

Mr. FAZIO. I believe it is time to unite the Senate, and thereby the country, behind a man who has proven himself to his profession and his community, the capital of California. He has earned the respect and support of Sacramento, just as I am sure that Justice Lewis Powell earned that of the people of his State's capital, Richmond, during his many years of practice there. Anthony Kennedy is the right man to take up the responsibility that Justice Powell has set down. I urge you to send his nomination to the full Senate with your unanimous endorsement.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Congressman. The two references you made will be placed in the record as if read.

Mr. FAZIO. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Congressman Matsui, welcome. Nice to have you here. Please proceed.

STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. MATSUI. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to join my colleagues, Senator Wilson and Representative Fazio, in introducing Judge Kennedy and also give him my highest endorsement for his nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court.

I noticed an editorial in the New York Times this morning that made reference to the two nominees that preceded Judge Kennedy, Judge Bork and Judge Ginsburg. It is too bad that two individuals preceded Judge Kennedy for this nomination. I say it is a shame because we should not be here today comparing Judge Kennedy to his two previous nominees.

Judge Kennedy in and of himself is a superb candidate for the U.S. Supreme Court, and comparisons do not do this gentleman justice. He has a deep compassion for the law, as many of you know. He is highly intelligent; from his academic record, we can discern that. His experience, 12 years on the appellate court in California, demonstrates a level that very few nominees to the U.S. Supreme Court demonstrate.

Obviously, Judge Kennedy is a conservative, and Representative Fazio and myself are here as Democrats. We support him because of our personal knowledge of Judge Kennedy. I look back to Sacramento County, where he and I grew up, and I can talk to any of the 1 million people in Sacramento and not one of them would have anything negative to say about this candidate. One individual, when asked by a reporter what they thought of him, said they noticed a lack of an observable ego. Judge Kennedy is a man of humility; he is a man of compassion. He is an individual that really has no ego and who will understand the plight of the common man when matters come before this court.

I would also have to say that even though he is a conservative and Representative Fazio and I are moderates to liberals, we have a great deal of confidence in Judge Kennedy in terms of what he will do on the U.S. Supreme Court. If one looks at his opinions, one will notice that he demonstrates judicial restraint. But in 1987, that makes a lot of sense. It means that he probably will not be overturning many of the decisions of the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and