



Congress. They don't think there is a Congress. They think they are the Congress! They certainly don't understand the legislative process. When I have to compromise, they think there's some kind of conspiracy going on. I'm besieged from the right, the left, from above and below. And all I'm trying to do is preserve a little room to move so that we don't get grid lock. For a while, I thought the right wingers were going to get us--the Symms anti gun control amendment. He withdrew that. Now I think the Justice Department will get us. They don't understand that you ask for 100% and accept 80% or 70%. They want all 100%. And little bureaucrats way down at my level are saying things to me like 'The administration wants' or 'We will veto the bill.' Where do they come off talking and thinking like that? I'm working my head off trying to keep the Democrats in line. Justice won't be hurt by me, they'll be done in by the Democrats, who don't owe the administration zilch. They don't trust us. Relations are so bad. They tell me they know I have a final compromise already drafted and in my pocket. How could I possibly be that far ahead. I'm two steps behind trying to keep from being six steps behind."

He says admin. threw whole new Justice Assistance Act on the table instead of presenting amendments, as the committee asked them to do. They hoped that by tossing in a whole new bill at the last minute, the committee would be forced to take it. But Bruce etc. stayed up and redrafted the Department's proposals into amendments. "We drafted the amendments we had asked them to draft."

He says Arlen had "wild idea" to split Justice Appropriations off from State and Commerce to give him Justice. Would love to get a line into their money. Bruce says he'll be "ex officio" of the Justice Subcommittee. Wants to let 'em know he's there.