

PAUL MICHEL

October 16, 1981

I dropped in to see how the hearings had come about. He said Bruce Cohen had "raised a lot of hell about the use of rooms and scheduling and got us a hearing."

He said "the second thing that happened was that we got joint referral to the criminal law subcommittee and the juvenile justice subcommittee, which is Specter's committee."

He was having trouble recalling just where we had been at during our last conversation; and he started in talking about his troubles trying to line up witnesses. After he talked about that (his current problem!) I went back to the referral. How did you get it?

"We were lucky--well not just lucky. Arlen had put his two bills together--one of them defining the career criminal and the other providing that career criminals held by the states would be put in federal prisons--thus helping the states. Taken together, then, the two bills gave assistance to the states, and "assistance to the states" lay at the heart of our subcommittees jurisdiction--even though it is entitled "juvenile justice." So, we could argue to Thurmond's guys for a joint referral. Bruce Cohen wrote a strong letter to the legal counsel to that effect. Also, the criminal justice subcommittee is already stacked up with bills that aren't moving. Our fear was that our bills would be sent to that subcommittee and die there. ~~But~~ Thurmond ~~likes Specter;~~ and he has some bills in the criminal law subcommittee that aren't moving. So he was willing to go for joint referral. So there were two reasons: Thurmond was pissed off at the criminal law subcommittees and we had enough of a jurisdictional hook to make our cases. <sup>And Thurmond likes Specter</sup> Specter was very happy. He said it was the best news he'd had all year. His pet bill will be in the

in the subcommittee he controls."

He talked about "flailing around trying to get witnesses. Short notice meant that NY and LA Police Chief and DA couldn't come. He's trying for San Diego and Chicago, but worries that they may be lukewarm. "San Diego is such a small city, we may not get a big splash."

"The chief of the criminal division of the Justice Department will come. We're trying to get the Attorney General. If he comes, it doesn't matter who else comes. We'll get good national press coverage. But he probably won't come. We're trying to get the administration to come out for in favor of our bills, but we're afraid they are going to be noncommittal. They haven't taken the time to study them yet."

"New York would have been very supportive. They would have said 'We need all the help we can get.' And we would have made a big press splash. So would LA. But I'm afraid we may get some city, now, where the officials will say 'yeah, we've got it under control.'"

Wants 3 types of witnesses Police chiefs and DAs, prison officials and academics.