

ARLEN SPECTER

March 10, 1983

*the end of the Specter*  
Talked about career criminal. "We'll get it passed. And it could be the occasion of big bill signing ceremony with the President." "So you've got to stick with it. <sup>you're going</sup> "Of course I am. Are you kidding?"

At end he said "But we've got to start all over again." And he smiled.

Re the tactic of taking on other bills to 2411. I called Bill Hughes to tell him that we had passed 2411 and he said Arlen I hate to tell you but I'm not going to be able to get a full committee meeting to vote on the career criminal. <sup>in the</sup> So I said well then I'm going to send you 2411 with career criminal on it. He understood. It was not a move I had ever thought of before. It was something I had to do under the circumstances. It was the only thing I could do. He knew it. He had been very good about getting 1688 through his subcommittee. That was his quid pro quo. (If I hadn't done it) 1688 would have died. But 2411 would have passed. Bill Hughes was upset. But he was more upset at the Drug Czar part of the bill than the career criminal. But he was very good about it. He didn't say anything. We all have our separate agendas. That's the size of it."

Re 45 minute meeting with President. He calls Meese, who says there's a "99-1 chance of veto." "I started to lobby. I got Mike Deaver and \_\_\_\_\_ and Paul Laxalt. Deaver promised me a meeting with the President before he made up his mind... Had a 45 minute meeting with RR. (There's a picture of it, so you can see all the players--Biden, Thurmond, Hughes, Sawyer.) I carried the ball at the meeting. I began by deferring to Thurmond. He looked down at his pad; so I carried the argument. We ended by Meese saying he thought we could work out a compromise by modelling the Doug Czar

after the head of the CIA. The President was getting edgy to leave. I ended the meeting by saying to the President that I was sure he would like to have a compromise so that he could avoid the problem of events. He said he certainly would and we broke up. Then I started to lobby. I cancelled my trip to Africa. I was the only one doing it--except Thurmond. He was very helpful. But when I called Bill Hughes he had left the country. I got Casey of CIA to agree. I got Cap Weinberger to agree. But I couldn't get Smith to budget. He's a jerk. (He hasn't left much of a record, I said). To the contrary, he left a long record--of jerkiness. He has absolutely no knowledge of criminal matters. No understanding of what we are trying to do. He has no intellectual interest in the subject of crime. He's a jerk. He said the bill was worse than nothing--because it failed to take up bail and sentencing reform, and because of the Doug Czar. He didn't care one bit about career criminal. He's just a jerk."

*Prize*

"Howard Baker thought it was a remarkable accomplishment to get two major bills passed. Not many of our guys did that well. In fact, we don't pass much other than appropriations bills and not all of those. It wasn't like Quayle's jobs bill where there already was a perception. I had to create interest in the career criminal idea. I carried the ball the whole way--which was a great learning experience. I learned a lot about legislative procedure, too, with that bill. It will be easier next time because we already got it passed once." → *long question, p1 + end.*

*Attends and not a long time*

I'm holding hearings with Joe Biden and Bill Hughes on Justice Assistance in Philadelphia next week. So I'm keeping that liaison with Hughes. "He links his fingers together.

"We've introduced the bill again. I've gotten Juliana to agree to language that avoids the constitutional problem--even though there never was

one. And I've got Paul Michel out in Reno meeting with the National DA's group. Strom has referred it to my subcommittee alone and not to criminal law. So I don't have that to worry about. I can get it out of the subcommittee, get it up in full committee and get it passed on the floor. And I think that it will pass the House, too. It's already passed the House subcommittee once so that will help. And I know Rodino will hold a full committee meeting on it. The guy from Detroit--what's his name?--will fight it. But I think it will pass the Judiciary Committee and pass the House. It's a good bill." signing ceremony *got to go p. 1*

Went into his theory of how the bill will work--Once a few cases get assigned to a federal judge and some tough sentences get handed out, "Those other sons of bitches will get tough sentences, too--not 15 years, but maybe 5 years." "One of the reasons I took the DC Chairmanship was that I can have some influence in making the relationship work in DC and we can see how it shakes out.

Re his eye injury, squash story - got ribs fractured in my mayor campaign. "Couldn't get my name in the papers, but my broken ribs were all over the papers." Talked of injuries. "But I'll be back at it as soon as I can. I've played a great deal of squash. I haven't been hurt too badly. I once had seven stitches over my nose. I've run into the wall several times. Once I had a lot of X-rays taken to make sure I didn't have a concussion. During the mayoralty campaign I fractured my ribs. I couldn't get my name in the paper for the campaign, but my broken ribs were all over the papers. Right now I'm having less trouble with my eye than I am fending off questions about it. But I'll be back at it again as soon as I can." There's a certain analogy here to his persistence on career

criminal (i.e. "Of course I will; Are you kidding?") And the knocks and the publicity and, even, the questions.

As Paul says, Arlen really thinks it's a good bill--that it will produce examples that will ripple through the system.

Was pleased that "I've got the U.S. Attorney's position in Philadelphia settled; and he's now in place." A long battle.