

Without objection, it is so ordered.

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, our Nation launches a 6-year commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the French and Indian war. That commemoration is this year. As part of the celebration, Members of the Senate and their staffs are invited to a special viewing of a handwritten autobiographical manuscript of George Washington, which conveys unique insights of the war and young Washington's personal reflections on his experiences. Washington's "Remarks" will be on display in S-127 in the Capitol on Wednesday, today, from 12 noon until 3 p.m.

George Washington is most commonly remembered as our Nation's first President and a Revolutionary War commander. Americans are far less aware of his activities during the French and Indian war. Washington never wrote a memoir, but "Remarks" provides a firsthand account of his early life, including his experiences in the French and Indian war.

So I hope Senators will take the opportunity to view this important manuscript and learn more about George Washington through this story penned in his own hand.

Mr. President, in closing, I thank the honorable Ned Rose of Charleston, WV, for his thoughtfulness and his efforts in regard to having this displayed in S-127 of the Capitol today, from 12 noon until 3 o'clock.

WHY WE ARE IN IRAQ

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I submitted a column on how we got into the mess in Iraq, which appeared this morning in The State newspaper in Columbia, SC. I ask unanimous consent it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Peoples the world around have a history of culture and religion. In the Mideast, the religion is predominantly Muslim and the culture tribal. The Muslim religion is strong, i.e., those that don't conform are considered infidels; those of a tribal culture look for tribal leadership, not democracy. We liberated Kuwait, but it immediately rejected democracy.

2. In 1996, a task force was formed in Jerusalem including Richard Perle, Douglas Feith and David Wurmser. They submitted a plan for Israel to incoming Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called Clean Break. It proposed that negotiations with the Palestinians be cut off and, instead, the Mideast be made friendly to Israel by democratizing it. First Lebanon would be bombed, then Syria invaded on the pretext of weapons of mass destruction. Afterward, Saddam Hussein was to be removed in Iraq and replaced with a Hashemite ruler favorable to Israel.

The plan was rejected by Netanyahu, so Perle started working for a similar approach to the Mideast for the United States. Taking on the support of Dick Cheney, Paul Wolfowitz, Stephen Cambone, Scooter Libby,

Donald Rumsfeld, et al., he enlisted the support of the Project for the New American Century.

The plan hit paydirt with the election of George W. Bush. Perle took on the Defense Policy Board. Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz and Feith became one, two and three at the Defense Department, and Cheney as vice president took Scooter Libby and David Wurmser as his deputies. Clean Break was streamlined to go directly into Iraq.

Iraq, as a threat to the United States, was all contrived. Richard Clarke stated in his book, *Against All Enemies*, with John McLaughlin of the CIA confirming, that there was no evidence or intelligence of "Iraqi support for terrorism against the United States" from 1993 until 2003 when we invaded. The State Department on 9/11 had a list of 45 countries wherein al Qaeda was operating. While the United States was listed, it didn't list the country of Iraq.

President Bush must have known that there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. We have no al Qaeda, no weapons of mass destruction and no terrorism from Iraq; we were intentionally misled by the Bush administration.

Which explains why President-elect Bush sought a briefing on Iraq from Defense Secretary William Cohen in January before taking the oath of office and why Iraq was the principal concern at his first National Security Council meeting—all before 9/11. When 9/11 occurred, we knew immediately that it was caused by Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan. Within days we were not only going into Afghanistan, but President Bush was asking for a plan to invade Iraq—even though Iraq had no involvement.

After 15 months, Iraq has yet to be secured. Its borders were left open after "mission accomplished," allowing terrorists throughout the Mideast to come join with the insurgents to reek havoc. As a result, our troops are hunkered down, going out to trouble spots and escorting convoys.

In the war against terrorism, we've given the terrorists a cause and created more terrorism. Even though Saddam is gone, the majority of the Iraqi people want us gone. We have proven ourselves "infidels." With more than 800 GIs killed, 5,000 maimed for life and a cost of \$200 billion, come now the generals in command, both Richard Myers and John Abizaid, saying we can't win. Back home the cover of The New Republic magazine asks, "Were We Wrong?"

Walking guard duty tonight in Baghdad, a G.I. wonders why he should lose his life when his commander says he can't win and the people back home can't make up their mind. Unfortunately, the peoples of the world haven't changed their minds. They are still against us. Heretofore, the world looked to the United States to do the right thing. No more. The United States has lost its moral authority.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREE- MENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent

that immediately following the next votes, the Senate proceed to executive session and votes on the following nominations on today's Executive Calendar: Calendar Nos. 592 and 609. I further ask consent that following the votes, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session, with no intervening action or debate.

Finally, I ask unanimous consent that there be 4 minutes of debate equally divided prior to each of the votes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Could we have these votes, as are the votes preceding this, 10-minute votes?

Mr. FRIST. We have no objection on our side to 10-minute votes.

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will continue the consideration of S. 2400.

AMENDMENT NO. 3303

There are now 2 minutes of debate equally divided related to the Corzine amendment.

The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. We yield back our time.

Mr. FRIST. We yield back the remainder of our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is now on agreeing to the motion to waive the Budget Act with respect to the Corzine amendment.

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. I announce that the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) is necessarily absent.

I further announce that if present and voting the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) would vote "no."

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SUNUNU). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 136 Leg.]

YEAS—49

Akaka	Dayton	Kohl
Baucus	Dodd	Landrieu
Bayh	Dorgan	Lautenberg
Biden	Durbin	Leahy
Bingaman	Edwards	Levin
Boxer	Feingold	Lieberman
Breaux	Feinstein	Lincoln
Byrd	Graham (FL)	Mikulski
Cantwell	Harkin	Murray
Carper	Hollings	Nelson (FL)
Clinton	Inouye	Nelson (NE)
Collins	Jeffords	Pryor
Corzine	Johnson	Reed
Daschle	Kennedy	Reid

Rockefeller
Sarbanes
Schumer

Snowe
Specter
Stabenow

Wyden

NAYS—49

Alexander
Allard
Allen
Bennett
Bond
Bunning
Burns
Campbell
Chafee
Chambliss
Cochran
Coleman
Conrad
Cornyn
Craig
Crapo
DeWine

Dole
Domenici
Ensign
Enzi
Fitzgerald
Frist
Graham (SC)
Grassley
Gregg
Hagel
Hatch
Hutchison
Inhofe
Kyl
Lott
Lugar
McCain

McConnell
Miller
Murkowski
Nickles
Roberts
Santorum
Sessions
Shelby
Smith
Stevens
Sununu
Talent
Thomas
Voinovich
Warner

NOT VOTING—2

Brownback Kerry

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this question, the ayes are 49, the nays are 49. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

Mr. WARNER. I move to reconsider the vote and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair sustains the point of order and the amendment falls.

AMENDMENT NO. 3472

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the next vote is on the McConnell amendment numbered 3472 on which the yeas and nays have been ordered.

Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate evenly divided.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this is a 10-minute vote, is that right?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct. Under the previous order, subsequent votes will be 10 minutes in length.

Mr. KENNEDY. Parliamentary inquiry: I understand under the previous agreement we are going to have two votes. The first vote will be on the McConnell amendment and the second vote on the Kennedy amendment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order there are several pending votes. The next vote after the McConnell amendment will be on the Kennedy amendment.

Who yields time?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me describe why the McConnell amendment is preferable to the Kennedy amendment. My colleagues will be given an opportunity in the next few minutes to vote on two approaches to administration reporting on Iraq. The Kennedy troop estimate requirement is entirely too burdensome. We cannot predict troop levels 5 years in advance. No one is that good. Political developments in Iraq will drive security estimates so we cannot determine now what our needs are going to be years in advance.

KENNEDY's 30-day requirement would not give the Department of Defense enough time to staff a report, much less complete one.

I recommend voting for the McConnell alternative which is a reasonable reporting requirement from the Defense Department related to Iraq.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 minute.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, this is for 1 year. June 30th, sovereignty is transferred to the Iraqis. American families are entitled to know how long their sons and daughters are going to serve in Iraq. This is asking for an estimate of how long their sons and daughters are going to be there. They will make that judgment 30 days after this bill is passed into law, then 6 months, and then a year. American families who have sons and daughters serving in Iraq need to have some estimate about how long they are going to be there. The American people are entitled to that, too.

Finally, we have followed this similar kind of reporting with regard to Bosnia in the past. This is an appropriate request. American families and the American people are entitled to it and the Iraqi people are entitled to it, as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired. Under the previous order, the vote occurs on agreeing to the McConnell amendment.

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I announce that the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) is necessarily absent.

I further announce that if present and voting the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) would vote "yes."

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 71, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 137 Leg.]

YEAS—71

Alexander
Allard
Allen
Bayh
Bennett
Bond
Bunning
Burns
Byrd
Campbell
Cantwell
Carper
Chafee
Chambliss
Clinton
Cochran
Coleman
Collins
Conrad
Cornyn
Craig
Crapo
DeWine
Dole

Domenici
Dorgan
Edwards
Ensign
Enzi
Feinstein
Fitzgerald
Frist
Graham (SC)
Grassley
Gregg
Hagel
Hatch
Hutchison
Inhofe
Kohl
Kyl
Lieberman
Lincoln
Lott
Lugar
McCain
McConnell
Mikulski

Miller
Murkowski
Murray
Nelson (FL)
Nelson (NE)
Nickles
Roberts
Rockefeller
Santorum
Schumer
Sessions
Shelby
Smith
Snowe
Specter
Stabenow
Stevens
Sununu
Talent
Thomas
Voinovich
Warner
Wyden

NAYS—27

Akaka
Baucus

Biden
Bingaman

Boxer
Breaux

Corzine
Daschle
Dayton
Dodd
Durbin
Feingold
Graham (FL)

Harkin
Hollings
Inouye
Jeffords
Johnson
Kennedy
Landrieu

Lautenberg
Leahy
Levin
Pryor
Reed
Reid
Sarbanes

NOT VOTING—2

Brownback Kerry

The amendment (No. 3472) was agreed to.

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

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3377

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the vote will now occur on agreeing to Kennedy amendment No. 3377. This will be preceded by 2 minutes of debate evenly divided.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, if you liked the McConnell amendment, you have to love the Kennedy amendment because the McConnell amendment took our initial amendment and eliminated estimating the numbers of American troops that are going to be necessary after Iraq reaches sovereignty. That is the principal difference.

It does seem to me that after Iraq gets sovereignty on June 30, every American family, whether it is those who have sons or daughters serving in Iraq, is entitled to the best judgment—and this is an estimate—the best judgment on the number of troops we are going to have serve in Iraq. That is clear and simple. It is an estimate. There are clear examples where we have done that in the past. We are talking about estimating the number of American troops that will serve in Iraq. We have done that time in and time out. That is what the Kennedy amendment would do, embracing the best parts of the McConnell amendment. You can have it all this afternoon in the U.S. Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the argument remains the same as it was a few moments ago. The question is whether we can require the Defense Department to predict that which cannot be known. No one knows what the future troop estimate is going to be. We can't predict troop levels 5 years in advance. The Senator from Massachusetts is trying to require the Defense Department to report something that no Defense Department could possibly report. Therefore, the Kennedy amendment ought to be opposed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3377.

The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I announce that the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) is necessarily absent.

I further announce that if present and voting the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) would vote "nay."

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 138 Leg.]

YEAS—48

Akaka	Dorgan	Leahy
Baucus	Durbin	Levin
Bayh	Edwards	Lincoln
Biden	Feingold	McCain
Bingaman	Feinstein	Mikulski
Boxer	Graham (FL)	Murray
Breaux	Hagel	Nelson (FL)
Byrd	Harkin	Nelson (NE)
Cantwell	Hollings	Pryor
Carper	Inouye	Reed
Clinton	Jeffords	Reid
Conrad	Johnson	Rockefeller
Corzine	Kennedy	Sarbanes
Daschle	Kohl	Schumer
Dayton	Landrieu	Stabenow
Dodd	Lautenberg	Wyden

NAYS—50

Alexander	Dole	Miller
Allard	Domenici	Murkowski
Allen	Ensign	Nickles
Bennett	Enzi	Roberts
Bond	Fitzgerald	Santorum
Bunning	Frist	Sessions
Burns	Graham (SC)	Shelby
Campbell	Grassley	Smith
Chafee	Gregg	Snowe
Chambliss	Hatch	Specter
Cochran	Hutchison	Stevens
Coleman	Inhofe	Sununu
Collins	Kyl	Talent
Cornyn	Lieberman	Thomas
Craig	Lott	Voinovich
Crapo	Lugar	Warner
DeWine	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—2

Brownback Kerry

The amendment (No. 3377) was rejected.

Mr. WARNER. I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3353

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, a vote will now occur on the Reed amendment to be preceded by 2 minutes of debate equally divided.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator CORZINE be added as a cosponsor.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, for years, the plan for missile defense, which is placed in Alaska, provided for 20 interceptors. Suddenly, this year the administration asked for 10 additional interceptors. My amendment will simply fence the acquisition of these interceptors pending operational testing. These interceptors and their warheads have never been used in interceptor tests. They are virtually untested.

The underlying amendment would allow for the acquisition but would condition that on operational testing. I think we will learn a lot from operational testing. I think we should have operational testing. The question is, Why do we want to buy 10 additional

interceptors until we learn what we must before we commit to this \$500 million acquisition?

I hope my colleagues will support me in this effort.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Who seeks time in opposition?

The Senator from Virginia is recognized for 1 minute.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I say to colleagues, in all candor, this is the third vote on the same issue. They have addressed the issues in this amendment on two occasions, and by significant margin we have decided to reject in any way taking the Missile Defense Program and changing it at this time. They voted on the Levin amendment and rejected it. They voted on my amendment, which was to an earlier Reed amendment on much the same principle, and rejected the amendment of the Senator from Rhode Island.

I say to my colleagues we have to have some consistency. Regrettably, we are asked for a third vote on the same issue. I strongly urge my colleagues to reject this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3353. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I announce that the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) is necessarily absent.

I further announce that if present and voting the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) would vote "nay."

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 139 Leg.]

YEAS—45

Akaka	Dorgan	Leahy
Baucus	Durbin	Levin
Biden	Edwards	Lincoln
Bingaman	Feingold	Mikulski
Boxer	Feinstein	Murray
Breaux	Graham (FL)	Nelson (FL)
Byrd	Harkin	Nelson (NE)
Cantwell	Hollings	Pryor
Carper	Inouye	Reed
Clinton	Jeffords	Reid
Conrad	Johnson	Rockefeller
Corzine	Kennedy	Sarbanes
Daschle	Kohl	Schumer
Dayton	Landrieu	Stabenow
Dodd	Lautenberg	Wyden

NAYS—53

Alexander	Coleman	Graham (SC)
Allard	Collins	Grassley
Allen	Cornyn	Gregg
Bayh	Craig	Hagel
Bennett	Crapo	Hatch
Bond	DeWine	Hutchison
Bunning	Dole	Inhofe
Burns	Domenici	Kyl
Campbell	Ensign	Lieberman
Chafee	Enzi	Lott
Chambliss	Fitzgerald	Lugar
Cochran	Frist	McCain

McConnell	Sessions	Sununu
Miller	Shelby	Talent
Murkowski	Smith	Thomas
Nickles	Snowe	Voinovich
Roberts	Specter	Warner
Santorum	Stevens	

NOT VOTING—2

Brownback Kerry

The amendment (No. 3353) was rejected.

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

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3423

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the vote will now occur on the Byrd amendment to be preceded by 2 minutes of debate equally divided. The Senate will come to order.

The Senator from West Virginia is recognized to speak for 1 minute on his amendment.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, this amendment increases U.S. support for Plan Colombia. My amendment raises the cap on the number of U.S. military and civilian personnel who can participate in Plan Colombia. My amendment fully supports Colombia's war against drug trafficking and narcoterrorists.

The difference between this amendment and the administration proposal contained in the bill is that my amendment is intended to meet immediate requirements whereas the administration is projecting future requirements. My amendment increases the military and civilian caps from 400 to 500 each. The administration's proposal doubles the troop cap from 400 to 800 and increases the civilian cap from 400 to 600. By their own admission, that is far more than either the State or Defense Department need in Colombia next year.

The administration wants flexibility. I believe Congress should insist on accountability and oversight. U.S. military forces are already stretched to the breaking point across the globe. U.S. troops in Iraq are being forced to extend their tours as a result of stop-loss orders. Prospects remain strong that thousands upon thousands of American troops will be needed to quell the violence in Iraq for years to come.

This is not the time, Colombia is not the place, for yet another large increase in the deployment of U.S. forces overseas. My amendment is a responsible approach to support the worthy goals of Plan Colombia while maintaining congressional oversight on what is an increasingly complex and dangerous mission. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired. Who seeks time in opposition?

The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I urge colleagues to give the most careful consideration to this amendment. How well each of us knows the fragility of

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the Central American band of countries. Colombia has shown the fortitude, the courage, the strength, the sacrifice to take on adversity and they have met with success. This is a very modest number increase in troops, essential at this time to keep that forward momentum going. I strongly urge that you vote against the Byrd amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time having been yielded back, under the previous order, the question occurs on agreeing to the Byrd amendment on which the yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. I announce that the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) is necessarily absent.

I further announce that if present and voting the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) would vote "nay."

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 40, nays 58, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 140 Leg.]

YEAS—40

Akaka	Durbin	Levin
Baucus	Edwards	Lincoln
Biden	Feingold	Mikulski
Bingaman	Fitzgerald	Murray
Boxer	Harkin	Pryor
Breaux	Hollings	Reed
Byrd	Inouye	Reid
Cantwell	Jeffords	Rockefeller
Carper	Johnson	Sarbanes
Conrad	Kennedy	Schumer
Corzine	Kohl	Stabenow
Daschle	Landrieu	Wyden
Dayton	Lautenberg	
Dorgan	Leahy	

NAYS—58

Alexander	Dole	Miller
Allard	Domenici	Murkowski
Allen	Ensign	Nelson (FL)
Bayh	Enzi	Nelson (NE)
Bennett	Feinstein	Nickles
Bond	Frist	Roberts
Bunning	Graham (FL)	Santorum
Burns	Graham (SC)	Sessions
Campbell	Grassley	Shelby
Chafee	Gregg	Smith
Chambliss	Hagel	Snowe
Clinton	Hatch	Specter
Cochran	Hutchison	Stevens
Coleman	Inhofe	Sununu
Collins	Kyl	Talent
Cornyn	Lieberman	Thomas
Craig	Lott	Voivovich
Crapo	Lugar	Warner
DeWine	McCain	
Dodd	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—2

Brownback Kerry

The amendment (No. 3423) was rejected.

Mr. WARNER. I move to reconsider the vote.

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

NOMINATION OF JUAN R. SANCHEZ TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now move to executive session.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Juan R. Sanchez, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 4 minutes of debate on the nomination equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, the first nomination is Juan Sanchez. He was born in Puerto Rico. He immigrated to the United States. This is a great Horatio Alger's success story. He was educated at City College of New York, bachelor's degree with cum laude. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He has been in the private practice of law and has performed community service in the Legal Aid Society for the last 5 years. He has been a common pleas judge in Chester County, PA.

He brings outstanding credentials and is a product of the nominating panel organized by my distinguished colleague, Senator SANTORUM, and myself.

I yield to my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I am pleased to support the confirmation of Judge Juan R. Sanchez to the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania. I thank the President for his nomination of this excellent candidate and to congratulate Judge Sanchez and his family.

Judge Sanchez is a cum laude graduate of the City College of the City University of New York. He received his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1981. Since 1998, he has served as a judge on the Court of Common Pleas, 15th Judicial District of Pennsylvania in West Chester, PA.

Judge Sanchez brings to the bench wide-ranging legal experience. He served as a staff attorney for Legal Aid of Chester County in West Chester, PA, from 1981 to 1983. He had a general legal practice and was a partner with Nester, Nester & Sanchez from 1983 to 1990. He as a sole practitioner from 1990 to 1997. Judge Sanchez also served as a senior trial attorney at MacElree, Harvey, Gallagher, Featherman & Sebastian. Judge Sanchez serves as an adjunct professor at West Chester University, Immaculata University, and Villanova University School of Law.

Judge Sanchez has served his community in numerous ways. He has

served on the board of Centro Guayacan, a multicultural educational community center, Riverside Care of Chester County, Chester County Hospital, the YMCA of Central Chester County and the YMCA of Brandywine Valley, the Volunteer English Program in Chester County, and Community Volunteers in Medicine. He has also served as a commissioner for the Housing Authority of Chester County and as an advisor to the United Way of Chester County. He has received several awards for his service as a judge and his service to the community.

Again, I express my strong support for his nomination. I thank Judge Sanchez for his willingness to serve Pennsylvania on the Federal bench. I look forward to his approval by the Senate and urge my colleagues to support his confirmation.

In addition to what Senator SPECTER said, this man has made a tremendous contribution to the Hispanic community in Chester County and has done a lot in the strengthening and building of that community. He has great legal talent to go along with it. He is truly an extraordinary person, will be an extraordinary judge, and has been an extraordinary judge in Chester County.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I note by this vote that 20 of the 44 active Federal circuit court district judges from Pennsylvania will be made up of nominees of President Bush. I mention this because some think that somehow he has not been able to get a lot of nominations through. This is a sharp contrast to the way vacancies in Pennsylvania were left unfilled during Republican control of the Senate when President Clinton was in the White House. Republicans denied votes to nine districts and one circuit court nominee of President Clinton in Pennsylvania. That was notwithstanding the very honest due diligence of the senior Senator from Pennsylvania, Mr. SPECTER, who tried to get them confirmed. Others in his party blocked a vote. I do not want to see that happen again in Pennsylvania.

Today the Senate considers the nomination of Juan Ramon Sanchez to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. I am glad that the Republican majority has finally decided to proceed to this well-qualified Hispanic nominee, since they departed from the order of the Executive Calendar last week and did not schedule a confirmation vote for Mr. Sanchez, despite the fact that he would have received unanimous Democrat support.

Judge Sanchez has served as a judge on the Court of Common Pleas in Chester County, PA since 1998. Prior to that, he worked for Legal Aid of Chester County, in private practice, and as a senior trial attorney with the Chester County Public Defender's Office. Judge Sanchez has devoted a substantial amount of time to pro bono work in his community and, in particular, to assisting Latino individuals and groups