this morning. When I was serving as Attorney General of our country, he was the attorney general of New Hampshire, and I met him at a meeting that we had with a number of the State attorneys general.

I believe that based on the record he ought to be confirmed. With that, I will close and stand for questions at the appropriate time.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, General.

Senator Gorton, welcome.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR GORTON

Senator GORTON. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

By coincidence, my first meeting with David Souter, the nominee, took place very close to the time at which Judge Bell first met him. During Judge Bell's first year as Attorney General of the United States, I was president of the National Association of Attorneys General, and Warren Rudman was finishing his distinguished term as attorney general of New Hampshire. I may tell you, Mr. Chairman, that I was disappointed that Warren left that position and turned it over to an individual whom I had not previously known and about whom I knew nothing.

My wife and I had the good fortune to spend a long, 2- or 3-hour lunch hour with Warren Rudman in which he introduced me to David Souter in the first 2 or 3 months in which he was attorney general of New Hampshire. I found him to be witty, delightful, thoughtful, and intelligent during the course of that lunchtime, and I did pay more attention to him than normally one State attorney general from the far end of the country would from someone from New England, for two reasons. The first was that he was the successor of now Senator Rudman, who was then, as he is today, a close friend of mine; and the second was that I was the president of the national association and felt it important to make new members welcome and to get some insight into their character and their intelligence.

If I may, I will share one story which shows something about his wit, of which I was reminded very recently. During the week after Judge Souter was nominated for this position and was here in Washington, DC, going from office to office to meet the members of this committee and of the leadership, he asked Senator Rudman that I be added to that list at the end of the week, in spite of the fact that I was not a member of the committee. After we had talked in private for a while, he smiled and said, "Well, however controversial my nomination is, Slade, you may remember that you do have a legitimate reason for voting against my confirmation." As I looked at him with a blank expression on my face, and he said, "Well, you remember when we first met that summer when I became attorney general, and it turned out that you and your predecessors had finally persuaded the attorney general of Hawaii to invite you for your national winter meeting in Honolulu. And the New Hampshire press came to me and said, "Are you going to attend that boondoggle in Honolulu?" And I said, "I'll never waste the taxpayers' money of New Hampshire on such a frolic as that." And he said, "It got on the AP wire, and close to a dozen other attorneys general felt they had to cancel out on your meeting at the

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same time because of it. So if you hold that against me, I will understand it perfectly."

I think that it shows both the sense of humor——

The CHAIRMAN. Did he go?

Senator GORTON. Oh, no, he didn't go, and neither did the other dozen. I had a rather small meeting there, Mr. Chairman.

But even in the relatively short period of time that David Souter was attorney general of New Hampshire, he showed to me—under circumstances in which I had never thought that I would be in this position with him—a thoughtful and an inquiring mind and a willingness to learn from experience which I found notable among the group of people with whom I dealt then. And I can think of no qualities which are more important for a position on the Supreme Court of the United States than that constant ability to learn, to grow from the kind of experiences one has, and an inquiring mind and the dedication to the ideals which made this country great.

I think none of us, Mr. Chairman, even those of us who are Members of the Senate of the United States, can quite or fully understand the awesome and lonesome responsibilities of being a member of the Supreme Court of the United States and having the Constitution of this great country in our hands. I feel that David Souter can take on that responsibility thoughtfully, responsibly, with an open mind, and that he can contribute greatly to the development of legal institutions in this country.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Senator.

Governor Baliles.

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR BALILES

Mr. BALILES. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I am here in support of David H. Souter's nomination by the President to become an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. In my judgment, Judge Souter is an individual who brings objective intellect, integrity, and a centered view of judicial procedure to the Nation's highest Court, an individual who shuns ideological leanings or prejudices in favor of a considered context of legal principles and constitutional premise. In short, Judge Souter is an individual who, in my view, is capable of addressing the entire spectrum of issues required in a government of laws.

I base my opinion upon the friendship struck nearly two decades ago when he served as deputy attorney general of New Hampshire, and I held the position of deputy attorney general of Virginia. I worked closely with him for several years on matters relating to the administration of the offices in which we served and on legal issues which were of interest to the National Association of Attorneys General. We also worked closely together in the gathering of evidence and in the writing of legal memoranda and briefs filed before a special master in an original jurisdiction case then pending before the U.S. Supreme Court.

During that time, we became good friends. We discussed the issues of the day. We shared an interest in reading and protection of the environment. During that period of 3 or 4 years of working closely together, I do not ever recall him taking positions on major political issues or promoting any ideological framework from which