

David Pryor - January 4-7, 1994

- Kelly Robbins picked me up Tuesday morning. We picked up DP at his new condo. He's sold lake house and DC house and bought a condo in same six-condo group as Bruce Lindsay. (People in Fayetteville knew the people that had the condo before DP and everyone remarked how typical that was of small state.)
- We went to Fort Smith to meet with 20 businessmen concerned with product liability changes. DP had voted the last time against cloture (58-32) and kept bill (setting limits on product liability claims) from being voted on. This time they want him to change vote and co-sponsor the legislation. As it turned out, he had (or said he had) already committed to the bill's sponsor (Sen. Rockefeller) that he would vote for it this time. He didn't tell anyone beforehand what he planned to do and he kept his counsel till after each one of the businessmen said his piece. And, he did not want them to think that they pressured him into doing it.
- Comments about the episode:
- "I put today's schedule together because I wanted to get out and around in the north western part of the state." Kelly said it was most strenuous home week in long time.
- "I'll bet that 80% of the people at this meeting will be Republicans. I ought to start by asking how many of them voted for me. I'll also bet you that 80% of them won't have lived in this state for more than 15 years. They'll spend five minutes on product liability and then they'll start in on striker replacement." (He was dead wrong on the last point.)
- "The north west part of Arkansas is busting at the seams. Fort Smith is now the second largest town in the state. It's a funny town. It's more Oklahoma than Arkansas. They read the very conservative Tulsa Tribune and the Tulsa World Herald (?). The Gazette never made of an impression up here. The snooty Gazette looked down on Fort Smith as a raucous, right wing, gun-toting, cowboy town and they alienated the town from the central part of the state. Fort Smith hates Little Rock. I carried this county once, then I lost it and then I carried it again. I can't figure it out."
- On the way up, he talked a lot about the three home grown industries in the area, Walmart, Tyson and J.B. Hunt. Fort Smith has Emerson Electric, Whirlpool, GE, Rheem. We went to Rheem for the meeting.
- He got out his briefing and looked through the list of original co-sponsors, Dodd, Lieberman and down the list. "I don't think I have any trouble with the bill," he mumbled. But he was checking to see who was on it. When it was over, Kelly said he thought Bumpers was against it, and DP said, "I don't mind splitting with Dale on this bill." It would make DP a bit more pro-business.

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- "I didn't tell them my position till they had all read their speeches. They had prepared for a whole hour before we got there. Weren't they just about the stiffest bunch you ever saw? I made them wait and say their piece. They were deliriously happy when I finally told them I was not only not going to prevent cloture, but I was going to co-sponsor the bill (they were so happy that they applauded). I made it a point with them that I had committed last year to Jay Rockefeller that I'd be with him. I didn't want them to think that they pressured me into changing my mind. I need to keep my independence." He chuckled about it all day, and at dinner he laughed and said several times, "I played 'em like a fiddle."
- About your leadership race. "What made you do it?" "I don't know what made me do it. It requires nothing. There are good points and bad points. You get a little staff money. And you are part of the leadership. You get to go to the White House and to other leadership functions. You are supposed to keep the records and count the votes in caucus. Sometimes when you want to vote a certain way, someone will come up to you--may be Mitchell--and say 'you can't vote that way; you are in the leadership!' So I lose a little bit of my independence. When people ask me about it, I tell a story. When I decided to run, the first thing I did was call Dale Bumpers to ask him to nominate me. I said, 'Dale, I'm running for Secretary of the conference and I want you to nominate me. I want you to give a hell, fire and brimstone speech on my behalf. When I finished, he said, "What do you have to do in that job?' I said, 'Absolutely nothing!' He said, 'You'll be perfect.' Great laughter. But typically self-deprecating.
- When he came out of his condo and we met, I said something like, "It's been a long time, things have changed." He said, "When you were here, we were a two newspaper town. Now we're a one newspaper town or part of one paper anyway." Interesting that the media should have been upper most on his mind. At the dinner that evening, there was much moaning about loss of Gazette, and consternation that Democrat would be "the paper of record." But they all said to David, "You have never had a media problem, David."
- I couldn't get him to reflect on change. But with coaxing he said, "I don't know the state as well as I used to. I knew it best when I was governor, when I was travelling around the state all the time."
- Mark Pryor is going to run for Attorney General of Arkansas. Asks DP for advice. "When you meet groups of people, don't tell them what you think, ask them to tell you what they think. When you leave, they'll think you are the smartest person in the world." Chuckle.
- Blanche Lambert to Bill Alexander, for whom she worked, "You have been the lead goose flying at the front of the V, and I have been flying back in the line. Now, I want to fly at the head of the V," ambition!
- I tried to get him to confirm my "onus of 1972" and "liberation of 1984" idea--but he didn't see it that way. "In 1984, I didn't have any vision or any sense of history. I wasn't thinking about the future or the

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past. I saw it as a matter of personalities. Our families were friends, our wives played bridge together, we raised our kids together. We were friends, and he was running against me. My feeling was how could he have the audacity to run against me. When I would meet him during the campaign, I would ask him, "Ed, why are you running against me?" He would say, "You went to Washington and became too liberal." (He shrugged.) Pt, for me, is that even the campaign is a matter of person-to-person with him. Not issues; and the debate stuff I have shows it."

- Said he expected a race in 1990 and was preparing for it.
- August 8, 1989 ad, "Pryor Running with \$800,000: Campaign funds may scare off potential challengers."
- Jim Keet called "most likely challenger" in Washington Insider report.
- Keet says, "(Pryor) is an institution in Arkansas. (I) wouldn't want to participate in a suicide mission" by running vs. him. See other possible candidate's comment.
- On Thursday, we went to Children's Hospital where Barbara and David donated some pictures and David met with the doctors and the board; and then we toured units. At the meeting, doctors, fund-raisers talked about plans for nutrition and toxicology centers. Site visit coming, money needed, etc.
- Best dialogue:

DP: "It's been several years since I've been here and I've been wanting to come by for a long time to get myself reinvigorated."

Herschel: "I know you've said it's been some time since you've been here and a lot has happened here--the research and the building and all. But one thing is the same--you are still our most respected and most popular politician--and when I say that, I mean that you have the love and the trust of the people of the state. If you tell the people you associate with about us, that will do more good than anything."

DP: "You're as out of touch as I am." (always self-deprecating.)

- Afterward, Blanche Moore, our guide, sideled up to me and said, "What Herschel said is the truth. David is the most loved politician in Arkansas." Why? "Because he speaks for us and we trust him."
- My main impression: Politicians can do an awful lot of good. e.g., "I'm going to call Mike Espy... I'm going to get them some money--you just watch. They deserve it."
- Skip Rutherford joined Kelly, DP and me for lunch and we talked mostly about Clinton's current problems. President's mother died early this morning and some talk about her--admiring talk. "How's you son doing?" "I have two sons, which one are you talking about?" Spirit during NH

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campaign--direct mail fund-raising episode.

- Skip's view of 1978 is that because it was close, the perception was there afterwards that Pryor could be beaten. "People thought that because it was so close, Pryor could be beaten. The fact was that he had just become king of the mountain. He had knocked down the two strongest people he could have faced. The election did not show weakness. It showed great strength. But we had to deal with the perception."
- So, says Skip, they ran another campaign in 1979, "empowered a district office to be more than a constituent service agency. We established our presence around the state, wherever two people met, we were there." Hired an outside consultant Squier, organized direct mail, mailing lists, etc.
- Ernie Dumas had a similar take on 1978. "The three giants at that time--or three of the four--Clinton was AG," and "the titans of their time clashed in the Senate race."
- Ernie said that in some ways, DP was at a weakest point in his career in terms of accomplishments. His governorship, in Ernie's view, was "kind of a disaster, without any major program development." First term idea was constitutional convention and courts knocked it out. Second term idea was Arkansas Plan and that failed for lack of support. Economy was bad so he couldn't raise taxes to pay for any initiatives. And Bumpers had put through a ton of reforms and had raised taxes. David was tightly constrained--no money, no pressing agenda. "He had to be a care-taker." (Ernie)
- Ernie, Pryor and Bumpers win elections by about the same margin, but the idea in the state has been that Bumpers can be beaten and Pryor cannot. If you talk to political people, they will say, "I can devise a campaign that will beat Bumpers. He can be beaten. But none of them can devise a plan that would defeat Pryor. I think it's because Bumpers is thought to be more liberal than Pryor. But their voting records aren't all that different either."
- "Bumpers and Pryor have about the same favorability levels, but Bumpers negatives are higher. Pryor's negatives have always been extremely low. Clinton's favorable go up and down. Sometimes they are very high. But he has high negatives."
- Ernie: "Pryor is different from most politicians in that he doesn't seem to have an ego."
- Ernie used old saw that "everyone you meet was David's roommate." It's not possible for you to have had that many roommates.
- Most interesting thing Ernie said had to do with David starting up his weekly paper after college Ouachita Citizen and, in a sense taking on not only the local Camden News, but also in effect, the entire Palmer chain of papers in southern Arkansas. Walter Hussman owned the dailies

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in five of the six southern Arkansas cities. DP made his crusade the need for a new state constitution. It fills out picture of DP as a reformer, taking on the establishment. When I told DP about what Ernie talked about, he laughed. "It was crazy. If I had had \$50 dollars at the time, I would have declared bankruptcy. But I didn't have the money." Ernie says that when DP ran his first congressional primary vs. Richard Arnold--who was brother-in-law of Hussman, the entire chain shut DP out of the news. "He got no coverage in any of the papers. It's amazing that he won. They completely shut him out of the print media in five of the six biggest towns in his district.

- DP: "I remember when I was first elected to the Senate, there was a cartoon showing Jesse Helms and the rest of his group and me coming up and saluting. If I had behaved that way, people would have pointed at me and said, "He's a whore." If there is one thing people can recognize and can't stand, it's a whore." I think I have the cartoon.
- Re roll call votes, Skip said that hurtful votes change over time. Abortion a killer earlier, not now.
- A some point during the week, DP was trying to recall a vote score and couldn't remember what conservative coalition was, and couldn't get the name right. He simply does not talk easily about ratings or combinations of issues. I mentioned a string of issues, and couldn't get Skip to bite. It's hard to get DP to generalize. You have to build your generalization out of his stories.
- David describes his issues as "living room issues"--that touch people--he said this after Skip had talked about IRS and defense waste as issues. DP does not hit 'em head-on, but hits the personal side of the issue, and generates talk at home. Accept taxes, but not abuse; accept defense, but not waste. DP said Bumpers did not develop living room issues--more remote from ordinary people, talks about ozone layer, for example.
- DP on Bumpers: "He wants to be the corpse at every funeral and the bride at every wedding."
- Carmie Henry's story. DP and Barbara drive to NC from DC to visit with John McClellan's widow for half-a-day, and drive back. (DP later said it was weekend.) "John McClellan's widow said that David Pryor was nicer to her than anyone else in Arkansas in the years after her husband's death."
- David said, again, in El Dorado, "When I suggested this get together, I had no idea that four of five highway commissioners would come." But when I suggested he was the draw, he said, "No, they probably just wanted to get out of town."

About 50 came to talk about highway 69--a project that is part of a major north-south highway.

- Roy Reed, wherever with LBJ-Lady Bird, LBJ comment

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- "It occurs to me that DP and CP are essentially self-effacing. A key?
- I-69: 22 counties - talk in plane same as talk at Fayetteville, "If we can't get it now, we never will." "We're in the best position now to get it, etc. - 2 TV stations.
- DP name tag: "David".
- "If there's ever been Arkansas' time, this is it."
- "We've got a President and we got a Federal Highway Commissioner and all of a sudden what used to be a figment of our imagination became a possibility... We need to seize this opportunity. If ever we are going to get anything, this is the right year."
- "They call Tucker "a highway governor."
- DP gets only applause for freeing up \$800,000 for the project.
- They see highway connections as key to state's development.
- Intro: "How many states in union have senators they know by their first name...We know them, they work on our behalf. Not a better example than Senator David Pryor."
- DP: "We don't need any wars at home." Wants Arkansas to stay unified till they get the highway.
- DP: "This is not necessarily the time to make a lot of noise, but to do out work behind the scenes and make sure all our bases are covered."
- "David" on name tag. 60-75 people here.
- "He has a way of saying what he wants to say, without making anybody mad." (Lifton)
- Lifton emphasizes DP's 90 million surplus in 1978 - a policy to go with his style-"That's what the people of Arkansas want."
- DP: "I have three rules for meetings in a campaign year. No meetings at country clubs, meetings must have wives, and no head tables."

#### Meeting at El Dorado

- I-69: no economic development project could have more impact on Arkansas - a big one - idea is to keep maximum mileage in Arkansas. Don't let it swing into Miss. or edge into Ia.
- DP-my observation. He always say, "I'll just sit and listen." He is a listener.
- At story telling session at lunch in El Dorado Chamber of Commerce: The

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commissioners know his IRS and nursing home work.

- Commissioners are: John Lifton, Buddy Benafield, Herby Branscom and Bill Clark. Dan Flowers is Highway Director.
- DP at corn supper: "Today we sold our first shipment of rice to Japan." (applause)
- At the Faded Rose with Steve Ronell and Lee Pittman after the corn supper: "I don't think there is any town or any county in Arkansas about which I can't tell a story; and I can tell a story about almost any person I've met in Arkansas."
- The people I met at Marion Berry's house - Jimmie Lou Fisher, Steve Jurnigan (Dem Chm), the commissioners, etc., spoke about DP's wide acquaintance, "he knows half the people of Arkansas by their first names," or "he's the most popular politician in Arkansas," or "everybody loves David Pryor."

Caroline Schassnect (?) at Helena, spoke of him as young editor - hired first employee. She asked, "Are there a bathroom in the office." She said it was "a feisty thing to do, and David Pryor is a feisty guy." She knew him then.

- I got a lot of reminiscence in El Dorado, Helena and Gillett--especially about first run for Congress--who was with him--problems, high risks, mistakes (the \$100 to ministers, who didn't turn out an audience, one person plus one driving by. Hilarious story and typically self-deprecating).
- Steve says DP is totally unimpressed by his position and his power - may be he knows niceness is power. Steve talks about how other staffers like him and staff-to-staff relations are made easier because of that.
- Part of young Turk past - he was so out of favor with people who ran the Arkansas House that he couldn't get recognized eve. "I had a resolution praising Winston Churchill after he died and I couldn't even get recognized by the Speaker."
- The feisty editor, to young Turk, to crusading Congressman, to moderate conservative governor, to moderate conservative crusading senator is one thread of his career - the policy thread.
- At lunch, David said that his greatest failure in his career--the Arkansas plan--was "the most fun I ever had. We travelled all over the state trying to sell that program." I think it was his crusade as con con was for first term--coon dog plan was too complicated and too threatening as Dumas tells it. Story re Lloyd George, Steve Nichols rent a cabin. Starts to brief him because George is going to be chief legislative sponsor. Nichols starts going into detail. After 20 minutes, George stops him. "I don't understand a word you've said, and I'm with you 100%." "And he was to be our legislative leader," says DP.

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- I ran into lots of people who remember what side they were on in 1978. They've all changed now. Jurnigan was for Faubus then Pryor. Schaeffer ran Thornton's campaign, Benafield was Tucker's finance chairman, etc. All came around. Benafield says, "We fight hard and then we all come together. We don't hold grudges." And DP says, "That's right, but we remember." But is interested that DP surrounded by his old enemies. A remarkable thing.
- Skip says Clinton expanded the leadership to include Pryor. That is something he did for DP who "virtually took over the campaign in NH at Clinton's darkest hour." Al told how DP got Skip to go to headquarters one night--BC was on Nightline defending draft letter--to buck up staff. "He goes straight to the fire." If a friend is in trouble, he wants to defend him--almost insulted. "How dare you attack my friend." Whitewater to WSJ too!
- Skip says DP's committees were "targeted" so as to keep him in touch with farmers and businessmen.
- Talk at Faded Rose about DP discovery of unmailed letters from Christmas a year ago--DP has been going after the Post Office--though I don't have a lot on that.
- Bill Clark-Bill Clinton story--hated him-raised his taxes \$25,000, made barrel staves. Beat him 3-1 in Dallas City-Clinton asked who did it, got in touch, met, talked, won him and friends. Clark became Chief of Staff!
- DP said at lunch that he never felt as satisfied with consultants crusade in sense that he couldn't make it into a "living room issue"--one that people could understand. "I never could make the connection between the consultants and government waste so that people would understand it and get excited about it."
- Lifton said re nerve gas, "He took on the business establishment of the state on that one."
- Skip talked about first lesson he learned as DP scheduler. "Don't over schedule." He had to cut the schedule in half so DP could stay and visit with people wherever he went.
- When Clinton was elected, DP called Paul Laxalt to consult on "best friend of President" role. Skip told me that.
- Skip says "He's at peace. And he loves his job with Clinton in the White House." Says, "I have the best job there is." Story about "the only thing I want: I want Hugh Tater Black of Ft. Smith as U.S. Marshall." Mickey Canter - "You've got it." After this in Andre's, where we went to lunch. Then the story from Skip's side about how NAFTA goes on-hold while Skip, Podesta, Lindsay have to deal with papers on appointment of Hugh Tater Black!
- DeWitt to Gillett - flat, rice-growing county-they call it, "the Grand

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Prairie." At the Coon Supper, he said to much applause that, "Today, we sent Arkansas' first shipment of rice to Japan."

- One person at Berry's house said that DP's "secret" was that "He likes people." Crucial, I think.
- During talk at Helena, DP and others noted that up to 20 years ago, the state's wealth was in the south east--rice, timber, oil, crops. Now its in the north, poultry, industry. Re the north, "there are few minorities" notes DP the day we were driving I-71 to Springdale and Fayetteville.
- Re sale of rice to Japan, he thinks main effect would be to stabilize the price of rice by drawing down the American surplus. Heavy surplus means low and unpredictable price, he says. Most Arkansas farmers not ready to sell short grain rice. Will take two years anyway to get going. Rice to Japan: "a win-win situation for rice farmers." Either they sell some or they "draw down the surplus and stabilize the price. There are five rice-growing states, he says, but not named. He calls the sale, "a symbolic breakthrough. I's a hurdle we've tried to jump over all these years and now it's happened."
- DP's "Bumper" story comes from town of Marshall.
- Story - Bumpers come to coon supper and he feels sick, can't eat the coon--looking at it makes him feel terrible, but media are crowding around. "Have you eaten it yet?" "Yes." "When?" "Four years ago."
- "I thought I would have opposition in 1990. But the Republicans couldn't find a candidate."
- Brenda Blagg re DP: "He never behaves differently from what he is. He is the same in DC as he is in Arkansas. He is better with constituents than any politician in Arkansas."
- "He doesn't put on airs," said someone else.
- Some notes from Ernie Dumas. DP a triple threat, single wing back in football at Camden "a popular local kid." Paper took on Palmer chain--small town popularity made him a State Representative "they didn't care about politics; politics didn't matter."
- Became "a hell raiser" in legislature - "an anti-Faubus liberal"--crusaded for constitutional reform and travelled state for it - took on county judges (the county administrator) by pushing legislation to force them to take bids on county business - passed that in legislature-taking on the establishment - "an effective legislator as an outsider," and gets "a good government image" and "made friends," and became "all things, to all people." Everyone says they were his roommate in college.
- Ernie places DP as governor in context of Faubus, Rockefeller, Bumpers succession - Faubus let everything slide; Rockefeller had an agenda, but

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couldn't get it passed; Bumpers enlarged the agenda, raised taxes and got it passed--education, etc. When Pryor comes in, economy takes a down turn--no room for reform "he had to be a caretaker."

- Still, he found a couple of causes. First term: constitutional convention; second term: Arkansas plan. First term cause knocked out by Supreme Court so "he left no legacy, no program, nothing."
- Then, second term, the Arkansas plan was not passed - he tried to do something about local government by giving them taxing power and cutting state income tax. Local government in terrible shape - Gazette opposed the tax cut since income tax is progressive; education groups opposed it (Ark. Ed. Assoc.) because they would have to bargain at local level and might lose what they had. The AEA "killed it."
- A case where, DP's "instincts failed him utterly." "The local governments were horrified" because county got too much decision-making power. He tried to tinker with it, but nothing worked - "it was compromised so much that it became a joke." "There was virtually no support for it" - cartoonist took DP comment that local governments could use money to "buy a coon dog" if they wished; and plan became "the coon dog plan!"
- McClellan was considered unbeatable, but by taking him on "Pryor's instincts were sharper than anyone else's"--people thought it was suicidal--but it wasn't. He began with no support except labor, which hated McClellan because of his investigations--DP got off on wrong foot by calling for amnesty for draft dodgers--there was a third man in race. Boswell who was "a hell raising liberal." First vote was very close and if Boswell support (7% I think) went to DP in runoff, he'd win.
- Witt Stevens gets the big boys together when things looked bad and got 'em to ante up for McClellan and help on GOTV drive. McClellan wins debate by keeping DP on defensive about his labor support. Teamsters are special target. DP says that his campaign money comes "from the cookie jars and the overall pockets of the people of Arkansas."
- DP put big labor tag on Tucker in 78 race. Used CQ vote scores, too, to paint Tucker as a liberal. Dick Morris was DP consultant and put out ads that Barbara P. thought outrageous.
- At time of 1978 race, DP did not look strong. He passed a litter tax and had "almost an insurrection" by retailers--had to call a special session of legislature to repeal it or dilute it--a sign of weakness--labor, teachers, Wilt Stevens are against DP. Labor was so strong vs. DP that they would have backed Thornton in race vs. DP. Story about Stevens charging extra utility rates in Ft. Smith turned west Arkansas vs. Thornton, so the Thornton people believed and that knocked him out of the run-off--people now know that Sheffield Nelson (GOP chairman now) tipped off a New York Times writer that broke the story. Nelson was at ARKLA.
- Re DP and media: Ernie talked about challenge to Palmer chain--Richard

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Arnold was son-in-law of owner of the chain--DP blacked out.

- Palmer-Hussman papers, Hot Springs, Magnolia, Texarkana, Eudora and ? Ernie says that "they've been after him ever since" he opened his own paper--other than that, "he's in great shape with the media."
- The fact that he edited a weekly paper put him in good stead with weekly papers in small towns--Chris: DP's Senate Journal goes to them.
- And, when DP was in law school, he was a correspondent for the Gazette in Fayetteville.
- He thinks Bethune was "suckered" into running vs. DP by national Republicans. Ernie wrote a column based on lavish praise Bethune had for DP one year before their race.

David Pryor - Clips (1994 trip)

- J. Brummet "Inimitably Casual, Pryor Travels Among Constituents" AG 10/6/87. "Now-a-days, nearly everyone I run into either used to work for me or ran against me."
- Speaks in "inimitably casual and ingratiating ways."
- "What you see is what you get" (I have this).
- DP left a dime in U.S. Capitol when he left as page saying he would leave it there till he became a congressman--found it when he came to House.
- First 50 to come out vs. Bork
- Paul Greenberg calls DP "the most popular politician in his state." "Pryor's stand shows why Bork's in Trouble" Paragould Daily Press 10/14/87. "The most cautious" of Arkansas politicians." "He has a healthy suspicion of intelligence alone, the kind that makes men heedless of any other counsels."
- "Sen. Pryor's Advice: never lose your sense of humor." Brenda Blagg, Warren Eagle Democrat, "regarded as Arkansas' most popular politician."
- DP & Ark. Young Dems campaign management seminar. "What came across was the vision of a man who studies people, respects them all regardless of their positions in life and takes his cues from their collective wisdom."
- "Politics of geography," "pebbles on pond" theory, "secure first the support of spouse and family, the next door neighbors, the people on the block and then build out into the community and beyond." Different from Glenn.
- Collect most of money first time near home.

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- "People like DP. And they vote for him, sometimes inspite of his record or positions on given issues...Bethune found it impossible to turn the solid little bridges Pryor had built in a life time of Arkansas politics. "My pt is not how life time in politics explains success, but what explains life time?"
- "Good humor and candor have been Pryor's political weapons."
- DP: "If you level with them, they'll level with you." After all--"be sure of what you say and never lose your sense of humor."
- Build and reenforce bridges.
- John R. Starr "Pryor as Vice President? Not a Bad Idea" AD 5/20/88.
- "Pryor is known in Arkansas as the farmer's best friend."
- "He is known nation-wide as a friend of the elderly."
- "Pryor is almost universally popular in his home state. He is regarded warmly even by many of those who voted vs. him in his most recent race vs. Ed Bethune. The whipping he gave Bethune makes it highly unlikely that he will ever draw major league population again."
- June 26, 1988 This Week with David Brinkley, NPR
- AD, 6/13/88 "Clark Got Pryor's Advice on work in nursing home."
- Attorney General of Arkansas copies DP going to nursing home incognito-- "Sen. Pryor was my first boss in politics. He's really my mentor when it comes to politics. Seeing what he did has been an inspiration to me." (Steve Clark)
- Rex Nelson, "Sharp Eye of Pryor turns post office consultant pact." AD 8/21/88
- Mara Henson, "Pryor Wins No. 3 Position in Senate Leadership." AG 11/30/88. "Running for a job in the United States Senate, whether you win, lose or draw, is one of the great educations of mankind. I have not met a more intensified, personal, one-on-one campaign for anything since I ran for president of my third grade class."
- Bumpers nominated DP in five minute speech--he mentioned DP as page, as young Turk, in House, i.e. his career, emphasized "tenacity" and "great code of moral values," he said.
- Speech by David Pryor "Eight Days in Arkansas: How Huey P. Long and Hattie Caraway Planted Populism in state politics."
- Rex Nelson, "Pryor Recalls Early efforts to help elderly." AD 12/8/88 "My efforts in this area began when my mother wrote me a letter about her great aunt who she thought was receiving poor treatment in an Arkansas nursing home. My mother kept telling me how bad the nursing

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home was and I said conditions could not be that bad; and not only was it as bad as she said it was, it was worse." Rebuffed by House committee and subcommittee people he went to. So he visited 12 nursing homes in Maryland and DC on weekends as volunteer.

- Asked for aging committee - no luck. "My mission at that time was received with what I would described as modified rapture."
- Got 21 college students and trailers were donated. HHH gave talk at \$3.00 for catfish fry and raised \$3,000.
- Brenda Blagg, "Pryor Champion of Elderly Again" Springdale News 12/13/88
- Got after pharmaceutical companies, "We're going to go after those dudes. They're going to wish they had never heard of me...there's a lot of greed out there in this area."
- Rex Nelson, "Now Consultant Use Report re charged Pryor's Crusade" AD 12/18/88.
- Paul Greenberg, "Sen. Pryor Says Something Provocative" El Dorado News, Times (and elsewhere) 1/3/89
- "The most popular politician in the state...largely because he avoids any ideas that might be controversial." "When it comes to avoiding ideas, Pryor's career has provided the model. His success had taught a whole generation of Arkansas politicians how to win elections in an intellectual vacuum."
- Rex Nelson, "EPA's consultants raising Pryor's ire" AD 2/5/89
- March 11, 1989, "Pryor Fund-Raiser Makes History: Senator gets \$600,000 for 1990 run" Rachel O'Neal.
- Scott Charton (AP) "GOP has not lined up target for Sen. Pryor" Jonesboro Sun 3/12/89.
- Bethune re Pryor, "He is a dynamite politician. His skills just improve with age...David Pryor is tough to run against. I can testify to that!"
- Rex Nelson, AD, "Pryor Leads Scrutiny of Board and Care Homes" 3/20/89
- Rex Nelson, "Pryor's Staff Hears Accounts of Nursing Home Tragedies" AD 3/20/89.
- John Brummett "Leadership Grades Range from A to F" Gazette 8/7/89- flag burning, "his grades always get lower at election time. He is a good senator in the early stages of his six-year terms."
- Pamela Strickland, "Some Governors Never Die, They Become Senators" AD 8/6/89 D. Blair re DP, "an extraordinary ability to relate to people. He is seen as a public servant, not as a politician. Everyone calls him 'David' and they think of him as their next door neighbor."

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- She says he had a bad economy to deal with while he was governor.
- Scott Charton AP, "Pryor says Demos Must Get Moderates Back," Searey Daily Citizen 8/7/89.
- Says he's interested in who might run vs. him, but still no mention of any one.
- Says no one is unbeatable. "I don't think anyone ever reaches that status."
- Told story when he drove for Gov. Frank Cherry, "who they said was invincible. We'd drive into Brinkley or Des Arc or Fayetteville or Ft. Smith or Texarkana and they'd say, "Gov. Cherry, you keep going cause we're going to look after you here--you don't have any problems. Well, he was defeated that summer for reelection. So that's why I'm spending a month here in the State of Arkansas."
- Arkansas Gazette 10/2/89, "Senator Pryor Rides Out," "Arkansas' DP is perhaps the leading candidate to replace the late Claude Pepper as champion of the elderly in Congress. Undeniably DP is one of the most amiable men in Congress. But he's shown resolve on selected issues, issues very much like this one... The big drug companies better know they're in for a scrap."
- Michael Arbanas, "There's No Talk of Competition Against Pryor: High Popularity Discouraging" Gazette 10/9/89 "How can you run against a guy who beats up on the IRS," says Ron Fuller--a Republican running for House. The article mentions consultants, drugs. Fuller says some of his 100% supporters are 100% for DP.
- AD Paul Barton 11/20/89, "Pryor holds middle ground: political balance makes senator invincible."
- DP "always cautious in his comments and usually manages to find a middle of the road position. While some might call it waffling, others say it is the hallmark of a political style so effective it will likely leave Pryor w/o opposition..."
- Art English, "DP is like a favorite uncle. You may not always agree with what he says or does, but he's still your favorite uncle."
- Paragould Daily Press ED 1/10/90, "the most popular politician in Arkansas." "Makes everyone--the common folk, as well as the movers and shakers--feel welcome around him."

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