

the civil cases have been pending over three years.

According to the latest population statistics as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, Arizona's population increased by 40 percent from 1990 to 2000, while the national rate of population growth is only 13.1 percent. Arizona is ranked second only to Nevada for percentage of growth. The Arizona Department of Economic Security projects the State's population will grow another 25 percent by 2010.

This new judgeship will provide emergency aid to Arizona's District Court, whose judges are extremely overburdened by crushing federal case-loads. Arizona's Federal court, like those in other border states, suffers special burdens as a result of sharp increases in drug trafficking and immigration prosecutions. This backlog delays justice for Arizonans and disrupts the proper administration of the courts.

I would like to commend Senator LEAHY, Senator HATCH, and Representative SENSENBRENNER for including this much-needed judgeship. This temporary judgeship is at least one reason to support the "21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act."

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to a period of morning business.

IRAQ

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, there is no more solemn and important duty for the Senate, in my opinion, than to debate the momentous issues of war and peace. I remember in 1991 when we debated the gulf war resolution that it took on a very serious aura. Every Senator spoke. Senators actually came to the floor and listened to the debate. It was a challenge. Not a one of us didn't feel some amount of concern and trepidation and respect for the importance of that vote. I think we are fixing to embark on a debate of that magnitude again today.

The issue of Iraq is one that we are concerned about and which we have been wrestling with for 11 years. But I think that today on the issue of Iraq we have reached what Winston Churchill called "not the beginning of the end but the end of the beginning."

After weeks of careful preparation and bipartisan negotiation—it has been truly bipartisan on both sides of the aisle in the Senate, and in the House it has been a bicameral effort—I believe the Senate will, once again, show why it is called "the greatest deliberative body." I think we will have some very interesting and very thoughtful speeches that will be given next week. Obviously, we will not all agree. Obviously, we will have respect for each other—no matter what the position may be.

But I think, in the end, we are going to see we are going to have a very

broad, bipartisan vote expressing our concern about what this situation is in Iraq, about the fact the United Nations resolutions—all 16 of them—have been ignored, for the most part, for 11 years, and it is time we take action to avoid some horrendous events that could occur if we do not.

I believe we will give the President the authority he needs to deal with this problem. I want to emphasize this President has listened, and he has also challenged us. He has shown commitment and leadership. Some of us in Congress were saying: We want to hear from the President. Come to us. Tell us what you know. Tell us what you want. Let us have a debate. Let us have a vote. He did so, and he continues to work with us to this very moment.

Some people said: Oh, well, you have to take your case to the United Nations. Let the United Nations be a part of this. Encourage the United Nations—in fact, demand the United Nations—live up to its responsibility and its own resolutions.

The President did that. He went to the United Nations and gave one of the most impressive speeches I believe he has ever given. He gave the bill of particulars to the world community about what the problems are and why we had to deal with this menace. I think it changed the United Nations. And while we still do not have a resolution from the United Nations, I know Secretary Powell is working on that.

I know the President and others are talking to the world community. I have had the occasion, as the Republican leader of the Senate, to talk to representatives from seven countries over the past 2 weeks and get a feel for what they are thinking and what their concerns are, what their suggestions are.

So this President is working with us, with the United Nations, and with the world community.

As the Republican leader, I have entertained views from all sides of our own caucus. When we got the first draft of the Iraq resolution, every word was not accepted as being perfect or brilliant. There were some suggestions made, and I listened to them. In fact, I remember there was one phrase in the resolution, when I read it the first time, I said: What does that really mean? I don't think I really like that.

So we did have input. We did have the first draft sent by the President, but the President invited our input and our participation in the development of this resolution, and changes were made. We had the first resolution, the second resolution, the third resolution, and now the bipartisan resolution that was introduced in the Senate by Senator LIEBERMAN, Senator WARNER, Senator MCCAIN, and Senator BAYH. It is the resolution we should consider. Will there be another alternative? Perhaps. I have no problem with that. Will there perhaps be an amendment that is agreed to in advance? Perhaps. I have no problem with that. I do think we are

going to have a problem if we just allow this to be endlessly amended. It would be a filibuster by amendment.

I think we need to have a full debate but be prepared to go to votes on these important issues by the middle of next week. Senator DASCHLE, perhaps, will give his own thinking about the specifics of when we might begin to get to some votes.

I have listened to opinions on the other side of the aisle, too. I did not just talk to Senator SHELBY or Senator LUGAR or Senator MCCAIN or Senator WARNER or Senator HUTCHINSON. I talked to Senators on both sides of the aisle, and so did the administration. Because of this, I think we have been able, with the help of the White House and the combined House leadership, to emerge with a strong resolution we now present to the Congress and to the world.

For those who brought us to this moment—the President, the Speaker, Congressman GEPHARDT, SENATORS LIEBERMAN, WARNER, MCCAIN, BAYH, DASCHLE, and others—who are involved in this process, I think the Nation should be grateful. I believe the result of this debate, and the resolution we will vote on next week, will lead to a safer world.

Let me make it clear from the outset, no one—not the President, not any Member of Congress—desires to see our men and women engaged in a fight in Iraq or anywhere unless it is absolutely necessary.

Our history shows that Americans do not seek war; we always are slow to anger. But we got plenty mad last year because of the horror we saw here at home. We now realize the danger is not just over there, as they said in World War I and World War II. Oh, no, it is here. One suicide bomber, with a weapon of mass destruction, is a threat to thousands, perhaps millions.

We are the only Nation in history, though, after having been involved in a war, a conflict, that has turned around and offered a helping hand to all the peoples of the world, including our enemies. We helped in Japan. We helped in Germany. We have done it over and over again.

There is no greater force for good than the United States of America. When our security and our people are threatened, we act swiftly and decisively. But what we want for everybody is opportunity and freedom and democracy—or to choose what they want if they don't want democracy; make that choice.

We want to be safe and secure here at home. That is what this is all about. We are good people, with attributes from our forefathers I am very proud of. But we are very serious about protecting our people at this critical time.

I will save the catalog of Saddam Hussein's crimes for another time, probably about the middle of next week. But today we begin the process of ensuring this violent and cruel man can no longer menace us, his neighbors,

and his own people. It is up to us today to send a message to the world, and to America's friends—particularly the Prime Minister of Great Britain, who has shown great strength—that we do appreciate what they have done, and we thank them for their support and courage, and we are committed to stand with them to eliminate the threat this rogue regime poses to peace in the world.

Let there be no mistake either; the elimination of the Iraqi threat is essential if we are to win the war on terror. We know Saddam Hussein's ongoing relationship with the dark forces of international terrorism. Some people say: Show us a smoking gun. Well, there is a lot of smoke out there. We do know of a lot of things that are ongoing, and we will get into some greater discussion of that next week.

We know other evil regimes are looking to see if he, Saddam Hussein, can once again bluff his way out of trouble, thereby emboldening others to seek more deadly means to threaten the United States and the civilized world.

This has huge meaning. If we now go through the process of huffing and puffing and saying we are going to take action, and there are going to be inspections, and there is going to be the destruction of these weapons, and if not, we are prepared to do whatever is necessary, including using force, and we do not do it, the ramifications will be endlessly negative.

The President, answering his critics who decry so-called American unilateralism, has put the case before the world. For 11 years, Saddam Hussein has flaunted the will of the United Nations. He has amassed stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction. He has gassed his own people. He has shown blatant contempt for the rule of law and the United Nations.

If the United Nations is to be a force for peace, it must show it stands ready to meet this ongoing threat in the international community. If it does not, it will be consigned to the ash heap of history, as the League of Nations was before it—a grand idea unable to cope or confront evil dictators bent on the destruction of world peace.

I said at the outset this vote is the "end of the beginning." The Senate will rise to the occasion, as it has throughout its eventful history. As we engage in this momentous debate, let us ensure by its conclusion we will have set in motion "the beginning of the end" of Saddam Hussein and all for which he stands.

Now, I see Senator DASCHLE is in the Chamber. I thank him for his effort in this regard. We do not always agree. We have a lot of conversations people don't even know about to try to come to a fair agreement on how to proceed. We talk about process, and we still have a way to go. But here, in a few minutes, we will officially begin this debate, an important debate. Every Senator will have his or her chance to have their say.

I believe Senator DASCHLE has in mind a process most Senators will feel is fair—I hope all Senators. At the end of the day, in a reasonable period of time, we will get to a vote. But as we started, I thought it was important we express our appreciation for what has been done, and our reassurance to the American people and our colleagues we are going to ensure it be done in a respectful way, regardless of positions, but that it produces a result which is going to be good for America.

Madam President, may I inquire, is it anticipated this would be the last vote of the day but that we would continue in session as long as any Senator wishes to speak?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CANTWELL). The majority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Responding to the distinguished Republican leader, the answer to that is, yes, this will be the final vote of the day. There will be no votes tomorrow, but we will be in session.

It is my hope and expectation that Senators will avail themselves of the opportunity to come to the floor to not necessarily debate the resolution but to express themselves on the resolutions. The Senate will be available for that purpose today, tomorrow, Monday, and we will have more to say with regard to the specific schedule, perhaps as early as tomorrow. This will be the final vote today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

DEBATE ON IRAQ RESOLUTION

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I did not have the opportunity to hear all of the distinguished Republican leader's remarks, but I have a pretty good understanding of the tone of his statement and agree very much with what I did hear of his remarks.

Let me say I would pick up where he left off. I want very much for this debate to be respectful, to recognize our solemn obligation as Senators to debate, and our role in providing advice and consent on issues of this import. That will be what we set out to do over the course of the next several days.

In consultation with the Republican leader, I also had hoped we could have a prompt debate. That is also part of our motivation in bringing the resolution to the floor in the form of a cloture motion this afternoon.

There will be differences of opinion expressed, but there is no difference of opinion with regard to our ultimate goal. Our goal is to address the very understandable and serious concern shared not only by the administration but the American people that we have to address the threat that exists today in Iraq, the threat that it poses to us in a number of ways but especially with regard to weapons of mass destruction.

It is my hope that debate can begin in earnest today, that people can come to the floor to express themselves, to indicate their support and their pro-

posals for ways in which we might address this issue through resolutions that will be offered over the course of the next several days.

I am confident that as we begin this debate, we will debate with every expectation that in spite of what differences exist, the similarities will be far greater than the differences; that ultimately we can come to some resolution that will bring about perhaps a broad bipartisan coalition in support of a resolution that authorizes this administration and our country to move forward.

There is a growing appreciation of the role of the United Nations. There is a growing appreciation of the role of the international community. There is a recognition that the extent to which we work in and through the international community, as we did in 1991, we will do it again successfully today.

I come to the floor with an expectation that there will be an opportunity at some point for Senator LEVIN to introduce his resolution. We will have a debate and a vote on that resolution sometime next week. We would then lay down—perhaps simultaneously—the resolution that has been the subject of negotiations and discussions now with the administration over the course of the last couple of weeks. Agreement was reached with some members of leadership over the course of the last day or so. That certainly will be one of the primary vehicles we will address as we consider debate on this issue in the coming days.

I might suggest that it be used as the primary vehicle, although we have not entertained a unanimous consent request in that regard.

It is also my expectation that Senators BIDEN and LUGAR may have an amendment that they wish to offer that would go to some of the concerns they have with regard to the need for further clarity of that resolution. That may be the amendment that would be offered to the administration resolution at some point next week.

In the meantime, Senators are encouraged to come to the floor to express themselves in general or to express themselves with regard to any one of those specific resolutions or amendments to the resolution.

I would hope that at some point we could reach an agreement that we would have those three votes—a vote on the Levin resolution, a vote on the Biden-Lugar amendment to the administration resolution, and then ultimately a vote on the administration resolution itself.

As I said today, I am not prepared to propound it because we have not had enough opportunity to consult with colleagues on either side of the aisle. I have had many consultations with the distinguished Republican leader. It will be our intent to suggest that to our caucuses with the hope that we can put that framework in place as we debate this very important matter in the days ahead.