

HAPPY FRIDAY NIGHT NEWS DUMP

Dear George Bush:

Thank you for giving this son of immigrants the opportunity to deprive brown people of their right to vote. I'm just sorry I won't have the opportunity to do so during the 2008 election.

Love,

Hans

I'm sorry. That's not exactly what Han von Spakovsky said in his letter withdrawing from consideration for FEC. He did mention being the son of immigrants:

The day that I was sworn in as a Commissioner in January of 2006 was almost exactly 55 years to the day from the date that my parents arrived in the United States as penniless war refugees. It says a great deal about what a wonderful country we live in that a first-generation son of immigrants could be appointed by the President to such a post of public service.

And he did boast about his service in the Civil Rights Division of DOJ.

I am very proud of the work that I did as a career lawyer at the Department of Justice, which has been validated by numerous federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court.

Spakovsky must have forgotten the "sometimes" in that last sentence, as he was also reversed by those same courts.

Mostly, though, this letter is all about victimization—his victimization, not those whose

votes or civil rights he ignored. He explains as his reason for withdrawing that his family does "not have the financial resources to continue to wait until this matter is resolved" (which I'm frankly fairly sympathetic to). No mention of Mitch McConnell's refusal to let Spakovsky get an upperdown vote of his very own, without yoking him to other, more palatable nominees. To hear Spakovsky tell it, he was due this nomination, and unfair mean opposition ruined it for him.

That's a stance that Harry Reid does not agree with, to say the least.

I welcome the President's decision to withdraw the controversial nomination of Mr. von Spakovsky. It is an action I have repeatedly urged the President to take for more than six months. Democrats stood united in their opposition to von Spakovsky because of his long and well-documented history of working to suppress the rights of minorities and the elderly to vote. He was not qualified to hold any position of trust in our government.

As I understand it, the Senate has a Rules Committee hearing scheduled for Wednesday, at which they will be prepared to discuss the three other nominees. I'm trying to clarify whether that means Commissioner Mason—the guy who said McCain was breaking his own damn campaign finance law—will be ousted, but it seems to be. (In fact, I think one of the people they've nominated is Donald McGahn, a former DeLay lawyer also involved on the edges of the NRCC scandal—so we may be trading racially biased policies for outright corruption.) I will update you when I figure out more.