

The CHAIRMAN. Our next panel testifying in support of Judge Thomas' nomination includes the following: Sheriff Carl Peed, of Fairfax County, VA; Johnny Hughes is no stranger to this committee and has testified here on a number of occasions, a captain in the Maryland State Police who is testifying on behalf of the National Troopers Coalition; Bob Suthard, former superintendent of the Virginia State Police, who is testifying on behalf of the International Chiefs of Police; James Doyle III, former assistant attorney general of the State of Maryland; Donald Baldwin on behalf of the National Law Enforcement Council and a frequent person before this committee whom we rely on a great deal; and John Collins on behalf of Citizens for Law and Order. Welcome back, Mr. Collins.

Let me say to all the panelists it is a delight to have you here. We have spent a lot of time together. Usually it is on matters relating to law enforcement issues, but it is nonetheless a pleasure to have you here to testify on behalf of Judge Thomas.

Sheriff Peed, would you—unless the panel has—

Mr. BALDWIN. Mr. Chairman, I have got a very brief statement, and I would prefer—and I have discussed it with these gentlemen. If I could just put this in, make this brief statement, and then defer to them. My point is that this is a small segment of the law enforcement community, but I want to state that this represents what I consider the broader aspect and the overwhelming majority. So I will just make this brief statement and then defer, if I might, with your permission.

The CHAIRMAN. Surely. However the panel would like to proceed.

PANEL CONSISTING OF DONALD BALDWIN, NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT COUNCIL; CARL R. PEED, SHERIFF, FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA; JOHNNY HUGHES, NATIONAL TROOPERS COALITION; JAMES DOYLE III, FORMER ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, STATE OF MARYLAND; BOB SUTHARD, INTERNATIONAL CHIEFS OF POLICE; AND JOHN COLLINS, CITIZENS FOR LAW AND ORDER

Mr. BALDWIN. Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am Donald Baldwin, the executive director of the National Law Enforcement Council. The NLEC is an umbrella group for 14 member organizations. Through these organizations we reach some 500,000 law enforcement officers throughout the country and certainly the overwhelming majority of our law enforcement community.

Now, these gentlemen here will represent the views of their organizations, and I can state that they will represent the views of our member organizations as well.

We have endorsed Judge Thomas for the U.S. Supreme Court because we feel that Judge Thomas will assure that justice will be carried out through the right interpretation of our laws as they have been enacted by our legislative bodies. Judge Thomas in our view will interpret the Constitution as written. Legal scholars have determined that the nominee believes that a Supreme Court Justice, or any other judge, should not use his position as a judge to legislate new laws not already on the books. This is most important

because the law enforcement personnel must put their lives on the line every day and have to trust the laws. Our members want to know that if they arrest a person for breaking a law that he will be judged on the basis of that particular law, not by a new law that might be legislated on the spot by a judge. The law is the law. The Constitution is the Constitution.

Judge Thomas should certainly be confirmed for a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court. He has our wholehearted support.

We thank you for the opportunity to express our views.

As I have said, I am sure that these gentlemen here will speak not only for themselves, but they will speak for the entire law enforcement community, I believe.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Mr. Baldwin.

[The prepared statement of Donald Baldwin follows:]