

the work of many organizations who have criticized him, but neither could we sit back and acquiesce to their false definition of this man.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I thank you for this opportunity.

Senator SIMON. Thank you, Senator.

Judge Bell, good to have you back here with us again.

STATEMENT OF HON. GRIFFIN BELL

Mr. BELL. Thank you, Senator. I want to thank Chairman Biden for accommodating my schedule. He is very nice to do it.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to appear here today in support of my fellow Georgian, the Honorable Clarence Thomas. I came to Judge Thomas before he became a judge, when it came about as a result of his long-time friendship with one of my law partners, Larry Thompson, who was formerly the U.S. attorney for the northern district of Georgia. Larry will himself be here as a witness during these proceedings. Judge Thomas and Larry Thompson practiced law together at Monsanto in St. Louis. That is how they became acquainted.

As one who served on the Federal court of appeals for 14½ years, I was interested in seeing the evidence of the stewardship and scholarship of Judge Thomas as a member of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. I have now read a number of his opinions. I found these balanced, moderate, scholarly, well written, reasoned, and careful. In sum, his opinions evidence the highest standards of judicial excellence.

I have also heard a substantial portion of the testimony in this hearing. In my judgment, Judge Thomas has done remarkably well. Only one who has been interrogated endlessly in such a hearing by a large group of Senators—I speak of myself—some of whom were even hostile, can fully appreciate the tremendous pressure and wear that one undergoes in such an ordeal. Surviving such a ritual with one's character, reputation, good humor, and dignity intact is a victory within itself.

Judge Thomas has clearly survived. His character, reputation, and particularly his dignity is intact.

I have heard no reason not to vote to confirm President Bush's choice of Judge Thomas as his nominee to the Supreme Court. He appears to be a man of balance, unquestioned integrity and independence, and generally good character, intelligence, compassion, and patriotism. I believe that he will uphold our Constitution. I would trust him with my fundamental rights.

No one can really know what the sum total of the experiences of Judge Thomas have been during his lifetime. His experiences have surely been different from those of us who were fortunate enough to be born into a favored group. It has occurred to me that his early life in a segregated, often hostile society has perhaps given him the patience and courtesy and dignity to withstand the withering and almost brutal cross-examination to which he has been subjected on occasion in this hearing. I do not see how any objective viewer or listener could conclude that such a long-suffering and

sensitive person would lack compassion toward others similarly situated or would not favor and advance civil rights.

I heard Judge Thomas testify in response to a question of why he wanted to serve on the Supreme Court. He said that he wanted to give something back for all that has been given to him. He plainly has all of the objective qualifications and the appropriate personal qualities. His motive for service is in the highest tradition of our country.

I hope that you will vote to confirm Judge Clarence Thomas.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator SIMON. Thank you, Judge Bell.

Judge Tanner.

STATEMENT OF JUDGE JACK TANNER

Judge TANNER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I can recall in February 1978 that I appeared before this committee. Senator Thurmond is familiar to me. I was very unfortunate before that hearing. As I appeared, Senator DeConcini informed me that they had just filed disbarment proceedings against me in the State of Washington. So I am here because of the most intense, unprecedented, and harsh opposition in the history of this country to a nominee to the Supreme Court of the United States. The attacks have now also shifted to Members of the Senate. There is no logic or reason for the attacks, whether it is on the right or the left. They are emotional attacks based solely upon passion and prejudice, neither of which has any relevance to the qualification of fitness of the nominee.

I am most concerned with the concept of fairness and justice which are the very foundation of our system of jurisprudence. These remarks that I am making are my own and do not purport to represent the view of any other person or organization.

I am also concerned because I too appeared before this committee under somewhat similar circumstances. I was the first black person west of Chicago and north of San Francisco ever nominated an article 3 judge. I was nominated by Senator Warren G. Magnuson, then the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He formerly was, as several of you will recall, chairman of the Commerce Committee, the committee where the civil rights legislation in the 1960's originated.

My nomination was immediately opposed by certain factions in the State of Washington. The opposition was led by a local newspaper. Senator Henry Jackson, concerned about the nature of the attack against my nomination, appeared at a news conference in Seattle and denounced the attack. Senator Jackson said that the attacks against me "was only because he is black, that if Tanner was white there would be no opposition to his nomination."

I think that I should say here and now that not one Member of the Senate of the United States voted against my nomination at that time.

The opponents of Judge Thomas' nomination are concerned that he might do this or he might do that or that his confirmation will lead to some ideological shift in the Supreme Court, or that he is somehow outside the mainstream of legal thinking, yes, and politi-