

man as a witness, but it is a verified statement, as I understand it, and she may agree or not agree with it, but she did read it, she said that she was willing to testify and I don't see any reason why he can't ask questions about it. It is relevant to the proceedings.

Senator THURMOND. Mr. Chairman, I do not think we ought to attempt to require her, but if she is willing to go ahead, then we can save time, I think.

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Hill would you prefer to wait until we or our staffs have had a chance to interview Mr. Doggett, or would you prefer to go now?

Ms. HILL. That's a hard choice, if the committee needs—

The CHAIRMAN. Then the Chair will make the choice, we will wait.

Senator SIMPSON. I would like to hear her choice, if I might.

The CHAIRMAN. OK.

Senator THURMOND. We'll give her the choice.

Ms. HILL. I can comment on the statement now. I am not sure what the statement is supposed to mean.

The CHAIRMAN. That's the problem.

Ms. HILL. And it is really baffling me. I am really confused by it, but it is meaningless to me.

Senator THURMOND. Do you prefer to go forward now or not?

Ms. HILL. Excuse me, just a moment.

Senator THURMOND. I think whatever she prefers.

The CHAIRMAN. I agree, whatever the witness prefers, we will do.

Senator LEAHY. Mr. Chairman, I might say that it is because the affidavit is so meaningless to me that I wanted to question it further, but whatever works.

Ms. HILL. If the Chairman recommends that we wait, I am perfectly happy to wait.

The CHAIRMAN. I have no recommendation. [Laughter.]

Ms. HILL. So you are going to make me decide, aren't you?

The CHAIRMAN. If it were left to me I would want to abide by the established rules, but if the witness prefers to go, she may go.

Ms. HILL. I would prefer that we abide by the rules that we have then.

The CHAIRMAN. Then we will wait.

Senator SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, let me ask a question. We were all in the hall during the recess and the media has this affidavit and they are not going to wait for anything.

Ms. HILL. That's true, they don't.

Senator SIMPSON. And so you know that. And I just say that to you as a lawyer, that it will be circulated. It is now going out, and there is no response from you. I would think that obviously this man should come and testify. I would think that he automatically qualifies as a witness. The other witness, Angela Wright, I was told about yesterday afternoon. They took a deposition from her yesterday and I saw it last evening. And she said, although the headline was, "new and dazzling evidence," she said, "I am not stating a claim of sexual harassment against Clarence Thomas. It is not something that intimidated or frightened me. At the most it was annoying and obnoxious."

So, surely, if we are going to have fairness, and we have had fairness, but this is an extraordinary document and it is not, nor was

yours, a notarized statement. It is a sworn statement. It is an affidavit. And so I think I am ready to do anything you wish but the feeding frenzy is on.

The CHAIRMAN. There is no right answer, I expect, to this question. With regard to the person referred to by the Senator from Wyoming as soon as we became aware that such a person existed we contacted all staff within 20 minutes, and any discussions that took place with that person were done jointly.

But I only say that to put them at rest. I want to end this. I see your counsel has indicated that it might be a good idea for you to go forward. And if that is your decision, we will go forward; from now on, though, as I said, no document will be put in place until every member has had time, to examine it and we will abide by your counsel's recommendation to you.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I want to explain that she is ready to answer questions. The issue of whether or not to bend the rules is not ours, it is yours.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, sir, and this is the last statement I am going to make on this. It is very easy for me to insist on the committee rules being followed, but you and Ms. Hill's other counsel may rightly conclude that Senator Simpson is correct, and that this will mean that this affidavit will be sitting out there for 2, 4, 6, 8 hours without a response. Since it is not a court of law, I am not prepared to make the judgment on whether or not Professor Hill is prejudiced by the fact that she cannot respond. That is why the chair is not going to rule that the committee rules must be adhered to, especially as they are not the committee rules, but ground rules laid down in what is obviously an extraordinary, unusual, and unprecedented hearing.

So, ultimately, we must look to the witness and her counsel to determine what is in her best interests, not the committee's best interest. From the beginning, the interests at stake are those of Professor Hill and those of Clarence Thomas, not those of the committee.

Ms. HILL. Will there be an opportunity to respond to the witness if he is called?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes. You will have an opportunity to respond today, this moment if you wish, and to the witness if he is called.

Ms. HILL. Then I am ready to go forward.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Specter.

Senator SPECTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I think my time is up. [Laughter.]

Mr. Chairman, I would just like to say initially for the record that I did not make this statement available to the media or anyone.

The CHAIRMAN. I understand that, Senator, I know you better than that.

Senator SPECTER. And the election is to proceed.

The CHAIRMAN. The election of the witness is to proceed knowing that we may call Mr. Doggett here to testify under oath if we so deem necessary.

Senator SPECTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Professor Hill, I had started to question you about this affidavit. I had desisted in mid-sentence because I wanted you to have an op-