

Senate Republicans continue fight for confirmation of court nominee

State Republican Committee Chairman Kevin Mannix said last week that Sen. Ron Wyden and whoever is the 2004 Democrat presidential nominee will have to answer to Oregon voters as to why they applied a double standard to Miguel Estrada.

Estrada is a Honduran immigrant who would be the first Hispanic to serve on the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

“By requiring Estrada to answer questions other nominees have not been forced to answer, Sen. Wyden and his fellow Democrats have applied a double standard to this very qualified candidate.

“Moreover, it is outrageous that they have manipulated Senate procedure to flout the Constitution,” Mannix said.

“I am also amazed that Democrats would ask questions that require the nominee to violate the Code of Judicial Conduct, should he reply,” added Mannix, a practicing attorney.

More than 70 newspaper editorials across the country have condemned the tactics of the Democrats leadership and challenged them to abandon the “anything-goes” strategy on this confirmation vote.

For nearly a month, the majority of Democrats in the Senate have been engaged in the first partisan effort in U.S. history to defeat a nominee by filibuster.

Last week, Wyden and Democrat presidential candidates in the Senate -- John Edwards, John Kerry, and Joe Lieberman -- voted against allowing an up-or-down vote before the full

Senate.

Estrada's nomination would pass with more than the required support if Democrats would allow an up-or-down vote.

Several Democrats broke ranks with their party leaders and supported a confirmation vote.

“Sen. Wyden and many of his fellow Senate Democrats running for president could not put partisanship aside to uphold the spirit of the Constitution,” Mannix said. “Shame on them and their obstructionist leaders for using procedural maneuvers to thwart American democracy.”

Senate Republicans have vowed to continue this fight until Estrada is successfully confirmed to serve on the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.



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