

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 1986

TO: SENATOR

FM: WALT

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR DENNIS LEONARD IS SET FOR THURSDAY, NOON.

PLACE: S230

DENNIS LEONARD, PITCHER, KANSAS CITY ROYALS.

o COURAGEOUS AND UNEXPECTED COMEBACK FROM FOUR KNEE OPERATIONS HAS CAPTURED THE HEARTS OF THE BASEBALL WORLD.

o AFTER THREE YEARS OF REHABILITATION, LEONARD IS BACK--LEADING THE MAJOR LEAGUES IN EARNED RUN AVERAGE; HAS WON THREE GAMES AND LOST TWO (EACH BY ONE RUN); AND PITCHED A DRAMATIC SHUTOUT IN HIS FRIST GAME OF THE SEASON.

o FIRST KNEE INJURY OCCURED IN BALITMORE IN 1983.

o PRIOR TO KNEE DAMAGE WAS THE TOP RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER IN BASEBALL, A THREE-TIME 20-GAME WINNER. HAS PITCHED IN FOUR AMERICAN LEAGUE PLAYOFFS AND THE 1980 WORLD SERIES. MISSED THE 1985 SERIES.

o FEW GAVE HIM A CHANCE OF EVER BECOMING AN EFFECTIVE STARTING PITCHER AGAIN: HE WAS OUT FOR TWO-AND-A-HALF SEASONS. BUT LONG, LONELY REHABILITATION EFFORT PAID OFF.

SENATOR D'AMATO AND DENNIS LEONARD:

o THE LEONARD AND THE D'AMATO FAMILIES LIVED IN A "TWO FAMILY" TOWNHOUSE IN HIGHLAND, LONG ISLAND FROM 1962-1969.

o SENATOR D'AMATO HAS KNOWN HIM SINCE LEONARD WAS 11 YEARS OLD. DENNIS USED TO BE THE BABY SITTER FOR D'AMATO'S DAUGHTERS LISA AND LORRAINE.

MEDIA COVERAGE: NEW YORK AND KANSAS MEDIA WILL BE HERE.

o SYNDICATED SPORTS COLUMNIST TONY KORNHEISER OF THE WASHINGTON POST WILL ALSO ATTEND. HE WILL DO A COLUMN ON LEONARD'S COMEBACK AND ALSO INCLUDE DOLE AND D'AMATO IN THE STORY. KORNHEISER IS A BIG DOLE FAN--HE COVERED YOU FOR A WHILE DURING THE 1980 CAMPAIGN--AND WANTS TO BRIEFLY CHAT WITH YOU ON COMING BACK FROM INJURIES AND DISAPPOINTMENT.