

Mr. Ortiz, I don't think we are going to have to wait much longer. At least, that is my hope and my expectation.

Senator do you have any comments?

Senator HATCH. Well, we are happy to have all of you here, and I have to say that, Mr. Ortiz, it was very close this time.

Mr. ORTIZ. Very close.

Senator HATCH. And I want to tell you that there are very few opportunities to fill these positions, and I want to commend the President for making an excellent choice here. We really appreciate the testimony of each of you, as we have all of the witnesses, including those who have testified in opposition. Everybody has been respectful and, I think, very considerate in their testimony, and you, in particular, have been.

Mr. Wiesenfeld, I have to tell you that your name, of course, goes down in history and has gone down in history as a very, very important name in the field of civil rights and human rights, and we appreciate you being here and taking the time to come after all these years.

Mr. WIESENFELD. A pleasure; I really enjoyed myself.

Senator HATCH. Well, thank you. Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Speaking of being gracious and concise, running the risk that it could hurt him politically, I want to thank my friend from Utah. He has been, as the saying goes in this circumstance, a gentleman and a scholar. He has been extremely thoughtful and considerate, and the way in which my Republican colleagues have approached this nomination, I think, is a standard that I hope everyone will remember if and when the perilous day comes that a Republican is once again naming Supreme Court nominees.

I thank you, Senator, for the way in which you have not only cooperated, but the way in which you have led this committee.

Senator HATCH. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate it.

CLOSING STATEMENT

The CHAIRMAN. There is nothing more, God willing, to come before this committee and this hearing, and I know the press will ask this question, so I will state it at the outset. It is my hope and expectation that next Thursday, which is in the normal course of proceeding within this committee, we will have before us in an executive session, which merely means with no business before us in terms of witnesses, but considering the nominations of individuals—it is my hope, with the permission of my Republican friends, to convene in executive session at 10:30 on Thursday morning next in order to consider the nomination of Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the Supreme Court, and for this committee to fulfill its internal Senate responsibilities of making a recommendation to the Senate as a whole as to whether or not she should be confirmed.

I want to end where I began. This committee and this hearing is and should only be one part of the process of examining whether or not someone should sit on the Supreme Court of the United States. Our job is to, as thoroughly as we can, look into the background and qualifications of a nominee, and then make a recommendation to the Senate as a whole.

The Constitution does not mention the Judiciary Committee; it mentions the U.S. Senate. We are operating at the request and at the will of the Senate as a whole, and next Thursday hopefully we will be able to make that recommendation to the U.S. Senate for the Senate's debate and consideration.

I thank you all. I thank everyone for their cooperation, all of my colleagues, and this hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 2:43 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]