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I rise in opposition to this resolution for reasons that have little to do with the nominee himself. I'm not opposed to the resolution because Manuel Estrada declines to answer general questions about his ideological beliefs or because he refuses to turn over to the Senate briefs he wrote in the past. Nor does my opposition stem from the fact that Estrada has had several cases overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court on 1st amendment grounds; that he's spent much of his career representing Aetna in cases defending HMO's; nor that he was Kenneth Starr's assistant solicitor general.

Some in this body may think Estrada would be a fine judge while others may hesitate to confirm him as a member of what has been called the second most important court in the country without first receiving additional information. But all that is really beside the point. We are not here to vote on Estrada's confirmation. We are here to vote on SJR 6 which I oppose for reasons that go far beyond any particular individual.

First, I find it disingenuous, if not down right hypocritical, for the proponents of this resolution to suggest that Senator

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ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, PROCEDURES, & ETHICS
DATE: 5/13/03 ROOM: 3138 EXHIBIT H
SUBMITTED BY: Senator Titus

Harry Reid and the Democrats are being obstructionists and are deliberately delaying President Bush's judicial appointments for "political" reasons. The truth is, when Democrats controlled the Senate they set a record-breaking pace in confirming nominees. The Democratic-led Senate confirmed 80 judicial nominees within the first 15 months of Bush's administration, more than were confirmed by the Republican Senate during the first 15 months of Reagan's, Bush Sr.'s, or Clinton's administration. On the other hand, more than a dozen Clinton nominees had to wait over 500 days to be confirmed (nine waited over 700 days, 4 waited over 900 days, 2 waited over 1000 days, and 1, Richard Paez, waited 1520 days). Not once during that time did we send a resolution urging the Senate to take action.

Second, I am offended by the proponents' shameless use of the ethnic card and their ridiculous insinuation that Democrats are in some way anti-Hispanic. In fact, when Democrats led the Senate Judiciary Committee, they approved six Hispanic nominees. The Republican record on Hispanic nominees under Clinton, however, was dismal. Those who never even received a

hearing include Jorge Rangel, Enrique Moreno, Christine Arguello, Richard Morado, Anabelle Rodriguez, and Sam Paez.

Third, while I appreciate the proponents' elaboration of Estrada's resume, let me share with you the credentials of some of the Hispanic judges who were nominated by President Clinton and never even received a confirmation hearing, much less a vote.

Jorge Rangel is a Harvard law graduate with a "well qualified" rating from the ABA as is Enrique Moreno, another Harvard law graduate with a unanimous rating of "well qualified" by the ABA. Christine Arguello was the first Latina to graduate from Harvard in 1980 where she served as editor of the Harvard Civil Rights Law Review. And Anabelle Rodriguez was the Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, just to mention a few. Not too shabby.

Fourth, we have so much to do during this legislative session that is of critical nature for Nevada-medical malpractice, construction defects, budget cuts, and tax increases, for example- that I must ask why in the world we are wasting time on a resolution which is a federal matter and which is going to

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have no impact whatsoever on events in the U.S. Senate related to the Estrada confirmation.

Finally, this is a time in our history when we must all work together and yet this resolution represents politics at its worst. Why are the proponents bringing the partisan battle of Washington into the halls of the Nevada legislature? The nation is at war and the state is facing an economic crisis. Instead of fanning the fires of partisanship with resolutions like this, we should be looking for common ground.

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