

Senator DECONCINI. That she was dating.

Ms. FITCH, how about you?

Ms. FITCH. Now, I don't recall that, Senator.

Senator DECONCINI. Just not to leave anybody out, Ms. Berry, did—

Ms. BERRY. I don't recall any such conversation.

Senator DECONCINI. No such conversation.

Now I guess, Ms. Alvarez, this question is more to you. You know, listening to Judge Thomas here and his high regard and respect for then Ms. Hill, now Professor Hill, you know, he doesn't have anything derogatory to say about her. He is just absolutely aghast and awash that this would happen, where your testimony is very critical of her. How do you equate that? Is that if he had a relationship with her in the professional field that was more compatible than the relationship that you had with Ms. Hill in the professional field?

Ms. ALVAREZ. Why do you say I was critical of her? I don't think I was critical by saying—let me think how I described her—

Senator DECONCINI. Let me just read it to you. It says, "She was opinionated, arrogant, and a relentless debater. She was the kind of woman who always made you feel like she was not going to be messed with, like she was not going to take anything from anyone. She was aloof. She always acted as if she was superior to everyone else, holier-than-thou." I think that is critical, but maybe—

Ms. ALVAREZ. I don't know. Some people would call me arrogant, and some people would call me opinionated and a relentless debater.

Senator DECONCINI. Nobody would call you arrogant. You are such a very nice lady.

Ms. ALVAREZ. I don't think those are necessarily negative characteristics.

Senator DECONCINI. You don't? Oh, OK.

Ms. ALVAREZ. No. In some people's mind, they would think to say a woman was tough, a woman was arrogant, that would mean that—

Senator DECONCINI. Opinionated—

Ms. ALVAREZ [continuing]. Opinionated? No, I don't think that is necessarily—

Senator DECONCINI [continuing]. Arrogant, and a relentless debater, are not critical?

Ms. ALVAREZ. If someone called me those things—

Senator DECONCINI. Even two of those are not critical in your mind? OK.

So my point is, did you hold her in high regard? Now I realize a lot has happened since then, and it is hard to look back on the nice side of somebody who—

Ms. ALVAREZ. I did not have a problem with her professionally.

Senator DECONCINI. You did not what?

Ms. ALVAREZ. I did not have a problem with her professionally. I thought that I didn't like her superior attitude. I didn't like the way she kind of projected that onto the rest of the staff.

Senator DECONCINI. Ms. Holt, you were asked a question about the Department of Education being suggested to be abolished by the Reagan administration, and you said you were aware of that?

Ms. HOLT. I had heard that, yes.

Senator DECONCINI. You had heard that. You were also aware, or were you aware that there was ever a vote or even a debate on the Senate floor or House floor?

Ms. HOLT. No, I wasn't aware of that.

Senator DECONCINI. Yes. There wasn't.

Ms. HOLT. There was a rumor.

Senator DECONCINI. It was a rumor only, wasn't it, because there has never been a vote up here on Capitol Hill, on either the floor of the Senate or the House, to abolish, and there wasn't during those years. I just want the record to show that.

Now, Ms. Fitch, when you were answering Senator Grassley's question about the problem of speaking somebody's language, and that Clarence Thomas was going upstream or talked about the uppity blacks being different or something, do you have a feeling that there is some agenda here that is moving this or motivating this?

Ms. FITCH. Senator, as a historian who has tried to look at the totality of the African-American experience in this country, my proclivity is to look at conspiracy theories, and I don't want to too closely associate that with this particular case. However, it would not surprise me that anyone, regardless of race, who hears a different drummer is at potential risk.

Senator DECONCINI. Yes, potential risk.

Ms. FITCH. And I am more comfortable thinking of it in those terms.

Senator DECONCINI. So if you were extremely conservative, perhaps the liberal side wouldn't want you there, and might be involved in such a thing?

Ms. FITCH. Well, Senator, that is a possibility, and it is also possible that conservatives might want to make it look like the—

Senator DECONCINI. Yes, on the other side, from the other side, and if you were very strong on some ideological issue—

Ms. FITCH. It is possible, Senator.

Senator DECONCINI [continuing]. Such as abortion or *Roe v. Wade*, there could be some effort by those who opposed it or who opposed the right-to-life position.

Ms. FITCH. I should probably say, though, Senator, one of the reasons I liked then Chairman Thomas was that I am not a conservative Republican. I am a New York Rockefeller Republican, so we did not always agree. I consider myself a moderate, and he knew that.

Senator DECONCINI. Thank you, thank you.

My last question is, just do you believe, each one of you, would you just state here for me, do you believe that Professor Hill was telling the truth when she testified here for some six hours. Ms. Alvarez?

Ms. ALVAREZ. No, sir.

Senator DECONCINI. Ms. Fitch.

Ms. FITCH. No, sir.

Senator DECONCINI. Ms. Holt.

Ms. HOLT. No, sir.

Senator DECONCINI. Ms. Berry.

Ms. BERRY. No, sir, absolutely not.