

1/14/06

Judge Sam Alito Hearing

by
Tom Holbrook

I hope those of you who have been watching the Senate Inquisition of Judge Samuel Alito are as outraged as I at the sophomoric, mean spirited way this honorable individual has been treated by some members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. It is obvious that those opposing his confirmation have determined he has no skeletons in his closet and no valid reason to deny him his appointment so they have decided to manufacture some. How anyone can view their bullying tactics and still claim these malcontents are champions of the poor and downtrodden escapes me. They represent no one but themselves and a small lunatic fringe element whose goal for our country is something far, far away from the foundational basics established by our nation's architects.

To sit and watch the likes of Senators Kennedy, Shumer and their gang attack Judge Alito with a blitzkrieg of innuendoes, lies and withering hyperbole that accomplished nothing, other than reducing Mrs. Alito to tears and chasing her from the room, makes one wonder just how there could be anyone who still respects them as individuals, much less United States Senators. How the Judge can sit there and maintain his ethical decorum and not counter attack amazes me and should evidence to all just how honorable and unflappable he is. If you are claiming the above mentioned Senators as heroes I feel sorry for you.

Speaking on conditions in politics, why must the two sides of the political aisle in Washington be so divided on issues so critical to our country? I just don't understand it. Is it required that if one wins a seat in Congress representing a political party that he or she must take an oath to oppose any rhetoric put forth by someone from the other party, regardless of its value or worth to the people? I heard one news pundit put it fairly accurately when he said the politicians are elected to office to represent the people to the government but end up representing the government to the people. Sad but true. Are term limits for members of Congress the answer? Should we restrict a representative from our state or district to a 6 or 10 year maximum term in office in hopes they will get the job done and return home? It appears that some of those serving longer, on both sides of the political spectrum, try to rise to princely status in their own fiefdoms and maintain their political existence by keeping their "serfs" subjugated with fear and promises that never come to fruition.

The current Abramoff bribery case has legislators on both sides of the aisle squirming and wondering if they will be accused of misconduct. Each side is hopeful that a member of the other party will become wounded by a charge of malfeasance so they can politically ravage that person and gain his/her congressional seat. Apparently Jack Abramoff spread his money around rather widely to both Republican and Democratic congressmen in his position as a lobbyist, so I'm sure many names will be mentioned as "crooks" and deemed worthy of attack.

Of course, the position of a lobbyist is well known and approved by all who allow it to exist... these are people who are hired by various organizations and interests to be their agents in the halls and coat rooms of congress with one intent... to get the members of congress to vote for legislation favoring those organizations and/or interests.

It is legal and ethical for those lobbyists to pour tons of money into the coffers of any member of congress with the hope a favorable vote will be forthcoming. If we don't want members of congress to succumb to the temptation of actually voting for the lobbyist's clients then why don't we outlaw the position of lobbyist and disallow the large contributions that are being fed into the political war chests by these nefarious individuals? That could be the best way to rid Congress of those who come to Washington not to represent their constituents at home but for the purpose of solidifying his or her own financial future.

In the meantime folks, please contact your Senators and insist that they put the hammer down on those members of the Senate Judiciary Committee who are intentionally maligning the reputation of a decent and honorable man who has served his country well for many years... has shown his worth by his words and actions... and has agreed to continue that service on a higher plane. This is a man who deserves to be confirmed to the United States Supreme Court and not mugged and beaten in front of his family and the world on national television. Let your feelings be known on the behavior of the few thugs who are masquerading as United States Senators and embarrassing our nation.

#