

Senator THOMPSON. Thank you very much. We appreciate your participation and your comments, and your comments certainly will go a long way with this committee.

I believe we have Senators Kempthorne and Senator Craig.

Senator CRAIG. Mr. Chairman, we have a vote underway and we have back-to-back votes. How do you want to handle that?

Senator THOMPSON. What do we have? Are we about 5 minutes into a 15-minute vote?

Senator CRAIG. I would think we are.

Senator THOMPSON. Do you want to go for another 5 minutes?

Senator CRAIG. Mr. Chairman, could we ask Lynn Winmill to come forward and be with us?

Senator THOMPSON. Absolutely. Mr. Winmill, welcome.

Judge WINMILL. Thank you.

**STATEMENT OF HON. LARRY E. CRAIG, A U.S. SENATOR FROM
THE STATE OF IDAHO**

Senator CRAIG. Mr. Chairman, due to time, but also because I would be otherwise, let me be brief, but let me be thorough and let me say to the committee and to you, Mr. Chairman, that it is my honor to introduce to you the Honorable B. Lynn Winmill. He comes before you as the President's nominee to the Federal district court in Idaho.

I will request, Your Honor, to be brief, but I think it is important for this committee to understand how seriously Senator Kempthorne and I have taken our responsibility to advise and consent on the appointment of Federal judges in our State.

More than 2 years ago, we established our own Justice Department nominee review commission under the guidelines provided us by the American Adjudicature Society. We recruited an extremely well-qualified and respected bipartisan commission of 9 individuals, from a former retired chief justice of our State court; a former U.S. attorney; senior members of the bar, both Republican and Democrat; current members of the Idaho Judicial Council; and others, including both the senate and house chairs of the judiciary committees of the Idaho Legislature.

We set forth a criteria we were looking at as we examined the nominees, and this is what they said in the examination of Judge Winmill. It was the unanimous decision of the commission that Judge B. Lynn Winmill is extremely well qualified for the position of U.S. district judge for the District of Idaho.

I will tell you that a full copy of the report has been made available to the committee, and we think that is important. We have especially appreciated the cooperation of this committee and the staff and the White House in their efforts to bring forth the most qualified person that Idaho has to offer for this most important lifetime appointment.

I will not go into Judge Winmill's record as a young man and as a judge. It is exemplary. It has brought him from undergraduate work at Idaho State University through graduate school at the Harvard Law School, to a recognition statewide in a bipartisan way that this man is most qualified to serve.

He was on the short list to become Idaho Supreme Court Justice twice in the last 2 years, and although he has an unquestionable Democratic credential, the Republican Governor of Idaho also sends his full and unqualified support for this judge.

Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to present Judge B. Lynn Winmill before this committee.

Senator THOMPSON. Thank you very much, Senator Craig.
Senator Kempthorne.

**STATEMENT OF HON. DIRK KEMPTHORNE, A U.S. SENATOR
FROM THE STATE OF IDAHO**

Senator KEMPTHORNE. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, I share in the pleasure of Senator Craig in presenting to you the Honorable Judge Lynn Winmill, an outstanding nominee to be Federal district court judge in Idaho. I also wish to acknowledge his wife, Judy, who is here, and Kristen, one of four children that they have.

Idaho deserves a judge who will honor the Old Testament admonition that justice, and only justice, you shall pursue, and Judge Winmill meets these tests. He is known in Idaho for his extraordinary hard work, his keen intellect, well-written legal opinions, and superior judicial temperament that have marked his entire career.

When he was a city attorney for Chubbuck, ID, Mayor John Kotan said that Lynn Winmill immersed himself into every issue 100 percent. In private law practice, he devoted as much as 25 percent of his time to pro bono work. His pursuit of excellence continued as a State district court judge, and in a recent survey Idaho attorneys rated Judge Winmill as one of the five best State judges.

He is ranked among the State's top four judges for resolving cases within the time standards adopted by the Idaho Supreme Court. His reversal rate on appeal is among the State's lowest.

But a good judge is more than just a good lawyer. Those who know Judge Lynn Winmill say he is a family-oriented man dedicated to the youth of his community. His commitment to kids tells me a lot about his character and that he will be a fair and responsible judge. He invites elementary and junior high school classes to his courtroom for field trips; and he presides over mock trials, with the students as lawyers, witnesses, and jurors. He then discusses with them the students' responsibilities as citizens.

Judge Winmill's dedication to youth extends to other areas as well. He was a Boy Scout troop leader for 4 years, and every one—and I repeat, every one—of his Scouts became an Eagle Scout. As a coach of youth basketball and soccer teams, he teaches sports as a metaphor for life: That you win some and you lose some, but you must always be and play your best. It is no surprise his teams included two State champions. Coaching from the sideline bench has prepared him well for the courtroom bench.

Judge Winmill is a judge Idaho and the Nation need. I urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to confirm him before the Senate adjourns for the August recess. Idaho urgently needs an additional Federal judge to fill a position that has been vacant for 28 months. While Judge Winmill has been worth the wait, I hope that we won't make Idaho wait any longer.

Mr. Chairman, thank you very much.

Senator THOMPSON. Thank you very much.

We will recess, hopefully for no more than 10 or 15 minutes, in order that we may vote.

[Recess.]