

You are correct that our staffs have worked closely to ensure that those issues were resolved to our mutual satisfaction and I greatly appreciate your cooperation in this effort. I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during House consideration of the conference report.

Again, thank you for your cooperation.
Yours truly,

MICHAEL G. OXLEY,
Chairman.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN MUTKA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 25, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate one of the most dedicated and hardworking citizens of the First Congressional District of Indiana, Mr. John Mutka. John has spent the past 40 years of his life working as a sports writer and columnist for the Post Tribune newspaper in Northwest Indiana. He will retire on Monday, November 24, 2003. His career in journalism has allowed him the opportunity to reach out to numerous people, and therefore has made a positive impact within his community.

John is an institution in Northwest Indiana, a household name to the thousands of residents who have read his work for the past 40 years. He is also known statewide and nationally for his excellence in sports journalism. This year, John was named Sportswriter of the Year by the National Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association. Also this year, he was honored by being inducted into the Indiana Sportswriters and Sportscasters Hall of Fame, and subsequently earned a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Lake County Sportsman-sport banquet.

John has given his time and efforts generously throughout his career. Along with his many accomplishments, John has also been recognized by the Indiana High School Athletic Association, the Indiana Football Coaches Association, and the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association for his dedication and hard work.

Mr. Speaker, John exemplifies the values of all great Hoosiers through his dedication, his work ethic, his loyalty and humility. His continued commitment and devotion to all of Northwest Indiana is worthy of the highest commendation. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating him on his well-deserved retirement, and continued success in all his future endeavors.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO
THE HSBC FAMILY

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 25, 2003

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest condolences and sympathy to the victims of the tragic terrorist attacks in Istanbul, Turkey yesterday. Following the attacks last weekend on two synagogues in Istanbul, yesterday's attacks are further evi-

dence of the war on terrorism our country and our allies are facing. I am pleased the House passed H. Res. 453 today expressing condolences to the families of the individuals murdered and to those injured in the terrorist attacks. We must continue to stand in solidarity with Turkey in the fight against terrorism.

In addition, on behalf of my New York Delegation and all my colleagues, I would like to express my profound regret to the more than 40 employees at HSBC who were injured. As of today, many of those employees are still in critical condition, while it has cost others their own lives.

Often referred to as the "World's Local Bank", HSBC employs people in over 80 countries, including 50,000 in the United States, with over 400 offices in my home state of New York and in Staten Island. While the headquarters was attacked as a symbol of global commerce, I take my hat off to the HSBC employees in Turkey for re-opening their office today and for their leadership in committing to stay in Turkey and not backing down in the face of terrorism. Again, I extend my deepest sympathies to the entire HSBC family on the tragic loss of their colleagues.

PEARL COLEMAN KIDD

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 25, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to tell my colleagues about a proud American and a beloved Dallas resident: Pearl Coleman Kidd. Mrs. Kidd was well known to generations of Dallas Metroplex residents who grew up coming to know and respect her for her remarkable contributions to our community.

Pearl Coleman Kidd was born in 1922 in Pulaski, Tennessee. After marrying Foster Kidd, the couple moved to Dallas in 1953. Two of our nation's core values, family and community, were also central commitments for Pearl Coleman Kidd. She loved Foster Kidd, her husband of 50 years. They rejoiced in their daughters Cheryl Kidd and Dr. Jocelyn Kidd of Dallas. Mrs. Kidd was also an active community volunteer. She was a devoted member of the New Hope Baptist Church.

It was through her endeavors in our community that Mrs. Kidd was able to volunteer in many Dallas Metroplex organizations. She received numerous awards for her contributions.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Kidd was an American treasure. Throughout her long life she gave tirelessly of herself for the advancement of her race and of all persons in need. Mrs. Kidd passed on October 16, 2003. Though our community is diminished by her loss, I ask that my colleagues join me, her family, and friends, in celebrating the remarkable life of this woman who truly symbolized our community and America at its best.

IN MEMORY OF NARAYAN D.
KESHAVAN

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 25, 2003

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Narayan Keshavan who passed away suddenly and unexpectedly last week.

Keshavan worked for me from January of 1998 until June of 2001. During much of that time I was the Co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans and Keshavan helped me stay abreast of the issues facing India and Indian-Americans and stay in contact with the vibrant community here.

Keshavan had a love for two countries. His adopted home, the United States and his ancestral home, India. So few people modestly and selflessly served to help U.S.-India relations through such dramatic periods of growth and change. Keshavan was an early and vocal advocate for a different kind of relationship between the oldest and largest democracies in the world. He saw the possibility—in fact the necessity—of India and the United States working closely together well before it was evident to leaders in either country. In a clear example of bringing the two cultures closer together, Kesh was one of the Indian-Americans who made the October 23, 2003 First Deepavali Event at the White House happen.

Born May 31, 1950 in Hyderabad, India, Keshavan was a graduate of Andhra University (Visakhapatnam, India) where he received a BA in Pharmacy and Osmania University (Hyderabad, India) with a BA and MA in journalism. Over his impressive career as a journalist, Kesh was respected for his vision and commitment to politics and Indo-U.S. Relations.

In addition to working for the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans, he was the Founder and Executive Director of the Indian-American Republican Council, and President of the Indian-American Forum for Political Education (NYC and LI chapter). He also was a founder of the Indo-U.S. Parliamentary Forum. He served as a mentor to countless individuals of all ages and faiths, deeply touching the lives of many here and in India, even those he knew only a short time. People loved Kesh for his honesty, intelligence, and humor.

Kesh, passed away on Thursday, November 13 after he appeared on CNN in a interview with Lou Dobbs where he defended India in the growing political issue of outsourcing. Keshavan is survived by his father and sister.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a journalist, public servant, and tireless community activist, Narayan Keshavan.

THE IMPACT OF LEFT-WING SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS ON THE JUDICIAL NOMINATION PROCESS

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 25, 2003

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, over the last three days I have commented on Democratic

Congressional staff memos that show how left-wing special interest groups are trying to hijack the appointment of federal judges. Today, I am introducing four more such memos. Besides confirming the fact that these groups are demanding, and apparently receiving, the power to delay or even block President Bush's nominees, they expose the double standard these groups apply to women and minority nominees who don't share their extreme political views. One memo shows that these groups identified Miguel Estrada, a nominee who received the American Bar Association's highest rating, as "especially dangerous" because, among other things, "he is Latino." Another memo reports that liberal lobbyists and their supporters in Congress proposed "a strategy for dealing with conservative Latino Circuit Court nominees." That memo also reveals that these lobbyists were using their contacts in the "Latino media" to undermine Mr. Estrada and others like him. Nominees Caroline Kuhl and Priscilla Owen were also singled out for opposition.

It is both ironic and tragic that these groups, which so loudly proclaim their support for the "civil rights" of women and minorities, would deny a judicial appointment to any minority or woman candidate who exercises his or her civil right to hold different opinions. It is time for these groups to stop blocking nominees who don't conform to their ideological stereotypes.

MEMORANDUM

To: [Member of Congress]

Date: November 6, 2001

Re: Meeting with Civil Rights Leaders, Tuesday, November 6, at 5 p.m. [Congressional Office Building]

Following up on a meeting in mid-October, you are scheduled to meet with leaders of several civil rights organizations to discuss their serious concerns with the judicial nomination process. The leaders will likely include: Ralph Neas (People For the American Way), Kate Michelman (NARAL), Nan Aron (Alliance for Justice), Wade Henderson (Leadership Conference on Civil Rights), Leslie Proll (NAACP Legal Defense & Education Fund), Nancy Zirkin (American Association of University Women), Marcia Greenberger (National Women's Law Center), and Judy Lichtman (National Partnership). The meeting will take place in [Congressional Office Building] with [2 Members of Congress] also present.

Today's meeting is likely to touch on a number of related issues. The primary focus will be on identifying the most controversial and/or vulnerable judicial nominees. The groups would like to postpone action on these nominees until next year, when (presumably) the public will be more tolerant of partisan dissent. They would also like to develop a strategy for moving these nominees. Among their priorities: (1) they want to ensure that they receive adequate notice before controversial nominees are scheduled for hearings; (2) they think [Member of Congress] should use controversial nominees as bargaining chips, just as the Republicans did; and (3) they are opposed to holding hearings during recess. Although [Member of Congress] has resisted these moves so far, they are reasonable requests in our estimation.

There will likely be a discussion about how to respond effectively to recent Republican

charges that the pace of judicial nominations is too slow. The Republicans have continued to hold-up the appropriations bills. As of Friday, it was their intention to launch a new campaign this week, charging the Democrats with hindering the war effort by not confirming judges who are needed to approve wire taps and search warrants. This claim is deeply flawed, because the Committee has been especially quick to move along district court judges and the White House has not nominated people to fill more than half of the current vacancies.

Under separate cover, I will provide a table that evaluates the current Court of Appeals nominees who are pending, as well as a few noteworthy district court nominees. N.B.: These are my designations, and they are preliminary. The groups may feel somewhat differently.

MEMORANDUM

To: [Member of Congress]

Date: November 7, 2001

Re: Meeting with Civil Rights Leaders Yesterday to Discuss Judges

Due to the floor activity last night, you missed a meeting with [Member of Congress] and representatives of various civil rights groups. This was intended to follow-up a meeting in [Member of Congress's] office in mid-October, when the groups expressed serious concern with the quick hearing for Charles Pickering and the pace of judicial nominations generally.

Yesterday's meeting accomplished two objectives. First, the groups advocated for some procedural ground rules. These include: (1) only one hearing per month (2) no more than three judges per hearing; (3) giving Committee Democrats and the public more advance notice of scheduled nominees; (4) no recess hearings; and (5) a commitment that nominees voted down in Committee will not get a floor vote. Earlier yesterday, [Member of Congress's] staff committed to the third item in principle.

Second, yesterday's meeting focused on identifying the most controversial and/or vulnerable judicial nominees, and a strategy for targeting them. The groups singled out three—Jeffrey Sutton (6th Circuit); Priscilla Owen (5th Circuit); and Caroline Kuhl (9th Circuit)—as a potential nominee for a contentious hearing early next year, with a eye to voting him or her down in Committee. They also identified Miguel Estrada (D.C. Circuit) as especially dangerous, because he has a minimal paper trail, he is Latino and the White House seems to be grooming him for a Supreme Court appointment. They want to hold Estrada off as long as possible.

Attached is a table that I compiled, evaluating the 19 Court of Appeals nominees and a few of the controversial district court nominees.

Based on input from the groups, I would place the appellate nominees in the categories below.

Asterisks indicate that a [Member of Congress] has placed a hold on the nominee.

GOOD

Clifton (9th Cir.)*
Melloy (8th Cir.)
O'Brien (10th Cir.)
Howard (1st Cir.)
B. Smith (3rd Cir.)

BAD

Shedd (4th Cir.)
Roberts (D.C. Cir.)

L. Smith (8th Cir.)
Pickennig (5th Cir.)
Tymkovich (10th Cir.)
Gibbons (6th Cir.)
Steel (11th Cir.)

UGLY

Boyle (4th Cir.)*
Owen (5th Cir.)
Sutton (6th Cir.)*
Cook (6th Cir.)*
McConnell (10th Cir.)
Estrada (D.C. Cir.)
Kuhl (9th Cir.)*

MEMORANDUM

To: [Member of Congress]

Subject: Judges and the Latino Community

Date: February 28, 2002

Ralph Neas called to let us know that he had lunch with Andy Stern of SEU. Andy wants to be helpful as we move forward on judges, and he has great contacts with Latino media outlets—Univision and others. Ralph told Andy that you are anxious to develop a strategy for the Supreme Court and a strategy for dealing with conservative Latino Circuit Court nominees that are hostile to constitutional and civil rights. Ralph and Andy discussed the possibility of a relatively small meeting to discuss media strategy, and Andy believes there are several Latino media leaders who share our concerns and would like to meet with you. Ralph proposes that you meet with key Latino media leaders, Raul, Antonia, Wade, and Ralph, and I think this is a very good idea.

Would you like to have such a meeting to discuss media strategy and the Latino community? If so, Ralph and Andy will take the lead in getting everyone to DC.

Decision:

Yes, I want to meet with them _____
No, I don't want to meet _____

MEMORANDUM

To: [Member of Congress]

Date: June 3, 2002

Re: Meeting with Civil Rights Leaders to Discuss Judicial Nominations Strategy

[Member of Congress] has invited invited you and [Member of Congress] to attend a meeting with civil rights leaders to discuss their priorities as the Judiciary Committee considers judicial nominees in the coming months. For example, they believe that the Committee's current pace for nominations hearings (every two weeks) is too quick; and they need more time to consider the record of Judge Dennis Shedd, a controversial 4th Circuit nominee whom [Member of Congress] is backing.

This meeting is intended to follow-up your meetings in [Member of Congress's] office last fall. The guest list will be the same: Kate Michelman (NARAL), Nan Aron (Alliance for Justice), Wade Henderson (Leadership Conference on Civil Rights), Ralph Neas (People For the American Way), Nancy Zirkin (American Association of University Women), Marcia Greenberger (National Women's Law Center), and Judy Lichtman (National Partnership). The meeting has been tentatively scheduled for late Wednesday morning.

Assuming your schedule permits, do you want to accept [Member of Congress's] invitation and attend the meeting?