

Thurday.

DAN McKENNA

October 1, 1981

I stopped by to see Dan early on, (8:30) to make sure I was clued in to the day's proceedings.

I asked if the "backgrounder" was going to be held at 10:00. "We did it yesterday. Only one person came--a guy from the Baltimore Sun. Paul had hoped there would be more. We had contacted Newsweek, the New York Times, the Washington Post and so forth. But nobody seemed to be interested. Some of them said they would come, but they didn't. It was pretty thin."

DM - "I'm sorry I missed it."

DM - "You didn't miss anything. Nothing happened. We are trying to crack the national media. But so far we haven't been successful. Arlen wants to do it--in a dignified manner (smile). He wants to do it. He'll be successful."

"I think it's a pretty radical bill. He'll have a lot of trouble getting it through Congress. The liberals will gang up on it. I agree with him. But the liberals want to change the social conditions. Well, that's not going to happen. And, second, even if it did it wouldn't make any difference to the people we're talking about. As Frank Rizzo used to say, 'I never knew a criminal who stole to put milk and butter and eggs on the table for a starving family. They steal to get fancy cars and fancy women.' Oh I have quite a speech on that."

Re Press Conference. "We sent out a press release yesterday and delivered it to all the people in the press gallery. I personally contacted all the Washington based Philadelphia papers. Then we sent out a notice of the press conference to everyone we knew. When you come, get right in there and pretend you're a reporter and keep writing--Arlen won't notice who you are!"

I said I'd do what I could to beef up the audience.