

Federal bench, Robert Conrad to be a U.S. District Court Judge for the Western District of North Carolina and James Dever to be U.S. District Court Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

Bob Conrad was nominated by the President on April 28, 2003. Bob Conrad is now a partner at the law firm of Mayer, Brown, Rowe, and Maw in Charlotte, North Carolina. He has served as a U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina. He is a graduate of Clemson University and the University of Virginia Law School.

Bob Conrad possesses the qualities necessary to serve as a U.S. District Court Judge. He is fairminded, evenhanded, and treats all with respect. He has repeatedly demonstrated a commitment to public service and a spirit of impartiality and cooperation. Bob is also a devoted husband to his wife Ann, and he is a loving father to his five children.

Today, we consider his nomination for the Western District Court judgeship for the great State of North Carolina. I believe Bob Conrad's integrity, compassion, and intelligence have earned him strong bipartisan support, and he will again serve ably as a representative of our country. I am pleased that almost 2 years since his nomination, Bob Conrad will be confirmed by the Senate.

President Bush has also nominated James Dever to be U.S. District Court Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina on May 22, 2002. After almost 3 years, James Dever's nomination is now reaching the floor for a vote. He served as U.S. Magistrate Judge on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District for North Carolina since 2004. Prior to that, the judge was a member of the Raleigh law firm of Maupin Taylor, and Judge Dever graduated with high honors from Notre Dame, where he attended on a 4-year ROTC scholarship. Judge Dever also graduated with high honors from Duke University Law School, where he was editor and chief of the Duke Law Journal. Judge Dever also served his country in the U.S. Air Force.

The Eastern District post to which Judge Dever has been nominated is the longest district court vacancy in the nation. In fact, it has been vacant since 1997. In 1999, the Administrative Office of the Courts declared the district as a judicial emergency, and it has been categorized that way for the last 6 years.

For some time, the State of North Carolina has felt the absence of U.S. District Court Judges. However, the Eastern District in particular, which comprises almost half of the counties in North Carolina and has over 3 million people, has arguably suffered the most.

James Dever will bring to this post the qualities and character that will continue to make North Carolinians proud of him. James Dever is highly regarded by his colleagues and he has a

record of public service. He is a bright, accomplished individual with a proven record. His supportive family includes his loving wife Amy and their three children.

Today I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of these two esteemed attorneys. North Carolina, and the United States as a whole, will benefit substantially from the confirmation of these well-respected men to the Federal bench.

I yield back all time and call for the question.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If all time is yielded back, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations en bloc of James C. Dever, III, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, and of Robert J. Conrad, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

The nominations were confirmed, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will return to legislative session.

PROVIDING FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 29, the adjournment resolution; provided that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 29) was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 29

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring): That when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Thursday, April 28, 2005, Friday, April 29, 2005, Saturday, April 30, 2005, or Sunday, May 1, 2005, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until Monday, May 9, 2005, at a time to be specified by the Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader, shall notify the Members of the Senate to reassemble whenever, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

ENERGY

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise to discuss a matter of grave importance to our economy and national security. The issue is energy policy and what it will take to put us on a path toward energy diversification and away

from our overdependence on foreign oil.

Tonight we will hear from the President about how he plans to lower gas prices. In the State of Washington we have seen a rise of almost 50 cents a gallon in 1 year. I look forward to hearing what the President has to say about lowering those gas prices. I do not believe his plan to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will help make any difference in the prices in the near term.

I will address what is a broader energy debate this Senate is about to start. Energy is the lifeblood of our economy. It keeps our cars running, our companies competitive, our citizens safe, and our Nation secure. It is the future source of job growth for America.

The House has passed an energy bill and the Senate will start shortly on its own plan. We need to tell America where we are going on this important journey to set about an energy policy in America that we can be proud of.

We are at a critical juncture. The pain being felt at the gas pump by Americans is a wake-up call to all of us that we need to take action. Now is the moment our Nation must make a conscious choice to tackle the challenges ahead in a straightforward and serious manner, and get to the heart of what is a very enormous problem.

What our country needs is an energy policy that bets on American ingenuity and investment rather than gambling our future on the good will of the Saudi Royal Family or the OPEC cartel. There is no doubt in my mind, and history shows this, when this Nation devotes its tremendous resources and innovative spirit to confronting a threat such as that posed by the high cost of energy and overdependence on foreign supply, we can succeed. History has shown in our country, we have made significant shifts in investment when our national goals were set in the right direction.

Americans are familiar with the ambitious goals set by President John F. Kennedy when he challenged this Nation to put a man on the moon within a decade. But it was not just rhetoric. President Kennedy tripled the budget for the space program between 1961 and 1962. He also asked us to double the number of scientists and engineers working on the project over a 5-year period. President Kennedy recognized the importance of this investment and America won an international race to put a man on the moon.

A less recounted story, but nonetheless significant to our country's history, was the shift in gears this country made when we embarked on the Manhattan Project. In 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt authorized \$85 million for what would become the Manhattan Project. Within 2 years, our entire national budget for atomic research grew from \$6,000 to \$85 million. In the midst of World War II, the President had decided it was in our Nation's