

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Since I am going to have to leave now and go to that meeting for a few moments, let me ask, with the indulgence of my colleagues, one question of you, Mr. Williams. One of the criticisms of the judge that we have heard is not that he is prejudiced. It is that he is insensitive.

During the time you and he were classmates—although you were 2 years apart but you overlapped—during the time you ate lunch or dinner or breakfast with him, roughly six times a week over a period of 2 years, the whole country was being turned upside down. Bull Connor had dogs that were running through the streets. The country was in turmoil. Martin Luther King was attempting to make a case for black Americans.

Did he ever evidence any empathy, sympathy, or concern for the plight of black Americans in their fight for equality during that period?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. In what way?

Mr. WILLIAMS. I would say that Judge Souter, particularly given his background, was not disposed to be in the fray. I think the record states that pretty clearly. On the other hand, he was awakening to it, was intrigued by it, and was moved by it.

None of us could avoid talking about all those things, and I am glad that you have put this all in context, because those were tumultuous times. My first class in civil procedure involved not the usual subjects but, rather, a discussion of the march in Selma at Harvard Law School. Those were very special times. I would say that David Souter in my recollection was, like most Americans at that time, awakening to a very, very grave problem. He is listening, he is learning, and I think that the compassion and all the human qualities that are necessary—

The CHAIRMAN. Was there any show of emotion?

Mr. WILLIAMS [continuing]. To bring him to the point of having a real understanding are there.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you ever remember David Souter saying anything along the lines of, Wesley, how can you stand it? How can you put up with this? I mean anything that evidenced not only understanding and awakening but anger? Or was Judge Souter the type, well, you know, now the march in Selma, the issue of civil disobedience is something that we really should discuss, because what happened there was arguably an issue, I mean, in what context was this awakening taking place? Was it an intellectual awakening, and was it also an emotional awakening?

Mr. WILLIAMS. It was an awakening of understanding which I think was quite complete.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, I think you are being a very good lawyer. You haven't answered my question. Was there any show of emotion ever, any show of feeling beyond the awakening? I mean, people can be awakened a lot of ways. People can be awakened and say, you know, I didn't realize that was a problem and, golly, some day we are going to have to solve it. Or awakening can be, that is outrageous, I can't believe that is happening, how can you put up with that, Wesley, does it ever happen to you, did anybody ever do that to you.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Those kinds of questions, what had my experience been, they were obviously part of the dialog always.

The CHAIRMAN. In this case, I must respectfully suggest that nothing is obvious in this hearing. [Laughter.]

Mr. WILLIAMS. Well, in any event, they were surely part of the dialog. That was always very much on the table in every conversation. Do I remember particular conversations and the content thereof? No. No. It has been a long time.

The CHAIRMAN. Did he ever go to a rally with you, a meeting with you? There must have been some things happening on campus.

Mr. WILLIAMS. We were at rallies inevitably, but for a purpose that is a little different, which was that as officers of the university we were responsible for making sure that things didn't get out of hand. So, yes, I am sure we were at rallies. Whether we were sympathetic or not and so forth, who can read the heart of a man? But, in any event, I am heartened by the fact that he was concerned about the issues—and remains so, apparently—and deeply concerned and always listening.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, I appreciate my colleagues allowing me the indulgence of questioning one witness before the other two have spoken. Hopefully, I will be back, gentlemen, before the questioning of the two of you is over.

Let's proceed with Mr. Beck's testimony now. Again, I apologize. I am going to have to leave.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT L. BECK

Mr. BECK. No apology necessary, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for your comments.

My name is Robert L. Beck, and I am the immediate past chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

In 1982, I joined MADD following the death of my son, Michael, and his fiance, Lori, at the hands of a drunk driver.

As many of you know, this is the most frequently committed crime in America today. Some 22,000 people will die at the hands of drunk drivers this year. That is about 60 people a day, and several people will die while I give this testimony.

The mission of MADD is to stop the death and destruction from drunk driving and to be the voice of the victims of that crime. Our membership numbers approximately 3 million members and supporters, and we have some 400 chapters across the United States and operations in five foreign countries. This makes MADD today the largest organization of its kind, grassroots organization.

The education and public awareness programs of MADD have played a leadership role in changing public attitudes about drunk driving. Drunk driving is no longer considered an accident. It is seen for what it is: a violent crime, committed willfully, and in total disregard of the rights of an innocent public.

This change in attitude has permitted the enactment of stronger laws and more law enforcement. The law raising the minimum drinking age to 21 has saved thousands of young lives. MADD, with the help of Federal incentive grants authorized in the 1988 Omni-