

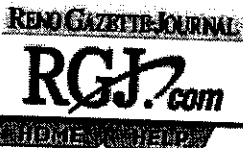
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April 8, 2003

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Senators have time on hands

Editorial

RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

4/6/2003 09:06 pm

Members of the Nevada Senate who voted for a resolution supporting federal judicial nominee Miguel Estrada will get little sympathy if they complain in June that 120 days is not enough time to get all of their work done.

For the Senate, Estrada's struggle to win confirmation by the U.S. Senate is nothing but a political issue, and the vote on Senate Joint Resolution 6 was strictly political. The Republican-sponsored resolution passed on a party-line 13-8 vote.

Estrada's nomination is controversial, maybe in part because of his personal philosophy, but mostly because congressional Democrats want to send the president the message that they have the power to hold up a judicial nominee if they want to. Although they don't have a majority in the Senate anymore, they do have enough votes to filibuster, if they want, and that's what they've done to Estrada.

It's a bit of the ugly side of Congress and national politics, but it has nothing to do with Nevada. It certainly has nothing to do with the state Senate, a group of lawmakers with some tough decisions to make and fewer than 60 days in which to make them.

Their constituents surely would have more sympathy for their complaints if they stuck to the job at hand and kept their noses out of national politics.

Other Stories

- Consensus tough on death penalty
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