

Senator HEFLIN.

Senator HEFLIN. I just got here. Does somebody else want to ask questions?

The CHAIRMAN. All right. Senator Feinstein.

Senator FEINSTEIN. I have no questions. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Hefflin.

Senator HEFLIN. Well, I have always enjoyed listening to you, and I think you all do a very thorough job on this type of work. I always somewhat feel like somehow you ought to have a professional staff. It calls for a tremendous amount of work that is called upon for each individual member, in particular relative to the Circuit Court of Appeals in the District Court. It does call for a tremendous amount of work. I at one time made a speech on the floor advocating that you consider a staff, but you always felt like it was more of a lawyer approach that you wanted.

But, anyway, we appreciate the effort by the American Bar, and I think it does have a great deal of weight pertaining to nominees, in particular the work that you do reading every opinion and researching everything else. It is rather remarkable that you spend as much time as you do.

But as I understand it, you are unanimous in the highest rating here. Is that correct?

Mr. WILLIS. That is correct, Senator. The entire committee reviewed the entire record and concluded unanimously, without any dissent or abstention, that Judge Ginsburg deserved the highest recommendation.

Mr. BEST. And without any hesitation.

Senator HEFLIN. Well, that is remarkable. Without any debate?

Mr. WILLIS. There was obviously discussion. I don't think it got to the level of debate, but I think that every member participated actively in the discussions that followed the completion of the record.

Senator HEFLIN. I believe that is all.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Gentlemen, again, thank you. Please thank the entire committee. I sincerely mean it when I say that on behalf of the whole committee, we appreciate the incredible amount of work you do, and the service you provide.

Mr. WILLIS. I will do that, Senator, and thank you very much.

Senator HATCH. Mr. Chairman, Senator Grassley may have some questions. His staff member was trying to find him. But what we will do, if we can keep the record open to submit those questions in writing, I think that would be fine.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, that will be done.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Willis follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF WILLIAM E. WILLIS

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is William E. Willis. I practice law in New York City, and I am Chair of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Federal Judiciary. With me today is Judah Best of Washington, D.C., one of our Committee members who took a principal role in this investigation.

We appear here to present the views of the American Bar Association on the nomination of the Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

At the request of the White House, our Committee investigated the professional competence, judicial temperament and integrity of Judge Ginsburg. Our work included discussions with more than 625 persons, including Justices of the Supreme Court, federal and state judges, a national cross section of practicing lawyers, and law school deans and faculty members, some of whom are specialists in constitutional law, and experts on Supreme Court Practice. In addition, Judge Ginsburg's opinions were independently reviewed by three reading groups—a reading team of lawyers who have practiced actively in the Supreme Court, chaired by Rex E. Lee, former Solicitor General of the United States and currently President of Brigham Young University, and two panels of law professors, one chaired by Professor Ronald J. Allen at Northwestern University Law School and one chaired by Dean Mark G. Yudof of the University of Texas School of Law. And finally, Judge Ginsburg was interviewed by three members of our Committee.

The Committee began its investigation of Judge Ginsburg on June 14, 1993, and ended on July 13, 1993. Based upon our evaluation, we reported to the White House and to this Committee that the Standing Committee is unanimously of the opinion that Judge Ginsburg is entitled to the Committee's highest evaluation for a nominee to the Supreme Court of the United States: *Well Qualified*. That evaluation is reserved for those who are at the top of the legal profession, have outstanding legal ability and wide experience, meet the highest standards of professional competence, judicial temperament and integrity, and merit the Committee's strongest affirmative endorsement.

I have filed with the Judiciary Committee a letter describing the results of our investigation, and shall not repeat those results in detail here. I request that the letter be included in the record of these proceedings.

To summarize our findings, the Committee is fully satisfied that, by virtue of her academic training, her work as an appellate advocate, her academic service, her scholarly writings, and her distinguished service for thirteen years on the Court of Appeals, Judge Ginsburg meets the highest standards of professional competence required for a seat on the Supreme Court. She enjoys the admiration and respect of her colleagues on and off the bench and her integrity is above reproach.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to appear here today to present to Committee's findings and would be happy to respond to questions about our evaluation.

The CHAIRMAN. Now our next panel is comprised of leading figures in the legal community. The first is William T. Coleman, Jr., of O'Melveny and Myers. Mr. Coleman served as Secretary of Transportation during the Ford administration from 1975 to 1977, and Mr. Coleman stands as one of the Nation's pre-eminent lawyers, particularly civil rights lawyers, having argued many landmark cases with the last Justice Thurgood Marshall. As a matter of fact, I believe he was Thurgood Marshall's attorney as well. He also is presently chairman of the board of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Welcome, Mr. Secretary.

Next is Judge Shirley Hufstедler. She is a former United States Circuit Court of Appeals judge for the Ninth Circuit, and served as Secretary of Education during the Carter administration. She is presently a partner in a leading law firm.

Joining them are Chesterfield Smith of Holland & Knight of Miami, FL, former president of the American Bar Association. Good to see you back, Mr. Smith.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. And Ira Millstein, a senior partner of Weil, Gotshal, and Manges in New York City.

We welcome you all, and I should say, with no reflection on Mr. Millstein and Mr. Smith, were I president two of the four people sitting before me would be my choices for the Supreme Court of the United States, and I say that without reservation. Mr. Coleman, you would make a great Supreme Court Justice. I wish I had had an opportunity to participate in having you on the Court; as well