

ARLEN SPECTER

February 23, 1982

On floor during busy debate, Arlen gives a speech on the move to limit Supreme Court jurisdiction. He goes into his experience re Miranda in Philly to buttress case that he ^{opposes} approves amendments to the constitution. He faced great frustration then, but he still felt that the remedy is to go to court and reverse the decision. He gives a long speech, rather dull and not very ringing--given the defense of Supreme Court and liberties that he's engaged in. It's kind of a plodding speech, but dogged. No one - save Helms, Johnston and Covin and government are there and no one listens.

"Potential for disaster is limitless" because if we limit court's jurisdiction now on busing, it may be extended to press; religion, 14th amendment, etc.

He regrets that news media has not focused on this measure and it's implications. Weicker service by calling attention to the issue. What he harps upon is need for public attention. He doesn't like busying, but he likes interference with court less. People would feel that way and say so if they knew what was at stake. Lots of reasons to criticize courts, but...

If people could speak they'd agree with him on Miranda case and say -
"Let the jurisdiction of the court stand."

He really made a great speech, however dull.

He wants evening news, talks how to take it up. (He spoke for 30 minutes).
Said "I have spoken as meaningfully as I could on relatively short notice."