

LESTER ROSEN

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We went to M *and* and talked about staff. He began by saying he thought Dan and the administration were going to get together on the job training bill-- that the two had gotten close enough. But it wasn't clear how it would work in terms of sponsorship (and credit).

He said they originally offered all people on House staff the option of coming over to Senate side. Three didn't come. One got better job with her own Congressman; one became full time mother; one went back to school. The others came over.

He talked first about his own situation in the move. He had been Dan's AA for 4 years. But Dan wanted Mark Miles to be his AA and asked Lester to be chief LA. "I thought about it for a month and then decided I would try the Chief LA's job." Why Dan wanted Miles, I can only find out by asking Dan. But I think it was a campaign-based decision.

The arrangement didn't work. "Things didn't fall into place," said Lester. Also Mark didn't like it in D.C. And because we weren't getting anywhere iwth our state office organization, it was decided that Mark would go back to Indiana." (He's now in private business which is what he was about to do when Dan brought him to Washington.)

I asked him what he meant when he said things didn't fall together. "Our office was very bureaucratic. We had lots of memos, but we weren't accomplish- ing anything. We had a good office manual, but nothing was happening in legisla- tion. We weren't getting anything done."

"It often happens that there's a competition between the people who come in from the campaign and the people who have been in Washington--the Washington establishment. There's a competition to see who can get the attention of the Senator. And there's a competition in the way they do things. People who are in Washington are used to picking up the telephone and making a call without

He seems to picture campaign people as over-organized and as poor improvisers--when I would have thought that they would have been good improvisers. Maybe the formal "campaign manager" is pretty bureaucratic. At least Miles seems to have been.

Lester does not have a political tie to Dan. He was AA for Governor ^{Garner} Shriver of Kansas when Dan hired him. "It was quite a change for me to be AA for a 29-year old congressman. I think he must have wanted a steadying influence."

"I think of myself as a professional, with a Republican philosophy." Said he could do the job he's doing for any Senator with whom he was ideologically compatible. Said he could not work for Jesse Helms. Or, when I suggested Moynihan "anybody from N.Y."

Lester and Cynthia have been together for the last 11 years. She worked for a number of legislators, came to Shriver and they came to Dan together.

They are the inner core of the office. And that is indicated by fact that--on matter of access to Dan--Dan wants them to tell me if they are going to talk to Dan, or tell Cynthia. They do not guard access to Dan, since he wants to be accessible to all of them--and keeps his door open a lot. "He encourages the staff to come to him." "Bob Guttman has almost instant access--especially now with the job training bill."

He calls Guttman "a real find for us." And, "He's put together a good little staff on the subcommittee."

I talked about the idea of a transition from the campaign. "We have gone through that transition now. Five people came from the campaign. Only one is left--Mary Moses." Mark, Patty Cray, Susan Handley and Adams have left.

I said Rich--and he said Rich came from the House staff. He said "Dan wanted a press secretary from Indiana who knew the people in Indiana. And Rich

was burned out, from the Stoner campaign and our campaign." He's high on Larry Smith. "His background is in TV; and that should be helpful to Dan." Someone else said in the office that Larry was travelling with Dan. Surely Rich's emphasis was on getting Dan Washington publicity. Or at least that's what he talked about.

"Do other offices have as much turnover as ours?" he asked.

I asked him if he was conscious of where they were in electoral cycle, and he said yes. Said they paid off their debt with a prty in January and that next year they would start fund raising. After Lugar gets through. And, he says, they think about where they want to be at the end of each year. But nothing very revealing. Dan's own comments are more so.

When I asked, he would talk about letting Lugar have first preference on any projects he was especially, interested in--because he's running--and that they would expect similar treatment.

He told of ethanol plant in South Bend that Dan supported, when and Lugar didn't. Dan pushed it through in budget commiptee, --then Lugar changed mind, helped it along in Appropriations Committee and took credit for it. But, says Lester, there was enough credit to go around.

He talked about the Indiana setup and seemed to think it was going OK. All "cases" done in Indianapolis. They divide up projects or go at them jointly. They carry more clout via a joint letter. But way they divided up projects and credit is not clear. Some of it is by interest. Dan more interested in Amtrak than Lugar; Lugar more active on agriculture.

They are opening last of regional offices now--in Evansville.

Jim Wolff is now Legislative Director. He talked about Bill Furniss on A.S. "He came highly recommended from DOD and Fred Ikle. But the chemistry between him and Dan didn't work. Dan didn't feel he was getting the feedback

he needed. So Bill is back working in the Defense Department and Fred Ikle."

They are looking for a replacement and for a replacement as "general LA, with emphasis on trade and commerce" to replace Tim O'Neill.

He's a little burdened with staff problems. A couple of staff support positions are open and 2 LA's. A great sense of turnover on this staff--more than any other. Even front office seems unsettled. They were looking over new floor plan today and talking about pictures on the wall, etc. Before he went to hospital, says Lester "I spent 40% of my time on personnel... Since then I've learned to delegate. Dan Ingram is screening the applicants for the A.S. position. Jim Wolff is doing the same for the general LA position. And Les Novitsky is interviewing all the secretary and receptionist applicants. So I only see the people they think I should see. I guess that's the secret.--delegation. We're hoping that when we fill the 2 LA slots we'll have the staff we're going to go with through the election. But I'm resigned to having a lot of turnover in the staff support positions."

He ticked off the people they were counting on.