

But just because they are opposing him, and I firmly believe much of it comes, because you see that they are in these coalitions and some of them have called them special interest groups, as to how they think black America and women and other minorities should get their fair share of America. If you do not agree with them, then they think you are wrong.

Senator SPECTER. Ms. Wilson, do you agree with Judge Thomas on affirmative action?

Ms. WILSON. I think, Senator, you have to be clear, to let me sure I understand that you understand what Judge Thomas thinks about affirmative action. I have a view about it.

Senator SPECTER. Well, Judge Thomas has testified extensively about it and essentially he is opposed to affirmative action. That may be an oversimplification, but he is not in favor, for example, of having employment opportunities only of—on the basis of those who have actually been discriminated against, but not in favor of a group, to put them where they would have been, except for historic discrimination.

Have I stated that accurately, Senator Allen?

Mr. ALLEN. Sir, as we say in Georgia, somewhat muddy though.

Senator SPECTER. Somewhat what?

Mr. ALLEN. Somewhat muddy. I think I understand the judge's position to be that he has gone on record consistently in the area of quotas. Unfortunately, because in this whole process there has been no definition of terms, we have almost hitched up the phrase quota with affirmative action and they are not one and the same thing.

Senator SPECTER. Of course not. Senator Allen, you understand Judge Thomas' position on affirmative action?

Mr. ALLEN. The position as I have read, according to statements he has made, is that while he is opposed to quotas on the issue of affirmative action, I have understood his position to be that any favorite status for one that causes discrimination to another group he would, in fact, be opposed to, and that is probably the view of most Americans, particularly black Americans.

Senator SPECTER. Do you agree with him on that?

Mr. ALLEN. On that point, yes, sir.

Senator SPECTER. Thank you very much. I do not want to keep you any longer. You have a slim chance of making the 8 o'clock plane.

Senator THURMOND. I have called my car to come down and pick you all up and take you to the airport.

Mr. ALLEN. Thank you, Senator.

Senator THURMOND. I think you can make it, if you rush.

Senator SIMON. Thank you.

The committee stands adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

[Whereupon, at 7:43 p.m., the committee recessed, to reconvene at 10 a.m., on Tuesday, September 17, 1991.]

[Additional documents submitted for the record are contained in Part 4, Appendix.]