

TAPE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 12, 1987

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

SEVERAL DAYS AGO JUSTICE LEWIS POWELL ANNOUNCED HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES. WITHIN DAYS, THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION NOMINATED A JURIST FROM THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, ROBERT BORK TO FILL THE COURT VACANCY.

ACCORDING TO THE ADMINISTRATION, MR. BORK IS THE IDEAL CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION. THEY CITE HIS RECORD ON UPHOLDING THE PRESS' FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS AND HIS REPUTATION AS A CONSTITUTIONAL SCHOLAR.

WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION ^{HAS IGNORED} ~~FAILS TO MENTION~~ IS THE FACT THAT HE WAS THE MAN WHO FIRED THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR IN THE WATERGATE INVESTIGATION, AND ~~AMONG~~ ^{PARTICULARLY} OTHER THINGS HE HAS CRITICALLY OPPOSED AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS UPHELD BY THE SUPREME COURT OVER THE PAST THIRTY YEARS.

THE SENATE CONFIRMATION OF MR. BORK TO THE SUPREME COURT WOULD INDEED BE A SEVERE BLOW TO THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF JUSTICE. HIS CONSERVATISM WOULD RETURN THE COURT TO A POSITION IT HELD FOR MANY YEARS IN WHICH CIVIL RIGHTS AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS WERE FORCED TO STAND IN THE BACK OF THE BUS.

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