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To: John Sununu
From: Paul M. Weyrich, National Chairman
Thomas L. Jipping, J.D., Legal Affairs Analyst
Re: Conservative groups' preference for Attorney General
Date: June 11, 1991

The post of Attorney General is critical to the conservative movement in general and the issues we care most about in particular. In light of this, and the election coming next year, we have taken the liberty to poll an array of conservative groups with a particular interest in this appointment. Those groups include:

American Conservative Union
Americans United for Life Legal Defense Fund
Center for Individual Rights
Christian Action Council
Coalitions for America
Concerned Women for America
Family Research Council
Heritage Foundation
Landmark Legal Foundation
National Law Enforcement Council
National Right to Life Committee
National Right to Work Committee
Washington Legal Foundation

Every group supports either John Ashcroft or Bill Barr. With the exception of National Right to Work, each supports Ken Starr. Carla Hills, Warren Rudman, and Jim Thompson received a thumbs down across the board. George Deukmajian and Sam Skinner are in the middle.

Other names mentioned once include former New Mexico AG Hal Stratton (NRW first choice), Judge Pasco Bowman (NRW second choice), Judge Larry Silberman (AUL), California AG Dan Lungren (NLEC), Chuck Cooper (CWA). Judge Edith Jones was mentioned a few times.

The clear consensus choices are John Ashcroft, Bill Barr, and Ken Starr. We trust that this input will be a meaningful addition to the discussions about Attorney General Thornburgh's successor.

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for JPS
give to the regis-
trary - file under A-6

Ally - Grand

To: Lee

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By zn on 4/15/2019

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DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT

A number of names have been mentioned in the press or on the grapevine as possible successors to Attorney General Thornburgh. Some of these would be excellent on the merits-- John Ashcroft, for example. However, I am reliably advised that Ashcroft is determined to serve out his term, as he has publicly pledged. If he resigned now, it would make Democratic Lt. Gov. Carnahan governor, which would adversely impact the redistricting process, among other things.

Our view of James Thompson was summarized in my memo to you of April 10. In any event, isn't the Cabinet already full up on Illinoisians? If not, Henry Hyde would be superb. However, Henry would be the first to admit that a tough Senate confirmation battle would ensue, with the outcome uncertain.

All things considered, Judge Edith Jones would be the best pick.

1. She is a solid conservative. She is best known as a very tough judge on criminal matters, and has given speeches advocating procedural reform to speed the administration of justice in capital crimes. The *Almanac of the Federal Judiciary* describes her as "very pro-prosecution; a moderate in other matters."
2. She is tough, smart, and articulate. She would be effective in highlighting crime issues during the campaign.
3. She would be the first woman Attorney General of the United States.
4. She would be confirmed. I do not believe that Senator Biden would have the stomach to try to block the confirmation of the first woman nominee for this office. Picture her sitting there before Biden and the other 13 white males on the Judiciary Committee, a professional woman with two young children sitting behind her, who has earned a promotion. Are they going to tell her that she cannot have the job? I don't think so. Besides, Biden's "issue of the year" is his bill (S. 15) to make certain violent crimes against women (e.g., rape) federal "hate crimes." (During recent weeks the Biden bill has been featured on the evening news on at least two networks.) So is he going to lead a lynch mob against a woman judge who liberal think is too "pro-prosecution"? I think she would be confirmed something like 75-25.
5. Radical feminist groups such as NOW would no doubt oppose her confirmation. But polls would show most American women disagreeing and favoring the President's nominee.
6. [*** check this] It has been a long time since there has been an attorney general from

2

the South. (Prior to her appointment to the Fifth Circuit, Jones was an attorney with Andrews & Kurth in Houston, James Baker's old law firm.)

7. President Bush is said to have a high regard for University of Texas Law Professor Charles Alan Wright. According to a profile of Judge Jones in the *Fifth Circuit Reporter*:

After graduating from Cornell, she entered the University of Texas Law School and became an editor of the Texas Law Review. She also distinguished herself in law school by receiving the highest grade ever given in her constitutional law class taught by renowned professor and author Charles Alan Wright.

8. Judge Jones has handled no abortion-related cases. As far as we can determine, she has not written or given speeches on the subject of *Roe v. Wade*. If questioned on the subject by the Judiciary Committee, she could simply state her intent to make decisions about filing briefs at the Supreme Court in abortion cases, etc., in conformance with the President's overall position on abortion and *Roe v. Wade*.

9. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the entire picture with you at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration of these thoughts.

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