

same time because of it. So if you hold that against me, I will understand it perfectly.”

I think that it shows both the sense of humor—

The CHAIRMAN. Did he go?

Senator GORTON. Oh, no, he didn't go, and neither did the other dozen. I had a rather small meeting there, Mr. Chairman.

But even in the relatively short period of time that David Souter was attorney general of New Hampshire, he showed to me—under circumstances in which I had never thought that I would be in this position with him—a thoughtful and an inquiring mind and a willingness to learn from experience which I found notable among the group of people with whom I dealt then. And I can think of no qualities which are more important for a position on the Supreme Court of the United States than that constant ability to learn, to grow from the kind of experiences one has, and an inquiring mind and the dedication to the ideals which made this country great.

I think none of us, Mr. Chairman, even those of us who are Members of the Senate of the United States, can quite or fully understand the awesome and lonesome responsibilities of being a member of the Supreme Court of the United States and having the Constitution of this great country in our hands. I feel that David Souter can take on that responsibility thoughtfully, responsibly, with an open mind, and that he can contribute greatly to the development of legal institutions in this country.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Senator.

Governor Baliles.

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR BALILES

Mr. BALILES. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I am here in support of David H. Souter's nomination by the President to become an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. In my judgment, Judge Souter is an individual who brings objective intellect, integrity, and a centered view of judicial procedure to the Nation's highest Court, an individual who shuns ideological leanings or prejudices in favor of a considered context of legal principles and constitutional premise. In short, Judge Souter is an individual who, in my view, is capable of addressing the entire spectrum of issues required in a government of laws.

I base my opinion upon the friendship struck nearly two decades ago when he served as deputy attorney general of New Hampshire, and I held the position of deputy attorney general of Virginia. I worked closely with him for several years on matters relating to the administration of the offices in which we served and on legal issues which were of interest to the National Association of Attorneys General. We also worked closely together in the gathering of evidence and in the writing of legal memoranda and briefs filed before a special master in an original jurisdiction case then pending before the U.S. Supreme Court.

During that time, we became good friends. We discussed the issues of the day. We shared an interest in reading and protection of the environment. During that period of 3 or 4 years of working closely together, I do not ever recall him taking positions on major political issues or promoting any ideological framework from which

to approach issues. Simply stated, I knew him as an intellectually gifted, analytical lawyer, a synthesizer of problems, empathetic, not a populist but a rationalist, one who is moderate in tone and expression.

I especially recall forming an early impression that here was someone with impeccable integrity and honesty, who possessed a wry sense of humor which would flash at unexpected points during conversation.

In 1976, I began serving in the Virginia General Assembly, and Judge Souter was appointed attorney general of New Hampshire. In 1981, I was elected attorney general of Virginia, and Judge Souter was then serving as a member of the Superior Court in New Hampshire. In 1985, I was elected Governor of Virginia, and Judge Souter was serving on the supreme court of his native State.

Today, I am partner in charge of international trade at the law firm of Hunton and Williams. You may recall that this is the same firm from which Justice Powell came, and I am struck by the similarities in the personal qualities of these two men.

My contact with Judge Souter understandably has not been as frequent in recent years, but I have no reason to change my impressions or qualify my friendship. Senator Rudman has kept me apprised of Judge Souter's progress in New Hampshire, and the judge and I have exchanged an occasional note or call. I count him as a friend and believe that he will serve with distinction as a member of the U.S. Supreme Court, and I urge his confirmation.

Senator KENNEDY [presiding]. General Diamond, we are glad to hear from you.

STATEMENT OF JEROME DIAMOND

Mr. DIAMOND. Members of the committee, I guess I know David Souter better than anyone else on this panel. He cost me my trip to Hawaii because I was in the neighboring State of Vermont, and as soon as he announced that he wasn't going, the press wanted to know whether I was going.

I served three terms as attorney general of Vermont, and the middle term of 1976 to 1978 I had the pleasure of having David Souter as a colleague and, as it developed, a friend in the next State of New Hampshire. And I want to share with you some observations not only from those years but from some recent years; because while he left politics and became a judge, we maintained a relationship that was more particularly focused in the last 4 years as the result of an annual dinner that is shared—and I guess we are going to have to give it a new name. It started in 1986 as the "Annual Frank Bellotti Retirement Dinner," but hopefully today he will be coming back out of retirement in the Massachusetts primary.

The purpose was to bring together all the attorneys general from the Eastern States, present and former, who had served during the 12 years that Frank Bellotti served as attorney general of Massachusetts. It is a dinner once a year, and for me it was an opportunity to drive to Concord, NH, and meet up with David and our mutual friend, Tom Rath, and spend the next 1½ hours going to Boston that evening, and then 1½ hours in the car coming back,