

think of Judge Thomas being elevated, I see more problem being created. I see us moving backward and not forward. And race won't help him there. A poverty-stricken background is of no use to us in what we think he is going to do based on what he has done in the past.

Senator SPECTER. Congressman Stokes.

Mr. STOKES. Thank you, Senator Specter.

The manner in which you have characterized the positions taken by Judge Thomas is what really frightens me about him. I think that for one who has been the beneficiary of affirmative action to say, "Now, I've got mine; you get yours the best way you can"; "It was okay for me, but you ought not have affirmative action"—that frightens me.

Black Americans and other minorities who are in need of affirmative action aren't really asking for anything special. All they are asking for, Senator Specter, is under our Constitution the guarantee of opportunity and equality that is given to all Americans under our Constitution. That is not asking for a handout. When the person who is discriminated against in the marketplace or in the employment place asks just to have an equal opportunity—not preference, not priority, just an equal opportunity to earn a decent living—that's not a handout.

It is Judge Thomas' attitude toward people who need relief, his attitude when he was head of the EEOC of trying to get away from class actions and reduce it down to individual action with the knowledge that what that did was to hurt the masses of cases—that is disturbing to me in the same way that Congressman Conyers has already mentioned.

A man who had the attitude he had toward his own sister and her children; the references that he made to them publicly before conservative black groups, while he made his points with the President and other conservatives, that this man can attack his own family. And it turns out that he really wasn't telling the truth about his sister. While she was on welfare at that time, and he was referring to the children as learning how to cheat now and so forth, later information came out that all of them really worked when they had an opportunity to do so.

But these are things that frighten me about him. I don't think, in the sense of a role model for black Americans, that a Judge Thomas will ever be the role model that a Thurgood Marshall is.

Senator SPECTER. Congressman Owens?

Mr. OWENS. I think the thinking that you have set forth as being the position of Judge Thomas with respect to affirmative action and blacks not receiving any special treatment is a very backward kind of reasoning, very limited, lacking in compassion, and basically dishonest to any black in America to take that position because there is a cornered reality which blacks in America live through every day.

All Judge Thomas needs to do is take off his suit and his tie and walk through 1 day of life in this city or anywhere else in the country and he will experience some things to let him know that blacks are treated in a very special way.

Prejudice and discrimination are a part of the reality of human-kind all over the globe. We have all kinds of conflicts that people