

I think it is in this regard that we ought to view Judge Thomas. I find his record, I find his positions on principle totally consistent, and I think that for that reason that some of the charges against him are just not true.

Mr. JACKSON. And may I make one comment? I think, too, what you have seen, which deeply bothers me, is that we have right now in America a tremendous debate about how we should get where we should be. Should we continue to rely on Government as the only source for us to make it, or can we somehow begin to take some of the responsibility and say we can do some of the things on our own?

Senator Simon, it is important to me to understand that pre-1960, we had more banks that were owned by African-Americans in this country than we did after the Sixties. We owned our own hotels. We owned our own restaurants. We owned our own hotels. I think that the Great Society when it started, started out well, but I think it took our independence away and created dependency, and I see it every day, as I said in my speech, hopelessness.

So when you get a voice who says, look, some things we must take responsibility for ourselves, even though we understand that racism still runs rampant in this country, there is no question. But some things, as I said to your earlier about your evolution, the evolution of African-Americans in this country to what we perceive as the conservative lean, scares many of the liberals who have bought into the doctrine that Government owes us something and should repay us.

Well, let me say this to you. I might be labelled after this as a conservative, but I think my mother and father were conservatives because they taught us to go to church, they taught us the value of family. My father never made more than \$12,000 and educated all 12 of us, and he brought us up with the fear of God. If that's conservatism, I am happy, because that is the way that I want to bring my kids up and I'm trying to bring them up.

So that what you have is a dichotomy. We have been told by people in this country that you owe something—it's clear racism was devastating on us, and it is still devastating. But let me say this to you, as my father said, who did not have a high school education, the way that you fight racism is to educate yourself. We did. Affirmative action was very helpful to me. My way of dealing with affirmative action is that I educate my kids very well. Therefore, when my daughter left her high school she was third in her class, and she is doing work on her own. I think that is important. And I think when that is said, that scares a lot of people, when we start saying we're not going to hold every Anglo person in American responsible for what has happened.

Senator SIMON. Thank you very much.

Senator THURMOND.

Senator THURMOND. Thank you very much.

Mr. Jackson and Reverend Soires and Mr. Woodsen, we want to welcome you here. I admire you for coming here and taking the stand that you are. You are taking just the opposite view from what the Black Caucus did. That took courage. It took endurance. It took character, integrity.

I appreciate your coming here and expressing your views in spite of some of the positions some of the black leaders have taken.

I just have two questions, the same questions I have asked these others who have come and testified here on behalf of Judge Thomas. You can answer it first and then right down the line.

Is it your opinion that Judge Thomas is highly qualified and possesses the necessary integrity, professional competence, and judicial temperament to be an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court?

Mr. JACKSON. Unequivocally, yes.

Senator THURMOND. I didn't hear you.

Mr. JACKSON. Yes.

Senator THURMOND. The answer is yes. Reverend Soires.

Reverend SOIRES. Based upon everything I have read and heard and seen from him, the answer is yes.

Senator THURMOND. The answer is yes.

Mr. WOODSEN. Yes.

Senator THURMOND. Mr. Woodsen's answer is yes.

The second question: Do you know of any reason why he should not be made a member of the Supreme Court of the United States?

Mr. JACKSON. I will answer it this way: The Sunday or the Monday before President Bush nominated Judge Thomas for the Supreme Court, that Friday we had breakfast, and I said to him that, in my mind, the best thing that could happen is that the President nominate you to the Supreme Court because I think you will bring to the Supreme Court some values, some ideas, and a perspective that is not there that is badly needed. So my answer to you is absolutely I think that Clarence will be a tremendous addition to the Supreme Court.

Senator THURMOND. Do you know of any reason why he should not be made a member then?

Mr. JACKSON. Absolutely not.

Senator THURMOND. The answer is no.

Reverend Soires.

Reverend SOIRES. No, Senator.

Senator THURMOND. The answer is no.

Mr. Woodsen?

Mr. WOODSEN. No.

Senator THURMOND. That is all the questions I have. Thank you very much for your appearance. I think you made a fine impression.

Senator SIMON. Senator Hatch.

Senator HATCH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to welcome each of you to the committee. Frankly, we are very proud to have you here before the committee.

When Judge Thomas was testifying, I asked him about affirmative action. And as I interpreted his answers, he is for every aspect of affirmative action except for preferences. Do you know of any difference from that statement?

Mr. JACKSON. No.

Mr. WOODSEN. No, I don't, sir. I think he said it should apply to people because of economic circumstances, and he would have qualified under those guidelines.