

PAUL MICHEL

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Kevin Mills had told me Monday (12/1) that Arlen had been making phone calls to members of the House subcommittee and Rodino and that a House markup was scheduled for Thursday.

Ran into Paul and he filled me in a little. He puts the chance of success at 50-50 now. But, he too, began by saying "Arlen has been very active, calling the members of the House subcommittees personally... Initially the reaction of the subcommittee was almost completely negative. Their objections were the same, the effect on the local prosecutor, the expansion of federal jurisdiction. They held a hearing on Sept. 23, but they didn't prepare well for it. And then they went home for the election and they forgot what it was about. So they haven't focused on it. Arlen has been trying to get them to think about it, doing a selling job and on educational job... In anticipation of the bill coming to full committee, he's talked to Rodino. He seems more favorable to it now than he did when we talked to him a year ago. Then, he was strongly opposed. But even if he likes it, he's holding back a lot of bills now, that if he moves 1688, he may have to move some others that he doesn't want to... The subcommittee staff members are 4 out of 4 against it. They are lobbying the members hard. And they are telling us, on the basis of some remark a member might have made off the top of his head at the hearing, that 'our members are strongly against it.' That's not true. But the only way we can win is to have Arlen lobby the members directly. That's what he's doing, and I think with some success... Today he has lunch with Huges<sup>h</sup> to talk about 1688 and 2411. We are trying to move on two tracks, as you know. There has been no deal, no <sup>quid</sup> ~~good~~ pro quo arrangement

*Rodino*

But there is a sense that the two bills are linked. Arlen has done a lot of work on both."

He summed up: "Our chances right now are no better than 50-50. We have four problems, first, the unfamiliarity of the House members with the bill; second, the 4 out of 4 staff members' opposition; third, the continued opposition of the National District Attorney's Association and 4th, Hughes' leadership of the subcommittee is uncertain. He has assured Arlen that he supports it. But ~~there~~ there's a question of whether he speaks to House members with more ambiguity. So we wonder if they are going to get off the reservation. So, Arlen has to do a personal selling job. That's what he's doing."

Says Arlen went to White House to push for 2411, Meese is for it, OMB is not.

2411 has problems of its own in that Symms has threatened an anti gun control amendment if the bill comes up. That will "sink the bill" because, now, anything controversial will be put aside.

He said something interesting about the National District Attorneys Association. "To House members who haven't thought about it, it probably seems strange that a bill we say is designed to help the local prosecutor is opposed by the National District Attorney's Association. But that organization is dominated by small towns. There are 3000 counties and each one has a member in the NDAA. The big city DA's want it. When a big city DA testifies as for himself, he's all for it. But when he has to speak on behalf of the NDAA he has to oppose it. Their opposition is not what it seems."

*with Sawyer*