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MEMORANDUM

March 31, 1987

TO: Senator
FROM: ADC
RE: Friday Hearing on Library Conference

The witness list is attached for this Friday's hearing on the White House Conference on Libraries. Dan Boorstin will now be the lead off witness. We needed someone of his stature and I was pleasantly surprised to find that he was willing to come and say some nice things about the proposed Conference.

All witnesses (except Boorstin) have been cautioned to limit their remarks to 5 minutes. Though it may look like a lengthy hearing, it should be over by noon. Stafford is the only other Senator who I know is coming - and that will probably be for the Vermont witness only. This is the first hearing in 10 years on general library issues and most likely there won't be another for 10 years.

The Vermont State Librarian and the Stafford people have generated the only real controversy connected with the proposal. They object to library program funds being diverted to pay for a conference. They in turn regard the Conference as serving little use. In fact we would be authorizing new funds to pay for the Conference and have committed to limiting the federal contribution to $5 million - out of a possible $15 million total cost. The Vermont people have continued to say that we are trying to authorize the total cost.

They also have objected to being required to hold a state-level conference owing to the cost of such an endeavor. So we changed the legislation to make the state conferences optional hoping to get Stafford's support. After clarifying the two points which they originally objected to, there is still no change in their position. Hopefully after Stafford hears the testimony he can be pried loose to support the bill.

We now have 35 cosponsors. At the end of the last Congress we had 50.