

Republican high water mark!

Campaign Tour with Congresswoman Karen Thurman, Inverness, Florida

Monday, October 24, 1994

6:30 a.m. Brooksville UPS Tour: few words, meet staff

2:00 p.m. Jim Ross Interview St. Pete Times

7:30 p.m. Gainesville, University of Florida:
First Amendment Coalition: Rion Ball Room
Forum 5-10 minutes opening statement
30-40 minutes Q&A, 5 minutes closing

Tuesday, October 25, 1994

8:00 a.m. Kick off for Small Business Dev. Week
Barnett Bank Hwy 19 & 50

9:00 a.m. Hernando Today editorial

12:45 p.m. WRZN - Inverness - Call-in Show

4:00 p.m. WWJB - Bob Hay - Call-in Show
Brooksville

7:00 p.m. Timber Pines - candidates forum
3 minutes Q&A, Rebuttal

THURMAN CAMPAIGN TOUR (10/23-10/25/94) INVERNESS, FLORIDA-1

Sunday, October 23, 1994

- I flew Rochester-Pittsburgh-Orlando, rented a car and drove two hours to Inverness.
- Called my contact, Anne Morgan, and disaster struck immediately. She said, "when I explained to Karen what you wanted, she said he did not want an outsider riding in the car with us. So much gets done in the car, our polls, our television ads. It will be best if you follow us. Does that cause you a problem with transportation?"
- I said, "it doesn't cause a problem with transportation, but it does cause a problem with what I want to do."
- She said something--that she understood, but reiterated that KT would not feel comfortable, that so much goes on in the car.
- I said, "I've been doing this for 20 years and the best time for what I want comes in the car."
- She said she understood.
- I said, "Of course, if she feels uncomfortable, I'll follow you. And maybe if she gets used to me, she'll change her mind the next day."
- She did not respond directly, and we made arrangements to meet the next morning at the convenience store nearby.
- I, of course, have no choice. I would not have come unless I assumed I would be riding in the car. Steve Cohen's only question to me--in both our conversations--was whether I would mind riding with someone who smoked! Whether they assumed she was amenable or she said she was or whether, when faced with it, she changed her mind, I don't know. But it is not a good omen as I write this on Sunday evening. It's a first for me. But here I am seven hours from home by plane and \$500.00 poorer at least! My feeling now is that the whole adventure of this fall has been so difficult--so much more difficult than anything I've been through before that maybe it wasn't meant to be! I seem to be challenging the stars, the sun and the moon in trying to get something together.
- Anyway, this is a town, at first glance, that is rural and not too affluent. All the automobile repair shops and second hand car dealers along "the strip" have "Big Daddy Garlits" signs on them, with an American flag. He's KT's opponent.
- People are very friendly--lots of spanish moss and ranching.

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Woman at desk at motel and woman in restaurant are chatty and in no hurry! I cut a deal so they will let me in early the next day for coffee.

- We meet at "Little Chap" and take off for UPS. I introduce myself; she says "I forgot." Ann Morgan introduces me to Nora when we get to UPS, and a couple of times one of them introduces me to someone.
- At UPS she speaks and answers questions. (They have 64 drivers, who make between \$35-45,000.) Her talk consists mostly of a story about how she learned about UPS from a visit like this and recovered a passport for a frantic young person over Labor Day by getting UPS to track it down.
- Questions were gun control, water problems and "Is this a campaign contribution."
- On gun control, a strong stand. "I'm a strong believer in second amendment rights. I always have been. That's just the way I am. That's that."
- The questions seemed critical of her vote vs. a three day waiting period. But the shop steward, whom I talked to and who burned her ear for a long time said that main issue for him was gun control. "We're fighting a losing battle," he said. Later she said, "I'll bet if you took a vote of all the people there, half would have been for it and half against it." (The ban on assault weapons.) She argued that the waiting period had not worked in New York and wherever else they had them. She also said that they were semi-automatic and not automatic, that automatic weapons were never OK.
- "I'll be honest with you." "I've got to tell you," "Let me suggest to you" are her favorite beginnings when she's about to expound. Or, "I will tell you," or "I have to tell you."
- On water, the question was "what are you doing to keep St. Pete and Tampa from sucking all our water out of here." Ans.: She got \$30m to encourage Pinellas County to reuse their waste water for drinking water and develop other sources. She showed a lot of effort and a lot of knowledge on the matter. "I've been working on water ever since I was on the City Council in Donellon."
- The first time I thought I had some small standing was when the UPS guys went down to the corner store to hand her a check. When the guy pulled out the check and looked at me, she said, "He's all right." A tiny victory.
- I followed her all over hell's half acre till we finally got back to the campaign headquarters.

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- Then she said, "What do you want?" I told her, and then mentioned John Guthrie. That seemed to ring a bell. I asked her about her Senate district. She went to the map.
- ^(S. Cant) She had part of Pasco, all of Citrus, some Marion (Ocala) and half of Hernando. She lost some of it--Marion.)
- She broke it out in terms of "chunks" of about 100,000 each--Citrus, Hernando, Gainesville, Pasco, smaller ones in north.
- She launched into attitudes in eastern Sumpter, eastern Citrus and all of the small northern counties--"That's 75,000 people. All they care about is their second amendment rights. If you don't support them, you are dead. They won't even look at you. That's 75,000 people. I can't afford to give away 75,000 people."
- "The people up here (in Gainesville) and the people down here (in Pasco) are strongly pro-choice. What boggles my mind is that they are pro-choice on Constitutional grounds. But the others support second amendment rights on Constitutional grounds. So why can't the pro-choice people understand why the others feel so strongly? They both argue on Constitutional grounds and they feel strongly because it's a Constitutional matter. But I keep talking to the pro-choice people, trying to educate them to understand the other group. That's why I'm in trouble. That's why I'll always be in trouble in this district."
- Her main theme from the time we started talking and all the time I sat in her office--most of the day really--was that she had done things for people.
- When I went out for a walk around the shopping area, she came after me with two sheets of scripts for radio spots. "This is some of what we've started to do on radio. We think these are the kinds of things that keep us out front. It's not a matter of votes. It's a matter of helping people who need help." She came after me on the sidewalk! When I asked if she would do these sorts of TV ads, she said, "We have no money."
- At this point, since she is very cordial and very down to earth, I'm beginning to wonder if the smoking might be the problem with the car. She has talked to me about what they're doing on TV and radio. So, what's the real problem? Also, it's a pain for them to keep watching me to make sure I don't get lost following them. I hope. *If all don't access, stupid!*
- After the radio clips, she brought me a Gainesville Sun article on the race--"Is Thurman Battling a Celebrity Factor?"
- Referring to point in article that she was "steamed" at fact

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Garlits was getting all the publicity, she said, "That's not the reason I'm steamed. I'm steamed because they did not mention any of the things I've done. There's nothing in there about our work on water or about our immigration issues. I talked to that reporter for two hours. Honestly, I don't think they know or care what I've done. I think they want him in there. This article is not about Congress. It's about celebrity. All they care about is celebrity." The article on the follow-up page is entitled, "Celebrity."

- Another article which I didn't copy Speed Racer by Lee Irby in Moon Gainesville's free News magazine October 19, 1994.
- "Those of you who live in District 5 are luckier than most because our "outsider is relatively famous."
- District is described as "mostly white folks who live in southwest and northwest Gainesville and bits and pieces of eight other rural counties." Karen calls it "a poor district."
- Conclusion: "If you're KT, you know that (Garlits' misspellings) portend a tough re-election fight, one that she probably can't win if voter turnout stays so laughably low... Even if she carries liberal Gainesville by a wide margin, Big Daddy will still win if he trounces her in the rural areas, where the home spun ravings find wide audience." I showed her this; she didn't take it seriously.
- In interview with Jeff Ross of St. Petersburg Times, she described district as "north Florida." When I asked her, she said north and west Florida, then mentioned the I-4 corridor. I think she meant above I-4.
- On way home from Gainesville: "This part of the district is completely different from all the rest. It's young, liberal, highly educated. All the rest is seniors."
- Nora has been with KT nine years, Anne 12 years.
- After the Gainesville debate--the best debate they had she said--I described her as "relentlessly constructive." She never bashed Congress, she never (I'll check the tape) referred to public anger. She kept talking about what she had done, what might be done, what could be done. She acknowledges problems, but she is optimistic about what can be done. You keep trying, is her attitude. She can't figure Garlits out. "What can you do with someone like that? He never says anything. He has no understanding of the issues. I think he believes what he's saying. Where do you begin? He has no record." Sheer bewilderment.

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- "I was so mad I wanted to walk over and punch him in the nose when he started talking about 'thievery,' etc. (I can't recall other words, but I can find them.) I had so many chances to zap him, but I didn't. I should have said, "Listen to him, he will vote the way he talks." But as I say, my problem is I answer the question instead."
- My assessment: "Yes, he does believe what he says. There are a lot of people out there who are as angry as he is and don't care how he says it. They are fed up. The question we can't answer is: how many of them are there? He is a yahoo bigot." Karen asked me to tell the others what I called him during dinner at Chilis.
- Clearly, the vote that has caused her the most trouble is the budget vote. (As I write this, I'm sitting outside the door of the editorial board meeting and I can hear her defending the budget vote.) Garlits' opens his debate by brandishing the Constitution on one hand and the Clinton health bill on the other as a sign of big government and then he moves to the budget--"the biggest tax increase in history." KT argues that there were good things in the bill--earned income tax credit, capital gains for small business, five years, etc.
- She has gotten no flack on NAFTA or crime bill that I have heard. No questions on abortion.
- Ann: "That's the sad story of Karen Thuman in Congress. No one knows what she has done."
- She got endorsement of all papers last time except Ocala and Gainesville Sun. This morning, KT came in and was pleased with endorsement of the Sun. Just came out, morning after the debate in Gainesville.
- Ann said that she got an inquiry about whether or not they were interested in having Bill Clinton come. "When they asked me about Clinton, I didn't even want to ask Karen. I said, no." But Karen said her polls show Clinton 50-50. It turns out that this is not a big anti-Clinton district."
- She is 47-20 in polls, and her main worry is turnout. Some talk in car about whether the auto people who have Garlits signs all over will actually come out and vote.
- "My problem is that I always answer the questions. Maybe I should attack my opponent or make a speech. But I keep saying to myself, 'Karen, answer the question.' That's the teacher in me. You can't ever get rid of that. I have a desire to educate."
- Last night, I did get to ride in the car--to Gainesville and

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back--with Ann and Carl Adams, her lobbyist friend from Tallahassee. She checked with me about smoking and she did smoke, but half a cigarette, with window open. So not bad. She let me ride because it was most convenient, and the thought of me driving back at 11:00 at night, 1 1/2 hours from Gainesville may have seemed silly. But today, I'm back to following then around and missing all the auto talk. She is certainly comfortable with me. We bought beer and drank on the way home and told stories. The John Guthrie connection helped. But the arrangement is such that I get a small portion of what I usually get. Yesterday, the break was that we spent time in the office. If that hadn't happened, the trip probably would have been a bust. I get something--but I'm not sure how confident I can be about what I get. I think she's running on accomplishments.

- Garlits presence does put her in the face of public anger. She doesn't bash Congress, she does not call herself a Democrat; she does not mention Clinton (check debate). But she is positive--except she is going to let Garlits have it on TV beginning today, 10/25. They will put TV on in Gainesville and in Tampa. "We could do more, but we don't have enough money." KT says they'll spend \$400,000. They don't have a fat campaign. Small office staff. Not a lot of visible volunteers.
- Re Garlits: "He ain't got a clue, not a clue!" (belongs in other comments) "Hasn't got a clue" is a favorite of hers.
- I heard her complaining to Hernando Today people that she is "active and involved" and nobody writes about it. "Tell me what I can do to get the story out."
- "In this district, people need to be educated to what can be done in two years or four years. It takes time. That's so frustrating."
- She hints that she's on the road so much in large district, she misses maximum contact. "I need a shot in the arm. Why are you there? I want to take care of the people of the district--in legislature and on their personal problems. I don't care about being maj leader. I'm just where I want to be. What will happen if he goes to Congress for two or four years? He'll make some deals to help his business. That's what his campaigning is all about. The Garlits campaign isn't about these people."
- Her poll is 54-28, "so good it's almost scary." (as of today, 10/25). Republican poll is almost the same (47-24). He's 1-1 positive-negative. She is 2 1/2-1 positive-negative.
- Map lesson: "What boggles my mind that the people in the part

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of the district (Citrus, Sumpter, Hernando) look upon the second amendment as protecting their Constitutional rights. The people up here (Gainesville) and down here (Pasco) are just as strongly pro-choice as a Constitutional protected right. That's why I'm in trouble. That's why I'm always in trouble. I ask them, 'If you are pro-choice as a Constitutional protected right, can't you understand why other people see their guns as a Constitutional protected right?' It's a matter of education. I keep trying. But I get one view in one part of the district and a completely opposite view in the other part--using the same argument!"

- "In the sparsely settled counties up north, prayer is very important to them. These people are rooted in their communities. Their churches are very important to them. They are good citizens."
- She continued the map lesson, putting different areas of the map as strongly opposed to gun control and adding them up. "That's about 75,000 votes against gun control. I can't afford to lose 75,000 votes in this district. If you are against second amendment rights, you're dead. They don't even look at you and you won't want to go there."
- On another issue (I can't recall) she said, "I'm not suicidal." It would apply to guns too, on the talk shows, she got numerous calls telling her that they would vote for her because of the gun vote. She doesn't demagogue it, i.e. "only the criminals kill," etc. She just accepts that people believe it, she believes it, and that's that. But she notes that Florida has a three-day waiting period and legislature hasn't changed it.
- "Through our ads, we are trying to tell people what we have done. For two years, the newspapers have written only about four things: foreign policy, the budget, the crime bill and the health bill. People have no idea what we've done--water, immigration, environment. We're trying to deal with that through our ads." (She means TV, her radio ads, of which I have some, are all personal help ads.)
- The day I left, they were going to start their TV ads in Tampa. They've been running two in Gainesville for two weeks. The two are positive--what she's done.
- Then pretty quick they will begin two ads--they do not call them negative--pointing out what Garlits has said, that he doesn't live in the district. They also have three mailings district-wide that are going out today or next day.
- "It's not negative campaigning. He's made these statements and he has to eat them. I want to tell people that he'll vote

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the way he talks. The other day, he said this country was founded by Jesus Christ, and there should be no separation of church and state. People should know who they are voting for. He doesn't even live in the district. We want to tell people, 'If he can't vote for himself, why should you vote for him.'"

- Republicans are "dumping money into the district," she said several times, but it's staff money and not reported. People complain about her PAC money, but they don't see his money. She said this when Garlits' ad started coming out that said, "She grew up with Bill Clinton who loathes the military." Again, when the RNC operative who is running Garlits' campaign delivered a tape to the country music station (WWJB). She didn't show up (the operative) for last candidates night.
- One good thing DCCC did for her was to give her info on the "Contract With America." Garlits was waving it around at the debate and saying he would abide by it. She needed instant rebuttal stuff and Congressional Campaign Committee sent stuff.
- At UPS meeting, she began with a story about a quick passport search.
- "I believe strongly in the second amendment and in protecting second amendment rights. I always have. That's just the way I am."
- Garlits' ads compare KT to Ted Kennedy. They started to come on Tuesday and KT was calling around for money to go on the air and rebut him. All day, her competitive instincts got increasingly aroused and by the time we were eating dinner Tuesday (after the near bust candidates meeting), she couldn't wait to get her anti-Garlits stuff out on the air and "kick butt."
- Her favorite phrases: "I've got to tell you," "In all honesty," "I will tell you."
- Her Senate district was part of Pasco, Marion, Citrus and half of Hernando. She lost Marion County. She noted that had she really controlled the redistricting, she wouldn't have lost Marion County. She said that her district was partly the result of the courts opinion (ruling?) that there had to be a black district up in the north-Corinne Brown's district. (See WSJ article) That district goes all over hell's half acre in north Florida. (When Gainesville paper didn't endorse Brown, KT was surprised and mentioned it--w/o explanation.)
- I would describe her personality as enthusiastic, friendly, laughs a lot, open, no airs, enormously personable--calls people "sweetie" (not me, but did give me a hug, "We hug in

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this campaign" when we parted.) Anne says, "She'll never change. She'll never let the job go to her head." But she noted that people had said they were surprised how she had grown. I suggested that what they meant was that she had now a bigger job and was proving equal to it.

- She's interested in pharmaceutical assistance and long-term care for elderly. She has 15 hospitals in the district and they have 80% reimbursement rate.
- "This nine county district is tough." Often describes it as "nine county district."
- I asked Nora where her strongest support came from. Citrus County, people over 65 and women 20-24. She said they were targetting "soft voters" with their phone banks, but when I asked her who the soft voters were, she said, "I can find out for you."
- They have unions and paid groups doing their phone banks.
- Karen says they did a benchmark poll and follow up and are doing a third one.
- "I've got to tell you my problem is that I answer the questions. It's the teacher in me that never goes away. You can't take it away. I keep telling myself I have to do better. But I'm too honest. I'm always trying to educate."
- When I was sitting out by the front desk with Gayle, she brought me a copy of the Washington Post article on the race. "I talked to that guy for 30 minutes. You wouldn't know that from the article, would you? My comments are there at the very end. The article is about him. He's the celebrity; he gets the publicity. I think two things explain this. First, they want to have a race. And second, they can't wait to see how much fun they'll have with him and his statements for two years."
- She talks a lot about what she did about reimbursement for incarceration of illegal aliens: Gary Condit and I got a coalition from the states most affected by illegal immigration--California, Florida, Texas and New York--and we put through an amendment telling the federal government to reimburse the states for the costs of incarcerating illegal immigrants." She talks also about border patrol, quicker deportation via new rules cutting appeals.
- On the talk show in Brooksville, she said, "People tell me that at election time, I should take credit for what I've done, so I'll tell you I did that!" She doesn't take a lot of credit. The contrasts between what she tells me and what she

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tells her constituents is unusually great.

- Another big accomplishment was the \$30m she got--single handed--from Lou Stokes and his VA-HUD subcommittee. "I did not know Lou Stokes. I had never had any contact with him. I called him and asked for an appointment. I went to see him. I said to him, "Mr. Chairman, I need help." I told him the problem. He said he didn't have any money. I told him again how much I needed it. He promised nothing. I didn't think I'd get anything. When the Conference Committee report came out, there was 30 million dollars." I asked her why she did it. She says she has no idea except that she had hired a young Nigerian student who had been let go by Karen Shepherd. She went on to say how good this kid was, and the thread got lost. But the idea would be that Stokes knew about her through this kid. (Maybe she knows more than she's telling me.)
- Anyway, the \$30m was one of her big accomplishments. It was money for Hillsborough and Pinellas counties to get them to reuse their storm drainage, rain water and waste water so that they won't drain the water from her counties.
- In describing the money, she noted that in first instance, it was money for people she didn't represent and didn't even know her. Not pork in that sense. "I'm not going down there and cut ribbons." Indeed, her major accomplishments are beneficial for Florida generally--immigration, water, risk assessment.
- She often talks about her state senate experience as if it were a seamless experience. For example, when reporter John Dunbar (after the flat tire, when its being repaired) asked her about her work on water, she began, "I'll have to take you way back to my work in Donellon (wells) and in the state legislature ("my three-word amendment, 'needs and sources') farmers piping waste water and spraying it in the orchards, repairing fuel tanks so the water supply won't be contaminated, making provision to protect wells and lakes against salt water degradation. Water problems are major in the district and she's been sensitive to them and active in doing something about them ever since she got into politics.
- She is a small town seventh grade math teacher who got into politics without forethought and who, because of talent and energy, worked her way to the top. There's a lot of the teacher left and a lot of the small town left. She knows her subject; she works well with others; she is personable; she is shrewd. She was very "leery," she says, about my visit. But, later, "He doesn't mind my smoking; he drinks beer; he can ride with me; he's our kind of person." (We managed to get a long way past the "disaster" of my first evening.)

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- I heard nothing about Clinton, very little about independence--except that people did note that she voted vs. the President on Crime Bill and NAFTA. She did not make anything of it. And she said that Clinton was 50-50 in her district. "It shows that this is not one of those big anti-Clinton districts." Maybe the senior citizens make the difference. Still, she made no pro-Clinton statement, except that she did defend the budget bill--"we did a lot of good," praised "deficit-reduction."
- On the "She grew up with Bill Clinton, who loathes the military" ad, she was furious. "He says I loathe the military. Oh yeah. My father was in the Army--the regular Army for 24 years. He was the tail gunner in a B-52. I grew up in the Army. My opponent has no clue."
- Re the \$30m for water projects, "The money will not come into my district. It goes to people I don't represent and who do not know me. I won't be cutting any ribbons. I'm trying to solve problems--my opponent has no interest in solving problems."
- "Maybe I didn't do as much on reform as the Fingerhuts did. But where the Fingerhuts missed was that they stuck out. You get things done by blending in, not sticking out. You've got to blend. When Mica and I proposed our risk assessment amendment, people said 'You can't do it.' But I did it! When the amendment was up, people said to me, 'Karen, you go over and stand by the door. If people know you're for it, they'll vote with us.' (How do you blend?) First, you do it by reaching out. When I went to the Florida legislature, I broke out of my education field and learned new areas--areas that women aren't supposed to know about like water and agriculture. I spent ten years on the agriculture committee and I became the first woman chairman of that committee in the history of the Florida Senate. I have to be careful about that because I owe a lot to my district. My district gave me diversity. It gave me the chance to learn many subjects. Two other things I learned in the state legislature. One was that my word is the most valuable thing I own in a legislative body. I had a great teacher on that, Dempsey Baron. And I learned to give good information. Whenever I tell anyone anything, make sure it is good information."
- So: blend in, reach out, keep your word, give good information. She talks like a legislator, and is one. Her strategy for coping with anger is to accomplish things and talk about them. She gets things done and is good at getting things done.
- After two hours on the hot seat on the WWJB talk show, I commented "That was quite a work out. I don't know how you do

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it." She said, "It's just like teaching. I remember all those hours in front of a class answering their questions, trying to explain something to them. You always give it your best; you keep on teaching, teaching. Never lie to them. Never try to give answers when you don't know. People can tell when you don't know what you're talking about.

- "What makes me frustrated is that I'm trying to run on my record and I have to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in this campaign telling people what I've done, because nobody tells anyone about it." I should ask is this any different from state senate?
- "Half the population of this district turns over every two or four years. These people haven't a clue who I am or what I've done. And nobody tells them."
- This was a major theme--with every reporter, editorial board, in the office, etc., "Tell me how best can I get the story across about what I've done. What can I do?"
- "I'm in my nineteenth year working on these problems (water esp.). The newspapers send us reporters six months out of school who haven't a clue. We train them and then, if they are any good, they are gone."
- Re reimbursement for incarcerated immigrants--"We got a good coalition together. "We built a coalition. Bielensohn's name went first!" She and Condit were "partners in crime." Condit is Chairman of Gov. ops. committee. She went to Bart Stupak's district as a favor to him. He is on Gov. ops. with her. "I might need the same kind of favor sometime."
- Another coalition she talks about is one regarding Medicaid reimbursement formula--Thurman, Condit, Geren, Maloney, Durbin poor population number rather than average level of some kind.
- She has 104,000 veterans in her district.
- 1,800 people in top income bracket \$200,000+ that got hit by the tax.
- It's interesting that when you read her literature, you see how much she was--despite her independence--tied to accomplishments of Dem. administration. No mention of Clinton in absentee letter or of "the administration." She says "I voted for earned income tax credit" or whatever. But it was the administration's budget. She does call herself "independent" at bottom of that letter. My point is, I guess, that she's still mostly a very recognizable Democrat.
- "One of the things I have to work from is my experience in

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local and state government. I know the impact that federal laws have on local problems. And I can educate others. With the Florida delegation, I'm in closer touch with local problems than most at the state level. Problems have changed rapidly, but as the delegation has grown older, it has become harder for them to keep up. So I can educate them to see the state and local impact of what they are doing." She's a little like Jim Johnson in her emphasis on education in a diverse district.

- Diverse districts encourage education! *Dave m^f + Nancy Johnson.*
- GATT--"I'm going to vote against it because I have some strong opinions on the subject. But on the other hand, don't we hope we're wrong?" (on the Bob Hay program)
- She talked about having mostly local people for their consultants--all but one this time. "I think they pick up the local flavor better than the out of town people."
- "I love this district. I love campaigning this way." As we took off after the flat tire was fixed.
- The flat tire was a break for me. I went with her to the talk show at the radio station in the field. (I have that show on tape.) When we came out, we had a flat tire. Reporter John Dunbar and I changed the tire for her. She and I then went to get it fixed, and that took so much time that we had to take off for the next stop and couldn't go back to headquarters to pick up my car. I didn't get back to my car till 10:00 that night. You lose some, you win some. I won that one.
- Agriculture is second largest business in Florida. Vegetables and fruits have no price supports.
- Talk show callers: (I didn't tape.) "Anyone who voted for the budget, the tax and spend bill, did a great disservice to this country." "There are hidden agendas, secret stuff, in all these laws. It scares the pants off you." "People in Congress are just not listening to the people." Re Karen, "I've never known her to lie to me. Her phone lines are always open. She has done good things for agriculture in opposition to her President." "We're gradually losing our rights. We ought to pull down the American flag and put up the hammer and sickle." (smoking) "They can put all this stuff in their bills and Congress doesn't know what's in them, and they pass them."
- She's a member of FROGS, has to do with fair rules--such as five day rule before something comes to the floor. She noted that crime bill was pushed through without anyone knowing about it. She was active, I think, in the movement that

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derailed the crime bill temporarily and, therefore, helped kill the health bill by delaying it. I forgot what she did, however.

- She was teaching 7th and 8th grade math in Dunellon. Students came in and complained that City Council had shut down a beach that was important to them. "I didn't know anything about politics," she said. "But I told them, 'let's see how we can get City Council to take this up again and reconsider.'" We found out how they set their agenda, we went to the meeting and got the order rescinded." The kids were so happy that a couple of them said you should run for City Council. So did my husband. I decided to do it. The kids worked and we went door-to-door. We won by five votes. I defeated a man who had been on the council for years. He is now a very strong supporter of mine." (She told a reporter, "My toughest race was my first. The kids were there for me.") She went through the story of running from an adult education class to the place where they counted the votes and having her husband and others meet her saying, 'you won.'
- She ran in 1982 for state senate. Husband encouraged her--why go? "I knew the issues from my work on the city council--water, transportation, agriculture. I had helped to reorganize a hospital. And from that work, I had met people throughout the district. People said 'what's that little girl doing running for the state senate. She can't win. We kicked a little butt. By the time of the big pre-campaign rally, I knew we had them beaten.'" It was a reapportioned district, just like 1992. She saw her opportunities and took 'em--twice!!
- First talk show (on tape) WRZN "Citrus County's most listened to radio station."
- She talked about her father--died at 43 from service inflicted injuries--bouncing around in the bomber damaged his liver. She talked about the details of both her life and her husband's the gist of which was that they both worked hard and came up the hard way. Her husband is a county judge.
- In her interview tih Jim Ross of St. Pete Times, next door, she laid out her next project as 1. formula for veteran's benefits, 2. water, 3. Medicare reimbursement, 4. technology and jobs (esp. solar energy). I see her as a water policy wonk!
- Garlits: "This legend."
- Re the \$30m for water reuse. "The \$30m is not pork. It is for five water projects in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties. That isn't even in my district. The people there

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don't even know me. Sometimes you do things because its the right thing to do." i.e. right for her district, too. It's not altruism.

- "I sponsored a bill that makes the federal government pay for the incarceration of illegal aliens. I got no credit for it. My opponent wants to send them to Ellis Island and Montana. The emotionalism of his bashing captures attention. But legislating is not about bashing, it's about problem solving."
- When I asked her why I didn't hear anything about freshman, reform, women changing the Congress, she said, "Nobody here cares. The Washington Post, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal care, but not anyone here."
- "CNN came in here. They gave him 30 minutes to my two seconds."
- I asked her if she intended to change committees. She said no, "not this time. The agriculture bill is coming up the next session and I have promised the farm people that I will stay on that committee. Florida has always been underrepresented on that committee. So I can help the whole state. These folks are great. People have the idea that they are raining persticides all over the place, ruining topsoil. They are not. They are concerned. They are trying out all kinds of new ideas--like piping wastewater into the orchards and fields to save the drinking water. People don't have any idea what the farmers are doing."
- I have WRZN summary, but I'll leave it till the text has been produced.
- She supported NRA position, but she sent their money back to them. She doesn't want the interest group association. Doesn't want the perception that she dances to their tune--independent in that sense.
- There is a pattern in campaigns. Hold debates early so you can recoup; start your most negative ads after the debate is over so you can't be challenged on them.

Christian Coalition (Bob Hay had copy of flier)

- Marked her down "on some things that are very important in their kind of district." (KT)
- She got a 21% score, Hutto 86, Peterson 38.
- The three votes KT was most concerned about were most concerned about were labeled, (1) "Denying parents a say in education," "700m educ.," (2) "government sanctioned

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homosexual marriages," (3) school prayer.

- Earlier she had said that "the people in smaller areas feel very strongly about school prayer. They are very community minded people, in many cases churches are the center of community life."

United We Stand

Scoresheet:

- 8 votes, 15 points each for six issues for 5 points for 2 votes.
- KT gets 3 wrong out of 8 and gets a "D" for a grade. She misses on: (1) referendum on bba, line item, term limits, (2) bba, (3) 1994 budget.
- She's OK on gift limits, NAFTA, campaign finance reform, A-Z, congressional accountability, Discharge Petition reform, lobby disclosure. Still got a "D." It was best Democratic grade-- Hutto and Peterson also got "D."

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