Berman, Ronald: Memoranda (1975-1984): Memorandum 03

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MEMORANDUM

January 24, 1984

TO:    Senator
FROM:  ADC
RE:    Ronald Berman

I have located the memo about Ronald Berman that Livy mentioned to you the other day. What words Livy was able to transcribe over the phone from the letter in question do not seem as damning nor as nasty as Livy had implied.

There is really nothing here that you can use to show Leonard Garment how nasty Berman was to you. The fact that Berman went behind your back and wrote some college presidents was probably worse than what he actually said to them in the letter. At least it seems this way to me in retrospect. In fact you went on to defend grants to grocers and lumberjacks in the subsequent hearing on Berman's renomination. I had expected the Berman phrases to be more personal and vindictive.

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Ronald Berman's new book is called Culture and Politics. It was just published at the end of December and is so new that the Library of Congress has not put it on their shelves yet. It could be three to four weeks before it is fully cataloged and available to you even on a rush basis. If you do not want to wait, I could track it down in a bookstore and purchase it for $10.95.

It is difficult to track down to what extent the Senate has courtesy screening of Folger Library directors. I have made some inquiries and will get back to you as soon as I have anything substantive. Berman would seem an obvious choice for that job in light of the current conservative climate and the fact that he is a Shakespearean scholar with Washington experience.