

SYLVIA NOLDE

April 19, 1982

I went to Arlen's office to get Eikal article and had a chat with Sylvia. She didn't like the article's last paragraph--not the best way to leave the reader, she said. She didn't like the article as well as the Bradley article. in the Post this past Sunday. "Did you see the article on Bill Bradley? I thought that was a wonderful article. It was the workhorse, showhorse difference. That would have been great for Arlen--of his article had been written that way. I just hope panic doesn't set in so that he starts doing showboating things. It would be great if his bill passed, but it will be very hard. He'll have trouble with the liberals on that."

I said I thought he was proceeding along on slow growth pattern and she agreed. I said he had told me that he couldn't predict what would be the key problems six years later and that he didn't have much control over the big factors in his reelection.

Sylvia said "She's like that too. The other day she said 'Everything is transient.' I nearly fell over. I can't imagine looking at life that way, as if you couldn't plan ahead. That's like expecting defeat. You should work to win and if you lose, well c'est la vie. But they expect to lose; they plan to lose... He's the most complicated person I've ever met."

Handwritten: Arlen's by NOLDE

I noted, at some point, that all the articles on Arlen carried that big negative base in terms of his defeats and that he always had to crawl out of a hole to get even, whereas Bradley was on top to begin with. He said that Arlen will never be free of that incubus till he gets reelected. "He'll be regarded as an accident until the day he's reelected."

She says he needs to decide what his base is and stick with them. "The jews are not enough." she kept repeating. And she thinks he's got to shore up teacher's support.

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He's rethinking his position on tuition tax credits. I nearly died when I heard that. The public school teachers were good to him. They'll drop him immediately. There's no way he can get the support of the catholics--not with his stand on abortion. They won't support him. He's got to decide what his electoral base is and stay with them. He has to cut his deals. I'll be with you; I'll expect you to be with me. The news are not enough. He needs the teachers. On all the polls, ADA, ACA, he comes out around 50%. I'm afraid he'll end up without any electoral base... But he has to take positions he's comfortable with. He's very good at rationalizing."

5-10-82
troubled by the
issue.
on back to depend on you