

nomination on the calendar. By contrast, the Republican Senate majority in the last Congress, the 104th, left an unprecedented seven judicial nominations on the Senate Executive Calendar at adjournment without Senate action. The 105th Congress is concluding with four qualified judicial nominees being denied action by the Senate.

At each step of the process, judicial nominations are being delayed and stalled. Judge Richard Paez, Justice Ronnie L. White, Judge William J. Hibbler and Timothy Dyk are being denied consideration by the Senate. Marsha Berzon, Anabelle Rodriguez, Clarence Sundram, and Matthew Kennelly were each denied a vote before the Judiciary Committee following a hearing. Judge James A. Beatty, Jr., Helene N. White, Jorge C. Rangel, Ronald M. Gould, Robert S. Raymar, Barry P. Goode, among a total of 13 judicial nominees, end this Congress without ever having received a hearing before the Judiciary Committee.

At the conclusion of the debate on the nomination of Merrick Garland to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, as 23 Republicans were preparing to vote against that exceptionally well-qualified nominee whose confirmation had been delayed 18 months, Senator HATCH said "playing politics with judges is unfair, and I am sick of it." I agree with him. I look forward to a return to the days when judicial nominations are treated with the respect and attention that they deserve.

NOMINATION OF EDWARD J. DAMICH

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today the Senate will confirm the nomination of Edward J. Damich to be a judge on the Court of Federal Claims. Mr. Damich has been the Chief Intellectual Property Counsel to the Judiciary Committee since 1995. He has already had a distinguished career and is highly qualified to fill this challenging position. He received an A.B. degree from St. Stephen's College in 1970, a J.D. degree from the School of Law of Catholic University in 1976, and LL.M. and J.S.D. degrees from Columbia University School of Law. Upon his graduation from law school, he joined the faculty of the Delaware Law School of Widener University as a Professor of Law where he remained until 1984. From 1984-95, he was a Professor of Law at the George Mason University School of Law. During 1992-1993, Mr. Damich also served as a Commissioner of the Copyright Royalty Tribunal.

Mr. Damich also has numerous accomplishments outside his professional career. He was named Outstanding Faculty Member in 1980 and 1984, and is listed in Who's Who in American Law. He has served as President of the National Federation of Croatian Americans and as a Board Member of the Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts. He is also widely published in both the academic and professional forums.

His hard work and intellect has made him a true asset to the Committee, and

his presence will be missed. I am confident that he will make a terrific judge, and I wish him all the luck in this very important stage of his career.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I wish to express my support for the nomination of Edward Damich to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. I believe he is a fine choice for this important position.

Before joining the staff of the Senate Judiciary Committee in 1995 as Chief Intellectual Property Counsel, Mr. Damich served as a Commissioner of the Copyright Arbitration Royalty Panel. In that capacity, he was involved in numerous copyright issues, including the proper distribution of millions of dollars in copyright licensing fees. Further, for many years, he served as a Professor of Law in the area of intellectual property, first at Delaware Law School and later at the George Mason University School of Law in Virginia.

Mr. Damich has been an asset to the Senate Judiciary Committee in recent Congresses. He is a strong supporter of property rights and has brought a wealth of knowledge of intellectual property law to his work. He has played an important supporting role on many important pieces of legislation in this area, including most recently the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

Mr. Damich is well qualified to serve on the Court of Claims, and I am pleased to support his nomination.

JUDGE NORMAN A. MORDUE

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I am very pleased that the Senate has confirmed Norman A. Mordue to the bench of the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York.

Norman Mordue is a distinguished and competent jurist, having previously served as an assistant district attorney and county judge. He is now a New York Supreme Court justice. He is also a war hero. He earned this country's second highest military honor, the Distinguished Service Cross for Extraordinary Heroism, while serving as an infantry platoon leader with the 1st Air Cavalry Division in Vietnam.

Judge Mordue has been active in many New York State Bar activities—he is a presiding officer in the Bar's judicial section and a continuing legal education lecturer—and he has been elected by his peers to head the Supreme Court Justices' Association. I have every confidence that he will make an excellent addition to the federal judiciary.

NOMINATION OF MARGARET SEYMOUR

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I wish to express my strong support for Judge Margaret Seymour, President Clinton's nominee to be a United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina. Judge Seymour will replace Judge William Traxler, an excellent jurist who I recommended to the President for the District Court and who has just been elevated to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judge Seymour had a varied legal career in the private sector and in gov-

ernment service before becoming an Assistant United States Attorney in South Carolina in 1990. During four of her six years in the U.S. Attorney's office, she was Chief of the Civil Division. Also, she twice served as Interim United States Attorney, once in 1993 and again in 1996.

She was appointed a United States Magistrate Judge for the District of South Carolina in 1996, where she serves today. In that capacity, she is known as a diligent and fair jurist. She is also a person of character and integrity.

I am very pleased to support her, and I am confident she will be a very able addition to the District Court.

NOMINATION OF DENISE O'DONNELL

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I am delighted that the Senate will confirm Denise O'Donnell to be the United States Attorney for the Western District of New York. She now becomes the first woman in the history of the 17-county Western District to be chief federal prosecutor. No woman before has ever had a presidential appointment in the district to one of the top three justice posts: judge, prosecutor or federal marshal.

Ms. O'Donnell is a career Assistant U.S. Attorney. She came to the Western District in 1985 as an Assistant U.S. Attorney and was named First Assistant in 1993. She has served as Interim U.S. Attorney since September 1997. In addition, she was a part-time instructor in the the Trial Technique Program at her alma mater, the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School. She graduated summa cum laude from that institution and was the senior editor of its law review.

During her distinguished career as a prosecutor, Ms. O'Donnell has handled a host of complex criminal matters, including cases involving RICO, tax fraud, narcotics, and violent crimes. She is also an active participant in her local and state bar organizations and, last year was the Women Lawyers Association Lawyer of the Year.

I am confident that Ms. O'Donnell will serve with the highest distinction.

NOMINATION OF MARGARET E. CURRAN

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, today the Senate will consider the nomination of Margaret E. Curran as U.S. Attorney for the District of Rhode Island. I wholeheartedly support Ms. Curran's nomination and appreciate its speedy consideration by the Judiciary Committee. It certainly is noteworthy that Ms. Curran will be the first woman to serve as U.S. Attorney for Rhode Island in the more than two hundred years that this position has existed.

Ms. Curran has served as Interim U.S. Attorney since May. She has proven herself to be a thoughtful, competent, and qualified federal prosecutor. I have every confidence that she will continue to do a fine job as the chief federal law enforcement office in Rhode Island. An editorial in the Providence Journal said of Ms. Curran:

"She has shown herself to have capacious qualities of leadership, intellectual rigor, and good humor," qualities that will serve her well as U.S. Attorney.

Ms. Curran has twelve years of experience as a federal prosecutor. She has earned wide regard from the legal community in Rhode Island. And she enjoys resounding support from Governor Lincoln Almond, who, for twenty years, held the position she will assume.

Meg Curran is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and received a Master of Science Degree in anthropology from Purdue University. In 1983, she received her Law Degree from the University of Connecticut, where she served as editor-in-chief of the Connecticut Law Review. Before serving in the U.S. Attorney's office, Ms. Curran was clerk to the Honorable Bruce M. Selya, U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island and for the Honorable Thomas J. Meskill, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. She is a member of the Rhode Island Bar Association, serves on the Federal Branch-Bar Committee, as well as the Roger Williams American Inn of Court, the First Circuit Gender Bias Task Force, and the American Law Institute. Also, Ms. Curran is professor of advanced criminal law at Roger Williams University Law School in Rhode Island.

I am delighted that the Senate is prepared to confirm Margaret Ellen Curran as U.S. Attorney for the District of Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the Senate's confirmation of Margaret Ellen Curran as U.S. Attorney for the District of Rhode Island. I am proud to have been involved in the historic nomination of this outstanding career prosecutor. A native of Providence, Meg is the first woman to serve as Rhode Island's federal attorney. Her confirmation by the U.S. Senate today sends a clear message to career federal attorneys that their work and service is valued.

Ms. Curran brings not only the necessary legal expertise and technical skill to this position, but she has also demonstrated the prosecutorial temperament necessary to carry out her significant responsibilities in a fair and judicious manner. I am confident that U.S. Attorney Curran will serve Rhode Island and its people extremely well.

Ms. Curran graduated from Pilgrim High School in Warwick. She received a B.A. degree from the University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Science from Purdue University, and her law degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law, where she was Editor in Chief of the Law Review. After graduation, Meg served as a law clerk to the Honorable Bruce Selya, then a federal district judge in Rhode Island. She next served a clerkship for the Honorable Thomas Meskill on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. After her second clerkship, in 1985, Meg

became an associate at the Providence law firm of Wistow & Baryllick pursuing general litigation matters.

Since 1986, when she joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in Rhode Island, Meg has distinguished herself as an outstanding prosecutor. As a trail prosecutor, Meg tried a range of cases involving white-collar criminals, organized crime, illegal weapons possession, and was responsible for obtaining the largest monetary penalty, at the time, for the illegal discharge of pollutants into Narragansett Bay.

In 1990, Meg was appointed as the district's Principal Appellate Attorney and Appellate Chief. In that position she has had primary responsibility for all appeals. As Appellate Chief she has successfully pursued precedent setting cases involving both mandatory sentencing for career criminals as well as heightened penalties for dealers of dangerous drugs.

Meg has proven herself an accomplished trial and appellate attorney, and, for this, she has been recognized. She has received the annual Special Achievement Awards for Sustained Superior Performance of Duty from the Department of Justice four times. In 1993, she was named the Federal Employee of the Year by the Federal Executive Council of Rhode Island. Today, the United States Senate has provided her with the ultimate recognition of a career prosecutor by confirming her as U.S. Attorney for the District of Rhode Island.

In addition to her professional service, Meg has also found time to serve her community. Since 1995, Meg has been an adjunct professor at Roger Williams University School of Law, teaching advanced criminal procedure. She is a member of the Rhode Island Bar Association and serves on the Federal Bench/Bar Committee. Meg also serves on the First Circuit Gender Bias Task Force and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Rhode Island Zoological Society.

Mr. President, I am proud to have been involved in the nomination of U.S. Attorney Curran. I wish her, her husband Michael, and their daughter Margee the very best.

CONFIRMATION OF CARDELL COOPER

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to express my strong support for the confirmation of Cardell Cooper to be the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development. I thank the members of the Banking Committee, Chairman D'AMATO, and Ranking Member SARBANES for moving Mr. Cooper's nomination swiftly through the Committee.

Mr. Cooper served with distinction as mayor of East Orange, New Jersey from 1990 to 1997. Prior to serving as mayor, from 1988 to 1990, Mr. Cooper was County Administrator for Essex County, where he was responsible for day-to-day management of the one of the largest and most urban counties in New Jersey.

As a mayor and county administrator, Mr. Cooper was on the front lines. His practical experience, coupled with his passion for public service, makes him an excellent choice for this post. He knows the critical difference that development programs can make to communities and their residents, and the importance of forging strong partnerships between local, state and federal governments. His commitment to local economic development programs serving our young people, such as YouthBuild, and urban environmental initiatives, such as the brownfields program, will fuel his efforts to help our urban leaders succeed. Through his work with the Conference of Mayors, he has built solid relationships with mayors across the country and enjoys bipartisan support. His endorsement by the Conference of Mayors is a testament to the leadership he has provided.

Mr. President, while professional experience and particular skills are important for effective service, Cardell Cooper has the personal strengths and attributes the Senate looks for in nominees to high posts. He is an energetic leader, with a strong work ethic and a deep commitment to public service and the mission of the Department. I can personally attest to his integrity and ability to work well within a larger organization.

Mr. President, I hope the full Senate will act expeditiously to confirm Cardell Cooper as HUD's new Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development.

CONFIRMATION OF HAROLD LUCAS

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to convey to the full Senate my overwhelming support for the confirmation of Harold Lucas to be the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) new Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing. I especially want to thank Chairman D'AMATO and Ranking Member SARBANES, and all the members of the Senate Banking Committee, for moving Mr. Lucas' nomination so quickly through the Committee.

Mr. Lucas has first-hand knowledge of the challenges facing our nation's public housing authorities. Prior to his nomination, Mr. Lucas served as Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the City of Newark, New Jersey. When Mr. Lucas took hold of the reins at the Housing Authority in 1992, HUD considered it to be a "troubled" agency, and had given it failing grades since its creation in the 1970s. Within two years of taking over, Mr. Lucas turned things around. Last year, the agency received a 94 percent rating—an A in anyone's book—and is now considered one of the top performing housing agencies in both New Jersey and the nation.

During his tenure, Mr. Lucas tore down many dilapidated high-rise buildings and replaced them with more attractive townhouse-style housing that

provides a better quality of life for tenants and improves the neighborhoods that surround it.

Mr. Lucas' dedication to helping public housing residents achieve self-sufficiency, and his strong commitment to ensuring the safety and viability of our public housing stock, are testament to his qualifications for this position. I am confident that our nation's housing authorities will be well served by having someone as dynamic and experienced as Mr. Lucas at the helm.

Mr. President, I therefore urge the full Senate to conform, without delay, Mr. Lucas to be HUD's new Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.

COMMERCE COMMITTEE AND LABOR COMMITTEE

Mr. LOTT. I further ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee and the Labor Committee be immediately discharged from further consideration of the following nominations, and further that the Senate then proceed to their consideration: John Moran, Harold Creel, Ashish Sen, Anita Jones, Pamela Ferguson, and nominations in the Public Health Service.

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

The nominations considered en bloc are as follows:

COMMERCE COMMITTEE

John A. Moran, of Virginia, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for the term expiring June 30, 2000.

Harold J. Creel, Jr., of South Carolina, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for the term expiring June 30, 2004. (Reappointment)

Ashish Sen, of Illinois, to be Director of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Department of Transportation, for the term of four years.

LABOR COMMITTEE

Anita K. Jones, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2004.

Pamela A. Ferguson, of Iowa, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2004.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Public Health Service nominations beginning Robert W. Amler, and ending Cheryl A. Wiseman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on April 24, 1998.

Public Health Service nominations beginning Marie A. Coffey, and ending Julia C. Watkins, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on July 7, 1998.

NOMINATIONS OF JOHN A. MORAN AND HAROLD J. CREEL, JR., FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONERS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today the Senate unanimously confirmed the nominations of John A. Moran and Harold J. Creel, Jr. to serve as Federal Maritime Commissioners. John Moran will be replacing Joseph Scroggins on the Commission while Hal Creel will be serving a second term as Chairman of the FMC. I applaud the selection of these two highly qualified individuals for these important positions.

John Moran brings more than a decade of congressional and legislative ex-

perience in maritime transportation and policy to the FMC. During his nine-year tenure as a staffer in the House and Senate, John focused on a number of important maritime issues, including the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. His work on the 1990 amendments to the Shipping Act of 1984 and the 1991-1992 Advisory Commission on Conferences in Ocean Shipping (ACCOS) ensures that he is well prepared for his FMC assignment. The ACCOS process crystallized the concerns of stakeholders regarding the Shipping Act of 1984 and was a forerunner to S. 414, the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998. This experience will serve John well as he assumes the shared responsibility for implementing that Act. I have great confidence in John Moran's ability and integrity.

Hal Creel has been the Chairman of the FMC for more than four years. During that time, the agency has gone from being characterized as "obsolete" to being hailed as a champion of free and open access to foreign trade markets. Hal deserves tremendous credit for this reversal of fortune. Through Hal's leadership, the FMC has punished unfair foreign shipping practices in Japan and is reviewing similar concerns regarding shipping practices in China and Brazil. Hal has also demonstrated the FMC's willingness to respond quickly to industry complaints regarding violations of the Shipping Act of 1984. More than 90% of all U.S. international trade is transported by ships. Maintaining a fair and open international ocean shipping system is vital to this nation's economy. Hal is clearly deserving of another term as Chairman of this crucial independent agency.

Mr. President, I would also like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to another FMC commissioner, Ming Hsu, for her long service to this agency. Ming Hsu supplies a wealth of experience in Asia-U.S. trade to the FMC. This has proven vital to addressing a number of ocean shipping concerns in this increasingly important trade lane.

With the President expected to sign the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998 in the coming days, I am confident that the Federal Maritime Commission, with Hal Creel, John Moran, Ming Hus, and Del Won, is more than ready to implement this landmark legislation.

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to congratulate two nominees, Mr. Hal Creel and Mr. John Moran, upon their confirmation to be Federal Maritime Commissioners.

Hal Creel, a native of South Carolina and my former Senior Counsel on the Maritime Subcommittee, has been a Federal Maritime Commissioner for four years. He has served the last two and a half years as the agency's Chairman. As Chairman, he has demonstrated a wide-ranging knowledge of the maritime industry and an out-

standing ability to oversee industry activities. Our Nation is extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated individual at the helm of this important government body.

Mr. Creel and the Federal Maritime Commission are responsible for overseeing all international liner shipping in the U.S.—over \$500 billion in trade. His efforts in the controversy surrounding Japan's restrictive port practices come immediately to mind.

The Government of Japan for many years has orchestrated a system that impedes open trade, unjustly favors Japanese companies, and results in tremendous inefficiencies for anyone serving Japan's ports. The FMC, under Mr. Creel's guidance, met these problems head-on and he was instrumental in bringing the two governments to the bargaining table. The bilateral agreement that resulted paves the way for far-reaching changes that can remove these unfair barriers to trade. The progress made to date has occurred in large measure due to the Commission's firm, results-oriented approach. I urge him to continue to keep the Japanese honest, and to perform their agreed upon obligations.

Hal Creel also has led the Commission in its efforts to resolve unfavorable trading conditions with the Peoples Republic of China and Brazil. These trades pose differing problems, but circumstances that nonetheless restrict U.S. companies or render their business dealings unnecessarily difficult or simply inefficient.

Hal Creel is widely respected by all sectors of the industry as an involved, knowledgeable Chairman who can be trusted to make impartial decisions based on all relevant factors. This has been evidenced by the objective, informed decisions he renders in formal proceedings, his voting record on important agency matters, and the evenhanded enforcement program administered by the Commission. As Chairman of the FMC, Hal Creel has worked hard to curb harmful practices and create equitable trading conditions for the entire industry. He takes a personal stake in these matters and works hard to obtain industry compliance with the laws passed by this Congress. But those who willfully violate the law or intentionally disregard the Nation's ocean shipping policies as contained in the Shipping Act are dealt with appropriately.

These are turbulent times in the liner shipping industry, times that call for effective and respected leadership from our Nation's regulatory body. Mr. Creel provides that leadership now, and I am certain will continue to do so as the industry enters the new environment that will result from the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998 passed by this body last week.

I am proud of the accomplishments and fine work Hal has done at the FMC. I am also proud that he is a native South Carolinian. He certainly has continued the fine tradition and excellence he established as a staffer and