

A rule like this should ensure, once and for all, that even an 11th hour change, like yours, has been fully considered.

I yield the floor.

You can comment if you want to.

Ms. HILL. I would like, for a moment, to revisit your first question. I am keenly aware that I want to be certain of my answers. The first question was whether or not anyone had contacted me to urge me to come forward with this?

Senator GRASSLEY. Yes.

Ms. HILL. No. No one did that. Ms. Hirschener did contact me and reminded me of the situation and we discussed the fact that we had talked about this in earlier years but she did not urge me to come forward at all.

Senator GRASSLEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator KENNEDY [presiding]. Thank you, very much. Of course the state of the law actually is that women, even in these kinds of situations, don't have adequate remedies. All they have is an injunction. They are not permitted to get any damages which is one of the matters that is being addressed in the Civil Rights Bill.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Senator KOHL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Professor Hill, as you said, this has been a difficult time for you. You wanted to make the committee aware of your experiences with Clarence Thomas but you also wanted to preserve your privacy and that is understandable and we deeply regret that it has not worked out that way. But while the process may have failed you, Professor Hill, you certainly have not failed the process.

For without making, at this time, any judgments about the ultimate truth of your claims we can make a certain judgment about the value of the public discussions that your claims have created. All of us have learned a great deal about and become more sensitive to the problem of sexual harassment and inappropriate behavior. The issue is complex and our understanding may never be complete, but your perception of your relationship with Judge Thomas is clear in your own mind, and your courage in coming forward and the composure you have demonstrated since this issue became public all speak to your character.

I am sure this has been very painful for you, as it has been for all of us, but I believe the pain will vastly improve the way that men and women respond to this problem throughout our country.

Thank you, very much.

Ms. HILL. Thank you, Senator Kohl.

Senator THURMOND. Senator Brown is next on my side.

Senator BROWN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Professor Hill, you were kind enough to take my call earlier this week and you were very forthcoming and I appreciated that and the information you provided. I had a few additional questions that I thought might be helpful that I would bring up.

My impression was that calls from the staff that had originally prompted you to begin thinking about making a statement included not only questions about sexual harassment but had actually implied to you that there were rumors circulating about sexual harassment at the EEOC and even a suggestion that there might be rumors to sexual harassment related to you.