United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 14, 2005

President George W. Bush
The White House
West Wing
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20502

Senator Bill Frist
U.S. Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Speaker Dennis Hastert
U.S. House of Representatives
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. President, Senator Frist and Speaker Hastert:

During these times, the last thing we need is inflammatory rhetoric which on its face encourages violence against judges and could lead unstable people to commit violent acts. Furthermore these threats of violence and mass impeachments do nothing but rile up extremists and potentially provide wrong-headed justifications for future acts of violence against judges.

Therefore, we are asking you to immediately denounce the inflammatory statements made by high-profile conservative leaders that might encourage violence against judges. These rhetorical attacks on judges come during a volatile time where judges and their families have been slain. Among the volatile statements made are:

- Just last week, a conservative lawyer-author, Edwin Vieira, at the Judeo Christian Council for Constitutional Restoration, which was also addressed by House Majority Leader Tom Delay, said that Justice Kennedy should be impeached and said "Stalin had a slogan, and it worked very well for him, whenever he ran into difficulty: 'no man, no problem.'" As you may know, the full Joseph Stalin quote is, "Death solves all problems: no man, no problem."

- This week Dr. James Dobson on his Focus on the Family radio broadcast said, "Justice Scalia referred to his colleagues on the court as black robed masters. Isn't that incredible? … I heard a minister talking about the great injustice and evil of the men in white robes, the Ku Klux Klan, that roamed the country and the

South and they did great wrong to civil rights and to morality and now we have black robed men, and that's what you're talking about."

- Alan Keyes, a former Republican candidate for President and the U.S. Senate also said at the Judeo-Christian Council Conference, "I believe that in our country today the judiciary is the focus of evil."

- Michael Schwartz, Sen. Coburn's Chief of Staff, said at the Judeo-Christian Conference, "I am in favor of impeachment," even, "mass impeachment" might be needed.

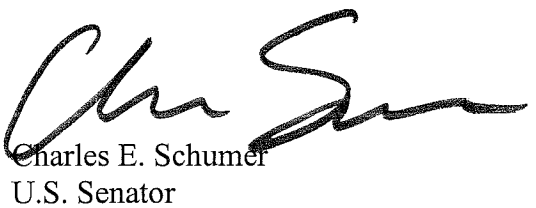
- House Majority Leader Tom DeLay said, "The time will come for the men responsible for this [the Schiavo court decision] to answer for their behavior."

Comparing the United States judicial system and those who serve on it to the Ku Klux Klan, condoning the murderous Joseph Stalin, calling the judiciary the focus of evil and advocating mass impeachment is unacceptable.

Therefore we believe it is incumbent on you as leaders of the Republican Party and the conservative movement to immediately denounce these inflammatory statements. We believe that taking a stand against their statements is essential to create an environment of greater comity in the Senate and in the country.

Sincerely,

Harry Reid
U.S. Senator



Charles E. Schumer
U.S. Senator

Dick Durbin
U.S. Senator

Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senator