

that they could not pray before a football game, where is someone going to find anybody who has more clearly proven that he or she is able to take personal positions and subjugate them to a willingness to enforce the law?

As I said earlier, this is not northern California or the Bronx we are talking about, even though those might be difficult positions in those States. He was taking positions that were contrary to virtually all of the people that he represented and against his own beliefs.

I am not sure the Senator from Alabama is even aware of this, but I was also a law clerk for Judge John Minor Wisdom of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, as was Mr. Pryor. Judge Wisdom was one of the great judges of America. He was a part of the panel that ordered Ole Miss to admit James Meredith in 1962. He, along with Judge Elbert Tuttle of Atlanta, Richard Rives of Florida, and John R. Brown of Texas, presided over the peaceful desegregation of the South.

I want to be careful how I say this. I was technically not a law clerk. I was a messenger to Judge Wisdom in 1965 and 1966 because he already had one of the top graduates of Harvard, but he had a little money left for a messenger and he said he would treat me like a law clerk. So I am saying that so people will not think I am talking about myself.

All through the 1960s and 1970s and 1980s and 1990s, law graduates in America fought each other to be a law clerk for Judge Wisdom. I was lucky to be his messenger who was treated as a law clerk. He hired the best and the brightest. He was also a graduate of Tulane Law School. He would consider the editor in chief of the Tulane Law School to be one of the finest persons in America eligible for a law clerkship.

I can also guarantee that he would never have hired anyone as a law clerk who he did not think of as someone of the highest character, good intel-

ligence, capacity to be a good lawyer and committed to civil rights and to the rights of the individual.

So something is really amiss in our system of approving judges when someone of the academic character and personal integrity of Mr. Pryor, who clearly is one of the finest lawyers in the country, who has taken a position contrary to the position of most of the people of the State he represents because he believes in the law, how could he not be confirmed by the Senate? What is it that causes our friends on the other side to pick someone like that out and seek to destroy him or turn him down?

I congratulate the Senator from Alabama for his vigorous advocacy of such an outstanding person, and I hope very much when the vote comes he will be confirmed.

Mr. SESSIONS. I remain and have always been impressed with the Senator from Tennessee since the day he came to the Senate. I did not know he clerked for or worked for Judge Wisdom. He gave some real insight into the prestige of an appointment to clerk for a judge like Judge Wisdom of the court of appeals, a very competitive thing.

Bill Pryor is one of the best lawyers in America, and these charges from People for the American Way that he tried to undermine the separation of church and State, he had a majoritarian ideology—actually, he stood firm for minorities and against the majority in many cases, as we just mentioned. They call him an extreme ideologue, a crusader to push the law far to the right. Anybody who knows him and knows the circumstances under which he has operated knows the courage he has shown and knows that these charges are just bogus. It is not fair, and we are doing that too often here.

I thank the Senator from Tennessee for his fine comments. I believe Bill

Pryor is the most principled, committed lawyer I have known in this country. I know he would be a magnificent Federal judge, and we will make a big mistake if this body does not see fit to confirm him. He needs an up-or-down vote, and we will have that vote tomorrow to see if he gets an up-or-down vote. If he gets an up-or-down vote, he will be confirmed.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until Thursday, November 6, at 9:30 a.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:14 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, November 6, 2003, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate November 5, 2003:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

JAMES M. LOY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE GORDON ENGLAND, RESIGNED.

UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

LAURIE SUSAN FULTON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2007, VICE HARRIET M. ZIMMERMAN, TERM EXPIRED.

THE JUDICIARY

PETER G. SHERIDAN, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY, VICE STEPHEN M. ORLOFSKY, RESIGNED.

WILLIAM S. DUFFEY, JR., OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA, VICE J. OWEN FORRESTER, RETIRING.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate November 5, 2003:

THE JUDICIARY

ROGER W. TITUS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND.