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LIBERALS DEMAND A VETO OVER SUPREME COURT NOMINATION

Liberals are working feverishly to undo the results of the last election. In this case, they want to deny George W. Bush one of his most important powers as president – the ability to name new Supreme Court justices.

It's also the power with the most far-reaching consequences. President Bush will leave office in approximately three and one-half years. The next Supreme Court justice could serve for 24 years or longer. In that the Court has become a super-legislature, the president's first Supreme Court nominee could help to shape the course of our national destiny for the next quarter century.

Like a well-orchestrated political campaign, Senate liberals are on message. "I stand ready to work with President Bush to select a nominee to the Supreme Court who will unite Americans."

(Senator Patrick Leahy)

"To be meaningful, consultation should include who the president is really considering so we can give responsive and useful advice"

(Senator Ted Kennedy).

"As to whether or not there's a knockdown, drag-out fight on this is up to the president"

(Senator Harry Reid).

Make no mistake, my friends, a minority of Senators are demanding a veto over Bush nominees – in effect, a co-presidency when it comes to Supreme Court nominations.

Imagine that John Kerry won the 2004 election, and that his party took control of the Senate. Now, further imagine that Senator Sam Brownback told President Kerry that conservative Senators wanted to veto his nominees – that they wanted Kerry to work with them to come up with consensus candidates for the Supreme Court (who would "unite the American people").

After the laughter died down at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, President Kerry would proceed to nominate Ruth Bader Ginsberg clones and remind his opponents that he, not they, won the election.

Christians expect this president to keep his word and nominate only strict constructionists who will cease the politicization of the court and once again allow the Constitution to speak for itself. We want the president to keep his word and appoint judges like Scalia and Thomas. If he does that we will see abortion on demand end in our lifetime and the gay marriage debate will end.

JUDICIAL ACTIVISM STRIKES AGAIN – PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN STRUCK DOWN

Each day brings fresh examples of an out-of-control judiciary. Last Friday, the 8th U.S. Court of Appeals struck down a federal ban on partial-birth abortions, signed into law by President Bush in 2003.

The court ruled that while the ban on this hideously cruel procedure had an exception for the mother's life, no such ban that didn't also contain an exception for the health of the mother would pass constitutional muster.

As the court knows, health exceptions are always interpreted to include mental health. So, if any medical professional is willing to state that not having the procedure endangers the mother's psychological well-being, the ban can be avoided.

In other words, the 8th Circuit Appeals Court is saying that the only ban on partial-birth abortion that's constitutional is a symbolic "ban" – a prohibition that's completely meaningless.

The Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act was passed overwhelmingly with bi-partisan support in Congress, after nine years of debate and hearings. More than 70% of the American people support the ban. The American Medical Association states that there is no medical reason to perform the ghastly procedure.

Yet all it took was a few unelected judges to make the foregoing irrelevant.

The 8th Circuit decision follows similar rulings by federal judges in New York and San Francisco. All are under appeal and expected to eventually end up before the Supreme Court --all the more reason that future nominations must reflect a true understanding of the Constitution and a respect for the value of human life.

CHRISTIANS MOBILIZE TO COUNTER EMINENT DOMAIN RULING

To the bemusement of many media observers, conservative Christians are mobilizing against the Supreme Court's June 23rd eminent domain decision no less forcefully than against its Ten Commandments decision in McCreary.

For those who understand our dedication to the Constitution and individual rights, it comes as no surprise at all.

In 5-4 ruling in *City of New London*, the Court expanded the meaning of "public use" in the 5th Amendment's taking clause to include private use from which the

public derives benefit (such as increased tax revenue). In other words, if your city or town decides that a developer can make better use of your property (by increasing the tax base or employment) it can take it from you and bestow it on him.

This is a grave injustice to homeowners and businesses affected.

But it also poses a special danger to churches. As a homeowner, your taxes may be low compared to the revenue generated by a hotel or mall. But churches, which are tax exempt, pay nothing at all. It's hard to imagine a more attractive target for greedy municipalities. In her dissent, Justice O'Connor recognized that reality, noting that now "any church might be replaced by a retail store."

Among other Christian organizations, The American Family Association, Focus on The Family and American Center for Law and Justice are using the case as an example of a run-away judiciary, and to explain to their members and the public why future Supreme Court nominations are so vitally important.

The same court that can't read the First Amendment as it was written, is equally confused about the Fifth Amendment. Liberals on the court who will do almost anything to prevent public display of the Ten Commandments have now ignored "Thou shalt not steal."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Gala

Tables and seats are still available for Vision America's Annual Gala, at Westin Houston Galleria on August 25th. At this event, Vision America will honor United States Senator Sam Brownback with our national Hero Of The Faith Award. For more information, go to <http://www.visionamerica.us>

Countering The War on Faith

Vision America's next major conference - Countering The War on Faith - will be held in Washington, D.C., on October 17-18.
