

felt about them to come forward at this time, it seems to me would also be told to close friends who would come and want to testify, and I don't have any indication that we have any close friends who are willing to come and testify.

Do you know that she is a person who has close friends, or does this bother you that you have not had this close friendship with her, and yet you come forward and other people don't come forward?

Judge HOERCHNER. Senator Grassley, I believe that you are laboring under a misapprehension. I consider Anita Hill a very close friend and one of my very best friends from law school.

Senator GRASSLEY. You do consider her a close friend?

Judge HOERCHNER. Yes.

Senator GRASSLEY. OK, what about for the other three?

Ms. WELLS. I consider myself a close friend. In my comments at the start of this session, I mentioned that I had not seen or spoken to her in 2 years, but that was scheduling problems, shall we say. We kept in contact occasionally through correspondence, and one of the reasons I will—and that is just the last 2 years—one of the reasons I know that we are close is, because the moment the phone rings and I hear her voice or she hears my voice, we pick up as though the conversation had just ended an hour before.

So I have these ties to her, this invisible tie to her that exists across the miles that separate us.

Senator GRASSLEY. But not close enough in either one of your two cases, although you say you were close friends to her, to offer her any advice. If she is a close friend, why would you not offer advice in a time of trial and tribulation like she evidently was going through?

Ms. WELLS. In my case it was because the situation was so personal and painful, it would have been very presumptuous of me to try to tell her what to do. I would like to add that there are other very close friends of her under subpoena to testify before this committee.

Senator GRASSLEY. Wouldn't your friendship, the more trying the situation is, demand your help, the closer that relationship is?

Ms. WELLS. My feeling seems to have been pretty much what Mr. Carr said that his was, that I wanted to listen and to comfort, and it is very painful to me that my listening apparently did not provide comfort.

Mr. CARR. I would just say that you may find this difficult to understand, but the limitations on our relationship had to do with time. It began and it ended, but during that period of time I would have considered us close. I would have considered us very close.

Ms. WELLS. Senator, on that point of why I would not have offered her advice, as I indicated, she wanted a sympathetic ear, and the nature of the complaint is such that you have to be very careful what you suggest to someone in terms of how they ought to proceed, because of the very serious ramifications. And quite frankly, although I may very well have said something that sounded like advice, I am afraid I would have told her to do exactly what she did. I would have been wrong, but that is what I would have done.

Mr. PAUL. Senator, as I have testified, I am not a close personal friend of Professor Hill's. I am a professional colleague of hers who

has always been very impressed by her, and so my recollections are not colored by a personal relationship to her.

Senator GRASSLEY. Mr. Chairman, I will yield the rest of my time to Senator Specter.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, since there are only a few seconds left of that time, we will give Senator Specter more time.

Senator THURMOND. Senator Brown?

The CHAIRMAN. No, no. I'm sorry. We are going back to this side again.

Senator THURMOND. Well, that is what I was thinking. Did you change your mind?

The CHAIRMAN. No, I didn't. I misled you. I'm sorry. We will not go to Senator Specter now. We will go to Senator Kennedy, and then we will go to Senator Brown, and then we will go to Senator DeConcini, then back to Senator Specter. And if he needs more than 5 minutes, we will do more than 5 minutes.

Senator Kennedy?

Senator KENNEDY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I am sure I want to join in welcoming the panel, and I am sure in their own minds they must be wondering why they are being so questioned about what they understand were conversations that took place over a period of years. And I commend them for the honesty of their comments and for the helpfulness that they have provided this committee. I think it has been a very important service.

Some people just don't want to believe you. You have to understand that. They just don't want to believe you, and they don't want to believe Professor Hill. That is what the fact of the matter is, and you may be detecting some of that in the course of the hearing and the questions this afternoon.

But I hope, Mr. Chairman, that after this panel we are not going to hear any more comments, unworthy, unsubstantiated comments, unjustified comments about Professor Hill and perjury, as we heard in this room yesterday. I hope we are not going to hear any more comments about Professor Hill being a tool of the various advocacy groups, after we have heard from Ellen Wells and John Carr and Joe Paul, all of whom have volunteered to come forward after they heard about this in the newspapers—comments about individual groups and staffers trying to persuade her.

I hope we are not going to hear more about politics. You can imagine what Professor Hill would have gone through if she had been a Democrat, and we hear this afternoon she was a Bork supporter; worked in a Republican administration. I hope we are not going to hear a lot more comments about politics.

I hope we are not going to hear a lot more comments about fantasy stories picked out of books and law cases, after we have heard from this distinguished panel, or how there have been attempts in the 11th hour to derail this nomination. I hope we can clear this room of the dirt and innuendo, that has been suggested by Professor Hill as well, about over-the-transom information, about faxes, about proclivities. We heard a good deal about character assassination yesterday, and I hope we are going to be sensitive to the attempts of character assassination on Professor Hill. They are unworthy. They are unworthy.