

LES AUCOIN
1ST DISTRICT, OREGON



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
April 10, 1981

Senator Edward M. Kennedy
2241 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy:

It has come to my attention that the nomination of John Crowell as Assistant Secretary to the Department of Agriculture has been delayed in the Senate on a point of personal privilege offered by you. This action, plus the extended recess, further delays the vote on Mr. Crowell's nomination.

In the short time that I have been a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, I have been distressed over the lack of direction and leadership in the Forest Service. While this is of particular concern to Oregonians, it is, more importantly, a national problem and one that must be corrected.

John Crowell and I have disagreed on issues from time to time. I am convinced, however, that John Crowell is a man of integrity, intelligence and achievement. John Crowell is one of the few persons I know who can put the Forest Service's house in order from a management standpoint, something that would benefit all parties who have interests in the nation's forests, including environmentalists. From my position in the House I will continue my efforts to increase the accountability of the Forest Service. But ultimately it cannot be done without an Assistant Secretary with strong administrative and leadership skills. John Crowell possesses those skills.

I do not challenge your right to place a hold on this nomination. I would urge you, however, to examine the problems now facing the Forest Service as it attempts to manage some of our most valuable public lands. I believe that every new Administration deserves the privilege of putting together its own team. To the extent that one might disagree with policies, those can properly be debated in the legislative arena where checks and balances on executive powers are ample. The unfortunate thing about halting the Administration's policies through the blocking of an appointment is the tragic damage it does to this man's reputation, integrity and good name. I have known John Crowell for a number of years — through severe disagreements and agreements — and I must say to you that this man does not deserve this injustice. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Les AuCoin".

LES AUCOIN
Member of Congress