

S. 2648 HEARING (All comments by Biden unless noted. Quotes may be approximate.)

"I have been unfairly treated by the judiciary."

"Your recommendations on judgeships are just that-recommendations."

"The Judicial Conference has no equal in doling out patronage." Highlighted 6th Circuit's failure to get any judgeships in our 1988 request, and five in the 1990.

14 points are "inadequate".

"I look forward to your justification of comments that I am playing politics at the expense of the noble judiciary."

To Peckham: "Your personal experiences in California prompted the Brookings Task Force." "Your criticisms are solid ones." "No 'agency' [presumably the judicial branch] likes to give up control."

Mecham's and Robinson's comments were "outrageous".

"If my staff did that to me, they would be chastized or fired."

"Mecham works for you -- his comments were made on your watch."

"I had no intention at the outset to combine titles I and II; the judgeships were added at the request of the minority."

"Title II represents my honest, best effort to get new judgeships; 20 drug districts have priority as a policy matter."

"The party in control didn't ask for unnecessary new judgeships."

"To the extent you have attempted to be dishonorable, it does affect the relationship of the Committee to the Conference."

"I am flabbergasted at your response to this bill. It was cheap politics."

"We delayed four months in good faith. Then I read the malarky that came out of the Conference."

"In my career, I have always supported judges. I will not tolerate being on the other end of invective coming from the courts without responding."

"Private discussions are OK but public discussions are something else. Titles I and II are a political power game in the press."

"If a staff member spoke out derogatorily about the judges I would disassociate myself from the remarks. No one has publicly disassociated themselves."

"I want an apology from the Conference by tomorrow."

Murphy: "All judges have great respect for Congress - don't misunderstand." Biden: "Then don't take it personally when I go to the floor tomorrow and mention particular people."

"There will be a significant number of new judges....A new judgeship bill will be considered."