

Monday in October. The Senate has already cooperated in achieving this goal. At this point, there is no reason to believe the goal cannot be met, but we need the full cooperation of the administration. The administration has weighed in heavily with demands regarding the Senate's schedule.

What we need more than the White House telling us how and when to do our job is a White House willing to help us expedite our consideration by making relevant materials available without delay so we can meet the chairman's aggressive schedule.

The President has extolled the nominee's credentials, including his years of work in three senior executive branch posts during the Presidencies of his father and President Reagan.

We are seeking a very small number of the documents evidencing his work in those policy positions. In order for us to fulfill our responsibilities to examine this nomination and report it to the Senate, the Senate Judiciary Committee should be provided these materials without delay so we can perform our due diligence.

The White House this week said the Senate will have wide access to the documents from the Reagan administration, but only after an elaborate screening process. Based on the White House's own statement about the length of time it will take to screen these documents, that will be 4 weeks from now, maybe even longer.

The date the chairman is setting for the beginning of the hearings emphasizes the ability to review the materials before the hearings requires quicker action from the administration than that. One only need glance at the calendar to see 4 weeks from today is only a few days before the hearings, and that includes Labor Day weekend.

This is a nominee who, if confirmed, could be serving on the Supreme Court until 2030 or beyond, well past the term of the President who appointed him and well past the terms or even the lifetimes of Members of the Senate who may make this decision. This is a decision that not only affects every American alive today but also our children and grandchildren.

The Constitution gives the Senate, and only the Senate, the responsibility of considering a President's nominations to a lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court.

The Constitution gives us the duty to make this decision as well as we can, not as fast as we can.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I express my appreciation to the two managers of the Judiciary Committee, the chairman and ranking member. I understand why there is a little distrust on both sides because of all the stuff we have gone through on judges. They have done good work, and there is no reason that anyone should be concerned about the work of the Judiciary Committee.

The waivers that have been made by the Senators as to the 1-week layover and 2-hour meeting time for the committee to meet is something to show we are trying to move forward on this in good faith.

I have no doubt, with the work of these two men, that we will be able to work our way through any hurdles we have. We all know the date the distinguished Senator from Pennsylvania, the chairman of the committee, is shooting for is to make sure Judge Roberts is seated by October 3. We want to make sure that everyone understands that there are no games being played. Nobody is trying to do anything untoward. We are going to do our very best to work toward that date.

The entire Democratic caucus has the utmost faith in our leader, Senator LEAHY. The Judiciary Committee has been, for 7 months, his. He has done extremely good work, as he has always done. I have been on this floor many times when I served in different capacities where I would talk about the Senator from Vermont in the most positive terms.

I feel the same way about the Senator from Pennsylvania. The Senate is fortunate to have the Senator from Pennsylvania leading the Senate in this most complicated, difficult committee, with the most vexatious issues, it seems, all the times.

I have spent quite a bit of time, in the last few days, with them and the majority leader and Senator MCCONNELL. It has been worthwhile. This is going to move forward.

As the Senator from Vermont has stated, materials are needed. We understand the power of a committee chairman in this instance. He has tremendous power. We don't take anything away from the power he has. He can set the markup whenever he wants, within reason. He can call for votes when he wants. But he has, in the past, been very fair, and he will continue to be. I have no doubt that is the case.

I also want the record to reflect that I did not get the floor before the majority leader; he was not here. That is why I grabbed the floor before someone else did. I certainly would not try to speak before the majority leader. Protocol would say that isn't the case. The majority leader was not here, and I did not want somebody else to grab the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we have a bit of business to do before we close down tonight. What we heard from our colleagues reflects the cooperative spirit that is very important as we fulfill our constitutional responsibility in terms of this very important nomination.

As our colleagues can tell, there have been a lot of discussions with the chairman and ranking member and the leadership on both sides of the aisle. What we witnessed is the decision to begin hearings after Labor Day, that

the hearings and the subsequent action, including the workup to the floor, which according to the schedule that has been laid out, implies to me we would be able to be on the floor by September 26, and with that would be able to have the nomination finished by the end of that week, confirmed, and the Justice would be sitting on that first Monday in October.

I do wish to thank all of the people who have been mentioned for bringing us to this point and expect that over August, with civility, we will be able to continue our study of records and background that are provided. We will have a very busy early September as those hearings begin.

In terms of timing, it looks as if we will be able to achieve the objectives from both sides of the aisle. We very much appreciate that leadership in a bipartisan way in the chairman and ranking member.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I commend the chairman and the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee. These are difficult things to do, and I am glad to see that type of cooperation in what really is a very important set of hearings with regard to the Supreme Court of the United States of America. Above all, I want to see Judge Roberts treated fairly. I believe we are off to a good start, and hopefully that will continue.

RETIREMENT OF GENERAL GREGORY S. MARTIN, USAF

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I have the distinct privilege and honor of rising to pay tribute, on the announcement of his retirement, to one of our Nation's greatest generals, and my good friend, Gen. Gregory S. Martin of the U.S. Air Force. When I first met the general over 2 years ago, I knew immediately that his reputation of being an extraordinary leader was true.

From the beginning of his career at the Air Force Academy, where he was named the National Collegiate Parachuting Champion, to his current command of Air Force Materiel Command, excellence has been the defining characteristic of General Martin's career.

As a young fighter pilot, he flew combat missions over Vietnam and served as a mission commander during Operations Linebacker I and Linebacker II. I do not have to remind my colleagues that these two air campaigns were instrumental in securing the release of our prisoners of war from Vietnam.

General Martin has served in a number of capacities including Commander

of the 479th Tactical Training Wing at Holloman Air Force Base, NM; the 33rd Fighter Wing at Eglin Air Force Base, FL; and 1st Fighter Wing at Langley Air Force Base, VA.

The Senate began to learn more about General Martin's reputation when he was confirmed as Commander of United States Air Forces in Europe and Commander of Allied Forces Northern Europe. In this capacity, during Operation Enduring Freedom he directed airdrop support for United States and allied forces as well as Afghani refugees. The following year, General Martin provided deployment support, combat airdrop operations, and all air delivered sustainment support for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As a testament to his effectiveness as a leader, not only did General Martin accomplish these tasks for his Nation, but he also earned the respect and dedication of the Air Force enlisted personnel who served with him. This was reflected in the decision of the Air Force's enlisted personnel to honor General Martin with the Order of the Sword, the highest tribute the Air Force enlisted corps can pay to a commander.

After this successful tour of duty, General Martin was confirmed to his present post as Commander of the Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH. As Commander, Air Force Materiel Command, General Martin leads more than 78,000 men and women of the world's most respected air and space force, and he is all too eager to state that this has been the most satisfying assignment in his career.

During his tenure, General Martin transformed Air Force Materiel Command, which is charged with delivering on-time, on-budget war-winning capabilities to our Nation's warfighters as well as providing "cradle to grave" management of every Air Force weapon system. General Martin led the development of a new Air Force Science and Technology vision that will guide critical research and development work for decades to come. He strengthened, unified, and streamlined the Air Force Program Executive Office to ensure more effective acquisition support for current and future Air force weapon systems. He led the implementation of Continuous Process Improvement initiatives within the Air Force logistics and sustainment activities, achieving the best on-time, on-cost performance in the history of our Air Force logistics centers. Under General Martin's leadership, the Air Force Materiel Command returned \$570 million last year to the Department of Defense to support the global war on terrorism. That is how good this man is, and the people who serve with time.

All that being said, none of these accomplishments would have been possible without the support of his wife, General Martin's high school sweetheart. They have been married for 35 years. I know I join a grateful Nation

in saying thank you to Wendy for the sacrifices she had made for her husband and for her country throughout the years.

As I conclude my remarks on the announcement of the General's retirement, I am reminded of the Air Force's motto: No one comes close. That is how I would describe General Martin: no one comes close.

Mr. President, on a personal note, General Martin's call sign is "Speedy". There is good reason for that. He is one of the most efficient, revered and honored generals in the history of the Air Force. He is a person who has given a great deal to our country. He deserves a great deal of respect. He is a man of honor. My remarks do not even begin to do justice for this great man, his wife, and those who have served with him in the Air Force and in the defense of our country over all of these years. This is a man who makes a difference. This is a man who I hate to see retire because there is nobody better. However, I wish him well in retirement. Speedy Martin deserves a great retirement, and if he wishes a greater opportunity to continue to serve in whatever capacity he wants for the rest of his life. Until then, we salute him and let him know that we have appreciated the great service he has given to our country. We appreciate him as a person and as an example to all of us.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRYING TERRORISTS IN OUR COURTS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it has come to my attention that there was a significant decision by a criminal court in Seattle. The decision, as I understand it, was made this week, and it involved a U.S. district judge, John C. Coughenour. I hope I have pronounced his name correctly. Judge Coughenour was tasked with an awesome responsibility—the prosecution of Ahmed Ressam, who had been accused of terrorist acts against the United States.

The case was rather straightforward. The man had plotted to bomb the Los Angeles Airport on the eve of the celebration of our millennium. It was in imposing the sentence that Judge Coughenour said some things which are worth repeating. He called into question some conclusions that many people have reached about our system of justice and really reminded us of our legacy in terms of constitutional responsibility in this country.

I ask unanimous consent that the judge's entire statement at the sentencing hearing be printed in the RECORD.

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

Judge's Statement

U.S. District Judge John C. Coughenour made a statement during Wednesday's sentencing hearing for Ahmed Ressam. "Okay. Let me say a few things. First of all, it will come as no surprise to anybody that this sentencing is one that I have struggled with a great deal, more than any other sentencing that I've had in the 24 years I've been on the bench.

"I've done my very best to arrive at a period of confinement that appropriately recognizes the severity of the intended offense, but also recognizes the practicalities of the parties' positions before trial and the cooperation of Mr. Ressam, even though it did terminate prematurely.

"The message I would hope to convey in today's sentencing is twofold:

"First, that we have the resolve in this country to deal with the subject of terrorism and people who engage in it should be prepared to sacrifice a major portion of their life in confinement.

"Secondly, though, I would like to convey the message that our system works. We did not need to use a secret military tribunal, or detain the defendant indefinitely as an enemy combatant, or deny him the right to counsel, or invoke any proceedings beyond those guaranteed by or contrary to the United States Constitution.

"I would suggest that the message to the world from today's sentencing is that our courts have not abandoned our commitment to the ideals that set our nation apart. We can deal with the threats to our national security without denying the accused fundamental constitutional protections.

"Despite the fact that Mr. Ressam is not an American citizen and despite the fact that he entered this country intent upon killing American citizens, he received an effective, vigorous defense, and the opportunity to have his guilt or innocence determined by a jury of 12 ordinary citizens.

"Most importantly, all of this occurred in the sunlight of a public trial. There were no secret proceedings, no indefinite detention, no denial of counsel.

"The tragedy of September 11th shook our sense of security and made us realize that we, too, are vulnerable to acts of terrorism.

"Unfortunately, some believe that this threat renders our Constitution obsolete. This is a Constitution for which men and women have died and continue to die and which has made us a model among nations. If that view is allowed to prevail, the terrorists will have won.

"It is my sworn duty, and as long as there is breath in my body I'll perform it, to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. We will be in recess."

Mr. DURBIN. Let me read a few things from this statement that I think are so significant. The judge said at the sentencing hearing for Ahmed Ressam, an alleged terrorist now prosecuted and convicted, the following:

Okay. Let me say a few things. First of all, it will come as no surprise to anybody that this sentencing is one that I have struggled with a great deal, more than any other sentencing that I've had in the 24 years I've been on the bench.

The judge went on to say:

I've done my very best to arrive at a period of confinement that appropriately recognizes the severity of the intended offense, but also recognizes the practicalities of the parties' positions before trial and the cooperation of