

troops who search out the enemy and now suffer more than half of all casualties, light body armor, and telecommunications that allow foot soldiers to see and talk to their units.

Most important, Scales argues,

the Pentagon should pay infantrymen better. Compensation should reflect the risks soldiers face, not just their technical skills. Foot soldiers should also be allowed to retire earlier than other personnel. The infantry, he

says, should be manned by the military's best and brightest, because mature, intelligent, well-led, well-trained, and motivated soldiers are "far more effective in the close fight and far less likely to die."

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

The Court's 'Right' Track

THE SOURCE: "A Tale of Two Justices" by Linda Greenhouse, in *Green Bag*, Autumn 2007.

PRESIDENTS RICHARD M. Nixon and George W. Bush had similar goals in appointing Harry Blackmun and John Roberts to the U. S. Supreme Court more than 30 years apart: to move the Court away from what they considered egregious liberalism.

Their choices were Republican sons of the Midwest and brilliant graduates of Harvard College and Harvard Law School with almost unassailable legal credentials.

But Blackmun traversed the ideological spectrum to become the Court's most liberal member by the time he retired in 1994. Is a similar ideological journey in store for Chief Justice Roberts?

Substantial recent scholarship suggests that the answer is a resounding *no*, writes Linda Greenhouse, the Supreme Court correspondent for *The New York Times*. Modern-era Republican-appointed justices who came from outside Washington have drifted to

the left on the bench, while those who were already Washington insiders with service in the executive branch when they were appointed to the Court stayed put on the liberal-conservative spectrum. Chief Justice Earl Warren, considered a conservative when he moved from California after his appointment by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1953, issued some of the landmark liberal rulings of the 20th century, including *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954). By contrast, Chief Justice William Rehnquist, elevated to the Court from service at high levels in the Justice Department, never veered from his conservative views.

Why? A move in midlife to such a prominent position in Washington,

Ideological drift is unlikely to infect Supreme Court justices such as John Roberts who have served in the executive branch.

an unfamiliar place and culture, is a profound personal disruption that fosters receptivity to new ideas and influences, Greenhouse thinks. Working in the executive branch in Washington, by contrast, is the "product of a process of self-selection and political dues paying that both reinforces and demonstrates loyalty to a set of principles."

So ideological drift is unlikely to infect the current chief justice, who is a veteran of the Justice Department, the White House, Washington private practice, and the District of Columbia federal courts, no matter how long he serves.

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

Granny Goes Left

THE SOURCE: "Population Aging, Intracohort Aging, and Sociopolitical Attitudes" by Nicholas L. Danigelis, Melissa Hardy, and Stephen J. Cutler, in *American Sociological Review*, Oct. 2007.

WILL THE GRAYING OF AMERICA produce a more conservative electorate, resistant to liberal ideas about minorities, atheists, political dissenters, and gays? Not likely, say sociologists Nicholas L. Danigelis and Stephen J. Cutler, of the University of Vermont, and Melissa Hardy of Pennsylvania State University.

Americans over 60 are as likely as those under 40 to hold different views