

Judge THOMAS. She was not there a very long time, Senator, and it was in 1983 that she left.

Senator KOHL. OK.

Finally, I would like to say, Judge Thomas, and to all of us who are here today and listening that this is obviously not what America ought to be. And while we want to get to the truth in this particular case, the truth will be well-served if all of us stop and think long and hard about what we are doing to our Nation.

We simply have to restore civility and decency to the public debate.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Kohl.

Senator SPECTER. Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Specter and then to you. I hope the principals will limit their questions to 5 minutes or less. They have had plenty of time to question.

Senator SPECTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, just a couple of more questions.

Judge Thomas, the visits which you have testified about to the home of Professor Hill had not been known, at least to me, and my question to you is, how do you square that with your policy of not socializing or not dating anybody in the office? Was there any element of socializing at all in the visits which you have described to Professor Hill's apartment?

Judge THOMAS. Senator, I did not consider it socializing. It was, of course, it would be more the nature of my talking to my clerks or my talking to my special assistants outside of the office. I did not consider it anything other than a professional cordial talk or chat. And, of course, she has indicated, I guess, in some communications with the committee that I went over to help her with a stereo, but I would not have considered it socializing.

Senator SPECTER. Judge Thomas, when I met with you on the morning of September 27, before the Judiciary Committee voted, I had asked you at that time about these charges, having seen the FBI report the night before.

And I was asking you about the question of motivation. You made some comments to me at that time, although they are somewhat sensitive, I think they are worth exploring for just a moment now. That was the comment you made about a possible concern that Professor Hill might have had regarding your dating a woman who was of a lighter complexion. Would you amplify what had happened, respond, and testify as to what had happened in that regard?

Judge THOMAS. Senator, I think it is sensitive, and I think enough sensitive matters have been discussed here. I would reluctantly discuss it but I was merely speculating and groping around for some rationale. And the point I was making to you was that there seemed to be some tension between, as a result of the complexion, the lighter complexion of the woman I dated and the woman whom I chose to be my chief of staff, or my executive assistant and some reaction, as I recall it to my preferring individuals of the lighter complexion.

Senator SPECTER. Did Professor Hill not get a promotion that she was working for within your staff?

Judge THOMAS. Again, I can't remember the exact details of it, but I think she wanted to have that position, the executive assistant position. But that's again, Senator, that is speculation as to what the motivation would be and I hesitate to even mention it here.

Senator SPECTER. Finally, you mentioned that there had not been any detailing given to the comment about an associate of yours who classified Professor Hill as your enemy which you had disregarded because of your overall view of the generalized loyalty of your staff. Can you amplify what happened in that regard?

Judge THOMAS. Well, there were some members of my—at least one member of my staff who felt that she did not have my best interests at heart and he would continue to, as I remember it, articulate that point of view, and I would, again, dismiss it.

Senator SPECTER. Well, did he tell you why he felt that way?

Judge THOMAS. It must have been based on specific things at that time. I don't recollect the bases of his conclusion nor his statements, but he would say it repeatedly when he saw evidence of it.

Senator SPECTER. Thank you, very much, Judge Thomas. I am glad to conclude before the red light went on.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, very much.

Senator Heflin.

Senator HEFLIN. Mr. Chairman, I will just take 30 seconds. I want to clarify one thing. One member of my staff thought there might be some misunderstanding about it. I accused no one of rape. And the only reason I was using it as a comparison is because when you have date rape offenses you seldom have any witnesses, any corroborating witnesses. I was using that analogy in this instance because we don't have any witnesses or any corroborating witnesses, that's all.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Leahy.

Senator LEAHY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I will be brief. We can go around and around and we will be back basically at the same position. Judge, when you and I left off, I think we agreed on the fact that there is irreconcilable conflict in the testimony. I know you feel strongly about which way that should come down.

I am not at all happy with the whole process. This is my third term here and I have sat on four different committees that have had confirmation processes. We have spent more time on this one than any other nomination in nearly 18 years. I can only gather how difficult it has been for you, and your family, your wife, son, others. You are here with a good friend of all of ours, and a tower of integrity in the U.S. Senate, Senator Danforth. I know how difficult it has been for him, I chatted briefly with him this morning.

As a U.S. Senator—I do not like at all the way we have been brought here. The Chairman stated and virtually everybody on the committee has supported the position that he took about how we got here. I was glad to hear the Chairman and the ranking member state that an investigation will be made of where this material came from. I assume that is going to be completed and we will find out.

I especially want to know because I got to see that FBI report about 3 days after it was in the newspapers for the first time. I