

Arlen Specter

March 10, 1980

We went to a UJA reception for George Bush and then walked over to Hyatt Regency.

I asked him about goals for first couple of years. "I have goals but they don't have a particular structure to them. Earning a good reputation in the Senate comes first as it does in anything you do as a person, as a citizen, as a lawyer. A good reputation is the pervasive goal. And that you get by being punctual, by being meticulously courteous and, it goes without saying, being honest and having integrity." At that point, we entered the hotel and his fishing tackle-business people were waiting for him and that was the end.

On the way from the reception, he complained about the number of meetings-- said that he had to be two or three places at once. Talked of going to an Appropriations Committee hearing of a subcommittee (Judiciary) he was not on. "They let me ask questions. They were very courteous. Senatorial courtesy runs deep in the institution, very deep." (When he said it, I couldn't help thinking how different his attitude was from Paul Tsongas' at that time.

I asked if the freshmen were in any sense a class. "Yes, there is some sense of camaraderie. And we met once to discuss mutual problems. But I don't think the group will be very cohesive. There are too many other pulls. Things will depend on ideology and region and even residence. Mack Mattingly and I live in the same part of Georgetown and so we have struck up an acquaintance driving in together on occasion. A D'Amato and I have talked about ^{our mutual interest in} ~~the~~ problems of large cities." Also mentioned ^{Rudman} ~~Rubman~~ as a good person.

I met Bill Loughry, who worked for FEC, and Bill Wilcox who worked for Greater Philadelphia Movement and met AS when he was studying the magistrates system. Also Mary Ellen Callahan and Sylvia Lieberman. (who talked about how mad Javits got when Moynihan got front page in the Times.)

Arlen is clearly not plugged in and doesn't really know what's what. He's still in the stage of thrashing around a little. And he's not as thoughtful as some would be. His talk at the dinner table was more about his Philly and Pennsylvania days than about the Senate. He did not, on the whole, entertain these 5 people with Senate stories. They have a complaint re. Japanese and Korean imports which they discussed and he promised to look into (Dingell-Johnson Bill). He talked a little about the speed with which budget reconciliation was going to move.

He also told me, walking down, that Baucus said it was more lonely in the Senate, when he and Quayle and Baucus were talking. That each Senator is figure in his own right and House members have to cluster together to get to be collective figures.