

tion to him. If our focus were as narrow as a difference of opinion over affirmative action, as a trial lawyer I believe that the true art of cross examination would get to the truth in that, and you'd be able to find it real soon.

We have not talked about our difference of opinion with him on affirmative action. We have talked about things that we think are a lot more important to the function that he is about to ascend to, with your permission.

On the second point, to suggest that a black man who has suffered as much as he has will "do the right thing", I find to be condescending, both condescending and patronizing. If we set that up as a standard, then, the Supreme Court ought to adopt it as a standard, and all these people who are suggesting that it is the right thing to do ought to adopt it as a standard.

That means that any time that a black person who is not qualified goes to apply for a job as a truckdriver, instead of looking at whether he can drive a truck or not, just see what kind of background he came from. If you are applying for a job as a school-teacher, if you are applying for a job as a U.S. Senator, then you ought to be able to get out and campaign. Well, I'm not as qualified as Senator Grassley, I am not as adroit at the issues as Senator Grassley, but by God I come from humble beginnings, so by God, give the job to me. That's ludicrous. It is ludicrous to suggest it, and it is condescending, and black people don't like it a bit.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Chairman, let me just be brief and say as black Members of the Congress and as Members of the Congress, we don't have anything to gain from coming here being against the confirmation of Clarence Thomas.

The CHAIRMAN. Well said.

Senator SIMON. Mr. Chairman, I know it is not my time but I just got word I am supposed to be over on the floor on an amendment that I have there. If I could just take 1 minute.

The CHAIRMAN. Would you all mind if he takes 1 minute out of order?

Senator THURMOND. No. Go ahead.

The CHAIRMAN. All right.

Senator SIMON. First of all, I really appreciate your testimony and your standing up. I served in the House with three of my colleagues here—Congressman Conyers, Congressman Stokes, and Congressman Owens—and while I didn't serve in the House with Congressman Lewis, I have known him for many years.

One other factor, and that is, if I can go back to something that happened in Atlanta many years ago. You had two black leaders—Frederick Douglass, who was an advocate, who said we ought to get the right to vote, we ought to have civil rights; you had another leader who brought himself up from the bootstraps, but who was an accommodator, who said in what has been called the "Atlanta compromise speech", Booker T. Washington said we ought to forget those things, we ought to just do the best job we can wherever we are. And the white majority seized on Booker T. Washington's statement, and it was used not for the benefit of African-Americans.

One of the things that we do here is we elevate someone who up to this point has been an accommodator rather than an advocate. I