



NEWS

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Supreme Court Fact of the Day #6: Democrats attempt to grab headlines as Alito heads for confirmation

Senator Frist Takes Strong Lead in Senate Debate While Rumors Spread Democrats may try a Non-Filibuster Filibuster

Washington, DC- The Senate began debate this week on the nomination of Samuel A. Alito, Jr. to the U.S. Supreme Court. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) listed several reasons for his support for Judge Alito, including his distinguished record as a federal prosecutor, assistant to the Solicitor General, and Appellate Court Judge. Senator Frist also supported the President's nominee because of his concern for the judicial nomination process. Frist said, "I support Judge Alito because denying him a seat on the Supreme Court could have devastating long-term consequences for our judicial nominations process."

Meanwhile, rumors swirled on Capitol Hill that Senate Democrats might mount a "non-filibuster filibuster," by which Democrats would insist on extended debate and mount a talkathon, as each senator held the floor giving extended speeches to hold up proceedings on the nomination. Then late today Sen. John Kerry (D-MA) announced that he would attempt a filibuster. It is not yet clear how many Democrats would support Kerry in this venture, but it appears unlikely to succeed as three Democrats, Sens. Robert Byrd (D-WV), Tim Johnson (D-SD) and Ben Nelson (D-NV) have announced their intention to vote to confirm Alito, and at least two others, Sens. Diane Feinstein (D-CA) and Mary Landrieu (D-LA) have voiced their opposition to a filibuster. Assuming every Republican senator votes for cloture, this grants the Alito nomination the 60 votes it needs to break a filibuster.

It appears that while the nomination of Samuel A. Alito, Jr. to the U.S. Supreme Court appears headed for confirmation, Senate Democrats will do anything to get their names in the papers.

Americans for Tax Reform has called on the Senate to meet its constitutional obligations and ensure a speedy confirmation process with an up or down vote on all judicial nominees.

Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Christopher Butler at (202) 785-0266 or by email at cbutler@atr.org.