

My Two Cent's Worth

By: Joseph Andalina

Our political process in progress

Or is it? Watching the confirmation hearings on Supreme Court Judge nominee Neil Gorsuch was fascinating. But what you get is a nominee trying effortlessly, to be honest, in answering inquiries, and democratic senators constantly asking redundant questions for the sole purpose of making him look bad by asking if he is:

- Independent
- Not biased
- Rejects the constitution
- Will not be an activist judge
- Will not be holding to Trump's ideals
- Cannot be pressured by either party
- Rejects the idea of "precedent" as it applies to already made decisions, such as *Brown vs. Board of Education*, *Roe vs. Wade*, *Heller*, *Wainwright*, and other controversial decisions that democrats are really worried about. But what it really is — will he overturn *Roe vs. Wade*? That's the biggie.

In my opinion, he accomplished this with dignity. He seems to be an ideal candidate but is no doubt a conservative. He was queried about his thoughts on employers and employees but he is capably experienced to dodge this and all other questions that the democrats attempted to trap him in. He will not comment on precedential cases or ongoing litigation. Most of these hearings were simple senatorial grandstanding. So what else is new.

On the State of Illinois format, the ongoing skirmishes between Rauner and democrats are laughable. Rauner is so anti-union no matter what baloney he feeds to the public that he isn't. He is a joke. Just look at his battle with AFSCME or the state workers. Just trying to force his will and not to the benefit of the worker.

We all know the sparring between him and Madigan. That will go on until he is not reelected or Madigan retires.

Now he is warring with the comptroller, Susana Mendoza, since she beat his handmaiden, Leslie Munger, in the last special election. She accuses him of being a "terrible governor" and paying (his) consultants from a state health care fund, among other things. The Rauner spokesperson says Mendoza claim is "pathetic" and she is diverting from her horrible spending efforts.

So the best guess is that the battle in our late great state and the dog and pony show that is our federal government's partisan hearings that masquerade as bi-partisan will continue unfettered.

So is our progress – progress? You can decide.

Vita é bella.