

Ray Scott

March 13, 1979

I ran into Ray as I was walking through the cafeteria. He yelled at me. He and Carmine Henry were discussing how things were going in the office. He had a one page checklist they were going through; and I guess Ray was going to talk with every member of office to see how things were going re office procedures and operations. "We want to counteract 'status optimism'--the further you go up the hierarchy the happier people are with the way things are going. The person in charge may think everything is fine; but the secretary at the end of the line may be very unhappy."

He spoke of how they didn't have a hierarchy and that they had office debate when they divided up the space.

Said Dave had been home twice so far--and they seemed like general political trips. HS speeches etc.

Said Dave had run every two years. "For 16 years, he has run for election every 2 years. I'm just waiting for the sap to rise. For sure, he'll be down in Arkansas campaigning for someone next year."

Ray Scott and David Pryor

March 15, 1979

I went in and had a Dr. Pepper and chatted with Ray. Pryor came in near the end, sat on the couch and talked a little--mostly about how lousy he felt. He'd been sick yesterday and had come in today to speak on the floor in favor of direct election of the President--of which he is co-sponsor.

"When I walked on the floor old Birch Bayh was the only one on the floor. He looked like he needed some help so I gave him some relief. I said that the

*"Haven't you finished that book yet?"*

people in Arkansas never saw the President during the campaign and if they did it was an airport stop. It's a good issue. But you can put my election file away for a few weeks. The bill has been sent to committee.

I learned something about Birch Bayh today that I thought was true but never had it confirmed until today. And it tells me why he isn't president. He's no killer; he doesn't go for the throat. He's a very very nice man. His staff is pushing him one way. But he made a promise to Byrd and Baker. He's a good guy." Said he heard Moynihan was going to to be vs. it.

Pryor's "out front" (acc. to Ray) on direct election.

Ray says they have 14 people on the staff--in the office. They also have 5 people on his subcommittee staff. He kept the chief counsel that had been with the subcommittee--hired by Sasser. ("He comes from Tennessee, but his aunt lives in Arkansas.") They kept 3 of old staff and hired 2 more and cut old staff size from 9 to 5. Have staff of 6 in Little Rock.

He talked about how neither the state staff nor the subcommittee staff "can help us with the crunch here." Kept speaking of the "crunch" and what they could do about it. They have no legislative correspondents per se, but have the subject matter people do all the mail as well as follow the legislation, produce ideas, etc. They may be overworking their staff that way. He mentioned the Agriculture guy who is also handling Banking and Finance matters. "He works 18 hours a day. That may work in the short run, but not for 4 year or 6 years." March is their decision time as to change, he said. He didn't know whether they would change process or personnel.

"Our decision to go with a small staff has put some constraints on us. The boss wants the small staff. So our problem may be to convince him that we need two more people--if we decide that's what we need."

Ray's general feeling is that things are going well in the office and that Pryor is very happy in his element." Ray says he senses that Pryor is happier as a legislator than as executive, though Pryor has never said that to him. Pryor has said that he likes it.

"He presides 2 hours a week. But sometimes they've called and said there's no one available. Can you come over and preside. He's never refused."

"He's been voted most popular new Senator by the pages. He got them altogether the other day and said to them that if they didn't take care, they would end up the way he did. That's just what he did, you know. He started up here as a page." That story conveys something of the sense that this is what Pryor has always wanted.

Ray says Pryor refers to his years out of politics as "my unplanned sabbatical from politics."

Pryor left to call Richard Lyons of the Post--a rather Senatorial task.

One interesting thing Ray said, which did not exactly square with what DP had said on my last trip (or maybe it does) was that Dave had so many things to choose from as governor that he could never dip into anything deeply. He had to deal with the broader range of issues. Now in the Senate he can choose what he wants to "really dig into." The idea that now, he's really becoming a kind of specialist is not exactly what Pryor described as the "humming bird" idea. Yet they may be consistent in that there are simply levels of specialization and Senator is more specialized than governor. All relative.