

The CHAIRMAN. Well, Judge, I know you believe that and I am not going to be able to or attempt to, at this moment, refute that. There has been an assertion that has just been made and I want to know whether you would agree with it. It is important for us to keep our eye on the ball here. There are two versions of this story. Either Professor Hill had a story that she told someone and it was taken advantage of by being leaked, or a group sat down, decided to make up a story and found a willing vessel willing to speak out in Professor Hill.

Professor Hill suggests the first version. I want to know what you believe.

Now, they are fundamentally different things in terms of culpability.

Judge THOMAS. Senator, those distinctions are irrelevant to me. The story is false. And the story is here and the story was developed to harm me.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Judge THOMAS. And it did harm me.

The CHAIRMAN. Let me go down the line here. Senator Kennedy?

Senator KENNEDY. No, Judge, we just thank you for coming under extraordinary difficult circumstances.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Thurmond?

Senator THURMOND. I believe he is coming back to answer any other charges and I will wait until then.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Metzenbaum?

Senator METZENBAUM. I have no comment.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Simpson.

Senator SIMPSON. Well, it has been a powerful presentation by a powerful person. And I have known you for several years and I have known Ginny before I knew you. I think it is very well that you were not here to hear the testimony of Ms. Hill. That was a good step, whosever idea that was that you did not, of course, you were not here, but you didn't watch it. It would have driven you—

Judge THOMAS. Thank you.

Senator SIMPSON [continuing]. In a way I do not think would have been appropriate. And here we are. You have been before us for 105 days. We have seen everything, known everything, heard every bit of dirt, as you call it so well. And what do we know about Professor Hill? Not very much. I am waiting for 105 days of surveillance of Ms. Hill and then we will see, you know, who ate the cabbage, as we say out in the Wild West. This is an impossible thing.

And now, I really am getting stuff over the transom about Professor Hill. I have got letters hanging out of my pockets. I have got faxes. I have got statements from her former law professors, statements from people that know her, statements from Tulsa, OK, saying, watch out for this woman. But nobody has the guts to say that because it gets all tangled up in this sexual harassment crap.

I believe sexual harassment is a terrible thing. I had a bill in a year ago, doubling the penalties on sexual harassment. I don't need any test. I don't need anybody to give me the saliva test on whether one believes more or less about sexual harassment. It is repug-

nant, it is disgusting in any form. And the stuff we listened to, I mean, you know, come on—from the moon.

And it is a sexual stereotype. Just like asking you sexual stereotype questions about your personal life, any woman would be offended by that—about your divorce, you did this, you did that. Talk about in reverse. There is not a woman alive who would take the questions you have had to take, would be just repelled by it. That's where the watershed is here.

It is a good thing that this awareness goes up. It is a terrible, tragic, thing that it should bruise you. And if we really are going to do it right, we are all mumbling about how do you find the truth? I will tell you how you find the truth, you get into an adversarial courtroom and everybody raises their hand once more and you go at it with the rules of evidence and you really punch around in it. And we can't do that. It is impossible for us to do that in this place.

The Chairman knows it and he has been exceedingly fair. And so here we are and we will not get to the truth in this process. But there is truth out there and that is in the judicial system. Thank God that there is such a system. It has saved many, many a disillusioned person who was, you know, headed for the Stygian pits.

So, if we had 104 days to go into Ms. Hill and find out about her character, her background, her proclivities, and all the rest I would feel a lot better about this system. And I am talking about the stuff I am getting from women in America who are sending me things and especially women in Oklahoma. That will all become public. I said, at the time it would be destructive of her and some said, well, isn't that terrible of Simpson, a menacing threat. It was not menacing. It is true.

That she would come forward and she would be destroyed. She will, just as you have been destroyed. I hope you can both be rehabilitated. I have a couple of questions, if I may, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Senator SIMPSON. I have not taken time and I will get to that. Angela Wright will soon be with us, we think, but now we are told that Angela Wright has what we used to call in the legal trade, cold feet. Now, if Angela Wright doesn't show up to tell her tale of your horrors, what are we to determine about Angela Wright?

Did you fire her and if you did, what for?

Judge THOMAS. I indicated, Senator, I summarily dismissed her, and this is my recollection. She was hired to reinvigorate the public affairs operation at EEOC. I felt her performance was ineffective, and the office was ineffective. And the straw that broke the camel's back was a report to me from one of the members of my staff that she referred to another male member of my staff as a faggot.

Senator SIMPSON. As a faggot?

Judge THOMAS. And that is inappropriate conduct, and that is a slur, and I was not going to have it.

Senator SIMPSON. And so you just summarily discharged her?

Judge THOMAS. That is right.

Senator SIMPSON. That was enough for you?

Judge THOMAS. That was more than enough for me. That is my recollection.

Senator SIMPSON. That is kind of the way you are, isn't it?

Judge THOMAS. That is the way I am with conduct like that, whether it is sex harassment or slurs or anything else. I don't play games.

Senator SIMPSON. And so that was the end of Ms. Wright, who is now going to come and tell us perhaps about more parts of the anatomy. I am sure of that. And a totally discredited and, we had just as well get to the nub of things here, a totally discredited witness who does have cold feet.

Well, Mr. Chairman, you know all of us have been through this stuff in life, but never to this degree. I have done my old stuff about my past, and shared those old saws.

But I will tell you, I do love Shakespeare, and Shakespeare would love this. This is all Shakespeare. This is about love and hate, and cheating and distrust, and kindness and disgust, and avarice and jealousy and envy, all those things that make that remarkable bard read today.

But boy, I will tell you, one came to my head, and I just went and got it out of the back of the book. Othello, read Othello, and don't ever forget this line: "Good name in man and woman, dear my Lord"—do you remember this scene?

* * * is the immediate jewel of their souls. Who steals my purse, steals trash. 'Tis something, nothing. 'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands. But he that filches from me my good name, robs me of that which not enriches him, and makes me poor indeed.

What a tragedy. What a disgusting tragedy.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator DeConcini?

Senator DECONCINI. Mr. Chairman, I have some questions, and it may take more than 5 minutes. I hope I could just follow them up and get this over with, rather than waiting around.

Judge I have great empathy with what you have been through. I happen to have a little experience, going through an awful process. I think this is atrocious. I went through an atrocious process that I thought I would never get over, but I did. Just like you, I had a strong family, I believed in myself, and I did not do the things I was accused of, so I have a kind of a feeling of what you have gone through. Mine was not a sexual harassment charge, but I felt just about as bad as you did. I thought I was going to die. Thanks to my wife and family and some good friends, that didn't happen.

And when the leaks came toward this Senator, I must say there wasn't a howl except from the Chairman of the Ethics Committee, who stood up on the floor of the Senate, and the Majority Leader, and very few other people stood up on the floor of the Senate, as they did when the leaks came about you. So if nothing else, at least for this Senator, somebody gives a damn about leaks and breaking the rules, and maybe we will finally put an end to leaks, which I think caused you to go through what you have had to go through.

Now, Judge Thomas, I think the question that Chairman Biden asked you, and you answered it in such a manner that it really is irrelevant, was how all this happened. The fact is that it happened, no matter whether Ms. Hill plotted it, whether she was paid to do it, whether her conscience drove her to do it. The fact is that it has, in your judgment, ruined your name, and that you died two weeks ago.

Is that fair, to restate your position?