

*Hitler's hand of
DQ by Range*

JIM RANGE

July 1, 1982

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

"It was a real p~~re~~ssing 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 bumlbers 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 did 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 ^{position?} 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."