

had so adjusted their lights for Senator Simpson's head, they want to be consistent? [Laughter.]

Senator SIMPSON. Why don't you tell them the story about what—

Senator LEAHY. No, no, I'm not going to do that.

Senator SIMPSON. Then I will. Let me tell you. Mr. Chairman, you will recall that during—

The CHAIRMAN. You go right ahead. I never talk about hair or lack thereof. [Laughter.]

Senator SIMPSON. During a hearing in this committee, a courier came to the door—

Senator LEAHY. You don't have to tell this, Alan.

Senator SIMPSON. I think I will. You have told it enough times. It is very short. It is like war stories, you have to get them out of the way.

This courier came and said to the person at the door, "I have a message here for somebody." He said, "Who is it?" He said, "I don't know. He's tall, bald, homely, and wears glasses." And this guy looked in and said, "There's two of them." [Laughter.]

The CHAIRMAN. We are recessed for 5 minutes.

[Recess.]

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order.

Welcome back, Judge. We will do another hour and a half. We will do Senators Leahy, Heflin, and Grassley, and we will reconvene tomorrow at 10 o'clock, at which time, if all goes as planned, I believe the next person will be Senator Specter, I think. I am not sure. The name plates are not up, but I think that is correct.

Senator Leahy, the floor is yours.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. PATRICK J. LEAHY, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF VERMONT

Senator LEAHY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Judge, I was thinking, as I was listening to you, I have had the opportunity in the years I have been in the Senate, now with your nomination, which I fully expect will go through the Senate, I will have had an opportunity to vote on all nine members of the Supreme Court. I also will have been in the hearings on eight of them. That is counting Chief Justice Rehnquist in his capacity as Chief Justice.

I have an opening statement that I was going to include in the record as though read, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, it will be included.

[The prepared statement of Senator Leahy follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SENATOR LEAHY

When you visit the Supreme court, and walk into the courtroom chamber, you cannot help but be struck by a special authority that exists there. I remember being affected this way when I was first there as a law student, and I remember feeling the same way when I was there just a few weeks ago.

The courtroom itself is more cramped than you might expect. It essentially consists of a broad wooden bench, behind which sit the nine justices in their high-backed chairs. Before the bench is a lectern and tables for counsel arguing cases, as well as tables for clerks and other court personnel. The rest of the chamber is devoted to rows of chairs for public seating.

Yet the importance of this room is enormous—one cannot enter that room without having a feeling about what happens in it. This is where our most precious rights