

NBC's *Today*

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7:00:55 a.m. [TEASE]

25 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Grilled on the Hill]

HODA KOTB: Grilled on the Hill. Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson under fire from Republican senators over her record on the bench.

SENATOR TED CRUZ (R-TX): You sentenced him to 28 months. Why?

KETANJI BROWN JACKSON: Senator, I've said what I'm going to say about these cases. No one case can stand in for a Judge's entire record.

KOTB: Democrats racing to her defense.

SENATOR CORY BOOKER (D-NJ): You have earned this spot. You are worthy. You are a great American.

KOTB: After all is said and done, is she still on the track to be confirmed as the next Supreme Court justice? A live report from Capitol Hill just ahead.

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7:11:40 a.m.

2 minutes and 57 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Supreme Court Hearing Gets Heated]

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Back home now, today marks the fourth and final day of hearings on Capitol Hill over the historic Supreme Court nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson. This after Judge Jackson faced a second day-long session of questions from senators. NBC's Garrett Haake joins us from the hearing room once again. Garrett, good morning.

GARRETT HAAKE: Hey, Savannah, good morning. Yeah, after more than 23 hours in the hearing room behind me, much of that time spent being grilled by Republican senators, Judge Jackson's time before the Judiciary Committee is over and she appears well on her way to being confirmed. Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on defense Wednesday pushing back as Republican senators piled on, attacking her sentencing of child pornography cases as too lenient.

SENATOR LINDSEY GRAHAM (R-SC): I want people to go to jail who that because you're feeding the beast.

JACKSON: Senator, every person in all of these charts and documents, I to jail because I know

how serious this crime is.

HAAKE: The hearing growing more heated as the day wore on.

CRUZ: You sentenced him to 28 months. Why?

JACKSON: Senator, I said what I'm going to say about these cases. No one case can stand in for a judge's entire record.

CRUZ: If you're not going to explain —

SENATOR DICK DURBIN (D-IL): Senator, would you let her respond?

CRUZ: No, not if she's not going to answer my question.

DURBIN: Well, you're just to give a speech.

CRUZ: And you are not taking my time.

HAAKE: Democrats defending Jackson's sentences as consistent with 70 percent of federal judges and even a Republican pushing back on the spectacle.

SENATOR BEN SASSE (R-NE): I think we should recognize that jackassery is partly because of people mugging for short-term camera opportunities.

HAAKE: Judge Jackson avoiding answering some of the most politically charged questions, including her views on abortion and on adding justices to the Supreme Court.

JACKSON: I'm a human being. I have an opinion on a lot of things. The reason why, in my view, it is not appropriate for me to comment is because of my fidelity to the judicial role.

HAAKE: Committee Democrats using their time largely to praise Judge Jackson's record and temperament and remarking on the history her confirmation to the court would make. New Jersey's Cory Booker with a late-afternoon pep talk, moving the judge to tears.

SENATOR CORY BOOKER (D-NJ): You have earned this spot. You are worthy. You are a great American. Don't worry. God has got you.

GUTHRIE: So, Garrett, with the hearings wrapping up, how soon might a final vote on Judge Jackson be held?

HAAKE: Savannah, the committee's going to hear from outside witnesses today. They are hoping to vote on April 4th. That still gives almost a week and a half to meet the Easter deadline Democrats have set. With no surprises, they could be voted and out of here in time to be home for Easter.

GUTHRIE: Alright, Garrett Haake on the Hill on for us. Thank you.