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NEWS

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THOMAS NOMINATION

WHO IS BEHIND THE "WEEKEND ALLEGATION" ?; TEXT OF SENATOR DOLE'S REMARKS ON SENATE FLOOR

I AM CERTAIN A LOT OF US ARE CONCERNED ABOUT WEEKEND ALLEGATIONS. AND I HAVE BEEN IN THE CLOAKROOM LISTENING FOR ABOUT 25 MINUTES TO THE PRESS CONFERENCE BEING HELD BY ANITA HILL, WHO APPARENTLY GAVE THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AN AFFIDAVIT WHICH SOMEHOW WAS LEAKED TO THE PRESS -- I DON'T WANT TO QUESTION HER CREDIBILITY EITHER WAY. BUT I THINK THERE ARE A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS SHE'S RAISING IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT OUGHT TO BE AT LEAST INVESTIGATED.

THAT IS, SHE KEEPS TALKING ABOUT THE SENATE OR "THEM" OR THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, BUT NEVER IDENTIFIES WHO SHE'S BEEN WORKING WITH IN THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE. SHE SAID SHE WAS CONTACTED BY THE COMMITTEE. WELL I'M SURE THE WHOLE COMMITTEE DIDN'T CONTACT HER. SOMEBODY ON THE COMMITTEE CONTACTED HER. SOMEBODY ON THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN DRIVING THIS TO THIS RESULT.

I WOULD HOPE THAT WE WOULD FIND OUT, WITH ALL THE INTEREST IN THE PRESS IN THIS WEEKEND ALLEGATION, PRECISELY WHO STIMULATED THE EFFORT IN THE FIRST PLACE; HOW LONG THEY HAD KNOWN ANITA HILL; IF THEY'D KNOWN OR GONE TO LAW SCHOOL WITH HER AS SOME SAY; WHAT COMMITTEE THEY MAY BE ON IN THE SENATE, WHETHER JUDICIARY COMMITTEE OR SOME OTHER COMMITTEE; AND WHAT PRECISELY THEY DID AND WHO LEAKED THE AFFIDAVIT OVER THE WEEKEND.

I THINK MANY OF US FELT WHEN THE VOTE WAS POSTPONED UNTIL TUESDAY THERE WOULD BE A WEEKEND REVELATION. WE'RE NOT TOTALLY NAIVE IN THIS BODY. SO IT CAME AS NO GREAT SURPRISE THAT LATE SATURDAY OR WHENEVER THE FIRST INFORMATION CAME OVER NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO, BECAUSE WE WERE AWARE OF THIS, SENATOR MITCHELL AND I HAD BEEN BRIEFED BY SENATOR BIDEN, SENATOR THURMOND. BUT I THINK IN ALL THE EMPHASIS BEING ON WHAT ANITA HILL --

BUT I THINK IN ALL THE EMPHASIS BEING ON WHAT ANITA HILL --AND AGAIN, I DON'T QUESTION HER CREDIBILITY ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, HER INTEGRITY, NOR DO I QUESTION CLARENCE THOMAS' INTEGRITY -- IT JUST SEEMS TO ME THAT IF WE'RE GOING TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS, AND HAVE ALL THE FACTS FOR ANYBODY WHO'D LIKE THE FACTS IN THE SENATE, WE OUGHT TO FIND OUT WHO'S DRIVING THIS EFFORT. WHO'S BEHIND IT? WHY WAS SHE CONTACTED? WHY WAS SHE CONTACTED AGAIN? WHY WAS THE AFFIDAVIT LEAKED? WHO'S BEEN INVOLVED IN THE INVESTIGATION?

SHE KEEPS TALKING ABOUT TALKING TO "THEM". WHO ARE "THEM"? I DON'T THINK IT'S SENATOR BIDEN OR SENATOR THURMOND. "THEM" MUST BE SOMEBODY EITHER IN THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE OR SOMEONE IN THE SENATE.

SO WE NEED TO FIND OUT WHAT SHE MEANS WHEN SHE REFERS TO THE "SENATE", "THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE", "THEM", "STAFF"? --AND WHAT PRECISELY TOOK PLACE IN ALL THEIR CONVERSATIONS AND WHAT SHE WAS ADVISED TO DO BY CERTAIN STAFF PEOPLE OR ANYBODY ELSE? MAY BE IF IT IS A SENATOR THAT'S SOMETHING ELSE. SO I WOULD HOPE THAT THAT INFORMATION MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING AS WELL.

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