

Scalia. I told her I would do everything I could.

There are two other nominees I urge my colleague to assist us with, two nominees for the court of appeals. One is Miguel Estrada, a Honduran native, Hispanic. When he came to the United States he couldn't even speak English and graduated in the top of his class at Harvard. He is an outstanding individual. We have letters of support on Miguel Estrada from everybody, prominent Democrats and others who say he will be an outstanding jurist.

One other individual is John Roberts, Jr., who is also nominated to the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia. He argued, I think, 30-some-odd cases before the Supreme Court. He is an outstanding individual. Both of these individuals were nominated by President Bush in May and they have not even had a hearing.

We have a lot of vacancies in the circuit court. The circuit courts are extremely important. These two individuals are extremely qualified. I do not know that you could find two more qualified individuals anywhere in the country than Miguel Estrada and John Roberts, Jr. So I urge my friend from Nevada and the majority leader, and Senator LEAHY, give us hearings on these two individuals. I can assure you if they have hearings they will have overwhelming votes in both the committee and the Senate. They will be confirmed overwhelmingly. I feel more than confident that will be the case.

I also urge my colleague to give us a vote. Gene Scalia is on the calendar. Give us a vote on Gene Scalia as Solicitor for the Department of Labor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my feelings are just as strong. My affection for the Senator from Oklahoma is just as strong as he has expressed regarding me. I have not heard of John Roberts. I have heard of Miguel Estrada. From all I know about both of them, they are fine individuals. I see no reason they should not be sitting on the DC Court of Appeals. But that is the extent of my knowledge. I will do what I can to make sure there are hearings scheduled.

As I said to my friend on a number of occasions, people deserve hearings. We are going to do everything we can to live up to what Senator DASCHLE and I have said. Senator LEAHY reported nine out yesterday, including one circuit court judge. We expect to have votes on those shortly. He is going to have hearings again next week. It is my understanding—I do not know if there is going to be hearings but he said he would report out at least four or five more. So that is 13 or 14 judges we would have.

I was talked to yesterday about Sansonetti; the Judiciary Committee did report him out yesterday. There has been some controversy over that. I see no reason, now that he has been re-

ported out, that we cannot move forward.

I don't know Mr. Scalia. I never met him. I am only speaking for myself, and certainly not Senator DASCHLE, nor the rest of the Senators. I think the situation with Mr. Scalia may be a little more difficult. A number of Members have spoken to me. No one questions his integrity or his credentials, that I know of, or that he is a competent lawyer. I think the question is whether this is the right place for him. If he were chosen to be the solicitor of any department other than the Department of Labor, I think his nomination would fly through. But because of very strong anti-labor comments he made, a number of Members on my side have come to me to express some real concerns.

Being as candid as I can with my friend, I think that may be a little more difficult but something on which we can work.

Mr. NICKLES. If the Senator will yield further, Gene Scalia was reported out of the Labor Committee on October 17. He has been on the calendar. I urge that we have a vote. There is not an anti-labor bone in his body. If anybody questions that, I urge them to talk to him. Some people are trying to hold up his nomination because he had some questions about ergonomics. The Senator from Nevada, I know, had serious questions about ergonomics. In their proposed regulations, the Clinton administration tried to almost legislate a Federal workers compensation system without going through Congress.

Again, I think Gene Scalia is an outstanding nominee. I think the Secretary of Labor is entitled to a solicitor, and he is certainly entitled to a vote to find out where the votes are. I urge my colleagues to help us make that happen, to give him a vote and a day in the Senate, and not keep him in limbo indefinitely.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in May 1996 in Philadelphia, PA. Stephen Leo Jr., 19, and Kevin Zawojski, 17, yelled anti-gay

slurs and beat a man they believed to be gay. Mr. Leo was sentenced to 18 to 36 months in jail and Mr. Zawojski was sentenced to 29 to 58 months in jail in connection with the incident.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF THE OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENT OF CUBA, MISSOURI

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I wish to make a few comments on the outstanding accomplishment of Cuba, Missouri on becoming the official Route 66 Mural City as declared by the Missouri State House of Representatives.

Cuba, Missouri is located along Interstate 44 and highway 19 near the Meramec River State Park and the Huzzah river in Crawford County. Also, located near by is the beautiful Mark Twain National Forrest offering a great deal of hunting, fishing and water recreation. Cuba is a beautiful city and has much to offer its citizens and those who visit.

Located along the historic Route 66 and established in 1857, Cuba has witnessed and been a part of many historical events. Through local artisans, Cuba, MO has taken the incitive to remind its citizens and those who visit of its storied past through three murals on local buildings. The three murals currently displayed on the buildings depict the early history of the town, and present us with a reminder of its beautiful apple orchards, the six residents who lost their lives defending this great nation during World War Two, and the original Peoples Bank building. These murals also are a reminder of the history that not only shaped Cuba, but our great state as well. Although the population of Cuba is only about 3,200 people, the city continues to grow and prosper. I commend them on taking the incitive to remember our history and educate those who visit this great city by this beautiful display of art work.

There are plans to finish ten murals along historic Route 66 by the year 2007. Cuba was the first community to take the initiative to paint these murals and now serves as the center for development for these murals, including obtaining a trademark on Route 66 Murals. Again, I congratulate them on such a wonderful project.●

GOD BLESS AMERICA

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, the Wisconsin State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America, part of the congressionally chartered Vietnam Veterans of America, have been steadfast