

by a Democratic Congress under a Republican President in 1990. We will end this session with more vacancies than at the end of the session in 1994, without having added the judgeships requested by the Judicial Conference. Since Republicans assumed control of the Senate in the 1994 election, the Senate has not closed the vacancy gap at all and the workloads in many of our courts have gotten significantly worse. More vacancies are continuing longer, and it has taken longer to confirm nominees to existing vacancies. We have lost ground and squandered opportunities for progress in the past six years.

As I have pointed out, the vacancies are most acute among our Courts of Appeals and in our southwest border States. We have not acted to add the judgeships requested by the Judicial Conference to meet increased workloads over the last decade. According to the Chief Justice's 1999 year-end report, the filings of cases in our Federal courts have reached record heights. In fact, the filings of criminal cases and defendants reached their highest levels since the Prohibition Amendment was repealed in 1933. Also in 1999, there were 54,693 filings in the 12 regional Courts of Appeals. Overall growth in appellate court caseload last year was due to a 349 percent upsurge in original proceedings. This sudden expansion resulted from newly implemented reporting procedures, which more accurately measure the increased judicial workload generated by the Prisoner Litigation Reform Act and the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, both passed in 1996.

I regret to report again today that the last confirmation hearing for federal judges held by the Judiciary Committee was in July, as was the last time the Judiciary Committee reported any nominees to the full Senate. Throughout August, September, October, and now into November, there were no additional hearings held or even noticed, and no executive business meetings included any judicial nominees on the agenda. By contrast, in 1992, the last year of the Bush Administration, a Democratic majority in the Senate held three confirmation hearings in August and September and continued to work to confirm judges up to and including the last day of the session. During that presidential election year the Senate confirmed 66 judges; this year the Senate will not reach 40.

I continue to urge the Senate to meet its responsibilities to all nominees, including women and minorities. That highly-qualified nominees are being needlessly delayed is most regrettable. The Senate should have joined with the President to confirm well-qualified, diverse and fair-minded nominees to fulfill the needs of the federal courts around the country.

I regret that the Judiciary Committee did not hold additional hearings after July, that the Senate only acted on 39 nominees all year, and that we

took so long on so many of them. I deeply regret the lack of a hearing and a vote on so many qualified nominees, including Roger Gregory, Judge James Wynn, Judge Helene White, Bonnie Campbell, Enrique Moreno and Allen Snyder. The Senate squandered a number of important opportunities to help our courts and should have accorded these qualified and outstanding nominees fair up or down votes.●

INTERNET FALSE IDENTIFICATION PREVENTION ACT OF 2000

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to have worked with Senator COLLINS on Senate passage of S. 2924, the "Internet False Identification Prevention Act of 2000." This legislation is an important step forward in the fight against identity theft.

"The Internet False Identification Prevention Act of 2000" recognizes that the crime of identity theft has entered the Internet age, and that the Federal government has a responsibility to bring our identity theft laws up to speed. The primary law governing false identification documents was enacted in 1982, well before the advent of websites and e-mail.

Specifically, this legislation prohibits individuals from knowingly producing, distributing, or offering for download from the Internet computer files or templates that are designed to make counterfeit identification documents.

While the total number of false identification documents sold on the Internet is unknown, purveyors of false identification documents have used the Internet to sell their wares to a much broader market, and to distribute these documents as quickly as they can be downloaded from a website. According to a study by the Senate Committee of Government Affairs, one web site operator reported that he sold 1,000 fake IDs a month yielding \$600,000 in annual sales.

The "Internet False Identification Prevention Act of 2000" also closes a loophole in current law that permitted manufacturers of false identification documents to escape liability by displaying a disclaimer, "Not a Government Document." These disclaimers, however, can be easily removed. The bill also directs the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury to coordinate efforts to investigate and prosecute the distribution of false identification documents on the Internet.

I would note that this bill contains an exemption from criminal liability for certain "interactive computer services." This language reflects a narrow, one-time solution and I want it to be clear that this should not be considered as a precedent.

Congress has debated the issue of whether the liability of certain Internet service providers should be limited with respect to particular activities of their subscribers or users of their services. This is a complicated question, re-

quiring careful deliberation and evaluation of the short- and long-term consequences. A full debate on this issue is needed in the 107th Congress.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE ROLE OF PHARMACISTS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, every year in October there is recognition made of our nation's pharmacists in the form of National Pharmacy Week. This year's designation was October 22-28, 2000. I would like to take a few minutes to talk about that profession and its role in the safe, cost-effective delivery of medication to American citizens.

I have great respect for the innovation that this nation's scientists have demonstrated to continually produce new and better "wonder drugs" that have played a major role in the prevention and treatment of disease. Farther down the line within the drug delivery system are pharmacists, using those same drugs every day, getting them to patients along with information for their safe use.

The role of the pharmacist is changing. In addition to the traditional role of accurately dispensing prescription drugs, today's pharmacists are successfully involved in all areas of the drug use process. The result of this involvement, often termed "pharmacy care" has made a huge positive difference in many studies within the areas of anticoagulation, asthma and diabetes treatment, pain control and many others. When pharmacists are proactively involved, there have been demonstrations of not only increased effectiveness and fewer adverse reactions, but cost savings as well.

Within the startling report issued earlier this year by the Institute of Medicine, which pointed out that tens of thousands of American die every year from medical errors, was a recommendation to increase the utilization of pharmacists and pharmacy care.

So today I would like to congratulate the pharmacy profession for its accomplishments in improving patient care. During this Congress several bills have included provisions to encourage and support pharmacy care. I believe this is a fascinating approach that we should strongly consider as we continue to work toward optimizing the safe and cost-effective use of prescription drugs.●

TRIBUTE TO MARY JANE COLTON ON HER RETIREMENT

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mary Jane Colton, who will retire from my staff next week after 20 years of service to the people of New Hampshire as an employee of the U.S. Senate.