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Subject: : Fw: article

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From: P6/b(6)
To: Benjamin A. Powell/WHO/EOP@EOP
Cc:
Date: 01/11/2003 03:54:59 PM
Subject: Article

>
> Friday, January 10, 2003
>
> Missouri Democrats seek renomination of Ronnie White
> By LIBBY QUAID
> Associated Press Writer
>
>
> WASHINGTON (AP) - In an apparent attempt to press
> the issue of race,
> two Missouri Democrats are asking President Bush to
> renominate the black
> judge who was the key witness for the opposition
> during Attorney General
> John Ashcroft's confirmation hearings.
>
>
> Reps. Dick Gephardt and William Lacy Clay asked the
> president to
> appoint Missouri Supreme Court Judge Ronnie White to
> the 8th U.S.
> Circuit Court of Appeals, which will have a vacancy
> in April.
>
>
> White, first nominated in 1997, was the first
> nominee since
> conservative jurist Robert Bork in 1987 to suffer
> defeat on the floor of
> the Senate, and the first district court nominee so
> defeated in four
> decades.
>

>
> Ashcroft, then a Missouri senator seeking
> re-election, called White
> "pro-criminal" because of his votes to overturn
> death penalty sentences.
>
>
> Today, Democrats are threatening to filibuster a
> controversial Bush
> nominee, Charles Pickering of Mississippi, whose
> nomination they blocked
> last year after civil rights groups questioned his
> race-relations
> record.
>
>
> On the same political front, top congressional
> Democrats said they
> will hold a forum on civil rights next Friday in
> Washington. In a
> written statement, they said their daylong session
> "will provide a
> snapshot of the nation's progress in civil rights
> and help develop an
> aggressive agenda to ensure equal opportunity."
>
>
> Democrats have appeared eager to return to the
> subject since Sen.
> Trent Lott, R-Miss., a friend of Pickering's,
> sparked a firestorm last
> month after speaking warmly of the segregationist
> presidential campaign
> that former Sen. Strom Thurmond ran in 1948.
>
>
> "In light of this and your party's efforts to repair
> its image on
> race relations, we urge you to reconsider Judge
> White's nomination to
> the federal bench," Gephardt and Clay wrote in a
> letter they released
> Friday. "Such action would be entirely consistent
> with your stated goal
> of realizing the promise of America for all our
> citizens, regardless of
> race."
>
>
> Gephardt is among several Democrats exploring a
> presidential campaign
> in 2004.
>
>
> During Ashcroft's confirmation hearings, White
> testified that

> Ashcroft "seriously distorted my record." He added,
> "The question for
> the Senate is whether these misrepresentations are
> consistent with the
> fair play and justice you all would require of the
> U.S. attorney
> general."
>
>
> Bush refused to consider a previous request from
> Gephardt to
> renominate White. For the 8th Circuit vacancy,
> created by an Iowa
> judge's retirement, the president is expected to
> nominate U.S. Attorney
> Steve Colloton of Iowa, according to the Sen. Chuck
> Grassley, R-Iowa.
>
>
> Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch,
> R-Utah, considers
> White's nomination dealt with already. Hatch's panel
> controls judicial
> nominations.
>
>
> "Judge White, under Sen. Hatch's leadership, was
> afforded the respect
> of a vote by the full Senate," said the spokeswoman,
> Margarita Tapia.
> "Judge Pickering, in contrast, was denied the
> opportunity of a full
> Senate vote by the Democrat-controlled Senate
> Judiciary Committee."
>
>
> On Friday, White issued a statement saying he is
> "humbled" by the
> recommendation from Gephardt and Clay.
>
>
> "I am interested in participating in this process,
> and I am honored
> to be considered for this judicial position," said
> White, who will be
> elevated to chief justice of the Missouri Supreme
> Court on July 1.
>
>
> White House spokesman Scott Stanzel said: "We are
> aware of the
> upcoming vacancy in the 8th circuit, and we are
> working to fill it."

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