

KNOX WALKUP

December 8, 1982

We talked about David's Finance Committee experience.

"He got it by going to each member of the Steering Committee and asking for support. He often says that it never ceases to amaze him that a group of people who got where they are by asking people for votes so seldom ask each other personally for a vote. They write each other's letters." He told the story that David told me about Gary Hart, i.e., How did you get him?" I asked him.

"If Sen. Pryor is going to make a speech, he will sit around on the floor beforehand and talk to people. He's usually outraged about something, and he can explain what he's doing. A lot of times, he finds that people who may be opposed originally will change their minds and go along with him."

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Knox says "It was an entirely personal thing. Sometimes Senators call interest groups to lobby for them when they want a committee assignment. But not in this case. I'm sure there are groups all over Washington claiming that their calls and their long planned strategy is what did the trick. But no outside group called anyone. Nor was he the leadership candidate. No one else inside or outside gave even so much as a budge to his candidacy. It was his own personal effort."

He said Long and Byrd were supportive. Said if Long had been negative from the beginning, he's not sure DP would have gone for the spot.

He noted that he "regretted" giving up Gov. Affairs. "I'll miss it. It was a good forum. "We could get into any subject we wanted to." I noted that Gov't Affairs suited David and he agreed, that he liked to range widely over subject matter. He agreed, too, that Finance will be a very

different disciplines for David. I might add that it's not one suited to his temperament. He hates confrontation of any sort. "We'll soon find out who our friends are."

This change comes at the same time that he is shifting into a campaign mode. So the combination of the two puts a strain on the office. Skip comes up tomorrow. He and Don will go with the other Dems who are up for reelection in 1984 to the Eastern Shore this weekend to meet with some of the people up in ⁸² to talk about the election. They have got to hire a new agricultural staffer because Dennis Robertson went with the Farm Bureau. They are taking on three new policy areas on Finance--trade, tax, social security. "It's not like starting up when you are a freshman, but we're going to have to shift gears."

Re agriculture guy "I could coordinate his work a lot better if he were in Washington. But for the next two years, I'm afraid we need him more in Arkansas. The farmers are in really bad shape, and a lot of what the Ag.

Assistant has to do is hand holding. He can't do that from Washington."

He said he couldn't say what arguments David used. "One argument might have been that it was his due. He had tried twice and failed. The first time, he was a freshman. He tried two years later and lost out again, through an odd set of circumstances. (Bumpers thought he would be bumped off Approp. and announced he would try for Finance. That stymied David; and when App. decided not to reduce its size, it was too late for DP to make a run). I know that the argument was not one of specific issues, or a southern seat, or special organizational support.

"If you are going to be around here a long time, you have to get on Appropriations or Finance."