

way in 1970. I feel that way today. I urge you to report his nomination favorably to the Senate and urge the Senate to advise and consent to Lewis Powell to be Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

STATEMENT OF ARMISTEAD L. BOOTHE: SOME OF LEWIS POWELL'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION AND CIVIL RIGHTS IN VIRGINIA

As Virginia entered the 1950's, some of her lawyers and legislators were convinced that the Commonwealth and the South had not been adequately informed or prepared for the social changes that faced them. Students of the U.S. Supreme Court decisions after 1935 were aware of the possible imminence of a social revolution. Lewis Powell was one of the moderate, cool, farsighted students of the law who shared this realization.

From the date of the *Brown* decision in 1954, he was a stalwart member of an elite group of Virginians who saw that the Commonwealth's schools must not be closed. From July 1954 onward, the issue in the State was just as sharp as a new knife blade between an assignment (or freedom of choice) plan, to keep the schools open, or massive resistance, to cripple them. During the next five crucial years Lewis Powell, then Chairman of the Richmond School Board, placed himself effectively with the minority who felt obligated to uphold the law and the Virginia public school system.

He was one of two Virginia citizens more responsible than others for impressing businessmen and influential persons of all classes that irreparable damage would be done to human beings and to economic resources of Virginia resulting from the collapse of education. By March of 1959, 14,000 Virginia children were out of school. Thanks to the sterling work, often behind the scenes, done by executives in Norfolk, Virginia, and by Lewis Powell and Harvie Wilkinson in Richmond, Governor Almond was convinced that the state's educational salvation lay in superseding the massive resistance laws with a workable assignment plan. This plan in April of 1959, passed the House of Delegates by a slim margin and was enacted by the Senate by a single vote. Powell should be given full credit for convincing a good many of the necessary conservatives that they should be members of the group which finally turned out to have a one-man majority.

Perhaps today there are some younger people who do not remember the 1950's or the humanity, the regard for law, and the farsightedness of a few people like Lewis Powell, who helped Virginia, in a Virginia way, to survive the Commonwealth's severest test in this century. Many accolades could be given to Powell's judgment, fairness, intelligence, and other judicial attributes. Men and women who can vouch for his virtues are legion. This statement is simply intended to be a brief word picture of a courageous American legal soldier under fire.

I note from the news that the congressional black caucus is opposing Powell. If the distinguished members of that group could remember the 1950's and could get all the available facts, they would not oppose him. They would approve of his selection and thank the good Lord they would have him on the Supreme Court.

STATEMENT OF ORISON S. MARDEN ¹

I reside in Scarsdale, New York and have practiced law in New York City since 1930.

I have known Lewis F. Powell, Jr. for upwards of twenty years. As fellow members of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association and, for a time, as fellow officers of that Association and of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, I have had ample opportunity to observe and to appreciate the qualities of this truly great lawyer and citizen. I sincerely believe that all who have had an opportunity to observe his qualities share my opinion that he is superbly equipped for service on the highest court of our land. A new acquaintance will find that it takes very little time to discover the strength of his integrity, the keenness of his mind, his well balanced judgment and, most refreshing, his friendliness and lack of pomposity.

Another quality which I have observed in Mr. Powell—a rare quality, unfortunately—is his ability to reconcile differing views. I have seen this happen frequently at meetings of the Board of Governors and the House of Delegates of

¹ Former President of the American Bar Association, the New York State Bar Association, The Association of the Bar of the City of New York, and The National Legal Aid and Defender Association.