

Senator THURMOND [presiding]. The chairman will be back in a moment. He asked me to proceed.

I want to take this opportunity first to welcome you here. I think it is very thoughtful of you and very considerate to appear here and use your talent and time to express yourself on a very important nomination.

There is no more important nomination that could be made in the United States than to the Supreme Court. These nine individuals have unusual power. Next to the President of the United States, they are the most influential people in this country, and I appreciate your coming here and expressing yourselves.

Now, I believe, Ms. Ellen Smith, you are with Concerned Women for America, is that correct?

Ms. SMITH. Yes, Senator.

Senator THURMOND. Your representatives have testified here on a number of appointments and have done a fine job.

Mr. King, you are with the Professional Bail Agents?

Mr. KING. Yes, sir.

Senator THURMOND. Just what is that organization?

Mr. KING. Sir, our responsibility is to save taxpayers money.

Senator THURMOND. Is what?

Mr. KING. Save taxpayers money.

Senator THURMOND. To get people out on bail, so they don't have to keep them in jail? [Laughter.]

Mr. KING. We take them out and we see to it that they get back.

Senator THURMOND. See that they return.

And the third is Mr. Jenkins. You are chairman of Montgomery County Black Republican Council?

Mr. JENKINS. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN [presiding]. Why don't you ask what his responsibility is? [Laughter.]

Senator THURMOND. How many members of the county council are there?

Mr. JENKINS. There are 19 members of the Montgomery County Central Committee, and they represent 120,000 Montgomery County voters.

Senator THURMOND. 120,000 voters.

Mr. JENKINS. Yes.

Senator THURMOND. How many black members and how many white members?

Mr. JENKINS. We have 56 members of the Black Republican Council.

The CHAIRMAN. If I could interrupt for a minute, he represents a party organization, not an elected public organization. It is not the county council.

Senator THURMOND. So, yours is a party organization and not the county council?

Mr. JENKINS. That's right.

Senator THURMOND. I see. Thank you very much.

Dr. Dumas, you are the national chairman of the Republican Black Caucus, as I understand.

Mr. DUMAS. That is correct, sir.

Senator THURMOND. How many members have you in that?

Mr. DUMAS. At this time, Senator, we have several hundred members and we are a grassroots organization and we are trying to make sure that African-American people get a chance to participate in the democratic process in this country by belonging to more than the Democratic Party. We believe that we should have more African-Americans in the Republican Party, and so our mission is to make that happen.

At this juncture, sir, I would like to thank you and your staff. Your staff was really tremendous in assisting me in being able to be at this hearing today, so I would like to thank you and the chairman so much.

Senator THURMOND. We are very glad to be of assistance.

Now, where do you live?

Mr. DUMAS. Sir, I live in Fairfax, VA.

Senator THURMOND. Fairfax County?

Mr. DUMAS. Yes, sir.

Senator THURMOND. Now, I am not going to ask you a lot of questions. It all boils down to this, whether or not this man is qualified to be on the Supreme Court. You can say what you please about all other questions, but that is all that counts.

Now, I am going to start with you, Ms. Smith: In your opinion, is Judge Clarence Thomas, by reason of integrity, professional qualifications and judicial temperament and other qualities you feel important to be on the Supreme Court, is he qualified to be on the Supreme Court?

Mr. SMITH. Senator, without hesitation, I can say that we believe that Judge Thomas is qualified to serve on the Supreme Court.

Senator THURMOND. The answer is yes?

Ms. SMITH. Yes.

Senator THURMOND. Mr. King.

Mr. KING. The answer is yes, and we see many, many judges.

Senator THURMOND. Mr. Jenkins.

Mr. JENKINS. Yes, Senator.

Senator THURMOND. Dr. Dumas.

Mr. DUMAS. The answer is yes, Senator.

Senator THURMOND. As I understand, all of you feel that he is qualified to be on the Supreme Court.

Mr. DUMAS. That is correct.

Senator THURMOND. The next question is: Do you know of any reason why this committee and the Senate should not confirm him for the Supreme Court? Ms. Smith.

Ms. SMITH. I know of no reason, Senator.

Mr. KING. None, Senator.

Mr. JENKINS. No, I do not, Senator.

Mr. DUMAS. I know of no reason, Senator.

Senator THURMOND. As I understand, all of you say no, that you know of no reason why he shouldn't be.

Well, you have answered the questions correctly. [Laughter.]

You have given good answers, and I have a feeling that the committee and the Senate, too, will confirm the position you have taken.

I want to thank you again for your presence. I wish you well, and God bless you.