

ARLEN SPECTER

August 9, 1982

I bump into Arlen and ask for a post mortem on meeting.

What's interesting is that he didn't say anything that seemed to indicate that that session had any effect.

"It was a Wednesday afternoon meeting, and not much of anything was accomplished. There was an objection to it by Kennedy, but it was withdrawn. Thurmond is non-committal. But Hatch is for it; Laxalt is for it; Denton is for it; Biden is strongly for it; Metzenbaum is OK. I've done a lot of lobbying. And the process goes on. (Was Kennedy the only objection the other day?) Yes. I don't think Kennedy has focused on it yet. He and I are going to sit down and talk about it. When is the next exec? (to Bill Loughery). I think it will be focused on one day soon. It depends when we meet, whether we get a quorum, what place it is on the agenda."

"1688 may be upstaged by the insanity business. The insanity bill may just sweep ahead of 1688. And therein lies another lesson in the legislative process." He smiled. I assume he means that you take advantage of what comes up and will get more done if you hit it lucky with passing public interest than you do by sticking through thick and thin with your own pet bill. Maybe the key quality is not persistence but resilience--in the Senate.