

MOVEMENTS

(4)

03

5

July 29, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR HOWARD WILLENS

Subject: Potential Changes in House Committee Jurisdiction

Attached are Democratic Study Group Reports on the Bolling and Hansen recommendations with respect to House committee jurisdiction. The full text of the Bolling and Hansen recommendations have been ordered but have not yet been received.

The relevant recommendations are as follows. Bolling would change the name of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to the Committee on Energy and the Environment. Jurisdiction over territories would be transferred to the Committee on Government Operations. Bolling would also express the sense of the House that the following principle "should" be taken into account in determining committee assignments at the beginning of the next Congress:

"Members who sit on Committees which have a 'significant portion' of their jurisdiction transferred should be permitted to follow the jurisdiction to the new Committee, with their seniority receiving 'meaningful recognition' on the new Committee."

Whether this means that Congressman Burton could follow jurisdiction over territories to the Government Operations Committee and maintain his subcommittee chairmanship is not at all clear. Also open, of course, is the question whether Congressman Burton would attempt to do so.

Hansen would change the name of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to the Committee on Interior, Energy and Natural Resources. This new Committee would lose none of the jurisdiction of the present Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Thus territories would remain where it is now. In view of its new jurisdiction (all non-military aspects of nuclear energy, nuclear R&D, all programs affecting Marianas), and the possibility of changes in the Committee's membership after the elections, it is possible that Congressman Burton might move to another, more important, subcommittee if the Hansen recommendations are adopted.

03-16

I have focused on Burton because of his critical position and views, but the same sort of analysis could be made with respect to other members of the Territories Subcommittee.

Michael S. Helfer