

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

Dr. Dumas, the honored spot; after 90 witnesses, you will be the last witness to be heard on the subject of Judge Thomas. It is an honor to have you here and thank you for your patience.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE C. DUMAS

Mr. DUMAS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee on the Judiciary, my name is George Dumas, national chairman of the Republican Black Caucus, RBC. We, the members of the Republican Black Caucus, would like to place in the record our organization's unanimous support of the nomination of Judge Clarence Thomas for confirmation as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of the United States.

Mr. Chairman and members of this committee and each Member of the full Senate, we respectfully request each of you to fully support the confirmation of this great American, one of America's brightest and most devoted public servants. Our country needs his experience, his wisdom, his judicial and constitutional expertise, as well as his ability to rise above politics of party, of race, of sex, of religion, or national origin.

In our opinion, Judge Clarence Thomas is a national role model, a splendid example of accomplishments despite insurmountable odds. His life mirrors my life. I was born in Eupora, MS, where picking cotton was a way of life. During my early childhood, my parents moved our family to East St. Louis, IL, and shortly after arriving there they separated.

My mother struggled to rear and educate four children on welfare, which at that time was called Aid to Dependent Children, ADC. By the grace of God, hard work, self-help, education, church and community role models, such as black ministers, doctors, lawyers, business leaders and teachers that lived in our community, we succeeded against the odds. Today, I am a successful entrepreneur. Because of this background, I can identify with Judge Clarence Thomas.

Some past national role models that immediately come to mind are Presidents Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, all great men. President Abraham Lincoln is credited with abolishing slavery. Today, Abraham Lincoln is honored as one of our country's greatest Presidents.

President John F. Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country." Judge Clarence Thomas is reviving that spirit of service ignited by President Kennedy. Over 24 years ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Judge Thurgood Marshall, a truly great American, to the Supreme Court of the United States. Today, President George W. Bush has nominated Judge Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court of the United States. President Bush continues that tradition of recognizing the best person for the position by nominating Judge Thomas.

Each of these Presidents dared to dream great dreams, and they dared to be different. Their ability to dream great dreams and stand by their commitments, to see their dreams become a reality, is the essence of the elements that have made America great.

Judge Thomas also dares to dream great dreams and to be different.

Our Nation owes these great Presidents and the great Justice Thurgood Marshall much gratitude. Our U.S. Senate owes President Bush and the American people a vote of confirmation of Judge Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court of the United States.

An ABC poll presented last Monday night, September 16, 1991, revealed that 63 percent of all Americans approve of the confirmation of Judge Clarence Thomas, including 61 percent of African-Americans and 61 percent of women. This is an approval rating increase of 5 to 7 percentage points for African-Americans.

Mr. Chairman and members of this committee and the full Senate, you have heard a great volume of testimony in favor and against this nomination. Some individual testimony has caused confusion. However, the central issue is that the President of the United States has nominated Judge Thomas, a highly qualified jurist of high moral character with integrity and independence.

We do not know why some people are against him. We do not now need to know how he will vote in the future. The fact is the American people have approved of this confirmation, as indicated by the latest ABC poll. We ask of you to vote to confirm this great American judge, this positive role model for our Nation.

We, the members of the Republican Black Caucus, RBC, thank you for this opportunity to testify before you during these historical proceedings. God bless Judge Thomas. God bless this committee and the full Senate. God bless the President of the United States, and God bless America.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Dumas follows.]