

BRENDA WELBURN

May 17, 1982

I stopped by to ask Brenda about the sugar business.

"We got involved in it for lack of anything else to do. Paul got a call from the people at Revere sugar opposing the sugar price support program and asking him to look into it. We weren't interested in price supports. But we be outraged at what the administration was doing in the field of social services and here was a story that was getting special treatment from the government. There wasn't much we could do about social services at this time. So that's how a social worker like myself got involved in sugar. I spent more time on sugar last year than I did on social security.

"Paul picked Quayle on purpose, and he went up and spoke to him personally. He likes to work with someone from the other end of the spectrum because he thinks he'll have a better chance of passing something that way."

"Quayle is so enthusiastic about it. He's got 13 cosponsors on his side. We have one. Quayle wants out on the floor. I can't get Paul very interested. When I told him Quayle had 13, he thought I meant 13¢ per pound price support. I'm embarrassed when Tom calls and says we have 12 cosponsors. And when we have high level meetings, Quayle sits in. Paul doesn't come. I have to say "my senator is very interested." Quayle is just more enthusiastic. He thinks if we get 15 sponsors on each side, he can get Baker to tack it onto some bill. I've given Paul a list of people to talk to. It's harder than you might think because some of these people who would normally be on our side--Riegle, Cranston--have sugar beets in their states and won't touch it."

Paul went over to make his statement this year on the quota bill and doors were closed - so he put it in and 3 days later it was printed and bulletted. Gary put it in his desk and forgot it.

This year's bill is in response to quotas; last year was on price supports.

"It's interesting to see the different reasons we have for supporting it.

We were upset at what the administration was doing to social services and we came at it as a special government program taking away from social programs. Quayle was very favorable to the administration and he thought he was helping them by getting rid of an unnecessary government program.

Last year, she said "Paul had a lot of fun" with the farm bill. She said Peanut subsidy came up first and lost and then deals started to be made and they saved it. When sugar came up the steam had gone out of the drive. "If sugar had come up before peanuts, we might even have won. There was a lot of animosity toward the farm program."

He said Lugar sponsored the peanut amendment and that sugar was scheduled to go first. But Lugar asked Quayle if he could go first "Since Lugar was the senior Senator and was on the Agriculture committee, Quayle stepped aside and let him go first."