

SENATE MINORITY LEADER HOLDS MEDIA AVAILABILITY FOLLOWING  
CLOSED POLICY LUNCHEON

MAY 2, 2006

SPEAKER: U.S. SENATOR HARRY REID (D-NV),  
SENATE MINORITY LEADER

QUESTION: Senator, on judges, if Brett Kavanaugh comes to the floor without another hearing, will there a possible filibuster of that?

REID: The answer is yes, a possible filibuster, of course. Kavanaugh is an interesting individual. Senator Leahy has been on the Judiciary Committee 32 years. He has never, ever seen the ABA lower someone's rating. He can't say that anymore, because Kavanaugh has been lowered. His standard by the ABA has been lowered. Here's a person who has been involved in a lot of things dealing with torture, and his experience is nonexistent, basically -- 41-years old. I'm not sure he's ever been in a courtroom. So yes, we'll take a very close look at that.

QUESTION: How about Boyle?

REID: Boyle, as strongly as I feel in a negative sense about Kavanaugh, it pales in comparison to Boyle. Boyle is a person who I can't imagine how President Bush could bring him to the Senate for confirmation. He's part of the Caball, working with Jesse Helms to stop African-Americans from going on the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals. He's been a federal trial court judge now for a number of years. In the years that he's been there, which hasn't been very long, he has been reversed 165 times. 165 times. Nearly every one of his reversals dealt with minorities. He is opposed by all minority groups. And he's opposed by law enforcement in the state of North Carolina because he's so anti-law enforcement. And the clincher, as far as I'm concerned, was a pretty report that came out yesterday. He was on a case dealing with General Electric. During the case, he buys General Electric stock. He rules against the consumer and in favor of General Electric. If this guy deserves to be a federal district court judge, I don't know what a federal district court judge is all about. He not only shouldn't be a trial court judge as he is, but to think that he should be elevated to a circuit court of appeals is outrageous. So that's how I feel about Boyle.