

CHIP HARDIN

May 19, 1982

I run into Chip in front of the budget office, as I talk to Ranny Schuman. I follow him back to his office.

Of the committee action on the Transportation Bill. ^{Urgent} "Andrews offered a couple of technical amendments. DeCancin amendment never materialized. It was all over in one minute." ^{Part of Supplemental}

They waited for DeCancini for over an hour. "Mark waited around for a half hour for DeCancini to show up and then left. We would have had to oppose it. I would have called Mr. Andrews and tol him we'd have let DeCancini wait around for an hour." Some impatience shown here.

I had been sitting near DeCancini. When the meeting recessed, he turned to a staffer and said "Thanks for all the work you did on that. I just didn't feel comfortable with it." It was for Tucson.

^{This is a Supplemental} I asked Chip how the subcommittee put its "Chapter III" together since there wasn't anything controversial in the bill and there weren't many items in it, there was no need for an actual subcommittee markup. I began by putting together a list of all the things that had been requested, by the administration, by other groups, by Senators--a fairly comprehensive list just in case. Then we got a notice from Chairman Hatfield's office that the bill was to be considered a truly urgent supplemental, that there were veto problems and that the bill was to be kept as clean as possible. With that instruction, I immediately took out most of the requests and made a list of the provisions I thought were necessary. I got a lot of input from MIke Call, telling me what Chiles wanted. Then I gave it to Mr. Andrews. He made some changes, approved it and we sent it to Chairman Hatfield. He approved it and it became the Chairman's bill."

I asked if anyone else on the subcommittee had seen it before it went to

the printer. "No. The first time they saw it was when it came from the printer Monday morning. Of course, ^{if} there had been something they wanted, they would have made their motive known. Under the cover that it was the chairman's bill, we didn't feel everyone had to see the provisions."

"The boss and I are very proud of our subcommittee markups. They are so quick they are painless."

He talked about interstate transfer grants as "the biggest pork barrel in the bill."

How do you select projects. "We can make professional judgments as to which projects are nearest completion or most certain of completion. That still leaves us with far more projects than we can fund in any one year. So we try to spread the joy around; we see who is up for reelection, who makes the best case for assistance. In the end it becomes a completely political process. And the amount of money involved can fund some pretty big, pretty sexy projects--projects which have a big impact in a city."

This year they took out 12.5 for Cleveland. (see crossed out portion of the text). "We decided to cut out the Cleveland project altogether. We acknowledged the fact that Cleveland was a special case. It should have been in the budget last year. But we were afraid that if we had money for that one project it would draw a lot of amendments to appropriate for other projects. There is money in the House bill for Cleveland. I've been on the phone with the mayor of Cleveland. He's very nervous. We've explained the strategy--that the House will be very persuasive in conference and Cleveland will get the money."

He talks about the fund. Various cities had highway projects for which monies were obligated, but which could not or should not be completed. They are allowed to take the amount of money that it would have cost, at the time the money was obligated, to complete the project and put it in "a bank"

where it grows as inflation grows. So now the sum has ballooned to a large amount. It is not connected to the interstate highway trust fund.

The 19 million item is for 15m. for ND bridge and 4 million for Bob Byrd's Weirton ____? bridge.

On the Coast Guard deferral idea, they crossed out the last sentence. "They have to spend it now. There's no way they can get out of it. We felt we didn't want to rub their noses in it by explaining their predicament to them.

He also talked about a 406a provision in last year's appropriations bill which has the effect of making deferrals similar to recessions and so, unless Congress votes vs. it, the money has to be spent. He says budget committee doesn't like this provision.

On bumping into Chip. If I relied wholly on scheduled appointments at this stage, I couldn't keep up. Meeting people accidentally like this becomes very important now and it happens enough so that it helps me "keep up."

He talks on the phone with his House counterpart while I am in the office. I don't run into much of this intermural conversation.