The Republican Response to Professor Ford—We All Lost

September 28, 2018

After watching Thursday’s excruciating and palpable testimony by Christine Blasey Ford, I say to the Republican Judiciary Committee members: By indicating a desire to vote for Judge Brett Kavanaugh’s appointment to the Supreme Court without delay or an FBI investigation, you demonstrated an unwillingness—perhaps incapability—to take seriously Ford’s allegation of sexual misconduct by cross examining her.

In addition to rejecting a reasonable call for a delay in the process to conduct an FBI investigation that would provide the Senate with all relevant evidence, you abdicated your Constitutional responsibility by outsourcing your duty to a female prosecutor—a strategy that may have failed.

Thursday’s hearing should not be viewed as a court of law where the accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty. It was a confirmation hearing; hence, the burden is on the Senate to prove Kavanaugh has the character of someone worthy of promotion.

The hearing came off as a political spectacle. Despite Republican protests, the purpose wasn’t to create fairness. Instead it was a symptom of Republican partisanship and fear. This won’t be lost on voters. Many will ask them: What does this say about your fitness to represent us, capability to question Dr. Ford respectfully and professionally, allegiance to the rule of law, and willingness to fulfill your Constitutional duty to provide advice and consent?

Everyone lost on Thursday — the two human beings whose lives and reputations were at stake, the Senate, and all of us who trust in America’s government institutions.

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