

II. Bills

S. 253, A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns. [Campbell/Leahy/Hatch/Grassley/DeWine/Kyl/Sessions/Craig/Cornyn/Graham/Feinstein/Schumer]

S. 113, A bill to exclude United States persons from the definition of "foreign power" under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 relating to international terrorism. [Kyl/Hatch/DeWine/Schumer/Chambliss]

III. Resolutions

S. , National Inventor's Day [Hatch/Leahy]

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 93-642, appoints the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) to be a member of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation Board of Trustees, vice the former Senator from Missouri (Mrs. Carnahan).

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2003

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 11 a.m., Monday, February 10. I further ask unanimous consent that on Monday, following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then return to executive session to resume consideration of the nomination of Miguel Estrada to be a circuit judge for the DC Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. For the information of Senators, on Monday, the Senate will resume debate on the nomination of Miguel Estrada. We have had a number of Senators speak on the nomination over the past 2 days. The debate has been productive. I will continue to try to reach agreement with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to set a time certain for a vote on the confirmation of this very important nomination.

In addition, I understand three additional district court judges were reported by the Judiciary Committee today. We are also attempting to clear several important pieces of legislation that may require a small amount of debate and a rollcall vote. If we are still unable to vote on the Estrada nomination on Monday, it would be my hope

and expectation to vote on a district judge or one of the bills we are working towards clearing. Therefore, Members should be on notice that the next rollcall vote can be expected approximately at 5:15 on Monday. We will alert Members to the precise timing, but it won't be any earlier than 5:15 on Monday.

Mr. REID. If I could interrupt the majority leader, I wish to speak for up to 15 minutes, and then Senator BIDEN wishes to speak for up to 15 minutes.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume executive session, and that following the remarks of the assistant Democratic leader for 15 minutes and the Senator from Delaware for up to 15 minutes, the Senate then stand in adjournment under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MIGUEL A. ESTRADA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

Mr. REID. I apologize to the Chair. I know the Chair has things to do. We have been in the same position. We know that it is not convenient sometimes to preside, but we were kind of dared to come out here today, even though there are a lot of things going on. We had a number of people who went to the memorial. Senators from the other side said: I am amazed there are no Democrats here to debate Estrada. We recognize there is going to be other time to debate, but we do not want the record to appear that we are not interested. That is the reason I came down here, to offer my opinion.

Migrada Estrada has literally had no paper trail. Despite what some of my colleagues have said on the other side of the aisle, it is indisputable that Solicitor General memoranda have been turned over in the past. For example, the Department of Justice turned over Solicitor General memoranda for Bork, Rehnquist, and Easterbrook. On executive branch appointments, the Department of Justice turned over memoranda for Benjamin Civiletti.

While my colleagues may note that former Solicitors General have written a letter opposing the release of these memos, they cite no legal authority for keeping these memos secret. Basically what they say is it would impede these people from writing their opinions. It doesn't happen very often that these people are asked to serve on the second highest court of the land. It is not often they are asked to serve on the

U.S. Supreme Court. But in cases in the past when that has occurred, with Rehnquist, Bork and, of course, another important appointment, Easterbrook, they were made available. And they should be made available here.

There is no attorney-client privilege at work here. The courts have determined that applying that privilege to Congress would impede our work. Both the House and the Senate have refused to recognize the privilege in their rules. Former Solicitors argue that the policy considerations of ensuring candid advice outweighs the Senate's interest in examining this nominee. I don't think that is valid.

As I mentioned, the precedent supports release of these memos to the Senate. Further, the United States' own Department of Justice guidelines from 2000 state:

Our experience indicates that the Justice Department can develop accommodations with congressional committees that satisfy their needs for the information that may be obtained in deliberative material while at the same time protecting the Department's interest in avoiding a chill in the candor of future deliberations.

It is my understanding the Department of Justice has made no attempt to reach such an accommodation with the Judiciary Committee. The stonewalling on the Estrada nomination is part of a larger systematic effort by this administration to disable the Senate, to govern in secret, to advance the interests of big business over the public interests.

I joined an amicus curiae brief in a matter where Vice President CHENEY had all these meetings with big oil companies. It was determined that there should be some divulging of whom he met with, when he met with them, and what they talked about. Litigation had to be filed on that, and I joined in that litigation, filing a friend of the court brief. It is not right that there be stonewalling. Here is another example of what has happened in this administration.

My colleague and a dear friend, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator HATCH, has called the Democratic calls for more information about Estrada "silly." Well, we have a role as Members of the Senate to advise and give consent to nominations forwarded to us by the White House. I don't think what we are asking is silly.

My friend may not agree with our position, but it is not a silly position. Here is a person about whom the Hispanic caucus of the Congress unanimously said: We don't want him.

Here is a person about whom I put in the RECORD over 50 organizations yesterday saying: We don't want him.

There are lots of different reasons organizations give based on his qualifications, his temperament. We have one of his former employers who said his temperament, demeanor is not appropriate to serve on a circuit court. In fact, he said he was an ideologue.