

BRUCE COHEN

February 5, 1982

He talked, toward the end of lunch, about the 'bill to save the office of Juvenile Justice--his big victory of 1st session--saving the program over which he had jurisdiction. He had to lift an impoundment and go after Justice, which "zeroed out" the office.

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"He won that fight against all the odds. And he got noticed at the Justice Department. They found out that this guy won't give up, that he's a fighter, that he's a real bulldog. You think you can tire him out? Never. He'll never quit. And if you do him in, he'll getcha. He got a Justice Dept. guy over here and creamed him. 'How dare you wipe out the entire program, the one program over which my subcommittee has jurisdiction...' How Justice will react to their defeat, I don't know. They may say 'He beat me and we'll get him.' I'm hoping they'll say 'This guy's a real tiger. We're going to have to deal with him for 10 years. We'd rather have him with us than against us'... He got a lot of credibility of that. People know that if he goes after something, he'll be tough to beat... As a lawyer he always took on the toughest cases. I thought he was taking on Justice because it was the hardest case around. He loves a challenge. . If they come to him and offer to trade their support for his bill for his willingness to phase out the office--and they haven't done that yet--that might present a problem for some Senators. But he'll just say 'go screw. That's no compromise. I'll talk to you about what should be done with the money you administer. But that's all.'" Justice still wants to eliminate OJJ.

This was nice picture of Arlen and his "determination." When Bruce, Kevin and I started out we talked about his squash. He is in the Post this morning with a picture of him playing squash. They told of how Warner wanted to quit and Arlen didn't and they said it showed his "determination." I told

'em what he told me in the car the other day about his game with Packwood. "He hit me on the (racquet) arm, so hard I could hardly lift it--but I won." I said if he got the bill through, I could open with that anecdote. They noted that he plays squash hard--like he does everything else.

"He's a demanding person to work for. What I like about him is that he'll tell you if you've done a shitty job or if you've done a good job. When he's in one of his bad moods, you know that it doesn't run to the quality of the work."

The picture is that "Arlen is smarter than the rest of them" that he works them hard and is demanding and that they work hard to keep up with him and give him the info he needs. Bruce spends 70-80% of his time keeping Arlen "as informed as he wants to be" on all the issues coming before the Judiciary Committee.

We talked about the last hearing. Bruce said "Arlen was happy about it from a substantive point of view." But there was a problem with cramming too many witnesses in." We positioned Janet Reno where we knew he would give her 40 minutes. But if we'd have put her last, he would still have given her 40 minutes. He loved Janet Reno." (Shew as the only one who supported the career criminal bill.

The hearing was about drugs, but was also important to 1688. They see the two things intertwined and noted that Reno did good job of weaving them together.

Bruce said that career criminal bill was the most important thing the subcommittee had done so far, but that it wasn't his major responsibility. He called Paul "the master administrator" of the bill.

Said "As far as I'm concerned, we can draw together some documentation and studies, put them to the hearings and report the bill out of subcommittee--

Subcommittee

whenever Arlen says so. When he turns us loose, we can start talking to other members of the subcommittee and try to line up 4 or 5 votes. Up to now, we haven't even gone after co-sponsors. I don't know why."

*Cohen says
acting for
himself
1/6/82*

We drifted into talk about the Judiciary Committee--their regular Tuesday meeting and how Bruce gets agenda on Monday and races around all day trying to get the information Arlen will need to have for the meeting. The agenda is kept pretty secret till late--as a matter of control. Only Chairman knows the full budget and salaries information for each subcommittee.

*feel
groping
OK*

Bruce said that he thought the Subcommittee would be pursuing two investigations this session. One on drugs; the other on treatment of juveniles in the system. This latter is one they are deciding on now. AS got the most publicity of his 1st year when he had a kid who was a hustler before the committee. Juveniles, says Bruce are treated very badly and, he thinks, "this investigation could be pretty sensational if we can do it." THIS ties in with Arlen's notion that they are groping for an investigation that will get some notoriety.

Bruce said Arlen was the closest to the courtroom of all the committee, and that he and Heflin were two who had been in contact with the law most recently and were "most comfortable with it." He noted that 1 1/2 years ago Arlen was in court and that 2 plus years ago Heflin was Chief Supreme Court Justice. He said Heflin got respect from the Committee because of this.

We talked a lot about which of the social issues I might find most interesting. Bruce thought voting rights. He called them all affirmative action new right issues. His argument is that voting rights will come up in Senate and he's not sure whether the others will.