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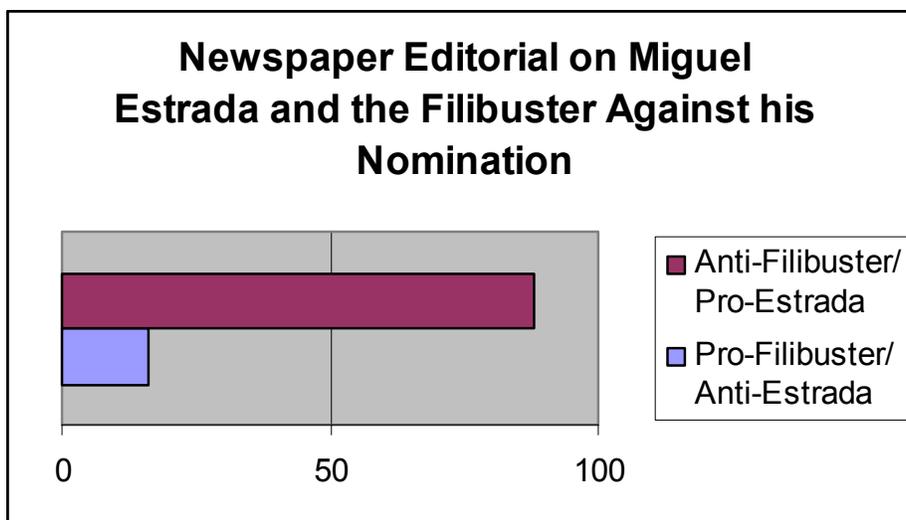
Miguel Estrada: *What the Nation's Editorial Pages Are Saying*

March 6, 2003

Senate Democrats continue to lead a filibuster against the nomination of Miguel Estrada to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. The obstructionist maneuver is now in its fourth week, with no discernable end in sight. A handful of Senators, led by Charles Schumer (D-NY), Ted Kennedy (D-MA), Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Tom Daschle (D-SD), parroting the talking points of Washington's most liberal special interest groups, continue to hold up the important work of the U.S. Senate as they paint Mr. Estrada as a "right-wing ideologue," while at the same time claiming they "do not know enough about him." (*Quite the contradiction.*) As a result, all 100 Senators are being denied their constitutional responsibility of voting yea-or-nay on Estrada's nomination.

While the Senate is playing politics as usual, it is clear the American people are fed up with the obstructionism. And since Mr. Estrada's nomination was voted out of committee on January 30, the nation's editorial pages (*not traditionally bastions of "right-wing ideologue" thought*) have weighed in on the battle.

While there have been numerous articles, opinion editorials and letters-to-the-editor written on this subject, the following focuses on the views expressed by the nation's newspaper editorial pages.



Since Miguel Estrada's nomination was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee on January 30, 2003, we were able to find 104 editorials on this subject. 88 were Anti-Filibuster/Pro-Estrada while 16 were Pro-Filibuster/Anti-Estrada.

Excerpts:

ANTI-FILIBUSTER & PRO-ESTRADA

<p>“The cloture strategy will force Democrats to go on the record denying Mr. Estrada a vote, as they should have to do again and again through November 2004.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--Wall Street Journal</i> Editorial: “The Estrada Precedent” March 6, 2003</p>	<p>“Memo to U.S. Senate Democrats: Drop the political hack job on the Miguel Estrada nomination.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, FL)</i> Editorial: “Stop Stalling on Nominations” March 6, 2003</p>
<p>“What has happened to Estrada and now Cook and Roberts makes clear the minority intends to stop anyone who doesn't agree with them from becoming either a judge at the appellate level or on the U.S. Supreme Court - using Senate rules to block the majority will.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The Daily Oklahoman</i> Editorial: “More Judicial Delays” March 6, 2003</p>	<p>“Estrada is more than qualified. It is to the lasting shame of Senate Democrats that they are playing ethnic political games with American justice by effectively denying Estrada's confirmation.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--El Paso Times</i> Editorial: “Ugly Politics” March 5, 2003</p>
<p>“The arguments against Estrada's confirmation range from unpersuasive to offensive. It's long overdue to stop the delay tactics and vote.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--Milwaukee Journal Sentinel</i> Editorial: “Time for Senate to stop delaying vote on Estrada” March 5, 2003</p>	<p>“They [Democrats] are, in effect, raising the bar for confirmation to 60 votes, up from a simple majority, thus upending the constitutional concept of ‘advice and consent’ as long understood. . . .</p> <p>“This battle isn’t about memos; it’s about whether the Dems can change the rules and manipulate the process to stop a well-qualified Bush nominee on strictly partisan grounds.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--New York Post</i> Editorial: “Estrada and the Pledge” March 4, 2003</p>
<p>“While debating whether Miguel Estrada is Spanish for Horatio Alger or for Uncle Tom, Democrats complain about his refusal to answer certain questions put to him by the Senate Judiciary Committee. He is, they say, a stealth nominee who concealed his alleged extremism. This is a revisionist's memory of Mr. Estrada's hearing last September.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The Washington Post</i> Editorial: “Layers of Nonsense” March 3, 2003</p>	<p>“They're pushing a highly qualified member of the most politically important minority group for a position considered second only to the U.S. Supreme Court in power and scope. In so doing, they might be also positioning Estrada to take that next step and become the first Hispanic Supreme Court justice.</p> <p>“This gives Democrats the heebie-jeebies.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--Investor's Business Daily</i> Editorial: “Como Se Dice ‘Spine’?” March 3, 2003</p>

<p>“What is happening to Estrada now is unconstitutional.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>The Spectrum</i> (Utah) Editorial: “Filibuster aims to block judge” March 3, 2003</p>	<p>“This is nothing more than ideological posturing and partisan bluster, designed to appease the radical, left-wing advocacy groups who give Democrats their marching orders these days. The tactics are shameful, and cannot be justified by any fundamental principle, since any authority to affirm or deny presidential appointments resides in the full Senate, rather than a handful of obstructionists on a single committee.</p> <p>“For now, sadly, highly qualified judicial nominees are forced to endure an Inquisition-like onslaught from ideologues whose views are completely out of step with many of their constituents and far from the mainstream of American political tradition.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>Las Vegas Review-Journal</i> Editorial: “Imperial Senate” March 2, 2003</p>
<p>“Sen. Ted Kennedy's vengeful filibuster of Bush administration court nominee Miguel Estrada is a disgrace to the Senate's judicial process and an affront to the American people.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>Lowell Sun</i> Editorial: “Misguided Ted” March 1, 2003</p>	<p>“The U.S. Constitution gives the Senate ‘advice and consent’ in the appointment of federal judges. But Democrats are being unreasonable in their demands for documents that no president - not even a President Daschle - would release and in their unprecedented use of a filibuster to block a judicial confirmation vote.</p> <p>Senate Minority Leader Daschle and his colleagues are wrong to needlessly waste Senate time to prevent a routine floor vote on Miguel Estrada. Just vote and move on to more important matters.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>Rapid City Journal</i> Editorial: “Just Vote on Estrada” February 27, 2003</p>
<p>“It is past time for the Democrats to end their narrow-minded filibuster and allow a full Senate vote to proceed on Estrada.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>Contra Costa Times</i> Editorial: “Allow Estrada Vote” February 28, 2003</p>	<p>“Democrats have every right to oppose Estrada, but the wrong way to do that is to block a vote of the Senate or threaten a filibuster.</p> <p>“The right way is to bring the nomination to the floor, debate it fully and vote to confirm or reject.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>San Antonio Express-News</i> OUR TURN: “Let Senate determine</p>

	Estrada's nominations..." February 28, 2003
<p>“There is no good reason to oppose Miguel Estrada's appeals court nomination.</p> <p>“Senate Democrats should be ashamed.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>Indianapolis Star</i> Editorial: “Nominee caught in political crossfire” February 27, 2003</p>	<p>“On June 18, 1998, Senator Patrick Leahy rose in righteous indignation, disappointed in the Republicans for delaying votes ‘on the Latino judicial nominees who have languished in the Senate for far too long.’ He added:</p> <p>“‘I have stated over and over again on this floor that I would refuse to put an anonymous hold on any judge; that I would object and fight against any filibuster on a judge, whether it is somebody I opposed or supported.’ ...</p> <p>“Senator Leahy's about-face should surprise. Somehow it does not.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>Richmond Times-Dispatch</i> Editorial: “About Face” February 27, 2003</p>
<p>“The Senate is obligated morally to put his [Estrada] nomination up for a vote. If only the hypocrites would stand aside.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>Amarillo Globe-News</i> Editorial: “Democrats’ hypocrisy holds court in Senate” February 27, 2003</p>	<p>“Mr. Schumer said the other day that ‘If Mr. Estrada were a mainstream conservative, I would vote for him.’ If that bore even a casual relationship to the truth, the Senator wouldn’t be so clearly avoiding the testimony of fellow Democrats who will tell him that is precisely what Mr. Estrada is.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>Wall Street Journal</i> Editorial: “Democrats for Estrada” February 26, 2003</p>
<p>“It’s [filibuster] a shameless display of partisanship that they [Democrats] should end immediately. Their case against Miguel Estrada is strikingly unconvincing. ...</p> <p>“If Senate Democrats think they can't in good conscience vote for Estrada, they should vote against him. But they should vote.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>Chicago Tribune</i> Editorial: “The Democrats’ judicial stall” February 26, 2003</p>	<p>“Under the Senate's operating rules, they [Democrats] have the opportunity to block a vote on giving the body's "advice and consent" to this or any other nominee. But senators should have substantive reasons, not merely political ones, for opposing any nominee, and they should allow a full Senate vote rather than obstruct the confirmation process.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>The Victoria Advocate (Victoria, Texas)</i> Editorial: “Take politics out of confirmations” February 26, 2003</p>
<p>“If the Senate's Democrats find Estrada too conservative for their taste, if they feel the</p>	<p>“It is quite improper for nominees to commit or appear to commit themselves on</p>

<p>judicial nominee is unworthy of confirmation, they simply should vote against him. But they should not deny him a vote by the entire Senate. Miguel Estrada deserves his day.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--San Diego Union-Tribune</i> Editorial: “Court Nominee Deserve Up-or-Down Vote” February 25, 2003</p>	<p>cases that could come before them. ...</p> <p>“Not knowing what sort of judge someone will be is frustrating. But that is the price of judicial independence. While it would be nice to know how nominees think and what they believe and feel, the price of asking is far too high. The question, rather, is whether a nominee will follow the law. Estrada has said that he will. Those who don't believe him are duty-bound to vote against him. But they should not oblige nominees to break the silence that independence requires.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The Washington Post</i> Benjamin Wittes, Editorial Page Staff February 25, 2003</p>
<p>“Senate Democrats should bring any arguments they have against Estrada to the Senate floor and permit an up-or-down vote.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--Waco Tribune-Herald</i> Editorial: “Nominee Block” February 25, 2003</p>	<p>“If Democrats want judges who mirror their ideology, their remedy is to retake the White House in 2004 – and along with it, the power to nominate judges. It is not to fume and filibuster until then, without regard to how many benches sit idle.</p> <p>“Give Mr. Estrada his vote. Then do the same for Mr. Bush’s other nominees. That is how the process works. And it does work, if only the out-of-power party will let it.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The Wichita Eagle</i> OUR VIEW: “Democrats Holding More Than Estrada Hostage” February 25, 2003</p>
<p>“The Dems are making an unwarranted stand, and an unseemly fuss, over the nomination of Miguel Estrada to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. ...</p> <p>“If they find the Republican so repugnant, let 'em vote against him; at least they'll be putting their ideals -- or their party colors -- on display. But this is no Mr. Smith against some diabolical establishment; it's a bunch of sore losers making themselves even more so.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The Santa Fe New Mexican</i> Editorial: “Bingaman should lead Dems’ filibuster retreat” February 24, 2003</p>	<p>“Estrada's work record would appear to qualify him if partisanship were not so intense. ...</p> <p>“They are refusing to let his nomination come to a vote in the Senate.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--Elkhart Truth (Indiana)</i> Editorial: “Battling over judges” February 24, 2003</p>

<p>“What Democrats fear is ‘another Scalia,’ i.e. a repaving of the road that ushered Antonin Scalia, a strict constructionist, to the Supreme Court. This is hardly a sufficient reason to deny a man an up-or-down vote in the Senate.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>The Winchester Star</i> (Winchester, VA) Editorial: “Stop the Stalling; Estrada Nomination Merits a Vote” February 24, 2003</p>	<p>“During Judiciary Committee hearings in September, Estrada said: ‘Although we all have views on a number of subjects from A to Z, the first duty of a judge is to put all that aside.’</p> <p>“That's good advice for a judge, and it's good advice for senators sitting in judgment of a nominee. Put aside pure partisan considerations; weigh Estrada's qualifications, character and intellect; end the filibuster and put this nomination to a vote.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>Albuquerque Journal</i> Editorial: “End Filibuster, Put Court Nominee to Vote” February 23, 2003</p>
<p>“The Democrats are demanding extraconstitutional standards for Estrada. They're wrong. It exceeds their constitutional role of advice and consent regarding the president's nominees.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>The Tampa Tribune</i> Editorial: “Miguel Estrada For Appeals Court” February 23, 2003</p>	<p>“Since his nomination was announced in May, Estrada has been spun and bashed more than a piata. That's curious, because when Estrada worked in the Clinton administration, he was described as a great guy and an able lawyer.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>Austin American Statesman</i> Arnold Garcia, Jr., Editorial Page Editor February 22, 2003</p>
<p>“Many Democrats have never gotten over losing the 2000 election. They were shocked when they lost again last November. Their bitterness is showing in many ways these days, including through efforts to shut down the process of appointing federal judges.</p> <p>“Meanwhile, the courts are suffering without a full complement of judges. When partisan politics harms the nation's court system, it's time for the filibustering senators to stand down.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>Lancaster New Era</i> (Lancaster, Pa.) Editorial: “Dems handle judicial nomination process unfairly” February 21, 2003</p>	<p>“Enough is enough. We don't expect the partisan brawl over judicial appointments to ever end, but Estrada has clocked enough time as a punching bag for Democrats. Call the vote.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>Austin American Statesman</i> Editorial: “A stalled judicial nomination only thins citizen confidence” February 21, 2003</p>
<p>“The most liberal element of the Democratic party – which also happens to include its present leadership in both houses of Congress – is now considering a filibuster to block the</p>	<p>“Now Democrats have taken the unproductive battles to a new low in their refusal to allow a vote on the nomination of Miguel Estrada to the U.S. Court of Appeals</p>

<p>nomination of Miguel Estrada as a federal judge from moving forward to a full Senate vote. This is shameful.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>Daily News</i> (Bowling Green, KY) Editorial: “Judicial nominee American enough to serve on court” February 20, 2003</p>	<p>for the District of Columbia.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>Winston-Salem Journal</i> Editorial: “Choosing Judges” February 20, 2003</p>
<p>“The Senate has a Constitutional duty to vote on the president's judicial nominees. By all accounts, Estrada is a brilliant scholar, distinguished public servant and outstanding lawyer, rated by the American Bar Association as ‘highly qualified.’</p> <p>“Democrats are free to vote against him if they want, but vote they must. To do otherwise is an outrageous abuse of power.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>The Journal-Standard</i> (Freeport, IL) Editorial: “Senate Dems showing worst side of politics” February 20, 2003</p>	<p>“Memo to Hispanics from the Democratic Party: You work for us and don't you forget it!</p> <p>“Maybe that doesn't get the point across as sharply as it should. Maybe this would do the job better: Hey, amigo, you'd better know your place, and that place is beholden to Democrats.</p> <p>“If you doubt it, look at the treatment Democrats in the Senate are giving Miguel Estrada, George Bush's nominee to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>Lowell Sun</i> Editorial: “Democrats’ Treatment of Estrada Is a slap in the face for Hispanics” February 20, 2003</p>
<p>“Miguel Estrada is qualified for this seat on the court because of learning, experience, hard work and his great promise as a judge. And he would be just as qualified if his name were Kennedy, or Scalia.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette</i> Editorial: “The Borking of Miguel Estrada” February 19, 2003</p>	<p>“We argued for the tough approach [on the filibuster]: If Democrats want to play politics with Estrada, they'll get plenty back in return in the form of a nonstop work schedule...”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-- <i>The Daily Oklahoman</i> Editorial: “A Gamble in the Senate” February 19, 2003</p>
<p>“This year's Rehnquist report - perhaps unnoticed by <i>The</i> [New York] <i>Times</i>' editorial staff, and certainly not commented on - once again cited court vacancies as a problem. ...</p> <p>“Although <i>The Times</i> believes nominees deserve an up-or-down vote in the Senate after a Judiciary Committee hearing - or at least it did when Bill Clinton presided with a Republican Senate - it now supports the</p>	<p>“It is unfortunate that the fight is over a man who could be the first Hispanic on a federal appeals court; that Democrats, called the voice of ethnic minorities and the poor, stand in his way.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>Reno Gazette-Journal</i> Editorial: “Estrada fray begs forgiveness” February 19, 2003</p>

<p>Democrats' filibuster on Miguel Estrada's nomination to the D.C. Court of Appeals. ...</p> <p>“A vote on Estrada may not materialize because of the blockading few.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>The Richmond Times-Dispatch</i> Editorial: “Changin’ Times” February 19, 2003</p>	
<p>“The filibuster should end this week with the congressional recess.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>Bangor Daily News (Bangor, ME)</i> Editorial: “Voting on Estrada” February 19, 2003</p>	<p>“The arguments against Mr. Estrada’s confirmation range from the unpersuasive to the offensive.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>The Washington Post</i> Editorial: “Just Vote” February 18, 2003</p>
<p>“The Democrats' tactic employed last week of filibustering the nomination of Miguel A. Estrada to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit is an anything-goes strategy that ought to be abandoned.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>The Press Enterprise (Riverside, CA)</i> Editorial: “Advice and Filibuster” February 18, 2003</p>	<p>“There is a time for talking and a time for voting. The time is past for the U.S. Senate to talk about Miguel Estrada's nomination to the federal Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia circuit. It's time to vote.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>The Dallas Morning News</i> Editorial: “Rush to Judgment; Estrada nomination has been blocked too long” February 17, 2003</p>
<p>“Today is President's Day, and if we had our druthers those weary workers who have the holiday off would be able to linger over their morning papers and read how Senate Democrats spent the weekend obstructing the appointment of an able Hispanic to a prominent judgeship. In between sit-com marathons and mattress-sale commercials during the day, voters might watch first-hand as John Edwards and Patrick Leahy argue that senators simultaneously know too much and not enough about Miguel Estrada. They could hear Charles Schumer defame this Honduran immigrant, who consistently received outstanding employee reviews from the Clinton Justice Department as a "stealth missile" from the "right-wing's deepest silo." And when the Senate Democrats' flimsy objections to Mr. Estrada quickly run out, listeners could hear into the late, late night yet more eulogies by Robert Byrd to Aeschylus and Aeschines and his pet dog, Billy Byrd.”</p>	<p>“The next time she takes a position on the campaign trail, she should realize that people remember what she says and expect her to live up to it.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>The Times-Picayune (New Orleans)</i> Editorial: “What's the story now?” February 17, 2003</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>--The Washington Times</i> Editorial: "Filibuster schmilibuster" February 17, 2003</p>	
<p>"He's an odd choice for a Senate filibuster, an up-from-poverty Hispanic immigrant whose legal career includes nothing that can be distorted by the groups that pick through the graveyard bones in search of material to blacken the reputations of judicial nominees.</p> <p>"Indeed, 41-year-old Miguel Estrada ... is ably qualified for the D.C. Court of Appeals."</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>--The Atlanta Journal and Constitution</i> Jim Wooten, Associate Editorial Page Editor OUR OPINION: "Critics fail to make case vs. Estrada" February 16, 2003</p>	<p>"If Democrats succeed in bringing Estrada down, it will be putting more importance on partisanship and obstructionism than on fairness to minorities or the efficient functioning of our perilously undermanned courts."</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The Augusta Chronicle</i> Editorial: "Support Estrada" February 16, 2003</p>
<p>"It's a mess, but the realities are that Estrada -- unstealth conservative that he is -- is transparently qualified for the judiciary and has earned at least some bipartisan support in a highly politicized environment.</p> <p>"That ought to lead Landrieu and other Democrats to follow the lead of U.S. Sen. John Breaux of Louisiana and agree to bring Estrada's name to a vote of the full Senate.</p> <p>"Breaux called it the wrong fight at the wrong time for Democrats.</p> <p>"We agree."</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>--The Advocate (Baton Rouge, LA)</i> Editorial: "Landrieu gives Bush payback" February 16, 2003</p>	<p>"In the U.S. Senate ... there's also a coercive and borderline-irresponsible method for the minority party to have its way. That method is the filibuster. Senate Democrats are staging one now against Miguel Estrada, an appeals court nominee.</p> <p>"They should back off and let the Senate vote."</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--Grand Forks Herald</i> Editorial: "Stop the Filibuster" February 15, 2003</p>
<p>"Our legal system cannot and must not be held hostage to political nitpicking. Estrada deserves to be the first Hispanic on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, and if his nomination in some way helps to break the political deadlock keeping critical judgeships from being filled, that will be just another accomplishment to add to his record."</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>--Chicago Sun-Times</i> Editorial February 14, 2003</p>	<p>"Rubber stamp? The Estrada nomination has been before the Senate for 21 months. If Kennedy and his pals haven't been able to turn up anything to disqualify Estrada in that time, they just aren't going to.</p> <p>"It's time they ended this mindless opposition, before it becomes even more of an embarrassment."</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The Boston Herald</i> Editorial: "Delay on Estrada Democratic debacle"</p>

	February 14, 2003
<p>“It's irresponsible, this hysteria being acted out to keep Estrada from serving on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. But Democratic senators do have their excuses, each more petty than the next. ...</p> <p>“The Democrats have no excuse (although it's clear they fear Estrada would be in line for a Supreme Court nomination if he gets this other judgeship first). If liberals in the Senate think conservatives will spell the end of civilization if they become judges, they can vote against Estrada. But keeping others from voting their consciences on this particular matter is simply out of line.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--Rocky Mountain News (Denver, Co.)</i> Editorial: “Democrats Turn Ugly on Estrada” February 14, 2003</p>	<p>“As the U.S. Constitution clearly states, the Senate has the duty to provide ‘advice and consent’ in the negotiation of treaties and the appointment of federal officers, including judges. Only in the matter of treaties, which are given equal status with the Constitution itself as ‘highest law of the land,’ is a two-thirds affirmative vote required.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The Post and Courier (Charleston, SC)</i> Editorial: “The savaging of Miguel Estrada” February 14, 2003</p>
<p>“The point about Miguel Estrada is not that he may or may not harbor conservative judicial opinions. The point is that he is an inspiring American success story, a brilliant scholar, a distinguished public servant and an outstanding lawyer. For Senate Democrats to talk down his nomination is not just embarrassing, but outrageous.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The Providence Journal</i> Editorial: “Democrats' opposition to Estrada is outrageous” February 14, 2003</p>	<p>“U.S. Senate Democrats' blocking of the confirmation of Miguel A. Estrada to the U.S. Court of Appeals long ago passed the point of reasonableness. Mr. Estrada fully warrants confirmation. Even more, he and the country deserve a Senate vote. “</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The Grand Rapids Press</i> Editorial: “The Estrada blockade” February 14, 2003</p>
<p>“By filibustering, Democratic senators show their disrespect for their colleagues, for the democratic process and for the Constitution.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--Herald Journal (Spartanburg, SC)</i> Editorial: “Filibuster over Estrada is unreasonable, partisan obstructionism” February 14, 2003</p>	<p>“His opponents can vote against him [Estrada] if they wish. But this able lawyer who has Mr. Bush’s confidence deserves a vote by the full Senate.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The Hartford Courant</i> Editorial: “Give Mr. Estrada a Vote” February 14, 2003</p>
<p>“The latest example of a politician breaking a campaign promise, and then giving lame excuses for misleading voters, is U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu.</p> <p>“She backed a Democratic filibuster designed</p>	<p>“The key issue is whether a filibuster should ever be employed to defeat a judicial nominee. We think not. Those senators who think Estrada is too conservative should vote no. Those who think he was unresponsive should vote no. Those who</p>

<p>to block a vote on President Bush's judicial nomination of Miguel Estrada, just weeks after she ran a campaign ad that said she supported the nominee.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--American Press (Lake Charles, LA)</i> Editorial February 14, 2003</p>	<p>have a beef with the Bush administration for whatever reason should vote no.</p> <p>“The key point is that there should be a vote. To do otherwise, to use the filibuster, is to impose a new requirement that judges be confirmed by a supermajority. The Constitution has no such requirement. It simply says that judges are appointed with the advice and consent of the Senate. That implies an up- or-down vote. A filibuster should play no part in the process.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The Denver Post</i> Editorial: “Give Estrada his day in court” February 13, 2003</p>
<p>“Residents of New Orleans know the Big Easy is home to what is probably the largest Honduran population outside Honduras. Which is one reason Louisiana Senator Mary Landrieu’s decision to change her mind and back the filibuster of judicial nominee Miguel Estrada is so outrageous.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--Wall Street Journal</i> Editorial: February 13, 2003</p>	<p>“Mr. Estrada has been far from ‘silent.’ In fact, during his confirmation hearing this Honduran-born conservative gave the best answer possible to liberal jackals attempting to punish a minority candidate who's off their reservation: ‘I will follow the law.’”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--Pittsburgh Review-Tribune</i> Editorial: “Make ‘em filibuster!” February 13, 2003</p>
<p>“Men such as Nevada's Harry Reid won't even let the Estrada nomination come to a vote, which they know he would win. Instead, they threaten to tie up the business of the U.S. Senate for weeks or months.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--Las Vegas Review-Journal</i> Editorial: “Democrats show their true stripes” February 13, 2003</p>	<p>“There should be no business as usual and no President’s Day recess until Estrada gets the up-or-down vote he has waited on for nearly two years.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The Daily Oklahoman</i> Editorial: “Cancel the Recess” February 13, 2003</p>
<p>“Senators who are worried about his being a stealth candidate or unprepared for the work of this court can vote against him after adequate debate.</p> <p>“But staging a knock-down, drag-out fight over this lower court nominee may send exactly the wrong message -- that a messy process is bound to get nastier and that critical discussion about qualifications will get devoured by partisanship.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--Star-Telegram (Fort Worth, TX)</i> Editorial: “The argument against Estrada”</p>	<p>“Because they lack the votes to defeat the nomination on the Senate floor they have resorted to manipulating the process by any means necessary -- not, mind you, because they have evidence to oppose him, but because they don't.</p> <p>“Is that really how Democrats want to go on record opposing the first Hispanic American nominated to the influential D.C. court of appeals?</p> <p>“Mr. Estrada's nomination deserves an up-</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">February 13, 2003</p>	<p>or-down vote in the Senate, and not be held hostage by partisan parliamentary games.” <i>--Savannah Morning News</i> Editorial: “Democrats Hold Hostage” February 13, 2003</p>
<p>“The decision of the Democratic leadership to filibuster against the nomination of a Hispanic conservative, Miguel Estrada, may prove to be a low watermark in that party’s history.” <i>--The New York Sun</i> Editorial: “The Estrada Filibuster” February 12, 2003</p>	<p>“In a tactic that would have made Strom Thurmond and all his old Dixicrat colleagues proud, Senate Democrats yesterday announced they had enough vote to sustain a filibuster against the nomination of Miguel Estrada...” <i>--New York Post</i> Editorial: “Dixicrats Redux” February 12, 2003</p>
<p>“Filibusters are hard enough to sustain on a parliamentary level; they are even harder when the grounds for staging them are flimsy. And in the Estrada case, the grounds are indeed flimsy.” <i>--The Washington Times</i> Editorial: “Bring it on” February 12, 2003</p>	<p>“Estrada should have his nomination put up for an ordinary vote, as have all of his predecessors. If he loses, fair enough. But a filibuster would signal an unreasonable posture by Democratic senators that could have long-term - and damaging - consequences for how business is conducted in the U.S. Senate.” <i>--The Detroit News</i> Editorial: “U.S. Senate Should Forget Judicial Candidate Filibuster” February 10, 2003</p>
<p>“The 41-year-old lawyer, whose confirmation is scheduled for debate on the Senate floor this week, should be approved for a post on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. There are some scary ideologues among the nominees that Bush has sent forward, but Estrada is not one of them.” <i>--The Atlanta Journal and Constitution</i> OUR OPINIONS: “Estrada worthy of appellate seat” February 10, 2003</p>	<p>“Miguel Estrada appears to have everything you'd want in a candidate for a federal judgeship - which is why Democrats are fighting so hard to block his nomination from coming to a vote in the Senate. ... “Their public complaints are laughable.” <i>--The Daily Oklahoman</i> Editorial: “Obstructionists; Court Nominee Deserves Senate Vote” February 10, 2003</p>
<p>“After Republicans gained a majority, Democrats saw they could get their way only by tarring a candidate so badly that some GOP senators would defect. “That's their strategy for Miguel Estrada, named to the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. He's been called a rigid</p>	<p>“Estrada does not have a long record of political positions, but appears to hold a traditional, constitutional view of his role - that the judiciary should rule based on the law and not take ‘activist’ positions to advance any particular political agenda, of the left or the right.</p>

<p>ideologue, a "stealth candidate" and a supporter of racist laws. The charges reveal more about the depths to which some partisans will stoop than they do about Estrada's fitness for the bench."</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--Chicago Tribune</i> Editorial: "Extreme opposition" February 10, 2003</p>	<p>"Regardless of one's leanings, a president deserves to have his nominees voted on before the full Senate, and not filibustered away.</p> <p>"Democrats should drop the filibuster idea, and let their colleagues vote on Miguel Estrada."</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The Free Press (Kinston, NC)</i> Editorial: "Democrats should drop filibuster threat" February 10, 2003</p>
<p>"Mr. Estrada is fit for the court. It's telling that, in the threatened filibuster, opponents are dusting off a tactic used by old segs who tried to block integrationist judges. The American Dream never dies, nor, apparently, does its enemies."</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The Free Lance Star (Fredericksburg, VA)</i> Editorial: "Estranglers" February 9, 2003</p>	<p>"It has become clear that principled conservatives view race and ethnicity as an incident of the human condition. Liberals see it as a tool for the imposition of political orthodoxy.</p> <p>"If a minority, a brilliant lawyer, strays from the reservation, he must be mightily opposed or else minorities may see in his example the road to independence from serfdom to the Democratic Party."</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--Pittsburgh Review-Tribune</i> Editorial: "The Estrada Nomination" February 9, 2003</p>
<p>"A certain amount of political gamesmanship with judicial appointments is inevitable and maybe even healthy, but the Estrada nomination is now well past that. Bring his nomination to a vote."</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The Cincinnati Post</i> Editorial: "Don't talk, vote" February 8, 2003</p>	<p>"If the system were functioning as the founders intended, Miguel Estrada would be confirmed quickly to the federal D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. ...</p> <p>"Liberals worry that Estrada will prove himself worthy of someday becoming the first Hispanic on the U.S. Supreme Court -- a position that would make him, and perhaps his moderate philosophy, a role model for young Hispanics nationwide. They fear that might hurt them politically. The founders, however, tried to isolate the courts from politics.</p> <p>"Fanaticism will serve only to alienate the party further from the public."</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The Florida Times-Union</i> Editorial: "Blocking Hispanics" February 8, 2003</p>

<p>“The judiciary was a major theme in the last election. Let’s see how they [Democrats] will explain to voters how subverting the confirmation process with a months-long delay is in the public good.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The Tampa Tribune</i> Editorial: “Filibuster Threat on Estrada Does the Democrats No Honor” February 8, 2003</p>	<p>“This time it happens to be Democrats threatening to block the confirmation of an eminently qualified judicial nominee, keeping an important position from being filled in a court system that is in dire need of qualified judges.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--El Paso Times (El Paso, TX)</i> Our Views: “Stop the partisan delay; Judicial nominations should be based on qualifications” February 8, 2003</p>
<p>“In short, the Democratic position doesn't justify a filibuster.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The Tribune (Port St. Lucie/Fort Pierce, FL)</i> Editorial: “Filibuster won't fix judicial nominations process” February 8, 2003</p>	<p>“The process for appointing federal judges is badly broken. A filibuster won't fix it.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--St. Louis Post-Dispatch</i> Editorial: “A filibuster is not a fix” February 7, 2003</p>
<p>“The Democrats' ulterior motive was to keep Mr. Estrada, a Honduran immigrant, off a court that has served as an apprenticeship for three current Supreme Court justices. Some senators are even talking of filibustering against Mr. Estrada.</p> <p>“This knee-jerk reaction could be self-defeating.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--Pittsburgh Post-Gazette</i> Editorial: “Jousting on Judges; Bush And the Democrats Need to Compromise” February 7, 2003</p>	<p>“A filibuster could make partisanship history - never before has the Senate prevented a lower-court confirmation via filibuster. The Democrats have a duty to ask tough questions and to base their votes on the answers, or lack of them. But they also have a duty to live by the final tally - not delay its taking with divisive filibuster.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--Rochester Democrat and Chronicle</i> Editorial: “The Estrada Nomination” February 7, 2003</p>
<p>“Of course, what bothers the liberal Democrats is the widely held belief that Mr. Estrada is on the Bush administration's short-list for Supreme Court nomination, and that he will be in a position to make his opinions law. Democrats are convicting Mr. Estrada for a crime he supposedly will commit in the future. That not only defames a well-qualified man; it puts the lie to their concerns about defending justice and the Constitution.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The Washington Times</i> Editorial: “The Estrada nomination” February 5, 2003</p>	<p>“Miguel Estrada's opponents have only the filibuster to keep the Honduran-born lawyer off the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Whether such a move succeeded, it would take the once-civil process of confirming judges to a new level of unpleasantness.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--Investor's Business Daily</i> Editorial: “Order In The Court” February 5, 2003</p>

<p>“If they want to tie up a nomination via filibuster, we want to see Ted Kennedy, Tom Daschle and others on the Senate floor 24 hours a day, where the American people will be able to see first-hand the foolishness of their obstructionism.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-- <i>The Daily Oklahoman</i> Editorial: “Call Their Bluff” February 4, 2003</p>	<p>“Why on Earth have Democrats -- who generally preach racial diversity as though it were something approaching a religion, and who count on the support of Hispanics as a large and generally pro-Democratic voter bloc -- been stalling Mr. Estrada's nomination for almost two years?”</p> <p>”Because the Democratic Party's definition of 'diversity,' of course, has never meant including a truly representative cross-section of responsible American political opinion.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>Las Vegas Review-Journal</i> Editorial: “Hispanic in name only” February 3, 2003</p>
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Excerpts:
PRO-FILIBUSTER & ANTI-ESTRADA

<p>“Democrats mustn't cave on this [filibuster]. The fairness and credibility of the nation's courts depend on senators' finding a reasonable compromise. Moderates within the president's party should also reconsider their lockstep loyalty.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>The Oregonian</i> Editorial: “A Filibuster over the president's nominees is an essential fight for fairness in the judicial selection process” March 3, 2003</p>	<p>“The practice of choosing extremists, hardliners, political sycophants and radicals as judicial nominees, instead of drawing from the ample well of sensible, highly qualified and eminently confirmable candidates not only mocks the integrity of the judiciary, it shortchanges the nation as a whole.</p> <p>“Is Mr. Estrada any of the above? We don't know. We do know, though, that he should not be allowed to ascend to the federal bench until we know who and what he is. All he needs to do is speak up and put himself on the record.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>The Staten Island Advance</i> Editorial: “Weighing Miguel Estrada” February 25, 2003</p>
<p>“Senate Democrats fear that Estrada may be more conservative than either Clarence Thomas or Antonin Scalia, two Supreme Court judges already at the fringe of mainstream judicial thought in this country. If that is true, those senators have the right -- indeed the obligation -- to continue to block his</p>	<p>“Commendably, Arkansas's Blanche Lincoln and Mark Pryor are among those opposing the Estrada nomination. It's important work.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">--<i>Arkansas Times</i> Editorial February 21, 2003</p>

<p>nomination.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>--The Atlanta Journal-Constitution</i> Jay Bookman, Deputy Editorial Page Editor “Estrada fight’s real winner? Democracy” February 24, 2003</p>	
<p>“We're not enamored with the filibuster. It's a double-edged sword. It is, however, among the many check-and-balance procedures within our form of government. And it'll probably be around for a very long time.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>--Kalamazoo Gazette</i> Editorial: “Senate filibuster is a two-edged sword” February 19, 2003</p>	<p>“Estrada’s appointment is particularly worrisome because information concerning his opinions is sparse.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The Minnesota Daily</i> Editorial: “Partisanship is a democratic duty” February 18, 2003</p>
<p>“Mr. Estrada's appointment may result in a filibuster...”</p> <p>“Maybe that's what's needed...”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>--Dayton Daily News</i> Editorial: “Judicial Fights Demean All Involved” February 17, 2003</p>	<p>“The choir - Democrats, civil rights groups, labor groups, and women's groups - is already singing about how modern-day America should have modern-day judges. It's time for moderate Republicans and voters to join in so that the president can't ignore democracy's 21st-century judicial needs.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--Boston Globe</i> Editorial: “Rush to Judges” February 15, 2003</p>
<p>“With Miguel Estrada, President George W. Bush's nominee for a seat on the federal appeals court in Washington, D.C., the problem is with what the senators don't know.</p> <p>“With so little to go on, Democrats in the Senate are right to balk at rubber-stamping Estrada's nomination.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>--Newsday (New York, NY)</i> Editorial: “Evasive Estrada; Democrats are Right to balk at Bush’s uncooperative choice for a key appellate judge.” February 13, 2003</p>	<p>“Democrats who have vowed to filibuster the nomination are not engaging in ‘shameful politics,’ as the president has put it, nor are they anti-Latino, as Republicans have cynically charged. They are insisting that the White House respect the Senate's role in confirming judicial nominees.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The New York Times</i> Editorial: “Keep Talking About Estrada” February 13, 2003</p>
<p>“Estrada has been one of the most uncooperative court nominees in history, and the White House has mirrored the nominee’s obstinacy”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>--The Capitol Times (Madison, WI)</i> Editorial: “Blocking a Bad Nominee” February 13, 2003</p>	<p>“A filibuster is a drastic tactic. In regard to federal judicial nominees, we would typically be against it. Now, Senate Democrats have promised to use it to stall a confirmation vote on judicial nominee Miguel Estrada. Yet given the current tight-lipped atmosphere, we understand what is pushing them in that direction.”</p>

	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>--Omaha World-Journal</i> Editorial: “Answers, please Nominee Estrada refuses to disclose judicial views, philosophies to Senate.” February 13, 2003</p>
<p>“Mr. Estrada, a conservative lawyer with almost no paper trail, refused to answer senators' questions on crucial issues like abortion. Meanwhile, the White House refused to hand over memos Mr. Estrada wrote as a government lawyer that could have shed light on his beliefs.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The New York Times</i> Editorial: “Steamrolling Judicial Nominees” February 6, 2003</p>	<p>“Mr. Estrada, who is well qualified for the bench, should not be a tough case for confirmation. Democrats who disagree may vote against him. They should not deny him a vote.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The Washington Post</i> Editorial February 5, 2003</p>
<p>“Think the nominees aren't picked for their adherence to ideology?”</p> <p>“[Miguel Estrada is] just one of the judge-activists...”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--Arizona Daily Star</i> Editorial February 3, 2003</p>	<p>“Of course, Senate Democrats should not lower themselves entirely to Republican standards in vetting judicial nominees. But they should not be bullied into approving unqualified nominees and they shouldn't hesitate to filibuster poor nominations if necessary.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>--The Berkshire Eagle (Pittsfield, MA)</i> Editorial: “More judicial games from GOP” February 1, 2003</p>



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