

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT COUNCIL

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STATEMENT

of

Donald Baldwin
Executive Director
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Before the Senate Judiciary Committee
on behalf of
Judge Clarence Thomas
to serve as Associate Justice of the United States
Supreme Court

September 20, 1991

Q1096-1

REPRESENTING FIFTEEN NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATIONS WITH A
COMBINED MEMBERSHIP OF OVER 48,000 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

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

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 United States 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 to law enforcement personnel who must put their lives on the line every day. 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 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 be confirmed for the seat on the U.S. Supreme Court. He has our wholehearted support.

We thank you for this opportunity to express our views.