



January 31, 1986

\* \* \* \* ACTION ALERT \* \* \* \*

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Sidney Fitzwater of Dallas, Texas has been nominated by President Reagan to be a federal district judge. The Judiciary Committee held a hearing on December 4th and on December 12th voted to hold the nomination over for action in the next session.

As a Republican judicial candidate in November 1982, Fitzwater personally participated in the Texas Republican Ballot Security Program by posting intimidating signs in minority precincts. This action was an attempt to intimidate minority voters who were expected to cast the majority of their votes for Democratic candidates. The Texas Ballot Security Program, also known as "Election Accuracy Program", was clearly targeted at black areas. There are 400 precincts in Dallas; only 80 signs were posted. Ninety percent of the black precincts were posted with warning signs compared to about 10% of the other precincts.

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Confirmation hearings on Mr. Fitzwater will continue in the Judiciary Committee any time now that Congress has gone back into session. We must write Senator Lloyd Bentsen, Governor Mark White, Senator Phil Gramm, Congressman John Bryant and Attorney General Jim Mattox and let them know that we oppose the appointment of Mr. Fitzwater to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas.

Mr. Fitzwater's participation in actions that attempt to intimidate minority citizens from exercising their right to vote cast grave doubt on the commitment to equal justice which is a necessary characteristic of a federal judge.

Please voice your opposition to this appointment to the particular officials named herein.

Please call or send your letter to Western Union "Public Opinion Message" (\$6.45 for 40 words) in opposition to the confirmation of Sidney Fitzwater to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas as soon as possible. Send letters to President Reagan, Senator Phil Gramm (Sponsor of Mr. Fitzwater), Senator Lloyd Bentsen, Governor Mark White and Attorney General Jim Mattox.

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