

Got a little frustrated with the hearings over the past two days and so sent the letter below to both the Wall Street Journal and the Richmond Times Dispatch. Of course don't know if it will even be published, but allow me to vent.

----- Original Message -----

From: Ronald Smith

To: wsj.ltrs@wsj.com

Date: September 7, 2018

Subject: Senator, just one question

In watching the hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee regarding the nomination of Judge Bret Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court, and specifically the questioning by too many of the Democrat Senators, I am reminded of the question raised to new law students regarding the wrong way to question someone. Quite simply, the practice on too many occasions by Senators during these hearings requiring a "yes or no" answer simply puts those Senators, and the Senate in general, in an extremely bad light. Nevertheless, Judge Kavanaugh's patience and answers have proven these Senators to be ineffective in their individual pursuits.

So to better illustrate, I would offer the following in the context that there has been formed a Citizens Committee before which each Democrat Senator will have to appear to determine whether he/she should remain a Senator. The illustration below is in the context of a male Senator, but is equally applicable to a female Senator merely by substituting "husband" for "wife." So, as a member of this Citizens Committee, I offer the following as illustrative of the bad practice of too many, if not all, of the Democrat Senators on the Judiciary Committee regarding Judge Kavanaugh:

“Senator, thank you for appearing today to address this very important question as to whether you should remain a Senator. I have just one question, and it requires just a simple yes or no answer. Senator, have you stopped beating your wife? ... Just a simple yes or no Senator....Well, since you refuse to answer, I must conclude that you are trying to hide something from us. In fact, based on this lack of response and the obvious conclusion that can be drawn, I think we generally can conclude that not only are you hiding relevant information from this committee, but in fact that a reasonable conclusion may be drawn by the whole committee that you support wife-beating. I have no further questions of this Senator, Mr. Chairman.”

Ronald M. Smith

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