January 31, 1997

MEMO

Fr:

Senator Dole Alec Vachon To:

Work: (202) 224-8220 Home: (202) 667-1193

Re: **Interview Request for History of ADA**

Attached is an interview request on ADA you sent to me. My recommendation is that you ask that questions be submitted in writing, and that you respond in writing. (Of course, I am available to help draft any answers.) Incidentally, Senator Harkin was also contacted to participate in this project -- and answered questions in writing.

By way of background, as you may recall, the first ADA bill was introduced in the 100th Congress on April 28, 1988. Senator Weicker was the principle sponsor; you were an original co-sponsor. The Congress adjourned without acting. (Weicker was defeated that November.)

A substantially revised ADA bill was introduced on May 9, 1989, in the 101st Congress. You testified before the Labor Committee on May 10, 1989, and the key negotiating session was held in your conference room on July 28, 1989. Present were Senators Dole, Harkin, Hatch, Kennedy, and Durenberger; AG Thornburgh, Chief-of-Staff Sununu, Sec. of Transportation Sam Skinner, and Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy Roger Porter. At this crucial meeting, an agreement was reached on how to proceed. A full compromise was reached by July 31, 1989. Labor held a mark up August 2, 1989 -- and reported 16-0. You also became a co-sponsor on August 2nd. ADA passed the Senate on September 7, 1989, 76-8.

I have requested from the National Archives some boxes of material I had archived from Mo West's files -- which may be helpful in reconstructing the history.

Let me know how you want to proceed.

P.S. Mo West had her first child several weeks ago. Mother, child, and Dad are doing well.

Washington, D. C. 20510 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building

(202) 224-4215

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OFFICE OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

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810 First Street, NE, 10th Floor, Washington, DC 20002



December 11, 1996

Dear Senator Dole,

My name is Jonathan Young, and I am is Ph.D. candidate in American history from the University of North Carolina at Chape Hill. Currently I am working for the National Rehabilitation Hospital Research Center, and writing a short as nograph history of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This project is funded by the National Council on Disability. Ultimately, I plan to use this work toward my doctoral dissertation. The narrative history will discuss the divil rights context and legislative precedent for disability rights legislation; the role of the National Council on Disability in conceiving and drafting the first ADA legislation; the Senate's consideration of the bill, including negotiations with the Bush administration; the House's consideration of the bill; and finally President Bush's signing of the bill. The work will conclude with analytical considerations of such issues as the uniqueness of the ADA, its bipartisan support, and its utility as a model for future legislation.

My research is based both on documents and oral interviews with key actors in the ADA's passage. I have already met with many staff members, including Maureen West, and have also met with Senator Harkin, Senator Durenberger, Attorney General Richard Thomburgh, Chief Counsel Boyden Gray, and Congressman Tony Coelho. I would very much like to have the opportunity to meet with you to discuss your role in the ADA and your perspective on the bill's significance. This would give you a chance to speak directly on how the ADA should be remembered in history. It would give me a chance to obtain important information directly from one of the most crucial participants. I hope that we could find a time that would suit your schedule.

I will follow up with a phone call to check on the prospect of arranging an interview with you. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely

Mailing Address 102 Irving Street, NW Washington, DC 20010-2949

Street Address 1016 16th Street, N.W. Fourth Floor Washington D.C. 20036 (202)466-1900

Fax (202) 466-1911

The NRH Research Center is a division of the Mediantic Research Institute





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