

so they will not be saying: Well, this group is being cut or this group is being hurt, and so on. There may be some groups for which there would be pluses or minuses as to what they would have received compared to last year, but basically a continuing resolution says: Continue at last year's level. So I want to make sure that is noted as well.

IRAQ

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, the majority leader filed a cloture motion on the motion to proceed to the resolution dealing with Iraq. I happen to be proud of the fact the Senate has bipartisan support for this resolution.

The President has worked hard on it, as well as Senator LIEBERMAN, Senator WARNER, Senator MCCAIN, Senator BAYH, and others. I compliment them for that. I look forward to the debate. I think we can have a good debate.

We can pass a positive resolution that will reaffirm the United States in saying we believe the resolutions we supported and passed in the United Nations should be enforced. This body and the United Nations have passed several resolutions telling Iraq they must comply, and then not enforcing them, and we have done it year after year.

In 1998, we passed a resolution unanimously saying we should enforce the existing resolutions requiring Iraq to disarm. Unfortunately, that resolution was good on paper, but it was not enforced.

Now we have an administration that says they are willing to enforce it. I believe this Congress will stand behind President Bush in saying: Yes, we will give you the authorization to enforce it.

These resolutions mean something. We don't think it is acceptable to have a person with Saddam Hussein's known history of using weapons of mass destruction against his own people, and also invading his neighbors, and lobbing missiles against Israel and Saudi Arabia—it is not acceptable for him to be developing further these weapons of mass destruction. That is against the United Nations resolutions.

We are saying these resolutions mean something. Let's enforce them. We said that unanimously in 1998. It is going to be interesting to see if people want to weaken what we passed in 1998.

I hope our colleagues read President Clinton's statement he made in 1998 to the Pentagon that talked about the need for strong enforcement. That is not the same speech President Clinton made yesterday in London, unfortunately. And I am very disappointed in President Clinton's speech.

Former Presidents usually have a tradition to not undermine current administrations in foreign policy, certainly in foreign lands, and that is not what President Clinton did. President Clinton, in London, I think, made a speech that very much undermines the current administration, including the

administration in London, in trying to develop an international coalition to stand up to Iraq and Saddam Hussein.

I mention that. I don't really like being critical of anyone or any administration, but for the former administration, which did not enforce the existing U.N. resolutions during their tenure, during their 8 years in office, did not pursue terrorists, including terrorists that were al-Qaida, who were directly responsible for blowing up two U.S. Embassies in Africa in 1998, and the USS *Cole* in the year 2000—when they did not go after the terrorists aggressively after those two terrorist attacks, did not enforce the U.N. resolutions, then to have President Clinton being critical of President Bush in Great Britain I think is very demeaning to the office, and I am very regretful a former President would make such a statement.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and 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.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business.

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

CONFIRMATION OF RONALD CLARK

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last night, the Senate confirmed its 79th and 80th judicial nominees, and its 65th and 66th nominees to the Federal district courts since the change in Senate majority and reorganization of the Judiciary Committee less than 15 months ago. In so doing, we have confirmed more judicial nominees than were confirmed in the first 15 months of any of the past three Presidents, and more nominees than were confirmed in the last 30 months that a Republican majority controlled the Senate. We have done more in half the time. 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.

Since the summer of 2001, we have held more hearings for more judicial nominees and more hearings for circuit court nominees than in any 15-month period of the six and one-half years in which Republicans last controlled the Committee. With our hearing last week, the Democratic-led Judiciary Committee has not held 25 hearings for 96 district and circuit court nominees. This is approximately double the pace at which the Republican majority con-

sidered President Clinton's nominees. The Judiciary Committee has likewise voted on more judicial nominees, 83, and on more circuit court nominees, 17, than in any comparable 15-month period of prior Republican control. In fact, Democrats have given votes to more judicial nominees and, in particular, to nominees to the Courts of Appeals, than in 1996 and 1997 combined, and than in 1999 and 2000 combined.

Last night, the Senate voted on the nomination of Ronald Clark to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas. I was troubled by a number of aspects of Mr. Clark's background. Since 1997, Mr. Clark has been a Representative in the Texas State Legislature. His record as a State legislator is controversial, as he has taken positions that would, among other things, limit civil rights, consumer rights and women's reproductive rights. But he has never served as a judge, and he assured us that, as a judge, he would follow precedent and apply the law as written, without partisanship. I am hopeful that Mr. Clark will be a person of his word: that he will follow the law and not seek out opportunities to decide cases in accord with his private beliefs rather than his obligations as a judge.

The confirmation of Mr. Clark last night made the 28th nominee that we have confirmed to fill a judicial emergency vacancy since the change in Senate majority last year, and the 21st judicial emergency vacancy that we have filled this year. Despite Republican claims about a crisis in the courts, this Administration has failed to nominate people to ten seats that have been declared judicial emergencies, seven vacancies on the Courts of Appeals and three vacancies on the District Courts.

I would note that President Bush has nominated nine people to fill district court vacancies in Texas, and with yesterday's vote, we have already considered seven of them and confirmed six of them. Mr. Clark's confirmation made the 13th Texas nominee that we have confirmed and the second nominee that we confirmed to the District Court for the Eastern District. With his confirmation, there are no longer any vacancies on the district Court for the Eastern District of Texas. With our confirmations earlier this year of Randy Crane and Andrew Hanen to the District Court for the Southern District of Texas, we filled the remaining vacancies in that court as well. We have provided much needed help to the courts in Texas, which are facing large caseloads and some of the highest number of filings of criminal cases in the country.

Under Republican control of the Senate, three Texas judicial nominees never received hearings or votes. The Republican-led Senate failed to provide any hearings on nominees to the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, which includes Texas, in the six years of their majority during the Clinton Administration. Moreover, they delayed action