

The CHAIRMAN. I realize that the way we are doing this is a bit unusual. My recollection was, that the witness had acknowledged that they did not appear in the report, and had acknowledged that she had not said that to the agents, as well.

Ms. HILL. That is true.

Senator SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, you have your opportunity to—

The CHAIRMAN. No, I just wanted to mention this now because this is unusual, and she hasn't had a chance to see it. Please continue.

Senator SIMPSON. You are very fair.

Let me ask you, I think both of you say that you—both Judge Thomas and you say you never met each other until 1981. Is that correct?

Ms. HILL. That is correct.

Senator SIMPSON. Weren't you both members of the Black Republican Congressional Staff Association?

Ms. HILL. No.

Senator SIMPSON. You never were?

Ms. HILL. No, I never was.

Senator SIMPSON. Well, I don't have enough time to go into that one. I had heard you were, and that you knew him there, and other people stated that, and perhaps—that is what I was advised by a person who called me who knew you both, and was there with you both, but that is enough.

I am not leaving that out there as some sinister thing. I am just trying to find out if you knew each other before, because I heard that because he knew you there and respected you and enjoyed you there and found you very professional, that it was there he made the contact to then bring you to the Department of Education.

Ms. HILL. Which group is this?

Senator SIMPSON. The Black Republican Congressional Staff Association.

Ms. HILL. No, I am not a member of that. I have never been a member of that group.

Senator SIMPSON. In 1970, 1979, or 1980, some time in there—

Ms. HILL. I was in law school in 1979 and 1980.

Senator SIMPSON. Eighty and eighty-one?

Ms. HILL. In eighty, I graduated from law school in 1980 and went to work in private practice here in Washington, DC.

Senator SIMPSON. OK, that's good. Thank you. That was presented to me.

Now I heard Howard Metzenbaum say, and you have presented yourself and your testimony in an extraordinary way. I did think that Senator Specter pointed out some inconsistencies. But like Howard, I thought too of my daughter, my rainbow of life, and I would be outraged if such alleged conduct occurred directed to her.

And then I have had the terrible pain of also thinking of my sons, raised by a very enlightened mother, responsive, still kiss their old man good night and things like that, and rather expansive, stalwart boys, and where that kind of conduct could lead them—very troubling for me. Because all we have heard for 103 days is about a most remarkable man, and nobody has come forward, and they scoured his every shred of life, and nobody but you

and another witness, apparently who is alleging no sexual harassment, has come forward.

And so maybe, maybe, it seems to me you didn't really intend to kill him, but you might have. And that is pretty heavy, I don't care if you are a man or a woman, to know that 43 years or 35 years of your life or 60 years of your life, where no one has corroborated what is a devastating charge, kind of a singular torpedo below the water line and he sinks, while 103 days of accumulated things never penetrated the armor.

So I guess I would just say it is a very troubling thing to me, it really is, and leave out who leaked what to who or what media person let it out. That all will be hashed. But let me tell you, if what you say this man said to you occurred, why in God's name, when he left his position of power or status or authority over you, and you left in 1983, why in God's name would you ever speak to a man like that the rest of your life?

Ms. HILL. That is a very good question, and I am sure that I cannot answer that to your satisfaction. That is one of the things that I have tried to do today. I have suggested that I was afraid of retaliation, I was afraid of damage to my professional life, and I believe that you have to understand that this response—and that is one of the things that I have come to understand about harassment—that this response, this kind of response, is not atypical, and I can't explain. It takes an expert in psychology to explain how that can happen, but it can happen, because it happened to me.

Senator SIMPSON. Well, it just seems so incredible to me that you would not only have visited with him twice after that period and after he was no longer able to manipulate you or to destroy you, that you then not only visited with him but took him to the airport, and then 11 times contacted him. That part of it appalls me. I would think that these things, what you describe, are so repugnant, so ugly, so obscene, that you would never have talked to him again, and that is the most contradictory and puzzling thing for me.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator.

Senator Simon.

Senator SIMON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First, Professor Hill, let me say to your parents, you have a daughter you ought to be very, very proud of. I am sure you are proud of your whole family.

I want to underscore what has been said by my colleagues. You have shown great courage and you have handled yourself with dignity, and you have lifted the level of consideration of this whole question of sexual harassment as no one has done before in the history of our country. No matter what happens on the nomination, I think you have performed a real public service.

On the question of sexual harassment, you and I know and the members of this committee know that physical contact is not necessary for sexual harassment, but I have had two people tell me over the phone that there couldn't have been sexual harassment because there was no physical contact. If I can use another analogy that I think people would understand, if you were to receive the kind of language over the telephone that you received in an office, would you consider that an obscene phone call?

Ms. HILL. Yes.