

From: "Wingate, Heather "
To: "Kavanaugh, Brett M.", <Jamie.E.Brown@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Fw: D's Estrada Press Conference Yesterday
Received(Date): Thu, 6 Feb 2003 11:21:52 -0500

Can we make sure we have rebuttal on this?

-----Original Message-----

From: Myers, Chris (Republican-Conf) <Chris_Myers@src.senate.gov>
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CC: P6/(b)(6)

Sent: Thu Feb 06 10:28:00 2003

Subject: D's Estrada Press Conference Yesterday

hey guys, I sent a very able intern yesterday to attend the Dems' press conference & she took copious notes. Daschle also released a statement, although he hasn't posted it to the web yet.

THought you'd all be interested.

News Conference: COURT/DEMS/ESTRADA

Daschle:

- * This is not about confirmation process delay or diversity on the bench
- * Estrada isn't the man for the appointment
- * He refuses to answer questions, specifically to name a SCOTUS decision with which he did not agree
- * Has the *thinnest recored* of someone to be nominated
- * Concluded that unwillingness to share information is because

1. Nominee knows nothing

2. He*s trying to hide something

· Daschle opposes nomination because he believes it*s his constitutional obligation/ set a deadline for early next week to decide how they are going to act (won*t rule out filibuster)

- There is an overwhelming opposition in caucus to Estrada

Leahy:

- * Named around 10 Latino/Hispanic groups that do not support Estrada and asked that these groups be taken seriously
- * Said it's *inexcusable* for Republicans to go against these groups
- * Bush administration is painting a misleading picture of the nominee
- * Won't vote for a nominee that won't share his views
- * Believes Republicans are trying to *pack and control the courts*

Democratic Caucus Chairman Robert Menendez:

- * Won't approve because of a common surname
- * Estrada has no judicial experience or scholarly writings
- * This is a lifetime appointment and Estrada will rule on decisions affecting Hispanic community and believes Estrada does not know or have a commitment to address the issues facing Hispanics
- * Huge and unusual step for someone who has never served as a judge to be nominated for the 2nd highest circuit court
- * Limited record
- * Estrada wouldn't respond on a question about promoting equality of opportunity
- * Estrada has a *failure to recognize or show interest in the Hispanic community*
- * The fact that Estrada is Hispanic should have nothing to do with him being nominated
- * Doesn't know or won't share knowledge on landmark SCOTUS cases
- * Answered no when asked if he would bring in qualified Hispanic clerks
- * Doesn't belong to Hispanic Organization
- * Estrada doesn't have the *experience or temperament* to be a judge

Rep. Ciro Rodriguez

- * By not answering questions, Estrada makes it difficult to know if he would be a forceful voice from the bench
- * Has no history of minority struggle in America

- * Hispanic Caucus opposes and will continue to oppose
- * Saddened that President and Chairman have made this such a priority

Comments from other Hispanic/Latino Groups

- * Bush administration, not the Latino community has made Estrada a Latino candidate
- * Estrada's father was a corporate lawyer and his mother was a corporate vice president, so he didn't have to overcome traditional minority struggles
- * This should not be a Latino issue
- * Want nominee that has a real connection with Latino community
- * Estrada does not associate himself with Latinos and minorities
- * They all kept reiterating that this is not a *Latino/Hispanic issue.* However, every one of them complained that he did not have enough association with that group or that he has something to hide because Estrada won't comment on *Hispanic issues*