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M E M O R A N D U M

June 5, 1985

TO: Senator ✓
FROM: ADC
RE: Curran Nomination

WY✓

Now that the Bauer confirmation hearing is behind us, the Hatch people are apt to turn to Curran. There is speculation that they will try to schedule a hearing for Curran before our reauthorization hearings on June 19 and 20.

However, the policy of committee democrats is now to hold up all pending nominations until Hatch commits to holding a hearing and mark-up on the Civil Rights Restoration Act. Curran will be a major pawn in this scenario. Your own position as far as the Civil Rights Act goes should be enhanced - with favorable reaction coming from womens groups, the handicapped and other interested parties.

While it is uncertain how long this "hold" situation will last, the democrats continue to look to you for guidance on Curran. The word is out that you came down hard against him. The White House subsequently made calls to the republicans to double check on their support. It is my understanding that Weicker and Stafford said they were neutral and would remain that way until after the hearing - making the White House very uneasy.

Without committing yourself to an absolute position, I would suggest that you continue to say you have very serious reservations about Curran's qualifications to serve as NEH Chairman. And if the vote were held today you would vote "NO". The democrats are apt to follow you on this and perhaps Weicker and/or Stafford.

My feeling is that you should vigorously maintain the level of opposition that you expressed in your meeting with Curran.

agree _____

disagree _____

comment _____

we dis curran