

DAVID PRYOR

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Met him in subway.

"Did you hear the speech John Towers made on the Kassebaum amendment? That was right out of the 1950s. I expected to look down 16th Street and see the Russians coming. Nancy wanted me to speak on it; I told her 'Nancy if I speak I'll lose you more votes than I'll get you. I wanted to speak on it, but I decided not to.'"

*It's typical way of how whether or not to speak up on it?  
Poor. Why? Unwise for politicality? Unfocused and  
hence always half in & half out!*

On nerve gas - "When I saw George Bush come in to the chamber, I asked him 'George, what in the world are you doing here at this hour of the morning.' He said 'They rolled me out of bed and got me over here because of you--so I would break a tie on your binary nerve gas amendment.'"

I did a little personal lobbying and I picked up people like DeConcini, Scoop Jackson, Grassley. I'd go back to Gary Hart and say, put down DeConcini and Grassley. He said "I don't believe you. How did you get them." "I asked them." "That's not a bad idea," he said. You'd be surprised how that little personal touch helps you pick up a vote."

He said again how Tower knew what "the scenario" would be--that eventually people would get tired and resent long speeches and roll calls.

He stopped me to ask how could he give up the third year tax cut and put it in a trust fund. That is, not spend it. "a little cushion"