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Driving the Conversation:

## Pelosi's presser

**Plus-should Obama feel obliged to appoint a qualified woman, African American or Hispanic to the Supreme Court? If so, why, and on what basis should he choose among these groups?**

**Friday at 12:30 EDT-Join us here for a live reader chat with Rep. John Dingell**

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**Roger Pilon**, Vice President for Legal Affairs, Cato Institute:  
*...A retreat from our long march out of tribalism...*

That the president should feel “obliged” to appoint someone of a particular category is a mark of how far we’ve moved from thinking of people as individuals to thinking of them through those categories – race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, (dis)ability, and so forth. And of course the categories are as numerous as the imagination is fertile. (The president, after all, is no more an African-American than he is an Anglo-American – except, perhaps, insofar as he chooses to think of himself as such, and now we’re really into subjectivism.) That’s a pity, and not simply because, with only nine seats to fill, many of us will remain “unrepresented,” but, more deeply, because it’s a retreat from our long march out of tribalism, as reflected by our motto, E Pluribus Unum. Indeed, it means that “diversity,” purportedly in the service of equality, is trumping the equality that our long march was undertaken to secure.

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