political beliefs, not religious beliefs. And my concern is not just the beliefs themselves but the manner in which they are expressed. I have found that intemperate statements often accompany intemperate people.

Indeed, I went on to say that, and again I quote:

> It is true that abortion rights can often be at the center of these questions. As a result, accusations have been leveled that any time reproductive choice becomes an issue, it acts as a litmus test against those whose religion causes them to be anti-choice. But pro-choice Democrats on this committee have voted for many nominees who are anti-choice and who believe that abortion should be illegal, some of whom may even have been Catholic. I do not know because I have never inquired.
>
> So this truly is not about religion. This is about confirming judges who can be impartial and fair in the administration of justice. I think when a nominee such as William Pryor makes inflammatory statements and evidences such strongly held beliefs on a whole variety of core issues, it is hard for many of us to accept that he can set aside those beliefs and act as an impartial judge—particularly because he is very young, 41; particularly because this is a lifetime appointment; and particularly because we have seen so many people who have received lifetime appointments then go on and do just what they want, regardless of what they said. So it is of some concern to us.

That is what I said. I did not attack Mr. Pryor's religion. Nobody in this debate has. I did not attack his religious beliefs. Nobody in this Senate has.

To accuse anyone in this body of using an anti-Catholic litmus test is inaccurate, and wrong. It is ill-advised, and it risks bringing us back to a day where religion and race and gender debates split this Nation apart at its seams.

The judicial nominations process is a serious one and filled with countless debates about very serious issues. We should focus on what is important and real, not on what can inflame political supporters.

The second mischaracterization of my statement was by the junior Senator from Alabama. I know he feels very strongly about this nominee, so I do not blame him for fighting hard for Mr. Pryor.

Nevertheless, the junior Senator from Alabama did not accurately portray what I said in my statement. Specifically, the Senator said that I claimed Mr. Pryor had ''used his power as attorney general to obstruct the enforcement of the Violence Against Women Act in Alabama.''

What I actually said was that Pryor ''used his position as attorney general to limit the scope of crucial civil rights laws like the Violence Against Women's Act, VAWA, the Age Discrimination In Employment Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, and the Family Medical Leave Act. . . . For example, he was the only attorney general to argue against a key provision in the Violence Against Women Act on federalism grounds.''

Now in retrospect, I should have been more careful in the wording of my statement, and for that I am sorry. I said that Mr. Pryor ''used his position as attorney general to limit the scope of crucial civil rights laws . . .'' rather than saying what I meant to say, which was that he argued for limiting the scope of those laws—sometimes successfully—in briefs before the Federal courts.

But I certainly never said that he used his power to ''obstruct'' the law in Alabama.

Some other comments have been made throughout this debate that mischaracterize the Democratic opposition to this nominee and in many instances state, or at least imply, that our opposition is based on religion.

I will say once again, this is simply not true.

I hope, as I said yesterday, that this debate can focus on what it should focus on, the qualifications of this nominee. That focus should not have been lost through a violation of the committee rules, the thwarting of an ongoing investigation into the nominee, or these false charges of religious bias.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. THOMAS D. CLARK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a legend, Kentucky's Historian Laureate Dr. Thomas D. Clark. On July 14, 2003, Dr. Clark turned 100 years old.

Dr. Clark has been described as a ''State treasure.'' A native of Mississippi, Dr. Clark stumbled upon Kentucky as he sought to further his education. He earned a scholarship to the University of Kentucky where he received a master's in history in 1929. From there, he went on to Duke University, where he obtained a Ph.D. In true Kentucky style, Dr. Clark returned to the Commonwealth and began researching its rich past. He has written more than 32 books including, ''A History in Kentucky,'' and served in the University of Kentucky's Department of History for nearly a quarter of a century. One of the State's leading scholars, he proudly calls Kentucky home.

Dr. Clark's service to my great State has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated. In 1969, the University of Kentucky presented Dr. Clark with an honorary doctorate for the way he touched so many Kentuckians during his teaching career. Over his 100 years, he has received many awards and honors, including the University of Kentucky Library Medallion for Intellectual Achievement and the Commonwealth Historian Laureate for life. Dr. Clark also has a building and a foundation named in his honor by the University Press of Kentucky.

Kentuckians admire Dr. Clark for his patriotism to the State, his adept knowledge of our history, and most importantly, his zest for life. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Clark and congratulating him on his Centenarian status.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SENATOR VANCE HARTKE

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of my fellow Hoosier, Senator Vance Hartke, who passed away on July 27. Senator Harke dedicated his life to serving his country and our home State of Indiana, setting an example of personal conviction and political courage throughout his 18 years as senator.

Born on May 31, 1919, Vance Hartke grew up in Stendal, IN. He attended the University of Evansville and then earned his law degree from Indiana University. Senator Hartke served 4 years as a member of the Coast Guard and as a U.S. Navy officer during World War II. Upon his return to Indiana, Hartke began practicing law in Evansville, where he was elected mayor in 1955. From there, he was elected Senator in 1958, demonstrating a work ethic on the campaign trail that is remembered by Hoosiers still today. Senator Hartke served three continuous terms as senator, the first Indiana Democrat ever to do so.

While serving as Senator, Hartke played a crucial role in requiring auto manufacturers to install seatbelts in their cars, and supported legislation that created the Head Start Program, which continues to provide early education opportunities for tens of millions of children from lower-income families. He led Senate support for Medicare, work that earned him the nickname ''Father of Medicare.'' Senator Hartke also was instrumental in creating the International Executive Service Corps, an organization modeled on the Peace Corps that sent retired U.S. business executives to developing countries to help expand their local businesses.

During a particularly trying time in our nation's history, Senator Hartke remained unafraid to take a bold stance in support of his convictions, sometimes in the face of strong opposition. He chose to speak out against the Vietnam war, knowing that doing so would cost him his friendship with President Lyndon Johnson, because Senator Hartke felt it was his moral responsibility to defend his beliefs.

However, of the many issues Senator Hartke supported during his 18 years as Senator, family members recall that one of his proudest accomplishments was his work on legislation that provided affordable treatment for kidney diseases. It was work that was largely overshadowed by his personal stances on other issues, but it led to the creation of a bill now credited with saving more than 500,000 lives.

The sense of loss to all those who knew Senator Hartke is tremendous. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Martha, four sons, three daughters, and 16 grandchildren.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of