

DAVID PRYOR

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I went into Pryor's office first thing, hoping I might catch him. I asked Ann about it. "He's been so preoccupied we haven't been able to get more than one sentence out of him. Afterwards, last night, he came in and just talked for two hours. He was more relaxed than I've seen him in two weeks. He said it was the most fun he'd had."

We talked about how they had edited his speech. Didn't change it much but it needed a lot of editing. I read it. The reason it needed editing was that it was done spontaneously. Sentences had to be created. They took out a couple of words "heartfelt" and "for the life of me" that made him seem a little less forceful than he was. And they took out one line--or, better, left a line out that the clerk took out! He said, re. the case "My wife says it has drive me a little crazy. I didn't have far to go." It turns out that, Don says, the Clerk took that second sentence out by himself. David and Don speculated on why they did that.

Don: "They probably thought they were protecting you."

David: "I didn't remember saying that."

Don: It's a typical Pryor comment--self effacing." And it was. But they were surprised that Clerk would do it.

Anyway, David came poking his head through side door to reception room and Don and Ann said "You can come in." It was as if he thought someone might be waiting for him.

I said I'd seen him last night. "I sure did carry on yesterday, didn't I." He mentioned something he had told Tom Hamburger last night (can't recall).

He asked me to come in for a minute. I did. Don wandered in and out.

The main thing he said was "I didn't know whether I would speak or not. But if I hadn't, I would have been the only member of the Ethics Committee not

to have spoken. I'm glad I did it. I felt much better afterward. I'm glad

I got it out of my gut."

I had asked Ann and Don if they knew he was going to speak. They said they didn't know whether he would or not. They knew he had decided for expulsion. Ann told me yesterday that she thought he had wanted Senate so much and had worked so hard to get here that he was "more traditionalist than almost anyone over there."

Don said he didn't make up his mind till night before last--Tuesday night, after Eagleton. He said Eagleton speech was an influence on David.

A lot of the talk was how he didn't know whether he'd talk or not. If he did, he was going to talk about Pressler case. "Arlen Specter was suppose to lead off on the Pressler case and I was to follow. But Specter got cold feet. Off the record, Baker was working on him to wait till next week to bring it up. I heard he went to the gym. So I told Larry I was going to do it. He wanted to be exonerated. But he has trouble making up his mind. So first he wanted to do it, then he did it. I said to him, Larry, if you don't make this part of the record no one will ever remember it. People are so sick of Abscam that next week the press couldn't care less. He came over afterward and said he was glad I'd done it. Howard Baker came over and said he was glad I'd done it."

"I sent a note up to George Bush, Mel Weinberg is waiting for you in the ante room." He smiled and said I've got a lot of Justice Department stories for you."

"Paul Tsongas kept coming over and saying 'you've got to speak up.'"

"I'm not sure Howell Helflin was too happy with what I said. He hadn't even seen the memorandum that Webster signed. I told him I thought Pressler had given him a copy."

One indicator of David's excitement over the speech was fact that he never asked unanimous consent to put the key document in the record. The

clerk said he could not do anything to get it in the Record. "How could I have forgotten that."

"Lawton Chiles came over and said. "It's been nice to know you. You'll probably end up at the bottom of the Potomac River."

"I get paranoid about these things. I worry about my phones being tapped," he said re. FBI.

I asked him why he went to talk to Garn "I was bored, I guess. What did I say to Jake Garn? I think I told him I was going to do the Pressler thing."

The way he relived it led me to believe he did savor it.

Typically he painted picture of himself as fumbling and tumbling along. "I couldn't find the ethics committee statement when I wanted to talk about it." He pictured himself unable to get his hands on the documents he needs. That's the picture he likes to paint of himself. In some ways, his speech was the least disciplined speech I heard. He was not careful in phrasing the way most of them were, with very meticulously prepared statements. H moves by instinct more than by methodical care. He thinks about it. He's not impetuous.

Inouye "He told me last night he was going to try and persuade Williams to resign. And he said 'Pray for me.' He's the most popular Senator. He's always a gentleman. He's usually very quiet. When he speaks he is always eloquent. I can hear him now saying, no, no, no, no."

Don kept saying that "The press didn't pick up the Pressler thing." he said it to Ann and me. He said it to David. "Bradley was the last speech, before today's edition went to press."

He thinks people will lose interest very quickly with respect to FBI and Abscam. "I think we should set some parameters for FBI activity. Right



now, we don't have any. But I'm concerned that we won't be able to sustain any interest in it. By next week, no one will care. The press will be sick of Abscam; the public will be sick of it."

He fell to talking about Glenn's trip. "Didn't John Glenn do a great job in Arkansas?"

I asked him what good it did. "The Herby Branscoms and the Mary Scharders of the world, the ones who go to national political meetings will talk about what a good job John Glenn did in Arkansas. A couple of people came up to me after breakfast and said "I'd vote for that man for President." That kind of talk gets around. If you do that in 20 different states, that will create a favorable opinion. It will also help to neutralize certain opinions among others. Let's say that the Arkansas congressional delegation was for Mondale. After that performance, we would not talk against John Glenn. Not that we would, but our personal connection with him--with Bill Alexander, Beryl Anthony, Dale Bumpers, David Pryor--would neutralize ties. He has a chit with us. And, third, it makes him able to talk about Arkansas politics, having been there. I've been to Missouri and it helps when I can talk about Missouri politics with Tom Eagleton. There's a comradeship there. Glenn has that with Arkansas people.