

DAVID PRYOR

April 28 - May 3, 1982

I go to Dave Pryor's office a couple of mornings. I have some orange juice and ask Don about nerve gas. "I'm sick and tired of Nerve Gas. We've talked about it in a lot of different ways---economically a lot and morally a lot. Maybe we should think of it more in terms of policy." I said I thought the most telling point was that we were manufacturing it without any credible plan for using it. And he said "or storing it." That's the case because the Europeans won't use it.

The next ime (5/3) I went to DP office, they were deciding whether or not he should make a floor statement calling for the delay of the defense procurement bill until the budget was passed. The Senate had recessed till 4:15, and he was thinking about making a speech then. "We're leaning toward making a speech. But Bob Byrd isn't too happy about it." I couldn't wait, so I left. But the next morning's paper the story was there, only Carl Levin was the man preparing to make the motion to recommit the defense procurement bill. The point is that DP is not on the right committee. That fact makes him a gadfly on defense. And that's what he is. I can never tell when he's going to make a pseech or do something.

Ann gave me a speech he made on floor in putting an article by Resor in the Record on the M-16.

She also told me that he'd be testifying on Nerve Gas and sitting in on Appropriations Committee activity this week. (It's budget week and so I can't see him--after all this wait) But he pops up at odd moments---sitting in on Appropriations as "invited guest" this time--so that I can't know what he's going to do.

ON DP, I could get a list of all his floor speeches--since floor

speeches do seem to be an indicator of the way a gadfly works. I could see what it is he talks about on the floor. I could also examine his mailing system.

It is typical that when I dropped in last week 4/28 or 4/29, Doug Jackson asked me if I had seen the press conference Gary Hart and David had on nerve gas. I said no. Ann called it an availability, said a number of newsmen were there, but said she had not seen any article come out of it. They did no press release on it either. So it came and went, unannounced (to me) and unrecorded (by anyone). Maybe George Wilson of the Post would have a handle on this--since he follows it.

But the gadfly role gets magnified by the minority status. More hit and run stuff when you don't have a subcommittee to run. Maybe a comparison of his speeches for 96th and 97th congresses would show a committee based set of subjects in the 96th and a less committee based set in the 97th. Although the consultants defense is a connected set of interests--and, surely, nerve gas is a very long run interest.

He invites me in when staff going away gift to Mike Bailey.