

Senator Metzenbaum said, "Frankly, I am terrified that if we turn the clock back on legal abortion services women will once again be forced to resort to brutal and illegal abortions, the kind of abortions where coat hangers are substitutes for surgical instruments."

In response, at least in part, Judge Thomas said, "It would, of course—if a woman is subject to the agony of an environment like that, on a personal level certainly I am very pained by that. I think any of us would be. I would not want to see people subject to torture of that nature." And he goes on.

I must say I agree with you the record is less than clear and is of concern, and I think your testimony is very helpful in bringing it out.

Mr. Chairman, you were, I think, kind enough to share with us an observation as a practicing Catholic that Catholics should not be prejudged on this issue; that, indeed, a significant portion of the Catholics that are members of this committee are pro-choice. And I think that is a relevant and a fair observation. I just wanted to assure you that as a practicing Republican the same is true. It is true that our platform is not perfect.

The CHAIRMAN. You are pro-choice? Is that what you are saying?

Senator BROWN. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. I was not being facetious. I did not know what you meant.

Senator BROWN. But the vast majority of Republicans are pro-choice as well, as I read the polls.

Ms. MICHELMAN. If you could move your President, it would be wonderful. [Laughter.]

Senator BROWN. We are working on it.

I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. I am about to yield to my friend from Wisconsin, not only for the opportunity to question but to chair because he has been kind enough to suggest he would sit in for an hour while I go up and attempt to meet some of my duties as chairman of the European Affairs Subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee. I will be back shortly.

Let me, with his permission, before I yield to him for both the opportunity to question and to chair, just make one observation. I think if one were to just read about these hearings and observe the cartoons and others about the hearings, one might think that I understood the Governor's comments to possibly not be accurate as it relates to the requirement, the role, the expectation and the function of this committee. I was interested to see—and I do not know enough about this polling organization, but there is a thing called the Polling Report that is published here in this city, and subscribers pay a certain amount of money for it every year, like other newsletters.

In the CBS-New York Times poll conducted, it reports the poll conducted from September 3 to September 5—and I do not know whether it has changed since then. But when asked "Who do you trust to make the right decision about who should sit on the U.S. Supreme Court, the President or the United States Senate?" All people answering, 55 percent of the people said the Senate and 31 percent said the President.