

safe haven for Americans and to assist those seeking to leave the country. Thailand has been enormously helpful by providing aircraft to transport Americans and other foreigners out of Cambodia, and I want to express my personal thanks to the Royal Thai Government and the people of Thailand for their assistance.

RESTORING DEMOCRACY

Mr. President, I fear that putting Cambodia back on the democratic path will prove difficult. The international community is not likely to fund a second UNTAC. The future of Cambodia is largely in the hands of the Cambodian people.

But the world must not turn its back on Cambodia.

At a time when pluralism and democracy are generally expanding in Asia, we should not condone the unconstitutional use of force to oust a legitimately elected government. As the world knows from recent history, political instability in Cambodia threatens the peace and security of all of Southeast Asia.

It is in the interest of the United States and all of our friends and allies in the region to seek a peaceful resolution of the conflict consistent with the spirit of the Paris peace accords. As my colleague, Senator MCCAIN urged this body yesterday, we must remain engaged and stand ready to do our part.

The tragic political violence occurring today in Cambodia is proof that one election does not make a democracy. In many respects, it is the second election—the peaceful transfer of power from one administration to the next—that is the miracle of democratic governance.

In the United States, we have the opportunity to experience that miracle every 4 years. In Cambodia, the second election, scheduled for 1998, is in jeopardy. The quest of the Cambodian people is endangered.

I urge Hun Sen to abandon the path of violence and subordinate his own ambitions to the will of the Cambodian people and their dream of peace. I hope and pray that Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh will heed King Sihanouk's call and find a way to settle their differences through the ballot box rather than the barrel of a gun.

NOMINATION OF ERIC H. HOLDER JR. TO BE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it was with concerted effort that Senator HATCH and I worked to ensure that Eric Holder was reported by the Judiciary Committee and ready for Senate confirmation to the important position of Deputy Attorney General of the United States before the Senate adjourned 2 weeks ago. The President's nomination of Mr. Holder to the second highest position at the Department of Justice was reported to the Senate without a single dissent on June 24. This nomination could and should have been ap-

proved by the Senate before it adjourned for the last extended recess. It is strongly supported by Senator HATCH, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

There was and is no Democratic hold on this nomination. The delay on the Republican side in considering this nomination remains unexplained.

Eric Holder has proven his dedication to effective law enforcement. As a former prosecutor myself, I appreciate Mr. Holder's distinguished career in law enforcement.

Shortly after his graduation from Columbia Law School, Mr. Holder joined the Department of Justice as part of the Attorney General's Honors Program. He was assigned to the newly formed Public Integrity Section in 1976, where he worked for 12 years investigating and prosecuting corruption.

While at the Public Integrity Section, Mr. Holder participated in a number of prosecutions and appeals involving such defendants as the State treasurer of Florida, a former Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, a local judge in Philadelphia, an assistant U.S. attorney in New York City, an FBI agent, and a capo in an organized crime family. He received a number of awards for outstanding performance and special achievement from the Department of Justice.

In 1988, President Reagan nominated and the Senate confirmed Mr. Holder to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, where he served for the next 5 years. In his 5 years on the bench, Judge Holder presided over hundreds of criminal trials.

In 1993, President Clinton nominated and the Senate confirmed Eric Holder to the important post of U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. As U.S. attorney for one of the largest U.S. Attorney's offices in the Nation, Mr. Holder has supervised 300 lawyers involved in criminal, civil and appellate cases. He has functioned as both the local district attorney and the Federal prosecutor.

He has been active in community affairs. For more than a decade, he has been a member of Concerned Black Men, an organization seeking to help young people in the District of Columbia. He is involved in a number of the group's activities, including the Efficacy Program and the pregnancy prevention effort. He has participated in the D.C. Street Law Program and is active in the See Forever Foundation and the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship. He is cochair of Project PACT to reduce youth violence and has been instrumental in the U.S. attorney's office's outreach efforts to the D.C. community.

In 1994, he received the Pioneer Award from the National Black Prosecutors Association. In 1995, his contributions were recognized when he received awards from the District of Columbia Bar Association, the Greater

Washington Urban League, the American Jewish Congress, and Phi Beta Sigma fraternity. Last year, he received awards from the D.C. Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, George Washington University, Columbia College, the Federation of Citizens Associations of the District of Columbia, Omega Psi Phi fraternity, the Brotherhood of Shiloh Men, McDonald's, and the Asian Pacific Bar Association.

I urge the Republican leadership to move forward without further delay and confirm the nomination of Eric Holder to be Deputy Attorney General.

JUDICIAL VACANCIES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I last spoke to the Senate about the crisis being created by our failure to move forward expeditiously to fill longstanding judicial vacancies on June 26, the day before we left on our most recent recess. I pointed out then that we had the opportunity literally to double judicial confirmations for the year from 5 to 10 by taking up and approving the five judicial nominees on the Senate Executive Calendar. In spite of the noncontroversial nature of these nominees and their likely confirmation, the Republican leadership refused to consider them.

As the Senate returns from another extended recess we enter July having found time to confirm only 6 Federal judges of the 39 nominees the President has sent to us. That remains a confirmation rate of less than one judge per month. We continue to fall farther and farther behind the pace established by Senator DOLE and Senator HATCH in the last Congress. By this time 2 years ago, Senator HATCH had held six confirmation hearings involving 26 judicial nominees and the Senate had proceeded to confirm 26 Federal judges by the end of June—during one of the busiest periods ever, during the first 100 days of the Republicans' "Contract with America."

I have spoken often about the crisis being created by the 100 vacancies that are being perpetuated on the Federal courts around the country, as has the Chief Justice of the United States. At the rate that we are currently going more and more vacancies are continuing to mount over longer and longer times to the detriment of greater numbers of Americans and the national cause of prompt justice.

There are four highly-qualified judicial nominees on the Senate calendar, another five district court nominees who were the subject of a confirmation hearing on June 25 but who have yet to receive attention from the Judiciary Committee, and another 24 nominees for whom the committee has yet to schedule a hearing or consideration.

That judges were held hostage to the resolution of other nomination disputes was a shame. I had urged the Republican leadership not to use the judiciary as a political pressure point or to

involve the judiciary in disagreement over other matters, but they chose to act otherwise.

I would hope that the Senate would move to confirm these four additional judges on its calendar without further delay this week. Three of them had their confirmation hearing back in early May and have been on the Senate calendar without action for more than 6 weeks. The other had a confirmation hearing back in March, and was reported for a second time almost 1 month ago.

The Republican leadership chose to single out only one judicial nominee for a unanimous consent request and approval before the most recent recess. Over the break I took the trouble to review the record on that nominee to see whether it held a clue regarding why that particular nominee, as opposed to the other qualified nominees, had been singled out for special attention.

Nominated by the President on February 12 of this year, Alan Gold is set to fill a vacancy that was created on the District Court for the Southern District of Florida on November 30, 1996, when Judge Gonzalez took senior status. His is the only vacancy remaining on that Court and it has existed for less than 7 months. He was included in a confirmation hearing on May 7 and reported by the Judiciary Committee 2 weeks later.

As I have said before, it should not take more than 4 months to consider a judicial nominee and the Gold nomination and its treatment should serve as the standard by which we measure the Senate's treatment of other nominees. Although it should represent the normal process, it is the exception this year.

He has a commendable background but so do the other nominees for judicial appointment. In reviewing the file, I see that Judge Gold was rated well qualified by the ABA. Given Senator HATCH's speech condemning the influence of the ABA and its ratings in our confirmation process, I doubt that explains his prompt confirmation. Eric Clay was also rated well qualified for his Sixth Circuit nomination and he was held back on the calendar. William Fletcher, James Beatty, Margaret McKeown, Marjorie Rendell, Richard Lazzara, Margaret Morrow and others have likewise received the ABA's highest rating and have not seen their nominations expedited.

In reviewing his confirmation hearing and the answers to the written questions that followed, I see that he singled out for criticism the case of *Griswold versus Connecticut*, which affirmed a privacy right guaranteed by the Constitution, and listed as the book that has most influenced his view of the law "The Tempting of America" by Robert Bork. My fear is that this confirmation reflects a litmus test being imposed by the Republican majority and that is why they singled out this nomination for expedited treatment. I hope that is not so.

I hope that nominees are not being forced to swear allegiance to Robert Bork instead of the Constitution of the United States in order to be confirmed. I hope that a nominee can uphold the important privacy rights that the Supreme Court has recognized to be constitutionally based and still be confirmed. I would like to believe that there is a neutral, alternative explanation for the treatment of this nomination relative to the others and that no Senator is imposing an ideological litmus test on judicial nominations.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, July 9, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,359,038,067,462.61. (Five trillion, three hundred fifty-nine billion, thirty-eight million, sixty-seven thousand, four hundred sixty-two dollars and sixty-one cents)

One year ago, July 9, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,151,107,000,000. (Five trillion, one hundred fifty-one billion, one hundred seven million)

Five years ago, July 9, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,972,301,000,000. (Three trillion, nine hundred seventy-two billion, three hundred one million)

Ten years ago, July 9, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,320,130,000,000. (Two trillion, three hundred twenty billion, one hundred thirty million)

Fifteen years ago, July 9, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,077,779,000,000. (One trillion, seventy-seven billion, seven hundred seventy-nine million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,281,259,067,462.61 (Four trillion, two hundred eighty-one billion, two hundred fifty-nine million, sixty-seven thousand, four hundred sixty-two dollars and sixty-one cents) during the past 15 years.

HONORING THE LANCASTERS ON THEIR 37TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, families are the cornerstone of America. The data are undeniable: Individuals from strong families contribute to the society. In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "till death us do part" seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity. These characteristics make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Janice and Bill Lancaster of Grandview, MO, who on July 23, 1997, will celebrate their 37th wedding anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. The Lancasters' commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized.

RETIREMENT OF BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID "BULL" E. BAKER, USAF

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, "Patriot" is a word best grasped through example: a life lived or service rendered in defense of our country's interests and values. I rise today to recognize an Air Force officer whose service to this nation offers us a splendid example of patriotism.

Brigadier General David "Bull" E. Baker will soon retire from the U.S. Air Force. Duty and sacrifice have been the standards of an exemplary career that has bridged our Nation's most recent conflicts. Bull Baker flew for his country in the skies over Southeast Asia, northern Europe and Iraq. Over Cambodia his OV-2A was shot down and he was held a prisoner of war by the Viet Cong. In February 1973, General Baker became the only United States Air Force prisoner repatriated from Cambodia.

By all accounts, Bull Baker is an exceptional pilot. He was one of the first F-15 Eagle pilots as well as the flight commander for the Air Force's first female jet pilots. During Operation Desert Storm, General Baker flew 21 combat missions in the F-15E Strike Eagle.

This experience as a pilot and a commander has helped him excel in his current position. As the National Reconnaissance Office's Deputy Director for Military Support, General Baker ensures that our intelligence satellites are there to support military commanders. Some 4,000 flying hours and the force of his personality have proven far more formidable than any bureaucratic obstacle, and he has been able to provide our warfighters a unilateral advantage through timely, critical intelligence. Our military forces' ability to successfully execute complex, simultaneous operations from Bosnia, to the Middle East, and to the west coast of Africa is a testament to General Baker's ability and dedication.

In Bull Baker's career and accomplishments, a word overshadows a thousand pictures. He has placed integrity first, offered service before self, and excelled in all he was called to do. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a patriot.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting a treaty and sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)