

Floyd Spence

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"My friends would be upset with me if I wasn't on the Armed Services Committee. It's very important to the thinking of people of our state and my district. In the last election we had a man from California take a poll in the district--one of these in depth polls, 50 questions. He had done this all over the county. He said he never saw a district anywhere as interested in national defense as my district. I can go all out on national defense--my people expect it. Of course Mendel Rivers made it a tradition too. I don't know why they feel so strongly about it but they do." A big sign in his office when you go in says "National Defense--We must be No. 1" or something like that.

Almost all the talk was about Republicanism in South Carolina and how unique and historic South Carolina was in terms of change.

Pioneer spirit
(2)
"I was the first Democrat to change political parties--before Strom Thurmond and before Albert Watson. ~~I ran against Albert Watson as a Republican in 1962 and 2,000 votes the other way would have changed the result.~~ *on a point* *(Luhlen)* *Democrat* I was the first white Republican to run for Congress since I don't remember when. I remember talking to Strom Thurmond about it in 1960. He ~~said~~ *talked to* the Southern Democrats came to Washington and voted Republican ~~and~~ *said* *that* *that* *how* our people really thought like Republicans. I said to him that our people expected us to instruct

them and to take the lead and that therefore we should become Republicans. He said, "it isn't time." I changed anyway and ran for Congress and was cut up pretty bad. I guess it wasn't time. In 1964 Strom Thurmond announced as a Republican. ^{When I heard that,} I said to myself, "it's time."

"The black people in the district vote Democratic right down the line. At one time you couldn't hardly find a black person who would vote Republican. It's getting a little better now. But a Republican in my district starts out with 30% of the vote against him. So I have to rely on the white vote and I have to do better than the Democrats among the whites in some counties to win. The voters are very independent. In the state legislative races, they'll vote in a whole slate of Republicans one year and a slate of Democrats the next."

"In my county, I won 15,000 to 3,000. It gave me the election. It's a bedroom county for Columbia with some farms - truck farms. And it has some industry." It has a low registration of blacks too.

When I asked him why his district was more likely to go Republican than other congressional districts, he said it had fewer blacks. But that really isn't so--it has an average number of blacks.

He spoke of northerners coming down into district for big industries--Allied Chemical, Carolina Eastman and "showing that they didn't have horns" as an aid. Maybe his district has a fair amount of industry and that has helped produce Republicanism.

Long discussions of who ran against whom, when Ike came to S. C. to speak for ticket, how S. C. had been neglected and now had bargaining power.

"White voters, it seems like, vote Republican for Congressman, Senator and President. Even the court house Democrats vote Republican for National office. The black vote is about 30% and they vote right down the line Democratic. I have to concede the black vote; there's nothing I can do about it. They are organized and trained to vote straight Democratic. They will control the primary vote. The black lawyer will be my opponent, I'm sure. But I should get more white Democratic votes than I got before. My opponent can't ^dbe any better than the man I beat before. Except for some of the liberals around the University. I will do better than last time with the whites. I should be all right."

"When I was a Democrat, I used to get the black vote. I saw one black precinct change from 500-0 for me to 500-0 against me (when I changed parties). I didn't quite believe that, but I got the point."

In his conversation about Jack Kemp and in his conversations re the bi-elections, it becomes clear that personality-popularity is very important with him. "Some people write off athletes but Jack Kemp is one of the most sought after speakers in the House. He's handsome and articulate. He's well thought of. (pet. phrase) He came down and spoke for me a year ago." Floyd was being defensive about athletics, but it's important to him and his reputation.

Re Murtha who won in Saylor's district. "He ran against an AA who probably hadn't been back in the district. He was a state representative. He was a Viet Nam veteran, a Marine who volunteered for active duty. He was very well thought of. And he only won by 200 votes."