

Thomas denies sex allegations



WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas "very forcefully denied" allegations by a law professor that he sexually harassed her when she worked for him a decade ago, a Republican senator said Sunday. And the White House dismissed the accusations as "unfounded."

But Democratic senators called the accusations very serious and two said a delay in Tuesday's scheduled confirmation vote might be necessary.

Thomas himself made no comment on the allegations by Anita Hill. The allegations were first disclosed by National Public Radio and Newsday.

The University of Oklahoma law professor told the Judiciary Committee last month that Thomas had detailed scenes from pornographic movies to her when she worked in the early 1980s as his legal assistant at the Department of Education and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission,

according to a source familiar with the allegations.

Ms. Hill told the committee that Thomas had asked her out and when she refused, began to describe his sexual interests and the pornographic scenes, but he never touched her, the source said.

"I felt as though I did not have a choice, that the pressure was such that I was going to have to submit to that pressure in order to continue getting good assignments, being able to work and be comfortable in the work environment," Ms. Hill said in an interview with National Public Radio.

The committee did not disclose Ms. Hill's allegations publicly before sending Thomas' nomination to the full Senate late last month without recommendation. The committee told the White House of the accusations and a two-day FBI inquiry ensued.

While Thomas maintained his silence, the White House issued a statement saying it had "reviewed the (FBI) report and

determined that the allegation was unfounded."

The White House said President Bush "continues to believe that Judge Thomas is eminently qualified to serve on the Supreme Court and expects him to be confirmed promptly."

A Senate vote is scheduled for Tuesday and a majority of senators have indicated their support for Thomas.

Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr., D-Del., chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said in a statement that Ms. Hill "first contacted the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday Sept. 12 and insisted that her allegations remain confidential, that her name not be used and that the nominee not be apprised of her allegations. Not until Monday, Sept. 23, and several phone calls later, did Ms. Hill notify the committee that she would allow an FBI investigation of her allegations.

Small bomb explodes at OSU frat house



CORVALLIS (AP) — An early morning explosion Saturday at the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity broke windows and sent glass flying but no one was injured, authorities said.

The bomb apparently was made out of a paper container stuffed with gunpowder. There were no suspects but police were investigating.

Fraternity member Damon Carlisle said he walked over to retrieve his bike from in front of a living room window shortly after 2 a.m. when he saw something burning on a bench just outside.

"He told me to come over and look at it," said fraternity President Jon Tschetter. "Then he realized it was a fuse and he jerked me back just to the edge of the curtain. Luckily neither of us were in front of the window."

The blast awakened neighbors and brought a police officer who heard it.

Ten minutes later, Tschetter said, Someone called and said, "boom," then hung up. He said he knew of no reason why someone would single out the fraternity.

"It's some sicko with an attitude problem who has the ability to get the material together to pull something like this off," said Dan Elliott, a frat member.

The blast blew a corner off the bench and curled its iron frame. It also shattered 65 panes in lead-lined windows installed when the house was originally built in 1923, fraternity members said.

"It's really a shame because they don't make them anymore," Tschetter said. "We'll have to call our trustee and see how to get them repaired. Hopefully we have insurance coverage."

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