

And I think it was Professor King who was talking about your terrible anguish about the sexual issues, no understanding of the imperative to provide opportunities and choices, and then you make some, I think, hard comments about him with regard to his sister, who sat right here with him all the days of his testimony.

But I think that, you know, the record clearly contradicts that point of yours, if I may respectfully say. He played this key role at the EEOC in convincing the Government to intervene in favor of the plaintiffs in the *Meritor Savings Bank* case. That was ultimately decided that sex harassment on the job was covered by title VII of the Civil Rights Act, and many women in this country have greatly benefited by that decision.

Wouldn't you think that that would show his understanding of the plight of women in general and black women in particular?

Ms. KING. Senator, with due respect for Judge Thomas when he was testifying here, his words were wonderful to a large degree. For me he was testifying. I think his record and what he has done, his conduct, what life represents in actions, not words, suggests to me that he does not in fact understand the plight of women of color in this country.

Let me give you one example. When he was chair of the EEOC, the EEOC did not move to deal with forced sterilization policies in a proper speedy manner, and indeed when they responded they adopted a standard that was most favorable to employers.

Frankly, I am horrified. If there is one thing that means something to black women in America it is to talk about forced sterilization, because women, black women in this country have been forcibly sterilized.

I simply call attention to the fact that his statement about his sister, and you will notice I have the greatest respect for his sister—in fact, I think she demonstrates the capacities, the character of a woman who is deserving, and deserving of more respectful remarks from her brother than she got. I think she showed a great deal of love and compassion to come and support him in this hearing.

Nonetheless, his statements about his sister I think betray a lack of compassion, not only for black women, but for members of his family, and his words during his testimony did nothing to make me feel that he is concerned about anyone other than himself and individuals like him, and lacks understanding about the lives of other black people and what it will take to rise out of the circumstances that he himself found himself in when he was a young man.

Senator SIMPSON. Well, I—you know I think we, Ms. Lichtman, and I am combining you all because time is, obviously, limited to us too, and the chairman is fair about that, but, you know, you have made critical observations about his writings and his works. Have you read all his decisions on the circuit court? Have you read those?

Ms. LICHTMAN. Between the people in my office and myself, I have indeed reviewed many of the kinds of subject areas that his decisions addressed. And, as you probably know, Senator, most of them, if not almost all of them, concern regulatory decisions about the subject of which we have not talked about either in our report or in our comments.