

Judge THOMAS. I will survive, a different person. I would have hoped, Senator, when I was nominated, that it would have been an occasion for joy. There has never been a single day of joy in this process. There has never been one minute of joy in having been nominated to the Supreme Court of the United States of America.

Senator DECONCINI. Judge Thomas, you said—correct me if I am wrong—after 10 days or whatever it was, 90 witnesses and your 5 days, I thought you were not just being gracious but being sincere, where you thanked the chairman and this committee and, as you said today, you would have liked to receive more votes here but you didn't, and that was the process. As I remember your words, you said, "I think I have been treated fairly, and I have no quarrel or no ill feelings." Am I restating that correctly, how you felt after your formal hearing?

Judge THOMAS. That is right, Senator.

Senator DECONCINI. And I can understand that you don't feel that way today, and my question continues to go to the sense of you being confirmed. What does it do to somebody? Does it affect their ability to approach cases, as you indicated, and satisfactorily so to this Senator, approach cases as a Supreme Court Judge? Can you be reborn in the sense of the loss that you have had to suffer here in the last 2 weeks? And how do you cope with it, if you care to say? And if you don't, I will understand.

Judge THOMAS. Senator, there is one thing that I have learned over my life, and that is that I will be back.

The other thing that I have learned in this process are things that we discussed in the real confirmation hearing, and that is our rights being protected, what rights we have as citizens of this country, what constitutional rights, what is our relationship with our Government. And as I sit here on matters such as privacy, matters such as procedures for charges against individuals in a criminal context or a civil context, this has heightened my awareness of the importance of those protections, the importance of something that we discussed in theory—privacy, due process, equal protection, fairness.

Senator DECONCINI. Judge, is it safe to say that—what a way to have to come to it, and this Senator was satisfied you didn't have to come to it, that you met the threshold for my vote—what you are now saying to us is that through this God-awful experience you will be more sensitive towards the rights of the accused, and that is because your rights have been violated. Is that correct?

Judge THOMAS. I have been an accused.

Senator DECONCINI. And your rights—

Judge THOMAS. Were violated, as far as—

Senator DECONCINI [continuing]. Were violated?

Judge THOMAS. I think strongly so.

Senator DECONCINI. Thank you, Judge Thomas.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. The Senator from South Carolina.

Senator THURMOND. Mr. Chairman, it has been mentioned here about he has been confirmed three times. My recollection is four times, as the assistant in the Civil Rights Division, and twice in EEOC, wasn't it?

Judge THOMAS. That is right, Senator.

Senator THURMOND. And then in the civil court. Four times.

Judge THOMAS. That is right.

Senator THURMOND. So this will be the fifth time.

Judge THOMAS. That is right, Senator.

Senator THURMOND. I just want to make the record straight.

Judge THOMAS. Thank you, Senator Thurmond.

Senator GRASSLEY. Judge Thomas, the thing that keeps going through my mind is, all 14 of us sit here, while you are being questioned all the time. I am reminded of the verse that says, "He who is without sin, let him be the first to cast the stone." I know you have gone through a lot of things. I have sinned; I can't cast that stone. And there isn't anybody perfect on this side, either. As you stare at us, I keep hoping you know that at least half of the members of this committee voted for you, and that not everybody on this side of the aisle is your enemy.

I heard something on one of the commentaries on television, more than once. I want to bring it up for you to give a response to, because I think it has put a very unfair message out there. I don't think it has come from anchor people; I think it has come from people that have appeared to make commentary, other than politicians.

The contrast you and Professor Hill, saying, why would she come forward? She doesn't have anything to gain by coming forward and didn't have to come forward, so she obviously would have to be telling the truth, while in your case it is considered implicit that you are lying because you have everything to lose.

I would like to have you tell the American people your reaction to that comparison.

Judge THOMAS. Senator, I think that people can rationalize just about anything. I have learned through this process that people have fit square pegs into round holes, and they do it very well and have no problem with that inconsistency. I don't know what Anita Hill has to gain; I don't know. I don't know what goes on in her mind. But I have already lost. I have lost my name.

As I said before, I never aspired to the Supreme Court. I am on the Court of Appeals. I love my job. I love what I do every day. I have lost everything in this process. I am here not to be confirmed; I am here to get my name back. All I have to gain from this process is to salvage a little bit of my integrity and a little bit of my name. Nothing more.

Senator GRASSLEY. You haven't mentioned your grandfather at all this particular sitting. I would like to have you tell me what advice you think, he would give to you if he were advising you today.

Judge THOMAS. Well, Senator, in 1983—and this is something that I said during my real confirmation hearings—when I was getting hammered in the public and getting criticized, and I complained to him, he told me to stand up for what I believe in. That is what he would tell me today: not to quit, not to turn tail, not to cry "uncle," and not to give up until I am dead. He had another statement: "Give out but don't give up." That is what he would say to me.

Senator GRASSLEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Simon.