

MARK ANDREWS

June 22, 1982

I met Mark on his way back from the Senate floor. The conference report was supposed to be brought up at 3:30. It's now 4:45 and it hasn't been brought up yet. I ask him what's up. "Everything is up in the air. I was just in Baker's office with Hatfield fussing about the budget. Domenici was there. Unless they change it I'm not going to support it. I spoke in the Policy meeting today. Do you know what the conferees did? For the first time in the history of the budget, they put in a credit allocation ceiling. That means that any loans above that ceiling will be subject to a point of order. Pete Domenici said they set the ceiling high enough so that the provision would not be triggered this year. I said, I know but what about next year? What will happen to rural electrification loans, what about energy for this country, what about student loans? We have the votes to defeat the conference report. It's between Appropriations and Budget. I'm a member of both Committees, so I just sit there. But I brought Specter in for reenforcement. Now our staffs are trying to work something out. In the meantime the Senate is on hold." He went to his office.

I went to the floor. It was totally empty. After a while, Baker came in and said that "certain conversations" were taking place among members of several committees and he expected to take up the conference report tonight.

Another example of hard ball farmer.

When I get to the gallery, George Ramonas comes and sits beside me. He says it's not Appropriations that's holding up the works, but several authorizing committees, worried about reconciliation. "Our problem is to get the authorizing committees on the side of the Budget Committee first. Then we can tackle the Appropriations Committee."

The next day I go over to watch final vote on conference . Mark seems agitated. While vote goes on he walks and talks--Burdett, Jim Cannon, Chip, Hatfield, Baker, staffer--stands in back reading as vote closes out 54-45. Leakes, Did he vote? Yes, for the budget.