

Senator DOLE. Yes. Thank you very much.

Senator GRAHAM. Thank you. It is very impressive people to hear about, and I am honored to be here to chair the Committee when we are all agreeing on something.

[Laughter.]

Senator GRAHAM. Thank you both. Thank you very much.

If you do not mind, I think we will proceed as follows: Senator Chambliss is going to fill in for me here in a bit, but we would like to have Senators Domenici and Bingaman come up next, if possible. I know you have something to do, and then we will go to Senators Chambliss and Miller next.

PRESENTATION OF ROBERT C. BRACK, NOMINEE TO BE DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO, BY HON. PETE DOMENICI, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Senator DOMENICI. Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, our nominee is Robert C. Brack. He is accompanied by his wife Sheila, who sits behind him. I would like you to recognize her. Would you please stand, Sheila. This is the judge, and that is his wife.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Senator GRAHAM. Welcome. Welcome very much. Thank you for coming.

Senator DOMENICI. First, I am very pleased that Senator Bingaman joins me here today. Both of us support this nominee. It is not an understatement to say that the situation in the District of New Mexico that he is being assigned to is dire—dire from the standpoint of being overcrowded, overloaded and in desperate need of additional judges.

It is particularly bad, fellow Senators, along the Southern border of New Mexico, around the community of Las Cruces, where over 60 percent of the district's, that is, the State, the district's criminal cases are filed, and there is no judge sitting in that community.

Because Judge Brack will be assigned to Las Cruces, I am pleased that the Committee has agreed to my request to move quickly on this nomination. He is desperately needed to fill the vacancy, which is so overcrowded that I believe it ranks among the highest in the Nation, in terms of overcrowding of the criminal docket.

When Congress authorized a temporary judgeship for the District of New Mexico last year, the President asked for suggestions. I was very pleased to submit to him qualified judges, qualified nominees, but I was most pleased that the man that we have with us today was selected as the choice.

He comes from Southern New Mexico, an area that does not very often get nominees to the Federal bench. That side of New Mexico is very thrilled. It is not like an ordinary event. It is a real celebration to have one of their own nominated to the bench. He will have to leave them, but they are very proud and pleased that one of their own will leave them to join the very distinguished bench, at least that is how New Mexicans still see the court, and I am very glad that they do.

He comes highly reputed. I will not go through his achievements, other than to say one of the best things that I can say to the Judiciary Committee, when they look at one of our nominees, is what kind of lawyer do we have and, frankly, I am here to tell you we have a superb lawyer. This man tried lawsuits of all types. From the very smallest to the very largest of class action lawsuits, he tried them. He won them, and he lost them, but he tried them with great distinction, and had a fabulous reputation, when he did the next thing, which permits us to be certain that he will be a good judge. He took the bench.

A district bench is the bench of general jurisdiction in our State. Everything is tried there, all the felony cases, all of the civil cases, and he sat there for a number of years and was distinguished as one of the best district judges in the State of New Mexico.

Frankly, with the extreme lists that you have to hear from today, and the tremendous witnesses that you have, I know that what I have said is more than ample, and with that, I will stop and ask that you hear from my colleague and put the rest of my statement in the record where it can be looked at, if necessary, and eventually get the judge before you as soon as possible.

Thank you very much.

Senator GRAHAM. Thank you, Senator. Without objection, your statement will be entered.

Senator Bingaman?

PRESENTATION OF ROBERT C. BRACK, NOMINEE TO BE DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO, BY HON. JEFF BINGAMAN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Senator BINGAMAN. Thank you, very much, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to support the nomination of Judge Brack to the U.S. District Court. I particularly want to thank Senator Domenici and the President both for giving me an opportunity to visit with Judge Brack before his nomination was made.

I had not personally visited with him before that, but I had heard of him and heard of his great reputation as a lawyer for nearly 20 years in Clovis, practicing some of that time with a very good friend of mine, Ted Hartley. But I think his reputation preceded him, as far as I was concerned, and then his reputation as a District Judge in our State court system has been excellent as well.

So I think he is a very good choice for this position. He will do a good job on our Federal court in New Mexico, and I again commend Senator Domenici for recommending him and the President for choosing him for this important position. I urge the Committee to act swiftly to confirm his recommendation and to recommend that the full Senate confirm his nomination.

Thank you.

Senator EDWARDS. Thank you, Senator, for your statement. Thank you very much.

At this time, Senator Chambliss from Georgia and Senator Miller, if you would like to come up.