

debate, there is generally a consensus reached and the board ceases the discussion at that point, and the consensus is taken as decision.

And that is precisely what happened at that meeting. The meeting was a vigorous meeting. There were strong positions taken on both sides. But eventually a consensus was reached, and at least some of us were able to get what we wanted out of that particular meeting.

Senator SIMON. Judge Gibbons, you were on the board then, I assume.

Mr. GIBBONS. I presided at the meeting in the absence of the chairman.

Senator SIMON. And could you pull that mike a little forward and give your recollection of the meeting?

Mr. GIBBONS. Yes. I presided at the meeting in the absence of the chairman, and my recollection of what transpired and Clarence Thomas' role in it is exactly as I have stated here. The press report that you read is not an accurate description of what took place at the meeting.

There was a vigorous debate over the difference between the Sullivan principles approach and the total divestiture approach, and Clarence Thomas firmly and persuasively argued for total divestiture.

Senator SIMON. If I can ask either one of you, how do you mesh that with his position in opposition to sanctions, serving 10 years on the board of a publication that regularly ran articles taking the position of the South African Government? And yet in his testimony there was no indication that he ever protested those articles—may I just ask how either of you feel about that and how you can mesh those positions, or, well, your thoughts on that.

Father BROOKS. I think the position on the divestiture is based on his understanding of the immoral nature of the Government of South Africa at the time. I really can't—I just don't know. I don't know what motivated him, and I don't know the circumstances under which he wrote the articles, gave the talks, and so forth. I really don't think I can be of much help to you on that.

Senator SIMON. Judge?

Mr. GIBBONS. Nor can I. I was never even aware of it, and he certainly never discussed it at the board meeting. But his position on divestiture was quite clear.

Senator SIMON. I thank you all very much.

I yield to my colleague from Pennsylvania.

Senator SPECTER. I join my colleagues in welcoming you here and thank you very much, Sister Virgilius, and you, Father Brooks, for your personal insights and your knowledge of Judge Thomas.

Dr. Sudarkasa, I note an article which you had written for Newsweek, in August, on the issue of affirmative action. And you say you were not a conservative, but you applaud Judge Thomas' approach on affirmative action. And you raise an interesting point on those who got into college when you went without any affirmative action, knowing that you had "made it on our own," and the concern about students who got in on affirmative action resenting the notion they did not make it to college on their own merit.

Is your net conclusion that there ought not to be any preferences on college admission?