

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 3, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*

SUBJECT: DOJ Proposed Report on S. 383, a Bill
to Request the Chief Justice to Give an
Annual Address to Congress on the State
of the Judiciary

Jim Murr has asked for our views by October 26 on the above-referenced proposed report. S. 383 would amend Title 28 to request the Chief Justice to deliver an annual address to Congress on the state of the judiciary. In a display of legislative masochism, the Senate passed an identical bill in 1980.

The Justice report neither endorses nor opposes the bill, simply noting pros and cons. The report recognizes that judicial reform proposals, even noncontroversial ones, have a difficult time in Congress and that an annual address might help such proposals gain consideration. On the other hand, the report tactfully notes that if the annual address were ill-attended, the bill could have precisely the opposite effect. I have no objections.

Attachment