

make him well qualified to join the U.S. District Court.

Judge Nuffer has also worked to promote the rule of law internationally, as a consultant and lecturer with the Ukraine Rule of Law Project. I was pleased last year to meet with a group of judges from Ukraine who were in the United States, both Washington and in Utah, as part of this educational program. Our independent judicial system and commitment to the rule of law is unparalleled anywhere in the world.

I also want to note Judge Nuffer's efforts to promote access to the courts through technology. He has definitely been ahead of the curve on this issue. Back in the 1990s, Judge Nuffer directed the Utah Electronic Law Project and served on the Utah Supreme Court's Ad Hoc Committee on Access to Electronic Court Records. As Chairman of the Senate Republican High-Tech Task Force, I appreciate how such cutting edge efforts can benefit all Americans at low cost.

As I travel throughout Utah talking to lawyers and judges, the unanimous opinion is that Judge Nuffer has the experience, temperament, and integrity to be a great Federal judge. It was no surprise when the American Bar Association unanimously gave him its highest rating. I thank my colleagues for their support of this fine nominee.

Mr. LEAHY. I would note, on this side, at least—I know we have to have a rollcall on this first nominee. I will have no objection if there are voice votes on the next two. That would be up to others. But on the first one I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of David Nuffer, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

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

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 57 Ex.]

#### YEAS—96

Akaka	Cantwell	Enzi
Alexander	Cardin	Feinstein
Ayotte	Carper	Franken
Barrasso	Casey	Gillibrand
Baucus	Chambliss	Graham
Begich	Coats	Grassley
Bennet	Coburn	Hagan
Bingaman	Cochran	Harkin
Blumenthal	Collins	Hatch
Blunt	Conrad	Hoeven
Boozman	Coons	Hutchison
Boxer	Corker	Inhofe
Brown (MA)	Cornyn	Inouye
Brown (OH)	Crapo	Isakson
Burr	Durbin	Johanns

Johnson (SD)	Merkley	Schumer
Johnson (WI)	Mikulski	Sessions
Kerry	Moran	Shaheen
Klobuchar	Murkowski	Shelby
Kohl	Murray	Snowe
Kyl	Nelson (NE)	Stabenow
Landrieu	Nelson (FL)	Tester
Lautenberg	Paul	Thune
Leahy	Portman	Toomey
Levin	Pryor	Udall (CO)
Lieberman	Reed	Udall (NM)
Lugar	Reid	Vitter
Manchin	Risch	Warner
McCain	Roberts	Webb
McCaskill	Rockefeller	Whitehouse
McConnell	Rubio	Wicker
Menendez	Sanders	Wyden

#### NAYS—2

DeMint

Lee

#### NOT VOTING—2

Heller

Kirk

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote in relation to the Abrams nomination.

Who yields time?

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, we expect this to be the last vote. I am told that we have worked something out so the next judge we can do by voice. This will be the last vote of the week.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I am honored to offer my strong support for the nomination of Ronnie Abrams to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. I also want to thank President Obama for acting on my recommendation and nominating another superbly qualified woman jurist to the Federal bench.

I have had the privilege of knowing Ms. Abrams for many years. I know her as a fairminded woman of great integrity. Throughout her distinguished legal career, she has proven herself as an exceptional attorney. As Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division for the United States Attorney's Office of the Southern District of New York, she supervised hundreds of prosecutions, including violent crime, organized crime, white-collar crime, public corruption, drug trafficking, and crimes against children.

Her record shows her commitment to justice. I can tell you she has a deep and sincere commitment to public service. There is no question that Ms. Abrams is extremely well qualified and well suited to be a Federal judge.

I strongly believe our Nation needs more women such as her serving on the Federal judiciary, an institution that I believe needs more exceptional women. I believe it is incredibly important that we do reach the point of balance in the judiciary. I recommend her most highly.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANDERS). Who yields time in opposition?

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I yield back our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of

Ronnie Abrams, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York?

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

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

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 58 Ex.]

#### YEAS—96

Akaka	Franken	Moran
Alexander	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Ayotte	Graham	Murray
Barrasso	Grassley	Nelson (NE)
Baucus	Hagan	Nelson (FL)
Begich	Harkin	Paul
Bennet	Hatch	Portman
Bingaman	Hoeven	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hutchison	Reed
Blunt	Inhofe	Reid
Boozman	Inouye	Risch
Boxer	Isakson	Roberts
Brown (MA)	Johanns	Rockefeller
Brown (OH)	Johnson (SD)	Rubio
Burr	Johnson (WI)	Sanders
Cantwell	Kerry	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sessions
Carper	Kohl	Shaheen
Casey	Kyl	Shelby
Chambliss	Landrieu	Snowe
Coats	Lautenberg	Stabenow
Coburn	Leahy	Tester
Cochran	Levin	Thune
Collins	Lieberman	Toomey
Conrad	Lugar	Udall (CO)
Coons	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Corker	McCain	Vitter
Cornyn	McCaskill	Warner
Crapo	McConnell	Webb
Durbin	Menendez	Whitehouse
Enzi	Merkley	Wicker
Feinstein	Mikulski	Wyden

#### NAYS—2

DeMint

Lee

#### NOT VOTING—2

Heller

Kirk

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the nomination of Rudolph Contreras, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

#### REPEAL BIG OIL TAX SUBSIDIES ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 337, S. 2204.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2204) to eliminate unnecessary tax subsidies and promote renewable energy and energy conservation.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the Reid motion to proceed to Calendar No. 337, S. 2204, a bill to eliminate unnecessary tax subsidies and promote renewable energy and energy conservation.

Harry Reid, Robert Menendez, Richard J. Durbin, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Carl Levin, Charles E. Schumer, Bernard Sanders, Amy Klobuchar, Al Franken, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Mark Udall, Daniel K. Akaka, Debbie Stabenow, John F. Kerry.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I withdraw my motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

#### 21ST CENTURY POSTAL SERVICE ACT OF 2011—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to calendar No. 296, S. 1789.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1789) to improve, sustain, and transform the United States Postal Service.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 296, S. 1789, the 21st Century Postal Service Act.

Harry Reid, Thomas R. Carper, Sherrod Brown, Mark Begich, Bill Nelson, Frank R. Lautenberg, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Dianne Feinstein, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Joseph I. Lieberman, Patty Murray, Charles E. Schumer, Mark L. Pryor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this is an extremely important bill, the postal reform legislation, that we have been waiting to get to for a long time.

I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate go into a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The Senator from Illinois.

#### NFL DISCLOSURE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak about a disturbing disclosure made recently by the National Football League. Their investigation revealed that the New Orleans Saints had allegedly been operating an illegal "bounty" program.

Under this bounty program, players were reportedly given significant sums of money in direct exchange for intentionally injuring opposing players, disabling them, and for having them carried off the field in an ambulance.

According to reports, compensation started at \$1,000 for causing an opponent to be "carried off" the field. This was called a "cart-off." The price was \$1,500 for causing an opponent to be unable to continue the game. This was known as a "knockout." These "bounties" reportedly reached high sums of money, as large as \$10,000 and even \$50,000.

What is even more troubling is that reports suggest that these bounty systems might have reached far beyond the New Orleans Saints. Reports surfacing as a result of the NFL's investigation have indicated that other teams may have also been engaged in this practice.

One former professional football player recently tweeted:

Why is this a big deal now? Bounties have been going on forever.

Another stated:

Prices were set on Saturday nights in the team hotel. . . . We laid our bounties on opposing players. We targeted big names, our sights set on taking them out of the game.

Let me tell you why this is important and reprehensible. A spirit of aggressiveness and competitiveness is an integral part of many sporting contests, but bribing players to intentionally hurt their opponents cannot be tolerated. We have to put an end to this.

Just yesterday, to its credit, the NFL announced historically stiff penalties for those involved in the New Orleans Saints bounty program. The team's head coach, general manager, former defensive coordinator, and assistant head coach were suspended for long periods of time. The team will forfeit selections in upcoming drafts and the team was fined.

I commend the National Football League for taking swift and decisive action to discipline those involved in the Saints' bounty program, but we need to make sure this never happens again on any team, in any team sport. For that reason, I will be convening a

hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee. I spoke to Senator PAT LEAHY about this this morning, and he has given me his permission as chairman to move forward. We will have a hearing and put on the record what sports leagues and teams at the professional and collegiate levels are doing to make sure there is no place in athletics for these pay-to-maim bounties. I want to hear the policies and practices in each of the major sports and collegiate sports that are being put in place, and I want to explore whether Federal legislation is required.

Currently, bribery in a sporting contest is a Federal crime. It is illegal to carry out a scheme in interstate commerce to influence a sporting contest through bribery. This goes back to a law enacted almost 50 years ago by Senator Kenneth Keating of New York. Here is what he said at the time about bribery that would influence the outcome of a sporting contest:

We must do everything we can to keep sports clean so that the fans, and especially young people, can continue to have complete confidence in the honesty of the players and the contest. Scandals in the sporting world are big news, and can have a devastating and shocking effect on the outlook of our youth, to whom sports figures are heroes and idols.

As the Department of Justice stated at that time, when the Federal law making it a crime to engage in bribery to influence the outcome of a sporting contest was enacted, Federal legislation was necessary to deal with the inadequacies and jurisdictional limitations of State law.

Mr. President, most of us are sports fans. I would have to list my favorite sports as football, with baseball a close second. I know football is a contact sport. I still have a bum knee to show from my football experience in high school. Accidents will happen and injuries will happen. That is a part of the game. I knew it when I put on my uniform and went out on the field. But I never dreamed there would be some conspiracy, some bribery involved and some other player trying to intentionally hurt me or take me out of the game. That goes way beyond sports.

I am heartened by the fact that many of the leaders in sports are now sensitized to the injuries that are being caused to players, particularly in the football arena. We know concussions can be devastating and ultimately take the life of a player. The National Football League and others are more and more sensitive to this phenomena. I commend them for this. But this disclosure involving the New Orleans Saints goes to an outrageous level that none of us ever anticipated.

I think it is time, whether we are talking about hockey, football, baseball, basketball, or any collegiate team contest, that we have clear rules to make certain that what happened with the New Orleans Saints never, ever happens again.

This hearing will invite representatives and witnesses from the major