

2016

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

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Recommended Citation

Biddle, Livingston, "Berman, Ronald: Memoranda (1975-1984): Correspondence 03" (2016). *Berman, Ronald: Memoranda (1975-1984)*. Paper 31.
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To Senator

From: Lb

I tried out the idea of having GAO do a comprehensive study of the Humanities with Nik Edes, feeling as we discussed that perhaps he might go with it as a means of compromise and suggest it from the Williams side.

Edes says, however, that Williams has taken over the Berman issue and that it has become "outside the staff level." Williams may not bring anyone with him to today's meeting -- Nik is uncertain.

TH cleared with the Williams office my involvement. There's been no change of any signals in that regard.

From all I can gather you are going to be asked by both Williams and Javits to reconsider your opposition.

I would recommend that you say that you might reconsider if Berman would resign when a new President is elected (either Ford or another) and let the new President determine at that time his candidate, which could be Berman -- and if so, you would not press opposition. Meanwhile Berman stays in office.

If this does not seem feasible -- I'd recommend advancing the comprehensive GAO study (maybe for both Endowments, but only Humanities much to be desired) as a means of clearing the air... and giving Williams an out.