

KEVIN MILLS

August 4, 1982

I went to the Judiciary Committee meeting where Arlen spoke up to try to keep his bill near the top. There's some nice dialogue, that I have fragments of, to the effect that Biden has to object to consideration of the bill because there are objections (other than Kennedy) on his side.

Kevin doesn't tell me who objected on the other side. Why he won't say I don't know. He says "we have a pretty good idea who did it."

"The objection was a staff objection. And it didn't even have to be specific. The staff director contacted the staff member of each Senator on the Democratic side and asked if there was any bill they thought would be controversial if it were put on the agenda. Some staffers mentioned 1688. We know Kennedy's staff person was one. Arlen straightened it out with Kennedy so that he had no objection. But there were other staff people opposed. Arlen has done his work with the Senators. They will vote it out if they have the chance. But the staff has stopped us... There are some bills about which people just feel ought not to be passed. They are too new or complicated or too poorly understood. Maybe this is one of them. But if you work for Arlen Specter you don't stop. You keep right on working. The problem now is: Will we get a quorum next week. Will we ever get another quorum. As one staffer says, we'll get a quorum on the twelfth--on the 'twelfth of never.' Maybe January 12th."

They had a bottle of champagne ready to celebrate the passage of 2411, the legal assistance bill. That one has been moving along, too.

Kevin says, again, what Paul has said several times. "Staff people don't know how to treat the bill. It confuses them. They don't