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Berman, Ronald: Memoranda (1975-1984): Correspondence 19

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To: Senator

From: LB

Apr. 30

At lunch yesterday with Herbert Bailey (Princeton Univ. Press) and his wife, we discussed the Berman situation in some depth. As mentioned previously he feels that your judgment is absolutely correct... but he emphasizes that it would be very difficult to get responsible witnesses to testify publicly against... He has tested the waters around the country, and finds a general fear of recrimination, because Berman is funding all the prestigious centers where the Humanities have their most authoritative and respected voice. He, himself, admits he would have such fears in view of his Board and funds NEH is giving to Princeton. I think, however, he would be willing to take on some more active opposition, if we really said it was essential.

He talked at some length about Robt. Lumiansky, head of the American Council of Learned Societies, as an ideal choice for Berman's successor. I did not mention/ that we had written to the White House on this score. As I wrote in an earlier memo, I consulted at the outset of my coming back to the Senate with Lumiansky (well before the White House letter was sent) and found him very receptive to your views on Berman. Again, NEH provides funds for the Amer. Council of Learned Socs. Lumiansky said his Board had discussed Berman and decided that they must keep silent, and that they had told him to keep silent on the situation publicly.

Bailey and I discussed the attached which you sent to me. I've kept a copy. I said this was my own project, initiated by me and of several years standing, which indeed it is... I think Bailey can be helpful.