

Exhibit 179

in the case of:

**People of the Republic of Texas
and the
Sovereign Nation of the Republic of Texas**

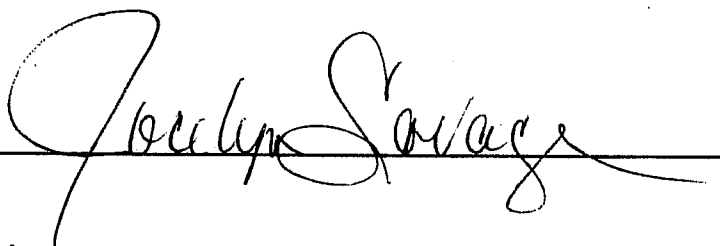
v.

**UNITED NATIONS
(and all it's Political Subdivisions)
and
UNITED STATES
(and all it's Political Subdivisions)**

Under Pains and Penalties of perjury and the laws of the Almighty, and being sworn under a vow and oath, I attest that the attached pages are true and correct reprints of the:

Congressional Record: Self-Determination for the American Citizens of Puerto Rico - June 9, 1998, from: Thomas, Legislative Information on the Internet, a service of the U.S. Congress through its library.

This attestation is made on August 12, 1998.

Attest: 

D. A. West

Witness to scan and above signature

Merle Ann West

Witness to above signatures

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SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE AMERICAN CITIZENS OF PUERTO RICO (House of Representatives - June 09, 1998)

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. **Romero-Barcelo**) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO. Mr. Speaker, 3.8 million American citizens of Puerto Rico are eager to exercise self-determination. We care passionately about our political status and we support congressional measures which call for a referendum, define status options, and provide for the implementation of the status choice that prevails.

Opponents of these bills object to the fact that if a majority of the 3.8 million U.S. citizens vote for statehood, a process might begin which would lead to the islands's full incorporation into the United States as an equal partner. So, some may be wondering what is the problem? What is the problem with having American citizens achieve the right to vote and the right to representation? If my colleagues should ask me, nothing. But some Members of Congress want to impose a supermajority requirement on Puerto Rico if we were to vote for statehood. If they have their way, even if a majority of American citizens in Puerto Rico voted for statehood and only 44 percent voted for Commonwealth, we would remain as a Commonwealth.

Why? Why should the will of a minority decide the relationship of 3.8 million American citizens? Why should a minority keep almost 4 million American citizens disenfranchised and denied the right to participate in their Nation's democratic process?

Mr. Speaker, is the imposition of such a threshold not unprecedented and shameful? Of course it is. It is also undemocratic.

H.R. 856 or S.472 would allow the American citizens in Puerto Rico to exercise their right to self-determination. They would give the American citizens in Puerto Rico an honest choice by providing congressionally approved and constitutionally sound definitions which explicitly detail the privileges and limitation of each of the status options.

In such a contest, statehood most probably would prevail. That apparently is not acceptable for the opponents of Puerto Rican self-determination. They imagine that the voters of all the territories overwhelmingly favored statehood before entering the Union and Puerto Ricans should do likewise.

But that simply is not the case. Most territories never even held referendums on statehood and, in some

instances, the progress towards incorporation was advanced or stalled by whether or not the voters accepted their State constitutions. By this measure, voters in Colorado, Wisconsin, and Nebraska were decidedly ambivalent about the prospect of statehood, yet they all became States.

In Colorado's case, Congress passed an enabling act, but the citizens of the territory resoundingly rejected their first State constitution. A second State constitution was drafted and it prevailed by a narrow majority of 155 votes. But that is just the beginning of the story. President Andrew Johnson vetoed two statehood measures because Colorado's constitution differed substantially from the enabling act. Another 9 years passed before Colorado's voters managed to ratify a constitution compatible with the statehood measure.

Nebraska, for its part, could be nicknamed the reluctant State. Its voters rejected the first proposal floated for a convention to draft a State constitution and were happy to let the matter rest there. But 4 years later, Congress seized the initiative and, without a mandate from territorial residents, passed an enabling act for Nebraska.

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The voters wanted nothing to do with it and wasted no time in defeating the second proposal for a State constitutional convention. Two years later, in a referendum which was plagued with irregularities, Nebraskans grudgingly consented to join the Union with statehood prevailing by a mere 100 votes.

Incorporating Texas into the U.S. was a cliffhanger as well. When the Republic of Texas and the U.S. each failed to ratify a treaty of annexation, Congress jettisoned the treaty process. It adopted a different strategy, drawing up a joint resolution for annexing Texas to the United States. Even that almost failed. In the Senate, the resolution squeaked by with just two votes to spare.

Last but not least, all of the States south of the Mason-Dixon line decided to secede from the Union in the 1860s, but they were forced to remain against their will. How can anyone claim that in order for 3.8 million American citizens to be allowed a vote and to become a State or share as partners in equal terms a simple majority is not enough?

Given the historical record, we need to abandon this pretense, this exercise in revisionist history, that this Union was conceived and expanded without thoughtful reservations on the part of all participants. We need to reject unprecedented requirements which are designated to frustrate the exercise of democracy rather than enhance it. We need to extend to the American citizens of Puerto Rico the right to self-determination in the same way it was proffered to all the territories, freely. It is the only fair and just thing to do. It is the right thing to do for Congress and for our Nation.

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