The CHAIRMAN. The Senator from Alabama—I beg your pardon. I am really sorry. How I could have made that mistake is beyond me.

The Senator from South Carolina. I was distracting myself by asking the staff a question, and I hope you will forgive me, Senator. That is a big mistake to make with this gentleman.

Senator THURMOND. Oh, not at all. We all make mistakes. It is a minor thing. Forget it.

Mr. Chairman, I have another meeting I have got to go to. I went to this meeting for a while, but I came back especially to hear this particular group. There is no group in this country I have greater respect for than the law enforcement officers. Just as our soldiers protect us against external enemies, the law enforcement officers protect us from internal enemies. That is the criminal. I commend you for your great work. I congratulate you for taking time to come here today and testify.

Now, I am just going to ask you one question. Is it your opinion that Judge Souter has the integrity, the professional competency, the judicial temperament, the courage, the compassion, the understanding of the majesty of our system of Government, and the fairness to be a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States? We will start right on in, Mr. Doyle.

Mr. DOYLE. Yes, Senator. Having read Judge Souter's opinions, I think there is no question that he is so qualified to be Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Senator THURMOND. Chief Mosca?

Mr. MOSCA. Yes, Senator. I have spoken to a number of my colleagues, particularly from New Hampshire, and they would certainly embody those qualities that you describe.

Senator THURMOND. I am not too sure that our positions have been entered on the record. Mr. Doyle represents the International Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association.

Mr. DOYLE. No, Senator. I am representing the National Troopers Coalition. I am an attorney.

Senator THURMOND. Oh, you are with Captain Hughes.

Mr. DOYLE. Yes, Senator. That is correct.

Senator THURMOND. I see. And Chief Mosca is with the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Mr. MOSCA. Yes, Senator.

Senator THURMOND. And, Sheriff Rice, what is your answer to that question?

Mr. RICE. Yes, sir, very much so.

Senator THURMOND. You represent the National Sheriffs' Association.

Mr. RICE. Yes, sir.

Senator THURMOND. Captain Hughes represents the National Troopers Coalition. And what is your answer, Captain Hughes, to that question?

Mr. HUGHES. Yes, sir, without a doubt.

Senator THURMOND. Mr. Stokes is the national president of the Fraternal Order of Police. What is your answer to that question?

Mr. STOKES. Sir, we have looked at all of his opinions, and we believe that based on the written opinion and some of the remarks that he has made in those written opinions, he will provide this

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country with the type of leadership that law enforcement would desire on the Supreme Court. So my answer is emphatically yes.

Senator THURMOND. Again, I want to thank all of you for coming here and testifying. I appreciate your doing so. I am in accord with the statements you made.

I am going to have to leave now to go to another hearing. I just want to say to the chairman before I go that my position on this nomination is just the same as these able and distinguished law enforcement officers have given here today. I think that Judge Souter does possess the integrity, the professional competency, the judicial temperament, the courage, the compassion, the understanding of the majesty of our system of Government, and the fairness and the dedication to make an excellent Supreme Court Justice of the United States.

Mr. Chairman, before I leave, I want to take this opportunity again to express to you my appreciation for the fairness with which you have conducted this investigation, the courtesies you have extended to everyone, especially to the ranking member, and we appreciate all that you have done in connection with this investigation.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Senator. It is always—and I mean this literally—always a pleasure to work with you. You are always fair as well.

The Senator from Illinois. I got it right this time.

Senator SIMON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I have no questions. I simply want to thank all of you for your testimony, and also to note with pleasure that the police organizations have become more active on Capitol Hill in speaking up. I don't think there is any question that your speaking up played a decisive role in the passage of the DeConcini amendment, for example. If one of these days we pass a waiting period for handguns so that we don't have police officers killed once every 57 hours, I don't think there is any question that the police officers of this Nation are going to be playing the critical role. I think your influence on Capitol Hill has been a good one, and I simply want to take this opportunity to commend all of you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. STOKES. Thank you, Senator, and I hope that the people who view these hearings will contact their Congressmen, their Representatives, and get our crime bill moving over on the House side, as effectively as you did in the Senate.

Senator SIMON. That is why you are a pretty good lobbyist, Dewey Stokes. You get those licks in wherever you can.

Mr. STOKES. Absolutely.

The CHAIRMAN. The Senator from Pennsylvania, Senator Specter.

Senator SPECTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I join in thanking you men for appearing here today and for all of your hard work and effective service. There are a lot of things we could talk about on *Miranda* and retroactivity and many, many issues, but the hour is growing very late. As the chairman has already said, we are anxious to conclude. But I think your testimony is very helpful, and I join in thanking you.

The CHAIRMAN. Gentlemen, I have a couple questions, if I may.