

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 16, 1991

Dear Senator Dole:

The Intelligence Authorization Act (S.1539) will shortly be considered by the Senate. I understand that an amendment will be offered that would require Presidential appointment and Senate confirmation of six senior positions at CIA. Before the Senate takes action on the legislation, you should be aware of my strong opposition to this proposal.

The proposed amendment is unnecessary and would create the opportunity for the politicization of the intelligence process. Politicization of intelligence is unacceptable, and I am pleased that the intelligence provided by CIA to me and my predecessors has been straight and objective. CIA has been able to provide objective intelligence by being insulated from political pressure. The Director's ability to appoint his immediate subordinates has been critical in insulating CIA from political pressure. As a former DCI, I know how critical it is that these positions be filled with qualified individuals irrespective of their political associations or beliefs. My concern is that the confirmation process itself will inevitably create pressure on qualified candidates -- either real or imagined -- to conform their views to correspond to those that are perceived to be necessary to win confirmation.

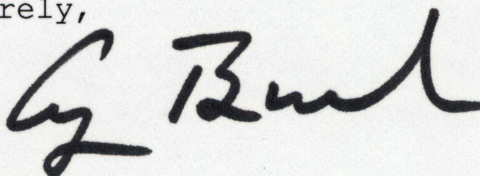
My objections to this amendment are shared on a bipartisan basis. I agree with Senators Hollings and Chafee that it is "premature to enact such legislation at a time when the Senate Intelligence Committee has just begun a comprehensive review

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of the structure and organization of the U.S. Intelligence Community." At the very minimum, the Senate Intelligence Committee should closely examine the need for this proposal and its possible unintended adverse consequences before action is taken by Congress.

I hope that I can count on your support to defeat this amendment when the Intelligence Authorization Act comes to the floor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Bush". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized hand.

The Honorable Robert Dole
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: The Honorable David L. Boren
The Honorable Frank H. Murkowski