

Senator LEAHY. Do you have anything to gain by coming here? Has anybody promised you anything for coming forth with this story now?

Ms. HILL. I have nothing to gain. No one has promised me anything. I have nothing to gain here. This has been disruptive of my life and I have taken a number of personal risks. I have been threatened and I have not gained anything except knowing that I came forward and did what I felt that I had an obligation to do and that was to tell the truth.

Senator LEAHY. And my last question: Would your life be simpler, quieter, far more private had you never come forth at all?

Ms. HILL. Yes. Norman, OK is a much simpler, quieter place than this room today.

Senator LEAHY. I have a good friend in Norman, OK and I have actually visited Norman, OK and I agree with you.

Mr. Chairman, that is all I have.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Senator THURMOND. Senator Specter, do you want to proceed?

Senator SPECTER. Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

When my time expired we were up to the contact you had with Mr. Brudney on September 9. If you could proceed from there to recount who called you and what those conversations consisted of as it led to your coming forward to the committee?

Ms. HILL. Well, we discussed a number of different issues. We discussed one, what he knew about the law on sexual harassment. We discussed what he knew about the process for bringing information forward to the committee. And in the course of our conversations Mr. Brudney asked me what were specifics about what it was that I had experienced.

In addition, we talked about the process for going forward. What might happen if I did bring information to the committee. That included that an investigation might take place, that I might be questioned by the committee in closed session. It even included something to the effect that the information might be presented to the candidate or to the White House. There was some indication that the candidate or, excuse me, the nominee might not wish to continue the process.

Senator SPECTER. Mr. Brudney said to you that the nominee, Judge Thomas, might not wish to continue the process if you came forward with a statement on the factors which you have testified about?

Ms. HILL. Well, I am not sure that that is exactly what he said. I think what he said was, depending on an investigation, a Senate, whether the Senate went into closed session and so forth, it might be that he might not wish to continue the process.

Senator SPECTER. So Mr. Brudney did tell you that Judge Thomas might not wish to continue to go forward with his nomination, if you came forward?

Ms. HILL. Yes.

Senator SPECTER. Isn't that somewhat different from your testimony this morning?

Ms. HILL. My testimony this morning involved my response to this USA newspaper report and the newspaper report suggested that by making the allegations that that would be enough that the

candidate would quietly and somehow withdraw from the process. So, no, I do not believe that it is at variance. We talked about a number of different options. But it was never suggested that just by alleging incidents that that might, that that would cause the nominee to withdraw.

Senator SPECTER. Well, what more could you do than make allegations as to what you said occurred?

Ms. HILL. I could not do any more but this body could.

Senator SPECTER. Well, but I am now looking at your distinguishing what you have just testified to from what you testified to this morning. This morning I had asked you about just one sentence from the USA Today news, "Anita Hill was told by Senate Staffers that her signed affidavit alleging sexual harassment by Clarence Thomas would be the instrument that quietly and behind the scenes would force him to withdraw his name."

And now you are testifying that Mr. Brudney said that if you came forward and made representations as to what you said happened between you and Judge Thomas, that Judge Thomas might withdraw his nomination?

Ms. HILL. I guess, Senator, the difference in what you are saying and what I am saying is that that quote seems to indicate that there would be no intermediate steps in the process. What we were talking about was process. What could happen along the way. What were the possibilities? Would there be a full hearing? Would there be questioning from the FBI? Would there be questioning by some individual Members of the Senate?

We were not talking about or even speculating that simply alleging this would cause someone to withdraw.

Senator SPECTER. Well, if your answer now turns on process, all I can say is that it would have been much shorter had you said, at the outset, that Mr. Brudney told you that if you came forward, Judge Thomas might withdraw. That is the essence as to what occurred.

Ms. HILL. No, it is not. I think we differ on our interpretation of what I said.

Senator SPECTER. Well, what am I missing here?

Senator KENNEDY. Mr. Chairman, can we let the witness speak in her own words, rather than having words put in her mouth?

Senator SPECTER. Mr. Chairman, I object to that. I object to that vociferously. I am asking questions here. If Senator Kennedy has anything to say let him participate in this hearing.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, let everybody calm down. Professor Hill, give your interpretation to what was asked by Senator Specter. And then he can ask you further questions.

Ms. HILL. My interpretation—

Senator THURMOND. Speak into the microphone, so we can hear you.

Ms. HILL [continuing]. I understood Mr. Specter's question to be what kinds of conversation did I have regarding this information. I was attempting, in talking to the staff, to understand how the information would be used, what I would have to do, what might be the outcome of such a use. We talked about a number of possibilities, but there was never any indication that, by simply making

these allegations, the nominee would withdraw from the process. No one ever said that and I did not say that anyone ever said that.

We talked about the form that the statement would come in, we talked about the process that might be undertaken post-statement, and we talked about the possibilities of outcomes, and included in that possibility of outcome was that the committee could decide to review the point and that the nomination, the vote could continue, as it did.

Senator SPECTER. So that, at some point in the process, Judge Thomas might withdraw?

Ms. HILL. Again, I would have to respectfully say that is not what I said. That was one of the possibilities, but it would not come from a simple, my simply making an allegation.

Senator SPECTER. Professor Hill, is that what you meant, when you said earlier, as best I could write it down, that you would control it, so it would not get to this point?

Ms. HILL. Pardon me?

Senator SPECTER. Is that what you meant, when you responded earlier to Senator Biden, that the situation would be controlled "so that it would not get to this point in the hearings"?

Ms. HILL. Of the public hearing. In entering into these conversations with the staff members, what I was trying to do was control this information, yes, so that it would not get to this point.

Senator SPECTER. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator.

Now, Professor Hill, with your continued indulgence, I will yield to my colleagues, alternating, and limit their questions to 5 minutes, if I may, and I would begin with my friend from Massachusetts, Senator Kennedy.

Senator KENNEDY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just take a moment.

I know this has been an extraordinary long day for you, Professor Hill, and it obviously has been for Judge Thomas, as well, and I know for your family. I just want to pay tribute to both your courage in this whole procedure and for your eloquence and for the dignity with which you have conducted yourself, and, as is quite clear, from observing your comments, for the anguish and pain which you have had to experience today in sharing with millions of Americans. This has been a service and we clearly have to make a judgment. It certainly I think has been a very important service.

Let me just say, as far as I am concerned, I think it has been enormously important to millions of Americans. I do not think that this country is ever going to look at sexual harassment the same tomorrow as it has any time in its past. If we are able to make some progress on it, I think history books will show that, to a very important extent, it is because of your action.

The viciousness of harassment is real, it is experienced by millions of people as a form of sex discrimination, and I think all of us are hopeful that we can make progress on it, and I just want you to know that I believe that you have made an important contribution, if we do.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. HILL. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator.

Senator Thurmond.

Senator THURMOND. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I appointed Senator Specter to question Professor Hill and those supporting her, so I will now yield my time to him.

Senator SPECTER. Well, with an additional yielding, Mr. Chairman, I would just join in thanking Professor Hill for coming forward. I would join in the comment that this proceeding has been illuminating to tell America what is the law on sexual harassment. That is something which had not been known. From what I have heard in the last few days, there has been a lot of change in conduct in the workplace in this country.

I just would have wished, in retrospect, that we had done this earlier and that this educational process had not come in this forum on a Supreme Court nominee at this stage. But you have answered the questions and I join in thanking you for that.

Ms. HILL. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Metzzenbaum.

Senator METZENBAUM. Ms. Hill, I could not help but think of my own four daughters, as you sat there, and thought to myself how much courage and commitment and concern, but even more, the valor you possess to come before the U.S. Senate and speak out in areas so sensitive, and I am sure are so difficult for you to talk about.

I do not know what impact your testimony will have on the confirmation process, but I know that your testimony will have a tremendous impact on this Nation from henceforth. The women of this country, I am certain, owe you a fantastic debt of gratitude for bringing this issue of sexual harassment to the fore.

But as one of those 98 men in the U.S. Senate, I think I speak for all of us when I say we owe you a debt of gratitude, as well, for bringing this issue up to the fore, in a more striking, more sympathetic, more concerned manner than ever before. I think you have made this Nation, men and women alike, more enlightened, more aware, more sensitive, and the Nation will never be the same, thanks to you.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. There will be order in the chamber. I am serious when I say that, any outburst at all, no matter how small, will result in police removing whomever does it from the chamber.

Senator Hatch.

Senator HATCH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I have been pleased to sit here and listen today, and I just want to say one thing, that I apologize to you on behalf of our committee that you had to be heard under these circumstances, because had the committee considered this matter—and I have to say that Chairman Biden and ranking member Thurmond, when they heard about this the first time, they immediately ordered this FBI investigation, which was the very right thing to do, it was the appropriate thing to do and they did what every other chairman and ranking member have done in the past, and the investigation was done and it was a good investigation.

Then Chairman Biden notified everybody on his side and many of us were notified, as well. Any member of the committee, before we voted, could have put this over for a week for consideration, if