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TO: INTERNET-BOARD, TOM SAMPOLSKY/ARRB, LIZETH SULLIVAN/ARRBCC. FROM: David Marwell/ARRB Date: 11/27/96 11:46:58 AM
Subject: Information on Kolbe from the Congressional Quarterly: Elected: 1984; 6th term.Born: June 28, 1942; Evanston, Ill.Hometown: TucsonEducation: Northwestern U., B.A. 1965; Stanford U., M.B.A. 1967.Military Service: Navy, 1968-69.Occupation: Real estate consultant.Family: Divorced.Religion: Methodist.Political Career: Ariz. Senate, 1977-83; Republican nominee for U.S. House, 1982.PROFILE: WASHINGTON (Profile updated March 1995) Kolbe had many reasons to be happy with the 103rd Congress. As a leading advocate of free trade, he featured prominently in the passage of two international trade agreements of sweeping significance. And as a proponent of low grazing fees on federal land, he saw bipartisan efforts to raise the fees fail on the brink of success. Moreover, he saw his long-suffering party power its way to its first majority in 40 years in November 1994. Given all this, it should be possible for Kolbe to accept the disappointment dealt him by the Republican Conference in December 1994, when it preferred Christopher Cox of California to him as chairman of its Policy Committee. The vote was roughly 2-to-1 in favor of the more conservative Californian (the only member of the Houses largest delegation to find a spot in the new Republican leadership structure). Kolbe has long been considered talented and ambitious enough to rise in the hierarchy or mount a successful statewide campaign. But he passed on a gubernatorial opportunity in 1990 and on a Senate shot in 1994, allowing other Republicans to win those offices instead. His loss to Cox was widely attributed to his having made a late start of his campaign for that office. Until late in the year, Kolbe had expected to accede to the chairmanship of the Republican Research Committee in the 104th Congress, a post the new majority party wound up eliminating. Nonetheless, the sixth-term veteran Kolbe found consolation in his role as an appropriator in the majority. He stands second on the Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Subcommittee, but may actually chair the Interior Subcommittee sooner (chairman Ralph Regula of Ohio is older and second-ranking member Joe McDade of Pennsylvania is under indictment). Kolbe uses Appropriations largely as an opportunity to do things for his state. He primarily promotes projects important to Arizona, but in committee and on the floor he is a loyal supporter of the GOP line. Despite his consistently high party-unity scores -- he votes with the GOP more than 80 percent of the time -- Kolbe has aligned himself with the "big tent" wing of the GOP, which aims to embrace more liberal-leaning members of the party. He has been chairman of the Wednesday Group, a regular gathering of more centrist Republicans who sometimes resist their party's drift to the right. During the 102nd, he was visible voting to overturn the so-called "gag rule" prohibiting abortion counseling at federally funded clinics. He opposed the B-2 bomber and Record

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