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Judge Alito
by
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Those on the conservative side who were against the Supreme Court nomination of Harriet Miers seem to have fallen in love with Judge Samuel A. Alito, sitting judge on the 3rd Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, who has been nominated to replace her. His writings and opinions on past cases would make one think he is the perfect man for the job, from a conservative perspective, but some of his opinions indicate that he is more interested in adhering to the Constitutional viewpoint while deciding a case rather than personal ideology... which is a good thing. Those on the left and right somehow lose track of the idea that it's the Constitution's directions on a matter that is the important and ultimate goal in jurisprudence rather than what a judge personally thinks about an issue at hand.

For those who think the Constitution is a "fluid" and "evolving" instrument, changing with the whims of American society, a judge who views the Constitution as an instrument fixed in granite is thought of as an extremist ideologue and judicial dinosaur. Those "fluid" thinking individuals state that the Constitution should be allowed to change because the people's thinking changes and a Constitution must adapt itself to their new standards. They fail to recognize that our Founding Fathers provided for such growth and change through the Amendment process... not the judicial process. The people of the United States may change the Constitution anytime they wish through the Amendment process and, in fact, since the Constitution's inception have "changed" the Constitution with 27 Articles of Amendment.

The years 1919-1920 saw two famous changes one good the other not so good, you being the judge of which is which... 18th Amendment – The prohibiting the manufacture, sell, transporting or importation of intoxicating liquors and the 19th Amendment – Removal of the prohibition of the right to vote on account of sex.

To give you an idea of how many times Congress tinkers with the idea of Amending the Constitution, the 1990's saw over 850 amendment suggestions come before various congressional committees for consideration. Only a few made it out of committee and even fewer survived a floor vote.

Thankfully, most of our elected representatives feel strongly about our Constitution and take the Amendment procedure very seriously and refuse to allow frivolous suggestions to get out of committee. Some of the suggestions that didn't past muster in previous years were:

- Abolish the Electoral College process for electing our President
- Limiting the number of Presidential Pardons between October 1st and January 21st in Presidential election years
- Limit the amount an individual candidate can spend of his or her own money in an election
- Declaring human life begins at conception

- Repeal the 16th Amendment specifically prohibiting an income tax
- To remove automatic citizenship for those children born in the United States of parents who are non-citizens of the country

There is one that seems to appear and re-appear more often in committees than others and it is:

- Setting number of terms a Congressman and Senator can serve consecutively and re-confirming Federal Judges every 10 years.

Our Constitution is a strong and viable organ that keeps our country alive and healthy and should be treated with more respect and awe than it is. It is, also, the foundational footing upon which our nation was built and we should trust it to sustain us through the trials and challenges that confront us from time to time. We must continue to place it in the hands of those caretakers (Justices) who will not try to change it on their own, nor allow others to circumvent the accepted Amendment process, wisely installed at its birth. It appears that Judge Sam Alito can be trusted to safeguard the integrity of such a valuable document. Let's hope we are correct.

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