

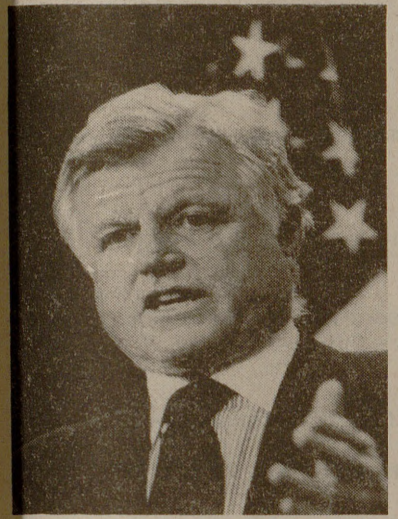
Justice Clarence Thomas

fills Thurgood Marshall's position, represents conservative viewpoint

Continued from Page 1

fixed as the accusations were spelled out in explicit detail and debated in nationally televised hearings.

Even while voting for Thomas, Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan.,

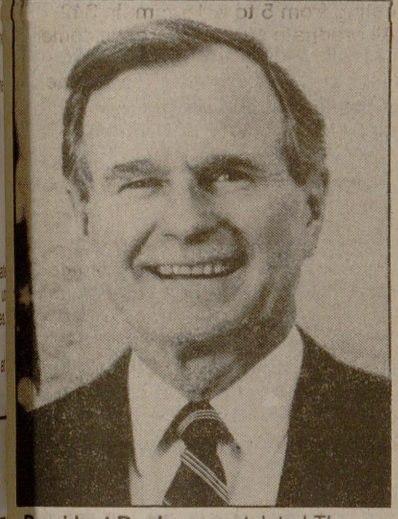


Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., said, "To give the benefit of the doubt to Judge Thomas is to say that Judge Thomas is more important than the Supreme Court."

one of the two women in the Senate, said he will "live under a cloud of suspicion he can never fully escape."

Immediately after the vote, President Bush called Thomas with congratulations. Thomas had watched the vote on television at home in Alexandria, Va.

"You're a wonderful inspiration and you had the overwhelming support of the American peo-



President Bush congratulated Thomas and said he had an enormous support of the American people.

ple," Bush said, according to press secretary Marlin Fitzwater. "You have a lifetime of service to your country ahead. Well done." Barbara Bush also got on the phone to congratulate Thomas.

In Oklahoma, Hill said she was satisfied she had been "able to go out and tell what I knew true." She also said she was pleased that national awareness of sexual harassment had been raised.

"What I hope is that none of this will deter others from coming forward. This is an important issue and the dialogue will not stop here," she said.

Thomas' confirmation strengthens an already solid con-

servative majority on the court, where liberals will be outnumbered seven to two. The court is likely to continue moving to the right on issues such as abortion, separation of church and state and the rights of criminal suspects.

"It's a sad day for civil rights, for the Supreme Court and for the American people," said Ralph Neas, of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, a coalition of 180 organizations that opposed Thomas.

With the outcome in doubt until the final hours, Vice President Dan Quayle rushed back from a political trip to Ohio to sit as the presiding officer and cast a tie-breaking vote if necessary. It wasn't needed.

The visitors' galleries were packed but hushed as senators rose, one by one, to cast their votes.

It was an uneasy decision for many senators, forcing them to judge between the irreconcilably different stories of accuser and accused.

Thomas won confirmation with support from 41 of the Senate's 43 Republicans and 11 Democrats: Sens. Sam Nunn, Wyche Fowler, Charles Robb, J. James Exon, Alan Dixon, Richard Shelby, John Breaux, J. Bennett Johnston, David Boren, Ernest Hollings and Dennis DeConcini.

Sens. James Jeffords and Bob Packwood cast the only Republican votes against him.

It was the closest vote for a successful Supreme Court nominee since 1888 when Lucius Q. Lamar went onto the bench on a 32-28 vote.

Three Democrats who had supported Thomas before Hill's charges were made public switched sides and voted against him: Harry Reid and Richard Bryan, both of Nevada, and Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut.

A federal appeals court judge in Washington, Thomas was nominated to succeed retired Justice Thurgood Marshall, the first black on the high court.

Court sources said Thomas likely would be sworn in next Monday morning.

Hill's charges, which resulted in a week's delay in the confirmation vote, defined the final hours of Senate debate. All but forgotten were the early battle lines, in which Thomas' supporters emphasized his rags-to-riches story and opponents characterized Thomas as insensitive to women, the elderly and fellow minorities.

"If we make a mistake today the Supreme Court will be living with it and the nation will be living with it for the next 30 to 40 years," argued Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass. "That is too high a price to pay. ... To give the benefit of the doubt to Judge Thomas is to say that Judge Thomas is more important than the Supreme Court."

However, Democrats J. James Exon of Nebraska and Alan Dixon of Illinois said Hill failed to conclusively prove her allegations against Thomas during three days of Judiciary Committee hearings.

"The person being accused gets the benefit of the doubt," Dixon said. "Judge Thomas is entitled to the presumption of inno-

cence."

Exon said both were credible, Hill in making accusations and Thomas in denial, and, "unfortunately in my view, the hearings have not provided any overall conclusive facts or definite truth."

In the absence of such proof, Exon said he would give the nominee his vote "without enthusiasm," adding, "Judge Thomas will be a better justice as a result of the ordeal."

In an impassioned speech, Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., said he had been prepared to vote for Thomas but changed his mind after watching Hill on television.

"Why should we give the benefit of the doubt to him?" Byrd said. "If there is a cloud of doubt, this is the last chance."

"I believe Anita Hill," said Byrd, the Senate's president pro tempore and former Democratic leader, rejecting suggestions by Republicans that she had fantasized her story, or made it up for some reason.

He said that Thomas, by charging that he was the victim of racist



Justice Thurgood Marshall (Ret.) announced his retirement this summer. He was the first black to serve on the Supreme Court.

attacks, 'intended to divert both the committee's and the American public's attention away from the issue at hand.'

Republicans continued to assail Hill's credibility. "In my judgment, the weight of the evidence supports Judge Thomas," said Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., who led the questioning of Hill during the extraordinary weekend hearings.

Specter tangled on the Senate floor with Kennedy after the Massachusetts Democrat denounced Republican treatment of Hill, including Specter's allegation she had committed perjury.

"The way Professor Hill was treated was shameful," Kennedy said, jabbing his finger at Specter.

Specter responded: "We do not need characterizations like 'shame' in this chamber from the senator from Massachusetts. The women of America should not listen to the senator from Massachusetts, who is trying to arouse passions on the generalized subjects of sexual harassment."

Thomas was the first high court nominee to win Senate confirmation without the endorsement of the Judiciary Committee, which refused on a 7-7 vote to recommend his confirmation.

Open 24 hrs. **Gold Tequila Margaritas 99¢**

Happy Hour 2-7 p.m. Mon-Fri \$2.95 PITCHERS

SNEAKY PETE! Every Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.

Ask About Our Daily Lunch Specials!

Buy 2 Breakfast Tacos & get drink* **FREE**

Two Pesos Expires 10-31-91 *Alcohol not included

Buy Any Item*, Get One of Equal or Lesser Value **FREE**

(Value up to \$5.00) (One Coupon Per Person)

Two Pesos Expires 10-31-91 *Alcohol not included

846-4135 Walk-In or Drive-Thru 303 West University Dr.

Come speak your mind at AggieVision's

Pillow Talk

This is your chance to make your mark on A&M. The Pillow Talk cameras will be rolling October 16 and 17 in the MSC. It takes just minutes to capture yourself in the 91-92 video yearbook. You have had your picture made for the Aggieland, now make it complete and be a part of the VISION.

VISION

At Northern Telecom/BNR you get hands on experience from day one. I've only been here three months and I am already working on a project that was specifically assigned to me.

Tony O'Driscoll, B.S. in E.E., Member of Scientific Staff, Research Triangle Park, NC.

On campus interviews: Friday, November 1

Join the people who are determining the future of telecommunications. Find out more by contacting your placement office or calling 1-800-NORTHERN. Northern Telecom and its global research and development center, BNR (Bell Northern Research), is now offering graduates a three year employment contract. An equal opportunity employer, M/F/H/V.

Where the brightest minds shape our future

CLASS PICTURES ARE BEING TAKEN NOW FOR THE 1992 AGGIELAND

AT AR PHOTOGRAPHY NEXT TO TACO CABANA M-F 9-5

BUY YOUR 1992 AGGIELAND IN 230 RDMC!