

Myers still a poor choice for 9th Circuit Court

The long saga of William G. Myers III — the Boise attorney who has spent three years in federal judicial nomination limbo — has taken one more turn.

Now, Myers faces questions about attending a September 2001 dinner party with fallen alphas lobbyist Jack Abramoff. Myers has testified that he never met Abramoff, later sentenced to prison on conspiracy and wire fraud charges.

The more this story changes, the more it remains the same.

Myers' background — which features a stint as an Interior Department lawyer and, troublingly, as a lobbyist for cattle and mining interests — remains a poor fit for the job of dispensing dispassionate justice.

Factor in his flair for anti-environmental hyperbole, such as his comparison of federal public lands policies to King George III's reign over colonial America, and it adds up to a political nomination, not a pragmatic choice.

After vowing to work closely with a Democratic Congress, President Bush has renewed his campaign to add Myers to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. If Bush couldn't find 60 votes for Myers in a

GOP Senate, his odds are even worse in a Democratic Senate.

Seeking a nominee who can earn bipartisan support is not just pragmatic — it's good government. It beats recycling an old, doomed choice.

We'll give Myers the benefit of the doubt. Perhaps it's possible not to remember all of the two dozen people who attended a dinner party five years ago. Unfortunately for Myers, though, we cannot forget his resume or his rhetoric.