

**Statement of Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.),
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee,
Executive Business Meeting
April 16, 2015**

On today's agenda we have the nomination of Sally Yates to serve as the Deputy Attorney General. This is the number two position at the Department of Justice, and the Deputy Attorney General handles the critical day-to-day operations of the Department. Like the Attorney General, this position is vital to our national security and to Federal law enforcement. It is imperative that we confirm her to this position as soon as possible.

I hope that we can return to regular order in this Committee and not hold over all nominations simply because the Committee rules allow a member to delay consideration a week. No one on the Democratic side will be asking to hold the nominations over, and I would ask the Republican members of this Committee not to delay the nomination of Ms. Yates just out of reflex. She has strong bipartisan support and her hearing was almost four weeks ago. When we have a nominee as noncontroversial as Ms. Yates, we should proceed without delay.

Something *not* on today's agenda is an issue we *should* be considering in this Committee. The Senate Intelligence Committee reported a cybersecurity information sharing bill last month, and the Majority Leader may move to proceed to this bill later this work period. Last month, I – along with other members of this Committee – urged Chairman Grassley to take a sequential referral of the bill, because it contains a number of provisions that affect matters squarely within the jurisdiction of this Committee. The cyber bill includes provisions that affect Americans' privacy rights and raise Fourth Amendment implications. The bill would impact important laws such as the Electronic Communications Privacy Act and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, and it includes liability restrictions and amendments to the Freedom of Information Act. These are all issues that should be carefully considered by the Committee of primary jurisdiction, the Senate Judiciary Committee.

I would again urge the Chairman to seek a sequential referral of the cybersecurity bill, so that these important issues can be considered through the proper process, and to protect the jurisdiction of this Committee.

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