

The bill 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we intend to be back on this bill at 1 o'clock on Monday. I ask unanimous consent the Senator from Michigan, Mr. LEVIN, be recognized at 1 o'clock when we resume consideration of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate reconvenes on Monday and resumes consideration of this bill at 1 o'clock, there be 5 hours of time left postclosure.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ANNIVERSARY OF THE REORGANIZATION OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this week marks the first anniversary of the reorganization of the Senate Judiciary Committee following the change in majority last year. This past year has been a busy one for our committee.

Just this week the Senate adopted as an amendment to the accounting reform and investor protection bill the text of S. 2010, the Corporate and Criminal Fraud Accountability Act. That is a bill we reported in May after committee action in February and April. The Senate also acted on important amendments offered by Senator BIDEN, Senator HATCH, and Senator EDWARDS to that bill and many members of this committee have made important contributions to improve these measures over the last several months.

In the days and months following the terrorist attacks on September 11, members of this committee led the Senate in its responses leading to enactment of the USA PATRIOT Act, the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act, the Terrorist Bombings Convention Implementation Act, and the Mychal Judge Police and Fire Chaplains Public Safety Officers' Benefit Act. The committee also reported a number of resolutions to honor the victims of those attacks with the Public Safety Medal of Valor and the Law Enforcement Tribute Act, S. 2431. We

continue to work on important matters for victims of terrorism.

We have reported a number of other law enforcement related measures including the Drug Abuse Education, Prevention and Treatment Act, S. 304; the Federal Judiciary Protection Act, S. 1099; the National Child Protection Improvement Act, S. 1868; the Safe Explosives Act, S. 1956; the National Cyber Security Defense Team Authorization Act, S. 1989; a bill clarifying the definition of "vehicle," S. 2621; and an annual authorization for the Department of Justice, S. 1319 and its House counterpart H.R. 2215. The committee reported the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, S. 625, which is an important hate crimes bill; and the COPS Reauthorization Act, S. 924, which extends the highly successful COPS Program. We have also reported legislation on identity theft, such as the Social Security Number Misuse Prevention Act, S. 848, and the Restore Your Identity Act, S. 1742.

In addition, we have reported a number of measures to improve competitive business conditions and protect consumers, such as the Drug Competition Act, S. 754; the Motor Vehicle Franchise Contract Arbitration Fairness Act, S. 1140; and the Product Packaging Protection Act, S. 1233. We have acted on important intellectual property legislation, such as the Madrid Protocol Implementation Act, S. 407; the TEACH Act, S. 487; and the Patent and Trademark Office Authorization Act, S. 1754, as well as related House measures H.R. 1866 and H.R. 1886.

We have reported and worked on a number of immigration matters, including the Anti-Atrocity Alien Deportation Act, S. 864; the Child Status Protection Act, S. 672, and its House counterpart, H.R. 1209; a bill for children of Vietnamese refugees, H.R. 1840; bills to provide work authorization for spouses, H.R. 2277 and H.R. 2278; and others.

Among our most important work has been our aggressive oversight efforts involving the Department of Justice, the FBI, the INS, and the Civil Rights Division. Our oversight efforts have already led to the committee's reporting a bipartisan FBI Reform Act, S. 1974, which is awaiting Senate action.

This week the committee finally began its consideration of a most important legislative initiative we began years ago, the Innocence Protection Act, S. 486.

All in all, in our first year we reported 80 legislative matters and over 250 Presidential nominations to the Senate. We have held more than 100 hearings during our first tumultuous year.

We have had a record year in considering this President's nominees. Partisans have perpetuated an untrue and unfortunate myth that the Democratic-led Senate and Judiciary Committee have blocked the President's nominees. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Democratic-led Judiciary Committee has had a recordbreaking year fairly and promptly considering President Bush's nominees. In addition to the dozens of high-ranking Justice Department officials for whom we held hearings, and our work in connection with more than 180 executive branch nominees the committee reported, we have had a record year with respect to judicial nominees.

In this, our first year, we held hearings for 78 of the President's nominees. That is more hearings for this President's district and circuit court nominees than ever held in any of the 6½ years that preceded the change in majority last summer.

In particular, we held more hearings for more of President Bush's circuit court nominees, 16, than in any of the 6½ years in which the Republicans controlled the committee before the change in majority last summer. For that matter, we held twice as many hearings for court of appeals nominees than were held in the first year of the Reagan administration when the Senate was controlled by Republicans and five times more than in the first year of the Clinton administration when the Senate was controlled by Democrats. Those are the facts.

Under Democratic leadership, this Committee in its first year also voted on more judicial nominees, 74, than in any of the 6½ years of Republican control that preceded the change in majority. We voted on almost twice as many circuit court nominees, 15, than the Republican majority averaged in the years they were in control. In fact, this last year we voted on more nominees than were voted on in 1999 and 2000 combined and on more circuit court nominees than the Republicans allowed during 1996 and 1997 combined. And the committee voted on an additional court of appeals nominee yesterday.

We have achieved what we said we would by treating President Bush's nominees more fairly and more expeditiously than President Clinton's nominees were treated by Republicans. By many measures the Senate Judiciary Committee has achieved almost twice as much this last year as Republicans averaged during their years in control.

The Senate has confirmed more circuit and district court judges, 57, than were confirmed during 2000, 1999, 1997, 1996, and 1995, 5 of the prior 6 years of Republican control of the Senate. Republicans averaged 38 confirmations a year. By contrast the Democratic Senate achieved 57 judicial confirmations in our first 10 months, before the Administration's obstructionism stalled Senate floor actions on nominations for more than 2 months. There are another 17 judicial nominees on the Senate Executive Calendar. The delay in the votes on these nominees has been due to the delay in the administration's fulfilling its responsibility to work with the Senate in the naming of members of bipartisan boards and commissions.