

PAUL MICHEL

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Paul came into the front office where I was sitting.

Is Arlen letting the bill languish - "far from it. He's jumping up and down like a madman. He's adamant about it and very frustrated that the committee can't get a quorum. No quorum, no meeting; no meeting, no chance for him to get the other members to focus on his bill. He goes to all the non-meetings to try to make a quorum. He thinks that if he can get them to focus on the bill, they will pass it out of committee. If they do that he thinks the bill has a chance (in the Senate and in the House).... I think it will be more difficult than he does. But he's determined. In fact he's a little upset at me for not moving faster on the report." I said "But he gives you all these other things to do." He smiled broadly and ducked into his office.

Before that, he had said. "The bill is on the Judiciary Committee agenda. The problem is that week after week we haven't been able to get a quorum. They finally cancelled yesterday's meeting because they knew they weren't going to get a quorum. Our best bet is to have the administration call Thurmond and urge him to get a quorum so the committee could meet. If they would call Thurmond and Baker, I think we could get this bill moved ahead of some of those other bills that are more complicated and more controversial. The bill is <sup>a</sup> pretty simple bill. Once people focus on it they will see that and be in favor of it. There are a lot of fellas running; they need to be able to point to something like this on crime. The people who aren't running also know the others <sup>new</sup> head the bill."

"Our fall back strategy is for Arlen to use his influence with the other members, to talk to them individually, to try to get them to think about it for a minute or two and get them to come to a meeting... Another wrinkle is that I've just finished a revision of this very lengthy report

on the bill--200 pages. The report is for the staffs. No Senator will read it. It's been designed so that staff members who have qualms can turn to the section they are worried about and get the answers to their questions."

He says his report will go out in xeroxed form "at the end of this week."