

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

UNITED STATES SENATE

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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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In the Matter of:

THE NOMINATION OF JUDGE CLARENCE THOMAS

TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUSTICE TO THE U. S.

SUPREME COURT

Telephonic Interview of ANGELA DENISE WRIGHT

Pages 1 thru 69

Washington, D.C.
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UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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In the Matter of the Nomination of : :
Judge Clarence Thomas to be an Associate : :
Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court : :
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Thursday, October 10, 1991

Washington, D.C.

The telephonic interview of ANGELA DENISE WRIGHT, called for examination by counsel for the Senate Committee on the Judiciary in the above-entitled matter, pursuant to notice, in the offices of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Room SD-234, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., convened at 10:43 a.m., when were present on behalf of the parties:

CYNTHIA HOGAN, Staff of Senate Biden
HARRIET GRANT, Staff of Senator Biden
ANN HARKINS, Staff of Senator Leahy
WINSTON LETT, Staff of Senator Heflin
TERRY WOOTEN, Staff of Senator Thurmond
MELISSA RILEY, Staff of Senator Thurmond
MILLER BAKER, Staff of Senator Hatch
RICHARD HERTLING, Staff of Senator Specter

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MS. HOGAN: Hi, Angela. This is Cynthia Hogan,
3 from the Senate Judiciary Committee, in Washington.

4 I am sorry we are calling you a little bit later
5 than we had anticipated, but it took us a little bit of time
6 to get ourselves together this morning.

7 I wanted to let you know that, in addition to the
8 people I told you would be here, there are several others. I
9 told you last night that someone from Senator Thurmond's staff
10 would be here and that I would be here. Of course, I work
11 for Senator Biden.

12 There are actually two people here from Senator
13 Biden's office, myself and Harriet Grant, and two people here
14 from Senator Thurmond's office. As well, there are four other
15 lawyers here who work for different Senators. I wanted to
16 let you know that, before I put you on the speaker phone, so
17 that you were aware that we were here. We also do have a
18 court reporter, as I told you.

19 I am with Senator Biden. Now, if I put you on the
20 speaker phone, I want each of them to identify themselves and
21 to tell you who they work for. I want to reassure you that
22 it still remains that only two people are going to ask you
23 questions, and that is me and Terry Wooten, who works for
24 Senator Thurmond.

25 I just wanted you to be aware that these other

1 people are here, since I did not tell you that last night,
2 and to make sure it was okay with you, before I put you on the
3 speaker phone. If it is okay, I will ask each person to
4 identify themselves for you, so that you are clear about who
5 is here.

6 Is that all right? All right. Hang on.

7 MS. HOGAN: Ms. Wright?

8 MS. WRIGHT: Yes.

9 MS. HOGAN: All right. Why don't we just go around
10 the room here. I want everyone to identify themselves for
11 you, and I want to make sure we are on the record, so that
12 you are aware of who is here.

13 MS. GRANT: Hi, Ms. Wright. I am Harriet Grant. I
14 am with Senator Biden.

15 MS. WRIGHT: Okay.

16 MR. LETT: Ms. Wright, my name is Winston Lett, and
17 I am with Senator Heflin.

18 MS. WRIGHT: Winston, what was his last name?

19 MR. LETT: Lett, L-e-t-t.

20 MS. WRIGHT: And with Heflin?

21 MR. LETT: Yes, ma'am.

22 MS. WRIGHT: Okay.

23 MS. HARKINS: Ms. Wright, my name is Ann Harkins,
24 and I am with Senator Leahy.

25 MS. WRIGHT: Leahy?

1 MS. HARKINS: Leahy, L-e-a-h-y.

2 MS. WRIGHT: Okay.

3 MR. BAKER: Ms. Wright, my name is Miller Baker. I
4 work for Senator Orrin Hatch.

5 MS. WRIGHT: Miller Baker, with Orrin Hatch?

6 MR. BAKER: Yes, ma'am.

7 MS. RILEY: Ms. Wright, I am Melissa Riley, and I am
8 with Senator Thurmond's office.

9 MS. WRIGHT: Okay.

10 MR. WOOTEN: And I am Terry Wooten, with Senator
11 Thurmond's office.

12 MS. WRIGHT: Okay.

13 MR. HERTLING: Ms. Wright, my name is Richard
14 Hertling, H-e-r-t-l-i-n-g, and I am from Senator Specter's
15 office.

16 MS. WRIGHT: Okay.

17 Whereupon,

18 ANGELA DENISE WRIGHT

19 was called for examination and testified, as follows:

20 BY MS. HOGAN:

21 Q Ms. Wright, I am going to ask you again, mostly for
22 the benefit of the court reporter who is here, just to state
23 your name, your address, spell your name for us, so we make
24 sure she gets that down.

25 A Okay. I will state my name and address and I will

1 spell my name. I also would like to just preface whatever we
2 are about to say. Okay?

3 Q Okay. That's fine.

4 A My name is Angela, A-n-g-e-l-a, Denise, D-e-n-i-s-
5 e, Wright, W-r-i-g-h-t. What else did you want, my age or my
6 address?

7 Q Both would be fine.

8 A Okay. I am 37 years old. My address is
9
10

11 Q I would also like to ask you to state where you are
12 currently employed, but let me tell you that if you want to
13 make your statement first, go ahead.

14 A Okay. Well, I will do both. I am currently
15 employed as an assistant metro editor at the Charlotte
16 Observer.

17 I want to preface what we are about to say by saying
18 that I want to make it clear and I want it on the record that
19 the information that I am about to give is not information
20 that I approached anyone on Capitol Hill or on the Senate
21 Judiciary staff with, but it is something that I have
22 struggled with since I have seen Anita Hill on television on
23 Monday night, and once I got a call from the Senate Judiciary
24 Committee, that decision became quite obvious as to what I
25 should do.

1 Now, I will take whatever questions you want.

2 Q Okay. I would like you just very briefly, if you
3 could give us -- and I mean very briefly -- some background
4 about yourself, say, your education and your job history,
5 sort of, you know, one sentence.

6 A I have a degree in journalism from the University
7 of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill. Prior to working at the
8 Charlotte Observer, I worked as the managing editor of the
9 Winston-Salem Chronicle. prior to that, I worked for the
10 National Business League in Washington. Prior to that, I was
11 back in school in Chapel Hill. Prior to that, I was at the
12 EEOC. Prior to EEOC, I was at the United States Agency for
13 International Development. Prior to that, I was at the
14 Republican National Committee, and before that I was at the
15 Republican Congressional Committee, and before that I was at
16 the office of Senator -- excuse me, Congressman Charlie Rose.

17 Q Ms. Wright, as I understand it, you know Clarence
18 Thomas, is that correct?

19 A That is correct.

20 Q Can you tell us when you first met him?

21 A I first met Clarence Thomas in the late seventies,
22 probably around 1978-79, when several black staff members of
23 Republican congressional offices decided to form an
24 organization called the Black Republican Congressional Staff
25 Association. It was pretty much an informal organization

1 that disbanded eventually on its own, but our purpose was to
2 try and form some type of support group and some type of
3 group that could convince other black political-type people
4 that the Republican Party was a viable alternative to the
5 Democratic Party.

6 Q I'm sorry, did you meet Clarence Thomas in the
7 course of meetings of this association?

8 A Yes, that is correct.

9 Q And how often did you see him in this context? You
10 know, give me a rough estimate.

11 A Probably only three or four times. The organization
12 didn't last very long and I didn't go to every meeting that
13 was held.

14 Q Okay. Did you consider yourself a friend of his at
15 this time?

16 A No, an acquaintance.

17 Q Now, it is also my understanding that you worked
18 with Clarence Thomas at the EEOC, is that correct?

19 A That is correct.

20 Q And can you tell us when you were hired at the EEOC
21 and by whom?

22 A I was hired in March of 1984 by Clarence Thomas.

23 Q Can you tell me a little bit more about how you
24 found out about a job, or did you approach him about a job?
25 Can you give me a little bit of background about that?

1 A I was working as the Director of Media Relations
2 for the United States Agency for International Development,
3 when a friend of mine -- well, I guess I should really say an
4 acquaintance of mine -- Phyllis Barry Meyers, who was at the
5 time Clarence Thomas' Director of Congressional Affairs,
6 approached me at a reception on Capitol Hill and said that
7 Clarence Thomas was in dire need of a Director of Public
8 Affairs and would I be willing to talk to him about it, would
9 I be willing to consider that position, and I said yes. She
10 subsequently went to Clarence Thomas and told him that I
11 would consider it, and sometime later I went over and talked
12 to him about the position and he offered it to me and I left
13 AID and went to EEOC>

14 Q And you joined EEOC, this was in March of 1984?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And your title was what?

17 A Director of Public Affairs.

18 Q And can you describe a little bit for me what your
19 job responsibilities were?

20 A We had an office that had several public information
21 specialists, a video department, and my job was to coordinate
22 that staff -- I think at the time there were 27 maybe staff
23 members there -- and to produce in-house publications, to be
24 the Chairman's publicist, so to speak, his connection with the
25 media, to answer media questions, to advise him on public

1 appearances, his best contact with the media. He and
2 actually other office directors, I was responsible for
3 advising them on their contact with the media. We also
4 produced seminars on the equal employment laws and things of
5 that nature.

6 Q And did you report to Clarence Thomas?

7 A Yes, I did.

8 Q But you did at the same time work for others or
9 handle publicity for other people, is that correct? I just
10 want to make sure I understand --

11 A Publicity, if there was an office at EEOC that was
12 involved in some issue and the media was interested in
13 talking to that office director, generally the media came
14 through me, asked me about setting up interviews with that
15 particular person. It was not something that was required.
16 There, of course, were some office directors who picked off
17 directly from the media.

18 Q So, although you worked on publicity with other
19 people, you reported directly to Clarence Thomas, is that
20 correct?

21 A That is correct.

22 Q And can you give me a rough estimate of how much
23 contact you had with him in the course of your employment?

24 A The contact with Clarence Thomas was pretty much a
25 daily contact, in person or at least buzzing him on the phone

1 from my phone to discuss questions from the media or some
2 other course of business. You know, those were pretty
3 turbulent times for the EEOC, and we had lots of questions
4 from the press.

5 Q Sure. Did you consider your relationship with
6 Clarence Thomas at this time to be strictly professional?

7 A I considered Clarence Thomas at the time to be --
8 well, it was -- I guess you could say it was strictly
9 professional, in that there was no other contact between me
10 and Clarence Thomas outside of professional activities.

11 Q Okay. Now, my understanding is that there are some
12 statements or some comments that he made to you that you
13 wanted to -- I don't want to characterize them for you, but
14 that you are willing to tell us about. Can you tell me were
15 there comments that he made to you that maybe you considered
16 inappropriate?

17 A Yes, I can tell you that during the course of the
18 year that I worked for Clarence Thomas, there were several
19 comments that he made. Clarence Thomas did consistently
20 pressure me to date him. At one point, Clarence Thomas made
21 comments about my anatomy. Clarence Thomas made comments
22 about women's anatomy quite often. At one point, Clarence
23 Thomas came by my apartment at night, unannounced and
24 uninvited, and talked in general terms, but also conversation
25 he would try to move the conversation over to the prospect of

1 my dating him.

2 Q I think if it is all right with you, we need to try
3 and go through some of these comments very specifically. You
4 have mentioned now that he came to your apartment one evening,
5 and I believe you said he came over uninvited, is that
6 correct?

7 A Yes, that is correct.

8 MR. WOOTEN: Can we go back to maybe when it
9 started, rather than -- if that is the first contact, fine,
10 but --

11 BY MS. HOGAN:

12 Q I guess maybe I misunderstood. Was this the first
13 time that you felt there was something inappropriate done by
14 Judge Thomas?

15 A No, it was not.

16 Q Okay. Perhaps it would be easier if we could go
17 back to the beginning. You became employed at the EEOC in
18 March of 1984. Do you remember when the first comment or
19 conduct that Clarence Thomas engaged in that you considered
20 inappropriate?

21 A No, I do not.

22 Q Okay.

23 A Let me clarify one thing. The night he came by my
24 apartment was the first and the only time he came to my
25 apartment.

1 Q Okay.

2 A But, no, I cannot sit here and tell you I remember
3 dates. What I can tell you is that this is a general course
4 of action, this is an attitude and these are comments that
5 Clarence Thomas has generally tended to make.

6 Q Okay. You mentioned just a moment ago that,
7 generally, he pressured you to date him.

8 A Yes.

9 Q Was there anything that occurred along those lines
10 prior to the time he came to your apartment, that you recall?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Okay. Could you tell us about that?

13 A Well, I will tell you about one -- let me be
14 specific here. We are talking about a thing that, you know,
15 pretty much pops out of Clarence Thomas' mouth when he feels
16 like saying this. We are not talking about, you know,
17 traumatic single events here.

18 Q Right.

19 A We are talking about a general mode of operating.
20 I can remember specifically one evening when the comment of
21 dating came up, it was when we were having -- the EEOC was
22 having a retirement party for my predecessor, Alf Sweeney,
23 which I had organized for Mr. Sweeney at Mr. Thomas' request,
24 and we were sitting at the banquet table while the speakers
25 and things were going through their speeches, and Clarence

1 Thomas was sitting right next to me and he at one point
2 turned around and said this is really a great job, blah-blah-
3 blah, and he said and you look good and you are going to be
4 dating me, too. That was not like the only time he said
5 something of that nature.

6 Q Okay. Do you recall at all approximately when this
7 banquet occurred?

8 A Approximately, it was early summer or late spring
9 1984. It was held at some type of officers club in Virginia.
10 I can't remember what the officers club was, but at the time
11 one of my staff members, John Hawkins, was a member of that
12 club, and so he was able to procure it for us to have, you
13 know, we would actually have, you know, a very elaborate
14 retirement party for Mr. Sweeney.

15 Q And this was an evening event?

16 A It was, yes.

17 Q Was it like a dinner banquet?

18 A It was a dinner banquet.

19 Q Okay. And you said that you were sitting at the
20 banquet table with Clarence Thomas?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Next to you?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And when he made this remark to you about you would
25 be dating him, was anyone else sitting there with you?

1 A Well, there were several people there at the
2 banquet table, yes.

3 Q Do you know whether any of them heard this comment
4 that Clarence Thomas made to you?

5 A I seriously doubt that any of them heard it. He
6 was sitting right next to me and this wasn't something he was
7 shouting. He was talking, practically whispering, because
8 there was actually a program going on.

9 Q Okay. Was this a well-attended event? Can you
10 give me an idea of how many people may have been there?

11 A Yes, there were lots of people there, lots of
12 influential people there, including Congressmen, former
13 Congressman and Mayor Carl Stokes, Congressman Lewis Stokes.

14 Q So, this was not simply EEOC employees?

15 A It was not simply EEOC employees. What we had done
16 was to actually surprise Mr. Sweeney with a lot of old
17 friends. In fact, his entire family was there. He did not
18 know this banquet was happening, he did not know that these
19 people would be there, and a lot of them were old journalists,
20 like -- I cannot remember the lady's name, a black journalist
21 well known in EEOC, and she just died last year -- anyway,
22 there were also lots of people from the EEOC there. It was
23 actually crowded.

24 Q Now, after Clarence Thomas made this statement to
25 you about you dating him --

1 A Excuse me, I just remembered, Ethel Payne is the
2 name of this journalist I tried to remember.

3 Q I'm sorry, what was the last name?

4 A Ethel Payne, P-a-y-n-e.

5 Q After Clarence Thomas made this one comment to you,
6 was there any further discussion of what he said?

7 A No.

8 Q Did you respond in any way to his comment?

9 A No, I never did.

10 Q And he did not follow up his comment with any
11 additional discussion at that time?

12 A No, he did not.

13 Q Okay. Do you remember any other occasions on which
14 he pressured you to date him?

15 A No, I do not. I can't give you dates and times and
16 tell you that it was a general course of conversation.

17 MR. WOOTEN: Was the banquet the first time that
18 Thomas had said something to you?

19 MS. HOGAN: This is Terry Wooten speaking, for your
20 information.

21 MS. WRIGHT: Okay. No, Terry, it was not.

22 MR. WOOTEN: If we need to talk more about the
23 banquet, go ahead.

24 BY MS. WRIGHT:

25 Q Was there anything else that occurred at the

1 banquet that you recall, along these lines?

2 A No.

3 Q Do you remember specifically -- now, I understand
4 that you told us that there was this general environment of
5 this, but do you remember any specific comments that Clarence
6 Thomas made to you along these lines prior to this banquet?

7 A Prior to this banquet?

8 Q Correct.

9 A No, I cannot, any specific comments.

10 Q And what about after this banquet, do you remember
11 any specific comments where he talked to you about dating him?

12 A No, I can only remember them in general.

13 Q Okay. Why don't you tell us what you remember, in
14 general.

15 A In general, given the opportunity, Clarence Thomas
16 is the type of person -- well, let me back up a minute. In
17 general, given the opportunity, Clarence Thomas would say to
18 me, you know, "You need to be dating me, I think I'm going to
19 date you, you're one of the finest women I have on my staff,"
20 you know, "we're going to be going out eventually."

21 Q And what do you mean by "given the opportunity"?

22 A Given the opportunity, you know, if there was no
23 one else around or we were close enough that he could turn
24 around and whisper something of that nature.

25 A Do you ever recall him saying anything of this

1 nature to you when other people overheard it?

2 A No.

3 Q If it is all right with you, you mentioned that
4 this occurred once at your apartment.

5 A Yes.

6 Q Can you tell me a little bit more about that?

7 A He came to my apartment, I opened the door, I
8 offered him a beer, we talked, he sat at what was actually a
9 counter separating the kitchen from the living room area, we
10 sat on bar stools and talked in general about general things
11 and, you know, the conversation would turn to his desire to
12 date me, and I would adeptly turn it to some other topic.

13 Q And this was the first and only time he was at your
14 apartment?

15 A Yes, that is correct.

16 Q And he arrived uninvited?

17 A Yes, that is correct.

18 Q Did he say why he had come to your apartment?

19 A Not that I can recall. My recollection is that he
20 was in the neighborhood or something, but I can't actually
21 recall what he said when he came to the door or actually any
22 specific things about the conversation, except for the nature
23 of it.

24 Q So, you don't remember specific things he stated?

25 A No, I don't. You know, I wish I could apologize to

1 you for that, but it is not the kind of thing I was taking
2 notes about or I wasn't keeping a journal.

3 Q No, I certainly understand that it is a number of
4 years ago, and we just appreciate your sharing with us what
5 you remember. The only reason I am trying to ask, you know,
6 for specific recollections is in case you have them, I want
7 to make sure that we give you an opportunity to tell you.

8 A I specifically recall being at a seminar, I can't
9 even tell you which seminar, because we had many of them, when
10 Clarence Thomas commented on the dress I was wearing and
11 asked me what size my boobs were.

12 Q This was an EEOC conference?

13 A This was an EEOC seminar.

14 Q A seminar. I'm sorry, you said it was out of town?

15 A Yes.

16 MR. WOOTEN: Can we go back to the time frame when
17 you say Judge Thomas came to your apartment? I don't know
18 that we got the time frame. Can you give us an approximate
19 date?

20 MS. WRIGHT: Well, it was not in the summer, it was
21 like it was cold, it was the end of fall or early winter.

22 BY MS. HOGAN:

23 Q And do you know how he knew where your apartment
24 was?

25 A Well, I lived in that same apartment for about 5

1 years on Capitol Hill, three blocks from the White House --
2 excuse me, from the office building. Most of the people who
3 knew me knew where I lived.

4 MS. HOGAN: I think it would be easier for her, if
5 I continue.

6 MR. WOOTEN: If we could --

7 MS. WRIGHT: It doesn't matter to me how you want
8 to --

9 MR. WOOTEN: I don't want to create confusion, but
10 this is done in the time when you say Judge Thomas came to
11 your apartment when you worked at the EEOC, is that correct or
12 not? I don't want to put words in your mouth, but --

13 MS. WRIGHT: That is correct.

14 MR. WOOTEN: I am just trying to get a general time
15 frame.

16 BY MS. HOGAN:

17 Q This was during the year that you worked with Judge
18 Thomas at the EEOC?

19 A That is correct.

20 Q In the fall or possibly the winter?

21 A Yes.

22 Q The next thing you mentioned was this EEOC seminar,
23 do you have any recollection of when this occurred,
24 approximately?

25 A No. We went to several seminars. In fact, my only

1 recollection of it is that we were walking towards a meeting
2 room and I was briefing him, giving him information on what
3 this particular seminar was about; you know, the general run
4 of the mill things that public relations folks do and there
5 were other people walking just ahead of us, people in his
6 legal staff. But I can't remember which seminar that was, or
7 which hotel that was. We held seminars in Denver, in Miami,
8 I think, in Texas.

9 Q Do you remember what the subject of the seminar was?

10 A Well, the subjects of the seminar generally were
11 about the laws under which EEOC operated and the laws that
12 EEOC was charged with enforcing. We held community seminars
13 to simply go to the communities and tell people, you know,
14 this is what is qualified as age discrimination, this is what
15 qualifies as sexual harassment, this is what qualifies as
16 race discrimination and this is what the law says, and we had
17 other, you know, experts from around the agency -- lawyers and
18 those type of people -- to pretty much sit on panels and
19 discuss all aspects of discrimination law.

20 Q So these were seminars that the EEOC gave on some
21 type of regular basis?

22 A That's true, yes.

23 Q And they were given across the country?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And they were given to who? Was the public invited

1 to these conferences?

2 A Yes, they were.

3 Q Okay, and can you give me an average of how many of
4 these conferences you would attend with Clarence Thomas a
5 year or in the year that you worked for him?

6 A I think during that year we had four or five. I
7 can't say for sure, it is like four or five. But I want to
8 make it clear that I did not attend them with him. I
9 generally advanced him. My staff and I went out, prior to
10 Clarence Thomas, or any of the legal people getting there.

11 Q Did he attend all EEOC seminars of this type that
12 were given across the country?

13 A As far as I can remember, yes.

14 Q And you would do the advance work for all of these?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Okay, do you know whether anyone overheard the
17 comment to him, the comment that he made to you in this hotel?

18 A No, I don't. If they did, they did not react to it.

19 Q Okay, did you tell anyone about it?

20 A No, I did not.

21 Not, let me put it, not, I did not walk away from
22 that situation and go say, you know, guess what Clarence
23 Thomas just said.

24 Q Okay.

25 A But in the course of other conversations that I had

1 with other people, particularly women, about Clarence Thomas,
2 yes, I have made relayed that situation along with all others.

3 Q Do you recall any particular women that you spoke
4 to about this?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Okay, could you tell me who they were?

7 A Well, I would be willing to name one of them.

8 Q Okay.

9 A Because it is interesting to me that that person is
10 -- this is sort of in a denial -- but Phyllis Barry Meyers was
11 one of them.

12 Q And this is the same woman who initially contacted
13 you about working for Clarence Thomas?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And what was her position? She worked at the EEOC,
16 correct?

17 A She did, as Director of Congressional Affairs.

18 Q And you told her or discussed with her --

19 A She and I discussed Clarence Thomas on many
20 occasions and the conversations were, of course, always
21 varied depending on what the topic of the day was, but the
22 conversations also generally ended up talking about Clarence
23 and his approach to women, too.

24 Q Do you know whether you mentioned to her or to
25 anyone else the comments, the comment that was made to you at

1 Mr. Sweeny's retirement party?

2 A I can't sit down and remember specifically having
3 that conversation with anyone, no.

4 Q Okay, and what about the fact that Judge Thomas
5 came to your apartment. Do you remember if you ever mentioned
6 that to anyone?

7 A Yes, I did.

8 Q And who did you mention that to?

9 A I would rather not say because I don't know if she
10 would like to get involved.

11 Q Okay. Do you remember any other conversations with
12 anyone else -- men, women, anyone -- where you discussed the
13 comments made to you by Judge Thomas?

14 A No, I can't say -- no, I don't remember any other
15 specific conversations about Judge Thomas where I made
16 references to those specific comments.

17 Q Okay, did you have any other conversations with
18 people generally about Judge Thomas' conduct toward women in
19 the office?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And can you tell us anything about those
22 conversations? Who they were with or what the conversations
23 consisted of?

24 A No, I can't. I mean when you work for somebody you
25 generally talk about work and those people. I talked with

1 Clarence Thomas about other, I talked with other people at
2 EEOC about Clarence Thomas when I worked there, when I felt
3 that perhaps some things he did were not, some positions he
4 took were not the best ones to take, or some things he did
5 were not the best things to do.

6 Q So these were -- you just generally, you had
7 conversations on various occasions with other employees at
8 the EEOC that may have included some of these comments, or
9 other comments about Judge Thomas' conduct towards women?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Okay.

12 A Well, let me say this, too. There were select
13 people at EEOC that I would have had those conversations
14 with. I would not talk in general to people at EEOC about
15 that because Clarence Thomas and I were both political people
16 and I was very conscious of what to say to non-political type
17 people.

18 Q Okay, you mentioned that you did discuss generally
19 with Phyllis Barry Meyers?

20 A That's correct.

21 Q Do you recall what her reaction was when you
22 discussed this with her?

23 A Yes, I do.

24 Q And what was her reaction?

25 A Well, I, I can almost quote her as a matter of

1 fact, "Well, he's a man, you know, he's always hitting on
2 everybody."

3 Q I'm sorry, I didn't catch the last.

4 A "He's always hitting on everybody."

5 Q Okay, do you remember any other specific comments
6 that you might have made?

7 A No, I can remember one conversation with her that,
8 I can remember that that particular conversation with her
9 went on for a while, but I can't tell you what else was said,
10 you know, it was in general, the same kinds of comments.

11 Q Did you work closely with her in your capacity at
12 the EEOC?

13 A Yes, pretty much, but, you know, her office, her
14 responsibilities were very different. She worked as a
15 liaison to Capitol Hill and I was a liaison to the media.

16 Q Okay, are there any other occasions on which you
17 remember specific comments that Clarence Thomas made to you
18 that you considered inappropriate?

19 A None that I can give you dates for, no.

20 Q Okay. Can you tell me how long you worked at the
21 EEOC?

22 A For one year.

23 Q And can you tell me what the circumstances were of
24 your leaving the EEOC?

25 A Yes. Clarence Thomas fired me.

1 Q And can you just describe for me the circumstances
2 surrounding that?

3 A Sure. I came into my office one day and there was
4 a letter in my chair and I opened that letter and it said,
5 your services here are no longer needed as of -- whatever two
6 weeks from the date was -- you know, you will no longer be
7 employed by the EEOC.

8 And I read the letter. It was quite a surprise to
9 me. I took the letter and I went upstairs to Clarence Thomas'
10 office, whose secretary, Diane Holt, motioned me in without
11 even, without any question. When I walked into his office,
12 he was in the bathroom inside his office, and I sat down in
13 the chair beside his desk and waited for him to come out.
14 And when he walked out, I handed, I held the letter up and I
15 said, "What is this? What does mean? Why are you firing me?
16 And he says, "Well, well, --

17 [Pause.]

18 Q Ms. Wright, can you hear me?

19 A Yes, I can hear you.

20 Q Terrific, you were telling us about --

21 A I walked into his office.

22 Q Okay.

23 A Well, I said to him, you know, "What is this? Why
24 are you firing me?" And he says, "Well, Angela, I've never
25 been satisfied with your work."

1 I said, "Why have you not been satisfied with my
2 work, and why have you not told me this up to this point?" He
3 said, "Well, I told you to fire those folks down there, and
4 you haven't fired a soul down there." And I said, "Well,
5 Clarence, these people are career employees, not like I can
6 just go in there and say you are fired. It takes almost an
7 act of Congress to get them removed."

8 He said, "Well, I just in general am not satisfied
9 with your work."

10 The day prior to that I had held a press conference
11 on some issue that was real hot at the time, I don't remember
12 what that issue was, but it was a very successful press
13 conference. All the major media were there, the Wall Street
14 Journal, the Washington Post, there were 13 representatives
15 there in all. And that morning, that I was sitting there
16 talking to him, he had a press kit in front of him with
17 almost an inch of press clippings. So I picked that up and I
18 said to him, I said, "How can you say that especially today
19 of all days, you sitting right here, with a press packet from
20 a press conference that I just held for you yesterday that
21 was very successful, when you guys were on the hot seat?"

22 And he said to me, you know, "I never needed you to
23 get me any publicity. I could always call my buddy Juan
24 Williams over at the Washington Post if I needed publicity."

25 And I said, "Okay, fine. Well, look if you -- we

1 are both political so that is your prerogative. You could
2 tell me to go because you don't like the color of my shoes or
3 something like that", I said, "But the point here is,
4 Clarence, we are political and I don't believe this stuff you
5 are telling me about why you're firing me, but I do have this
6 question. Why did you decide to do this? If you wanted me
7 to leave this position, all you had to do was say, go to your
8 friends at the White House and call and see if you can get
9 another appointment", I said, "but your intent was to make me
10 unemployed. And why is that? I have been, I tried to be
11 loyal employee. I have tried to be your friend."

12 And he said, "Well, I never cared anything about
13 loyalty and I don't care a whole lot about friendship." And
14 I said, "Well", I just pushed the chair away from the table,
15 and I said, "Well, then, I hope you will be a very happy,
16 successful man, but I doubt it."

17 And I walked out of his office and I went down to my
18 office and I left EEOC. And that is the last conversation I
19 ever had with Clarence Thomas.

20 Q If I could just go back a little bit. You said
21 that the first notice that you received of this was in a
22 letter that was left in your office?

23 A It was a letter, it was a letter that was left in
24 my chair in my office.

25 Q And who was the letter signed by?

1 A By Clarence Thomas.

2 Q Okay, and at that time, you went up to his office?

3 A I did.

4 Q And do you remember anything else that was said
5 between the two of you in the meeting in his office?

6 A I, I, I think I just said it just about verbatim.

7 Q Okay. Do you recall when this was?

8 A It was, as far as I can recollect, in April.

9 Q And that is April of 1985?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Was anyone else present during this conversation?

12 A No.

13 Q Do you think that your failure to respond to any of
14 Judge Thomas' comments to you had anything to do with him
15 firing you?

16 A You are not the first person who has asked me that
17 question. Several people at EEOC asked me that question.

18 Q Do you remember who at EEOC asked you that question?

19 A Well, actually the man who was my predecessor who
20 you can't confirm, because he is now dead, Al Sweeney, that
21 was the first question that came out of his mouth. And there
22 were other people there but I, I really hesitate to drag
23 other people's names into this conversation who are not now
24 at all affiliated with this issue. I don't mind discussing
25 people who are, you know, who have already made a public

1 comment on this, but I don't want to volunteer anybody else's
2 participation.

3 Q Okay. Are there any other specific comments that
4 Judge Thomas told you at any time that you want to tell us
5 about?

6 A About the only thing I can tell you is that he did
7 tell me at one point during that conversation when I asked
8 him about why he was firing me that he was real bothered by
9 the fact that I did not wait for him outside his office after
10 work. It was a statement that I dismissed as one of his
11 statements.

12 Q So you didn't follow up on that or respond to that?

13 A Well, I don't remember responding. You know, I
14 wasn't a very happy person at that point. I was really
15 trying to get to the truth of what was really going on and
16 nothing he had said to me at that point sounded like the real
17 deal.

18 Q Well, did that comment make you think that perhaps
19 the firing had to do with your failure to respond to his
20 comments?

21 A It did not make me think that at that moment. What
22 I was thinking at that moment was he was grasping for all
23 kinds of reasons. In retrospect I guess that is a possibility
24 but that is not the first thought that came to my mind when
25 he said it.

1 Q Okay. After you left the EEOC, what did you do
2 next for employment?

3 A I did not -- when I left the EEOC I went back to the
4 University of North Carolina because I had not completed the
5 work on my degree. I went back to finish school.

6 Q Okay, and you finished school when?

7 A In December of 1985.

8 Q And this was your bachelor's degree in journalism?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And following your graduation from the University
11 of North Carolina, what did you do?

12 A I moved to Charlotte, North Carolina and I worked
13 for a while as a substitute school teacher, actually I worked
14 three jobs -- as a substitute school teacher, as a radio news
15 announcer, and as a freelance public relations.

16 I stayed in Charlotte for about, I guess that would
17 have been, gosh, I would have come to Charlotte maybe in May
18 of '86, and stayed in Charlotte until maybe September. And I
19 went and just a month in Atlanta with some friends of mine
20 there, just looking for work in Atlanta. And then went back
21 to Washington, after someone that I knew called me up and
22 asked me to take a position at the National Business League.

23 Q Okay, and following the National Business League,
24 was when you went to the Winston-Salem --

25 A Chronicle, yes.

1 Q -- Chronicle, okay. And following that, you went
2 back to Charlotte and took your present job, is that correct?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q Now, on any of these occasions when you took
5 employment after the EEOC, did you ask anyone at the EEOC for
6 a recommendation?

7 A No, I did not.

8 Q Okay, did you give anyone's name at the EEOC as a
9 reference to a potential employer?

10 A No, I did not, but on my resume the EEOC, of
11 course, is listed as a former place of employment.

12 Q Okay, did you have any, have you had any contact
13 with Judge Thomas since you left the EEOC?

14 A No, I have not.

15 Q Have you ever called his office or spoken to him by
16 telephone?

17 A I have called his office on one occasion but I
18 never got to speak to him.

19 Q And can you tell us about that one occasion?

20 A Yes. I had a friend who owns a telecommunications
21 firm. He installed telephone systems in businesses. He had
22 done lots of work on Federal military bases. And he had
23 contacted me about trying to talk to anyone I knew who worked
24 in the Government to perhaps see if they would be willing to
25 talk to him about using his phone system.

1 And I placed a call to Clarence Thomas on his
2 behalf. My call was never returned and I never tried again.

3 Q Who did you speak with? Did you call Judge Thomas
4 at his office?

5 A Yes, I called and I talked with Diane, his
6 secretary.

7 Q Okay, do you recall approximately when this call
8 might have occurred?

9 A In the summer of 1987.

10 Q And you left a message with Clarence Thomas'
11 secretary Diane?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And he never returned the call?

14 A That's correct.

15 Q Okay. Did you have any other occasions where you
16 called him or his office?

17 A No, I did not.

18 Q Have you had any contacts since you left the EEOC
19 with other employees of the EEOC who were there while you
20 were employed there?

21 A Yes, I have.

22 Q And can you tell us whether in any of those
23 conversations you discussed Clarence Thomas and any of the
24 facts we have discussed today?

25 A Generally, when I talk with people who work at the

1 EEOC, the conversation turns to Clarence Thomas, but no, not
2 specifically about the things we are talking about right now.

3 Q Okay. Just one point of clarification on your
4 degree from the University of North Carolina. You said you
5 graduated in December of '85 or in May of '86?

6 A I completed the requirements in December of '85.

7 Q Okay.

8 A They mailed the degree to me, because I stay in
9 Chapel Hill.

10 Q Okay. Ms. Wright, do you know Anita Hill?

11 A Do I know Anita Hill? I have never met Anita Hill,
12 and I have never heard of Anita Hill before this week.

13 Q You are, I take it, aware of Professor Hills'
14 allegations about Clarence Thomas?

15 A Yes, I am.

16 Q Do you feel that these allegations are in or out of
17 character for Clarence Thomas, as you know him?

18 A I feel that the Clarence Thomas that I know is
19 quite capable of doing just what Anita Hill alleges.

20 Q Do you have anything else you want to tell us today?

21 A No, I've told you all that I know.

22 MS. HOGAN: If you can bear with us just for one
23 minute.

24 MR. WOOTEN: If you all have something, go ahead.

25 MS. HOGAN: If you will bear with us just for one

1 minute, please.

2 MS. WRIGHT: Sure.

3 BY MS WRIGHT:

4 Q To go back briefly and follow up, you told us that
5 in the conversation you had with Clarence Thomas when he fired
6 you --

7 A Yes.

8 Q -- he made a comment about you didn't was it
9 outside his door for him at the end of the day. is that
10 accurate? I don't want to --

11 A That is correct.

12 Q Okay. Did you have any sense of what he meant by
13 that comment?

14 A Not at the time, no, and I don't remember if I
15 pursued it with him or not.

16 Q Okay. And did that lead you to -- when he said that
17 to you, was that in the context of explaining to you why he
18 was firing you?

19 A Yes, it was. It was -- excuse me just a minute,
20 please.

21 Q Sure.

22 A [Pause.] He was -- you know, I can't remember that
23 specific part of the conversation. In general, he was
24 talking about the kinds of things he felt that I should do,
25 how I should report to him.

1 Q Okay.

2 A You know, I can't go back and say what exact words
3 or which of his words preceded that or came out from that
4 particular statement, but that statement was made.

5 Q Okay. In the conversations you had with other
6 women at the EEOC about Clarence Thomas' conduct towards them,
7 did any other women tell you that he had made specific
8 references that they considered inappropriate?

9 A There were women who told me about specific
10 references that he had made, but I don't remember them
11 specifically saying that they considered it inappropriate.
12 It was not --

13 Q Did they tell you that -- did anyone else tell you
14 that he had made comments to them about their anatomy?

15 A No, I don't remember that.

16 Q Did any of them tell you that he had made comments
17 about wanting them to date him?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And do you remember any specifics with regard to
20 what these women told you?

21 A Yes, but one woman that I can think of right now,
22 particularly, was a married woman and I certainly would not
23 like to discuss that.

24 Q Okay. Are you still there, Ms. Wright?

25 A I'm still there. We can finish. I am not trying

1 to --

2 Q Okay. Sorry.

3 A Can I get you to hold on just a minute, so that I
4 can get another call in?

5 Q Certainly.

6 A [Pause.]

7 Q When you say that he made comments to you and to
8 other women about their anatomy, the only thing I believe you
9 have mentioned to us specifically is that he made a comment
10 about your boobs.

11 A Yes.

12 Q Were there any other specific comments about
13 women's anatomy that you know of?

14 A Yes, Clarence Thomas talked about women's anatomy
15 when he talked about the kind of women on his staff, he often
16 said I've got some fine women on my staff, and he would say
17 things about individual people's anatomy.

18 Q And can you be any more specific than that, in
19 terms of the type of comments he would make?

20 A I remember specifically him saying that one woman
21 had a big ass.

22 Q And this was a comment that he made to you about
23 another woman?

24 A I was not the only person in that room, come to
25 think of it, but I can't remember exactly who was there.

1 Q But this was a comment that he made in your
2 presence?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And do you remember any other specific comments?

5 A No, I don't.

6 MS. HOGAN: Okay. I think those are all the
7 questions I have for you right now. Terry Wooten, who works
8 for Senator Thurmond, is going to ask you some questions.

9 Terry, are you ready to go, or do you want to take
10 a few minutes' break?

11 MR. WOOTEN: Do you want to talk to me for a minute
12 on the side, or are you ready to go? I've got some things
13 that I can ask and then you can come back.

14 MS. HOGAN: Ms. Wright, do you want to take a break
15 for a few minutes, or are you content to go forward now?

16 MS. WRIGHT: I'm fine. Go ahead.

17 BY MS. HOGAN:

18 Q I do have just one other question that I want to
19 get on the record. Do you have anyone representing you, for
20 instance, a lawyer?

21 A I have talked with friends who are lawyers, but I
22 have not obtained legal counsel, no.

23 MS. HOGAN: Okay. Thank you.

24 BY MR. WOOTEN:

25 Q Is anybody there with you now, or are you alone?

1 A I am alone, me and my dog.

2 Q Are you at work or are you home?

3 A I am at home.

4 Q You said that the first that Judge Thomas made a
5 comment to you was at a retirement party.

6 A No, I did not say that was the first time. That
7 was one time, the time I remember.

8 Q Right. Could you go back and maybe tell us roughly
9 when the first time it was that Judge Thomas had made some
10 comment to you?

11 A No, I can't.

12 Q Is there any reason -- you can't give us the context
13 of maybe what he said the first time?

14 A No, I can't remember the first time, because it was
15 one of a general pattern with Clarence Thomas to pop these
16 things out of his mouth whenever he felt like it.

17 Q When can you say, roughly, when was the first time
18 he made comment to you -- and I don't know if you can or not,
19 but it is obviously a very serious allegation that he made
20 other kinds of comments, and you are somewhat vague about
21 what those comments were or when they took place.

22 A Okay.

23 Q I would just like to see if you can't think back
24 and maybe tell us when was the first time or how long had it
25 been when you were employed at the EEOC before he made the

1 first comment.

2 A Oh, there is no doubt in my mind, it hadn't been
3 very long, but I can't go back and tell you just what day or
4 how many weeks. You know, Clarence Thomas I think felt very
5 comfortable around me, and I want you to understand that I am
6 not sitting here saying to you that I was sexually harassed
7 by Clarence Thomas. I am a very strong-willed person and at
8 no point did I feel intimidated by him. Some other woman
9 might have, but these were not situations that I ran home and
10 ruminated on and wrote down in my diary.

11 Q When he made these comments, how did you feel about
12 it?

13 A I felt that he was annoying and obnoxious pretty
14 much, but, you know --

15 Q Did you take them as a joke, or did you take them
16 as something that maybe, you know, you had been harassed?
17 You said you had not been harassed. I mean did you take them
18 as a --

19 A Not sexually harassment, no.

20 Q I mean did --

21 A Harassment to me dictates some -- I mean indicates
22 some feeling that there is some threat. No, I never did feel
23 threatened or intimidated.

24 BY MS. HOGAN:

25 Q When you use the word "harassment" -- this is

1 Cynthia Hogan again -- do you mean sexually harassed in a
2 legal sense?

3 A I think that, yes, under the legal definition of
4 sexual harassment, what Clarence Thomas did fit the legal
5 definition, yes. I am not a lawyer, but as I understand it,
6 that --

7 Q I'm sorry, it did fit the definition, as you
8 understand it?

9 A As I understand it, yes.

10 BY MR. WOOTEN:

11 Q Let me go back. You had said before you just made
12 this statement that you didn't feel like you were sexually
13 harassed, that you felt like you were more annoyed by it.

14 A Yes, I certainly did make that statement. But what
15 I am saying to you is I am aware that, under the legal
16 definition of sexual harassment, his actions fit the criteria.
17 But was I intimidated to the point where I felt like filing a
18 sexual harassment suit? No, I didn't consider filing then
19 and I wouldn't file one now.

20 Q All right. The first specific time you remember
21 that Judge Thomas said something to you was at the retirement
22 party, that was the first time that you can say specifically
23 this is what he said to me?

24 A Well, I think the use of the word "first" is what
25 is bothering me. That is the one time when I can specifically

1 remember the comment in the context of other circumstances.

2 Q Now, after that happened, were you annoyed or did
3 you feel like you had been harassed, sexually harassed?

4 A Well, I think annoyed was as better term. I simply
5 turned to Lewis Stokes, who was on my right-hand side and
6 carried on a conversation with him.

7 Q All right. Did you ever tell anybody about that
8 incident at all, the fact that Judge Thomas had made a
9 comment to you at the retirement party?

10 A Well, I can't sit here and tell you that I had one
11 conversation about that particular incident, no, but I can
12 say that in the course of other general conversations, it is
13 likely that I did, but I can't say that someone, that that
14 was the focus of any other conversation I had, no.

15 Q Can you give us the name of any individual or
16 individuals that you may have mentioned this to, the fact that
17 something had been said to you at the retirement party?

18 A I could, but I am not willing to do that unless I
19 would first check with them to see if they felt comfortable
20 with me using their name in these proceedings.

21 Q Would you be willing to do that?

22 A I would be willing to check with them, yes.

23 Q Now, the second incident that you talked about to
24 us is when Judge Thomas came to your apartment. Can you give
25 us any indication as to how Judge Thomas knew where you lived?

1 A I had lived in the same apartment for five years on
2 Capitol Hill, three blocks from the Capitol, on C Street.
3 Duddington's Restaurant was literally by backdoor. Anyone who
4 knew me on Capitol Hill knew where I lived.

5 Q Well, let me ask you again: Was there any way -- do
6 you know how or have any indication as to how Judge Thomas
7 would have known where you lived?

8 A No, I didn't ask him.

9 Q All right. Did you ever give him your address?
10 Did you ever tell him where you lived?

11 A I think I probably wrote that down on the employment
12 application.

13 Q All right. Other than putting that on the
14 employment application, did you ever tell Judge Thomas where
15 you lived?

16 A Not that I can recall. I mean that may have been
17 part of our conversation at some point, but nothing
18 significant enough for me to remember.

19 Q Well, if it was part of a conversation, I guess the
20 question would be why would that come up in a conversation
21 that you would have with Judge Thomas?

22 A I can't answer that, because I can't recall a
23 conversation I had with him where that did come up. I am
24 simply allowing for the possibility.

25 Q So, as best you can remember, you never told Judge

1 Thomas where you lived or --

2 A No, I am not going to say I never told Judge Thomas
3 where I lived. That is probably unlikely. I tell most people
4 who you have any type of relationship with, when you talk
5 with them at some point you get to the topic of where you
6 live.

7 Q But you don't have any memory that he asked you
8 about where you lived?

9 A No, I don't have any memory of that.

10 Q Now, you said that he came over in the winter --

11 A What I remember is that it was not hot, it was cold
12 or cool.

13 Q Well, could you go back and recount maybe what you
14 were doing at the time, did you have a doorbell, did he knock
15 at the door? When you realized that Judge Thomas was there,
16 can you just pick up from there and tell us what you thought
17 first, and then what you did?

18 A Well, I went to the door and he was standing at the
19 door, I opened the door and I said probably hello, how are
20 you, come in. My guess is the conversation probably had
21 something to do with what are you doing in this part of this
22 neighborhood. I offered him a beer. We talked. He actually
23 stayed for some time and talked.

24 Q Can you tell us approximately what time it was that
25 he came over?

1 A No. I can remember about what time it was when he
2 left, because it was after midnight and I was getting quite
3 tired of the company.

4 Q Well, did you tell him that he needed to leave?
5 You said he stayed there for some long period of time.

6 A I did not tell him he needed to leave. I probably
7 made quite a few outward suggestions, like yawning and
8 becoming distracted.

9 Q Were you drinking, as well, at the time?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Now, I am sure that if the person who was your boss
12 came over, I assume there would be some conversation. Can
13 you give us maybe a little more general information about
14 what you discussed while he was there? Was this the first
15 time he had ever been to your apartment?

16 A It was.

17 Q So, is it accurate to say that you were probably
18 surprised when he came there?

19 A Yes, it is.

20 Q Well, can you just give us some indication of what
21 maybe you generally talked about?

22 A I think, in general, we talked about the EEOC or
23 changes he wanted to make there, most of them personnel
24 changes. He talked often about wanting to clean out the
25 public affairs department and fire all those folks down

1 there, because they were just a bunch of incompetents. I am
2 sure that was the thrust of it. We discussed that generally
3 whenever we talked, but then he would also, of course, discuss
4 his desire to date me, and I am very adept at turning the
5 conversation towards some other topic.

6 Q All right. Can you be just -- you said, I believe,
7 my notes show that you said that you can't remember specific
8 things. Let me ask you, if I could, Ms. Wright, to try to
9 remember specific things. What did he say to you specifically
10 about wanting to date you? Can you just be more specific
11 about it? Because it is as very serious matter, in my
12 judgment, to say that he came to your house. I mean if he
13 came over to talk about work, that is one thing. If he came
14 over to talk about other things, you know, that is another
15 thing. We just need some information from you about what he
16 talked about, if you could be a little more specific.

17 A I understand that this is as very serious matter.

18 Q I am not trying to --

19 A But I want you to understand that I am telling you,
20 a best as I can, what I know and what I have experienced with
21 the man named Clarence Thomas whom you are about to name to
22 the Court, and in this situation, if it were not for the
23 situation at hand, you probably would not be talking to me.
24 I know that you understand that.

25 I did not keep a journal, I did not write down his

1 comments. I can only tell you in very general terms what my
2 experience with Clarence Thomas has been.

3 Q Well, at the time that he came to your house, were
4 you ever afraid of him?

5 A I was never afraid of Clarence Thomas.

6 Q Now, let's go back to this seminar that you said
7 took place. I was just trying to get a rough time as to when
8 you were at this seminar where you say Judge Thomas made some
9 comment about your anatomy. Can you give us a rough time as
10 to when that was?

11 A We had several seminars that year. The most I
12 could tell you is that I can remember being at one of those
13 seminars when Clarence Thomas made that comment. How can I
14 tell you which seminar it was? Unfortunately, I know it
15 would be most helpful for you, but I cannot tell you. I
16 cannot remember that. Perhaps senility has set in at a young
17 age here, but I can't remember that. We are talking of six
18 or seven years ago.

19 Q Now, the term "boobs" came up. Is that a term that
20 he used when he spoke to you?

21 A No, actually that is a term that I am using.
22 Actually, what he said was what size are your breasts.

23 Q And at the time that statement was made, what was
24 your reaction to it?

25 A I said something like I think you best concentrate

1 on remembering the names of people you are going to be
2 sharing the panel with.

3 Q All right. Let me ask you, on either one of these
4 two specific occasions when Judge Thomas came to your house
5 or to your apartment or that he made the comments about your
6 anatomy, did you tell anybody at all about that, anybody that
7 you could remember who could corroborate that you, in fact,
8 told them about it?

9 A You know, I really don't mind cooperating with you,
10 but at this point I truly feel like I have answered these
11 questions that you are asking me already. Now, if you have
12 something new you want to ask me, I don't mind answering
13 them, but I am not going to go over this over and over and
14 over again.

15 Q My question to you is: If Clarence Thomas would
16 come to your apartment, just as though Senator Thurmond would
17 come to my apartment, I think that would be a pretty big deal
18 and I would probably tell somebody. My question to you is:
19 Did you ever tell anybody that Judge Thomas came to your
20 apartment?

21 A At one point today I already said yes, I did
22 specifically discuss the fact that Judge Thomas came to my
23 apartment with someone else whose name I don't care to use,
24 unless I call her, call that person and she says I don't mind
25 if you use my name. I am not going to volunteer the

1 participation of somebody who at this point is not a part of
2 this proceeding.

3 Q Let me ask you, would you be willing to do that?

4 A I would be willing to call this person; Lyons is
5 her name, if you -- I guess that this person would mind
6 because this person is still in a fairly political position.

7 Q Now, let's go to the time when you say that Judge
8 Thomas had fired you.

9 You mentioned something about a press conference
10 that you had held the day before.

11 A That's correct.

12 Q Was Judge Thomas agitated about that particular
13 press conference?

14 A He did express some agitation at that press
15 conference over the fact that Commissioner Gallegos was not
16 there.

17 Q I see, and you said that he had said generally that
18 he was never really satisfied with your performance?

19 A Yes, he did say that.

20 Q Do you, did Judge Thomas ever get more specific
21 than that, that you can remember?

22 A No, the only thing he said was that I didn't fire
23 the people in my office that he wanted me to fire.

24 Q And can you, did you have the authority to fire
25 people in your office?

1 A Political appointees, yes. I'm sure you understand
2 about the authority to fire career employees, don't you?

3 Q Frankly, I don't, but I presume it is not easy to
4 fire them.

5 A Career employees, let me just say career employees,
6 you don't just walk in and fire a career Federal employee.

7 Q I would assume it would be difficult. But I guess
8 my question is, and you may have answered it, is whether or
9 not Judge Thomas was more specific with you about why you
10 were being fired?

11 A No, he was not. But I think on that issue it might
12 be, it might be important to point out, that you know, Judge
13 Thomas gave me a wonderful recommendation when I took my
14 current job. It's my understanding that he said to the
15 person who called my references that firing me was the
16 biggest mistake he'd ever made in his life. You can call
17 that person, however, and ask her specifically what her words
18 are. You can call my office and perhaps it is written in my
19 files what he said, but I think that that, in itself,
20 indicates, you know, or should be some indication of what I'm
21 trying to tell you about that particular day. He was not
22 specific. I never did believe whatever reasons that were
23 that he gave me. My guess was that it was simply political,
24 that there was someone more powerful than I who wanted a
25 position as director of Public Affairs.

1 Q Right. Obviously you don't think you should have
2 been fired?

3 A No, I do not. I don't think I should have been
4 fired, but I'm really happy that he did.

5 Q Okay.

6 A And let me point out, obviously he didn't think so
7 either.

8 Q But because you say that he said that he made, that
9 that was the biggest mistake that he'd ever made?

10 Or a mistake that he had made to fire you?

11 A Yes. You know, I'm quoting someone on my staff,
12 Mary Newsome, I mean someone at the newspaper who did the
13 actual calls on my references so I don't want to put words in
14 his mouth, that weren't there. I'm sure she wrote those
15 comments down for the file, but you know, he said that I was
16 a great employee and would be an asset to everybody's staff,
17 etc.

18 MR. WOOTEN: If you will excuse me for just a
19 minute.

20 [Pause.]

21 BY MR. WOOTEN:

22 Q But you, since you were fired, you never -- and this
23 is a little bit unclear and somebody has asked me to clarify
24 this -- did you ever give Judge Thomas' name as a reference?

45 A I never gave his name as a reference.

1 MR. WOOTEN: Will you excuse us just a second.

2 [Pause.]

3 MS. HOGAN: Ms. Wright, would you like to take a
4 break for a few minutes?

5 MS. WRIGHT: Yes, I would like to get a glass of
6 water.

7 MS. HOGAN: Okay, that's fine.

8 [Pause.]

9 BY MR. WOOTEN:

10 Q Ms. Wright, if we could just continue?

11 A Okay.

12 Q It is my understanding -- and this is a question
13 that someone else has asked me to ask -- that Judge Thomas
14 gave you a recommendation at some point, some kind of glowing
15 recommendation. Is it from your current employer?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And the question would be, how did your current
18 employer, if you know, how did your current employer have the
19 opportunity or the ability to contact Judge Thomas if you had
20 never used his name as a reference?

21 A When I apply for work, I generally, for my resume,
22 every place that I have ever worked before. People that were
23 interested in hiring me at the Charlotte Observer did a
24 thorough check and they called every place that I had ever
25 worked before.

1 I mean you asked me if I have ever used Clarence
2 Thomas as a reference. I take that to me, do I list him as a
3 personal reference of someone that I want to be called? The
4 answer is, no, but I mean, you know, when I, my resume has
5 every place that I have ever worked at it, and I have no
6 problem with people checking every place I have ever worked
7 before.

8 Q Okay. Were you aware, obviously you were aware
9 that Judge Thomas was nominated to the Supreme Court?

10 A Yes.

11 Q I presume that you are aware of that very early on
12 in the process. I think he was nominated or the President
13 announced his intent to nominate, it may have been July the
14 1st.

15 A I am aware of that.

16 Q Can you tell us just what your feelings were at the
17 time that you heard he had been nominated to the Supreme
18 Court?

19 A I never wavered in my feelings about that. I don't
20 think, I don't think that Clarence Thomas is a good man and I
21 did not think that he should be on the Supreme Court.

22 Q And that's based on what?

23 A It's based on several conversations that I've had
24 with him and, and my opinion of him that he's really a kind
25 of, you know, not such a good person.

1 Q Well, is it based on the comments that annoyed you
2 or is it based on something else?

3 A Well, I mean, I can, I can give you several
4 comments that I've heard Clarence Thomas make that I think,
5 you know, are unbecoming of any individual, period, but
6 certainly unbecoming of someone who is going to spend the
7 rest of his life on the Supreme Court.

8 Q Well, can you just -- you said that you didn't think
9 that he should be on the Supreme Court, could you just tell
10 us why? So you say it's because of comments. Is it the
11 comments that we've discussed this morning, or something else?

12 A No, they are comments other than what we discussed
13 this morning. Let me name, I would say three. My
14 predecessor, Al Sweeney, who was an older man and quite
15 sickly. I, you know, Clarence Thomas in my opinion pretty
16 much wanted to force him to retire. Obviously I benefited
17 from that; once the position was open I was named Director of
18 Public Affairs.

19 But I remember Clarence Thomas saying to me, "Al
20 Sweeney is old, he's no good. He has one foot in the grave,
21 and the other one on a banana peel."

22 A second situation here. I remember sitting in a
23 staff meeting with Clarence Thomas and the majority white
24 staff there, and Clarence and several of the legal staffers
25 had gone to Mississippi for some type of meeting there. And

1 one of the staff members were saying they felt pretty
2 intimidated in Mississippi because they were with an
3 interracial group, and I remember Clarence sitting there and
4 rearing back in his chair with a cigar in his mouth and
5 saying, "I have no problem with Mississippi. You know why I
6 like Mississippi, because they still sell those little
7 Pickaninnies dolls down there. And I bought me a few of them,
8 too."

9 Okay? There was another occasion that I remember
10 when Clarence was talking to Jeff -- his last name was Funder
11 or something, Funderburk or something like that and he was
12 general counsel at the time. And Jeff was complaining about
13 not being able to get money for something. I don't remember
14 what that something was, mortgage or whatever. And I
15 remember Clarence saying to Jeff, "Well, you know, why you
16 can't get any money, because you're not black enough. Now,
17 if you grew a Dashiki, and if you grew an Afro and put on a
18 Dashiki, you would get all the Government money you want."

19 I remember Clarence telling me that one of the
20 people that Clarence wanted me to fire he wanted me to fire
21 him because he said this man was "a sycophant". He wanted me
22 to fire this other person because he said, "This man was a
23 dufus."

24 You know, I am of the opinion that Clarence is, you
25 know, not a very nice person. I was of that opinion before I

1 left EEOC and even, I can assure you that even if I had left
2 there under better circumstances, if he had thrown me the
3 biggest party in the world, I would still be of the opinion
4 that Clarence Thomas should not sit on the Supreme Court.

5 Q So what about his political philosophy? Does that
6 weigh into your decision that you don't think he should be on
7 the Court?

8 A Because of his political philosophies?

9 Q Right.

10 A No, his political philosophies are his own. He has
11 a right to whatever opinions he wants, I mean, he holds on
12 various issues. I am talking about character, pure and
13 simple.

14 Q Well, let me ask you -- I assume you are aware that
15 the committee had a lot of hearings. We heard from a lot of
16 witnesses.

17 A Yes.

18 Q I think we went for about eight days and most of
19 them were covered on TV. Can you tell us why you chose to
20 wait until now to come forward?

21 A Well, I think a more appropriate explanation of
22 what is going on here is I'm answering questions that are
23 just now being asked. But I must say that I was perfectly
24 willing to keep my opinions to myself, except, of course,
25 when asked about the Clarence nomination. I did not feel

1 that it was a good thing, until I saw Anita Hill on television
2 Monday night and my conscience started bothering me because I
3 knew I felt from my experience with Clarence Thomas that he
4 was quite capable of doing what she said. And it became a
5 very moral struggle with me at that point.

6 I was struggling with trying to determine, trying
7 to decide whether to say something, when I got a call from
8 the Senate Judiciary Committee and that question became no
9 longer a question.

10 Q All right, now you say that you got a call from the
11 committee, when you decided you were going to come forward,
12 did you call somebody or did somebody first call you?

13 A Somebody first called me.

14 Q Can you tell us who that was?

15 A It was Dugas Mark Schwartz.

16 Q And so he first called you?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Do you have any idea as to how he got your name?

19 A He said that he had gotten information that I
20 worked for Clarence Thomas. He knew of a column that I had
21 written that was not going to be published detailing my
22 opinion of this, of Hill's allegations.

23 Q I am sorry, your opinion of what?

24 A Oh Hill's allegations.

25 Q I see, could you make that available to us?

1 A No.

2 Q Can you give us some general description of what
3 you said?

4 A No, I'd rather not.

5 Because the column was not written in, with the
6 intent of publishing it. It was written in the context of a
7 discussion that I was having with my, with my supervising
8 editor about becoming a columnist.

9 Q Okay, so the first contact you had was when
10 somebody from the committee called you as opposed to you
11 calling the committee?

12 A That's correct.

13 Q Has anybody from the committee -- and I am not
14 talking about just from Senator Biden's staff -- but has any
15 staff member, from any member in Washington, have they called
16 you about this?

17 A No, they have not.

18 Q Can you just give us some indication as to how many
19 conversations, how many times you have talked to congressional
20 staff? And I presume you have just talked to Mr. Schwartz,
21 you said?

22 A Two or three times.

23 Q Okay.

24 MS. HOGAN: I might state, for the record, that
25 after -- Ms. Wright, correct me if I misstate anything --

1 after you spoke to Mark Schwartz, I and Mark Schwartz called
2 you back to set up today's telephone call. So I did speak
3 with you last night about the procedures for today.

4 MS. WRIGHT: The answer may be yes, there was
5 another woman involved and I am sorry to get into that issue,
6 but I remember only Mark Schwartz name.

7 MS. HOGAN: I can state that it was me, but I just
8 wanted to be clear that another conversation occurred at
9 which I was a part.

10 MS. WRIGHT: Okay, thank you, yes.

11 BY MR. WOOTEN:

12 Q Okay, when did you have the first contact with the
13 committee, with Mr. Schwartz?

14 A Yesterday.

15 Q Okay.

16 A At probably about maybe 5 o'clock or something like
17 that, I guess, I'm not really sure.

18 Q Okay, has anybody else -- and obviously it wouldn't
19 be any staff people -- has anybody else called and urged you
20 to come forward, or is this something did of your own
21 volition?

22 A People who know me who know that I know Clarence
23 Thomas have suggested and urged me to make a statement since
24 the day that Clarence Thomas was nominated, or at least since
25 the day the nomination became public.

1 MR. WOOTEN: Give me just one second, I think we
2 are pretty close to wrapping up here.

3 [Pause.]

4 BY MR. WOOTEN:

5 Q When you decided to come forward and people had
6 talked to you about coming forward, did you choose to come
7 forward because of the statements that Judge Thomas made to
8 you about dates, and the fact that he came to your house, or
9 did you come forward because of his character, that you just
10 didn't think he was somebody who should be on the Court?

11 MS. HOGAN: Excuse me, I just want to clarify that
12 I am not misunderstanding something. My understanding, Ms.
13 Wright, is that you did not come forward, that you were
14 contacted by Mark Schwartz of the committee?

15 MS. WRIGHT: Actually I was just about to correct
16 that, myself. I am sorry, Terry, but I cannot answer, I
17 cannot answer the questions if you are going to insist that I
18 decided to come forward. Obviously I did not come forward
19 with anything. I am just answering questions that are just
20 being asked of me.

21 BY MR. WOOTEN:

22 Q Let me see maybe I can rephrase. You said that
23 other people had suggested that you come forward. I guess my
24 question is, is the thrust of your concerns about Judge
25 Thomas, is it the comments that he made to you, or is it just

1 your general belief that he should not be on the Court?

2 A The thrust of my concerns at this point was to not
3 watch a woman, who I believed in my gut to be telling the
4 truth about a man who I believe to be totally capable of
5 doing what she said he did, the thrust of my concern was not
6 to watch her become victimized, when I knew of similar
7 situations that I had had with Mr. Thomas.

8 Q I think we are very close, just maybe one or two
9 questions, but we are very close to being finished.

10 A Let me just go on and clarify one other point I
11 think you are getting to here, as far as whether I, at any
12 point, felt the need to rush out and try and stop Clarence
13 Thomas' nomination to the Supreme Court. The obvious answer
14 to that is, no.

15 Q All right.

16 Others have given me some questions, and I want to
17 give everybody their chance to have their say through me, I
18 suppose.

19 Let me ask you, do you need a break?

20 A No, I am fine, go ahead.

21 Q Let me ask you one other question, did you and
22 Judge Thomas, I presume you all never had dated, or never did
23 date, or never go to dinner or anything like that?

24 A That is correct.

25 Q Okay. Now, can you tell us maybe who was your

1 closest friend at the EEOC during the year or so that you
2 were there?

3 A I could but I would rather not mention that
4 person's name without checking with that person to see how
5 they felt about their name being mentioned.

6 Q Well, let me ask you this, would you consider one
7 particular person your closest friend there?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And did you ever discuss the concerns you had, the
10 annoyances you had with Judge Thomas with that friend?

11 A Yes.

12 Q You did? All right. Well, if you would, I think
13 it may be helpful if you would check with that friend to see
14 if he or she is willing to come forward.

15 A Okay, I will be glad to do that.

16 Q Okay.

17 A But you keep using the term, come forward. I can
18 pretty much assure you that this person is not going to come
19 forward or want to be very involved in this at all.

20 Q I understand that. Well, I think -- and this is not
21 to encourage you to do one thing or another, you are certainly
22 free to do anything you want -- but that is something that, of
23 course, we are asking, because it would substantiate and
24 support what you have said, you see?

25 A I understand. I really do, and I understand your

1 responsibility to substantiate what I have said. And all I
2 can do is tell you what I know and what my experience has
3 been and you have to make your own judgments as to the
4 voracity of those statements. You know, I have no problem
5 talking to other people who could corroborate what I am
6 saying but, surely you understand that this is not at all a
7 pleasant situation to be in, and it is not something that
8 even I take lightly, even though I think I have got the guts
9 of a bull. But I don't necessarily relish the kind of fall
10 out that comes from speaking up in this type of a situation.

11 And I am not going to encourage anybody to do what
12 I have done.

13 Q It is just a question of if they would mind
14 committee staff contacting them to discuss what they may or
15 may not know, but let me ask you just a couple of other
16 questions.

17 Did you ever have evaluations at the EEOC prior to
18 that time that you were fired by Judge Thomas?

19 A You say up to the time?

20 Q Or prior to the time.

21 A Yes, yes, I did.

22 Q And who evaluated you at that time?

23 A Clarence Thomas did.

24 Q And can you just tell us the gist of those evalua-
25 tions, if you feel comfortable with that?

1 A I only -- I remember only one evaluation and it was
2 sort of a middle-line kind of evaluation. I wasn't satisfied
3 with it. Obviously, I thought I was doing a pretty good job
4 and I deserved a better evaluation, but it was one of those,
5 you know -- I don't even remember what the evaluation form was
6 like. I just remember it was sort of, you know -- if it was
7 a scale of, you know, maybe a scale of A to F, it was a C.

8 Q All right, and you only have one evaluation that
9 you can recall at this time? That's not a trick question;
10 I'm just asking you, recalling the year that you were there.

11 A That's the only one that I remember, yes.

12 Q Okay.

13 A There could have been one that was great, but I
14 don't remember that one.

15 Q Okay. All right, if you just give us one or two
16 minutes, maybe we're closing to wrapping up. I don't know,
17 but other people are -- I want to be sure that everybody has
18 a chance.

19 MS. HOGAN: I have just three or four questions to
20 follow up with. Terry, do you want me to go ahead?

21 MR. WOOTEN: Yes, why don't you go ahead.

22 BY MS. HOGAN:

23 Q Very quickly, Ms. Wright, because I know we've kept
24 you a long time, and I appreciate your speaking with us, you
25 were discussing before the fact that Clarence Thomas had

1 asked you to fire some of the career federal employees on
2 your staff.

3 It's my understanding that you, even with, you
4 know, authority over your staff, would have needed cause to
5 fire a career employee. Is that your understanding?

6 A Oh, yes, that's definitely my understanding.

7 Q And that's not the case with a political appointee,
8 is that correct?

9 A No, that is not the case at all. I mean, surely,
10 you guys know that that body is exempt from fair labor
11 standards.

12 Q And you were a political appointee at the EEOC, is
13 that correct?

14 A That is correct.

15 Q Okay, just a couple of more questions. You've
16 stated that the type of comments that Clarence Thomas made to
17 you that we've been discussing today were made on numerous
18 occasions. Can you give us any sense of what the rate of
19 these type of comments were? Did they occur once a month,
20 did they occur once a week? You know, can you give us any
21 general sense of that?

22 A Well, let's see, if I had to put it in a context of
23 how many times I would see him and he may make a comment, I'd
24 say probably it would be one out of four or one of out five
25 encounters with him, you know, he may make some statement.

1 Q Okay, and these were statements specifically about
2 you?

3 A Well, specifically about me and, like, you know,
4 when are you going to date me, that kind of a thing.

5 Q Exactly, okay. Did he also make, then, statements
6 about other women to you with any kind of regularity?

7 A No, not of that nature, if that's what you're
8 asking. I mean, we may have discussed other women in the
9 context of the way they were performing their jobs or
10 something.

11 Q Well, I guess what I'm asking is, earlier you had
12 told us that he did, on occasion, make statements about other
13 women's anatomy in front of you, and I guess I'm asking was
14 that an isolated incident that you described for us or did
15 that also occur with some frequency.

16 A Oh, that's not something that I would say was
17 frequent. Those are just what I remember as a couple of
18 situations when that happened.

19 Q Okay, thanks. Also, just briefly, we discussed the
20 comment that Judge Thomas made to you when you were at the
21 EEOC seminar out of town when he asked about your breast size
22 and complimented your dress, and I'm just wondering if you
23 recall at all even generally what you were wearing at the
24 time.

25 A No, I do not.

1 MS. HOGAN: Okay. That's all I have.

2 BY MR. WOOTEN:

3 Q Did Judge Thomas -- this is Terry again -- did Judge
4 Thomas ever say that he could ask you out of the EEOC because
5 of the professional relationship he intended to have with his
6 employees there?

7 A Did ever say that he couldn't ask me out?

8 Q Yes.

9 A No, he never said anything like that.

10 Q Let me ask you, do you know a Kate Simperand?

11 A Kate Simerade?

12 Q Simperade, Simperande?

13 A Yes, I do.

14 Q And have you ever charged her with any kind of
15 racism before or --

16 A Yes, I did. When I left the AID, I wrote her a
17 letter of recommendation saying that I felt she -- I'm para-
18 phrasing it, but I felt that she was quite unfair and racist
19 and insecure and lots of other things.

20 Q Can you tell us what led to you writing that letter?

21 A I really don't think that's relevant. I mean, can
22 you tell me why you want me to discuss my relationship with
23 Kate Simerade?

24 Q Well, we would be interested if you had made
25 allegations against other people.

1 MS. HOGAN: Is this -- excuse me for a minute. Why
2 don't we go off the record for a minute, if you can just hold
3 on, Ms. Wright.

4 MS. WRIGHT: Okay.

5 [Discussion off the record.]

6 BY MR. WOOTEN:

7 Q Let me ask you one more question. Again, I said
8 earlier I thought we were close to the end; I think we are
9 this time.

10 A Okay.

11 Q There's been a request to ask you a question, and
12 obviously this may be something that you don't want to
13 answer, but it's up to you. It's a question of who you voted
14 for in the '80, '84 and '88 --

15 MS. HOGAN: No, no, no.

16 BY MR. WOOTEN:

17 Q Well, let me ask you, do you consider yourself a
18 Republican? You don't have to say who you voted for.

19 MS. HOGAN: You don't have to answer that question
20 either.

21 MS. WRIGHT: I am a registered Republican.

22 MS. HOGAN: I'm not your counsel, but --

23 MR. WOOTEN: Okay, all right.

24 MS. HOGAN: I'm sorry to do this to you, Ms.
85 Wright. Can you hang on for one more minute?

1 MS. WRIGHT: Sure.

2 [Discussion off the record.]

3 MS. HOGAN: Ms. Wright, this is Cynthia Hogan
4 again. Let me put you on the speaker phone. I believe we
5 have no further questions, but I just want to make sure that
6 that's the case by putting you on the record.

7 Ms. Wright?

8 MS. WRIGHT: Yes?

9 MS. HOGAN: Terry, I'm aware you have no further
10 questions?

11 MR. WOOTEN: We have no further questions, and
12 thanks.

13 MS. WRIGHT: Okay, thank you.

14 MS. HOGAN: Ms. Wright, we appreciate it very much.
15 We're sorry for taking up so much of your time.

16 MS. WRIGHT: All right.

17 MS. HOGAN: We appreciate your willingness to talk
18 with us today. Thank you.

19 MS. WRIGHT: Bye-bye.

20 MS. HOGAN: Bye-bye.

21 [Whereupon, at 12:35 p.m., the interview was
22 concluded.]