

Dorgan & Mary

Shirley  
HP  
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Mark Andrews

March 13, 1981

I went to his office and chatted briefly.

I asked him if there were any repercussions from the campaign. "The campaign is over and done with. As you remember, the main charge against me was that I was giving up my position and seniority on the House Appropriations Committee. But here I am on the Senate Appropriations Committee, on three subcommittees instead of two and chairman of one. I'm also on the Agriculture Committee and the Budget Committee. If the opposition was so interested in my power, why didn't Byron Dorgan try to get on the House Appropriations Committee. He could have. But the campaign is so much a closed book that nobody even asked Dorgan that question. I never had any contact with my opponent during the campaign and he never called to congratulate me. The other thing was that everybody but me assumed I was going to win and so there was very little interest in the campaign. It came and went."

Miss the House. "I think I'll miss the close friendships I made. And I'll miss the specialty work we did. You worked day after day with the same small groups of people on your subcommittee. Frankly, Dick that was a plus. You could work in anonymity and learn your subject. You knew what you were talking about. Here, you are a generalist. When Stockman sent over his black book I found a couple of mistakes in the area I know. He had one figure at 175 million when it should have been 400 million. He swore I was wrong. Then later, he called and said he'd buy me a steak dinner and apologized. It turns out they used interns during transition to do some of those things. Stockman doesn't know details. And the latest budget has changes in it that thick. We are generalists over here. We have to be. There is no time. I don't think I realized the work load would be so much heavier. I probably shouldn't

have gone on the Budget Committee, but they wanted me to take it, so I did. I'm not so sure that I'll like this job any better than I did the House. I haven't been disappointed here, but the Committee work load is so heavy. We'll have to wait until the dust settles. Come back in a couple of months and I'll know more about it."

17+5 "Senators who got larger constituencies may notice that difference, but I don't. I have the same constituents and I'm sitting here getting the same amount of mail I always did--no more. The same people come to see me as always came to see me. Right now everyone in N.D. is focused on the legislature, so we are in the hiatus we always have. By April, they'll get interested in the federal government again and we'll get busier. But I get a lot more requests from outside the state. So much so that we have a rule in the office that no one from outside the state gets through to me. Not unless they are very persistent. I had a fellow from the Boston Globe in here who wants to go out to North Dakota and one from the Indianapolis Star who was interested in something. Sargent and Eunice Shriver came in and we spent a delightful half hour on some project they are interested in. Diane Feinstein, mayor of S.F. came in, a smart lively very attractive person. I can see why they elected her mayor. She's worried about transportation. Well, if you aren't careful you can fritter away two hours on that kind of stuff."

"The work load is heavier than I ever imagined. When you consider I'm on Budget and Appropriations Committees and all the Subcommittees and if you overlay that with the revolution Reagan is trying to bring about on budget cutting and you add to that Mary's condition, I don't have any time left. It's hard to compare my situation now with what it would be in the House because the base line changes. With Mary still recuperating it means that instead

of her looking after me, I look after her. She was always a producer-- taking me to work, picking me up, helping me back home. Until she becomes more transportable, I may not go home as much--at least on weekends. Come Friday, we used to pack ourselves up and go back to North Dakota. I probably don't have the time now anyway. I'm working Saturdays and Sundays just to catch up with the week's work. In the House, my desk was clean by Thursday night. And I have the same staff plus six new ones--all good.

"There is definitely more power in the Senate. Who cares about a House member. When you are a Senator, the White House answers the phone, Cabinet members answer the phone. <sup>Not</sup> ~~Most~~ for a House member. [Karl Mundt told me that years ago. He was a great guy in some ways and hell on wheels in other ways. He told me 'Mark, you should run for the Senate. I was in the House for <sup>9</sup> ~~6~~ (4) terms and I had more power in the Senate in <sup>9</sup> ~~8~~ days than I had in the House in <sup>9</sup> ~~6~~ (?) terms.' He was right.] I've been interested in nutrition as you know--bran muffins and all. In January the people from Grand Forks called and said they hated to cut off their new nutrition building at 3 floors, <sup>(But there was no money)</sup> that they needed a 4th floor. I said, come on down, ~~We~~ talked about it. I called the Agriculture Department and we found some funds. I talked to my friend Tom Eagleton on the floor and he signed a letter with me. Then I made a few phone calls. A week or so later, I got a call from Grand Forks. "Whatever you did worked, we got the money for the 4th floor." There is absolutely no way I could have gotten that done in the House."

How did you react to the news that Republicans won the Senate. "I chuckled. I chuckled because my opponents had attacked me for giving up my power. Here I was going from the minority party to the majority party. Here I was going to what became 8th on the Senate Appropriations Committee instead of 14th on the House Committee. Here I was going from being

a ranking minority of one subcommittee to Chairman of an Appropriations Subcommittee. I went from 43 in seniority in the House to 75. But what does that matter. I have access to the President and his Cabinet. I thought to myself, Boy, I sure am giving up power."

Re 6 year term - "I never gave the 6 year term one minute's thought. People say to me 'aren't you glad you're in for six years.' I say no. I always liked campaigning. I always won big in elections. I'll campaign just as often as a Senator as I did in the House and in exactly the same way. I was back there over the recess, travelled over the state and made 15 speeches in five days. Campaigning is the best part of the job. It's the most fun. The 6 year term makes absolutely no difference to me. It's the power that's different. This is an exciting time to be in Washington. And if you are going to be here, you might as well be in the most powerful position you can. I'd be even more powerful with more seniority if I had been here for 6 years already. (He smiled, thinking about his Milton Young run-in--which we have never discussed). That was his last comment, spoken as he clapped his hand on my back and walked to his door.

*My man*  
Among the other things he said--though I don't know where "There's a lot more courtesy here." "I don't think the Budget process is all that good. I think it could have been done through the Appropriations process of, when anyone proposed an increase he would have to designate a commensurate decrease, to let people know where the funds would come from."

His main theme, over and over was the huge workload. When I walked in he said he and 2 aides had been looking through the new budget book sent by Reagan and couldn't find out what the heck was in it.

Bill Wright and I went to the Monacle for drinks before my plane left.

May  
We talked about Mark's gluttony for work. (Bill didn't think he should have taken Budget) and his great good spirits in the face of his wife's illness. Bill says that while Mark insists she is getting better, he thinks she has reached a plateau. She is in a wheel chair and can't walk. Mark has to get the meals, feed her, help her go to the bathroom, get into bed. He says that at times her body movements seem uncontrollable and that while Mark thinks (or says) her speech is 80-90% OK, he, Bill thinks it's more like 60%. He says he can't understand most of what she says. But he says she and he are indomitable in spirit. The question is, what effect this personal burden has on Mark. He has taken on lots of work. Bill says he stays late in the office at night, much later than he did in the House. Mark told me Mary was getting better and that they had been out the night before. Bill calls him "such a positive guy." He does not think it will affect his work; but it does make him grumpy occasionally.