

The season on Justice Thomas opens

By Paul M. Weyrich

It is now three years since the United States Senate confirmed Clarence Thomas as an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In three years, hardly a day goes by but what there isn't some article, cartoon, picture in the personalities column or other reference in the media to Justice Thomas and his chief accuser, Anita Hill.

Up until Clarence Thomas was approved, the civil rights coalition had an unbroken string of victories from 1957 forward. They felt themselves invincible. That coalition had come out against the Thomas nomination despite the fact that he was black because he didn't share their world-view of government. For that coalition, Justice Thomas was dangerous because as a black man who favored limited government, traditional values and more importantly the Constitution as our founding fathers intended it, he could have the credibility in the black community to explain to ordinary folk how they had been lied to.

Despite Anita Hill, Justice Thomas was unexpectedly approved by the U.S. Senate; the civil rights coalition and their leftist allies in the media, once they recovered from the shock of defeat,

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have continued to pound away. Day after day. Month after month. And it has had an effect. When the viewing public tuned in to both Anita Hill and Clarence Thomas and hearing both of them testify under oath, the public backed Justice Thomas by at least a two to one majority.

Ask the same question today and the same viewing public says they believe Anita Hill by a 60-40 margin. That's because Miss Hill and her friends in the liberal media have had three years to re-write history.

Meanwhile, Justice Thomas has had to be silent, carrying out his work as a justice of the court. In the few times when his wife has spoken out publicly with his side of the story, she has taken such a beating in the media and from the liberals in the legal community that she no longer grants interviews.

But the left won't be satisfied until they can get some senator to try to get Justice Thomas impeached. They are not satisfied with re-writing history. They want to undo history. Their latest initiative centers around a woman named Angela Wright, who had said she wanted to testify against Judge Thomas but who never did. It is true that the testimony of a second woman alleging sexual harassment would have doomed the Thomas nomination.

The Washington Post now claims that Wright was prevented from

testifying because leaders of both political parties had had enough of the Thomas hearings and wanted to get on with the vote.

I recall a very different scenario from what the Post reported two Sundays ago. I recall that when her name came up as a potential witness, Sen. Orrin Hatch told me, "we are completely ready for her. She won't be a credible witness by the time we are finished." I recall Sen. Arlen Specter telling me, "this lady won't testify because we have so many witnesses against her that we will be here another week." When I spoke to him on the day the rumor surfaced about her possible testimony, I recall Judge Thomas himself laughing about her as a possible witness. He was not concerned in the least about what this woman was going to say.

Angela Wright did not testify because she knew she would be blown away by U.S. senators. She hoped the mere rumor of her possible testimony would be enough to do Judge Thomas in. It wasn't.

What is continuing in the media is not only unprecedented but thoroughly reprehensible. The left lost. Clarence Thomas is on the bench. And, God willing, he will be there for decades to come. As is with the continuing attempt to rehabilitate Alger Hiss, time and the facts never matter to the left in this country. Thank God Clarence Thomas has a lifetime appointment which doesn't require reading liberal newspapers.