

United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America

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September 20, 1991

Sen. Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
SD-224 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510-6275

RE: Submission for Hearing Record on Thomas Nomination

Dear Chairman Biden:

Please find enclosed a resolution passed at the 56th annual convention of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE) which we submit as our testimony in the ongoing Judiciary Committee hearings on the nomination of Clarence Thomas for the U.S. Supreme Court. Please enter it into the official hearing record.

This resolution was approved in August 1991 in Pittsburgh, Pa., by delegates representing approximately 80,000 UE members nationwide. We urge the committee to consider our views.

Sincerely,

Robert Kingsley
Political Action Director

* Resolution of the 56th Convention of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE)

REJECT THE CLARENCE THOMAS NOMINATION

Judge Clarence Thomas has been nominated by President Bush to fill the Supreme Court seat vacated by Justice Thurgood Marshall. Thomas, an African-American, is an opponent of affirmative action for racial minorities and women. This position he justified by saying, "I was raised under the totalitarianism of segregation not only without the active assistance of government, but with its active opposition."

In fact, Thomas himself was the direct beneficiary of laws, rulings, and programs which required affirmative action. It is doubtful whether Thomas could have attended either Holy Cross College or Yale Law School without the existence of minority preference admissions policies. He is like a "freeloader" in a union shop who enjoys all the benefits of a union contract, but bad-mouths the union because he just doesn't want to pay his union dues.

Thomas opposes affirmative action on the grounds of opposing any government role in bringing about equality of opportunity. Seated on the Supreme Court, Thomas could extend this doctrine to its natural conclusion: to oppose government help to the children of workers seeking higher education, to lower-income people seeking to purchase a home, to those who have lost their livelihood through no fault of their own, to those needing medical care without the ability to pay. Such are the true targets of those in the crusade against affirmative action: the working poor and, through them, all workers.

Thomas' views are well known due to his seven-year tenure as head of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). As EEOC Chairman, Thomas refused to enforce the Age Discrimination Act and allowed suits involving thousands of older workers to languish. He has also criticized minimum wage laws and the Brown vs. the Board of Education desegregation case, challenged the separation between church and state, and hinted that he would like to see abortion outlawed.

These views and others have already led many to oppose the Thomas nomination, including the Congressional Black Caucus, Americans for Democratic Action, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the National Organization for Women, the AFL-CIO, and the NAACP.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THIS 56TH UE CONVENTION:

1. Urges the Senate to oppose the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the United States Supreme Court and to demand that President Bush nominate a qualified jurist who will restore balance to the Court;
2. Urges those who opposed the nomination of Robert Bork to mobilize once again to oppose this nomination;
3. Urges all locals and districts to alert UE members to the dangers of the Thomas nomination; to mobilize UE members in letter-writing campaigns; and to work in coalitions with other unions and anti-Bush forces to defeat this dangerous nomination.