

BILL WRIGHT & ED DOHERTY

May 24, 1982

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I went to catch Bill at breakfast. We talked mostly about this week's energy hearings in Andrews' agriculture subcommittee. "I've been working on these hearings for two months. Our aim is to show that we have no national energy policy, that the industry is overregulated and that we are headed for a brownout situation if we ever have another oil crisis. The electric power industry and the nuclear industry are in bad shape. We have an impressive list of witnesses. We don't have any representation of the oil and gas industry. That's by conscious design. We think they are the problem. We don't have anyone from the administration either. They keep calling us and asking if we don't want them to testify. We tell them no, but that if we have other hearings, we might ask them. Christ, I didn't realize how much time it took to put together a set of hearings. I've never done it before."

Re RR retirement - "I think we have more RR retirees per capita than any state in the union. The Railroads used to be the biggest employer in N.D. Maybe they still are. We got a horrendous amount of mail from them."

Then he went on to say that Mark voted vs. the admin on 3 votes--RR, veterans and tax cut.

When we got back to the office I asked Ed Doherty. "It was a response to local sentiment. A lot of them wrote to him. He voted the same way on other programs. He voted for the DeConcini amendment on veterans--7.4% cost of living increase. The RR retirees are very active. A lot of the mail came from people who used to be section hands. They never did make very good wages, so their pensions are small. They are the people who went out and pulled the ties and pounded the spikes. So the mail was skewed to the low income end of the scale." And Mark responds to such people. Has the idea. Ed stressed a couple of times that Mark voted for veterans too.