

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Talking Points - Draft "October Surprise" Resolution

The draft is outrageous. For example:

- The scope of issues to be addressed is biased.
 - No mandate to review Carter Administration "arms for hostages" negotiations.
 - No mandate to review Carter Campaign raising of false hopes at crucial moments in the primary campaign to scuttle Kennedy's challenge.
- The period to be scrutinized is unlimited - the Task Force has a charter to review entire Iran side of Iran-Contra! [Alleged facts have to do with 1979/80 - no apparent reason for jurisdiction/subpoena power to extend beyond.]
- There is no sunset provision - this could drag on like Walsh! [Ought to be required to report within 90 days.]
- ~~-- The scope of the subpoena power is a pre-emptive strike on any claim we might make related to executive privilege or the provision of sensitive intelligence information to a committee other than the Intelligence Committee.~~
- No accountability for partisan action -- the Chairman is given authority to issue subpoenas after "consultation" with ranking minority member --
~~Committee vote should be required, at a minimum.~~

A political decision is required as to whether it is better to seek changes in this document, if we can, or highlight the partisan character of this inquisition by declining to participate.

If it is determined that we can and should seek to affect the contents of the resolution, we could be prepared to share our concerns in detail by this time tomorrow.