

Thomas H. Holcom, Jr., member, board of directors, Angel Flight Central, Inc.

Statement on the Withdrawal of the Nomination of Miguel A. Estrada To
Be a United States Court of Appeals Circuit Judge
September 4, 2003

It is with regret that, at the request of Miguel Estrada, I have today withdrawn his nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit. I understand and respect his decision and wish Mr. Estrada and his family the best.

Mr. Estrada received disgraceful treatment at the hands of 45 United States Senators during the more than 2 years his nomination was pending. Despite his superb qualifications and the wide bipartisan

support for his nomination, these Democrat Senators repeatedly blocked an up-or-down vote that would have led to Mr. Estrada's confirmation. The treatment of this fine man is an unfortunate chapter in the Senate's history.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

Statement on Signing the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003
September 4, 2003

Today, I have signed into law S. 1435, the "Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003." The Act provides for analysis of the incidence and effects of prison rape in Federal, State and local institutions, and for information, resources, recommendations and funding to protect individuals from prison rape. The Act also creates a National Prison Rape Reduction Commission.

Section 7(h) of the Act purports to grant to the Commission a right of access to any Federal department or agency information it considers necessary to carry out its duties, and section 7(k)(3) provides for release of information to the public. The executive branch shall construe sections 7(h) and 7(k)(3) in a manner consistent with the

President's constitutional authority to withhold information when its disclosure could impair deliberative processes of the Executive or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties and, to the extent possible, in a manner consistent with Federal statutes protecting sensitive information from disclosure.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
September 4, 2003.

NOTE: S. 1435, approved September 4, was assigned Public Law No. 108-79. An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.