

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THOMAS NOMINATION

MY REMARKS TODAY WILL BE BRIEF. IT'S NO SECRET THAT I THINK CLARENCE THOMAS SHOULD BE CONFIRMED...AND IT'S NO SECRET THAT HE WILL BE CONFIRMED NEXT TUESDAY.

THIS SENATOR SAW NO REASON WHY WE COULD NOT VOTE TODAY OR TOMORROW, SO THAT JUSTICE THOMAS COULD BE ON THE COURT WHEN ITS FALL TERM BEGINS ON MONDAY.

INSTEAD, WE HAVE FOUR DAYS OF DEBATE. FOUR DAYS IN WHICH OPPONENTS OF JUDGE THOMAS CAN CONTINUE THEIR DESPERATE SEARCH FOR REASONS TO VOTE AGAINST SUCH A TRULY OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVANT.

AND, AS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SAW DURING THE CONFIRMATION HEARINGS, THE TRUTH IS THERE ARE NO GOOD REASONS TO OPPOSE JUDGE THOMAS.

A MAN OF COURAGE, INTELLIGENCE, INTEGRITY

AMERICANS SAW A MAN OF RARE COURAGE, WHOSE CHARACTER WAS FORGED IN A CHILDHOOD OF POVERTY IN THE SEGREGATED SOUTH.

THEY SAW A MAN OF INTELLIGENCE, WHO HAS DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF IN EVERY BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT--LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE, AND JUDICIAL.

THEY SAW A MAN OF INTEGRITY, WHO, THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE, HAS REMEMBERED FROM WHERE HE CAME, AND STOOD UP FOR WHAT HE BELIEVED.

THEY SAW A MAN WHO WILL HIT THE GROUND RUNNING, AND MAKE A CONTRIBUTION ON THE SUPREME COURT RIGHT FROM THE START.

AMERICANS ALSO SAW A PARADE OF WITNESSES TESTIFY FOR AND AGAINST JUDGE THOMAS. THERE WERE THE USUAL CAST OF CHARACTERS FROM THE USUAL LIBERAL SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, GIVING THEIR USUAL REASON FOR OPPOSING EVERY NOMINEE WHO DOESN'T MARCH LOCKSTEP WITH THEIR VIEWS.

BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT AND TELLING TESTIMONY WAS FROM PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY KNEW JUDGE THOMAS. TESTIMONY FROM THE NUNS AND PROFESSORS WHO TAUGHT HIM...FROM THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO WORKED WITH HIM...FROM OUR DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUE, SENATOR DANFORTH, WHO HAS SERVED AS A MENTOR AND GUIDING LIGHT THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER.

EACH OF THESE WITNESSES TOLD OF A DILIGENT STUDENT, A LOYAL FRIEND, A GIFTED ATTORNEY, A MAN WITH AN OPEN MIND AND AN ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND REAL LIFE PEOPLE AND THEIR REAL LIFE PROBLEMS.

(MORE)

HISTORY SHOWS DOUBLE-STANDARD

THE SPEECHES I HEARD THIS MORNING FROM A FEW OF MY COLLEAGUES REMINDED ME OF TEN YEARS AGO THIS FALL, WHEN THE SENATE WAS ENGAGED IN A DEBATE OVER ANOTHER PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE.

THEN, AS NOW, DEMOCRATS ROSE TO TELL THIS BODY THAT YES, THE NOMINEE WAS A DISTINGUISHED AND COURAGEOUS GENTLEMEN, BUT THEY SIMPLY COULDN'T SUPPORT HIM.

IN AN IMPASSIONED SPEECH DELIVERED ON THIS FLOOR ON NOVEMBER 16, 1981, THE SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS, SENATOR KENNEDY, DECLARED THE NOMINEE HAD A "TOTAL ABSENCE OF TRAINING OR EXPERIENCE."

THE REAL REASON BEHIND THE OPPOSITION, HOWEVER, WAS THAT THE NOMINEE HAD, IN THE PAST, SPOKE OUT AGAINST ABORTION. SENATOR KENNEDY DECLARED THE NOMINEE TO BE, QUOTE, "INSENSITIVE TO ISSUES AFFECTING WOMEN," AND SOMEONE WHO WOULD "STAND AGAINST THE EFFORT OF WOMEN TO ACHIEVE EQUAL RIGHTS."

THE SENATOR FROM OHIO, SENATOR METZENBAUM, ROSE TO AGREE THAT THE NOMINEE WAS INEXPERIENCED AND UNFIT. BUT--AND LISTEN CAREFULLY, BECAUSE YOU'LL BE AS SURPRISED AS I WAS TO HEAR THESE WORDS--SENATOR METZENBAUM DECLARED THAT THE NOMINEE'S POSITION ON ABORTION DID NOT INFLUENCE HIS OPINION.

INDEED, SENATOR METZENBAUM SAID--AND I QUOTE, BECAUSE I WANT TO GET EVERY WORD CORRECT, "I BELIEVE TO JUDGE ANY PERSON FOR PUBLIC OFFICE OR FOR CONFIRMATION ON THE BASIS OF A SINGLE ISSUE IS UNFAIR...UNINTELLIGENT...AND UNAMERICAN."

CONTRAST THIS STATEMENT WITH SENATOR METZENBAUM'S CRUSADE TO PIN JUDGE THOMAS DOWN ON HIS VIEWS ON ABORTION, AND IT'S CLEAR THAT WHILE HISTORY MAY REPEAT ITSELF, THE DISTINGUISHED SENATOR FROM OHIO CERTAINLY DOESN'T.

THE NOMINEE SENATOR KENNEDY, SENATOR METZENBAUM...AND SENATOR BIDEN, I MIGHT ADD, OPPOSED AS INEXPERIENCED...THE NOMINEE THESE SENATORS OPPOSED AS A CONSERVATIVE IDEALOGUE...WAS PRESIDENT REAGAN'S NOMINEE TO BE SURGEON GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES, DR. C. EVERETT KOOP.

I MAY NOT HAVE AGREED WITH EVERY DECISION DR. KOOP MADE, BUT NO ONE CAN DENY THAT HE WAS THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND COURAGEOUS SURGEON GENERAL OF OUR TIME, AND NO ONE CAN DENY THAT HE WAS ABOUT AS FAR FROM A CONSERVATIVE IDEALOGUE AS YOU CAN GET.

SENATORS KENNEDY, METZENBAUM, BIDEN, AND THE OTHER LIBERALS WHO OPPOSED DR. KOOP'S NOMINATION, WOULD EVENTUALLY EAT A LOT OF CROW. THEY WERE WRONG TEN YEARS AGO, AND THEY KNOW IT.

AND THEY'RE WRONG IN OPPOSING THE NOMINATION OF CLARENCE THOMAS, AND THEY--AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE--KNOW IT.

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