

Ray Scott

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He talked about how--beginning in January--things got very busy. Olympic boycott. "Pryor was the first one to propose a boycott. 'Hey! let's send them a message.' We got out front on that. Two days later. Moynihan was on the Today show with the same proposal." I told him Pryor got on TV first in Rochester, but that I didn't know whether he got on 1st in Arkansas. Ray said I "perceived correctly" that they were more interested in what the play was in Arkansas. He didn't say how much play they got in Arkansas, but there was a clear feeling that Moynihan got the publicity they would have liked.

"The farmers were here to a week and they made this office their headquarters. This office was their headquarters last year, too. We do the same thing for all our constituents--the farm groups, the veterans groups, the elderly. We give them the full run of the office; they make their phone calls (if they ask us first, of course) the use the facilities. One newspaper wrote an article saying that while the farmers felt at home here in the office, they didn't feel that way in Bumper's office. They felt they were intruding there. As you know, that's Pryor's stock in trade--people. Another paper wrote that when the farmers had Bumpers in a room wringing him out on the issues, Pryor was taking the farmer's wives on a tour of the capitol. When they asked Bumpers about that, he said "That's typical pryor." We also arranged meetings for them--so we wouldn't have the idle hands, idel minds. Some of the rice farmers have beaver problems--the beavers come in and eat the rice. So we set up a meeting with Interior Department on beaver control. They have problems with the herbicides they use to spray their crops--so we set up a meeting with EPA on that. We brought them over here and set aside a room for them. So we set up a little agenda for them so they wouldn't

just sit around and bitch about things. You've heard Pryor speak of ole (Governor Feland) back home. His voice sounds like gravel and he said to Pryor "David, farmers are like nymphomaniacs, they're never satisfied." So whatever we do for them, it isn't enough. But we did try to make their trip as useful as possible, hoping they would at least learn something and take something home with them. We hope they learned something about the way Congress and the bureaucracy work. It nearly killed Will Feland."

He talked about the other things that Pryor has been involved in--Rock Island RR; investigation consultants; nursing home standards; and for 1980, mental health of the elderly (20% of all suicides are elderly people).

He seems to be pecking away at a number of areas--not rushing into major policy areas. He's somewhere between PT and BC in terms of intensity of legislative interests.

He said they all went down last summer for two days and took jobs in Arkansas--great PR.