

Exchange With Reporters in Atlanta March 19, 1993

Potential Supreme Court Nominee

Q. Mr. President, excuse the interruption, sir, but could you give us some feel for what you'll be looking for in a replacement for Justice White?

The President. I already said that in Washington. I used to teach constitutional law, and I think that there are few decisions the President makes which are more weighty, more significant,

or can have a greater impact on more Americans than an appointment to the Supreme Court. And I'm going to try to pick a person that has a fine mind, good judgment, wide experience in the law and in the problems of real people, and someone with a big heart.

NOTE: The exchange began at 1:10 p.m. at the Downtown Child Development Center.

Remarks to the Business Community in Atlanta March 19, 1993

Thank you very much. Virgil, I'm glad I let you introduce me. [Laughter] I'm delighted to be here with so many distinguished Georgians, the people here on the platform with me today, including Virgil Williams, who really did do a good job. And there are some days I wish I were called Governor again. [Laughter]

People ask me all the time, is it different being President? And the truth is, it is, in ways that are wonderful and ways that aren't so good. But I had an encounter the other day which describes, better than any words I could say, what's right and what's wrong with it. I was up in the White House in the Residence part, and I had to go back down to the first floor to a big meeting. And my wife had been having a meeting there that I didn't know anything about. It wasn't public, you know. [Laughter] And anyway, so I got down to the first floor, and these throngs of people were there. And I just walked right out of the elevator into them, which was nice. They were people I didn't know, and I stopped, shook hands with them all, and talked to them. And this young man I was with, who had come to work at the White House during a previous administration, was just aghast. He said, "Oh, Mr. President, I'm so sorry that I got you in the middle of all these people." And I said, "That's okay, I used to be one." [Laughter]

I want to thank John Portman and Sam Williams and Peg Canter and Doug Miller for hosting me and welcoming me here to the At-

lanta Apparel Mart. I want to say a special word of thanks to these distinguished business leaders who are up here on the platform; thank my good friend Governor Miller—I'm glad to see Governor and Mrs. Miller here—for meeting me outside; and for Mayor Jackson, who rode in with me and asked me to do more for Atlanta. [Laughter] You know, I don't know what I'd ever do if I came to Atlanta without a suit coat because I always have the Maynard Jackson memorial list. [Laughter] And I actually got giggled today in the office before I left the White House; they said, now be sure and remember to leave Maynard's list on the desk tonight when you get back so we can go to work on it. [Laughter]

I flew down here with a number of members of your congressional delegation who had a great, great night last night. I thank them for their presence here. And I'm glad to see many others in the audience, Andy Young and Max Cleland and others who are here. I thank you all for being here.

It was just a few days ago that I celebrated—and I did celebrate; I wrote Zell a note about it—the first anniversary of the Georgia Democratic primary, when all the experts were saying that if I didn't receive 40 percent of the vote here, I would have to pack up my tent and go home. And thanks to you, some of you, anyway, who voted in the primary, I got—[laughter]—57 percent, and I didn't have to pack up my tent and go home.