

My time is up, and I yield now to my colleague from South Carolina.

Senator THURMOND. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have no questions of my own, but I will reserve my time in case something comes up I have not anticipated.

I do have one question to clear up something that was asked this morning by Senator Leahy.

Judge Thomas, this morning when you answered Senator Leahy's question about important Supreme Court cases, did you understand him to be referring to important cases decided when you were in law school?

Judge THOMAS. My understanding was that he was asking me for cases decided during the period that I was in law school, from 1971 to 1974, and I think I answered him in response to that *Griggs* and *Roe v. Wade*.

Senator THURMOND. I just wanted to clarify that if there is any question about it.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I believe the distinguished Senator from Illinois brought out that 12 Members of the House have opposed you. Is that correct?

Judge THOMAS. That is right.

Senator THURMOND. Well, Mr. Chairman, I wish to offer for the record a letter signed by 128 Members of the House endorsing Judge Thomas, several of whom are Democrats, and ask that that be made a part of the record.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, it will be made a part of the record.

[The letter follows:]

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

July 3, 1991

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Biden,

We are writing to express our strong support for the nomination of Judge Clarence Thomas as an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

In our view, Judge Thomas is a man of impeccable character. Judge Thomas, a grandson of a sharecropper, was born in the segregated South and faced seemingly insurmountable obstacles. But through hard work and discipline he was able to overcome his impoverished condition achieving success in every task he undertook.

In Washington, Clarence Thomas has served in an exemplary manner as a Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, and he was an outstanding Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission which he chaired from 1982 to 1989.

Judge Thomas has worked with the United States' civil rights laws for more than a decade and his commitment to equal opportunity for all is second to none. Under the chairmanship of Judge Thomas, the EEOC effectively streamlined operations and clarified the rules and regulations of the Commission while enhancing its ability to fairly respond to claims of discrimination. Consistent with the purpose of the EEOC, Judge Thomas played a vital role in ensuring that older Americans and minorities have access to a fair and equitable means of redress.

Together with his tenure at the U.S. Court of Appeals, Clarence Thomas' record--both past and present--reveals that he has the qualifications and character to uphold the high standards the American people demand. We strongly support the nomination of Judge Clarence Thomas to the United States Supreme Court.

Respectfully yours,


DICK ARMEY


GABRIEL FRANKS

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