

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

July 16, 2003

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch:

As you know, over the last week our staffs have been cooperating in a bipartisan investigation of William Pryor's involvement in fundraising for the Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA) as it relates to his testimony to the Committee. Both sides agreed that the materials being examined in the investigation were to be kept confidential within the Committee.

Unfortunately, as evidenced by a column in today's Mobile Register, it appears that confidential information has been disclosed by the Republican side and the bipartisan, confidential nature of this investigation has been irretrievably compromised. Details contained in the article known only to staff make it clear that the information was released in some form to someone outside of the Committee -- whether to the author of the column or to someone who passed it on to the author is unclear at this time. We can assure you that none of the Democratic staff with access to the materials provided them to the author of the column, a former Republican House staffer who has been writing in support of Mr. Pryor's nomination for months.

Although the confidentiality of the investigation has been compromised, there still is important follow-up work to be done. Many of the RAGA documents we have examined so far appear to contradict -- or, at the very least, they raise serious questions about -- the completeness and accuracy of Mr. Pryor's answers to the Committee. Even the author of the Register column, a strong supporter of this nomination, concedes that Mr. Pryor's answers to Senator Feingold weren't "good enough." Depending on the results of our further investigation, it may be appropriate to provide Senators an opportunity to question the nominee in person and under oath about the serious questions the RAGA documents raise and to afford the nominee an opportunity to seek to explain his prior testimony.

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Before the Committee's confidential investigation was compromised it might have been possible to conclude this inquiry earlier rather than later. This breach clearly now has complicated and lengthened the time it will take to learn the truth. In light of these developments, it would be premature for the Committee to take action on the Pryor nomination tomorrow. We need to work together in a bipartisan manner to resolve these matters after thorough investigation.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY  
United States Senator



EDWARD M. KENNEDY  
United States Senator