

OPINION

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A Bad Deal on Judges

BY REV. JESSE L. JACKSON SR.

The deal cut by 14 senators to head off the "nuclear option" in the fight over Bush's judicial nominations has been hailed as if it brought peace in our time. John McCain is celebrated as the new leader of the Senate. Joe Lieberman says getting deals like this done is why he came to the Senate. Editorialists hail the

up because they are zealots, activists inclined to use their position on the bench to enforce their very right-wing social and economic views. Owen has been in the pocket of corporations and against consumers and workers in her tenure on the Texas bench. Brown is an advocate for reversing the entire jurisprudence of the civil rights era

These are judges who want to outlaw affirmative action, ban abortion, roll back worker rights, and limit the ability of Congress to regulate corporations.



triumph of the center, and paint it as a loss for the "extremes," particularly for the fundamentalist right.

Say what? Take a close look at this deal. It preserved the right of the Democratic minority to filibuster. But the filibuster is a tool of the embattled, not a centerpiece of progress. Preserving the filibuster just means that the minority can live to fight again. That's fine, but it isn't much.

In exchange, Democrats agreed to go forward without filibuster with three of the worst Bush nominees — Priscilla R. Owen, Janice Rogers Brown and William H. Pryor Jr. And they agreed not to use the filibuster except in "extraordinary" circumstances — which presumably means if Bush nominates a true Neanderthal to the Supreme Court. Republicans agreed not to vote for the nuclear option, unless Democrats filibuster a judicial nominee. There's also language urging Bush to consult with Democratic and Republican senators before submitting his nominees, which is akin to asking him to go to the United Nations before invading Iraq. It's unlikely to happen — and if it does, it won't make any difference.

The whole point of using the filibuster wasn't to prove its worth but to stop truly reactionary activist judges from being confirmed to the bench. This isn't about conservative judges or establishment judges. Two hundred eight of 218 Bush nominees have been confirmed. To the extent he named any moderate conservatives, they're already on the bench.

No, these nominees were held

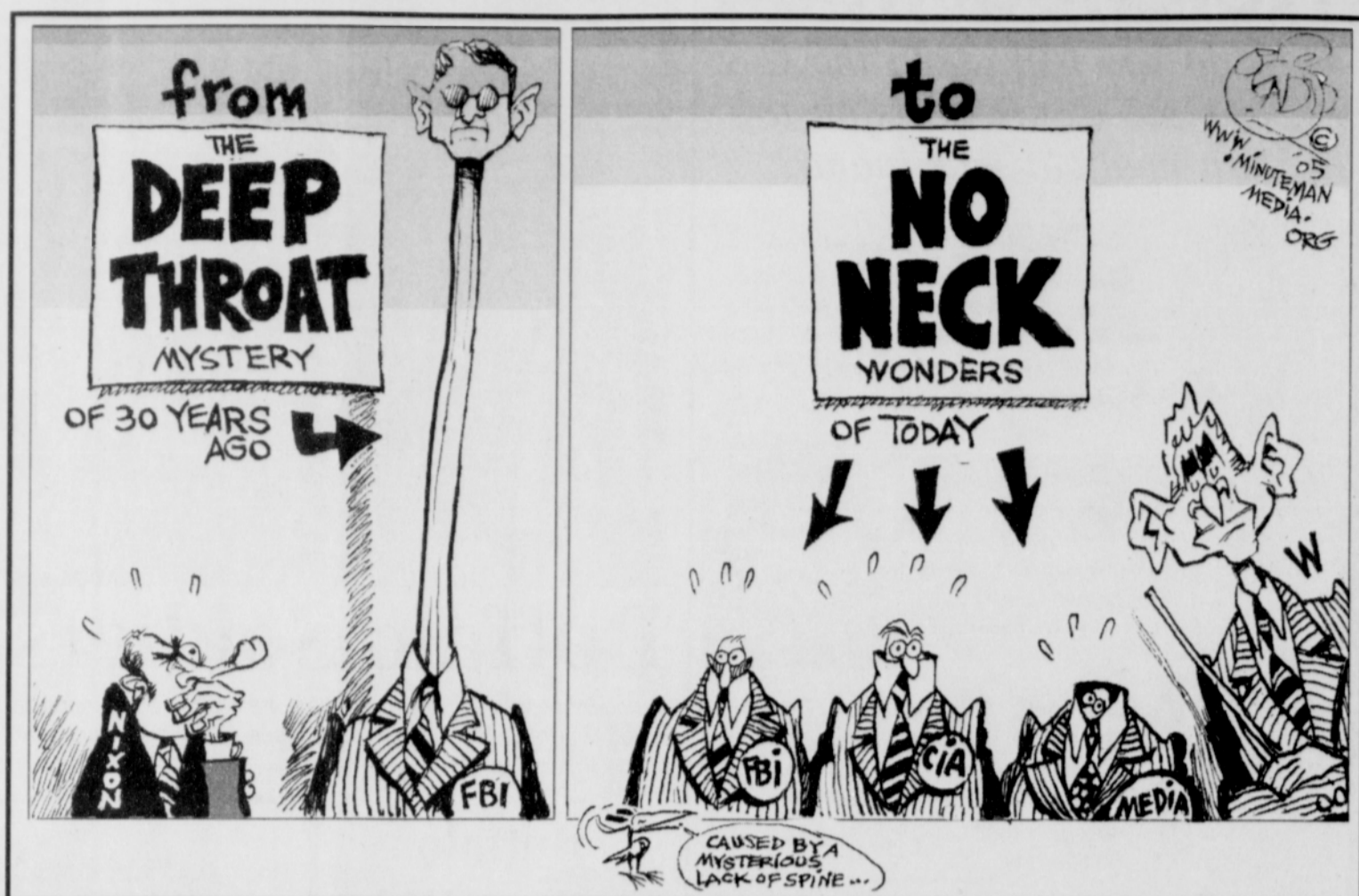
and the New Deal. She describes the New Deal as the "triumph of our Socialist revolution." Pryor is famous for reviving states' rights doctrines to limit congressional protection of civil rights, and remove constitutional protection of gay rights or women's right to reproductive freedom.

These are judges who want to outlaw affirmative action, ban abortion, roll back worker rights, and limit the ability of Congress to regulate corporations. They want to do this not as legislators, elected by the people to make such decisions, but as lifetime appointees to the federal judiciary where they are supposed to apply the laws, not make them.

In the right-wing Federalist Society that vets the president's choices, some champion the "Constitution in Exile," the notion that we should go back to the days when conservative judges enforced laissez faire doctrines as if they were part of the constitutional text.

The so-called "moderate" deal on the filibuster let three truly reactionary nominees be confirmed for a lifetime appointment to the federal appeals courts. This isn't about cutting deals that split the difference, or preserving the Senate's traditions. It is about whether the president will be allowed to pack the courts with right-wing activist judges for lifetime appointments.

The triumphant "moderates" just let three of the most extreme through. And that is a truly bad deal.



Thanks Dads Who Have Quit Smoking

Lighting up sends wrong message

BY LOLENZO T. POE JR.

Father's Day is a day of commemoration and celebration of fathers. It's our chance to say thank you. Thank you for taking time out of your busy day to teach us how to ride a bike; thank you for missing the big football game on TV to take us to soccer practice; and thank you for encouraging us to believe we were capable of achieving any goal we put our minds to.

Father's Day is our chance to say thank you to all those fathers who were there when their kids needed them, especially when they needed them to quit smoking. Thank you for knowing the dangers and taking the steps to protect the ones you love. I just hope more fathers can learn from this example.

Although the side effects of sec-



ondhand smoke on adults are detrimental, they're compounded for babies and children because their bodies are still developing. Smaller airways induce rapid breathing rates which in turn allow more toxins in the body per pound of weight than adults. The little fibers, called Cilia, which clean the respiratory tract can't function properly. And the immune system is weakened allowing infections to last longer.

As a result of secondhand smoke exposure, children have an increased chance of contracting asthma, bronchitis and pneumonia. Each year, secondhand smoke is associated with an estimated 8,000 to 26,000 new asthma cases in children across the nation. Of those, more than 1,900 are African-American children in the Portland area.

Annually an estimated 150,000 to 300,000 new cases of bronchitis and pneumonia in children under 18 months of age are associated with secondhand smoke exposure in the United States. Approximately 7,500 to 15,000 of which require hospitalization. Secondhand smoke can also trigger Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. African-American babies are two to three times more likely to die from SIDS than Caucasian babies.

It's alarming to see how little people know and care about the effects of secondhand smoke, especially when it comes to babies and children. In Oregon, close to 167,000 children are exposed to secondhand smoke in the home each year. They are exposed to 43 cancer-causing agents and other toxins, including formaldehyde, used in foam insulation; cyanide, used for manufacture of plastics; carbon monoxide, a byproduct of gasoline engines; and arsenic, used as a pesticide. By the

time a child, who has lived with smokers, reaches age five they will have inhaled the equivalent of 102 packs of cigarettes.

This says nothing of the fact that children look up to their fathers and smoking in front of them sends the wrong message. It says, despite the known dangers, despite the attempts to conceal it and despite condemning it, that smoking is OK because I, the father, do it. This is not the message we should send our kids.

So again, on this Father's Day, thank you to the fathers who have quit smoking for their kids. For those fathers that haven't kicked the habit yet, please do, your kids will thank you for it later.

Quitting is not easy. Get free help from Oregon's Tobacco Quit Line at 1-877-270-7867.

Lorenzo T. Poe Jr. is director of the Multnomah County Department of School and Community Partnerships.

Bush Beholden to Blair and Africa

BY JUDGE GREG MATHIS

When President Bush rallied the U.N. and its member nations for support for his war on terror, his feeble stance was strengthened by the backing of British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Blair stood by Bush, offering both financial and human capital in the crusade. Surely Blair thought he



would reap the benefits of his controversial support; after all, Bush would be indebted to him. Blair couldn't have been more wrong.

As part of his activities as chair of G8, Blair personally appealed to

Bush and other world leaders to secure pledges to double aid to Africa over the next 10 years. G8, or Group 8, is a member organization of the world's richest nations: Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States.

The group will meet this July in Scotland to develop an agenda to, among other things, put an end to poverty on the African continent. Apparently, President Bush is not familiar with the particulars of political payback — not only did he refuse to reconsider his earlier refusals to double aid to Africa, he also stood before the media and the world and pledged an embarrassingly low dollar amount to support this cause: \$674 million in emergency aid.

If this sounds like a generous amount, don't be fooled. Currently, the U.S. contributes 0.16-percent of its national income to aid to poor nations. This, despite agreeing three years ago to increase aid to 0.7-percent by 2015 or about \$80 billion. That's about the same amount the Senate recently allocated for a supplemental budget for military spending. And it's nowhere near last year's over \$100 billion corporate tax cut.

When asked why the U.S. can't commit more funds as other countries have, Bush remarked that it "doesn't fit into our budgetary process." America's budget has room for a war with no real enemy and no exit plan in sight, but none to help prevent malaria deaths in thousands of children, provide education for girls and develop youth-oriented programs in various parts of Africa?

Judge Greg Mathis is chairman of the Rainbow PUSH-Excel Board and a national board member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Presented by The Good in the Neighborhood Planning Committee and the NEA National Center of Neighborhoods, Inc.

Washington Mutual 2005 Good in the Neighborhood Multicultural Music & Food Festival

KING SCHOOL PARK
4800 BLOCK OF NE 6TH (SOUTH OF NE ALBERTA ST)

Thursday, June 23
6:00 - 10:00 pm
Open House Kickoff Party
McManis
Kennedy School
5739 NE 32nd Ave.

Saturday, June 25
11:00 am
The Good in the Neighborhood Parade
Marion Luther King Jr. Blvd.

www.goodinthenighborhood.org 503-282-1298

Sponsors: SOVIET, adidas, PGE, NEW SEASONS MARKET, MARQUIS, USbank, Safeco Insurance, The Oregonian, TRIMET, PACIFIC POWER, Caruso Produce, Neil Kelly, Legacy Enhanced Theatrical & Health Center, Portland General Electric, A Learning Difference You Can Trust.

Saturday, June 25 12:00 - 9:30 pm & Sunday, June 26 12:00 - 7:45 pm
King School Park 4800 Block of NE 6th (South of NE Alberta St.)
Featuring: The Patrick Lamb Band - The Linda Hornbuckle Band - Ocean 503 - The Light Cool Breeze N'Touch - Norman Sylvester Band - Kant B Caught - Chatta Addy & Susuma - and more

KidSpace - Ethnic Marketplace - Information Village - Ethnic Food - Beer and Wine Garden
Bring Your Lawn Chairs & Blankets & Enjoy the Food, Dance & Music
Avoid Parking Hassles - Plan your trip @ Trimet.org

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Washington and Oregon working together for the economy, jobs, and quality communities.

Come share and help build a better tomorrow

I-5 Delta Park to Lombard Widening Project Community enhancement meeting

Monday, June 20, 2005 - 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Salvation Army Moore Street Community Center
5325 N. Williams Avenue, Portland, Oregon

What are community enhancements?

The I-5 Partnership Strategic Plan recommended the creation of a community enhancement fund to benefit the communities being impacted by transportation projects on I-5.

This fund has not yet been created, but participating citizens involved in the I-5: Delta Park to Lombard have generated ideas including better sidewalks and bicycle facilities, a canoe launch, more trees in neighborhoods, and an air quality project.

ODOT would like to invite the community to discuss the possibility of the fund and the types of community projects to be considered. We need your input!

For more info about this project please contact
Kate Deane, Project Manager at the Oregon Department of Transportation
Call (503) 731-8245 or
email: kate.h.deane@odot.state.or.us

Please visit the project website at
http://egov.oregon.gov/odot/hwy/region1/i-5deltapark/