

Ms. FITCH. Senator, I know, I believe it was in 1983. I believe it was in summer, sometime between spring and summer. I don't, I can't give you an exact date. I did go to see her. I think she was in the hospital for a week and I do not recall that the nature—I don't recall what she was suffering from. It rang a bell that it might have had something to do with a stomach ailment, but I don't remember what the diagnosis was. I don't know that I ever knew.

Senator THURMOND. What hospital was she in?

Ms. FITCH. I believe, Senator, it was Capitol Hill Hospital. It is a hospital on the Hill and I think that is the name of it.

Senator THURMOND. Thank you. Senator Brown.

Senator BROWN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. Holt, occasionally, at least in our office, when people call in they will sometimes be given a home phone number. Occasionally, when we call back to other people we will have on file their home phone number as well as their office number.

I recognize it has been some time, but do you have any recollection as to whether or not Professor Hill had Clarence Thomas's home phone number or whether or not he had her home phone number?

Ms. HOLT. I have no way of knowing that. I can only say that I did not give Professor Hill Clarence Thomas's home phone number.

Senator BROWN. And you never referred her to his—to call him at home?

Ms. HOLT. I did not.

Senator BROWN. And you never got a feel for whether they chatted outside of office hours?

Ms. HOLT. No.

Senator BROWN. Thank you. A question to all of you. It may not be anything that we can add here, but I suspect most members are like I. You find the current divergence, or dramatic divergence in their testimony somewhat hard to explain.

In thinking about Clarence Thomas, was he the kind of person who would be different in the way he treated people, react to people, talk to people in private than he would be, let's say, when other people were present? Is there a significant difference in the way he behaved or talked or acted when you would be in an office setting along with him versus where others could see or hear?

Ms. HOLT. He always treated me with respect. He was a professional, and I had no problems whether there were 20 people around or whether we were alone.

Senator BROWN. No significant difference in the way—

Ms. HOLT. No difference at all.

Senator BROWN. What about the rest of you? Any observations in that area?

Ms. FITCH. I agree with what Ms. Holt just said. There was no difference.

Ms. BERRY. I agree.

Ms. ALVAREZ. I agree to a point. Because Clarence and I were friends outside of the office. I probably saw, I mean I would call him Clarence, you know. We talked about the kids and personal things that friends talk about that he would not have shared with people at the office.

Senator BROWN. I was trying to go through and outline some of the traits that we have come to learn about him. I think all of us have come to learn about him. We have really listened to him for 7 days. I don't know how close a friendship it has engendered, but I think this committee has come to know him pretty well as well.

But at least as I go through it, I find things like he is a serious person, and here is someone who after they were separated from their wife, a bachelor, in effect, again, sells his only car to pay for his son's tuition to school, and that is an unusually serious—I don't know many bachelors who sell their only means of transportation for their son's tuition. A very unusually serious person.

From the depositions I have read, this is someone who didn't tell dirty stories either in public or private, or even on camping trips. That he appears formal, intense, extremely hardworking, strict, and demanding are a couple of terms I have heard applied both to others around him and himself. I don't suppose there is anybody on this committee that doesn't think that what they need to do is work out every noon instead of eat or at least—I should speak for myself. I feel that need. And yet not many do it, or at least I don't.

I mean this is an extremely disciplined serious individual. Is that a proper impression? Are there other descriptions you could give me of Clarence Thomas?

Ms. FITCH. That is my description of him and one of the things that impressed me the most about him. And I think that those combinations of terms is what I meant when I thought of the word "decent" to apply to him in all ways.

Ms. BERRY. But he is also generous, and supportive, and willing to promote people who work for him, kind. He is a good human being. Intelligent.

Senator BROWN. The remarks he is alleged to have made and the conduct he is supposed to have done; that is, to ask someone out repeatedly and to pressure them to go out with you is an aggressive, is an aggressive personal act when someone says no to pressure them again. And it is almost confrontational in a personal way. To say those kinds of remarks is a very confrontational, hostile thing to do.

Were those traits present in Clarence Thomas?

Ms. FITCH. No, Senator.

Ms. HOLT. No, Senator.

Ms. ALVAREZ. Not at all.

Ms. BERRY. In fact, the Clarence Thomas that I first met was really kind of—I know it is going to be hard for you all to believe this, but he was really kind of socially shy. It took me maybe 6 months to get the man out of his office and to circulate among the employees, and at the Commission, you know, to greet them in the hall and to have lunch in their cafeteria, those sorts of things, because he is a relatively disciplined, serious individual. And the kinds of public relations things that I felt he needed to do, such as give public speeches and to greet the employees, and all of those kinds of things, it was like pulling hen's teeth to get the man to do that.

And then after he started doing that and saw the public reception to the real Clarence Thomas, that he was funny and smart