

mention that in connection with this brief question. One of the arguments used, and I hear it from my friends in the African-American community, is "I don't like Clarence Thomas' views, but if we don't take him, we are going to get somebody with the same views who is white; and we ought to have an African American on the court."

Congressman Conyers has answered that in part by saying this for all practical purposes probably precludes another viewpoint from the African-American community on the court.

I would be interested in how you would answer, and is the Booker T. Washington analogy a fair one or an unfair one?

Mr. CONYERS. It is. DuBois and Washington was the reference you were making to in the "Atlanta compromise", and we hear that—better to take a chance now, and keep your fingers crossed. Will he change? And you know, gentlemen, I have never approached a confirmation process supporting somebody that I didn't agree with and hoping they'd change.

I go back to Haynesworth, Carswell and on down the line, up into Bork, and it makes no sense. And I think your accommodationist parallel that you draw, Senator Simon, has validity. As a matter of fact, we had one of our great historians, John Hope Franklin, draw up comments for us that he submitted in which he went back to that day and made a reference quite similar to the one that you draw at this time.

Mr. STOKES. Senator Simon, I can only say in answer to your question, "If you don't get Thomas, then you probably will not get another black on the Court," that the only way to answer that is to say we will just have to be patient and wait our time. The fact is that if we don't get Thomas at this time, we don't get black at this time, then we will just have to be patient and wait.

It is as bad to have a bad appointee on there who is black as it is to have a bad appointee on there who is white. If Bork was wrong for the Court, Thomas is wrong for the Court, and you have to stand with that. You can't have a separate criteria.

Mr. OWENS. It is hard to believe, Senator, that there would ever be a situation where two blacks would be appointed to the Court, we just don't believe it is going to happen. As long as one is there, we are not likely to have another. It is hard to believe that Judge Thomas will ever change very much, because, as a member of the Reagan administration, he was one of the most outspoken and belligerent of the executive branch team.

He, of course, has been promoted and sponsored by people who are deeply rooted in the conservative philosophy, which is directly opposed to the kind of principles and the kinds of ideas that are necessary for the advancement of African-American people. The likelihood that he is going to change and not be grateful to his sponsors and do something different, we find it hard to believe that is going to happen.

We find it hard to believe that we won't be placed in a position where a member of the Supreme Court, occupying that position, which is quite an exalted one, will not be quoted extensively and used against us. If I was in Moscow or London or some other part of the world, and Judge Thomas made a statement and I made a statement in direct opposition to it, I would expect the people in