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DAVID H. SOUTER
(ADMINISTRATIVE STRATEGY)

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D.C.

To- Lee Liberman
Fr- Bill Kristol

WK/JAC

William Kristol

David Souter
Administrative
Staff

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

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EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

COLLEGE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The President's swift nomination of Judge David Souter to the Supreme Court is just the latest example of his decisive executive style. Judge Souter is a first-rate jurist, a public servant of distinction and accomplishment, and a fair man.

There were no litmus tests involved in the choice. The President selected an outstanding person for the job, someone who will interpret our Constitution and our laws, and not try to legislate from the bench.

Now it is up to the Senate to confirm Judge Souter. I am hopeful my former colleagues will evaluate Judge Souter on the merits and avoid rancorous partisanship.

I am disappointed, and we should all be disappointed, by the reaction of some single-issue special interest groups. They stand up and say, "If we don't know in advance that Judge Souter is for us on our single issue, we oppose him."

I say -- no way. No litmus tests. No loyalty oaths to the agendas of single issue special interest groups. A Justice must be impartial and fair to all sides -- that's a key difference between judging and legislating. It's wrong to seek a commitment from a Justice before he hears a case.

I am hopeful the Senate will stand strong and not be intimidated by these special interest groups. They must resist this special interest group pressure and look at Judge Souter's total record -- a record of fairness, integrity, and excellence. And, when they do, I'm confident that the Senate will give its consent to this outstanding jurist.

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