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Glenn Poshard (D/IL) November 2-3, 1996

* Book #1

big difference!!
Silicon Valley
to poverty -
played-out,
I flew from San Jose, where I had been with Zoe Lofgren, to St. Louis, picked up a car and drove down to Marion--about 10 hours door-to-door.

Glenn called early the next morning, picked me up with Jimmy Williams and we took off on a district drive around in his brother's truck with huge "Poshard For Congress" sign in the back. He has a loud speaker attachment and as we rode into each little town (12 in all), he would call out, "Folks, this is Congressman Poshard. I'd appreciate your help at the polls next Tuesday. Thanks for all your help in the past. Thank you very much." He'd sing out whether he saw anyone or not. People were not plentiful as we circled each courthouse, but some waved, some waved in passing cars, some took no notice. Dave Stricklin joined us after a couple of stops and Jimmy left. But Lewis and Ethel were there with Bruce Springsteen and stayed with us all day, as did two or three other cars. People joined and left as we went along. Jo's mother had just been diagnosed as terminal and she was sad and exhausted. She rode in another car, driven by a staffer; but her condition worried Glenn all day and put a pall over things--since she is so much a part of his political life at home. Judy Hampton was there, Betty, too, and I met several other staffers along the way.

- We began the day at 8:00 a.m. and I got home about 9:45 p.m., after Glenn participated in a donkey basketball game at Herrin Junior High. He dreaded it as we drove to it. "I'm not looking forward to this at all." But as Dave said when we watched him try to get on the donkey and score a basket, "His competitive instincts have taken over. He wants to score."

1/16
55-
any connection?
Once again, the enormity of the district was evident. This drive around--to get out the vote, demonstrate to people that he was still working hard and to keep him busy--covered 12 counties in the southern one-quarter of the district. They'll do 15 more the day before election, when I'll be gone. The benefit is that I can talk to him a lot and generally exchange views (I say too much, which is probably inevitable under those circumstances, but he would sometime say, "we were just saying in the car that..."). And, I've run out of my questions after all our togetherness in two trips. They think nothing of driving 45 minutes from one meeting to another. We travelled about 200+ miles and he gave ten speeches (in a couple of places, there were so few people, he just shook hands and we moved on). I blundered ~~in~~ not by using my tape recorder, because more than before, I realized what a terrific public speaker he is--passionate, articulate, strong,

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emotional, urgent, sincere, stem-winder--old fashioned, stump orator--a committed partisan, but a compromiser. At Carmi, the state senator who spoke before Glenn said, "I told them that if they put me on after Glenn, I would refuse to speak." That is, he has a well-deserved reputation as an orator--and for the substance of his talks, as well.

- For all of his emotional pleading with the audience, he is a clear-headed analyst and an educator. "I don't have to vote the way people want me to. But I do have the obligation to come back and explain what I did and why. When I have done that, I have fulfilled my obligation to the voters." This comment was made as I questioned him on why he kept defending Clinton's gas taxⁱⁿ 1993. Surely the voters on the eve of 1996 did not expect him to be defending his vote on the 1993 budget--and surely not the gas tax, which was not popular at the time. But there he was, arguing that we should pay as we go on transportation that we are using today, instead of "borrowing to repair our infrastructure and put it on the backs of our children." One-half of 4% increase went for transportation ("we are already one trillion dollars in arrears in repairing our infrastructure"). He was educating them to be satisfied with the tax increase that Dole is calling the greatest^{increase} in history. (He calls the 1982⁹ tax the biggest, "Dole's tax", and he says that^{tax} was the right thing to do, too. "I respect Bob Dole and I bet I've only mentioned his name half a dozen times during the whole campaign.")
- Is it an easy district to represent? "No, it's a very difficult district to represent. The issues change every 50 miles, and you are always embroiled in some argument. There has never been a time when we could sit back and say at the end of the day, 'Well, everything went ok today.' It is exhausting; you never bring closure on anything." Dave piped up, "It's like the hamster in the wheel. You just keep going. When Glenn gets back from the district, we'll have midnight meetings when he opens his briefcase and the problems come tumbling out. We'll work on them till 1:30 in the morning and then start in again at 7:30."
- Glenn hastened to say that their work brought many benefits to the district. "We can drive around the district and see the tangible results of all our efforts; and that is very satisfying."
- As we went from Marion in the southern part of the district, and as we talked about that part of his job, he pointed at "tangible results" and explained his job in those terms.
- "Our pay day has nothing to do with a paycheck. It comes when we see a water tower or a road or a levee that we brought to our constituents. People have these wild imaginings about

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what a congressman does. We know what we do, we build sewers!" (He pointed) "Over there on the hill is a school for disabled children that wouldn't be there if we hadn't gotten them some money. There are 200 kids in that school. They won't produce any inventions or do any great things for our society. But they are a world apart now from what they would have been without that school. If we have helped make the quality of those 200 lives better, then that is pay day for me. If, in your old age, you can look back and know that 200 people are better off, that you made a dent, that's enough. It's these little things that really matter. And we work at this part of the job every day."

- * In areas like this, the congressman has to do this. But it need not be all consuming.
- It wasn't long into the trip that the redistricting came up. "They took four of my five largest counties away from me and took half of the other one away. And they placed my home 400 yards outside the half they left for me. They not only took my voting base, but also my fund-raising base. I raised one-third of my money in Jackson County. They did everything they could to destroy me. That is the one decision in my political career which, if I hadn't done it, I would have spent the rest of my life regretting what I had done. They put me in such a corner and created such a challenge for me that I had to run or spend the rest of my life wondering."
- Re his opponent Brent Winters: "We decided to ignore him. He's a non-entity as far as we are concerned. We have a lot of ammunition. He's only voted once in 20 years. He has no visible source of income. We could use this, but we decided not to. He's been running against me for 3-1/2 years. And we can't see that he's doing any better than before. His strategy this time is to attach himself to Al Salvi (the Republican Senate candidate and a strong conservative).
- Glenn and Dave can't agree on or recall how many signs they ordered. They finally say 1,000. "I don't put much faith in signs... I have no evidence that they make any difference." But they comment on the signs all along the way. One common comment is that the Salvi (and Winters) signs are all on the road side and not in people's yards. "They don't show any commitment." So they read the signs for "signs!" "We save all our money for radio, TV and newspapers; and we divide it up one-third for each one. We save all of it for the last two weeks. Dave, with his media background, is so good at getting free media that I don't feel we're out of the news for long. We'll be on TV for a week--in the south and in the north. And we'll do some cable--it's much cheaper. We do a lot of advertising--\$25,000--in small town newspapers. People read their local paper all the way through. All of our media is

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focussed on one message. This year, it is "trust." We decided that a year ago before people began talking about it. We decided that is what people needed to know. All our ads focus on trust."

- I asked him whether knowing he was only going to be in for ten years had any effect on his career in Washington. His answer seemed to reflect complete satisfaction and no sense of a thwarted inside career. "You have a greater sense of freedom to do what you want to do--and a certain sense of security. You don't have to worry about going up the ladder. I have never had a desire to do that. I have had more independence in making judgments than the regular party member. (And here he related the independence to lack of PAC money and bundled them together.) I don't worry about people coming into my office and talking about a \$10,000 contribution they made or talking about the 5,000 people they have in my district. I can make an independent judgment and not worry about it. I've done pretty much as I've wanted to do--liberal on some, conservative on some and mostly in the middle--not encumbered by anything or indebted to anyone. Of course, I pay attention to the interests of my district--agriculture, for instance. But I don't feel pressured by them. For me, it has been a help. Each person has to weigh and to balance the insecurity you feel at election time without the money. I don't need to have six times as much money as my opponent. I have always believed that the experience you bring to Congress is more important than the experience you get while you are there. We need new ways of looking at problems and we don't get that from career legislators. I don't mean the freshmen of 1994--they were too rigid. I think you can learn the legislative process in six months. After that, it's just hard work and doggedness." Well, it is if you take his role. But... leadership... ?

*In 1994 some
- talk out, but
don't know
exactly where
the cutoff is
gave
was writing to
for it*

- One of the themes that runs through is his desire for reflective solitude--the idea that he goes to Jefferson Memorial at night and sits there. This time, when he drove me up on the levee at Golconda (Hardin County) and we saw the beautiful, serene, almost pristine majesty of the Ohio River (one tug and a couple of houses in sight in all directions) he said, "When I worked for the school board, I used to bring my lunch up here and sit on the bench and just watch the river." And later on the road from Shawneetown (Gallatin and the fish Ethel got for us) to Cermi, we came upon some blinking radio towers. "Who in their right minds would allow these blinking lights on their property. They spoil the sight. I love to walk alone on a clear, cold November night like this when the stars are so bright they seem to come down close enough to touch."

- In terms of his campaign style, Dave says he runs a "hands-on

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campaign," and doesn't like to turn things over to others. Appropos of running a campaign (in the future) for a state-wide office.

- "I'm going to do all I can to win. But if I lose, I'm not going to grieve over it. I have a sense of "okness" about that. I'm not sure whether or not I could handle defeat if I had a career."
- Peroration at Hardin County, "We have never demeaned the institution. We have never demeaned an opponent. I love the legislature. I love my government."
- Who are your ^{strongest} straight supporters? "The people who have been with me from my first race. They are not Johnny-come-latelys. They are the people who still believe in you even though you have failed them, as you always do. There is a cadre of such people in every county--the ones that stay with you because they understand that you are in it for the big picture and not because they think you can do something for them. There are dozens of people who tack on in every campaign because they want something--a job or a benefit of some kind. They may stay; but they are not the activists. The activists know you are in it for the greater good. They are always with you. I have run 14 (?) times. You come to it very early that they are the ones who carry you. They are the rocks, you are just the current. Take Phil Tripani. He's in the campaign office every day--every day--he was a POW in World War Two. When the veterans organizations take me on about the flag, Phil says, 'I'm with Glenn.' He may not understand my reasons, but he says, 'I'm with him.' That's worth a million bucks. Ethel and Lewis--they would go anywhere for me. Lewis is no liberal. He's a blue collar poster-boy Democrat for this district. And he's with me. There are not many professions where you throw yourself on the mercy of others. You relinquish control and say to others, 'carry me along, man. I can't do it by myself.' It's almost a step of faith that politicians make. You can't do it yourself. If you can't put your faith and trust in a small group of people--staff and volunteers--~~you're out of it.~~ There is no other way."
- The countryside we traversed all day (clear, but very cold) was very pretty. It was the southern and river counties. The view of the Ohio River, the Shawnee National Forest were spectacular. Much of it reminded me of western Mass, hilly and woodsy and farm land--low mountains in the distance--but poorer in places (mostly the very southern counties). Some of the little towns (Golconda) were picturesque. At one point, Glenn said these are "poke and plum" towns. "You poke your head out the window and you're plum out of town." As we went along, Glenn pointed out "tangibles" of his work and commented on the characteristics of each county.

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→ Franklin County: West Frankfort--"This is coal country. The clean air act wiped us out and we are struggling to diversify and develop new business. It's slow going. We put all our eggs in one basket for all these years. We shouldn't have. But when things are going good, you don't plan."

Gallatin County: "This county ought to be Republican. It is agricultural. It is prosperous. It has a lot of little towns that are neat and well kept. But it is the strongest Democratic county in the district--and may be in the state. It was the only county in the state to carry our governor candidate last year. I don't understand it."

Shawnee Community College: "We brought millions in grants to that little community college over there, so that they could have computers and so our kids--in the poorest part of the district--can know what was going on all over the world and can reach anywhere in the world. They don't have any technical grant writers to peruse the lists of available grants and opportunities. They have one or two faculty members who may help. So we find out what's available and we go down to the Department of Education and we sit there for hours and we make their case. If the college didn't have a congressman as its advocate, it couldn't compete. That's the only way we get our fair share. In areas like this, the congressman has to do that. It's part of the job."

Lock and dam at Olmstead: "Drive down that road there and you will find the first stage of construction for the biggest lock and dam in the world--a project worth one billion, one hundred million over 12 years. It means 500 good jobs. It could have been built at many places up and down the (Ohio) river. But we fought for it and we got it. It will have a tremendous impact on the area. The tow boat company in Metropolis tells me their business will increase, the quarrier will have all the business they can handle with the roads that must be built. Olmstead will get a boat ramp and a new city park on the river. It's a big deal in the area. And it had a better than two-to-one benefit cost ratio."

Cache River Project: "This area is part of the largest wetland between the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. During the New Deal, the WPA and the CCC worked on it. It has been a very controversial area. The farmers want it to be drained for farming. The forest service wanted to harvest the ripe timbers before it rotted. The environmentalists agreed with them, but then found a rare bird and wanted to keep the trees. We got involved,

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(12) *STAP*
brought the farm and environmental communities together and created a National Refuge that both would support. It was recognized as one of the ten top wetlands in the world. People came from all over the world to study it. Our job was to mediate and educate. It's an important part of our job."

Allied Chemical: They reprocess uranium and they feared that all the uranium coming in from the dismantling of Russian missiles etc. would put them out of business. He got language in the Energy Appropriations--a few words to relieve it from some competition. "We saved 40 jobs. It's a little thing, but an important thing."

- He mentioned another company in Mounds where EPA and SBA came in and helped.
- When he was saying he didn't like to make an exhibition of himself on the donkey basketball game, he also said, "It's like parades" which I took to mean that he doesn't like parades since he's making an exhibition of himself.
- Story of Rostenkowski as leader of regional group (IL, IN, KY) to pick regional whip. They gather. Visclosky wants rotation agreement (two years IL, one year IN or KY) changed. Rosty and Russo come in, Russo gavel to order, Rosty gets up first and says, "Yates, you're the whip." Goes to leave. Visclosky says, Mr. Chairman, the Indiana delegation would like to discuss... Rosty cuts him off. "Visclosky, when you get as many votes as IL, you can pick the whip." End of meeting!

Book #2

- "The Christian Coalition handed out ^{three} score cards in church this morning. They gave my opponent 100% and me 45%. All the votes they scored were Republican-sponsored measures--no Democratic proposals. Well, they gotta do what they gotta do. I used to worry about them, but not anymore. It still hurts, though, because their church is the same one I was raised in--Southern Baptist. I just have a different interpretation of what that means than Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell. I have met with the coalition in the past; but this year they cancelled their appointment. They would say to me, 'Why can't you vote like a good Christian?' As I say, they gotta do what they gotta do." Glenn is pro-life, but I never heard him mention it.
- On the way to Senator Fran Rea's reception, "My opponent is speaking in the _____ Baptist Church this morning. If those people are going to vote for him because he comes to their church for the first time the Sunday before election, then they're a lot shallower than I think they are." He

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thought this was very crass, and he criticized it sharply.

- When he got in the car, he was very absorbed in Jo's mother's problem. He called me earlier and said he'd be a couple of hours late because "we just have to be here." Turns out he was talking with Jo's mother--who says she wants to starve herself so she won't have to endure the terrible pain she has. And she wants to come (from Northern Illinois) for election day, as she always has. Glenn talked a lot about faith and the strength people draw from faith at such a time. It was very introspective. He talked about a friend who had led a model "Christian" life and yet shot himself. Did that mean he had no faith, that his faith failed him or whatever. I listened and finally said that there is no prescription or canon in such matters, that each person coped the way he or she did and that was that. He agreed and stopped mostly.
- But he picked it all up again in his talk to the Lutherans in Brotherhood in Coles County that evening. The theme was volunteerism and he went through his own religious experiences in getting to idea that volunteerism is good for the volunteer and that it is even more important than what the volunteer does for others because it has to do with a person's relationship to God. He is a person of deep and thoughtful faith and gave a sort of "testimony" to that faith in his talk. It's a side of him I never heard before, but I knew it was there. The trauma that Jo and her mother are going through caused it to bubble up, I guess. But it is ironic that the Christian Coalition should give him such low marks! I can't judge such matters, but my guess is he's "a better" Christian than most, if not all, of them. We should think of the Christian Coalition, therefore, as not exemplifying Christianity, but exemplifying Republicanism. They are Republicans--plain and simple--and have thrown a religious mantle over themselves and claimed some kind of monopoly.
- The dinner with the Lutheran Brotherhood was interesting. Glenn had accepted the invitation a long time ago. It was 2-1/2 hours away from Marion. He wondered why he had accepted, since it took five hours for us to get there and back and that's all the business he had. But he said it was his job. "Once I started using distance as an excuse, it would be hard to keep from using it. And just because I live at one end of the district, and it takes more time to get to the other end, that doesn't change the fact that they are my constituents and its my job to be there if they ask me." He added that they do try to bunch events.
- Actually, I am amazed at how little daunted they are by the distances. They'll hop in the car and drive an hour and a half without even thinking about it. And Dave and Glenn agreed about the trip to the Lutheran group. "We do this all

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the time." And actually, too, we did it the first time I was there! So I guess distance is more a talking matter than a real impediment.

- At the meal, Dave and I took empty seats in the middle of one of the three long tables. No one around us initiated any conversation with either of us throughout the entire meal. We talked and had a nice time. And we agreed that we did not feel at all uncomfortable. They didn't talk much to each other. In my only effort, I asked the lady across the table if more than one church was represented in the group (of about 75 or so). "I'm from Casey. I don't know." That was it. No one talked to her either, except a man she was with who said one or two sentences. Glenn said no one talked much to him either at the head table. He tried, got short replies, but no interest. It was bizarre, but had the ring of perfect normality about it.
- "It's very common behavior for German Lutherans. They are very much into themselves. Underneath they are warm and generous. But they will not initiate any interest in you. They are just different. They have an excellent work ethic; they are extremely neat, orderly, they keep up their property. And they help each other tremendously. But they keep to themselves. They are also some of the most prejudiced people in the world. I don't think I've ever been with a group of them where I did not hear a racial joke or a snide racial slur. I doubt there's a single black person in Effingham County. They are just different." We had seen a video on keeping kids out of trouble--put out by a Lutheran group--and the only two troubled kids they showed were one named (Michel) Ramirez and a black youth. All the real troublemakers in their world are minorities!
- He talked, again, about Effingham County. "It is German Lutheran and it used to be solidly Democratic. Now it's solidly Republican. It's the abortion thing. We carried it by about 100 votes last time. But I was the only Democrat to carry the County." Because he is pro-life, I assume. But he never said so.
- Mattoon and Charlestown make up the second largest concentration of population in my district. It's Coles County and he carried it by 200 votes last time. Hopes to do better, but quite uncertain."
- One way to think of district change is to say that he went from a coal dominated district to an agriculture dominated district. Old district was coal, rivers, oil, small farming. Now district is more urban and more big agriculture. Dave lumps ADM and Staley in with farmers and says that the dominant economic force in the district is agriculture.

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- He said he'd been getting lots of feelers and support for a run for governor--Chicago, Springfield, Peoria. Didn't know what to say--not encouraging it, he says, but Dems have run out of good candidates. "What I most want when I leave Congress is to be at home. I'm tired of travelling to Washington and being away all the time." I said no one could make up his mind for him, but that if being at home was of paramount importance, he couldn't run for governor. That seemed to end that discussion. But Dave and I agreed that he'd have to go on the circuit--especially to Chicago. Dave is impressed with the degree to which Glenn runs his own campaign, and how he'd have to turn it over to others. I'm not sure he has those "others." I don't see them. His staffers are very local and do not seem ready to go big time.
- ~~Dave~~ Dave did it. "We got some pictures, we wrote a script. Dave got time at the Harriman Center from 3 to 6 in the morning and put it together. We did it all ourselves--no high-priced media consultants. The first time I ran, I let the DCCC media consultants^{for me} do the media, the deal is that you let them buy the time. And they get 15%. They told us we had to take a one-time slot on some show for some outrageous price--something like \$10,000 for one spot on the Bill Cosby show. That was the last straw. I told them to leave us alone."
- But Joe and John told me that in the big 1992 fight, it was calling in some media people from outside to do Decatur that saved him. Anyhow, I think it's fine that they can get by with a home-grown media (and no polls). Dave is a media person. But it doesn't prepare him for the big time. I think Glenn is too local and too moral and too personalistic (maybe) to run for governor. He has the talent--philosophically, articulatedness, vision, ideology. But whether he could put together an organization and preside over it is a question. He'd be a fresh face, for sure--a diamond in the southern Illinois rough!!
- ~~For~~ On my talk at Fordham, he gives credit for the strategy (that doomed Gingrich) to Gephardt. It was Gephardt and the Democratic caucus that forged the "extremist" message and pushed it every day on the House floor. It was not Clinton's idea--Gephardt gave Clinton his strategy. Clinton fell into it and then used his veto and pulpit. It was only after the fight inside the House that Clinton entered the picture. Clinton owes his success to Gephardt, according to Glenn. And what angered Glenn was that Gephardt and Democratic House members got no help from Clinton in fund-raising. He took all money for himself and left DCCC high and dry (gave 'em \$1 million later). House Democrats know that their future is

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tied to Clinton. They can't attack Clinton. But Clinton is out for himself. Glenn and group of moderates want to solve budget crisis. Gephardt, etc do not. The downside of Gephardt's strategy is that it's entirely political. It's not about policy. It's about taking back the House and making him Speaker by keeping the issues favorable to the Democrats--Medicare, education, environment--by attacking the Republican program. Glenn says he and 34 other moderates have served notice on Gephardt that if he doesn't face up to policy problems, they won't be with him in the 105th Congress. "He knows he can't do anything as Speaker without us."

- He talked about the coming scramble for his job. "As soon as the votes are counted Tuesday night, the fight for my position will be in the open. In this part of the district there is one state senator and two state representatives. They all want it. I would like to see the seat stay in the southern part of the district. But, with the population centered in the other part of the district, the only way we have a chance is to have a conservative candidate. As of now, I don't see anything happening. The three men don't like each other--actually, it's more like venom and hatred. They are all tied up with the local politics--who is elected coroner and who controls jobs. They each want to be boss. Like (Larry) coming to me today with the results from the vote Marion High School. He had each of our totals. I said what did my opponent get? He said I just wanted our totals. He wanted to compare himself to the rest of us to compete. Why could anyone get excited about the results of a high school poll anyway. Actually, I think (Larry) would probably make the best congressman." "But none of them have the slightest idea what its like to be a congressman or what the job is like. Going from Springfield to Washington is like going from dark to daylight. It's that great. People expect leadership from you, they expect problem-solving. If you try to be a local boss, you'll get your throat cut. You don't have any time to play that game. I have stayed out of local politics, deliberately. I have no interest in controlling jobs. I stay out of internal Democratic politics."
- There's a state senator from Decatur, Penny Severins(?) who would be the odds-on candidate, but she's battling cancer. There's a state representative from the middle of the district who may be the most likely. "He'd be the worst one of all. He is not articulate, has no skills, doesn't present himself well, has nothing to recommend him. He comes out of the union movement."
- Glenn is a strong union man, as I've noted before. This time, he spoke again about how the UMWA saved the members by getting safety and air conditioning put in. "Before the UMWA came in, it was not uncommon for miners to die of black lung before

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they were 40. The millionaires back east, who owned the mines, didn't care. The union brought safety regulations and air circulating equipment. Before that, miners were treated like animals."

- He talked about a massacre near Herrin in the 1920's. The miners shot a group of strike breakers. "One of the bloodiest and worst incidents of violence in American history."
- In both visits, Glenn wore a tie less than most. His outfit in the "drive-around" looked like he'd just come in from working in the yard. At the church, he didn't really look comfortable in the suit and tie. He's a down-home guy, hard in that way to see him as Governor.
- I have captured the gist of his basic speech on tape at the Sen. Rea function. But that speech did not have the emotional force of the one at the Hardin County Court House in Elizabeth town in the corridors--spoke standing on chair ~~at~~ juncture of two 90 degree corridors. There, his "tale" ~~of~~ two budgets," the President's budget of 1993" and "the Speakers budget of 1995," ended in impassioned rhetoric. "Where's the justice?"
- Quoted HHH (from other speeches) to effect that test of democracy is how well it loves those in the dawn of life and those in the twilight of life." Speaks of HHH as advocating a "government of the heart." "We're doing the right thing in our head in government, but don't desert our hearts in the process."
- His comparison of the two budgets began, he would say, with "the yardstick that every Republican President used to measure his success--low inflation, low interest rates, good employment, health of the economy" and to say that by that standard, President Clinton has made progress. "Look at the progress we've made." Low misery index used by RR.
- "Speaker's budget" or "Gingrich's budget" "rips away the safety net from our people." On his Medicare proposal, "We can't possibly embrace that philosophy of government."
- The two budgets, he said, represented the difference between the two parties and their two philosophies.
- Gingrich philosophy "take from those who have the least and give to those who have the most, take from those on Earned Income Tax Credit and give to those who make over \$125,000."
- In his district, EITC gave 46,000 a tax cut and Speaker's budget eliminated one-half of that. Only 1,400 got tax ~~de~~crease in his district (under present budget, \$27,000 was cut off).

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- He stressed, also, cuts in Gingrich budget of low income heating assistance.
- Asked for "simple side-by-side comparison between the two budgets."
- Re the 46,000 vs. 1,400: "those numbers represent the difference in philosophic notions between the two parties."
- HHH "the true test of a free democracy is the way we treat people and the dawn of their lives and those people in the shadow of their lives--children, the elderly, the disabled, disenfranchised, depressed. That tells you about justice as a political philosophy in this country."
- He criticized fact that "the entire clean coal technology program was gone in the Speaker's budget. "The main thing we need to save from the clean air act is to learn to desulpherize coal."
- "The low income home energy assistance program was cut in the Gingrich budget by \$200,000,000."
- Speech in Hardin County: Standing on a chair in corridor as people spilled out in two directions. It was his biggest crowd--50-60 people. Others had been 6-8! "All you've got to do is compare the budgets of the President vs. the Speaker. The deficit is our most important problem and we shouldn't (sic) in the name of our children."
- "President's 1997 budget didn't have soft balls in it. It had hard sliders on the outside corner."
- "He supported a "pay as you go gas tax to build roads, instead of borrowing from our children."
- President's budget brought deficit down from \$300 billion when he came in to \$109 billion now--65% reduction. "We've taken the weight off our children's shoulders." And he points to kids in the audience. (A lot of people at the fly around brought their kids to each meeting.)
- He thundered this challenge/ very emotionally: "When did we ever agree in this country to take from people who need it most and give to those who need it least? Is this justice in this country? Sixty-five percent of the mines are closed down; and the clean coal technology program is gone. There's nothing left in it, in the Speaker's budget. Where's the justice? You tell me what justice there is in that."
- He is a powerful speaker--strong, urgent, passionate, very articulate--almost a preacher.

Glenn Poshard (D/IL) November 2-3, 1996-13

- We visited the following county seats: Benton, Marion, Vienna, Mound City, Metropolis, Golconda, Elizabethtown, Harrisburg, Shawneetown, Carmi.
- At Golconda, a pretty little town where I went into antique shop, they took me up on the levee to see the Ohio River--
awesome sight--one barge, near wilderness, a wide, peaceful river. He said his district had three corps districts within it and they dealt with Army Corps of Engineers "everyday." *his quiet place*
- At Shawneetown, we waited in truck for _____ to get fish and hush puppies for a fish fry.
- At Carmi there was a rally and Glenn spoke after the state senator.
- He told story about leadership PACS, which he does not approve of. Bill Gray sends him letter after his first victory, inviting him to come to Philly, all expenses paid, to see Eagles game. Gray is campaigning for Budget Committee chairmanship.
- As we drove along, he noticed opponent's signs and his own. But he spoke of them matter of factly and not purposefully as Lindsey Graham did. He noted that his opponent's signs were coupled with those of Senate candidate Al Salvi, and that his opponent was riding Salvi's coat tails. "I don't put a lot of faith in signs. They remind people who don't know you that you're running."
- He retold the story of his state senate race when his opponent (Winchester) "had a yard sign in every yard from Harrisburg to Vienna. But when the vote came in, "In the two precincts that had the most of his signs, he beat us by one vote in one and two votes in the other."
- At the Carmi legion hall rally, he said the President's budget had been responsible--that it cut spending \$200 billion and raised taxes \$247 billion, reduced deficit from \$300 billion to \$109 billion and "took a burden off the backs of our children and grandchildren."
- He defended the gas tax. "Why would we want to borrow money to build roads we are using now?"
- "Look at the Speaker's budget. For God's sake, look at the Speaker's budget. Fifty two percent of the Republican tax cut goes to people making over \$125,000... Don't tell me not to get angry about those things. When you strip the safety net, watch out America, a lot of people are going to get angry."

Glenn Poshard (D/IL) November 2-3, 1996-14