

property. This is the Administrator. That name has been submitted by President Obama, and it is being held up over a building in Kansas City—somebody wants a building built in Kansas City, one of the Republican Senators. He is holding up this nominee.

There is a hold on two State Department officials, who are extremely important. One is to be the person working with Secretary Clinton to take care of Mexico, Central America, and South America. That will be his responsibility someday—if he can ever get cleared. It is being held up because they don't like what is going on in Honduras. I guess they will be really upset today, because the problem has been solved. What they want over there is the international community, which is totally against the coup having taken place in Honduras—one took place and they say it was the right thing to do, even though the Organization of American States and the whole international community opposes what has taken place. I guess they are going to be upset now because the problem was solved last night. That person who was illegally taken from that country was brought back—he has been in hiding in the Swiss Embassy for more than a month—and he is now going to take office again. We have the person who is going to be handling Central America being held up, in addition to an Ambassador to one of those countries down there, for the same reason.

This isn't a single problem. Take, for example, President Bush—the second President Bush. At this time during his Presidency, there were five nominees on the Senate calendar. One had been reported out of committee in September, and four were reported out in October. We are still in October. They had five. President Obama has 52 nominees on the Senate calendar and another 175 pending in committee. That is 52 compared to 5. Some of these have been out for a long time. Some have been reported out in March, May, June, July, and August. They are being held up for reasons about as ridiculous as I have told you already.

Sadly, many of these holds are women and minorities. Republicans have been stalling President Obama's nominees for months on end. There is a backlog of good, qualified nominees who are awaiting confirmation. These are people who have decided they are going to spend time in the Federal Government, giving up, in many instances, professorships at major universities, leaving law firms and accounting firms, medical schools, giving up private practice, and they are waiting, waiting until the Republicans decide they are going to let them through.

Some may say, why don't you move forward on them? Let me give those within the sound of my voice a little explanation. We have had to file cloture motions on nominees to stop filibusters. During the same time during

President Bush's Presidency, not a single one. We have had eight or nine now. Each one of those takes a long time. You move to it, you wait 2 days, and there is 30 hours, and then 2 more days, 30 hours. With these 53 they have held up here, there aren't enough hours in the day to do this—working weekends and all night. It is a real disappointment.

We have a situation here where the only response we have from the minority is to stop everything. They have become the party of no. If that is what they feel they should be known as, that is what it is going to be. We are going to remind the American people what is taking place here. This never happened before, where they are opposed to everything, whether it is somebody who has an unfortunate situation in their life where they can't work because there is no job—150,000 people have been deprived, by their stalling, of a simple check to pay their rent, or to make a payment on their car.

I hope that Republicans around the country—and there are so many people of good will who are Republicans around the country, just like Democrats and Independents. I have a little bit of experience. When I came to the Senate, I didn't know how things worked. It has only gotten this way this Congress, to the degree that it has. When I came here, we had so many moderate Republican Senators who would work with us and we would work with them—Hatfield, Packwood, Danforth, Heinz from Pennsylvania, D'Amato from New York, and Senator Warner from Virginia was always somebody who would work with us. There were lots of different Senators. But I am sad to say we don't have that now. They are going to have to sell themselves to the country as the party of no. That is not the party I know in Nevada and around the country. Republicans are good, law-abiding people, who believe in good government. They have a political philosophy that is not in keeping with the Democrats, but that is OK. We work together on issues. I hope they will see the light and become the party of working with us. That is what they should be—not the Senate Grand Old Party, the party of no.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

#### FLOOD MITIGATION EFFORTS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, last week I was in Findlay, OH, and toured

the banks of the Blanchard River with the Northwest Ohio Flood Mitigation Partnership, a nonprofit organization comprised of elected officials, business leaders, and community foundations.

Mayor Pete Sehnert, former mayor and current president of the Flood Mitigation Partnership Tony Iriti, and other community leaders briefed me on the flood mitigation efforts in the aftermath of one of the worst floods in northwest Ohio history.

Two years ago, a torrential downpour resulted in the massive flood of the Blanchard River and its tributaries, wreaking havoc in Findlay, Shelby, Bucyrus, and Ottawa in northwest Ohio.

Shortly after the flood, I traveled to the region with Governor Ted Strickland and officials from Homeland Security and FEMA.

While we saw the flood's devastation, we also saw the communities of northwest Ohio work together to clean up debris and rebuild the homes, schools, and businesses that suffered terrible damage.

Today the partnership is working to put into place a flood control plan in 3 years, when nationally similar plans have taken 5 years to develop. I saw that work in action last week in Findlay, where they advanced or accelerated their efforts much faster than almost any other community in the country has been able to do after natural disasters.

Implementing a plan so efficiently saves taxpayer money, while spurring economic development earlier and protecting community safety if another flood occurs. It is an example of how a bipartisan and a public-private effort among local, State and Federal governments, businesses, and community foundations is making a difference for Findlay and other communities across northwest Ohio.

In Findlay, we are establishing a national model in flood prevention planning. The Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA have worked closely with my office and Senator VOINOVICH, Congressmen BOB LATTI and JIM JORDAN, and other local officials. Corporations, community foundations, and county commissioners are working to develop flood control strategies to protect neighborhoods and businesses alike.

Local leaders are working to attract new businesses and create jobs once the cleanup is completed—and they have come a long way from my fairly regular visits to the community and seeing what happened, strengthening the economy's tax base to keep taxes lower in the future.

Working together, we have secured a \$1.5 million FEMA grant to continue recovery and flood mitigation efforts. This grant matches the \$1.5 million national emergency grant that Findlay was recently awarded.

NEG funding in northwest Ohio will help provide job training and increase opportunities for permanent employment for more than workers in the region. These workers earn good wages