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Kassebaum will be calling a Member's meeting for either Thursday or Wednesday afternoon. Thursday was her first choice but the Emerson funeral is on Thursday.

She met with Kennedy today and agreed to let Democrats offer their package of amendments. I will be circulating a package tomorrow which will be the amendments. I would like to have your reaction to having the Drug Testing amendment in the package. We would make the testing permissive. Let me know what you think.

I do not think this mark-up will take a long time. They have an agreement and will vote us down on party lines.

Kennedy tried to make it clear to Kassebaum that he will filibuster the bill. She has convinced the Republicans in the House that the Dems will not hold together. At this point I feel with the current version of the bill as we understand it we have all of the Democrats on the Conference opposing it.

I will e-mail you with additional information as it comes in.

OMER