

David McIntosh (R/IN) Interview in Washington, D.C., 9/12/95

- Went to office, met his wife (and dog), Angie (receptionist), Chris (press secretary). Knew my book and Angie told Mrs. Mc about it. So I got instant credibility.
- I walked with David to the door of building. He was headed to whip meeting and he said ok.
- He ran into Linda Smith (whom Norm or Tom had lumped with Chenoweth as a radical "beyond the pale" of normal congressional critic.
- She had an armful of stuff and said she had charts she would show at the meeting they were going to--charts concerning her campaign finance reform bill. She was warned about "credibility," "it's the big issue" and about what relation it had to the Senate bill. She seemed to want to tell DM what she was up to. And when she left he said, "As class liaison to the leadership, I have conversations like this all the time. It gives me the chance to get to know the projects of all the members of the class."

*my  
earliest  
impression*

- He was strong in emphasizing the special nature of the class. He said he, of course, knew his own situation in Indiana, but that when he got to DC, the great revelation was the similarities between his experience and that of others. Some rumination about whether that made his class special, but no discussion of the actual similarities.
- He had one idea that is nice. He said that he thought that the priorities of 1994 were more important than the elections because in many cases, the party's choice lost. So there was a ..... during the primaries that may have accounted for the homogeneity (if there was--or the "similarity" of condition) among the freshmen.
- But he clearly sees the class as wanting to accomplish something.
- He said he'd be happy to take me along and said he'd like to talk generally about things. I said "just schmooze" and he said yes. All he knew was that Angie had told him I wanted to travel in several districts. He neither knew nor cared about my earlier book. I don't think mentioning my earlier book gets me very far--not as far as I think.
- Smith: What's going to happen in the meeting?
- McIntosh: Newt is going to speak.
- Smith: What's he going to speak about?

DAVID MCINTOSH (R/IN) INTERVIEW 9/12/95-1

- McIntosh: How to be a revolutionary.
- Smith: You mean how to stay a revolutionary.
- I returned later to talk with Chris Jones. He emphasized that DM went home "98% of the weekends"--except for his anniversary and that of his in-laws. That he was trying to establish a presence. He has four district offices and a mobile van. "He's even going door-to-door introducing himself. "I'm David McIntosh, what can I do for you?"
- "Our district is competitive. It used to be democratic, but it has been trending Republican. It voted for the democratic congressman, but it also voted for Reagan and Bush. It is not like Dan Burton's district--70% Republican. David can't be like Dan Burton and get away with saying anything he wants. That's why we are spending so much time in the district."
- "It's a rural district, a lot of agriculture. And labor is very big--especially in Madison and \_\_\_\_\_ counties. In Anderson and Muncie, we have lots of automobile parts workers."
- He said also that they didn't win over labor leaders, but did well with the rank and file. (I could interview Phil Sharp.)

DAVID McINTOSH (R/IN) INTERVIEW 9/12/95-2