

Senator LEAHY. I am not sure that that's an answer that many might accept. Let's think about this just for a moment. You have Anita Hill, a woman who has gone to Yale Law School, certainly one of the finest law schools in this country and I am sure, as a graduate, you accept that.

She is obviously quite bright, and you have certainly stated in the past a high regard for her. You have hired her in two positions of significant trust and responsibility. She went through the bar exam, and all of that, not an easy task for anyone.

She held those two positions of high trust and responsibility, both at the Department of Education and at the EEOC, and she then went to a university where she is a law professor and has done well enough to become tenured. Holding that, not only the law degree, but a license to practice law, something she has worked extremely hard for for years, protected and nurtured all this way through, as well as her experience. Why would she come here and perjure herself, throw away all of that? For what? What would she possibly get out of throwing all of that away?

Judge THOMAS. Senator, I don't know. I know the Anita Hill that worked for me and the relationship that I have had with her from time to time on the intermittent calls or the few visits over the years. I don't know what has happened since 1983. All I know is that the allegations are false and that I don't have a clue as to why she would do this.

Senator LEAHY. Do you know Angela Wright?

Judge THOMAS. Angela Wright?

Senator LEAHY. Yes.

Judge THOMAS. Yes. She was a schedule C employee at EEOC.

Senator LEAHY. Would she have any reason to attack you or—

Judge THOMAS. Yes.

Senator LEAHY. And what would that be?

Judge THOMAS. I terminated her very aggressively a number of years ago. And very summarily.

Senator LEAHY. Not with extreme prejudice, as the term is sometimes used?

Judge THOMAS. It was summarily.

Senator LEAHY. Thank you. I just realized, I have been handed a note that says my time is up.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. First of all, Judge, would you like to break for a moment?

Judge THOMAS. Yes, my back is giving me some problems.

The CHAIRMAN. I am sorry I have been out of the room for a few moments. The Senator from Ohio is asking unanimous consent to speak for two minutes. Is there an objection to that?

Senator THURMOND. I have no objection.

Senator HATCH. I have no objection.

Senator METZENBAUM. Mr. Chairman, I thank you and I thank my colleagues on the other side. There has been continued discussion and suggestions with respect to the matter of how this matter was leaked to the press. One Senator actually made a public statement that was carried in the New York Times indicating that this Senator or my staff had been responsible for the leak.