

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?