

He did that and he took his job seriously, and I think that goes to his character and that goes to his integrity.

I don't know if you had an opportunity to hear my direct testimony, but this past weekend I talked to one of those career professionals in Atlanta, he has just retired from the EEOC after many years, and he will acknowledge that he and Judge Thomas differ on some issues, but he has nothing but praise and respect for Judge Thomas. He says, "I tell my friends that if they don't want to change their views on him, those who are critical of him, if they don't want to change their views on him, then they shouldn't get to know him, because once they get to know this man, they will respect his character, his integrity, his intellect, and all of the unfair and unfounded criticism of him will go aside."

Senator BROWN. Thank you.

Attorney General Norton, you have read, I take it, the criminal cases that Judge Thomas has written on the Circuit Court of Appeals?

Ms. NORTON. That is right.

Senator BROWN. In reviewing those decisions and opinions, have any dissents been filed in connection with those opinions?

Ms. NORTON. There were not dissents filed to any of those. There was one concurring opinion in one of the cases. It is the same opinion that has been discussed extensively on the interpretation of using a firearm, and in that case the one concern was that perhaps there had been too much of a burden placed on the Government to show the use of a firearm, and that was one that, nevertheless, concurred very much in the result.

Senator BROWN. Does the fact that there weren't dissents lead you to an impression of whether the Judge was in the mainstream of legal thinking or not?

Ms. NORTON. Certainly in the cases that I have examined, he was very much in the mainstream and very much presented a balanced view in his treatment of those cases.

Senator BROWN. In reviewing his opinions, do you have a view of whether or not the Judge would be overly strict with regards to the doctrines of standing or mootness? Would he have a tendency to deprive individuals of access to the court?

Ms. NORTON. I know that in some documents that have been presented by various organizations to this committee there have been some concerns about his views on standing and access to the courts. But having reviewed those decisions and Judge Thomas' concurring and dissenting views in those cases, I believe his views were very much in the mainstream on those cases. Questions of standing are often very difficult to decide for the courts, but his analysis was the traditional analysis.

Senator BROWN. Thank you very much. I thank all the panel for their testimony.

Senator KOHL. We thank you very much for appearing here today. You have been very helpful.

Senator THURMOND. Thank you very much for your appearance.

Senator KOHL. Our next witness today is Mr. Lane Kirkland, President of the AFL-CIO. Mr. Kirkland has been a distinguished spokesperson on behalf of working people of America for many,