

DAVID PRYOR

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I dropped in on DP's office, to touch base and learned he'd gotten Finance. I went to ask Knox and David poked his head out of the office. "Arkansas is under water" he said. They had a tornado yesterday and it's been raining ever since. He was trying to contact FEMA to get disaster relief ok. He looked worried and talked, too, about a Kevin Philips article.

"I'll tell you how I got on the Finance Committee. Did I ever tell you my theory? I have a theory that early commitments are the secret. Just before we recessed for the election, I started talking to my close friends on the Steering Committee. I told that I was thinking of running for the vacancy on the Finance Committee, that I wasn't asking them for a commitment, but that I wanted them to know my thinking so that if I decided to run they would give my case their consideration. Several of them said to me. 'I won't ^{consider} ~~corridor~~ you, I'll commit to you right now. It will make it a lot easier for me when someone else comes to me if I can say, I'm committed.' I called every member of the Steering Committee--21 of them--when I was in Arkansas for the election. All but Kennedy, who was doing his great thing, and Alan Cranston. When Harry Byrd announced his retirement, I went to Russell Long and I said to him 'Russell I just want you to know that I might try to get on your committee when Harry leaves. If I decide that I want to try for it, I will call you up and tell you.' I called him up from Arkansas, and we had a long three hour conversation. Another thing I think helped was that three weeks ago I walked across the hall and visited with Harry Byrd. I said 'Harry, for 45 years, that seat has been known as the Byrd seat, your father's and yours. And I just want to tell you personally that I have decided to run for it.' I think that a few of the old Southern

types--Stennis types--went around to see Harry and asked him 'Harry, what do you think?' I think that visit helped me. On Monday I found out that Don Riegle had gotten into the race. I called him to ask for his support, and he said to me 'I know you are running and I have to tell you I'm running too.' He had just started. So it was Don and me. The vote was taken, and I won. Off the record, the vote was 14-6. Alan Dixon got one, so it was 14-6-1. The secret was early commitments."