Memorandum 07

Alexander D. Crary
United States Senate

MEMORANDUM

Feb 18, 1982

TO: Senator
FROM: ADC
RE: RI State Arts Council

As of today, I have not been able to learn any of the details about Diane Disney's dismissal as Director of the State Arts Council.

The story broke on Monday, Feb 15 and she resigned under fierce pressure from the Chairman, Dan Lecht, on Tuesday. The main reason being cited at the moment is that there were severe personality differences between Lecht and Disney.

This is curious in that she was hand-picked by Lecht for the job in Dec. 1980. He promoted her over other more qualified (in my opinion) candidates and won.

There is some speculation that her other consulting work had become a bone of contention. When she took the job, however, she had the Council's permission to continue her outside directorships and consulting. Perhaps Lecht felt she was not giving enough time to the Arts Council.

The Council met yesterday in emergency session to go over what happened to Disney. Many were not consulted by Lecht before he took his action.