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Comments

Bush & Meese play politics with judicial nominees

By Glenn Sugameli

When Ed Meese was Attorney General in the late 1980's, he instituted unprecedented ideological screening interviews for judicial nominees that President Eisenhower's attorney general, Herbert Brownell, denounced as "shocking."

President Bush has set an even lower bar by turning nominees for lifetime judgeships into political pawns who are chosen because they will not be confirmed by the Senate.

Repeatedly, President Bush has rejected 4th Circuit and other Republican and Democratic home-state senators' "advise and consent" suggestions of conservative Republican alternatives who would be readily confirmed to appellate judgeships. These include Bush federal district court judges and, in at least one case, Bush's own initial choice, as I explained in recent Politico and Providence Journal op-eds.

Meese is well aware of the extremely controversial record of the pending 4th Circuit nominee from South Carolina, Steve A. Matthews.

Legal analyst Dahlia Lithwick wrote in Slate that his resume "suggests that Matthews' strongest credentials include his role as former state chapter president of the Federalist Society and membership [with Meese] on the board of directors for the Landmark Legal Foundation," . . . which tried "to nominate Rush Limbaugh for a 2007 Nobel Peace Prize."

Matthews also served as an officer of Landmark Legal, which is headed by talk show host Mark R. Levin, who called global warming "nonsense" and "phony," and condemned Sen. John McCain (R.-Ariz.) and Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman (I.-Conn.) as "liberal idiots."

In *Men in Black: How the Supreme Court Is Destroying America*, Levin thanked Matthews and Meese for having "supported me in all I do" and wrote that the Supreme Court was "merely upholding the Constitution" in its long-discredited 1936 ruling that Congress lacks authority to regulate employer-employee relations, including "wages, working conditions, the right of collective bargaining, etc."

For more see www.judgingtheenvironment.org

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