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RICH GALEN

October 5, 1981

*in with him, Ryan.*

Rich talked at lunch about the press release following Reagan's defense announcement.

*admitted  
Reagan*

"He's such a good Senator and he was such a shitty congressman. I don't mean he went from being an OK Congressman to being an OK Senator. I mean it's a huge change. He hasn't missed one objection since he's been here. There hasn't been one time that he's missed a meeting to play golf. Over in the House, he would miss meetings, miss votes. He'd meet Railsback who would say 'let's play golf' and off they'd go. It seems as though he's said to himself, if I'm going to be here, I'd better take it seriously. And he has."

"He has a tremendous capacity to absorb information. It never ceases to amaze me."

*That begins to  
come through  
fix it  
up.  
out.*

"He's opposed to the Education Department not just because he's opposed to it, but because he's in favor of block grants and he sees the Education Department as an example of what could be done... His reaction in the President's defense speech was that we ought to take the occasion to rethink the idea of the triad... Just when you think you're dealing with a buzz head, he comes up with a good idea." He likes to think about things in the abstract "but only occasionally" and "not continuously". He may not want to think about triad for another week. "Marilyn will sit all night and argue a philosophical point. But Dan will have none of it. He's not interested. "Yet "all he was interested in last week was AWACS."

Re press. He runs into Phil Jones of CBS and shows him DQ's defense press release. "I explained to him what was in the press release and told him that it put the Senator in conflict with the Committee Chairman (Tower).

This meant that whereas on AWACS he was opposed to the administration, on the MX, he might be the administration's point man. I just put the idea in his head. With a freshman congressman you can't push. You can only position yourself. You want press people to think of him as a possible interview. And he does give a hell of an interview."

He gave speech after Reagan to Nation of Alliance of Businessmen. He wan't loose and gave technical speech. But it was one of more important ones. He talked about trying to get Dan to focus on a speech. Sometimes he has to beat on him to make him concentrate. He's good at it and gets "cocky". His wife doesn't think he does well with prepared texts either.

He walks press releases around to gallerys; he send them over computer to the Indianapolis computer in the office and they walk them to state press gallery. And they send release to 8 Indiana papers in services by telecopier. Can have press release out in 45 minutes. "Faster than any office on the Hill."