

Senator THURMOND. I see.

Ms. FRAZIER. Three females.

Senator THURMOND. And this is action by them?

Ms. FRAZIER. Pardon me?

Senator THURMOND. And this is action that they took?

Ms. FRAZIER. Yes, sir. On last Friday.

Senator THURMOND. So I presume your answer then is yes to the question I propounded.

Ms. FRAZIER. Yes, sir. Unanimous.

Senator THURMOND. Reverend Haygood?

Reverend HAYGOOD. Yes, sir, Senator.

Senator THURMOND. Second question. Do you know of any reason why Clarence Thomas should not be made a member of the Supreme Court?

Ms. HOLIFIELD. The answer is no, Senator.

Senator THURMOND. Ms. Holifield, no. Ms. Bryant?

Ms. BRYANT. No, Senator.

Senator THURMOND. No. Ms. Frazier?

Ms. FRAZIER. No, sir.

Senator THURMOND. Reverend Haygood?

Reverend HAYGOOD. No, sir, Senator.

Senator THURMOND. That is all the questions I have. I want to thank you for coming, participating in this hearing and adding, I think, greatly to the outcome of the hearing. Thank you very much for your presence.

Reverend HAYGOOD. Thank you, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator.

The Senator from Wyoming?

Senator SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I thank you, and I am very pleased that I was here to hear these remarks from these fine people because you have a way of cutting through the fog that sometimes envelopes us here as we get into very highly technical stuff.

And it is fascinating sometimes. I learn from it too, but I am sure that the American public, and the vast majority of them, don't have the slightest idea what we are talking about. And nor do they care.

They want to know who this man is that is going to sit and judge, and that is what we are going to do with them—he will be appointed to judge—and who is he. And when you find people like you who, who some earlier ones have known him, and as I said before, I have never seen a more extraordinary outpouring of support by people who know him intimately, and then people who do not. And I believe that you, Ms. Holifield, do not—you had never known him before your, personally that is, before your action in California.

Ms. HOLIFIELD. That is correct, Senator.

Senator SIMPSON. And you have praised his philosophy of self-help and self-reliance, and certain witnesses at this hearing and during these proceedings have described Judge Thomas as being "outside the mainstream," which is a sinister, supposed to be a sinister thing, and I haven't found that at all.

Now you are an educator, a college trustee. I served as a trustee of a small college in Wyoming for 8 years, found it absolutely fascinating. I am sure you do too. And an activist.

And so you have—there you are, and all of you are active in your community, and so you have an opportunity to learn what real people are thinking about this nomination process.

Ms. HOLIFIELD. Yes.

Senator SIMPSON. What do they think about Judge Thomas, whether he is in the mainstream or not, and how he feels about the things that are so critical to them, like self-help and coming from nothing and self-reliance and doing the job?

Ms. HOLIFIELD. Senator, all the people that I talk to on an everyday basis, they are very proud of Judge Clarence Thomas and they feel that this philosophy that he has developed on self-help and self-reliance really needs to be implemented. We need to go back to our roots where we came from. Self-help and self-reliance is no new programs for minorities. Somewhere down the line, we got away from it, so we need to back to that.

Senator SIMPSON. You have placed your entire statement in the record, but you did not get to give it all and it is powerful stuff. I loved what you said about those in the Congress who are black who have judged him.

Ms. HOLIFIELD. Yes.

Senator SIMPSON. You left that out and that is a powerful statement, because I know many members of the Black Caucus and I honestly know some of them who are embarrassed, because they came out too fast, too sure, speaking for their people.

Ms. HOLIFIELD. Yes.

Senator SIMPSON. I loved what you said—I will not go into it all, it is right there in the record—

Ms. HOLIFIELD. Senator, I put my whole heart into writing this. I just skip back and forth, trying to give you as much as I could, but it took me about 3 weeks to write that speech.

Senator SIMPSON. Let me tell you, it is one that everyone ought to read, because it is powerful.

I loved your statement, where you said, "Honorable Senators, 26 blacks in Congress do not represent 30 million people, any more than 26 whites in Congress who represent 200 million white people, not ignoring every other ethnic group."

Ms. HOLIFIELD. Yes.

Senator SIMPSON. That is a powerful and realistic statement. There is no monolithic white vote that any white Senator can speak for, but you see there has been one for blacks, and that is falling apart.

Ms. HOLIFIELD. Yes, Senator.

Senator SIMPSON. Is that the way you see it?

Ms. HOLIFIELD. Yes, I do.

Senator SIMPSON. Well, that is sure the way I see it, too, and it is a frightening prospect for people who are not used to that. That is the way countries grow and groups grow.

Apparently, Clarence Thomas came to your college and spoke in 1986.

Ms. HOLIFIELD. Yes, he did.

Senator SIMPSON. And you heard him then?

Ms. HOLIFIELD. Yes.

Senator SIMPSON. And he said, "Do not become obsessed with all that is wrong with our race, we are not beggars or objects of charity, rather, become obsessed with looking for solutions to our problems. Be tolerant," Judge Thomas stated, "of all the positive ideas, their numbers are smaller, that there are countless numbers of problems to be solved and we need all the hope and help we can get."

So, that must have been quite a stirring talk he gave then.

Ms. HOLIFIELD. Yes.

Senator SIMPSON. Well, he is a role model and he proved that in his testimony here. But this entire thing, I do not know how long it took you, but that is really beautifully done, and I appreciated reading it.

Ms. HOLIFIELD. Thank you, Senator.

Senator SIMPSON. I appreciated hearing from another elected official, Deanie Frazier, from the County Commissioners, and you talked about—did you use the phrase "highfalutin legal experts"?

Ms. FRAZIER. That is not quite—

Senator SIMPSON. You did, didn't you? I loved that. It struck a chord in me. [Laughter.]

Testifying about things that ordinary people do not know about nor care about. You not only stayed within the time limits, and the Chairman is very tough on us when we go against, but he was pretty good and he is very fair.

But you have said some important things about the nomination and the process that we use to carry out this process. What we do, we have our very best legal and constitutional scholars and experts and authorities pass on these nominations that we receive. I believe that is important, but as you point out, we hear a lot of highfalutin testimony, much of which is not understood by some of the people who might catch these proceedings on a busy day of doing their work and going to their jobs and raising their babies.

You have testified as to Judge Thomas' character, and some of these experts have said that character is the most important of the qualities we seek in this job.

Some have said today that what Judge Clarence Thomas has said is not believable. I find that quite offensive, frankly. And some have said that words are wonderful, but no action in his whole life is a pattern of action. I think that your comment, Ms. Holifield, that some of those folks should reactivate their creative thinking skills—you used capital letters on each one of those words, and I love it.

Ms. HOLIFIELD. Yes, because that is important.

Senator SIMPSON. Yes, it is.

Obviously, you find that one who is obviously pleased with what you are saying, but, more importantly than that, I would ask Evelyn Bryant, yours was as very moving statement and you mentioned his accomplishments.

Some have suggested, including those in leadership positions in the black community here in Washington principally, that "Clarence Thomas has forgotten his roots"—that is a phrase now in quotation marks—"forgotten his roots, forgotten how he got to where he is today." How would you respond to those charges?