

Ms. FITCH. Yes.

Ms. HOLT. They are.

Senator HATCH. Could that have happened? Let's start with you, Ms. Alvarez. Could he have used that language with her?

Ms. ALVAREZ. Knowing Clarence Thomas, it is impossible.

Senator HATCH. It is impossible?

Ms. ALVAREZ. In the work environment, he was so professional, he was so—and, you know, I considered myself a friend of his, and I could never be friendly with him in the office. He drew that line. We were friends, and he was my boss, and when I was in the office, he was professional, as well as we knew each other.

Senator HATCH. All right.

Ms. Fitch?

Ms. FITCH. Yes, the probability of that happening, whether in the workplace or outside of it, in my best knowledge is nil, is zero. The probability is just not there. When I heard those things, I knew they didn't come from him.

Senator HATCH. So you are saying you know that it is zero, the chances of him doing that?

Ms. FITCH. The probability of his doing that is zero, Senator.

Senator HATCH. So it really isn't even a probability. It just means it would not have happened.

Ms. FITCH. Yes, sir.

Senator HATCH. How about you, Ms. Holt?

Ms. HOLT. In my opinion, he would never, ever subject any woman to that kind of language.

Senator HATCH. Ms. Berry-Myers.

Ms. BERRY. When I first met with Clarence Thomas in 1982, there was no—we sat in his office. He had a desk, a chair, and the chair I was sitting in. That was all that the EEOC employees left in the Chairman's office. That is how much they welcomed him there.

And we sat down, and from my political background, usually the first thing that you ask a candidate is, "OK, if I open up your closet, what skeletons are going to come falling out? I need to know right now." So I talked to Clarence Thomas about the need to comport himself in a way that there could be absolutely no taint on his reputation, on his character, on his honor, because we were about to embark upon an arduous task.

There wasn't anybody in this town, except perhaps Senator Hatch, that supported that man in the position that he had assumed, so I knew that everything that we did—public policy, program, firing people, anything that we did—he was going to be under microscopic scrutiny because he was a black Republican conservative in an agency that was overwhelmingly neither and in a town that is tough, and he was about to undertake a tough job. And with all the other things that we had to do, we didn't have any time to be dealing with anything that mind besmirch his character.

Senator HATCH. Well, do you have any concerns he might do otherwise?

Senator METZENBAUM [presiding]. Senator Hatch, your time has expired.

Senator HATCH. Let me just finish. This line only takes a—