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Lunch

You have to go back to my background in the newspaper business. I grew up in that business. People in the newspaper business hate the government. They distrust the government. It is the last unregulated business; it's almost immune from regulation. It is deeply ingrained in them that the government should keep away, that government cannot do you any good, that it only brings trouble. 'That distrust is deeply ingrained in me... So I

start from that basic principle. (Also free market capitalism and need for defense.) But I also like to get things done. I like to see things get accomplished. It doesn't do any good to take a pure position against government when there are national problems that have to be solved. It may make you feel good, but it ain't the way the world is. The government

has to have a role in some things and always will. So I always ask myself 'Is there a role for the gov't here?' 'What should the gov't's role be?' 'Is there really a need for gov't here?' 'How can it be kept to a minimum?' I think that's a valuable intellectual exercise no matter how you come out in the end." Grandfather sold all TV and radios so he wouldn't have to deal with 'the damned FCC.'

Marty Teleson asked me where I would place myself in the political spectrum. I said I'm not going to say whether I'm a conservative or a moderate conservative or a moderate. I said you'll do that for me anyway. You have a compulsion to put people in pigeon holes. In the newspaper business, one thing you try to avoid is being stereotyped. And independence is the thing everybody strives for. Sometimes you have to go against community opinion. You can't be afraid to do that and still do your job. It's the same thing here, I don't mind going against the crowd when I think it is right."

I asked if newspaper objection to gov't wasn't civil liberties only. He said it started there (talked re his agent identities stand). "But the distrust of government is so deep in the free press once that it lays over and colors the attitude toward gov't in every aspect." → *Especially with the principles...*

Recalls the article on elite newspapermen as liberals and says they want to use their positions to undermine the establishment, redistribute wealth, etc. Sees all newspaper people as cynical re gov't. *me to self the door*

"I'd give up the third year of the tax cut before I would give up indexation. I campaigned on that issue harder than I did on Kemp-Roth. That issue meant more to me and made more sense to me than any other one."

His attitude in budget this year. "There's a feeling that everything should be bipartisan this year. Social security is, the jobs bill is, so the budget should be, too. That's fine by me; it's the way I want to do things anyway. But then my question is: what's the tradeoff? What are you doing to give up to get bipartisanship and you run smack into the revenue side of it. If we are go-ng to get concessions on entitlements, we're going to have to give on defense and revenues. Defense will be too hard. But the guys are tired of walking the plank again by voting vs. medicare, against nutrition, against education. They won't do it. So you get back to indexation and tax cut, if you want Democratic help."

When he said he didn't mind going against the grain and he linked that to newspaper business, I said, smiling, you were probably independent long before you got into the newspaper business; he said "I grew up in that business." And he said, again, "You have to go back to the way I was brought up. You don't get these values overnight or from some book you read somewhere."

He said newspaper management is "deeply cynical about government."
And he said reporters used that cynicism for their own purposes. He made a distinction throughout between management of newspaper (with which he identifies) and reporters, (with whom he does not.)

make JTPA
Told reporters "you missed one of the great stories of the last Congress ~~JTPA~~ JTPA. They said we know it. I said all R was interested in was budget and taxes and that's all you wrote about. But one bill we did pass was the JTPA. I don't know how they missed it. I kept asking Larry. How come they weren't writing about the bill. The WSJ did the best job--but they were interested in the private sector part of it. This year it's very different. The admin is actually proposing things--Social Security, natural gas, jobs. It's more like a normal presidency. I don't think they care as much about what we do on the budget. There's gang of 17 working feverishly to get agreement. They seem to be saying. Do what you want. We'll follow our own budget anyway. There just isn't the interest in the budget this year. It's very different.

On jobs - "The whole thing was a deal between Reagan and O'Neill."
I think he wants money put in for dislocated workers.