

you think that he is probably a duplicate in the sense of some other qualities that are on the Court already?

Mr. KERN. I would answer that by saying that I recall when his nomination was announced and his mother was interviewed on television, and she said, "He knows where he comes from, and he is never going to forget that."

When I would face the Supreme Court in the role of an advocate, I would see people from a variety of backgrounds and people with a variety of experiences, including an all-American football player and a Harvard Law Review member and a Chicago Law School professor.

It seems to me that Clarence Thomas, with his background and his life experiences that have been immeasurably different from, let's say, the last nominee—that is not to say that one has been better than the other, but they have been vastly different—I think he would bring a quality to the Court, a facet to the Court that is not now presently represented.

Senator GRASSLEY. And you are expressing that as a positive thing, that that ought to be present, a quality that ought to be present on the Court?

Mr. KERN. Absolutely. I would feel more comfortable as an advocate with that kind of component added to a multi-judge Court.

Mr. THOMPSON. Senator, I would add to what Judge Kern said, and that is, in addition to his background, arising from his background as a black American who grew up in the 1960's and has moved on, I think he would bring to the Court a demonstrated independence of thought, and the fact that he has valuable hands-on experience in the public policy arena as heading a major public agency such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. I think those two ingredients, in addition to what Judge Kern said, his independence of thought and his public policy experience would be valuable additions to the Court, not only being on the Court but inside the deliberations of the Court. I think that would be a very positive factor.

Ms. HOLMES. Senator, I sat here thinking about what can he bring. To me the most important thing is you have to know who you are and where you have come from, and he certainly knows that, as it has been demonstrated over the past few days.

Judge Thomas, with his integrity, his sensitivity, his compassion, even though others on the Court have that, he still is going to bring a different dimension to the Court.

Ms. BRACHER. I would just like to add that beyond his experience and keen intellect, the experience that he has from serving on the D.C. Circuit, from serving in the executive branch, I find Judge Thomas to be inspirational, that someone with his background has done what he has done, and it proves to me that with hard work I can do anything I want to do. And I think that he represents what is best in all of America. And I think he brings that to the Court along with his background.

Senator GRASSLEY. Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions. Thank you all very much.

Senator KOHL. Thank you very much, Senator Grassley.

Senator SPECTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman—