

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.

Senator SIMON. And I think everyone understands obscene phone calls.

Let me just ask two totally disconnected questions beyond this: You say in your statement, "In February, 1983 I was hospitalized for five days on an emergency basis for an acute stomach pain which I attributed to stress on the job." One of the things we have to do in this committee, and my colleagues in the Senate have to do, is to make an evaluation, who is telling the truth? This is something objective that happened out there. But when you say "which I attributed to stress on the job," did your physician also suggest this as a possibility?

Ms. HILL. My physician suggested that it could be stress-related. They could not identify the nature of the illness. They couldn't give a medical diagnosis, so the physician did suggest that it might be stress related.

Senator SIMON. And then, finally—and this has been partially touched upon—but there are those who say the timing of this is all some kind of a plot. That is the term I hear over and over.

I recall calling you the day before our committee voted, when we talked about the possibility of distributing this, your statement, to Members of the Senate, and I said, "You can't do that and keep it confidential, and keep your name confidential." I sensed that you were really agonizing on this whole thing, and I think I sensed correctly, for obvious reasons.

But this thing gradually built, from the time you first contacted or had contact with the members of the Senate staff and Senate committee. Was there at any point anyone who suggested, "If you hold this out until the last minute, you could have a great impact on this process?"

Ms. HILL. No one ever suggested that, not at all.

Senator SIMON. And then finally let me just make a suggestion. You are always giving assignments to students at the University of Oklahoma Law School.

If I could give you and your fellow faculty members at the University of Oklahoma Law School and your law students an assignment, we face a very difficult problem, and it is not just with the Thomas nomination. How do we deal with a charge that someone makes, that is a substantial charge, but that person says, "I don't want my name used publicly," or even "I don't want the charge made publicly"? We should not simply ignore it. On the other hand, how are you fair to a nominee?

This is the struggle that this committee has gone through and the Senate is going through. I would be interested in you and your colleagues taking a look at that, sending a letter to members of this committee. But again I thank you. I think you have performed a great public service.

Ms. HILL. Thank you.

Senator SIMON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Grassley.

Senator GRASSLEY. Professor Hill, let me at the outset be very candid and tell you that even though the issues that have been discussed here this afternoon and this morning are very, very important, if I had to ask some of these questions that were asked of you