

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?

Ms. BRYANT. Well, I do not know where they got the idea from. If you recall in my statement, his relatives, a lot of his relatives still live in Eastern Liberty County, and one person in particular, his first cousin, Mr. Fuller, who is 91 years old, he is in constant contact with Clarence.

In fact, he came up with us on the bus last month when we came here. He is 91 years old and he is in close contact and he loves Clarence to the point where he took a 10-hour bus trip just to support him. So, if there is that type of family closeness with a 91-year-old to come this far just to support a first cousin, who calls him on a weekly or every 2 week basis, that is not forgetting your roots, because he is 91 and he is not forgotten. They are very close.

Senator SIMPSON. Reverend Haygood, finally, what would it mean to people in your congregation and your church—how many are in your congregation?

Reverend HAYGOOD. We simply have about 300 right now.

Senator SIMPSON. What would it mean to them to have a role model like Clarence Thomas on the U.S. Supreme Court?

Reverend HAYGOOD. It would really make the difference. Just before I came here, I shared it with one of the young people in our group, and he said that "Clarence Thomas is a person that I trust, he's someone I can look up to, for me he is a role model."

I think in terms of today's communities, particularly in the black community, where there is crime, where drugs are moving on a daily basis, where there is violence, we need role models who have achieved, who can reach back from whence they have come and lift up those who are farthest down. Indeed, the real purpose of leadership is to lift up persons who are farthest down.

The whole debate between Booker T. Washington and W.B. DuBois was a debate concerning methodology. The goal essentially was the same, but they adhered to the philosophy that we must lift up persons who are farthest down, because as we lift up persons who are farthest down, everybody above them will be lifted up, as well.

Senator SIMPSON. Well, I thank you.

Mr. Chairman, if I may enter into the record just as brief portion of the results of a poll recently released just yesterday by ABC News—I am not much on polling, but I think it surely shows that these groups within the beltway, the views of the special interest groups who oppose this nomination are met nowhere out in the United States, in any part of the United States, in any region of the United States, and so there is going to be a great retooling going on within those groups, as I see it, within these next months.

I ask unanimous consent that be included in the record, and I thank you very much for the stirring testimony.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection.

[The information referred to follows:]