

PAUL TSONGAS

December 16, 1981

I was scheduled to go with Paul to a speech tonight. But the Senate stayed late (and eventually adjourned) and I went to eat in the Senate diningroom with him, Randy Naiman, Larry Payne, Sam Baldwin.

He talked of next session "It will be a quiet session... Next year, we're going to get into more legislation. With the book behind us, we can do some legislating--on whatever comes up, like taxes. I don't think I've passed an amendment this year." They reminded himself o 2 or 3.

"On nights like this I go to the marble room, pick up the Economist and in 20 minutes I'm asleep. It's quiet back there. It's much nicer than the House cloakroom, where you had 3 couches for 240 Democrats."

"I've got my voting record up to 86%, and I'll keep it there if I don't miss anymore votes. (I said, 'That's pretty good with all the book trips. And he added) And with the baby."

He mused about how he was going to talk one of the girls into taking the master bedroom so he and Niki could have the littler room with a better view. And he suddenly broke out in a big smile "Aha, I've got it. I know how I'll do it." He gets pleasure out of that kind of thing--the kids thing. He also said he wasn't any good at night. "I'm so tired I go to bed with my kids at night."

Later he said "I've only had about four belly laughs in the past year--and all of them are with the baby. I look at her, toothless and it makes me what a life." Always the talk about the children.

He talked about campaigning. "You can drive yourself for seven months in a campaign, till you are a scarecrow. You can drive yourself to the point of death--not past it, just to it. You get up at 9:00 in the morning and drive to Western Electric to shake hands with people coming at you out of the

dark. If you think of the utility of it! Some live in New Hampshire, some can't vote, some on't vote, some will vote against you anyway, some will vote for you anyway. But you're out there working for that one son of a bitch... I went to 16 different events in one day. The last event was a fund raiser scheduled for 10:00. We got there at 12:45. I was so tired, I could not get the owrds out. They wouldn't come out! I'll never do that again. When you are trying to get known, you do those things. Once you are known, it's the quality, not the quantity, of what you do that matters."

He talked about the Barney Frank situation--he's been redistricted with Heckler, with 75% of her district in the new district. "Ted Kennedy and I called on his behalf. No way. One of the legislators said to me, 'You're a pretty forgiving soul, aren't you.' Barney campaigned against me and for Brooke. All those chickens are coming home to roost now. The Democrats did it to him mor than the Republicans. We have very long memories."

He talked about Pat Moynihan's "3 intern exit." When he gets ready to leave at night, one intern goes downstairs to hail a cab, one intern waits in the window upstairs till he gets the signal from the guy whose gotten the cab. Then he signals the third intern who is waiting in Moynihan's door to tell him the cab is ready and then gets the elevator for him.

I talked a little about Berkeley--I said it was a nomic. Paul said "Some Senate offices are like that. There's a three man front line that stands between the Senator and the rest of the staff. No one can get to see the Senator. Sometimes, our staff can't get replies to our inquiries because of that."

Funny story: Paul is waiting for elevator, on his way to a roll call and having left at the second bell, half way thru the roll call. A kid is standing slightly behind him waiting. Elevator door opens. Kid sticks his arm in front of Paul, blocking him and says "Make way for Senator Denton."

is left standing there." The fucking door closed. I was so dumbfounded, I couldn't move. I was immobilized! 'Make way for Senator Denton'! I've been waiting for six months for that to happen again, just so I could say, 'Fuck you'. But it never will." Great hilarity.

Story of Lawrence's Senator Well. Goes to costume party dressed like a bum and then has to go to Danvers State Mental Hospital to get a constituent out. He goes to front door. "I'm Senator Well." "Oh sure you are." They take him in and lock him up. More hilarity.

"What a goof off I was in college. I swam two times a day and waited on table. I never studied. I wasn't a goof off in the sense of fraternities or drinking. I just didn't do any studying." Sam asked him if he regretted it and he said 'yes.'

Later that night, after I left, he and Larry and Randy got the Senate to pass their <sup>Scholar</sup> ~~Sahara~~ Resolution and then they went over to the House where Paul lobbied House members to pass it and got Tip O'Neill to suspend rules. It was last thing passed that session. It was noncontroversial, but they started about ten and got it through both houses in a couple of hours or less. During dinner, they worked on it. Had to get Baker's OK and he wouldn't do it till Senate Foreign Relations signed off on it. Rep. policy committee was supposed to have contacted the committees but hadn't and so they had to call a staff guy in Virginia, at home and got him to call Baker. Paul and Larry ran all way from RSOB to floor because House was about to adjourn. Then they carried the bill over to the House and took it to Tip. Got it through there with help of PTs lobbying. Sponsored in House by Jim Wirth. Great political science lesson, said Randy.