

In Kentucky, we had our first election last year in the Governor's race where you had a limited amount of money you could spend. With all of its warts, the two candidates stayed on the road. They did not fly in airplanes because it cost too much. They were looking for every Kiwanis Club, every Rotary Club, every Jaycees, every Lion's Club they could get to. There were an unprecedented 41 joint appearances. We used to have a joint appearance on television. It was on Kentucky educational television. It was a night Kentucky played for the championship of the NCAA basketball. They even sent the cubs out there to cover it, so no one really watched it. But when we limited the amount of money and limited what they could do, they had to see people, they had to talk about issues, they had to believe in what they were saying.

Mr. President, now is the time to say to this country, "Let us get back to the people. Let us get back to issues. Let us get back to shaking hands and saying, 'I want your vote.'" Look them in the eye and they can ask you questions. That is the way we ought to run political campaigns. That is the kind of political campaign I like to run.

Now we have that opportunity. We can touch it with our fingernails. We can touch it with our fingernails. If only two more Republicans will join, we will have the 50 votes necessary to say we have a comprehensive campaign finance reform bill that will be so important not only to the American people but to us as representatives of the American people. We will not be beholden to people we have never known.

Mr. President, I hope we will join together now and give the American people what I believe they want—less money in politics, more personal contact.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Let me briefly commend our leader, the Democratic leader, for soliciting the support of the 44 others of us who make up this caucus, the Democratic caucus. There are 45 members of this caucus, and all 45 members have signed this letter urging the adoption of the legislation introduced by our colleague, JOHN MCCAIN, from the Republican side and RUSS FEINGOLD from our side.

I think, as the leader has said, this is not a perfect bill. I have disagreements with it. I do not applaud every single dotted "i" and crossed "t," nor do I assume anyone else does, but it is a common vehicle to embrace most of the positions we would like to see adopted as campaign finance reform. The fact that 100 percent of those of us on this side have joined in this letter, I think, is a strong indication of our commitment to this issue.

It would not have happened had it not been for our leader on this side. I want to commend him publicly for his leadership on this issue as he has dem-

onstrated in so many other areas and urge that his words be heeded and we try to get some additional sponsors here and see if we cannot bring this up.

NOMINATIONS OF JANET HALL AND CHRISTOPHER F. DRONEY

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I want to briefly say to my colleagues, we will vote in a few minutes on two nominees for the Federal district court bench, Janet Hall and Christopher Droney.

Senator LIEBERMAN and I have appeared before the Judiciary Committee on their behalf. I see our colleague from Alabama here on the floor, who is a member of that committee and who very graciously heard the two nominees.

They are two very highly confident, very qualified nominees. Janet Hall has superlative work experience, both in government service and in private practice. She has worked in the Antitrust Division of the Justice Department from 1975 to 1979. She later joined one of the finest law firms in the State of Connecticut, Robinson and Cole, where she has been a partner since 1982. She has appeared before Federal, State, and appellate courts, and even the U.S. Supreme Court, and her work has focused primarily on complex commercial litigation. In short, she is a very, very fine nominee.

She is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College and the New York University School of Law. She has received numerous awards and recognitions including Mount Holyoke's Alumnae Medal of Honor, and she has served on the Board of the Connecticut Bar Foundation since 1993. She also serves on the Parents' Advisory Committee of her hometown high school and has volunteered in numerous other activities in her community.

She is a very fine lawyer, a very fine person, very community oriented, and she brings wonderful legal knowledge and expertise to this nomination. I am confident that my colleagues across political lines here will be very proud of their vote in casting it this afternoon for Janet Hall to be a district court judge in Connecticut.

The other nominee is Christopher F. Droney. Some of our colleagues know Christopher Droney. He has been our U.S. attorney in Connecticut for the last 4 or 5 years and a very successful one. He is known as one of the leading U.S. attorneys in the country for his anticrime efforts, and in particular for fighting juvenile crime.

I might point out that he also knows something about what it is like to be in elective office. He served as the mayor of West Hartford, CT, and did a wonderful job there. He is a graduate of the University of Connecticut Law School, where he was on the Law Review. He was named Citizen of the Year by the Connecticut District of the Boy Scouts of America, and he received the Distinguished Law Enforcement Award from the Hartford Police Union. He

also received special recognition award from the Spanish-American Merchants Association. He is very community-oriented and very successful in his community activities. He is a member of the Federal Bar Council, a member of the St. Timothy Roman Catholic Church in his community, and very involved in the YMCA and YWCA in our State, as well.

Again, given his background experience as a U.S. attorney, I think my colleagues can feel very, very proud, Mr. President, in casting a vote this afternoon to confirm the nomination of Christopher Droney, as well, to be a district court judge in Connecticut. I urge support for these nominees. I think they will do us all proud. The Senate can be proud of the work they will perform on behalf of all of us. I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now go into executive session to consider a series of nominations.

NOMINATION OF JOSEPH F. BATAILLON OF NEBRASKA TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Joseph F. Bataillon of Nebraska to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Nebraska.

Mr. GORTON. Have the yeas and nays been requested with respect to either this nomination or either of the two succeeding nominations?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. They have not.

Mr. GORTON. I ask unanimous consent I be permitted to make one request that the yeas and nays be ordered and it apply to all three nominees.

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

Mr. GORTON. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered on the three nominations.

There are 2 minutes of debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. [Mr. GRAMS]. Does any Senator wish to speak on the nomination?

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I just rise to offer my strong support for Joe Bataillon, a man who I have known for a number of years, and the Chair does as well. He served in the Judge Advocate Corps. He has been a lawyer in Omaha. He has gotten high marks from anybody who has interviewed him, on both sides of the aisle. The judges like him. He is a crucial appointment. I appreciate very much the majority leader scheduling this vote. I encourage my colleagues to vote for him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators who wish to speak?

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I yield back the balance of our time on the first nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

The question is, will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Joseph F. Bataillon, of Nebraska, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Nebraska. The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 236 Ex.]

YEAS—100

Abraham	Feingold	Lugar
Akaka	Feinstein	Mack
Allard	Ford	McCain
Ashcroft	Frist	McConnell
Baucus	Glenn	Mikulski
Bennett	Gorton	Moseley-Braun
Biden	Graham	Moynihan
Bingaman	Gramm	Murkowski
Bond	Grams	Murray
Boxer	Grassley	Nickles
Breaux	Gregg	Reed
Brownback	Hagel	Reid
Bryan	Harkin	Robb
Bumpers	Hatch	Roberts
Burns	Helms	Rockefeller
Byrd	Hollings	Roth
Campbell	Hutchinson	Santorum
Chafee	Hutchison	Sarbanes
Cleland	Inhofe	Sessions
Coats	Inouye	Shelby
Cochran	Jeffords	Smith (NH)
Collins	Johnson	Smith (OR)
Conrad	Kempthorne	Snowe
Coverdell	Kennedy	Specter
Craig	Kerrey	Stevens
D'Amato	Kerry	Thomas
Daschle	Kohl	Thompson
DeWine	Kyl	Thurmond
Dodd	Landrieu	Torricelli
Domenici	Lautenberg	Warner
Dorgan	Leahy	Wellstone
Durbin	Levin	Wyden
Enzi	Lieberman	
Faircloth	Lott	

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining two votes in this sequence be limited to 10 minutes in length.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I believe we are ready to proceed to the next vote.

NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER F. DRONEY, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Christopher F. Droney, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Mr. LEAHY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. The Senate is not in order.

Mr. President, I understand that we have a minute on each side.

Mr. LOTT. That is correct.

Mr. LEAHY. I ask the Chair to call the Senate to order before my time begins.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be in order.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I do not intend to start until the Senate is in order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senate please come to order.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, we will confirm three judges this afternoon.

I ask my colleagues to look at the chart, which indicates the shameful lack of progress of this Senate in considering judicial nominations. We still have approximately 100 judicial vacancies. When we adjourned last year there were 64 vacancies and when we began this Congress there were about 74 vacancies. We are confirming judges far slower than the vacancies are occurring through death, attrition, retirements, and so forth. Even with the three judges we are confirming today, there has been a net increase in vacancies of over 30 in the last year. In fact, vacancies on the federal courts around the country have increased by more than 50 percent over the last year.

I ask, as I have many, many times, that the majority leader, whose caucus has held back these judges, allow them to go forward. We see what happens when we have a vote on them. It is unanimous. You keep hearing that there are concerns about these judges, and then no Senator votes against them.

Let us bring them forward. I ask that one of the first we proceed to consider be Margaret Morrow, who seems to be held up only because she is a woman—only because she is a woman. There is no reason to hold up that judicial nomination. Let it be voted. If people do not want her, vote against her. If they want her, vote for her. But let's have a vote on this.

We are not helping the independence—in fact, we are diminishing the independence—of the Federal judiciary.

Mr. President, I am encouraged that the Senate is taking up three of the six judicial nominations from the Executive Calendar.

I am delighted to see the Senate confirm Joseph F. Bataillon to be a U.S. District Judge for the District of Nebraska. He served as deputy public defender for Douglas County, NE before entering private practice as a trial attorney in Omaha. He is supported by Senator KERREY and Senator HAGEL. The ABA found him to be qualified for this judicial appointment. Mr. Bataillon's nomination was first received by the Senate in March 1996 over 17 months ago. Unfortunately, this was

one of the nominations caught up in the election year slowdown last year. I congratulate Mr. Bataillon and his family and look forward to his service on the district court.

I am also delighted that the Senate majority leader has decided to take up the nomination of Christopher F. Droney to be a U.S. District Judge for the District of Connecticut. The nominee has served as U.S. Attorney in Connecticut since 1993. The ABA has unanimously found him to be qualified for this judicial appointment. With the strong support of Senator DODD and Senator LIEBERMAN, this nomination has moved through the Committee and now to confirmation. I congratulate Mr. Droney and his family and look forward to his service on the district court.

Likewise, I am delighted to see the Senate moving forward to consider Janet C. Hall to be a U.S. District Judge for the same district. Since 1980, this nominee has practiced law in Hartford and prior to that she had served as a special assistant U.S. attorney and trial attorney for the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. The ABA unanimously found her to be well qualified, its highest rating. This nomination also has the strong support of Senator DODD and Senator LIEBERMAN. I congratulate Ms. Hall and her family and look forward to her service on the district court.

In spite of the progress we have made over the last week in confirming six judicial nominations, we still have some 40 nominees among the 65 nominations sent to the Senate by the President who are pending before the Judiciary Committee and have yet to be accorded even a hearing during this Congress.

Many of these nominations have been pending since the very first day of this session, having been renominated by the President. Several of those pending before the Committee had hearings or were reported favorably last Congress but have been passed over so far this year, while the vacancies for which they were nominated over 2 years ago persist. The committee has 12 nominees who have been pending for more than a year, including seven who have been pending since 1995.

So, while I am encouraged that the Senate is today proceeding with the longstanding nomination of Joseph Bataillon and those of Chris Droney and Janet Hall, there is no excuse for the committee's delay in considering the nominations of such outstanding individuals as Professor William A. Fletcher, Judge James A. Beaty, Jr., Judge Richard A. Paez, Ms. M. Margaret McKeown, Ms. Ann L. Aiken, and Ms. Susan Oki Mollway, to name just a few of the outstanding nominees who have all been pending all year without so much as a hearing. Professor Fletcher and Ms. Mollway had both been favorably reported last year. Judge Paez and Ms. Aiken had hearings last year but have been passed over so far this year.