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Bcc: Brett M. Kavanaugh (CN=Brett M. Kavanaugh/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

Subject: : Senate Democrats Reject Another of Bush's Judicial Nominees

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Senate Democrats Reject Another of Bush's Judicial Nominees

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Filed at 12:47 p.m. ET

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The Senate Judiciary Committee, in a strict party-line vote, rejected Texas Supreme Court Justice Priscilla Owen for a federal appeals court seat Thursday, handing President Bush a second major defeat in his efforts to put more conservatives in key judgeships.

With Democrats holding sway, Owen's nomination to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court

of Appeals in New Orleans was defeated on a 10-9 vote. She needed the support of at least one Democrat on the panel for her nomination to move to the full Senate.

Democrats contended that Owen, 47, has been an anti-abortion and pro-business judicial activist whose opinions and rulings were overly influenced by her personal beliefs.

The same committee last March by an identical party-line vote, rejected the appeals court nomination of Lott's friend, U.S. District Judge Charles Pickering of Mississippi, after women's, civil rights and liberal groups mounted a campaign against him. Pickering also was nominated for 5th Circuit, which covers Mississippi, Texas and Louisiana.

Since Bush took office, the Senate has confirmed 73 of his judicial nominees, 13 of them for appeals court seats and 60 as federal district judges. But 40 of Bush's nominees have yet to get a hearing before the Judiciary Committee.

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Pool Report #2
Thursday, sept. 5, 2002

Motorcade to Seelbach Hilton (Louisville) was uneventful.

At the fundraiser, before appearance of speakers, Ari Fleischer informed your pool of the Senate Judiciary Committee's partyline vote against Priscilla Owens.

"The president is very disappointed by the Senate's actions. They on a partisan basis denied a qualified jurist the chance to serve on the country," Fleischer added. "The nation's judicial emergency has just grown worse."

On background, a top White House official said that "Ron Kirk just lost the Senate race." Kirk supported Owens' defeat.

Fleischer added: "This was a case of partisanship at its worst."

Edwin Chen
Los Angeles Times
mobile: P6/b(6)
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