

Rep. Karen Thurman (D/FL) August 24-27, 2002, Iverness, Florida

- Jonathan Poverud, Orrin, Paula, Ann Morgan, Lisa.
- Left the Cape yesterday, flew to Tampa and drove to Iverness to same Central Motel--only change in six years is that the restaurant has gone "50's" and is now "Happy Daze Diner." Pictures of Elvis dominate the no-smoking section. (That's a change, too.)
- It's exactly six years since I was here last. Weather-wise, it's very humid. In the morning, it's just as humid as it was the day or night before. That is very different from the Cape.
- Driving up, I was impressed again by the dominance of the automotive and truck business--automotive repairs, auto parts, auto junk yards, "auto salvage," "used car sales," "sell, trade, repair," "body work," "auto sales," "auto repair." In the Saturday Citrus County Chronicle, 19-1/2 pages are devoted to automobiles, four to sports, six to churches, one to national news, two to business, eight to local and states news. There's also an insert devoted to candidate profiles for county races.
- Otherwise, the near countryside still looks poor; but Route 41 is under widening and so lots of construction on the way up. Brooksville is dead, killed by a bypass filled with malls. Same old, same old. But with Withlacoochie State Forest section is nice.
- There's a primary here September 10 and so there are candidate endorsements and an insert with candidate profiles. There's a big ad (the biggest) in the profiles insert for BW, Karen's opponent. BW has a primary contest.
- Somewhere in Hernando County, I saw a huge full color roadside billboard for BW. I saw two or three little Thurman signs along the highway, stuck in the tall grass, not very visible and in the middle of nowhere..... "we haven't started our sign campaign."
- In the paper today (24th) three county commissioner candidates discuss the issues. And they are water quality, housing and highway tourism expansion, a new Suncoast highway. But while

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all the candidates espouse water quality, all of them oppose a one-cent tax increase to pay for it! It turns out the county voted (2-1) it down last year. And the incumbent commissioner, who was for it, is now against it, too.

- All in all, you would certainly know its political season here.
- Sometimes, Karen or Ann will call me when I get in. But this time, the motels's telephones are all out of order! Hit by lightning. I ask the woman at the desk when she thinks they'll get service. "Not any time soon." So I'm incommunicado. I called Nancy last night from the front office--which has the only phone!
- I drove up to the fish fry on Saturday. That was the event that decided for me that I'd start on Saturday.
- I met Anne Morgan when I arrived. She said they were doing an NAACP event that night, but no tickets left--said she'd forgotten I was coming! (She called me two days before and I wasn't there.) So it goes. But, as I sit here, with the hall emptying out, there's a chance I may get to another event today.
- The fish fry is a traditional event to kick off her campaign. Billed as a fund-raiser, I donated \$5 for my meal; and I noticed that the typical contribution was \$5 or \$10 (about equal) and I didn't see any other denomination.
- I'd guess about 300 came and they continued coming through the American Legion Hall door till about 1:30. It was a down to earth, middle to lower middle class, mostly elderly, mostly white; maybe 20 blacks. Numerous union logos on T-shirts.
- Karen spoke with usual feistiness. (She came up to me as she was crossing the room before hand and said, "How are you?" "Fine--just aging a little, that's all." "Aren't we all," and moved on to the next person. There was no sign whatever of recognition. I didn't care, since I'd contacted Anne already.
- Talk: "There's been some interest in this campaign. For six months, all we heard about was 'we're going to take the government back; we're going to redistrict her; we're going to get her.' They forgot about one thing: people power (cheers).

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They can change the (district) lines, but we have people--and people talk--people who have lived here for 20 years. You know people in Sumpter County, in East and Central Pasco and in South Lake. Talk to them. Let's make this a grass roots campaign. It's not about money, it's not about TV; it's about you telling people about Karen Thurman. Your word of mouth, your phone calls will make the difference. I love all of you. I had a great time and I got a lot of stories. It means a lot to me. And the servers you see up front are the same people who serve you 365 days a year. They are the ones who produce all the wonderful stories." (Her staff)

- **Then she discussed the issues.** "The first issue is **health care for veterans**. Bush withheld \$417 million of veteran money in supplemental. State people say they'll make it up in deferred construction and maintenance. It's not right. When I go back to Congress in September, I'm going to be a loud mouth. He wants to take us into war and give us more veterans, but he won't help the one we already have (applause)."
- As an aside, a guy I talked with (he and his wife are antique dealers) said, "She didn't sell out. She stood up for guns. If she hadn't, we wouldn't have voted for her." (Wife from RI, etc., etc.) He says "the rednecks like guns because they are all in the business of selling them. It's not shooting for fun, it's business!"
- "The biggest issue is **prescription drugs for seniors**." Then a little bit re House and Senate differences. But her basic argument is that the tax cut was excessive and some of it should have gone to prescription drugs.
- "You sent me up there to think out of the box. You said to me, 'Don't come back with old solutions.'" Then she proposed something I didn't understand, but it's based on the fact that in Canada and Europe, people pay one-third what we pay here for drugs. And drug companies are greedy.
- Then, "I think we can win the election on that issue alone. Why should we pay two or three times more to help a child with diabetes? It's worth fighting for and that's what I'm going to be fighting for."
- **Social security:** attacks privatization plan. "It may have

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looked pretty good two years ago, but it doesn't look so hot two years later."

- For 20 years, I've had a great time and I'm looking forward to two more. And you won't just see me at election time. I'll be out and about." She likes the term "out and about" and used it a couple of times to discuss her ubiquity.
- She was thrilled with the turnout-more than ever before. She worked the line as people waited to get food.
- The estimate for the fish fry was 275-300. They had to go out and buy extra beans and potatoes (hush puppies) during the event. "Wasn't that great," she said after Anne had prompted her as to who I was! Still, she told someone I was from Syracuse! (Great for the ego; which, of course, you have to keep tiny when you do this stuff!)
- Anyhow, I followed her (in^{my} car) to an event in Levy County, Inglis, a non-partisan rally at which all candidates spoke. Her opponent was there and gave a very disappointing speech. Beforehand, K said, "She will be vicious." She wasn't--no punch at all. Short but not sweet!
- The most telling comment came from a friend of K's. Said K to me: "Did you hear what she just said? She (BW) doesn't even speak to people." She isn't gregarious, and she can't put an argument together in person, it's hard to see what she's got--except money, Republicanism and legislative experience. Q: "Is that enough?" From what I saw today at least (it's no sample), this is a "talking" district as she suspects it is.
- Anyway, in the Inglis town park, flanked on four sides by baseball diamonds, on a bunting-clad stage, we had the color guard, the national anthem and a song by a member of the sponsoring church group--"Yankeetown Church of God." (Suffocating heat!)
- The song had conservative religious theme: "We must take America back, we lost America, it's gone to the dogs. I pray that the army of God will rise up and take my America back."
- She sang and talked intermittently. The line that got the biggest applause from the church members who sat under the tent was, "I don't raise dogs at home. I raise children, god-

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fearing little children." I don't know why that got such a hoorah. I wondered how Karen was going to respond, but she did. "The proudest moment in all my public life was the day after September 11th, when the members of Congress went out on the steps of the Capitol and sang 'God Bless America.' We were united and we were strong and we said that we would never let anyone harm America. That was the proudest and most moving moment of my service in Washington." Afterward, she asked me, "What did you think about my God bless America statement?" "I thought that was a most appropriate reply to that song, didn't you?" She was pleased.

- Anne asked me how Karen did. I said, "It was good." She said, "Is that all you can say, 'it was good?'" (I'm expected to cheer more.) I said, "she certainly outdid her opponent who had nothing. I was very disappointed in her." Anne told Karen what I said and Karen said, "no oomph?" I said yes. That's when Karen asked me if I heard the comment about her opponent not talking to anyone. Well, all this is fluff, of course. There were more candidates than "people" at the rally. And what "people" there were handlers! K did have a half-dozen cheering fans with Thurman stickers on.
- In her talk, K again mentioned veterans, prescription drugs and social security. Re prescription drugs, she said again, "Why is it that we have to pay three times what people in other countries pay for prescription drugs."
- Brown Waite's pitch, w/o being very specific, was that she wants to go to Washington "to take on the special interests." She used this all purpose description of her enemy. And then she mentioned specifically "the HMO's, the nursing home industry and the trial lawyers."
- "I'll represent your values and be a congresswoman you can be proud of."
- "I'll let you keep your tax dollars to yourselves."
- "I'll fight the prescription drug industry, the pharmaceutical industry."
- First full day: Monday. I was alone Sunday. Drove to Lake County luncheon--we got lost--Jonathan drove me to meet K in some gas station. She drove his car, me in front, Jonathan in

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back.

- First question from her: "What did you do yesterday (Sunday)?"
A: "Flea market, hit golf balls (Tin Cup) and Ted Williams Museum." She helped her son make yard signs.
- Lake County. She has part of it. "Do you have all of it?"
"Thank God, no." "Very Republican." Good part is that she has the new part. It's younger. Polk: "I haven't a clue what's there. There's a swamp (?) and everything is just built up around it. That's going to be the hardest part to get into. It has about 50,000 people and 31,000 voters."
- Re Lake Country: "This area is what the coastal area looked like before it was built up. As it got crowded, people moved into the area. If you look at it from the air, the whole area is covered with water. It's all lakes. And people have built developments centered around the lakes--all with golf courses. And these developments are now the bedroom suburbs of Orlando. And that's different from anything I ever had to represent before. I had lots of small towns, but no bedroom communities. And they are younger than I'm used to. When I first drove around in Clermont, I was struck by what I saw--basketball hoops and minivans."
- Re voting habits, "They are Republican. But I don't know." Idea was that she wouldn't give up on any of 'em.
- Biggest new chunk was West and Central Pasco County, 140,000.
- Re Polk, "I don't know how I'm going to get in there. There is no cohesiveness there, no community. There are no rotary clubs or chambers. There is all rural area around the swamp, and closed communities. They won't let you in. There are 52,000 people, 31,000 of them are voters. I'll need a lot of help reaching them."
- Would the balance of interests change any in new district? "I don't think so, all of them will be interested in social security and medicare--the big issues in my district. Of course, I won't know until I start hearing from people." She also believes water will be a key issue for developments and she's old hand there.
- A long story told with great enthusiasm about W&M and her

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getting on the committee. At the end she said, "The two people who were probably most important to me were Barbara Kennelly and John Lewis." Kennelly because she went into leadership meeting and told Gephardt he had to do it; and Lewis because he talked her up in the regional meeting and was her regional representative in the councils of the leadership.

- Who finally told you officially you were in. "I don't remember. I was so excited, I didn't care who told me."
- At one point (in Caucus or in W&M) she got up and said that "I know some of you guys win by 65 percent, and don't have to worry at election time. But I have the toughest election of any of you, and I'm willing to stand up and take hard votes. You should be too."
- "I don't say a lot in Caucus. There's a lot of whining in there. I let the same ones who run their mouths do it. But one day I was on the list to say something and the leadership decided to end the meeting just before it was my turn. And my friends down front started calling "Karen, Karen, Karen." (So I did get a chance to speak.)"
- Our meeting at the Royal Highlands enclave and the Monarch Golf Club for a lunch with a scattering of business people in Lake Country. Jonathan and I sat with five business men. Karen came to the table and told them who I was, etc. One of the guys I had already spoken to. The other four took no notice whatever of me but just continued their Florida football conversation. Throughout the meal, none of the four spoke to me or asked about me at all. After dessert, one guy and I talked about Karen's opponent. (The guy worked for Sprint and hates BW.) Just another note about what it is like "out there" on the trail.
- Re redistricting, they "flipped" 3,000 out of Levy and gave it to Stearns and gave her 3,000 somewhere else--probably Polk.
- When we got lost on our trip to Royal Highlands, "This is one of the problems when you get a new district. You get lost!" But she took it all with good humor.
- Her energy level remains truly remarkable. Always a smile, usually a hug, hands going. "Ok." "Ok~~ed~~-dokie."

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- I rode in front while she drove, Jonathan Poverud (his car) in back. Seemed eager to tell me what was going on, and did tell me stuff off the record--her relations with Charles Rangel, Karen McCarthy and the W&M seat.
- Most interesting part of the W&M story was that on the morning of the final decision, Rangel or someone calls her and asks her to be at Steering and Policy meeting room in the morning. She gets there. "There were all the Democrats on the committee and they started drawing their chairs around in a circle. It looked like musical chairs. I had no idea what I was there for or what was going on. I knew I was supposed to keep my mouth shut; but finally with my big mouth, I said, 'I don't know what I'm doing here, but I'd be happy to be a part of the same circle with the rest of you!' Charlie spoke up and said, 'Does anyone want to ask Karen any questions?' Barbara Kennelly spoke up and said what a good member of the committee I would be. John Lewis spoke up and went on and on and on about what a great member I would be. McDermott asked me, 'Karen, I see you don't have any large winning margins. You don't win by 80%, do you?' They were worried that I couldn't take hard votes. I said that I could take hard votes and that I had proved it already, that so long as I could explain them back home. And I said I had done just that in 1993. I also said, 'You will have to give me some votes now and then, too.' That was about it. I was dismissed. Charley adjourned the meeting. I had no clue how it worked. I had no idea what the result would be. I did see Gephardt later because I told him I would make a decision (about the Commerce Committee offer). But he said to me, 'I think we've worked something out.' That was all."
- Earlier, Gephardt had offered her Commerce; and she had said she'd have to consult all her backers. As she left that meeting with Gephardt, Kennelly was going in. KT told BK what the offer was. BK: "What did you tell Gephardt? Don't you ever give up. If you give up you will disappoint all the women in this country. And there won't be a woman on the committee. Don't you ever give up." "I was stunned by what she said and I said OK, I got your message. I won't give up!" Then she went in to talk with Gephardt. I don't know what she said, but... (the implication was that she said a lot). And I know what BK said at Oklahoma.
- "I'm the first to admit that I don't know all the ins and outs

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and the specific provisions of the tax code. But these guys on the committee have been there for 25-30 years!"

- Re her primary constituency, I put it in terms of fight, bleed and die, thick or thin support.
- "With or without Gainesville?" "Without. I don't know, I just don't know. I'd have to think about that. I rely on the PACs. And I don't know whether the PACs would be with me. The health care folks would be (named another PAC)." "If you included Gainesville?" "The university folks. They love me. But otherwise, I don't know. In Citrus, there's a group. But given that we're the second poorest district in the state, I don't know where the money would come from."
- She took the question to be a primary opponent this time. Because first answer: "The only thing I worried about was someone from around here like Dade City."
- When I asked her what other members would be closest to her in voting, she shook her head over and over. "It depends on the issues. If it was trade, I'd be with the unions. If it was defense, I'd be closer to the blue dogs. If it was guns, I'd be closer to the blue dogs. If it was prescription drugs, I'd be over with the liberals. And if it was social security, I'd be a Bernie Sanders liberal, as far over as you can get." (It would be interesting to do an analysis.)
- She gave a long interview to a reporter from Tallahassee (?) while we sat in the car waiting for the last "hobnob" (at Kings Ridge) to begin. While she talked with him, she put on make up, brushed her teeth, rooted around in her pocketbook, rearranged papers, etc. She was not articulate in that interview. Kept saying "you know" and "quite frankly" in almost every other sentence.
- At the Kiwanis luncheon at Dade City (20 in attendance; I sat with a sophomore at St. Leo College, who is President of the college's Kiwanis affiliate). She was also not very articulate there. Again she talked about her father's 24 years in the Air Force as a B52 tail gunner. "The military was his life; and it will always be with me. My strong feeling for the military helps me with people who might otherwise think of me as too liberal. They just want to bomb Iraq. It gives me credibility with people like those at my

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table who think a woman doesn't know anything about the military or about war."

- "There's no doubt about it, Iraq is the biggest issue now. In my district, two-thirds of them want to go get Iraq." Like a lot of military people, I think she is not gung ho about Iraq. They know casualties.
- While we sat waiting, she called one PAC after another trying to get some "primary money" in under the deadline. All I can say is it was grueling. Over and over trying to (a) get to the right person (half ended up as call-backs) and (b) trying to get them to give a little more. Despite some rejections, she kept her good humor.
- She is enormously frustrated because, as she kept telling the people from whom she wanted money, "this is the number one targeted district in Florida" or "this is the biggest Republican target in Florida" and in spite of that, she gets no special treatment. And worse, she is neglected! "When the DCC had their event in Miami, they didn't even send me one invitation. And when I went, they didn't even introduce me. And I'm the number one targeted district in Florida. Now, Tom Daschle is coming to Miami next week, and all the money will be soaked up in other districts--not mine. I need it the most and I get the least. It just doesn't make any sense."
- I suggested that the lack of a big metropolitan district hurts her. And I started, "The district has no metropolitan area. It doesn't even had a large city. It's way up here"... and she said, "~~It's~~ nowhere." And I told her how hard it is to describe where her district is "somewhere north of Tampa and south of Gainesville. And if you don't know Steve Spurrier, you won't know Gainesville." She agreed. I think it's a main part of her problem. She is from nowhere!!
- For the size of the district, consider this: she has three airports to choose from, depending on where she wants to be, or is in the district: Tampa, Gainesville, Orlando." But three airports is no airport! I.e., no center of gravity in her constituency, no focal point.

Dade City Kiwanis: A rundown on what they have done and will do in Congress.

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- Post Sept. 11 rundown.
- Patriot Act
- Some discussion that we should ? 4 years later, "Hope we will always question whether or not we have not lost our freedoms."
- Homeland security--"Pulling in every group that might have something to do with.
- Customs--revenue, Bill Thomas and jurisdiction.
- Coast Guard--"Some of that fell out at the end."
- Lame duck session will come.
- Iraq (she told me 2/3 of people in district "want to go in."
- First questions are on prescription drugs.
- Her "political solution" she got amendment in one Republican Rules knocked out.
- Veterans money not being spent.

- On our last leg from the Kings Ridge "hobnob," I gave her the various events I attended. And she ranked them. I left out one and so she had to go back and fill some. But she took Chronicle first politically because "the numbers, the fact that they were all voters who took the time to come out and because (unlike fish fry), they are all in my district.

- In second place politically, she put the time spent in the Sumter County Jail and sheriffs department. "When someone that important (sheriff) takes that much personal interest and everyone takes so much time, it has to be important. All of the law enforcement community were there. He took a lot of pleasure in showing me around. It's an important old and new county."

- Third was the luncheon with the Sprint people--again an "in-road into a new area."

- Fourth was the fish fry. "Some of the people there can't vote for me anymore. But we did bring in some new people from Marion County and elsewhere."

- Fifth important was King Ridge because it was new territory and made some connections.

- Sixth and seventh "a toss up between Bushnell and Inglis. Probably Bushnell.

- Last was Inglis.

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- On the personal enjoyment scale, she ranked the fish fry first, the sheriff and jail time second, chronicle third, Sprint group was fourth, Bushnell fifth "because I like small groups when you can talk and get to know people." Inglis sixth because "it's nice when people like the fire chief come up and say they are with you." King Ridge was last, "it's not pleasant when you lose."
- She lost the straw poll 47-36 votes to BW and group was discouraged. Of course, everyone was casting double votes (one per ticket). I voted twice! I was upbeat and she picked it up a little, too--they shouldn't have expected it. But she said it wasn't all Republican-territory. And she picked up two or three volunteers.

"I think that if we can win in the old district--and we should be able to do that--and then make in-roads into the Republicans in the new part of the district, we'll be alright. I think we can do it, but it's going to take a lot of hard work."

When I told her I thought you could run a congressional campaign with six people, she said, "I think you're right and I'm going to have to tell my young people just that. They shouldn't have been sitting at the table all night. They should have been out working the crowd."

- At the ~~Dade~~ City Kiwanis lunch, there were 20 people. Outside I saw 10 vehicles in the parking area and five were pick up trucks. A funny group of Kiwanians. KT said her table was full of hawks, conservative too. But I thought an older guy who spoke up during the question period hit the nail on the head when he said American people aren't prepared for war because they have no idea what war (i.e., WWII) is like. That they are just playing war and hope that it can all be done w/o casualties, etc. KT agreed. But she is in no sense a dove on Iraq. And she has a very hawkish-sounding constituency.
- She told a very nice story about a farm bureau guy (at the Kiwanis luncheon) who had been dead against the estate tax and was talking against Karen for her vote, against the president's tax bill, i.e., against the repeal of the estate tax. It's an issue she's having trouble with because BW is hitting her on it. This guy wasn't for BW. He was for Gessner, the most conservative/independent guy. She said she

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called this guy and suggested they have lunch. They did, at which time she tried to persuade him that a \$6 million limit which she supported (on the estate tax) would be sufficient. He said it would help him, but on principle he was opposed to an estate tax on farms. I invited him to an event we were having nearby the next week. He said no, but much to my surprise, he came. Today, before lunch, he said to me, "you've got my vote." And then she asked me, "Do you know why?" "I couldn't believe it. He said, 'I saw you dancing at that party and I said to myself, I want to vote for a real person for my representative.' He's going to vote for me because I was dancing!"

- But the point is that she is "a real person" and that is her strength. No frills, just plain Jane vanilla nice. Not shy or standoffish. She engages people easily and schmoozes naturally. *girl next door.*
- She often cheerfully admits, "I'm a politician." And she campaigns without letup. At each toll booth, she asks the person where he/she lives and gives them a brochure and says, "I'd appreciate your vote," or "I hope you'll give me consideration on election day," or "at the polls."
- She says that 45% of her district is new, and she has been told that Central and ~~West~~ *East* Pasco has 147,000 voters!
- On her fund-raising problems with the DCCC "the DtripleC" ("I'm going back there and kick butt with the DCCC. They don't have a clue about what's going on in Florida.") She thinks it does have something to do with being a woman. But she says it obliquely. "If it were Peter Deutsch or Jim Davis or Alan Boyd, you don't think there would be a problem do you. I hate to say it but I think that has a lot to do with it. I really do." She's very frustrated with the money chase. She rarely pushes the "woman button." This was rare; but it was getting at the guts of the campaign.
- Re her position on Ways and Means, she tells people, "I do all the taxes for the country; all the trade issues for the country. I do medicare and social security and a big part of the budget. Sixty five percent of the money we spend goes through my committee--seventy five percent if you take in everything we touch. It's a great position for solving problems. I work very hard at it. But I don't just come back

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here at election time. I come home every weekend and I'm always around ^{out} and about every weekend in your communities. I don't live in Washington. I live here in my district. I like to stay close to people." One article called her "the girl next door."

- She speaks often about her work on water, but I never get the specifics just right. Says "I've been involved in water issues in City Council and in the State Legislature." "The west coast," she says, "gets millions for water because we put legislation together to get the same level of appropriations for the west coast as the east coast gets." She speaks of getting "needs and services" legislation through the State Legislature, but I'm not sure whether it was water related or not.
- When she was introduced at Royal Highlands lunch, the woman twice said, "She is pro-business," but not a lot of embroidery.
- She describes the new district as "East and Central Pasco County, Hernando County, Citrus County, Sumpter County, most of Levy County, northwest corner of Polk County, ^{South} Smith Lake County and a little of Marion (Donellan). Pieces of eight counties!
- District "one of the largest retired populations in the state of Florida."
- "I've spent most of my career on issues like education, agriculture, health care, veterans and water. I sit on the Ways and Means subcommittee on medicare." Also adds oversight because you get "an overview of lots of issues as they go through the legislative process."
- We visited with a county judge (the job John had before he lost the election) and they reminisced. He asked K, "Do you like the job?" "I love it. I love it. Of course, there are frustrations. But I'm getting some things done." Spoke ^{with} enthusiasm--which, I might add, never flags.
- At one point, she said, "You know me. I see what I see. And I say what I think. I don't play games."
- Favorite sayings, "I've got to tell ya," 'quite frankly,"

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"guess what?," "Hellooo," "you're a sweetie."

- She is one terrific retail politician at home. And she's undoubtedly a terrific retail politician in Washington. If she could meet and talk to every voter, she would win in a walk. The problem is, of course, that retail politics won't reach 631,000 people!
- I have no idea whether she has savvy media people. "The first question I asked my media people was have you booked the lead into the Miami-Florida (football) game? That's what people watch, not the nightly news. The DCCC thinks I should do all my TV on major networks. I think they are wrong. I want to do cable. That's all my opponent is doing--cable. And she's been on TV for two weeks. She has to because she has a primary. It will help her to get her name around."
- KT does not like her opponent. "Last night at the forum, she did something that made me mad as hell. She took my program, my proposal, my bipartisan amendment that got through the Ways and Means committee and she announced it as her proposal! Can you believe it? Just stole it and called it her idea."
- When a reporter asked her, later, whether she, Karen, wasn't moving toward her opponent and becoming more conservative, Karen said, "Well, she's taken my solution to the prescription drug problem, all of it, and called it her own. So it looks to me that she's moving toward me more than I'm moving toward her. Wouldn't you say that?"
- K tells stories about BW that paint her as a tough, take no prisoners, vindictive, selfish player politically. "She actually put two people out of business when they refused to do what she asked." Guy owns vending machine business and has contract to serve all the hospitals. Her second husband has vending business. She tells first guy that if he wants any help from the state on anything, he'd better give up his hospital accounts (her husband got them). He came to K and said, "She cost me a quarter of a million dollars. But what could I do."
- And, of course, there was the Sprint guy at lunch. "I hate Ginny Brown Waite."
- Says K, "She is not the kind of person you'd want to have in

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your legislature. You wouldn't want a person like that in Congress. There are too many of these already."

- "She's made a lot of enemies in her home county. It will be very interesting to see how well she does in Hernando. A lot of the people who know her, don't like her. The problem is, the people who weren't in her Senate district won't ~~every~~ know what she is really like."
- K's version of BW is exactly the opposite of what Karen is like. Everything K is, BW is not and vice versa. A real oil and water race.
- "Jim Ross is great." It was not Ross who hurt John--who now has got his old Workman's Comp judgeship back. Jeb Bush gave it to him. K tells story about how they heard about it from phone call while they were in airplane coming back from a trip--over Alaska.
- She told the story to their judge friend. Said that when they went to see Bush, he, Bush, slipped a little and she said to him, "I know a real good Workman's Comp lawyer who'll handle your case." Big laugh.
- With the helicopter pilot who had ferried the President and also fought in Viet Nam (works out of Dade City), he says, "Would you rather fly this machine in Viet Nam or with the President?" And she quipped, "It depends on the President." Everyone laughed. Later she said, "I thought that was a pretty good comeback. I love to go back and forth with people like that.
- To someone on the phone: "How are you today? Personally, I'm great. I'm having fun getting out and meeting people. But I hate raising money. I'd take walking up to a stranger's front door any day."
- "I'm constantly out there on an every day basis."
- "Iraq is the number one issue now."
- On my question: Has the balance of district interests changed, she says no and lists her issues. Then, she starts talking about bedroom communities. So we'll have to see.

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- Off the record, she's had trouble with Charlie Rangel. "I couldn't figure out whether he didn't like me or whether he was waiting for me to prove myself. I think now it was the second. Interestingly, John has been a real help. Charlie has a special friend, George. Charlie relies on him. He's Charlie's man and everything having to do with running the committee goes through George. Well, George and John and struck up quite a friendship. When we go on trips, he and John play poker together. It's great for John because it keeps him involved. And it's great for me because George is influential with Charlie. I think I'm ok now. Charlie knows I'll take the hard votes. I've proved myself. I think, too, that Charlie thinks I'm a populist. He thinks of himself as a populist, too, and that helps."
- On fast track, she is solid. "It's all about tomatoes--and citrus, too. Our growers are getting put out of business by foreign produce. They are getting killed. There's no way I can let them down."
- She told of Clinton lobbying her "first in the office next to the Oval office and finally in the Oval office. There were about 20 of us in there with him. After he and I had talked, he said to his ^(aide) ~~group~~ "forget about her, she's solid."
- Re W&M: Her first point was that Sam Gibbons told her when she first got to Congress, "Decide what you want and don't give up. Work for it till you get it and don't change your mind." Well, that is not necessarily the best advice, but it is one piece of advice and it worked for her. It was her way of saying that she had been working for it from day one. Said she talked about it with (Chm) Dan Rostenkowski in her first year and also to S&P people. Ironically, it was Gibbon's retirement that opened up the slot!
- When she told me the story of her W&M appointment, she traced the steps from the Florida delegation (Hastings made noises, but withdrew) and the regional group (where Lewis was big help), to Gephardt. Gephardt offers her Commerce. She says she has to consult with "my friends." There are three slots and McNulty and Jefferson have been slotted. One spot left. On way out, she bumps into Kennelly, "What did you tell Gephardt?" "You can't give up." She tells B, "Ok Barbara, I got your message."

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- Role of Judy Schneider is all behind the scenes. She tells KT about the openings on W&M early on; she tells KT, "You're in" first. But KT wants nothing said about that, given Judy's position.
- It's an exemplary middle American district, represented by an exemplary middle American. What to do about these gated communities, I don't know. They are another world from the small town Kiwanis. But there must be lots of different new communities. And there are!
- Re getting to "the closed communities," "I think I can get into the closed communities through education," i.e., her teaching experience. But not if they are elderly people?
- "We are doing things we never had to do before. We have to raise \$500K in soft money. How do you do that? (So, I asked, "Do you have to do it all yourself, personally?") "People say that, but I'm not so sure its true. I don't think I can do it. If I have to, I'll try; but if I can't do it, we'll just have to cut back on our plans. I don't know how we can do it; and it makes me crazy. It makes me crazy."
- Just so I don't lose this, key quote from Barbara Kennelly. Noelle Norton quotes in her article in the Women in Congress book: Kennelly said that she "traded everything I had to get Karen Thurman on Ways and Means." *Also quote in Extensions -*

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Events

	<u>Political</u>	<u>Personal</u>
Fish fry	4	1
Inglis	8	6
Royal Highlands	3	3
Chronicle forum	1	4
Bushnell	7	5
Dade City	6	7
Sheriff	2	2
King Ridge	5	8

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