

BOB GUTTMAN

July 1, 1982

On my way to the Metro, I decided to swing around and see Bob Guttman, though a little reluctant to barge in on him in his moment of triumph. Mary was there alone and we chatted. She asked if I had met Kitty Higgins. "Vi Thompson says that Bob, herself and Kitty Higgins are the only 3 people in the Senate who really know the bill. It was Kitty of whom Mary said after the subcommittee markup "Kitty said Dan was great, that he kept every agreement he made." And Vi had said "That's not the kind of praise we need right now."

Bob came back and I congratulated him. "The Labor Department withdrew its opposition. They actually called around to the offices to tell people-- as if it made any difference."

He said "I'm going to buy Kitty Higgins a drink; and asked me to come. I agreed. Having had Jim Range just tell me about the "liaison" the admin. felt existed between Bob and the Kennedy staff. I thought I ought to see it. Well, it surely exists. We went to the Monacle. Bob and Kitty toasted. Bob. "Here's to a bipartisan bill." Kitty: "Today was an anti climax compared to the two markups. It was so easy." No sooner had they toasted their joint venture when Don Shasteen the Labor Dept. congressional liaison--the energy-- came over. "Congratulations on getting the bill through. You deserve a lot of credit." The atmosphere was very strained. No one smiled. They were almost curt with him. 'Thank you' was all they said. He left.

Kitty, who had worked in Carter admin. said "They have no idea how to lobby Congress. The only people worse than the Carter Labor Dept. lobbyists are the Reagan Labor Dept. lobbyists." Bob said "I think the Carter people must have told them who to hire so they would look like winners by comparison."

Kitty and Bob obviously work well together. How important that was in producing and for sustaining the Quayle-Kennedy bill, is hard to say.

Back in the office Bob had said, "Who would have predicted a year a half ago that we would have passed the bill we got in the way we got it." "I should pursue that. What would he have predicted a year and a half ago?

He, too, went into the Denton matter - said staffers couldn't work it out. Dan and Denton reached agreement. Staffers write it up and Denton produced a different one today. "Did you see Dan talking to Denton. He was shaking his fist. So Denton went back to the earlier one. That's the one I had sold to Kennedy. Then he changed that when Kennedy objected. I was surprised when he changed from 200% to 250%. Kennedy would have accepted the 200%."

He was surprised that Specter pushed so hard--thought he just wanted to make a speech. Said AS would have gotten one vote. On Domenici, he couldn't believe Pete would pop up with something like that and persist. He said Pete had no chance in the committee.

"All the amendments we would have opposed, were withdrawn, one by Kennedy, one by Metzenbaum." That seemed to please him. But they could have been better off beating them on the floor. It might have strengthened them in conference.

I told Bob that my story line was (1) the decision to go and stay bipartisan and (2) the opposition of the administration. He agreed.