

BILL WRIGHT

November 20, 1981

I went to Andrews office early to see whether I might get to the conference on the continuing resolution this afternoon. Talked with Bill Wright and listened to him as he returned phone calls.

(1) Leader of anti-Garrison dam group--Monroe _____. Bill referred to opponents as "bird watchers" and guy on the other end, who is a farmer, took offense. Says Bill to me "I'm a bird watcher myself. I shoot them but I love to have them around." He drops the phone into his lap during the guy's monologue. "I've heard this so many times. Finally, after about 20 minutes, he tells 'Monroe' that he has to answer other calls, keeps telling Monroe that "Congress makes the laws. And I love it."

He calls "my old friend, _____, to whom he tells a dirty joke; the friend is worried about language in the trnsp. bill covering billboard owner rights.

He returns a call from the Minot office--which wants him to look into a case of a livestock auctioneer who is in trouble with the Stockyards and Packing Unit of the USDA for not being sufficiently bonded.

He calls USDA to check on Secretary Block's prospective visit to North Dakot in December.

He calls an old friend "'Ducks' whom Mark had contacted last night for dinner. He tells "Ducks" the story of the BN. Speaking of their Public Affairs "What a dumb son of a bitch he was to issue the statements he did-- that the provision was self serving, special interest legislation. And he kept at it. He wouldn't shut up. Mark just got madder and madder and madder. Finally the guy said 'I didn't know Mark Andrews owned all the newspapers in the state.' He should have known better. I knew what Mark was thinking when he went to conference with the House. When he came back from

Bur?
W.H.
RR

it, he said to me 'Show me that last clipping agin.' I showed it to him. He said I fixed that son of a bitch so he won't be talking about special interest any more.' He got the conference committee to change the provision to include all the railroads in the country.' You should have seen those lobbyists swarm in here the next day--in twos and threes and in waves. They called the President of BN and said who's that dumb bastard you have working for you. We took the national provision out again when it got to the continuing resolution. I think that was the right thing to do, don't you?"

"Mary Ann, our agriculture person is out and I'm handling her job. It reminds me how much of our mail and how many of our calls have to do with agriculture."

Chip Hardin came in and talked briefly about the brouhaha last night between Mark and Packwood, involving the CAB. "It was unfortunate. We bent over backwards and provided for a line item veto of an appropriations by his committee. I think the problem was the he knew he didn't have the votes in his committee and would have been embarrassed. He knew he had the votes on the Senate floor. If we had not done what we did for his committee, and had just left the House version in there, we really would have been invading his turf. So--we made a deep bow in his direction and got kicked in the butt."

After sitting all afternoon in Andrews office, I left at 4:30--when they said they thought the conference wouldn't start till 7:30. The Manns were coming for dinner.