

Senator THURMOND. Mr. Chairman, a bipartisan group of approximately 35 black attorneys, business people, and community and religious leaders from South Carolina traveled to Washington in August and met with me to discuss Judge Thomas. That was in August when we were in recess. Most of you were at home, but I was here. They indicated their overwhelming support for Judge Thomas.

Mr. Larkin Campbell, an attorney from Columbia, who is a member of the NAACP, endorsed Judge Thomas' nomination and stated, "Clarence Thomas is a man who would bring integrity, wisdom, and foresight to the Supreme Court."

Mr. Fletcher Smith, a Democrat, an attorney, member of the Greenville County Council, and a member of the NAACP, presented me with a resolution passed by the Greenville, SC, County Council in support of Judge Thomas.

Several other individuals spoke to me about their strong support for Judge Thomas. To name just two or three, Ms. Jean Burkins, a very prominent woman in Columbia, an attorney, and a member of the NAACP; Rev. Norman Pearson, vice president of Fuller Enterprises, also a member of the NAACP; and Mr. James Moore, a civil rights activist and founder of the Committee for the Betterment of Poor People. All these people endorsed Judge Thomas.

I ask unanimous consent that appear in the record.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection. I hope there wasn't a reason you weren't able to go home in August. You were welcome, I assume.

You are not paying attention. [Laughter.]

Senator THURMOND. What do you think?

[The information of Senator Thurmond follows:]

Mr. Chairman, a bi-partisan group of approximately 35 Black attorneys, business people and community and religious leaders from South Carolina traveled to Washington in August and met with me to discuss Judge Thomas. They indicated their overwhelming support for Judge Thomas.

Mr. Larkin Campbell, an attorney from Columbia who is a member of the NAACP, endorsed Judge Thomas' nomination and stated, "Clarence Thomas is a man who would bring integrity, wisdom and foresight to the Supreme Court". Mr. Fletcher Smith, a Democrat, attorney, member of the Greenville County, and a member of the NAACP, presented me with a resolution passed by the Greenville, South Carolina, County Council in support of Judge Thomas. Several other individuals spoke to me about their strong support for Judge Thomas; to name a few: Ms. Jean Burkins, an attorney in Columbia who is member of the NAACP; Reverend Norman Pearson, vice-president of Fuller Enterprises, also a member of the NAACP; and Mr. James Moore, a civil rights activist and founder of the Committee for the Betterment of Poor People.

Senator THURMOND. Judge Thomas, we are just about through. I just want to make two or three remarks to wind up here.

First, I want to commend you for the outstanding job you have done during your 5 days of testimony. There have been efforts to try to get you to express yourself about decisions and about what position you would take on the Supreme Court maybe. You have had the courage and the resolution and the good judgment not to fall for that.

You have answered many difficult questions with clear, thoughtful answers. You have shown that you have the intellectual capacity to sit on the Supreme Court. You made a good record at Holy

Cross where you graduated and also at Yale Law School, and that stood you well today.

The many difficult circumstances you have overcome in your life have given you common sense to go along with your formal education. As Chairman of the EEOC, you showed that you had the practical experience to handle a difficult position in an exemplary fashion. You did a fine job there in spite of some criticism that was unjustified. You did a good job, too, at the Civil Rights Education Department.

Your testimony has also shown that you have the appropriate judicial temperament and the sensitivity to do well on the Supreme Court. I believe you will be fair and open-minded and will understand the vast impact your judicial decisions will have on the people affected by them.

While you have discussed natural law, you have made it clear that you will exercise judicial restraint, following the Constitution and relevant statutory intent. Your record on the D.C. Circuit I think shows that you have done just that.

Regarding crime, you have made it clear that you will be sensitive to the rights of victims who must have a say in our criminal justice system, and that is important, and that you will also be fair to defendants in hearing their cases.

In my opening statement, I stated certain characteristics I look for in a Supreme Court nominee. In my 37 years in the Senate here, I have had the pleasure of acting on hundreds and hundreds of judges. And these are the qualities that I think we have to consider: Integrity, courage, compassion, competence, judicial temperament, and an understanding of the majesty of our system of government, which a lot of people don't seem to understand.

Judge Thomas, I believe you have exhibited these qualities throughout your life and during your testimony this week. I am confident that you will make an excellent member of the Supreme Court of the United States, and I commend you for the fine job that you have done for this committee. Good luck and God bless you.

Judge THOMAS. Thank you, Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Senator.

Judge I have some additional questions on expressive conduct, but observing the expressive conduct of the people behind you, what I will do is I will submit those to you in writing in the interest of time and to accommodate the witnesses we have to come after. They will not take a great deal of your time. We will not be finished with the public witnesses until the end of this week, so there is plenty of time to answer the questions. There are only about three or four of them, and I do want to talk about the *Barnes* case and a few others that involve expressive conduct. I would appreciate your answering them for me.

Judge, I appreciate very much your willingness to accept the President's nomination, and I hope that as imperfect as the process is—and there is none that I know that is perfect—that you appreciate our responsibility. I thank you for the courtesy you have shown to this committee, and we will hear from public witnesses who are both for you, against you, and some who just want to come and express their concern.