

JTPA

DAN QUAYLE


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Leslie Novitsky, Cynthia Ferneau, Les Rosen.

I couldn't have picked a worse time to get him to talk about his life in the Senate, because he has just been hit by a burgeoning scandal. My interviews with him came later than scheduled, as he left the office and, in general was preoccupied with meetings. As he left to go see Howard Baker, he came out, kicked me in the shoe and said "You'll be around. I've got to go see Baker." I said yes and I waited for quite awhile before we got to talk. When I went in, he was very cordial and very frank.

"I'll bet you didn't think you were going to find anything like this. It's the damndest thing. I don't know that girl at all. It's the others that will be in trouble. But my name is connected with it. You always think that something like this might happen, but when it does it's hard to figure out what to do. My gut instinct is to go back to Indiana, hold a press conference, let people see me and tell everything I know. But people say 'that will make you the focal point. Why should you do that when you don't even know the girl--not down there or up here.' Our first strategy was to say it isn't serious, it will pass over, snicker, snicker.' But this week it's in the papers back home. Last week it wasn't. I'm going to check it with some of my newspaper friends - to ask them what I should do. But all my instincts tell me to go back there. You picked a beauty for your book."

This was in essence what he said. I told him about Stewart and Frenzel cases, the moral of which was to 'let it all hang out' or else it will never die, but that if you do, it may die. *This was an intrusion that was pretty amiable.*
No trace of him that the proximity of Independence day matters a lot.
He put in a call and started talking strategy who Mark Miles (I think) or



Mitch" while I was there. They want to find the woman's lawyer and get her "sign off" saying that he had nothing to do with it, didn't know her, etc. He got to talking about coming home with Mitch and Rich Galen came into the office and suggested I leave. I did and sat outside for a while. When I went back in Dan said "You didn't have to leave."

I asked him how things were going up to the point of the scandal, did he miss the House, etc. He picked up on the House business.

"I miss the informality of the House. I miss my peer group. There aren't very many Senators under 35 with those children 6 years of age or less. They are more formal here. They take themselves more importantly. The analogy I use is that when you say "Senator" in the House, everybody turns around--wishing it were so. Over here when you say 'President,' everybody turns around--wishing it were so. It's more individualistic here. You don't see other Senators much in the course of the day. There are no basketball games. People don't get together in groups on the floor and tell stories. The House is so big you naturally break into groups and cliques. There are no groups or cliques here. The Senate is a club, but it is one big club. In the House, you have little clubs."

"I asked him if there were any repercussions from the election campaign or whether it was a closed book.

"It's still on people's minds. When I go home, people still congratulate me. It was such a major event that I get congratulations wherever I go. People who come in here congratulate me. So in that way I think of it. One thing I learned from the campaign is the importance of attendance. I never thought of it as very important. But it is a point of vulnerability. I didn't like it that they were able to use it against me--not so much as compared to Birch Bayh, because he didn't take attendance very seriously

either. In fact, his was worse than mine. But people talked about it. I'll be more attuned to it than I was before. I always thought 90% was tops, more than you needed. Now I'll shoot higher." (Rich noted that he hadn't missed a vote," I don't think he's missed a vote. We're going to have to miss one deliberately pretty soon. A 100% voting record is not something I want him to have to keep up. It's more of a headache than a help.")

Dr CETA
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"The problems I talked about in the campaign are the problems X I'm still interested in--the auto industry. But I'm interested in them on a larger scale than I was before. Now I'm worried about the auto industry throughout the whole state. Other problems that we had in my district are much worse in other parts of the state. The scale of problems Gary has are so much greater than they are in Fort Wayne. People think that because you are a senator you can do something about these different problems. In the House, they would come and say "Would you help Congressman X on this?" or "Would you help Senator X on this?" Their expectations are greater. But the problems are greater, too."

Re his committees. "You literally sit around in a room with a sheet of paper in front of you and pick committees in order of seniority. Foreign Relations had no vacancies. It would have been my first choice. My^{next}/choice was Finance. Bill Armstrong took it and then two others before me, so I missed it. I said 'Armed Services.' It covers some of the same problems. I don't like the mechanical, engineering details. I don't care whether we have fixed wing or mobile wing or what thrust the turbine has or whether the piston broke or whatever. But I like the policy aspects--the MX missile, the tactical bomber, rapid deployment force. In some ways it's better than Foreign Relations. It's a committee that brings you face to face with this

country instead of Zimbabwe or Zaire. You don't get to visit with Breshnev but you do talk about our international problems. It's a better committee politically. We have a few bases and a lot of military personnel. Constituents like it. And the survivability rate on Foreign Relations is not all that great. Church, McGovern, Fullbright. Armed Services is not as prestigious as Foreign Relations, but I think it's better.

"On the second round, I wanted Governmental Affairs. But I sat there watching and I saw that I could be 3rd ranking ~~on~~ Labor and Human Resources. Nobody wanted it. I noticed everyone was shying away from it. I didn't have any interest in it to tell you the truth. I hadn't even thought of it. But if I were third ranking and Bob Stafford retired next year, I could be second--assuming Orrin Hatch is reelected. So I said to myself right there, "Why not take ^{it}? There are a lot of important policies there, education, employment, labor. I took it on the spot. So I went in wanting Finance first and Governmental Affairs second and wound up without either one."

He answered the telephone at that point, and we never got back to Budget. But, since Mark Andrews was talked into going on Budget last and Quayle went on last, you wonder whether Budget has the prestige it's supposed to have. Or maybe the opportunities on the Committees were more tempting for the Republicans, given the changeover this time.

I asked him about the 6 year term and what it meant to have that much time stretching out there.

"It gives you more time to think. AND it helps you to take politically unpopular positions. Right now, I'm trying to think of a way to change indexing. I'm convinced we've got to find a way of turning that process

around. I don't know whether I'll get anywhere. Indexing is very popular. None of the people running for reelection will tackle it. I wouldn't either if I had to get reelected next year."

We talked, lastly, about CETA. "It's a program and a problem he's just gotten interested in. And he talks about it with some passion. "The Administration is going to cut out the youth employment program. OK, I agree we've got to cut these programs. But what are they going to put in its place? That's what they've got to decide. But they are so preoccupied with the budget, they aren't thinking about it. I hope this doesn't put me at odds with the Administration. But there's an employment problem and the question is what are they going to do about it. It's a ^{big} ~~g~~ary problem. I get more people coming in here from that part of the state than from any other part. They want to tell me about their problems. And they've got 'em."

I asked him what they thought of him. "They voted 10-1 for Birch Bayh, but they know I'm their Senator for 6 years. They are pragmatists. They'll work with anybody."

(And he says he added "I am")