

Senator SPECTER. Mr. Doggett, do you think it a possibility that Professor Hill imagined or fantasized Judge Thomas saying the things she has charged him with?

Mr. DOGGETT. You know, part of what makes this so unpleasant for all of us is that her charges are so clear, explicit, and extreme. I know how difficult it has been for me to even remember what happened back in 1982, so one of the things I did was take some time off from work to look at Anita Hill when she was testifying before this committee, and I will tell you gentlemen, she looked believable to me, even though the words she was saying made absolutely no sense.

I believe that Anita Hill believes what she has said. I believe, and I am saying this under oath, that there is absolutely no truth to what she has said. But I believe that she believes it.

I was impressed with her confidence, her calm, even though the things she was saying in my mind were absolutely, totally beyond the pale of reality.

Clarence Thomas told me in his office that "These people are going to shoot at me. I have a target on my back. It is one of my jobs to make sure that I am not going to be the black in the Reagan Administration that gets tarred and feathers."

Doing what she alleges that he did with her was a prescription for instant death. Clarence is not a fool. And quite frankly, Anita Hill is not worth that type of risk.

Senator SPECTER. Thank you very much, Mr. Doggett. Very powerful.

Professor Kothe, just a question or two, and this is following up on what Senator Biden had asked you, and it relates to the testimony which you had given that Professor Hill was very complimentary about Judge Thomas. There has been considerable testimony given by people who have tried to explain Professor Hill's activities in the sense that she was controlled by Judge Thomas when she worked for him, and that even after she left him she needed him for a variety of assistance.

But my question to you is did there come a point where she had sufficient independence from Judge Thomas so that a continuation of laudatory, complimentary comments which you have testified about would tend to undercut her credibility that he had said these dastardly things to her early on?

Mr. KOTHE. I am not so sure that I grasped the essence of your question. I don't know that she was ever dependent upon him for adulation. She had a continuing relationship, I think of a professional nature, with the EEOC. She was doing some studies and getting materials from them, and the things that we were working on together, we both derived information from the EEO office.

Just how extensive was her continued interaction with Chairman Thomas, I really don't know.

Senator SPECTER. Well, let me break it down for you, Professor Kothe, to this extent. You have testified that you thought her charges were inconceivable, as I think you have earlier said. Is that correct?

Mr. KOTHE. Yes. Absolutely.

Senator SPECTER. And you have based that on your testimony that when you would talk to her about Judge Thomas she would consistently compliment Judge Thomas. Correct?

Mr. KOTHE. Correct.

Senator SPECTER. So, is it your conclusion that if she consistently said complimentary things about him that it could not be true that he had done these dastardly deeds?

Mr. KOTHE. Yes, that would be my conclusion. It is just so utterly incongruent and inconsistent that a person that would speak of him almost reverently as a hero, as a person—a remarkable person, she would say, as a person of untiring energy, she spoke of him, as I said earlier, as a devoted father.

I have never heard her speak of him but in pretty much relatively glowing terms. Never have I heard her say anything critical about him, even when we were discussing the subject of sexual harassment.

So, in that situation with a person that I respected and a person that I admired, I just cannot in my mentations equate how utterly impossible, grotesque statements could be made about this person that she spoke of to me with such high admiration.

Senator SPECTER. The follow-up question to that is some have sought to explain her continuing association with Judge Thomas on the basis that she needed him, that he was her benefactor. And my question to you is would it be necessary for her to go as far as she did in the kind of complimentary statements she made to you on a personal basis to maintain that kind of an association where she could go back to him, for example, for letters of recommendation?

Mr. KOTHE. Well, certainly she needed no further letters of recommendation after she established herself as a teacher. She was a good teacher.

This is not a young woman that is obsequious and fawning and retiring. She was a very positive person. In our faculty meetings she was forthright. She was always a strong person. She didn't need Clarence Thomas to continue in her career of teaching, which she has done and become tenured at the University of Oklahoma.

Senator SPECTER. So your conclusion was when she complimented Judge Thomas she meant it?

Mr. KOTHE. I had no reason to believe she didn't.

Senator SPECTER. And, if she complimented Judge Thomas, it would be totally inconsistent with his having said these terrible things to her?

Mr. KOTHE. Utterly inconsistent.

Senator SPECTER. And the final point is the one where Senator Biden asked you would she have been reluctant to talk to you in truthful derogatory terms considering the fact that you were in a sense an employee of Chairman Thomas?

Mr. KOTHE. I wouldn't think there was any basis for her having a reluctance to disclose to me anything that was of that nature if, indeed, it were a fact. I think that our relationship was such that she could have confidence in me.

I didn't need the position with Clarence Thomas. She didn't need Clarence Thomas to keep the position she had. We were both ad hoc in that sense, working on something that was avocational with us, from the point of view of our then situation.