

JUDGE RICHARDSON PREYER

April 20, 1982

Re Lou Stokes

I asked Preyer about the Meyers case. "The members of the House weren't involved in the case at all. The Ethics Committee members worried about that... Ozzie Meyers was over his head in the House. He never should have been there. He came up through the long shoreman's union, and he probably thought that's what everybody did... A big difference between Williams and Meyers was that nobody knew Meyers. He was over his head in the House. He never should have been there. He spent all his time at home. The House is such a large body, there are a lot of people like that whom nobody knows--like John Fary, the Chicao man. Everybody in the Senate knew Pete Williams. He had served long and honorably. In a small body like the Senate there's a lot more pain when you discipline someone."

Re Chairmanship of Ethics. "When Lou Stokes became chairman, a lot of people worried about it because he had voted, in every case, against disciplining a member. I went to see our chief counsel John Swanner to ask how Stokes was doing, and he said he was doigg just fine. Shortly after, he became Chairman, he went to Swanner and said to him. "I suppose you think I'm gong to let everybody who comes before the committee off without punishment. I just want to tell you that there's a big difference between being a member of the committee from a black district in Cleveland and being the Chairman of the Committee. And, says Swanner, he's been acting like a Chairman ever since."

*Re: Career in House*