

For many Americans, this Supreme Court seat will always come with an asterisk attached to it. They believe and I believe that it was a stolen seat that belonged to Judge Merrick Garland.

Many Americans are wondering why we are rushing to fill a lifetime vacancy while President Trump's campaign remains under investigation and will for at least some while.

I believe we have some time. Judge Garland waited 293 days for a hearing and a vote that never came. Judge Gorsuch has waited 48 days for a hearing and many of our Republican friends would like to see him seated this week.

Again, I would say: Judge Merrick Garland waited 293 days for a hearing and a vote that never, never came.

What we face here today, I think, is a rush to judgment. I would just say that we have time. We ought to hit the pause button on this nomination.

The American people are watching us, and history will judge us. I fear that history may judge us poorly if anyone other than Merrick Garland is confirmed at this time. I fear that history may judge us poorly if we do not insist that the Trump campaign is first cleared of any wrongdoing before we move forward. We need to get this right. We have time to get this right.

The Senate has been through it all. The good men and women of the Senate have always disagreed—sometimes passionately, oftentimes loudly. I understand that this disagreement before us may seem irresolvable, but that is only if we seek to cut off debate and admit defeat. Personally speaking, I am not ready to do that today or this week.

I believe we have time. I believe we have the opportunity to right a historic wrong. We have not just an opportunity to right a historic wrong but also an obligation to get this right.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, it is pretty obvious, based on the announcement Senators have made, that we are experiencing the first partisan filibuster of a Supreme Court nominee in the history of the country.

We have had plenty of time to discuss Judge Gorsuch and his credentials both in committee and on the floor, and I think it is now important to move forward.

CLOTURE MOTION

Therefore, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Neil M. Gorsuch, of Colorado, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, John Kennedy, Jerry Moran, Mike Rounds, Chuck Grassley, Jeff Flake, Todd Young, John Cornyn, Cory Gardner, Thom Tillis, Marco Rubio, John Thune, Michael B. Enzi, Orrin G. Hatch, Shelley Moore Capito, Steve Daines.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO RICH RIMKUNAS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am pleased to pay tribute to a fine public servant and an incredible asset to the U.S. Congress.

Rich Rimbunas has had a career filled with outstanding achievement at the Congressional Research Service, CSR. After nearly 37 years of service, Rich will be retiring from CRS on Friday, April 28.

When Rich joined CRS in 1980, he was an analyst working on a broad array of social policy issues. Initially, he worked on issues like child nutrition, poverty, Social Security, social services for the aged, and unemployment insurance. Rich cocreated and coauthored a widely circulated CRS report on Federal social welfare spending. He was also a coauthor and contributor to several chapters in the House Ways and Means Committee print "Children in Poverty," which provided a detailed look at the incidence and characteristics of child poverty in the United States.

Rich ultimately became heavily involved in providing research and analytical support to Congress on many health policy issues, including analyses of aggregate national health expenditures, the Medicare hospital prospective payment system, the Medicare Advantage program, and Medicare catastrophic drug costs. Additionally, he has worked on numerous issues related to Medicaid. He both directed a team of CRS analysts as well as contributed his own analysis to the Medicaid "Yellow Book," a 1988 House Ways and Means Committee print that provided a comprehensive analysis of the Medicaid program as it existed at the time. Rich also managed the 1993 update of the "Yellow Book."

Rich's analyses have typically involved quantitative research methodologies, modeling techniques, and

the use of complex databases. Rich has excelled at developing approaches for simulating the effects of potential changes to Federal benefits and grant allocation formulas.

In addition to the direct impact his research and analytical work has had on Federal policies, Rich has made equally important contributions within CRS in managerial roles. During his tenure at CRS, he has served as section research manager of the methodology section, the research development section, the research development and income support section, and the health insurance and financing section. During his tenure as an SRM, Rich helped manage CRS work on the 1996 welfare reform law and the 2003 overhaul of Medicare in the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act. Rich helped manage an interdisciplinary team numbering about 3 dozen CRS analysts that provided legislative support during the passage of the Affordable Care Act.

Throughout his career, Rich has served as a role model for the highest level of CRS service to Congress, upholding the Service's standards of authoritativeness, objectivity, and confidentiality. He is known within CRS for his attention to detail, methodological strength, and creative approaches toward conducting analyses. His input is sought on a great many research efforts spanning virtually all of the major domestic social policy issue areas that Congress deals with.

Rich is renowned for his tremendous work ethic and energizing presence. Those who have worked closely with him appreciate his ability to keep his sense of humor even during the most stressful times.

In recent years, Rich has served as the deputy assistant director of CRS's domestic social policy division. In that role, he has mentored and helped develop many of the division's managers, analysts, and research assistants. He has also played a central role in reviewing written work produced by the division, helping to ensure its accuracy, completeness, and quality. Moreover, in his work as a division manager, Rich has served on numerous advisory panels that have recommended organizational practices and policies for CRS, many of which have been adopted.

Rich's policy expertise has been broadly recognized. He is regularly sought for his expertise at professional meetings and conferences. He was nominated to the National Academy of Social Insurance in 2002 and has served on the steering committee of the National Health Forum. He has also been recognized with numerous Library of Congress special achievement awards.

Rich has devoted nearly his entire distinguished professional career to supporting the work of Congress and to helping build and strengthen CRS and advance its mission.

We will miss Rich, but we wish him and his family the best of luck moving forward.