As soon as 2036 passed, I went down and sat on Jim Range's couch and waited for him.

"It was a real pressing match."

He explained his activities; I asked question and he evaluated. I start with the evaluation.

"I asked him what kind of grade he's given Quayle and he said "B-". During his description he had said "It was a situation where you had people up here who were green and a bunch of bumblers down there in the Labor Department. The people down there couldn't have handled it in a worse way than they did. They really thought they were going to beat Quayle! You can't treat a United States Senator like they did today sneaking around here with a big stack of amendments saying that 'we're going to get these introduced.' You knew not one of them was going to go through unless it was approved by Quayle and Kennedy unless they got some great mass of Senators to support them."

Angresani - "They've got some little guy who bristles." (He sits up erect and shakes himself in self important way!)

"The reason I grade it down is because I think it could have been handled better in the early period. It didn't need to be confrontational. But this one was confrontational from the word go. When I got into it there were all these power games going on at all levels. Negotiations between Quayle and the administration had broken down. Kennedy felt left out. The administration wanted Quayle to go out and beat Kennedy. Quayle, for whatever reason, opted to work out a deal with Kennedy. Whether he did that because he thought he needed Democratic support or whether he did it because that was his own preference, I
don't know--probably a little of each. You know Bob Guttman. He's a good
staff man. He knows more about the program than anyone else. But the
administration does not trust him. They felt he would not listen to them,
that he had some kind of liaison with the Kennedy staff. So they tried to go
around him. I think staffs should have good relationships. Otherwise you
have a situation like the Judiciary Committee, where they can't move a thing
because the staffs don't talk to each other. They are working it out, because
they know that unless they do nothing will happen. I don't know why the admin.
got so upset. They have this little guy that bustles - Angresani. The
decisions weren't Guttman's anyway. They were Quayle's."

When he used the word "green" again to describe Dan, I interjected
"enthusiastic" and he nodded in agreement.

"Two and a half weeks ago Senator Baker asked me to see if I couldn't
get a time agreement for the bill. I called in the majority and minority
staff people on the committee and the staff of the other interested Senators
to see what could be done and see if we picked up any burrs under the saddle.
As soon as I did that we began to get these calls to put a hold on the bill.
It was the administration asking Senators to do this, Senators who had no
special interest in the bill. They were doing it because they knew that
what just happened would happen if it ever got to the floor. We scheduled the
bill for the floor two or three times and each time we had to pull it back
because of these holds. Quayle was one upset Senator. He had to go around
and talk to each Senator and persuade him to take off the hold. At that point,
the fate of the bill depended on Quayle's steadfastness in going around to
each Senator. He di it. As a moderate I'm happy with the bill."

"When we conduct these negotiations in here don't screw anybody. We don't
do anything that we wouldn't do if we worked things out in a public forum."
But it might take 5 years if we conducted the negotiations in public. We
don't have the time. So you work out your agreements and you posture your
disagreements so that you can have a debate and an argument. You know you
are going to have winners and losers. But you do it in a way that does not
become confrontational... These guys are incredibly busy. There are millions
and millions of issues. They will work on one for a while and then turn around
and work on another. They think everyone they are working on is a matter of
life or death for them. They are so easily distracted from one to another.
They are like a guy with a lot of stacks in front of him. They push one
along and then they move and push another one along. They keep moving from
one to the other. The good ones keep all the stacks moving. The poorer ones
let a lot of them fall behind. Very few Senators are steady. Most of them are
compulsive, running from one thing to another. (He went through the motions
on the stacks, pushing them along, like poker chips on the table.)

These last 2 ideas came together but were interrupted by phone calls, so
I'm not sure of the connection.

He said Ed Meese was the adversary of Quayle. He's opposed to the idea, and
he strengthened Labor Dept.

But, on the Labor dept. "Nobody could have fucked it up worse than they
did."

Said he didn't know Jim Baker was involved.

Grinned when I talked about Pritts. "I'd better shut up. But if you know
enough to ask the question, follow your nose. I don't know whether it was staff
or Senator. I've heard it was staff. It was probably a little of each. I'd
better shut up."

He likes Jim Wolff. Sees him as a good staff man. Said it was Jim who came
to him at Quayle's request and asked for help in getting out of their mess. But I don't guess Jim had any great success.

He views the thing as someone who does not like to see confrontation between Senate and admin., and he faults Quayle for not preventing that.

"That's what comes from being green. (I said "enthusiasm.") It was a good learning experience for Quayle."