

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Senator Danforth. I know the nominee knows how fortunate he is to have a friend like you. While you are on your feet, Judge, we will swear you.

Senator DANFORTH. Can you still see the nominee, Mr. Chairman? [Laughter.]

The CHAIRMAN. Judge, while we are just passing some time here, I just want you to know up until a few nominees ago this is what you would have faced the entire time of your questioning. They are all gentle souls, but they are anxious to see you, and we agreed that we would do this so they could have you sworn in.

Judge Thomas, do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Judge THOMAS. I do.

The CHAIRMAN. Please be seated.

[Pause.]

The CHAIRMAN. Well, Judge, Jack Danforth said—talked about what is at issue. I want to make it clear at the outset of my questioning that there is a great deal more at issue than whether or not your view on how to deal with the civil rights of Americans deviates from the view of any single group of people.

I beg your pardon?

So I would now like to invite you to—having been sworn, to, if you would, please introduce your family to us, who have been waiting patiently all morning and the committee is anxious to meet them, as I am sure everyone else is. So, would you please introduce your family to us, Judge?

Judge THOMAS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like first to introduce my wife Virginia.

The CHAIRMAN. Welcome, Mrs. Thomas. It is a pleasure to have you here.

Judge THOMAS. My mother, Leola Williams; my sister, Emma May Martin; and my son Jamal.

The CHAIRMAN. Jamal, welcome. You look so much like your father that probably at a break you would be able to come back in and sit in there and answer questions. So, if he is not doing it the way you want it done, you just slide in that chair.

Judge THOMAS. He may not take it as a compliment if you say he looks like me.

The CHAIRMAN. He is young. He has a chance to grow out of it, as my father says about my sons.

Judge THOMAS. I would like to also introduce my mother-in-law and father-in-law, Donald and Marjorie Lamp, who are in the audience here.

The CHAIRMAN. Would you please stand, Mr. and Mrs. Lamp. Welcome to the hearing. Thank you very much for coming.

Do you have an opening statement, Judge?

Judge THOMAS. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Please.

TESTIMONY OF HON. CLARENCE THOMAS, OF GEORGIA, TO BE ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE U.S. SUPREME COURT

Judge THOMAS. Mr. Chairman, Senator Thurman, members of the committee, I am humbled and honored to have been nominated