

February 23, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR BRYCE HARLOW

FROM: PETER FLANIGAN

You indicated to me that Carl Albert hoped that Hugh Owens would be reappointed to the Democratic seat on the SEC. Owens is certainly no trouble and Hamer Budge feels that he has good judgment and is often more conservative than the other members of the Commission.

However, he certainly is not a sparkling intellect and does not bring any distinction to the Commission. To that extent, he doesn't follow our effort to increase the intellectual quality and vigor of the average Commission member. I could easily find a very much more able Democrat who would also be sympathetic to the Nixon philosophy.

The point of this is that I would like to get a somewhat more accurate reading of the desirability of keeping Carl Albert happy. I know you operate on the general principle that we always do what they ask, regardless of the fact that they often do not respond in kind. Would you tell me what your "druthers" in this would be and try and qualify it by indicating whether it is mild, strong or passionate.