we could be doing this and Graham could look forward tomorrow morning to a very early vote and we could complete that matter. It is a contentious issue, but it is something we need to do. We can do that on others.

I have worked diligently. A lot of times people criticize me on my side because I work too closely with Senator LOTT on moving some of these bills. Last year, prior to the August recess, we did eight appropriations bills. Republicans controlled the Senate. But we moved eight appropriations bills. That was hard, hard work. But we did it. The Senator is right. A lot of times there were lots of amendments on those bills. But we worked our way through them.

I hope the Senator, who has a fine legal mind, is very concerned about what is happening. He wants his President to have all the help he needs. I hope the President gets all of his sub-cabinet people approved real soon.

I listened to an account on public radio just a short time ago. It is absolutely correct. It said what I already know—that President Bush will be lucky to have his sub-cabinet people approved by February. That is not because of partisan politics. It is because a system has developed in this country where we have vetting by the White House, by the Justice Department, by the agency in which the person is going to serve. It is too cumbersome and too burdensome.

Why do we need to have all this process for Dan Coats? Dan Coats served in the Senate up until a couple of years ago. He will be confirmed easily. Everybody likes him. It seems to me that the administration—Democratic and Republican administrations—should just have a little more courage, and say: We don't need Dan Coats to be vetted—that is just how I feel about it—by anyone. Let's just bring him down here, and he will stand or fall on how we feel about Dan Coats.

I hope in the morning that the Senator from Alabama and his colleagues who are concerned about this will look at our good-faith efforts. We are trying to do everything that we can. As I said, we were willing to clear 9 or 10 people tonight. For reasons that the Senator understands, we decided not to do that.

We haven't gotten much credit for the 54 we confirmed. We want to make sure that you feel good about what we are trying to do. There are a number of people as we proceed who may have some problems. We will identify those and set a special time for having some debate on the floor so we can have an up-or-down vote on them. We are not going to hold them up just to be holding them up.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for his comments. We have made some progress. There were some objections last week and some concerns about not moving. The Democratic leadership moved 50 or more. But we still have 150, and we are coming up on the August recess. That is all we are saying.

Mr. REID. One-hundred and sixty.

Mr. SESSIONS. If we don't get moving now, we are not going to be able to finish by August with many confirmed. That will get us even further behind.

We are going to have a flood of nominations that haven't even come in yet. I am frustrated, as a former U.S. attorney, that no U.S. attorney nominees have even been made. I guess the President deserves blame for that. Maybe the FBI is working the other nominees and can't get the backgrounds on them, or whatever. The Senator from Nevada said perhaps they are terrified that they will nominate somebody who will have a black mark on their record and the administration will be embarrassed.

But I think all we are asking is let's give an intensity of interest to it. Let's give it our best shot before we recess in August to make sure that the backgrounds have been done on every one of these nominees so they are ready to go forward. The committees have to have some hearings. I know they are busy. We have been having hearings in the Judiciary on the FBI and DEA nominees, but we haven't had but three judges come out of Judiciary in 7 months, and none have been confirmed. We have to speed up a little bit. That is what we are asking.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until the hour of 10 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, July 19, 2001.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 8:17 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, July 19, 2001, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate July 18, 2001:

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

HARVEY PITT, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 5, 2002. VICE PAUL R. CARY.

HARVEY PITT, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 5, 2007. (REAPPOINTMENT)

MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION

BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWIN J. ARNOLD, JR., UNITED STATES ARMY, TO BE A MEMBER AND PRESIDENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 2 OF AN ACT OF CONGRESS, APPROVED JUNE 1879 (21 STAT. 37) (33 USC 642).

BRIGADIER GENERAL CARL A. STROCK, UNITED STATES ARMY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 2 OF AN ACT OF CONGRESS, APPROVED 28 JUNE 1879 (21 STAT. 37) (22 USC 642).

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THEODORE H. KATTOUF, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC.

MAUREEN QUINN, OF NEW JERSEY, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE STATE OF QATAR.

JOSEPH GERARD SULLIVAN, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE.

JOHNNY YOUNG, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

JEFFREY D. JARRETT, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT, VICE KATHLEEN M. KARPAN.