

Until I got involved in this proceeding I did not know there was such a short statute of limitations. Contract cases are 6 years, tort cases are 2 years, criminal cases are 5 years, but the Federal law has put that into effect because it is so difficult to defend and to go back and to recollect all that has happened. And I appreciate the stark nature of the statements which have been made.

But I also see that your own statement that you prepared in your leisure, put aside the FBI statement, you were with two people, but no mention about the Coke bottle, no mention about sexual prowess, no mention about other major issues which are in your statement. So I conclude, from looking at this very complex day on our obligation to try to find out what happened between a man and a woman long ago, and nobody else was there, that I would agree with you, Professor Hill, it is very difficult for me to understand.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator.

The Senator from North Carolina—South Carolina, I beg your pardon.

Senator THURMOND. Well, don't forget it. [Laughter.]

The CHAIRMAN. I realize there are certain things I should never say to the Senator from South Carolina, and one of them is that he is from North Carolina.

Senator THURMOND. Mr. Chairman, I just have one brief question.

Professor Hill, I understand you told the FBI that you had concerns about the political philosophy of Judge Thomas and that he may no longer be open-minded. Is that accurate?

Ms. HILL. I told them that I did not quite understand, but as they had been represented, yes, that I did have some concerns.

Senator THURMOND. I have the FBI report here, and I just wondered if you remember telling them that.

Ms. HILL. I remember discussion about political philosophy and I remember specifically saying that I'm not quite sure that we understand his political philosophies. But based on what I understand, yes, there is some discomfort.

Senator THURMOND. That is all, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Now, let me just say, Professor Hill, we have heard in a sense the half of this story today, all of your story, and we have not heard all of Judge Thomas' story.

But I, for one, can assure you that, assuming for the moment what you have said is true, there is nothing hard to understand. Having spent as many years as I have dealing with the issue of victimization and victimization of women, I have seen that every single psychiatrist and psychologist who considers himself or herself an expert in the field will point out that the nature of response is not at all atypical, assuming it to be true—and please do not be offended by my saying “assuming it to be true.” I view myself again here as a finder of fact and we have yet to hear the whole story from Judge Thomas.

This is a tragedy; and people keep mentioning that, and my good friend from Iowa hopes that this will never happen again in the sense of the way the committee handled it.