

From: "Leitch, David G."
To: "Gonzales, Alberto R.," "Kavanaugh, Brett M."
Subject: Fw:
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Of note.

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

From: P6/b(6)
To: Leitch, David G. <David_G_Leitch@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Sun Apr 20 20:15:08 2003
Subject:

GOP tiring of judicial confirmation battles
Robert Novak (back to web version)

April 19, 2003

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republicans are tiring of the battle to confirm contested judicial nominees, indicating that Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's Democratic plan to prevent President Bush from shaping the federal judiciary is succeeding.

Weekly meetings of Republican senators produce increased grumbling. The complaining senators ask the White House and the Republican leadership why they should keep fighting to confirm as appellate judges Washington, D.C., lawyer Miguel Estrada and Texas Supreme Court Justice Priscilla Owen. Not only liberal GOP senators but also some old guard committee chairmen claim this fight is neither important nor politically prudent.

Kennedy's unprecedented plan to block Bush's judicial selections always has been based on the theory that Republican senators soon would tire of the struggle.