



September 4, 1991

The Honorable Hank Brown
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

As the former Undersecretary of Education, I would like to respond to the Washington Post's report regarding Judge Clarence Thomas' involvement with the White House Working Group on the Family. I chaired the group and was tasked by President Reagan to write a report on the state of the American family.

In order to accomplish the project, a group of Reagan appointees representing various government agencies was enlisted to offer advice, material and direction. The group in no way represented a monolithic consensus of opinion, but in reality, was composed of ~~x~~ individuals with diverse ideas, views and goals. Among those was Clarence Thomas who at the time was the Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Judge Thomas provided advice and insight on the issue of Black self-help. Meetings occurred after hours at the Department of Education with discussions centering only around the topics assigned to the participants present. In fact, due to the diversity of its membership, individuals disagreed with various aspects of the report.

To my best recollection, Judge Thomas was not consulted about the sections regarding abortion or the Roe v. Wade decision, nor were they relevant to the sections of the report for which he was responsible.

It is my belief that the Washington Post article was in error. Judge Thomas's role with the Working Group was exemplary, offering advice and perspective on the issues for which he is known.

Thank you for your concern and I trust that this issue can be laid to rest.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Bauer
Gary L. Bauer

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The CHAIRMAN. As of sundown, Yom Kippur begins, and out of respect for all of the members of the staff and others on the committee who are Jewish, I want to make sure we stop.

Having said that, let me say to you that this is the people's room. This is not our room, but it is only loaned to us. You should not feel awed any more than we do. It is your room. You have come to it, and you have spoken with eloquence and with your heart. We appreciate your time and your effort. We respect what you have had to say.

We thank you very much, and we are now recessed until 9 o'clock on Thursday morning.

[Whereupon, at 5:49 p.m., the committee recessed, to reconvene on Thursday, September 19, 1991, at 9 a.m.]

