

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 207

Calling on the President of the United States immediately to recommend new candidates for the positions of the Attorney General of the United States and the President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (commonly known as the “World Bank”) in order to preserve the integrity and the efficacy of the Department of Justice and the World Bank.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 17, 2007

Mr. DODD submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Calling on the President of the United States immediately to recommend new candidates for the positions of the Attorney General of the United States and the President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (commonly known as the “World Bank”) in order to preserve the integrity and the efficacy of the Department of Justice and the World Bank.

Whereas the Department of Justice is responsible for upholding and enforcing the law throughout the United States of America;

Whereas the Attorney General, as the Nation's chief law enforcement official, must place the rule of law above partisan political gain;

Whereas Attorney General Alberto Gonzales has consistently provided misleading and incomplete testimony to Congress regarding his role in the inappropriate and politically motivated firings of at least 8 United States Attorneys, as well as refusing to acknowledge widespread concern within the Department of Justice on the legality of its domestic surveillance program;

Whereas, according to the testimony of former Deputy Attorney General James Comey, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, while White House Counsel, attempted to pressure then-Attorney General John Ashcroft to authorize a domestic surveillance program that the Department of Justice itself had determined had "no legal basis", while he was in the intensive care unit of George Washington University Hospital and had relinquished the powers of the Attorney General;

Whereas the current controversies surrounding the Attorney General have undermined the effectiveness and integrity of the Department of Justice and have contributed to a reduction in morale among employees who have important work to accomplish;

Whereas the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, in this resolution referred to as the "World Bank", plays a vital role in global efforts to reduce poverty, aid development, and promote good governance in all nations in which it operates;

Whereas anti-corruption efforts have been a key element of the World Bank strategy under both the current and previous Bank Presidents;

Whereas Paul D. Wolfowitz, President of the World Bank, arranged for a pay and promotion package for Shaha Ali Riza, a bank employee with whom he had a personal relationship, upon becoming President in 2005;

Whereas, on May 14, 2007, an Ethics Committee of the World Bank investigating this incident reported to the World Bank's Board of Directors that "Mr. Wolfowitz's contract requiring that he adhere to the Code of Conduct for board officials and that he avoid any conflict of interest, real or apparent, were violated" in arranging for a pay raise and promotion for Shaha Ali Riza, thus contravening World Bank ethical and governance rules;

Whereas, on April 26, 2007, more than 40 members of the Bank's anti-corruption unit issued a statement declaring that due to corruption allegations against Mr. Wolfowitz, "The credibility of our front-line staff is eroding in the face of legitimate questions from our clients about the bank's ability to practice what it preaches on governance";

Whereas several of the World Bank's largest donors, including European nations who supply a major portion of the World Bank's operating revenue, have warned that they might withhold funds for the World Bank so long as Mr. Wolfowitz remains in office; and

Whereas the actions of Attorney General Gonzales and Mr. Wolfowitz have created a crisis of confidence and credibility within two vital institutions with serious national and international consequences and merit decisive action

by the President of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate calls on the President of
2 the United States immediately to recommend new can-
3 didates for the positions of the Attorney General of the
4 United States and the President of the World Bank in
5 order to preserve the integrity and the efficacy of the De-
6 partment of Justice and the World Bank.

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