

these allegations, the nominee would withdraw from the process. No one ever said that and I did not say that anyone ever said that.

We talked about the form that the statement would come in, we talked about the process that might be undertaken post-statement, and we talked about the possibilities of outcomes, and included in that possibility of outcome was that the committee could decide to review the point and that the nomination, the vote could continue, as it did.

Senator SPECTER. So that, at some point in the process, Judge Thomas might withdraw?

Ms. HILL. Again, I would have to respectfully say that is not what I said. That was one of the possibilities, but it would not come from a simple, my simply making an allegation.

Senator SPECTER. Professor Hill, is that what you meant, when you said earlier, as best I could write it down, that you would control it, so it would not get to this point?

Ms. HILL. Pardon me?

Senator SPECTER. Is that what you meant, when you responded earlier to Senator Biden, that the situation would be controlled "so that it would not get to this point in the hearings"?

Ms. HILL. Of the public hearing. In entering into these conversations with the staff members, what I was trying to do was control this information, yes, so that it would not get to this point.

Senator SPECTER. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator.

Now, Professor Hill, with your continued indulgence, I will yield to my colleagues, alternating, and limit their questions to 5 minutes, if I may, and I would begin with my friend from Massachusetts, Senator Kennedy.

Senator KENNEDY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just take a moment.

I know this has been an extraordinary long day for you, Professor Hill, and it obviously has been for Judge Thomas, as well, and I know for your family. I just want to pay tribute to both your courage in this whole procedure and for your eloquence and for the dignity with which you have conducted yourself, and, as is quite clear, from observing your comments, for the anguish and pain which you have had to experience today in sharing with millions of Americans. This has been a service and we clearly have to make a judgment. It certainly I think has been a very important service.

Let me just say, as far as I am concerned, I think it has been enormously important to millions of Americans. I do not think that this country is ever going to look at sexual harassment the same tomorrow as it has any time in its past. If we are able to make some progress on it, I think history books will show that, to a very important extent, it is because of your action.

The viciousness of harassment is real, it is experienced by millions of people as a form of sex discrimination, and I think all of us are hopeful that we can make progress on it, and I just want you to know that I believe that you have made an important contribution, if we do.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. HILL. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator.