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7-10-1991

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Recommended Citation

Crary, Alexander D., "White House Conference on Library and Information Services: Joint Hearing (1991): Memorandum 02" (1991). *White House Conference on Library and Information Services: Joint Hearing (1991)*. Paper 8.

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Priority

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Senator
FROM: ADC
RE: Library Hearing: Thursday

July 10, 1991

The joint hearing at the White House Conference on Libraries begins at 9:30am tomorrow at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel, 999 9th Street NW in the East Ballroom. You are expected to be there from 9:30 until 11:00 but can stay as long as you wish.

Because of the special nature of this hearing, the logistics are somewhat different. You and Congressman Williams will co-chair. It is not yet certain how many other members of Congress will attend but the entire Congress was invited. My guess is that there will be very few because of numerous conflicts.

The witnesses are structured in an unusual way. There will be two opening witnesses to set the stage: Charles Reid, the current chair of the National Commission on Libraries (which is charged with running the White House Conference) and Charles Benton, chair emeritus on the Commission and the chair of the last White House Conference in 1979. Each will speak for 3 minutes and questions need not be asked.

The next panel are the primary witnesses who will address the main themes of the conference. Each will speak for 5 minutes. Questions can be asked when this panel finishes. The witnesses include Tim Healy and Jim Billington.

There will then be a series of 11 witnesses who will speak for only TWO minutes on a wide variety of issues. Questions can be held until the end. It is not imperative that you stay for this section but I think you will enjoy it if you can. The idea is to cover as many bases as possible in a short period. Joan Ress Reeves will testify at this point representing lay participation in the White House Conference. The hearing should end between 11:30 and noon. I will be going directly to the Ramada on the early side to check on arrangements and will meet you there in the East Ballroom at 9:30. I will get your briefing book to you at the end of today.

There should be at least 300 people in the audience and C-SPAN is expected to carry the hearing live.

- *Simon* *Owens*
- *Metzenbaum* *Roukema*