

Ms. ALVAREZ [continuing]. Or she didn't respond to him in a staff meeting or anything like that. I am saying that with the other staff she was very stand-offish.

The CHAIRMAN. I see.

Ms. Holt, did you find her condescending and aloof? You dealt with her probably more than anybody.

Ms. HOLT. She wasn't condescending to me, Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. She was not?

Ms. HOLT. No.

The CHAIRMAN. I can understand why. She wanted to get in that door, right?

Ms. HOLT. That could have been it.

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Myers—and my apologies, do you wish me to refer to you as Ms. Berry-Myers or would you prefer—

Ms. BERRY. It doesn't matter, Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. All right.

Ms. BERRY. I know who you are talking to, either way.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. Ms. Myers, did you find her to be aloof and condescending?

Ms. BERRY. I found her to be aloof, and a woman scorned can mean not just in the romantic context, but if your ideas are not longer, the ones that are considered the ones that the Chairman adopts, if your point of view is not given more weight than someone else's, if your—there are many ways, and not just in the romantic sense, but in the ways that—

The CHAIRMAN. I'm sorry. How did you mean them, then?

Ms. BERRY. Pardon me?

The CHAIRMAN. How did you mean?

Ms. BERRY. I meant it with both of those contexts.

The CHAIRMAN. You mean both romantic and in terms of being rejected professionally, in a sense?

Ms. BERRY. Yes. Those were my observations of Anita and the situation.

The CHAIRMAN. I see. Can you give me an example?

Ms. BERRY. Of what?

The CHAIRMAN. Of where she was either rejected and you observed the reaction to her rejection, either in terms of romantic entre or an intellectual entre?

Ms. BERRY. Or an intellectual entre? That was my job, as I said, to be the political eyes and ears, and that sometimes meant that I had to advise the Chairman to take a position that was in his best interest and that of the Commission, and not oftentimes a position that was in the best interests of the bureaucracy or of one side or the other. We had to do what was best in terms of enforcing the law, administering and managing the agency, et cetera, et cetera, and sometimes there were ideological conflicts in that way.

And I have heard Anita characterized in the press as a conservative, and I guess I have a different opinion of what that means. At the Commission I would not have characterized Anita as a conservative. I would have characterized her more as a moderate person or a liberal, and there were times when it was necessary that the conservative view prevail, in my opinion, on some positions that the Chairman took that she adamantly disagreed with.