Mr. REID. I will make one last statement, if I could.

The illness that leads people to commit suicide, it is no different than someone that has tuberculosis, someone who has cancer; isn't that true?

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I say to my colleague from Nevada, he is absolutely correct. The research over especially this last decade—which has focused on brain diseases—over and over and over again points out that these diseases are comparable to physical illnesses. They are diagnosable and they are treatable, but the big challenge for us is to overcome the stigma, to overcome the discrimination. That is why I am so outraged by these remarks by Governor Ventura.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I very much appreciate, admire, and respect the Senator from Minnesota, who is on the floor now talking about these issues. We need to talk more about them.

We don't know why people kill themselves. We have some understanding, but we need to study this. Thank goodness the Centers for Disease Control is now studying suicide. The Federal Government, for the first time, has directed research to determine why 31,000 Americans, young and old, kill themselves every year.

Again, I appreciate very much the Senator from Minnesota having the courage to talk about an issue some people refuse to acknowledge.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I thank my colleague.

I point out to the Senator from Nevada, this is the fourth leading cause of death among children, ages 10 to 14, suicide, among white males. There are other populations as well. The rate of suicide among African American males, ages 15 to 19, has increased 105 percent between 1980 and 1996.

Senator SPECTER and Senator HARKIN have done a yeoman's job of getting more support for these mental health services. What I am trying to do is take this mental health performance partnership block grant program, which supports comprehensive community-based treatment for adults with serious mental illnesses and children with serious emotional disturbances, back to the level of funding the President requested. This is administered through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, SAMHSA.

I say to my colleague from Pennsylvania, if I could have 5 more minutes to summarize this, we want to go to a voice vote, and this amendment will be accepted. I will be honored.

Let me simply talk about the services that are so important. This is funding for communities for programs that include treatment, rehabilitation, case management, outreach for homeless individuals, children's mental health services, and community-based treatment services that have everything in the world to do with providing treatment to people and enabling people to live lives with as much independence and dignity as possible.

Right now the mental health block grant is funded at $310 million. That is a small amount compared to the tremendous need. This amendment would add $50 million. With this amendment, we could provide support for some important community services that would make a tremendous amount of difference.

I went over some of the gaps earlier. My colleague from Pennsylvania, who is managing this bill on the Republican side, said there is an indication to accept this amendment. I will be very pleased. I know colleagues want to move this along.

I say to my Republican colleagues and Democratic colleagues, I appreciate the support for this. I know Senator SPECTER is committed to this. I know Senator HARKIN is as well. I would like to have this amendment approved. I would like to see the additional resources. This is an extremely important program. We have to do a lot better in this area. We can do it at the community level, but for those adults—and we are, in particular, talking about adults with serious mental illnesses and children with serious emotional disturbances—all too often, they wind up out on the streets or they wind up in prison or they wind up not receiving the care. So much of this illness is diagnosable. So much of it is treatable. There are so many ways we can help people.

I think accepting this amendment and making sure we can keep this level of funding as we go to the conference committee would be extremely important.

Mr. President, I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, we have been reviewing this amendment for additional funding for the mental health block grant. It is obviously a good program, beyond any question. The key issue is how far we can stretch in this bill. I have talked to the Senator from Minnesota and told him that after consulting with some of my colleagues on this side of the aisle, we would be prepared to accept it on a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is all time yielded back?

Mr. SPECTER. I yield back my time.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the second-degree amendment No. 2271.

The amendment (No. 2271) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the first-degree amendment No. 1880.

The amendment (No. 1880) was agreed to.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. REID. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

APPOINTING JUDICIAL NOMINEES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, the Constitution provides that the President ''shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint * * * Judges of the Supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States * * *'' Thus, the President has the power to nominate persons to serve as federal judges and the Senate has the power to render advice and consent on these nominations. And the Constitution requires that the President's power to nominate be exercised ''with'' the Senate's power to advise and consent in order for a final appointment to be made. To the extent such cooperation occurs, the appointment process will be fair, orderly, and timely. To the extent such cooperation does not occur, the appointment process will break down.

When I assumed the Chair of the Judiciary Committee, I inherited a process rocked by public strife and private in-fighting. I was determined to lower the temperatures on both sides of the Committee and to preside over a process that did not allow personal attacks on a nominee's character. To accomplish this I turned to the Constitution itself and its requirement that the President and the Senate work ''with'' each other in the appointment process and the Constitution's limits on the power of federal judges.

And it has worked. When the President has consulted with the Committee and with home-state Senators, a nominee has moved through the process smoothly. Under my Chairmanship, the Committee has focused its review on each nominee's, integrity, temperament, competence, and respect for the rule of law. To date Republicans have confirmed 325 of President Clinton's nominees to the federal bench.

When there have been problems with a nominee, or a potential nominee, the President's consultation with the Committee has enabled us to address those problems privately. For example, a senator on the Committee recently asked me to examine a potential nominee, and when there were problems with that nominee, that Senator and I were able to deal with the problem privately and I expect another candidate will be forthcoming soon. Thus, the process has worked without damaging a candidate's reputation or his family.

When the President works with the Senate the process will adequately staff the federal Judiciary. Indeed, after last year's extraordinary number of confirmations, the vacancy rate in the federal Judiciary was reduced to a very low 5.9%. The Chief Justice in his most recent report on the state of the federal Judiciary congratulated the President and the Senate, stating ''I am pleased to report on the progress

made in 1998 by the Senate and the President in the appointment and confirmation of judges to the federal bench ....''

As of today, the Judiciary Committee has held 5 hearings for judicial nominees and have reported 30 nominees to the floor of the Senate. There are currently just 62 vacancies, yielding a vacancy rate of only 7.4%. This is 1 vacancy less than existed at the end of the 103rd Congress when Democrats controlled the Judiciary Committee. Further, should the Senate confirm the 8 nominees that are currently on the floor and the 4 nominees for which we held a hearing today, the number of vacancies will fall to 51, yielding a vacancy rate of just 6%. This will be the lowest vacancy rate for any first session of Congress since the expansion of the judiciary in 1990. Moreover, it is virtually equivalent to the vacancy rate at the end of the last Congress, which was the lowest vacancy rate for any session of Congress since the expansion of the judiciary in 1990. When the President works with us and respects the constitutional advice and consent duties of the Senate, the process has, in fact, worked smoothly.

When the President fails to work with the Senate, however, the process does not work smoothly. This was the unfortunate case with Judge Ronnie White. The record shows that Judge White is a fine man. However, he has written some questionable opinions on death penalty cases. The record resulted in both Missouri Senators opposing his nomination on the floor. This record resulted in local and national law enforcement agencies opposing his nomination as well. Here are just some of the letters expressing concern or opposition to Judge White's nomination:

The Missouri Federation of Police Chiefs oppose the nomination; the National Sheriff's Association opposed the nomination; the Mercer County, Missouri prosecutor opposed the nomination; the Missouri Sheriffs' Association expressed deep concern over one of Judge White's dissents in a death penalty case involving the murder of one sheriff, two deputies, and the wife of another sheriff, and asked the Senate to consider that dissent in voting on Judge White's nomination. Indeed, 77 of 114 of Missouri's sheriffs asked for serious consideration of Judge White's record. The sheriff of Moniteau County, Missouri, whose wife was murdered by the criminal for whom Judge White would have reversed the death sentence wrote in opposition to the nomination.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that these letters be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letters were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION,
Alexandria, VA, October 4, 1999.

Hon. JOHN ASHCROFT,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR ASHCROFT: I am writing to ask you to join the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) in opposing the nomination of Mr. Ronnie White to the Federal Judiciary. NSA strongly urges the United States to defeat this appointment.

As you know, Judge White is a controversial judge in Missouri while serving in the Missouri Supreme Court. He issued many opinions that are offensive to law enforcement; one on drug interdiction and several involving the death penalty. Judge White feels that drug interdiction by law enforcement is too intimidating. He is more concerned with his personal view of drug interdiction practices than with the legitimate law enforcement effort to prevent the trafficking of illegal drugs. Drug interdiction is a cornerstone in the fight against crime, and this reckless opinion undermines the rule of law.

Additionally, judge White wrote an outrageous dissenting opinion in a death penalty case. In 1991 Pam Jones, the wife of Sheriff Kenny Jones of Miniteau, Missouri, was gunned down with three other law enforcement officials while hosting a church service at home. The assailant, who was targeting the Sheriff, was tried and convicted of murder in the first degree. He was subsequently sentenced to death for the four murders. During the appeals process, the case came before the Missouri Supreme Court where six of the seven judges affirmed the conviction and the sentence. Judge White was the court's lone dissenter urging a lower legal standard to allow this brutal cop killer a second chance at acquittal. In our view, this opinion alone disqualifies Judge White from service in the Federal courts. He is irresponsible in his thinking, and his views against law enforcement are dangerous. Please read Judge White's dissenting opinion in this case.

We urge you in the strongest possible terms to actively oppose the nomination of Judge White. He is clearly an opponent of law enforcement and does not deserve an appointment to the Federal Judiciary. His views and opinions are highly insulting to law enforcement, and we look forward to working with you to defeat this nomination.

Respectfully,
PATRICK J. SULLIVAN, Jr.,
Sheriff, Chairman, Congressional Affairs Committee and Member, Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, NSA.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT,
MONITEAU COUNTY,
California, MO, August 11, 1999.

DEAR FELLOW SHERIFF: I am writing to you about Judge Ronnie White of the Missouri Supreme Court, who has been nominated to be a federal district judge. As Sheriffs' we go to work for the people of Missouri every day. Our lives are on the line. Every law enforcement, and every law-abiding citizen, needs judges who will enforce the law without fear or favor. As law enforcement officers, we need judges who will back us up, and not go looking for outrageous technicalities so a criminal can get off. We don't need a judge like Ronnie White on the federal court bench.

In addition to being Sheriff of Moniteau County, I am a victim of violent crime. So are my children. In December 1991, James Johnson murdered my wife, Pam, the mother of my children. He shot Pam by ambush, firing through the window of our home during a church function she was hosting. Johnson also killed Sheriff Charles Smith of Cooper County. Deputy Les Roark of Moniteau County and Deputy Sandra Wilson of Miller County. He was convicted and sentenced to death. When the case was appealed and reached the Missouri Supreme Court, Judge White voted to overturn the death sentence of this man who murdered my wife and three good law officers. He was the only judge to vote this way.

Please read Judge White's opinion. It is a slap in the face to crime victims and law enforcement officers. If he cared about protecting crime victims and enforcing the law, he wouldn't have voted to let Johnson off death row.

The Johnson case isn't the only anti-death penalty ruling by Judge White. He has voted against capital punishment more than any other judge on the court. I believe there is a pattern here.

To me, Ronnie White is clearly the wrong person to entrust with the tremendous power of a federal judge who serves for life. Please write to our U.S. Senators, Christopher S. Bond and John Ashcroft, and ask them to oppose the White nomination. Ask them to persuade other Senators to do likewise. Effective law enforcement saves lives. The deterrent value of capital punishment saves lives. As a federal judge, Ronnie White would hurt law enforcement and he would oppose effective death penalty enforcement.

You can write to Senator Bond and Senator Ashcroft at U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. Please speak up before it's too late.

Sincerely,
KENNY JONES,
Moniteau County Sheriff.

MISSOURI FEDERATION OF
POLICE CHIEFS,
St. Louis, MO, September 2, 1999.

Senators JOHN ASHCROFT, and CHRISTOPHER BOND,
Kansas City, MO.

DEAR SENATOR ASHCROFT AND SENATOR BOND: We have just learned of the nomination of Judge Ronnie White to be a federal district judge.

After reading Sheriff Kenny Jones' letter and seeing Judge White's record, we were absolutely shocked that someone like this would even be nominated to such an important position.

We want to go on record with your offices as being opposed to his nomination and hope you will vote against him. A copy of Sheriff Jones' letter is attached.

Sincerely,
BRYAN KUNZE,
Vice President, MFPC.

MISSOURI SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION,
Jefferson City, MO, September 27, 1999.

Sen. ORRIN HATCH,
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR HATCH: Attached please find a copy of the dissenting opinion rendered by Missouri Supreme Court Judge Ronnie White in the case State of Missouri, Respondent, v. James R. Johnson, Appellant.

Also, please find attached a copy of a petition signed by 92 law enforcement officers in Missouri, including 77 Missouri sheriffs.

In December 1991, James Johnson murdered Pam Jones, wife of Moniteau County Sheriff Kenny Jones. He shot Pam by ambush, firing through the window of her home during a church function she was hosting. Johnson also killed Sheriff Charles Smith of Cooper County, Deputy Les Roark of Moniteau County and Deputy Sandra Wilson of Miller County. He was convicted and sentenced to death. When the case was appealed and reached the Missouri Supreme Court, Judge White voted to overturn the death sentence of this man who murdered Mrs. Jones and three good law officers.

As per attached, the Missouri sheriffs strongly encourage you to consider this dissenting opinion in the nomination of Judge

Ronnie White to be a U.S. District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. VERMEERSCH,
Executive Director.

We, the undersigned, understand that Judge Ronnie White of the Missouri Supreme Court, has been nominated to be a United States District Court Judge.

We need judges who can balance the duty of the law enforcement officer to enforce the law with the preservation of the Constitutional rights of the accused.

In 1993, one James Johnson was convicted and sentenced to death for the ambush and murder of Pam Jones, the wife of the Moniteau County Sheriff Kenny Jones and three other law enforcement officers. Judge White rendered the only dissenting opinion to reverse this conviction.

We respectfully request that consideration be given to this dissenting opinion as a factor in the appointment to fill this position of U.S. District Judge.

Position Agency:

Sheriff, Mississippi County; Sheriff, Pulaski County; Dade County Sheriff; Sheriff of Vernon County.; Barry County Sheriff; Barry County Deputy Sheriff; Franklin County Sheriff; Sheriff, Mercer County.

MERCER COUNTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY,
Princeton, MO, September 3, 1999.

Hon. JOHN D. ASHCROFT,
U.S. Senator, Washington, DC 20510

DEAR SENATOR ASHCROFT: As Missouri Prosecutors, we work to enforce the laws of our cities, counties, and the state of Missouri on a daily basis. We are aware of significant concern among law enforcement officials regarding the nomination of Missouri Supreme Court Judge Ronnie White to the federal bench. We share this concern.

Judge White's record is unmistakably anti-law enforcement, and we believe his nomination should be defeated. His rulings and dissenting opinions on capital cases and on Fourth Amendment issues should be disqualifying factors when considering his nomination.

Judge White has evidenced clear bias against the death penalty from his seat on the Missouri Supreme Court. He has voted against the death penalty more than any other judge has. In capital cases, he has dissented more than any other judge. Further, he has filed more lone dissents in capital cases than any other judge. Without question Judge White has displayed an anti-capital punishment bias that is second to none on the Missouri Supreme Court.

One of the most terrible examples of this bias came in State v. Johnson, when Judge White filed a lone dissent, supporting reversal of the capital sentence imposed on Jim Johnson. Johnson was sentenced to death for the murders of Cooper County Sheriff Charles Smith, Moniteau County Deputy Les Roark, Miller County Deputy Sandra Wilson, and Pam Jones, the wife of Moniteau County Sheriff Kenny Jones. Except for Judge White's dissent, the ruling against this brutal cop killer was unanimous. Judge White was the lone member of the Court to vote to give Johnson a new trial and a second chance to go free.

In State v. Damask, and State v. Alvarez, the Supreme Court ruled 6–1 that drug checkpoints on main highways in Franklin and Texas Counties were constitutional. Judge White, again, disagreed alone. Judge White voted to throw out evidence against accused drug traffickers who were arrested at checkpoints on Interstate 44 and U.S. 60.

Another troubling concern, while not in itself sufficient reason to disqualify, is Judge White's lack of significant experience in trial courts. Certainly the nomination would be less flawed if he had significant experience as either a criminal litigator or trial judge. He has neither.

On the Missouri Supreme Court, the other six members of the Court routinely override Judge White's outlandish dissenting opinions. In Missouri, we are fortunate to have a Supreme Court that is sympathetic to law enforcement, and prone to interpreting the law as it is written. However, if Judge White is placed on the federal bench, he will be a one-person majority. His flawed opinions will be the only ones that count, and barring an appeal to higher courts, he will be accountable to no one.

People in the law enforcement community are rightly concerned by Judge White's votes in cases like Johnson and Damask. We urge you to show your support for the hard work of Sheriffs, police officers, prosecutors, and other law enforcement officials, and help defeat the nomination of Judge White to the federal bench.

JAY HEMENWAY,
Mercer County Prosecuting Attorney.

TEXAS COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY,
Houston, MO, October 4, 1999.

Hon. JOHN ASHCROFT,
U.S. Senator, Washington, DC.

SENATOR ASHCROFT, It is my understanding that the nomination of Ronnie White to the United States Federal Court is coming up for a vote soon in the United States Senate. I have serious concerns about this nomination.

Judge White's voting record has given law enforcement officials cause for alarm. While on the Supreme Court he has consistently voted against use of the death penalty, even in the most brutal and clear-cut cases. In fact, White has voted against use of the death penalty more than any other judge on the Court.

White's was also the lone dissenting vote on the case allowing drug checkpoints of major highways in our state. There are other causes of concern, but I think it is best summed up as follows: The Judiciary exists to interpret the law, not make it. Judge White's opinions as a member of the Missouri Supreme Court have caused me to fear more judicial activism and pro-criminal jurisprudence that would run contrary to the will of our founding fathers and to the good of our country.

Please examine Judge White's record closely, Senator. This is an enormously important decision with the most serious of implications. Thank you for taking the time and making the effort to cast a wise vote on the nomination.

Most sincerely,

DOUG GASTON.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, had the White House worked with these home-State Senators and with other Senators to achieve broad support for the nominee, perhaps Judge White would not have been defeated. I don't know. I might add, had both home-State Senators been opposed to Judge White in committee, Judge White would never have come to the floor under our rules. I have to say, that would be true whether they are Democrat Senators or Republican Senators. That has just been the way the Judiciary Committee has operated. Had the President diligently worked with Senators to determine that there would not be broad support for the candidate, he could have found an alternative, consensus candidate. But the President did not. Thus, Judge White's nomination failed on the floor of the Senate.

To compound the problem, the President and some of my colleagues in this body made the grave error of suggesting that race was the reason that Senate Republicans voted against Judge White. This transparently political accusation has, as the administration is well aware, no basis in fact. The Judiciary Committee, under my chairmanship, has not kept formal statistics on the race of any of these nominees, nor would we have informed Democrat or Republican members that Judge White is an African American. Many of my Republican colleagues were literally unaware of Judge White's race, and that is the way it has been. We just haven't made notice of anybody's race as we have confirmed these 325 judges that President Clinton has nominated.

Instead, they were aware of his record in death penalty cases. I admit that that awareness happened at a relatively late time in this matter. It caught me by surprise as well—the opposition at least. They were aware of the opposition of State and national law enforcement communities that arose after his committee hearing. They were aware of the opposition of both home-State Senators that was announced after his hearing. Indeed, I even had a Democratic Senator inform me that had that Senator known of the recent law enforcement opposition to Judge White's nomination, that Senator would have opposed the nomination as well. Senator BOND did support this judge at the hearing but later changed his position on this as he became more and more aware of the opposition by law enforcement. It was not race that defeated Judge White; it was his record and the opposition of the elected leaders of his State.

These same Republican Senators who opposed Judge White overwhelmingly supported the nomination of Charles Wilson, an African American, to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Florida. While Senate Republicans were mostly unaware of Judge Wilson's race, Members were informed of his outstanding record as a Federal Magistrate and U.S. Attorney, the strong Florida support for Mr. Wilson, and the support of both home-State Senators—1 Republican and 1 Democrat—for Mr. Wilson. Most members were not informed of his race. But these home-State Senators were for Mr. Wilson. And there was broad support in the Senate for Mr. Wilson's candidacy. It was not race that confirmed Mr. Wilson; it was his record and the support of the elected leaders of his State.

The same is true for other minority nominations. To mention a few, Victor Marrero, Carlos Murguia, Adalberto Jordan—nominees whose records show they were qualified and respected the rule of law, who had the support of home-State Senators, and who had broad support in the Senate. Thus, the suggestion that the Republicans in this

body voted against Judge White on the basis of race is no more true than a parallel accusation that my Democratic colleagues voted against Clarence Thomas because of his race. I don't think any of us have made that suggestion.

I am also deeply disappointed by the patently false suggestions from the administration, and some in this body, that Republicans intentionally delay the processing of minority and women nominees based on their race and gender. This would be a surprise to Charles Wilson, who was nominated on May 27, reported by the Judiciary Committee to the floor of the Senate on July 22, and confirmed on July 30. This would also be a surprise to Marryanne Trump Barry, who was nominated on June 17, reported by the Judiciary Committee to the floor of the Senate on July 29, and confirmed on September 13. Both of these nominees had outstanding records reflecting respect for the law, strong home-State support, the support of both home-State Senators, and broad support in the Senate. Mr. Wilson, Judge Barry, and most of these other nominees proceeded smoothly through the confirmation process because the President worked with the Senate, not against the Senate.

The administration is very proud of its record of placing women and minorities on the bench, and it makes a point of informing the public of its work in this regard. In an address to the American Bar Association this summer, President Clinton called the collection of judges he has nominated to the Federal bench ''the most diverse group in American history.'' Nearly half are women and minorities, he said.

But each of these judges was confirmed by the Senate, and all were confirmed with Republican support. How can it be that a Senate which has directly participated in this record of accomplishment can become an institution of bias simply by opposing one nominee—a nominee opposed by both home-State Senators and by an overwhelming number of State and national law enforcement leaders? It cannot be. It simply cannot be. The record and the Department of Justice's own numbers speak for themselves.

According to the Clinton administration's own data, the Senate—whether it was under Democratic or Republican control—has done its duty and confirmed qualified women and minorities. For example, in 1998, based on Department of Justice data, approximately 32 percent of judicial nominees were women, and 21.5 percent were minorities. Even though the committee does not keep formal statistics, I had my staff manually compute the proportion of women and minorities reported to the Senate floor. So far this year, over 45 percent of the judicial nominees reported to the Senate floor are women or have been minorities.

Yes, some nominees take longer than others—but it is not because of their race or gender. My colleagues, I believe, know that. I believe the President and his people at the White House know that. Indeed, several of the nominees of the past that took longer to confirm had my strong support. These included Anne Aiken, Margaret Murrow, and Susan Mollway. I have been condemned for that by certain people on the far right almost on a daily basis ever since.

In the end, those who make these troubling accusations either, one, believe them to be true or, two, know they are not true, but want to politicize the issue. Either motivation is evidence of a serious problem within our noble institution, which I hope we, as leaders, can work to rectify. That is one reason I am taking this time today. Using race as a political tactic to advance controversial nominees is especially troubling. I care too much about the Senate and the Federal judiciary to see these institutions become the victims of base, cheap, wedge politics.

I would urge my colleagues and the President to reconsider this destructive and dangerous ploy. Instead, they should put aside this destructive rhetoric and work with us to do what is best for the Judiciary, the Senate, and the American people.

The Ronnie White nomination is an unfortunate example of what I believe is an increasing pattern on the part of the Clinton White House. I am referring to what appears to be a fire-sale strategy of knowingly sending up nominees who lack home-State support. Some time ago, I sent the White House Counsel a letter stating clearly that consultation was an essential prerequisite to a smoothly functioning confirmations process. But over the past several months, a number of nominees have been forwarded to the Senate over the objection—both private and public—of home-State Senators. Is this a pattern the aim of which is to get nominees confirmed, or is this a strategy, the object of which, is to create a political show down with the Senate. My concern is with the latter.

To find the answer to the current political crisis, I turn once again to the Constitution and its requirement that the President and the Senate work ''with'' each other in the nomination and advice and consent process. To enable us to return to working together instead of against each other, I propose that we take time for both sides to cool off. The President and the Senate should take a step back, cool off, and then return to working with each other in the nomination and confirmation process as the Constitution so plainly requires.

Mr. President, we have worked well with this President up to now. I have certainly taken my share of criticism for being as fair to this administration as I can possibly be. But this administration knows the rules up here—that when two home State Senators oppose a district court nominee, that district court nominee is not going to make it. That is the way it is. There is nothing I can do to change that because it is the correct rule. It is important that we work together and work with home State Senators in order to resolve this.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee for that statement. I have just a word or two to say about the same subject.

The White House made a comment—Mr. Lockhart—that I was one of three Republican Senators who voted for Judge White in committee and then voted against him on the floor. It is inaccurate to say I voted for him in committee because I did not. What happened was, the Judiciary Committee had a very abbreviated session off the floor and I went there to see if there was a quorum. When there was a quorum, Justice White was voted out of committee on a voice vote, but I was not present for that voice vote.

I was especially sensitive to Judge White because Judge Massiah-Jackson came before the Senate last year and withdrew her nomination in the face of very considerable opposition by the State District Attorneys Association.

So I took a close look at the letters, and even had a brief conversation with the ranking Democrat before casting my vote, which I did at the tail end of the vote on Justice White.

But contrary to what Mr. Lockhart of the White House said, and contrary to what has appeared in a number of press accounts, I did not vote for Justice White in the committee.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000—Continued

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we turn to the Senator from——

Mr. REID. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. SPECTER. Florida for 15 minutes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for a brief statement?

Mr. SPECTER. Pardon me. I withdraw that because the Senators from New Mexico were here sequenced ahead of Senator GRAHAM.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate the statements of the chairman of the Judiciary Committee and the statement of the Senator from Pennsylvania on the judicial controversy. I hope we can end all of that this afternoon and get this bill completed because now we have people on our side wanting to come and talk about this matter dealing with Judge White. I hope we can move and get this bill finished before we have further speeches on this judicial controversy.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder