

George Bush today, would he want to be nominated would refuse flatly, and would advise any friend of his to refuse, it is just not worth it.

Senator HATCH. Judge, you are here though. Some people have been spreading the rumor that perhaps you are going to withdraw. What is Clarence Thomas going to do? What is Clarence Thomas going to do?

Judge THOMAS. I would rather die than withdraw. If they are going to kill me, they are going to kill me.

Senator HATCH. So, you would still like to serve on the Supreme Court?

Judge THOMAS. I would rather die than withdraw from the process. Not for the purpose of serving on the Supreme Court but for the purpose of not being driven out of this process. I will not be scared. I don't like bullies. I have never run from bullies. I never cry uncle and I am not going to cry uncle today whether I want to be on the Supreme Court or not.

Senator HATCH. Well, Judge, I hope next Tuesday you make it and I believe you will, and I believe you should. And I believe it is important for every American that you do.

Because I think in your short 43 years of life that you have just about seen it all and if anybody's in a position to help their fellow men and women under the Constitution, then I have to say you are. And I am proud of you. I am proud of you for not backing down.

That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Now, we are down to Senators having 5 minutes and I will begin to yield back and forth. Judge, let me make sure I understand one thing. Do you believe that interest groups went out and got Professor Hill to make up a story or do you believe Professor Hill had a story, untrue from your perspective that groups went out and found. Which do you believe?

Judge THOMAS. Senator, I believe that someone, some interest group, I don't care who it is, in combination came up with this story and used this process to destroy me.

The CHAIRMAN. A group got Professor Hill to say or make up a story?

Judge THOMAS. I believe that in combination this story was developed or concocted to destroy me.

The CHAIRMAN. With Professor Hill? I mean it is a critical question. Are you saying a group concocted a story with Professor Hill and then went out—

Judge THOMAS. That's just my view, Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. I know, I am trying to make sure I understand it.

Judge THOMAS. There are no details to it or anything else. The story developed. I do not believe—the story is not true. The allegations are false and my view is that others put it together and developed this.

The CHAIRMAN. And put it in Professor Hill's mouth?

Judge THOMAS. I don't know. I don't know how it got there. All I know is the story is here and I think it was concocted.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, Judge, I know you believe that and I am not going to be able to or attempt to, at this moment, refute that. There has been an assertion that has just been made and I want to know whether you would agree with it. It is important for us to keep our eye on the ball here. There are two versions of this story. Either Professor Hill had a story that she told someone and it was taken advantage of by being leaked, or a group sat down, decided to make up a story and found a willing vessel willing to speak out in Professor Hill.

Professor Hill suggests the first version. I want to know what you believe.

Now, they are fundamentally different things in terms of culpability.

Judge THOMAS. Senator, those distinctions are irrelevant to me. The story is false. And the story is here and the story was developed to harm me.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Judge THOMAS. And it did harm me.

The CHAIRMAN. Let me go down the line here. Senator Kennedy?

Senator KENNEDY. No, Judge, we just thank you for coming under extraordinary difficult circumstances.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Thurmond?

Senator THURMOND. I believe he is coming back to answer any other charges and I will wait until then.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Metzenbaum?

Senator METZENBAUM. I have no comment.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Simpson.

Senator SIMPSON. Well, it has been a powerful presentation by a powerful person. And I have known you for several years and I have known Ginny before I knew you. I think it is very well that you were not here to hear the testimony of Ms. Hill. That was a good step, whosever idea that was that you did not, of course, you were not here, but you didn't watch it. It would have driven you—

Judge THOMAS. Thank you.

Senator SIMPSON [continuing]. In a way I do not think would have been appropriate. And here we are. You have been before us for 105 days. We have seen everything, known everything, heard every bit of dirt, as you call it so well. And what do we know about Professor Hill? Not very much. I am waiting for 105 days of surveillance of Ms. Hill and then we will see, you know, who ate the cabbage, as we say out in the Wild West. This is an impossible thing.

And now, I really am getting stuff over the transom about Professor Hill. I have got letters hanging out of my pockets. I have got faxes. I have got statements from her former law professors, statements from people that know her, statements from Tulsa, OK, saying, watch out for this woman. But nobody has the guts to say that because it gets all tangled up in this sexual harassment crap.

I believe sexual harassment is a terrible thing. I had a bill in a year ago, doubling the penalties on sexual harassment. I don't need any test. I don't need anybody to give me the saliva test on whether one believes more or less about sexual harassment. It is repug-