

BRUCE COHEN

August 3, 1982

I bump into Bruce in the corridor near Arlen's office. "We've got trouble" he said. He showed me a memo to Arlen telling him that 1688 has been taken off the agenda for Wednesday's meeting. Then he goes into Room A to talk to Arlen, I guess.

Committee staff decides to hold meeting in afternoon (for what reason, Bruce does n't know_ and also decides to work through the Democrats to get the quorum. That gives the Dems veto power over the agenda. "They take off the judgeship bill so the Republican President won't have goodies to hand out. They take off Hatch's bill because they dislike Hatch. And they took off Arlen's bill because they're chicken."

The Repubs and Dems want an innocuous agenda "pass out the nominations and a couple of non controversial bills--no discussion, a quiet, quick meeting."

The question is: who said no to Arlen's bill. Bruce tries to find out but can't. He thinks it's Kennedy's staff person, Carolyn someone.

"We've got to find out whether it was at the Senatorial staff level. If it's at the staff level, that presents all kinds of road blocks for us. It means we may have the votes but we'll never get to a vote. It's off the agenda for Wednesday. And we may never get a quorum again. If it isn't a staff decision, then our support may be weaker than Kevin thought."

They have called a meeting of staffers to see if they can flush out who and why? The Democrats will come. They owe us that much after sabotaging us--to tell us why they did it. Whoever did it didn't have the courtesy to call us and say "I did it because I thought it was right and here's 'why.'" When we hear their objections I'll try to answer them. If they say they'll never vote for it so long as the language about the Attorney General taking

the case is , we'll tell Arlen. We've been telling him that for 6 months. If I can't persuade them I'll say at least let it come to a vote. You can put on an amendment.' Or I'll ask them to just vote no. I'll tell them the bill means a lot to Senator Specter. It's ironic that we should have to plead with the Democrats after Specter has cut all his bridges with Thurmond. I know they like us. If we were Hatch's staff I know we'd be dead.

"I've asked Arlen to talk to Kennedy and Biden and see what the problem is. My guess is that they won't know he's talking about. No senator has focused on it. Senators will sometimes go along with other senators for the sake of personality and symbolism. 'It's a tough crime bill: OK. I'll go with you Arlen on a tough crime bill.' If that works, we can circumvent the staff. Can you imagine having the votes of the Senators and being held up by the staff?... One problem is that I don't know all the deals that were struck back at the beginning. I suspect a lot of this has to do with the D.A. in Boston--Newman Flanagan. I think he feels he was suckered in here to testify in favor of the bill and to get the DA's to testify in favor of the bill. Then I think he may feel that we didn't go through with the compromise we agreed to. So he got the DA's Association to withdraw their support and now the DA's are killing us."