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National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (1990-1991): Correspondence 16

Carl Levin

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

LEONARD WEISS, STAFF DIRECTOR
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February 22, 1990

Mr. Jerald C. Newman, Chairman
United States National Commission on
Libraries and Information Science
1111 18th Street, N.W., Suite 310
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Newman

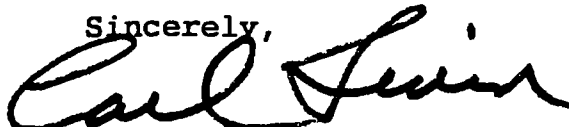
This letter is in response to your telephone conversation with my staff on February 2, 1990, and your letter to me dated January 8, 1989.

You confirmed in your letter that the Commission's advisory committee is, in fact, obligating and disbursing federal funds and appointing persons to the federal payroll. You indicated that you personally authorized the chairman of the advisory committee to exercise such fiscal authority and that you believe Public Law 100-382 authorizes the advisory committee chairman to exercise such personnel authority. Yet you failed to make any reference to a November memorandum by the Commission's Executive Director advising you that by delegating operational authority to its advisory committee, the Commission "is operating illegally." Your omission of any reference to this memorandum is disturbing, and from the comments you made to my staff person, it is still unclear whether you now agree that such action by the Advisory Committee chairman is improper.

To clarify the issue, I have sent the enclosed letter to the Committee Management Secretariat of the General Services Administration requesting its written opinion of the authority being exercised by the advisory committee and the attempts by the Commission to delegate operational control to this advisory committee. I will forward the response. My staff has also advised me that your letter of February 6, 1990, does not accurately reflect her understanding of your telephone conversation with her on February 2, 1990.

I am very concerned about these developments. If you have any questions about my concerns, please contact Elise Bean at (202) 224-3682.

Sincerely,



Carl Levin, Chairman

Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management

CL:ejb

Enclosure