

Father Brooks, how would you characterize Clarence Thomas as a student?

Father BROOKS. Clarence was an excellent student. He pursued his academic life very, very seriously. He was very deliberative in terms of selecting courses, selecting his major, and he was well known throughout the college community as being very, very serious about his studies and was very successful at them, also.

Senator BROWN. Thank you. We are advised that Holy Cross has sought out through a recruitment program a diversity of ethnic groups to join the student body. If Clarence Thomas was not black, knowing him as you do, would he have been a student, would he have been admitted to Holy Cross?

Father BROOKS. I think he probably would have, for this reason: He was really not the object of our recruitment effort. I was very instrumental in the early days of Holy Cross' involvement in minority recruitment, and he was not among the students whom we identified. In fact, he came to Holy Cross—I think perhaps Sister knows more about it than I do—I think he came as a result of advice he received quite likely from Sister or some other teacher he had earlier in school. His academic record, the seminary he had been attending the previous year was very, very good, and he would have got in any under any set of circumstances, in terms of his academic achievement.

Senator BROWN. Thank you.

Sister, do you have anything you would like to add to that?

Sister VIRGILIUS. Yes. When Clarence was in the seminary in Savannah, our Sister Mary Carman taught him chemistry and physics, I think, but she was the one who encouraged him to go to Holy Cross, as well as Father Dwyer, and several of the high school children are pupils of Savannah, are graduates of Savannah, like William Douglas and Carleton Stewart, who were also graduates of St. Benedict's School, they have gone or were in Holy Cross or have graduated from Holy Cross, so I think it was something like that that attracted him to Holy Cross, where he would meet some more of his former Savannahans.

Senator BROWN. Thank you.

One last question that I would appreciate comments from each of you, if you care to comment: Throughout this last week, the Judge has received intensive questioning, which is obviously the duty of this committee, but many of the observations that have come down from folks who I think could be fairly described as somewhat skeptical of Clarence Thomas, and evolved to a charge that Clarence Thomas simply is not being honest.

I would appreciate knowing, as people how know Clarence Thomas, have seen him in action, your assessments of his integrity and his honesty.

Sister VIRGILIUS. As far as I am concerned, Senator, Clarence Thomas is perfectly honest, and I have watched at home at the convent in Tenafly before I came down here to Washington on Monday, and I have watched and I think he stood up very well under the interrogation, he was very articulate and I think he handled himself very well, and I do not in one instant mistrust his honesty. I think he is perfectly honest, knowing Clarence from a child.