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April 7, 1976

SUBJECT:

S.1

This morning the Post carried a story that, in spite of Senate agreement being reached on certain controversial provisions of S.1 after a month of "intense secret negotiations" between liberals and conservatives, Justice Department and White House officials are giving up hope of passage of the bill this year.

What is the President's reaction to this statement by a member of his staff? Does he think the bill is dead?

**GUIDANCE:** The question of whether or not the bill is dead for this session should be addressed, I believe, to members of the Senate and not the White House.

As for the President, however, he would be disappointed if the bill is not passed in this session. In spite of the President's concern over certain provisions, he has strongly advocated comprehensive reform of the Federal criminal code.

ME

February 12, 1976

SUBJECT:

S. 1

Senators Scott and Mansfield, according to the Post this morning, have called for a compromise on the controversial sections of S. 1, the Criminal Justice Reform Act of 1975. Under their proposal, the sections in the bill dealing with official government secrets, insanity, the death penalty, obscenity, the right of self-defense and other controversial subjects, would be eliminated from consideration. The non-controversial criminal code provisions would remain in the bill.

What is the President's reaction to the Mansfield-Scott proposal?

GUIDANCE: The President has not yet had time to review the proposal called for by the Senate leadership. However, I refer you to the section of his Crime Message last June 19 dealing with S. 1.

There he stated that "While we must make sure that national security secrets are protected by law, we must also take care that the law does not unreasonably restrict the free flow of information necessary to our form of government... I think everyone will agree, however, that comprehensive reform of the Federal criminal code is needed."

Specifically, the President made reference to 1) the lack of uniformity in the sentencing of people committing similar offenses, 2) the need for sentencing consistent with the gravity of the offense, and 3) the need for standards for the imposition of prison sentences.

ME