

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0104

January 6, 2017

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
U. S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Feinstein:

Thank you for meeting with me yesterday. I appreciated the opportunity to discuss my nomination and how we can work together to solve the problems facing the Department of Justice to best serve the American People.

During our meeting, you gave me a list prepared by your staff of materials that may have been missing from my responses to the Committee's Questionnaire. I appreciate your assistance in ensuring the Committee has a thorough record. After reviewing the list with my staff, I have determined that some of the items on that list are indeed responsive and have not previously been submitted. I am submitting a supplemental response to the Committee's Questionnaire today to include those items. Additionally, I have included below a more detailed explanation of my review of that list, which may assist in clearing up any confusion regarding items on your list that are either not responsive or are items I have previously submitted.

U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama

I submitted to the Committee all speeches, interviews, publications, and other responsive items I was able to locate from my tenure as United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama. Unfortunately, many such records are more than three decades old, and therefore do not exist in any electronic databases of which I am aware. Nonetheless, in an effort to be as responsive as possible, my staff has conducted a further review of existing files from the era, in addition to using electronic research databases such as LexisNexis and ProQuest, public search engines, and even consulting with the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Alabama. All responsive items that I was able to identify through these efforts were listed in my submissions to the Committee, and I attached copies of each item I was able to locate.

Nonetheless, the list your staff provided identified two press articles (one each from 1985 and 1986) that quoted me. Neither one identifies anything related to whether those quotes came from press conferences, written statements, press releases, interviews, informal comments in a hallway of the courthouse, or something else, and after another search of my own records I have

no additional information that would help determine whether these items are actually responsive to any of the questions in the Committee's Questionnaire.

Additionally, the list your staff provided identified from a Senate floor speech a comment I made about a newsletter regarding gun crimes sent out during my tenure as United States Attorney. I have been unable to locate any additional information about that newsletter. However, I am supplementing my response to the Committee's Questionnaire, listing the newsletter, as well as the other two items you identified, with the following:

Potentially responsive items to Questions 12(a), 12(d) or 12(e) (unknown which, if any)

Press conference, speech, written statement, interview, or informal comment (unknown)

Withdrawal of Judicial Nomination

July 10, 1986

Mobile, AL

Press conference, speech, written statement, interview, or informal comment (unknown)

Alabama Voting Fraud Case

September 12, 1985

Location unknown

Potentially responsive item to Question 12(c)

At some point during my tenure as United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama, I created a newsletter and sent it to members of the Law Enforcement Coordination Committee for the Southern District of Alabama, which included Federal, state, and local law enforcement leaders. While I do not have copies of this newsletter or the dates that they were created or sent, I do believe that the newsletter made the suggestion to law enforcement leaders that in cases involving suspects who had violated federal gun laws, my office would be willing to take and prosecute those cases if the case justified Federal prosecution. The goal was to reduce gun violence by using Federal capabilities.

Attorney General of Alabama

I also submitted to the Committee all speeches, interviews, publications, and other responsive items I was able to locate from my tenure as Attorney General of the State of Alabama. As with items from my time as United States Attorney, these records existed before the proliferation of the Internet and before electronic storage was as readily available as it is today, and the vast majority do not exist in any electronic databases of which I am aware. Nonetheless, in an effort to be as responsive as possible, my staff has conducted a further review of existing files from the era, in addition to using electronic research databases such as LexisNexis and ProQuest, public search engines, and even consulting with the Alabama Attorney General's Office. All responsive items that I was able to identify through these efforts were listed in my submissions to the Committee, and I attached copies of each item I was able to locate.

Nonetheless, the list your staff provided identifies several press articles from the time. One, from July 18, 1997, contains what the article claims is a quote from "an impromptu hallway

interview” in Washington, D.C., after I became a Senator. As I mentioned during our meeting, Members of Congress frequently make comments in the halls of Congress to reporters, usually with no records or even knowledge of who those reporters are, their affiliation with any media outlets, or whether the comments are ever printed or used. You indicated that you, of course, understood, as you often find yourself in these situations. Nonetheless, I am supplementing my response to the Committee to include this article.

The list also identifies an article in *Birmingham News* from July 11, 1996, which quotes me from “after a 12-hour hearing,” yet there is no indication (and a search of my own records uncovered no additional information) of whether this was an interview, a statement to the press, a press release, a press conference, or something else entirely. Interestingly, another of the articles identified in the list, from the *Birmingham News* in 1994, does not appear to be included in LexisNexis’ archives despite being within the years for which that service has *Birmingham News* coverage. This demonstrates the difficulties with locating files of this age. I was only able to locate a copy through other services because I had the title and date of the article from the list.

Finally, the last item listed under the speeches heading, from October 1994, does not actually contain any quotes from me at all or mention any of my speeches, but instead contains a reporter’s own brief characterization of “a prepared campaign statement,” which is not included in the article. Unfortunately, I have few records of my political campaigns from more than two decades ago, and I have no copies or records of the campaign statement that article mentions. To my knowledge, no such records exist.

U.S. Senator from Alabama

I submitted to the Committee all speeches, interviews, publications, and other responsive items I was able to locate from my 20-year career in the United States Senate. Fortunately, for a large majority of these years there have long existed substantial public records, which is part of why these were the most numerous of the responsive items I submitted to the Committee. In an effort to be as thorough and responsive as possible, my staff has conducted a further review of personal files, digital files in my office, and several hundred boxes of archived files, in addition to using electronic research databases such as LexisNexis and ProQuest, public search engines, and files hosted by the Government Printing Office. Additionally, I consulted with the relevant committee libraries and historians, the Congressional Research Service, and the Senate Library. All responsive items that I was able to identify through these efforts were listed in my submissions to the Committee, and I attached copies of each item I was able to locate.

These items, of course, were voluminous, totaling more than 150,000 pages, including thousands of press releases, floor speeches, hearing statements, and other materials, and more than 2,000 television, radio, and print interviews. In addition to all of this printed material, I have submitted more than 50 hours of video and audio clips of interviews and press conferences.

Despite all of these searches, of course it is likely that there are items I was unable to locate, identify, or remember. This is routine even for nominees who have spent far fewer years in public life than I, and I appreciate any additional items that you and others have brought to my

attention. Of course, these additional items make up only a very small fraction of the total materials I have already provided to the Committee.

While I am supplementing my responses to the Committee with the responsive items you listed, there are several items that are not responsive. First, the ninth entry on the list of missing op-eds (“Big spenders’ party neglects budgetary duty,” *Bluffton News-Banner*, Aug. 3, 2011) is actually a reprint of an op-ed I wrote entitled, “Democrats Default,” previously published in *The Washington Times*, and included in my original response to the Questionnaire (although, due to a typographical error, the date was listed as April 2, 2011, instead of Aug. 2, 2011).

Second, the top item on the list of missing speeches is a Donald Trump Campaign Event in Windham, NH, on Nov. 5, 2016. After conducting an online search for this, I was able to locate a C-SPAN video where I am shaking hands and taking pictures with campaign volunteers, but does not appear to include any actual speech. While I did speak at various campaign events for President-elect Trump throughout the campaign season (and have listed and attached each of those that I have been able to identify or locate), the only records I have for this event indicate that it was a meet-and-greet event, not something responsive to the Questionnaire.

Additionally, the second item on the list of missing speeches is a floor speech regarding the amnesty bill on November 21, 2003. The Congressional Record contains no speeches from me on November 21, 2003. I believe you may have meant the speech I gave on the amnesty bill on November 21, 2013. That speech was included in my original response to the Committee.

Finally, several items on the list identified as missing interviews do not appear to be interviews at all, but rather just quotes reprinted in articles. In addition to the fact that, like other Members of Congress, I frequently make informal comments to reporters with no way to track those, many articles that quote me do not appear to be the actual clips of interviews at all. Instead, many are actually quoting speeches I have given, press statements I have released, or are even copying quotes from other news articles, rather than actual clips of interviews. As a result, a single comment to one reporter in the halls of Congress or in the “spin room” after a political event can be printed and reprinted into many articles, none of which are actually an “interview” that would be responsive to the Questionnaire.

For the remaining items in the list that are both responsive and not provided in my previous submissions to the Committee, I am supplementing my responses to include those items.

Thank you for bringing these items to my attention, and I look forward to testifying before the Committee next week.

Very truly yours,



Jeff Sessions
United States Senator