

JACKIE PARKER

June 15, 1982

I went over to the Pryor CMS operation and talked to Jackie Parker. She's a native of DC. has worked for 12 years on the Hill - for Schweiker for 6 years and for Wendy Anderson and for someone else.

"This is the first time I've worked for a southern Senator. DP is the nicest Senator I've ever known. It makes a big difference I enjoyed working for Schweiker, but I only met him once a year, at the Christmas party. An aide would stand behind him and tell him the name of each staff member. This is Jackie Parker; she works in your CMS office."

Each morning they get a box of their finished, but unsigned letters-- the output of the previous day. They check the letters against the original work order to see if the orders have been signed off on by Ann Pride. Ann checks all work orders that have not been given a special salutation to make sure that they haven't overlooked any "first names", people that should have the letter started with a first name. "Dear Joe," "Dear Abbey." "All "first-namer" letters are signed David. All those letters are sent back to the office and signed by Don or DP. DP likes to sign them himself, so he can write a handwritten note at the bottom of the page. Jackie said "None of the other Senators I've worked for were as worried about first-namers as DP." I think it's another small mark of his folksiness.

She talks about how the volume is up in the office. Since January, they've been going full blast.

One measure: Their computer has an effective capacity of 10,000 names. When they get "full" they have to draw down this total to make room for new names. The names they remove (typically some group of people whose concerns have been dealt with, on an issue that is dormant) are placed in an archive. Jackie says "Before this year, we used to archive once every 3 months. Now we archive once a week."

After they complete a "work order" i.e., a letter, they file it back in the office--"upstairs" as they call it. Then, about once a month, they clean out the filing cabinets (between Vince and Jay ) and send them to the basement to be microfilmed, then they box up the letters that have been microfilmed and take them to the attic. Then they regularly clean out the attic and send the boxes--with the original letter and the work order--to government storage in Suitland.

"We never 'throw anything away.'"

They can tell you how much mail goes out of office, but not how much comes in.

An example of an internal cycle. "Senate employees are asked to take our vacations when the Senate is in recess. But recess is the time when the legislative people catch up on their correspondence; and we are swamped. So our heavy work load comes at a different time than everyone else's. When the Senate is in session, the legislative people are working on issues, talking to the other offices, sitting on the floor with the Senator. That's when we are least busy."

She says that when she first worked for DP, they never got letters on defense; the more interested he gets, the more letters they get on defense. As he changes, the mail changes. A response to him.

She said there was a lot of pro Reagan mail and that it has turned to anti Reagan now. Hard for me to document. Their 361 number is tax matters. That letter has been changed 5 times and subdivided as people get more interested in specifics. That is, what was once just a general thank you for your views, I'll try to support the President has turned into something much more specific--some of it anti President.

Bill \_\_\_\_\_ does group letter; Zandra does individual letters; Doris does the mailing list. Jackie does casework plus quality control.

The CMS system is separate from the mailing list. The latter is Henry's baby and is on a different system.

Which is antiquated (in terms of checking and spitting out duplicates) because common cause suit has held 'em up.

I asked her next day how she gave report to DP ' "I don't give anything to DP directly. The LA's know what mail is coming in. They are with him all the time. They tell him I hardly ever see the man."