

Miguel Estrada is based on his ethnicity.

We all know that the White House could have cooperated with the Senate by producing Mr. Estrada's work papers. This would have enabled the Senate to have voted on the Estrada nomination months ago. The request for his work papers was sent last May 15 and has been outstanding for a year. Rather than respond as every other administration has over the last 20 years and provide access to those papers, this White House has stonewalled. Rather than follow the policy of openness outlined by Attorney General Robert Jackson in the 1940s, this administration has stonewalled. And Republican Senators and other partisans could not wait to claim that the impasse created by the White House's change in policy and practice with respect to nominations was somehow attributable to Democrats being anti-Hispanic. The charge would be laughable if it were not so calculated to do political damage and to divide the Hispanic community. That is what Republican partisans hope is the result. That is wrong.

Unfortunately, in the case of Mr. Estrada, the administration has made no effort to work with us to resolve the impasse. Instead, there has been a series of votes on cloture petitions in which the opposition has grown and from time to time the support has waned. Recently, there have been press reports indicating that Mr. Estrada asked the White House months ago to withdraw his nomination. I understand his frustration. If this administration is not going to follow the practice of every other administration and share with the Senate the government work papers of the nominee—the very practice this administration followed with an EPA nominee in 2001—then I can understand him not wanting to be used as a political pawn by the administration to score partisan, political points. That the administration has not acceded to his reported request but has plowed ahead to force a succession of unsuccessful cloture votes and to foment division in our Hispanic community for partisan gain is another example of how far this administration is willing to go to politicize the process at the expense of its own nominees.

Judge Callahan enjoys the full support of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Not a single person or organization has submitted a letter of opposition or raised concerns about her. No controversy. No red flags. No basis for concern. No opposition. This explains why her nomination was voted out of the Judiciary Committee with a unanimous, bipartisan vote on an expedited basis.

During President Clinton's tenure, 10 of his more than 30 Latino nominees, including Judge Rangel, Enrique Moreno, and Christine Arguello to the circuit courts, were delayed or blocked from receiving hearings or votes by the Republican leadership.

Republicans delayed consideration of Judge Richard Paez for over 1,500 days, and 39 Republicans voted against him. The confirmations of Latina circuit nominees Rosemary Barkett and Sonia Sotomayor were also delayed by Republicans. Judge Barkett was targeted for delay and defeat by Republicans based on claims about her judicial philosophy, but those efforts were not successful. After significant delays and an unsuccessful Republican filibuster, 36 Republicans voted against the confirmation of Judge Barkett. Additionally, Judge Sotomayor, who had received the ABA's highest rating and had been appointed to district court by President George H.W. Bush, was targeted by Republicans for delay or defeat when she was nominated to the Second Circuit. She was eventually confirmed, although 29 Republicans voted against her.

The fact is that the Latino nominations that the Senate has received from this administration have been acted upon in an expeditious manner. They have overwhelmingly enjoyed bipartisan support. Under the Democratically-led Senate, we swiftly granted hearings for and eventually confirmed Judge Christina Armijo of New Mexico, Judge Phillip Martinez and Randy Crane of Texas, Judge Jose Martinez of Florida, U.S. Magistrate Judge Alia Ludlum, and Judge Jose Linares of New Jersey to the district courts. This year, we also confirmed Judge James Otero of California, and we would have held his confirmation hearing last year if his ABA peer rating had been delivered to us in time for the scheduling of our last hearing. As I have noted, we also have recently confirmed Judge Cecilia Altonaga and Judge Edward Prado with unanimous Democratic support.

Judge Callahan's nomination has been delayed on the Senate executive calendar unnecessarily in my view. I recall all too vividly when anonymous Republican holds delayed Senate action on the nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the Second Circuit for 7 months. It is time to act on this widely supported, uncontroversial Latina nominee. I urge the Senate leadership to bring her nomination up for a vote without delay.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO KATIE GROGAN

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today in the Senate to honor and pay tribute to Katie Grogan, a student at Notre Dame Academy in Park Hills, KY. Ms. Grogan was chosen as the Kentucky winner of the U.S. Institute of Peace's 16th Annual National Peace Essay Contest.

More than 1,250 students from American high schools throughout the United States and abroad submitted essays for this year's contest. Contestants were required to write an essay on

the justification of war. Ms. Grogan has shown a commitment to excellence deserving of such a distinguished honor. Ms. Grogan's essay is a shining example of what you can achieve if you work hard and pursue your goals. Her example should be followed by students across Kentucky.

I am proud of this young woman's dedication toward peace and her goals for educational excellence. The citizens from Lakeside, KY, are fortunate to call Katie Grogan one of their own. I also congratulate her teachers, along with her peers, administrators, and family for their support and sacrifices they have made to help her meet this achievement and make her dreams a reality. I wish her the best of luck in the national competition.●

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHELBYVILLE-SHELBY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to highlight for my colleagues an important event occurring in State of Indiana the 100th anniversary of the Shelbyville-Shelby County Public Library.

The growth success of the library through the years is a testament to the dedication of the staff and to the Shelbyville-Shelby County community. In 1822, the Shelbyville-Shelby County Public Library was founded with a modest collection of a few hundred volumes. In the years and decades that followed, the collection grew to more than one hundred thousand volumes, and the facility was expanded to meet the demands of the City and County. Today, residents enjoy a state of the art institution.

I join, with my colleagues in the Senate and with State and local officials in Indiana, to congratulate everyone who has been a part of the growth of this library throughout the years and who has gathered to celebrate this impressive milestone.●

UM/VA GENERAL CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTER

• Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, the Veterans Health Administration has long-standing relationships with medical schools around the country, a partnership that continually proves beneficial for all who are involved. I am proud to highlight that the Miami VA Medical Center and the University of Miami have taken this collaboration to the next level, with the May 2, 2003, opening of a National Institutes of Health-funded UM/VA General Clinical Research Center at the Miami VAMC.

At the September 12, 2002, meeting of the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for our Nation's Veterans, Dr. John G. Clarkson, Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean of the University of Miami, testified about his experience in partnering

with VA. He expressed how valuable the academic affiliation has been in improving care for veterans while contributing greatly to the educational and research capabilities of the schools. The affiliation—in his view—has also fostered cost-effective and efficient sharing of clinical and research resources, resulting in significant health care reforms.

Dr. Clarkson also pointed out that, were it not for its 50-year old collaboration with the Miami VAMC, the University of Miami Medical School never would have gotten off the ground, nor would it have accomplished all it has over the years.

The new General Clinical Research Center will be only the third such facility housed at a VA Medical Center, and it will allow basic research results to be applied to the development of potentially lifesaving drugs, devices, and therapies that could benefit not only veterans, but the entire Nation.

I would like to congratulate and thank the hardworking staffs of both the Miami VA Medical Center and the University of Miami Medical School. Without their dedication, their 50-year collaboration would never have been so successful and this latest development, a brand-new Clinical Research Center, would not have been possible.●

SANDY JERSTAD RETIRES FROM AUGUSTANA COLLEGE

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I recognize Sandy Jerstad for her years of accomplishment as softball coach for the Augustana College Vikings in Sioux Falls, SD. Earlier this week, Sandy marked the end of an era, not only for that institution, but for an entire community when she announced her retirement from a 27 year coaching career.

When I think of Sandy, I think of all that she has accomplished and how her perseverance has carried her through both her career and her personal life. That perseverance has been exhibited and intertwined between her personal and professional life.

This perseverance began when she joined the Augustana staff in 1977 as head softball coach, tennis coach, and women's administrator. She started a softball program from scratch. Her coaching career then mirrored the implementation of Title IX, a law whose purpose she continually advocates and represents on a daily basis. Sandy was Augustana's first and, until now, only softball coach. The program, and its successes, was created with the foundation she built. Augustana's softball triumphs are evident in the statistics that were earned on the field and continue through the former players, who are now women that are leaders in communities all over the country.

During those early years Sandy was trying to build a program that equaled that of any men's sport with regards to budgets, equipment, scholarships, and opportunity for each girl that entered

Augustana and wanted to participate in collegiate athletics. Her perseverance paid off and is evidenced in her teams' success and the increased opportunity for women athletes.

This season Sandy coached her 1,000th career win, only the second NCAA softball coach to achieve this. Following this win, sportswriter Eric Bursch of the Argus Leader described it well, noting that legendary University of North Carolina Men's Basketball Coach Dean Smith only had 879 wins and has the most wins of any coach in NCAA Men's Basketball history. This is an amazing feat for any coach, and it came with not only athletic success but with personal success off the field. She will end her coaching career with a 1,011-359-2 record. Her 1991 team won the NCAA Division II National Championship, as well as a second place finish in 1993. She coached for 25 straight winning seasons. The Vikings have appeared in 16 regional tournaments under the direction of Sandy. For her contributions to the sport of softball, Sandy was inducted into the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Hall of Fame in December 2000. In 1998 she was the South Dakota Sportswriters Association coach of the year.

Even with all of her career accomplishments her resolve has been quite evident in her personal life as well. It was exhibited again when her husband, Mark, was diagnosed with cancer. Mark fought bravely, but sadly, he succumbed to the disease. Sandy stood strongly by his side and helped him through his treatment. From her loss she has worked to keep Mark's memory and his work alive not only by speaking of her family's experience, but also by donating her time and resources to causes on Mark's behalf.

She has been an inspiration to her players throughout her tenure and that legacy will continue to live on in each player and especially in those who have chosen to follow in Sandy's coaching footsteps. The legacy will live on with lessons that were learned from their time at Augustana.

It is an honor for me to share Sandy's accomplishments with my colleagues and to publicly commend her for all she's done for softball, women's sports, Augustana, and the Sioux Falls Community, and I wish her all the best on her future challenges and opportunities.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 192. An act to amend the Microenterprise for Self-Reliance Act of 2000 and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to increase assistance for the poorest people in developing countries under microenterprise assistance programs under those Acts.

H.R. 255. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to grant an easement to facilitate access to the Lewis and Clark Interpretative Center in Nebraska City, Nebraska.

H.R. 856. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to revise a repayment contract with the Tom Green County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1, San Angelo project, Texas, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1000. An act to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional protections to participants and beneficiaries in individual account plans from excessive investment in employer securities and to promote the provision of retirement investment advice to workers managing their retirement income assets.

H.R. 1012. An act to establish the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1577. An act to designate the visitors' center in Organ Pipe National Monument in Arizona as the "Kris Eggle Memorial Visitors' Center", and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills without amendment:

S. 243. An act concerning participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization.

S. 870. An act to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to extend the availability of funds to carry out the fruit and vegetable pilot program.

At 4:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1527. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the National Transportation Safety Board for fiscal years 2003 through 2006, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 192. An act to amend the Microenterprise for Self-Reliance Act of 2000 and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to increase assistance for the poorest people in developing countries under microenterprise assistance programs under those Acts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 856. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to revise a repayment contract with the Tom Green County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1, San Angelo project, Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.