

LARRY SMITH

December 3, 1982

Larry went through, blow by blow, the aftermath of the conference report. The White House sets up a date for Rose Garden signing ceremony for "the administration's job training bill." "We have a dozen Indiana media people cleared for the ceremony, plus the staff and some of Dan's friends." Then, unbeknownst to the administration, Tip O'Neill has his own signing ceremony on the occasion of his routine signing of the bill to forward it to the White House. "The White House is furious, and they cancel the ceremony set for (date?). We say that's all right with us. We tell them that Dan cannot make it either Tuesday or Wednesday of next week, but that any other time is fine. Dan had been scheduled for weeks in advance to be back in Indiana and to go to some fund raisers out of state, to Michigan. The next day the White House calls and says that they have rescheduled the ceremony for Tuesday!" So Larry comes in on holiday, Columbus Day, and reschedules everything to get Dan back for ceremony, find substitutes to go to his fund raiser, tell people he can't come, etc. "After I had spent all day completely rescheduling Dan, the White House called and said they had changed the time from noon to prime time in the evening. I called Dan to tell him about it and at that point he said 'screw it', they can go ahead without me. It seemed obvious to us that they didn't care whether he was there or not. I had to reschedule Dan back to his original plan, call everyone back and tell them he was coming... They held the ceremony with some job corps trainees watching and with Donovan and Angresani standing the background. What an irony."

Larry gets a call from Chris Wallace asking if Dan is going to be at the White House for the press briefing on the "administration's job

training bill." Larry has no idea there is going to be a briefing. As soon as the White House briefing was over, my phone started ringing off the hook and I spent the next six hours explaining the bill to them. Kennedy had put in the record a chronology, which I used and a comparison of the various bills, so they could see for themselves whose bill finally passed. When I told Kitty Higgins that we were using their charts to brief reporters, she nearly collapsed with laughter. The main question they wanted to know was 'when did President Reagan first support the bill.' They were trying to stir up trouble. My answer was the 'Senator Quayle believes that when the President came on board is not as important as the fact that he now supports the bill completely and that we are happy he will sign it.' As it turned out only one reporter ever used that comment...I spent a long time with Deborah Potter of CBS radio. She knew nothing about the bill. In the course of that interview I made the honest statement that 'the Labor Department threw roadblocks in our path all the way.' I thought I had given her a long enough interview so that she understood the situation and I considered it background. She never used it. But late in the afternoon Ken Dubersteinⁱⁿ called Dan in Indiana and said he had gotten wind that the networks were going to use that comment and asked Dan to ask me to call Chris Wallace and Bill Plante and set the story straight. Dan called me and said 'I'm not telling you what to do, but I just wanted you to know the situation.' I called Bill Plante--who had never gotten in touch with me--and he said 'my story is done.' I called Chris Wallace and we had a long talk.. Then I turned on the evening news. On CBS there was a picture of Dan on the screen, and below it they printed 'an aide to Senator Dan Quayle ~~the White House~~ ^{White House} ~~not~~ said that the ~~administration~~ ^{administration} threw road blocks in our way.' ~~The administration~~ ^{The administration} not ~~the Labor Department~~ ^{the Labor Department}. But NBC was worse. They showed a picture of

Dan, and beneath it 'an aide of Senator Dan Quayle said 'The White House threw road blocks in our way.' 'The White House! Not the Labor Department, not even the administration. As soon as it was over, Duberstein called. He was livid. He wanted Dan to hold a press conference to set the record straight. He wanted a letter of apology. He thanked me for calling the two people; but he said they had got wind of the fact that the two networks had been playing off each other all day. I could understand Bill Plante using something from his own organization. But I had a lot more respect for Chris Wallace as a newsman; now I don't."

When Dan gets back, he wants a picture with RR for his newsletter. Marilyn wants to come and bring the kids. Lester calls Duberstein, who says that they want Dan to go in through the press gate so that he can make a statement of apology to the press--and no kids. "Duberstein said 'After all you've done you've got nerve to ask if you can bring your kids. You can come, but no wife or children.'" They ended up sneaking him in and out.

Then, says Larry, he picks up Broadcast magazine a couple of weeks ago and sees that Reagan is going to use Chamber of Commerce network to talk for 1 hour on the Job Training Partnership Act. He calls Chamber person and says that "the author of the bill is available." "We have the president signed up" she says. "You can have the President who doesn't know anything about the bill and the person who wrote the bill" he says. "I'll get back to you" she says. Never does!

He says they got lots of inquiries about the bill from various places. Last week they did live TV interviews on the bill with a West Va. and Kentucky stations.

He'll add 50M to continuing res. to get dislocated worker program going. Otherwise, since this part of the program is a new program, money

in continuing res. can't be used for it, i.e., for any new program.

Larry thinks Dan has gained a lot with the black community because of job training.

credit I asked Larry if any Indiana reporter understood what Dan had gone through on jobs bill and he said no. I asked if any of 'em followed the bill and he said no. He said he thought one or two knew he had worked hard on it. But no one really followed it.

I commented to Larry that Dan never made as big a deal out of it in terms of credit as I would have thought. Larry says Dan has just as big an ego as any other Senator and wants credit just as badly, but that "he played this one very quietly." He didn't explain why.