

Senator METZENBAUM. Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Metzenbaum.

Senator METZENBAUM. Ladies, it has been a long evening, but before you go out of here, there were some other witnesses and one of those witnesses pointed out a letter that at that point had been signed by 50 Yale graduates who had graduated with Anita Hill and the number is now up to 66. And there is such an inconsistency between—and it is so difficult to reconcile what you are saying and what they said.

I would like to share with you their letter.

Dear Mr. Chairman, Senator Biden. It has been our privilege to know Anita Hill professionally and personally since the late 1970's when we were in law school together. The Anita Hill we have known is a person of great integrity and decency. As colleagues we wish to affirm publicly our admiration and respect for her. She is embroiled now in a most serious and difficult controversy which we know is causing her great pain.

We make no attempt to analyze the issues involved, or to prejudge the outcome. We do, however, wish to state emphatically our complete confidence in her sincerity and good faith and our absolute belief in her decency and integrity.

In our eyes it is impossible to imagine any circumstances in which her character could be called into question. We are dismayed that it has been. We know that it could not be by anyone who knows her. Anita has imperiled her career and her peace of mind to do what she felt was right.

We know we are powerless to shield her from those who will seek to hurt her out of ignorance, frustration, or expediency in the days ahead. But we will have failed ourselves if we do not at least raise our voices in her behalf. She has our unhesitating, non-wavering support.

Now, the amazing thing about this letter is not only the strength of the support for this lady but the fact that it came from all over the world. There were 66 names on it. One of the names is signed by somebody in Paris, France. One of them is signed by somebody in London, Ontario. One of the names is signed by somebody in Sao Paulo, Brazil. One of the names is signed by somebody in Perugia, Italy, and from New York, and California, and Arizona, and San Francisco, and all over the country.

How do you reconcile the fact that these 66 people, who also knew her as you knew her, although at an earlier point, but they say that "we have known her as a person of great integrity and decency and that we have known her professionally since the late 1970's when we were in law school together"? How do you reconcile the fact? How do you explain it to us, sitting on this committee, that here are 66 people, who are obviously people of good repute ostensibly—Yale Law School graduates—and here are four people who worked with her, also people of good repute and good standing saying one thing totally different than these 66 Yale graduates are saying?

Ms. FITCH. Senator, my response to that is that I am sure there are as many people and more who would say that say the same thing about Judge Thomas. That's the only response I can have to the question you are asking. I don't know what to say.

Ms. HOLT. Additionally a question comes to my mind about how long it has been since those 66 people have seen Professor Hill or have had any kind of—

Senator METZENBAUM. I am sorry, I didn't hear that.

Ms. HOLT. How long it has been since those people have had any interaction with Professor Hill.