

Dan McKenna

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I asked about (AWACS) media interest. "There was the same level of media interest as there was on the President's economic program, a little less than the O'Connor thing and the assassination attempt. By that I mean the press called us for statements--we didn't push them... They kept calling and asking us 'is there any change he might change.' The local press did that--Arlen is far from being a national Senator. But I would tell them 'No, he won't change. There's no chance. You can count on it'. He took his position early and inflexibly. He didn't agonize over it like some of the guys. And it made it much easier for me. I didn't have to spend much of my time on it and I knew just what to say."

He said AS wrote a letter to Reagan very early on telling him it was 'a losing issue politically' and suggesting he not send up the proposed sale.

Said AS didn't lobby anyone on it, and that only time Administration contacted him was an "informational visit by Buckley the Wednesday before the debate. Arlen listened politely."