

LESTER ROSEN - JIM WOLFF

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I tune in to Senate cloakroom and hear that 2036 is scheduled to be up today.

I go to Quayle's office and Mary Moses says "We had one unhappy Senator here last night. Did you hear that Pritts put a hold on our bill the other day? Dan had a colloquy with Baker last night."

I talked to Lester Rosen. "It's still a struggle. It's like false labor. You go to the hospital and come back, you go and come back. We were supposed to be up on the floor last Thursday, but the administration had some objections. Even last night Shasteen called and said he had 16 merely "technical amendments" that the Labor Department wanted before they would support the bill. I asked him, "Do you have anyone to introduce them?" He said 'No'. I think they are down to three amendments now. I don't know who is going to introduce them. Dan has made it clear that he will not introduce any substantive amendments. Dan called Duberstein last night to make sure the admin. still supported the bill. He said they were in full support. But the Labor Department is still fighting us. I don't think the Administration knows how important it is. It's important to us. And it's important to them. It's not a high priority item for them."

I run into Jim Wolff. "All day yesterday I got calls from other offices asking if the administration had withdrawn its support for the bill. They said they had heard rumors that the administration had withdrawn its support. We spent the day pouring water on that fire. We told them that Stockman was strongly in favor of it. Last night Dan called Duberstein to make certain the administration was on board. He said they were completely on board. Pam

Turner called later and said they had told the Labor Department to stop interfering with the bill. There's a conflict between the bureaucrats in the Labor Department and the White House. What's been happening on the inside is that Pritts put a hold on the bill this week. He's a good friend of Shasteen, and they have been using this back channel. This week Pritts put a hold on the bill without telling Dan, but even worse, without telling Hatch. He did not even inform his own Senator. Dan was furious. It's not worth spelling a lot of political blood over, but Dan ought to ask for his resignation. We talked about it in the office. It is insubordination. It violates the spirit if not the letter of the staff member's relationship. We hear that Hatch was furious with Pritts. He should be."

"Dan has been good humored about it the whole time. This morning he came in and said 'Well, what did they do to us while we were asleep.?'"

The trench warfare on this bill is admin. vs. Quayle.