

Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D/OH)
Schedule
January 14-17, 2000

1/15/00:

- Bli Comm High School Conference "Reclaiming Our Youth," Shaker Middle School N/A LK LS
- Talk: Park Synagogue, Shaker Heights 1/16 LK LS
- - Pizza with staff at Pizzazz N/A 1/16 LK LS

1/16/00:

- Black East Mt. Zion Church (Beverly's church: Diane drove N/A 1/16 LK LS
Nicky, Vercilla, Rodney and me) (Nikia)
- Black Marcia Fudge swearing-in as Mayor of Warrensville Heights, Senior Center LK LS but per LK LS

1/17/00:

- Talk: Cleveland Area National Service Coalition LK LS
- Talk: Community of Faith Church (her mother's church) LK LS
- Cleveland Public Library, MLK Day: appearance N/A 1/16 LK LS
- Lunch with STJ, Larchmere, Shaker Circle N/A 1/16

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Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D/OH) January 15-17, 2000 in Ohio

Book #1

- Nikk^(Nikka), Rodney, Beverly, Vercilla, Lance, Betty, Mary, Military person, Mervyn (son).
- I flew in the night before and caught up with STJ's people in the morning. Beverly picked me up at the hotel and I'd already run into Vercilla in the lobby. I had been very apprehensive. The negotiations had jerked along. The schedule looked small and spotty. There was a day and a half between events--with a long Sunday in-between.
- Writing now, in the later afternoon after one day--the fears have not proved necessary; and things have gone well. I'd be stronger than that except I don't know how the next days will go. I haven't got a lot of material; but I do have a good feel for the general personality and I think the major appeal of STJ.
- She is very personable, very outgoing, good-humored, energized, seems to have a connection with half the people we meet. And by the end of our time together--when we were at the "Pizzazz" parlar with her staff and two kids--she was hitting me on the arm for emphasis or to call my attention to something. "Did you hear that? Mervyn is going to the Cavs game with the girl who won the Cav tickets in the drawing" (at the conference). A proud Mom! Her kid is a huge 6'4", 220 lbs., basketball player, 16 years old, "my baby."
- She admitted there that she'd had a good time. "It was a good first day, don't you think?" (Referring to our relationship.) "You like to be called 'Dick' don't you--not 'Professor.' Once I knew how to spell your last name, it was easy but before that, I had to call you 'Professor.'" (They had me on the schedule as "Prof. Finnea!") But she said that Sherrod Brown did convince her to do it. "You never know who you are getting in this business." (And she went on to talk about some kook that keeps bugging her.) Re choosing me, Sherrod was the one. "Well, it wasn't all his doing." As if she did have some free will in the choice.
- As a result of the day, I think we've hit it off well. I'll tag along on a couple of things tomorrow, and then, again,

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Monday "when," she said, "I'll be running around like a chicken with his head cut off."

- "Today we have this youth conference and I had planned to stay all morning. But I was asked to speak at the largest and most influential synagogue in my district; and you don't pass up that kind of a chance to talk to them. So I'll bob and weave--go there for a while and come back."

The first event was the "Reclaiming Our Youth" conference. The first time I saw her in action was in the HS cafeteria. We walked down there from the first doors of the school and when we got there, 50 or 60 HS kids were sitting at tables, eating doughnuts and soft drinks. She plunged in--and it took me about one minute to realize how totally different she would be from Lou Stokes. She shook hands with each kid and with their school counselors and found a connection with many of them, hugged a lot of them, had the photographer snap pictures with some, bubbling, laughing, joking (she's a large (not fat) woman, 5'10", with a huge toothy smile), "you can tell I like to eat." And a couple of times, as she went from table to table, she would come over to me and tell me about someone she'd just met. "X and I went to elementary school together." "Those kids are from Collinwood. That was my high school."

- Then a very tall young woman came in. STJ went over and hugged her, brought her over to me and said, "This is Janet Braxton. She's the Assistant Coach of the Rockers (the Cleveland women's major league basketball team). Later she told someone, "I was google-eyed when I saw her" (like a kid). "I'm a big women's sports fan. A group of us--about 75--get together and each bought some tickets for every game. If we can't use them, we give them away."
- Braxton had come to "help with kids, help them to learn a little about life." Played in Italy nine years. Eventually the conference had 105 kids from 25 high schools, 17 public, 8 private. Very impressive group--90% black.
- All day, with kids and staff, she as anything but aloof. She's as down to earth as anyone I've met. A little bit like a mother hen in a group shouting out, "let's go everybody." "Are we ready?" "Here we go." The point is that--unlike LS--she immerses herself in whatever group she is with, the kids, the staff in this case.

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- synagogue
- The synagogue--during services--was different, but she tried. Her first words when she spoke were "when I walked in here, I was amazed at the number of people I knew already. (She named six or seven, saying hello to them by name, looking down at them. Then she introduced me, then she began to speak. And after a few sentences, she stopped, looked at a small girl in the congregation and said, "Hi hon, I didn't see you before, how are you?" Then she started in again." An informal presentation of self.
 - In the talk, she quoted from MLKing and got into politics and religion, and skirted partisanship barely by talking about cases where Republicans (she just said "the Congress") wanted money for private schools or took stand on abortion or taxes for "faith-based institutions." She was opposed to all these and I assume the Jewish audience would be with her on these. Also, talked at end about her trip to Israel. Any questions at end? No one had any. One person praised her newsletters. That was all. And the service continued.
 - Are they supporters? "Oh yes. Lou Stokes worked very hard to cultivate this group. I would guess that I knew 50% of them. Don't forget, I have run several times in this area already before I ran for Congress."
 - I sat with Eric Fingerhut, who escorted me around the floor and escorted me out. We sat behind his 10th grade sabbath-day class.
 - This is not fair, but I couldn't help comparing the two kids in front of us (from Eric's 10th grade class)--who giggled and fooled all the way through the services and through STJ's talk--with the kids at the conference who worked all morning in study groups and drew up plans on how to deal with violence. (Their questions were: "What are the five most important problems kids face?" "What are the best methods for dealing with them?" "What theme song would you suggest to carry your message?" It was--if you looked at it that way--a case of kids who had everything, giggling through something important, and kids who had a lot less, wrestling with real-world youth problems. Maybe what it is, is simply two parts of one congressional district. But the kids were very different from my perspective.

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- In her talk, I thought she wasn't particularly coherent in terms of a theme.
- There was religion and politics and MLKing, but it wasn't really coherent. At one point, she lost her place. "I've lost the rest of my quote. Where is it? I'm embarrassed." And after fumbling, she went on. In the car afterwards, she said, "I was nervous. I don't know why. I speak all the time. And I never get nervous." It was kind of nice to hear someone admit it; but she didn't offer any hint of an explanation.
- Afterward, Dan, the young DC staffer, asked me how it went. I said "fine." He said, "good, I wrote it." I made him happy--but it was not great and, truth to tell, she deviated from it a lot. That may have been her problem. Anyway, she is not a great public speaker. She "saved" this one, I think, because at the end of the talk, "I want to take two minutes to change the subject and tell you something I did that was one of the most exciting experiences of my first year in Congress. I took a trip to Israel." She talked about it and assured them that "they worked us hard, from 7 in the morning till 7 at night." "It was exciting to me as a Xian woman to put my foot in the Sea of Galilee and put my hand in the River Jordan." Met Barak and Arafat, etc.
- She has long friendships. Betty Pinkney has been with her since her days as municipal court judge. I think they are in same sorority. Betty is "mother hen" of office and Director, I think. She's getting a Ph.D. in public administration, is teaching "urban systems" two nights a week. And still runs STJ's staff! A big one, too.
- Then she told me about the woman whose induction we'll attend tomorrow. "My chief of staff has just been elected Mayor of one of the towns in my district. She is my oldest friend. We didn't go to high school together, but we met in high school. I was Collinwood. She was _____. She was my chief assistant when I was prosecutor and when I was judge of the common pleas court. She's the president of my sorority (she named it). In Cleveland, she staffs me; but when we go to sorority convention, I staff her."
- Also, Beverly Charles (see later note).

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- It's important to note that the student conference (an enormous success, I thought) represents one issue thread that STJ has been pursuing. There was a conference on youth violence in DC. Two kids from her district went (they had pizza with us, too). The Democratic Caucus ran the DC affair. "The Republicans wouldn't give us enough space, so we ended up with the kids in one room and their counselors in the other. They couldn't talk to each other. I had to keep the counselors busy for an hour and a half." Anyway, it's part of her major thrust in this district, i.e., get kids involved, "bring them back; they are so turned off." And it is a DC district thread.
- They picked MLK birthday (today was it 1/15/29) to talk about non-violence at the conference. How often can you get 105 HS kids to spend all morning till 1:30 attending a conference. Quite remarkable. And kids when they reported to the whole group what their group had talked about and how they answered the three questions, I was impressed. At the end she said, "I want to try and meet with you and some of your friends three or four times a year."
- They got lots of media coverage. (A major story in CPD next day.) I saw two TV, one radio and two print reports. The photographer told me he took 136 pictures in all. Pictures of the group from each school three times (that's 75 right there). And STJ had her picture taken with the athletes who came: Braxton of Rockers, Spriggs and Miller from Browns and someone from the "Crunch"--indoor soccer team! Also with her son.
- Her directing^f the end-of-conference picture taking was a great performance. She did it all herself--first getting all 100+ to ~~take~~^{take} a group picture^{take} at the front of the auditorium, and then, having her picture taken with each school delegation--25 separate ones. She did it by hollering continuously. Calling out the name of each school, gathering them on stage with her in the middle. Sometimes, the kids mugged, hugged her, put their heads on her shoulders. She hugged most of them, especially the girls. In between group photos, she would do a little dance step or sing along when a kid grabbed the mike and started singing a hymn. It was as informal a performance--a cross between movie director, tour guide and mother hen. Happy atmosphere. I go into this detail because it was striking as a total contrast to LS.

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- "Nothing is very formal with me. The most formal I ever get was this morning (in the synagogue). And there she had "helloed" everyone from the pulpit!
- Re personal network. At conference, she introduced me to her Criminal Law professor, who came to help.
- At the synagogue, she introduced me to her former law school friend. She talked with him in the chancel before we went in and with Fingerhut when we went out and waited for her son to pick us up. Everywhere she knows someone and stops to talk. "A woman of the people." Always "mingling."
- The pizza lunch was mostly high hilarity and joking.
- She told a story about word "scrub" which has come up in conference and brought the house down. In the U.S. House, they had "bring your daughter to work" day. "The mothers were all talking 'Mom talk' and the girls were nodding off. So I jumped in and asked them 'How many of you have a boy friend?' They perked up and raised their hands. Then I said, 'How many of them are scrubs?' They all put up their hands and laughed and started talking. The mothers had no idea what was going on. So I asked them who knows what a scrub is? No one knew. I said, 'You ought to have a 16 year old boy like I do.' I learned it from talking to my son." A scrub, according to STJ, "is a boy who takes everything from you and gives you nothing." And it comes from a rap song. When she told that story at lunch, a big discussion and a little singing of rap music began. I was out of it--but so were some of the black women, too. And the one white woman, Mary. The only white woman on the staff.
- But STJ is "with it." And the immediacy with which she told me about her son was also typically female (like KT, certainly, and ZL too, the less so).
- **A lot of the gender differences I see--like family talk--are hard to relate to politics directly unless it is an impact on issues. But the informal talk is different. Nancy tells me women are just more open--and that seems right. STJ sure is.
- When I asked her about her relations with Plain Dealer, she talked about the congressional race.

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- "I've had an interesting relationship with the Plain Dealer. I always had decent press until I ran the last time. There were five candidates--I seem to like five candidate races--McMickel, Johnson, Blanchard and a Euclid City councilman. Only the top three had any chance. During the campaign, the Plain Dealer kept talking up McMickel, saying how intelligent and bright he was. They called me a people person, but they never called me bright or intelligent. They wrote about me going to events, but said I didn't know the issues. My constituents began calling and saying "What's going on here?" Then the Plain Dealer endorsed McMickel. And my constituents asked "What's the deal?" Then, just before the election, their political writer predicted that I would win. McMickel was stunned. He couldn't believe it. He believed the paper. He thought that the PD endorsement meant he would win. Wherever I campaigned, I said "I want to leave you with three thoughts. "You know me." "You know me." "You know me." I had a huge base of support."
- After an interview on TV, she says "thanks Jerry" and then hugs the cameraman and turns to me and says, "See, I have buddies in the media." She called one speaker at the conference "my buddy."
- She talked about the 21st--now in the 11th District Caucus!" She inherited it and, I guess, the leadership mantle of Lou Stokes. "When I took over the Caucus, I wanted to move it forward. They used to meet every Monday night. I changed it to twice a month."
- Then she told a related story. "I have no general election opponent next time and that makes me feel very good. I do have a primary opponent, but (don't quote me on this) I think he's doing it because he wants a platform. He was a member of his town's school board. But when the new appointment process went into effect, he was dumped. He used to come to all the Caucus meetings, raised questions about the schools, proving that he knew the subject. Then he asked me if he could be the spokesman for the Caucus on education issues. I told him that I would not let him do that. I said that if I wanted to say something about education, I'd say it myself. Now he's running against me in the primary. He's still looking for a platform."

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- "Do you feel like a second generation member of Congress?"
- "Yes I do, very much so. The district has changed. Lou Stokes had a predominantly black district. My district is not predominantly black. The largest group is black, but it's not predominantly black. (Later, she called district 52%-48%.) I want to bring the young people back into politics. There's a disconnect between young people and their government. Today, I was working with the 18 year old high school group. Next I want to bring back the 19-25 year olds. It's not easy. Now I'm beginning to run into the woman thing. I didn't get it so much in the prosecutor's office. But I'm getting it now. (I asked, are you getting this from party or Caucus? "Both," but the body language suggested that Caucus was the worst.) Part of it is the business of being in the 'in-crowd.'" We got cut-off here.
- We were stopped here as we walked from one side of the pizza restaurant (when she had grabbed a smoke--"I have a dirty habit. I'm trying to stop.") to the side of the restaurant where the staff gang was in their long table. It was a "thank you" for the job on the conference.
- As part of my second generation question, she noted, "I'm fifty years old. I don't feel like fifty. I have a lot of energy, but I'm not going to make a career in Congress. I'm not going to stay around Congress for 30 years. I want to do what I can and then say to someone, 'Here, you take over.'" Maybe the idea was that 'I'm not going to be like Stokes' in that regard.'
- At lunch, she asked me to ask Betty Pinkney (no relation to Arnold) about the second generation question. Betty said, "I don't think of it in generation terms. I think of it as continuity. Stephanie was the first generation, too. She was the first black woman on the Court of Common Pleas, and the first black woman to campaign when she was pregnant. She was the first black woman prosecutor and now the first black woman member of Congress from Ohio. That's continuity. She's second generation in Congress, yes, but I see continuity." I.e., 'she is experienced.
- Still, she followed Lou and I have to push on that. But she has a lot of "firsts."

11/2/20
Stephanie

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- A "woman thing"--the subject of the flu came up. She says "I have my nails done every week. This week, the lady who does them for me was out all week with the flu."
- She talked about her trip up the ladder--was 31 when elected to municipal court--five people several more credentialed, but she got 39 percent. The county court, then offered an appointment to common pleas, but would have to run in two years. She is pregnant and wonders whether "I should give up a six-year court salary for a two year job and \$5,000 more. And I'm pregnant."
- Shaker Heights, "I've been running in this area since 1983. And Lou Stokes cultivated it carefully."
- Her advice to students as workers in the community, "You never burn your bridges." "Networking is always very important."
- She asked me who else I was travelling with and I mentioned Zoe Lofgren.
- "She's my fairy godmother. We worked together on a juvenile justice bill. She's on Judiciary. I had a chance to go on Judiciary with all my experience. But I thought that I was going to try something new, to go in new direction, I should begin right away. Zoe was introducing the sections of the juvenile justice bill on the floor. When I walked by, she said, 'Here, why don't you introduce this part.' I said I've never introduced a bill on the floor before. She said 'you can do it.' So I did--my first bill introduction on the floor. She's very nice."
- Now, men do this sort of thing, but there's a lot less openness about it. The expression 'you can do it' seems more likely to come from a woman than from a man. That may not be true, but there is a kind of comradeship among women--a kind of 'we're all in it together' idea--that you don't find in men. A sisterhood idea." Is there a clue of any kind here? "Women are in the 'helping business' and talk about it more. No man would talk about 'fairy godmother'--that's for sure!"
- "There's a disconnect. I want to bring our young people back." (This is my story + my d.h. from LS)
- When she introduces Michael Walker, the expert on gang

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violence, etc.--who had worked in Chicago and sent to Alabama. He was the only black kid in school, and had a bodyguard who told people "I don't care what you do, but don't hit the nigger." The body guard stayed outside the classroom during class. Anyway, when STJ introduced him she said, "I could read you all his awards and his vita, but I'll just say this: he knows the street... He's my buddy!"

- The event got a good front page picture and story the next day in the Plain Dealer. They stress that she wants to get an advisory group going.
- Eric F. still thinks he was victim of an unstoppable landslide. And that the leadership let them down by not preparing them for what was coming. Still doesn't see his own failings at all.
- On Sunday, we had two events: church in the a.m.; the swearing-in of Marcia Fudge as Mayor of Warrensville Heights (20,000).
- My overall impression concerns the relationship between the two. To be sure, it was Sunday, but the swearing-in was almost another church service. And the story in the morning paper mentioned that aspect too. There was, of course, the usual opening prayer and benediction. But two choral groups sang hymns, praising the Lord (great, loud singing), plus the Battle Hymn of the Republic, and the program ended with three full verses of the Negro National Anthem. So it was not only largely spiritual, but it was an African-American ceremony. Needless to say, audience enthusiasm (97% black, I'd judge, STJ said town was 98% black) was enthusiastic--some clapping along with the music just like a church in the morning. And the councilwoman who was sworn in along with Fudge talked mostly about God being her main help. After a half-dozen sentences about reliance upon God, she did get around to thanking all her campaign workers from this world!
- The place was jam-packed and I stood the whole time. So did all of our group.
- ^{Sunday} Church had about 250 people. It was a rousing, hand-clapping, calling-out praise at appropriate times. The minister shouted and sweated and called for the emotion from the parishioners. They welcomed a little kid to the church; the young kids sang

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a song, we sang "Let it shine," "the Comforter has come," and one about "Victory...". It was large, roundish, heavy stone church with lots of beautiful stained glass and a rounded, rotunda-type ceiling and balcony. The ceiling had a lot of stained glass. There were three huge sets of organ pipes. It was truly a magnificent church built to last and beautifully appointed. And the organ was accompanied by a piano, a xylophone player and a drummer, who belted out music for the choir and for us and in-between. People talked all the time except when the preacher was talking; and they visited around in a pretty informal way--especially when we got there. There was none of this sitting still when you first got in and sat down. Everyone is buzzing.

- In some ways, the ritual was the same as in any church. But the atmosphere was totally different. They spoke of Sister Brown and Brother Smith. The female ushers had uniforms, badges and white gloves, informal but formal. All of us STJ group stood up to be recognized (I'm sure they recognized me--the only white face in the place!) Most of the people there were women. But when the kid went to be "saved," all the people who stood up to make it official were men. Beverly said that she was the third generation in her family to worship there. The pastor was in Australia and we got the Ass't Pastor. But the pastor could not have had as booming a voice as the Ass't. When he called upon the Lord, he had to come!
- At Warrenville Heights, the other interesting thing was the important connection here of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for the women. Not only are STJ and Fudge sorority sisters, but so were 30 or so in the audience who kept standing up to be "recognized" as various potentates from the sorority spoke and brought gifts to Fudge. They would come up to the mike, introduce themselves, ask the sisters in audience to stand and then say a few words in praise of Fudge as a sister. Seven different national and regional directors, plus the national chair of a related men's sorority "Kappas" did the same! STJ had mentioned it early in our meeting and it obviously is a key informal connection for college-educated black women. There are 200,000 members, they said. *Public routines help you to understand diff. groups of people.*
- She told me later that her sorority came when 21 women spun off because the AKA's were not service-oriented. That's what they call the sorority DST, Inc. It's a national service

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organization. She named several black women who are in it--Mosely-Braun, Alexis Herman, Patricia Harris, Carrie Meek. They take some vow not to criticize each other--which I can't recall.

- The third day was about as different from a day with Lou Stokes as one could imagine. Partly, it was her down-to-earth nature with people wherever she went, partly it was the way she included me, introduced me, and finally sat down to eat (and have 1-1/2 Heinekens) with me and answered every question I could think of. She wore me out. *At 10:11 AM Karen in this respect.*

- Writing this up, now, perhaps the most interesting contrast with Stokes was her eagerness to show me where she grew up, in Glenville. She showed me "the house where I spent my childhood," on Austin Avenue. (Several houses there are now boarded-up.) It was a duplex side-by-side. "My father worked as a skycap for United airlines for 38 years. He and a friend from work bought the house together and they lived on the other side." [At church, she said he retired because he could not stand one more person calling him "boy."]

At age 13, she moved to the small house up Rutland Avenue from the church where she spoke (her mother's church). "My mother is the enforcement officer of the neighborhood, whether the grass is cut and the trash picked up--she and three other women." Mother and father still live there and just put extension on. He's a golfer, "an early black golfer." Then she took me to see her present house on Wade Park. "At one time it was one of the fanciest streets in the city--the buffer between the University (Case Western) and the black neighborhoods. If you turn off East 105th in the other direction, you get to the Hough neighborhood." We drove up the driveway, stopped and she called her husband on her cell phone (he was inside the house!) To say hello and tell him she was driving me to the MLK Library meeting. She paid \$44,000 and it's now worth four times that. "I've lived in just three houses in my life." She showed me where she took music lessons, near her new home. She drove me up E105th Street through Glenville. "When I was a child, this was the grand shopping avenue. Now it's all churches and church parking lots." I saw lots of boarded up store fronts and a few stores here and there. When we passed Rite Aid, she said, "when I was a child, there was not a single drug store in the black area. We had to go down town to buy our prescription drugs."

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- She drove me by her church "Bethany Baptist Church" on 105th and Hampden Street, and proudly showed me the extension. "I was baptized in that church and have been a member all my life." Pastor is a lawyer and they can't pay him enough. Have hired an ass't pastor, because there is so much to do. "Oh, there's Mr. _____ flower shop--still there, a third generation business." Then she wanted to show me her college, Case Western, and she drove me all around it. (I hadn't the heart to tell her I'd been there and seen it, because I wanted to see it through her eyes.) (Similarly, I never told her or anyone that I'd seen LS in 1998, because I thought that would color the visit.)
- Here was someone who wanted to show me her life's places. She told me twice during my visit that her strategy for her 1998 campaign was "you know me, you know me, you know me. You know me because I have lived in the community all my life." And it was as if she wanted to say to me, "now you know me too because I've shown you my community."
- Lou Stokes not only wouldn't tell me anything about his life, he got a staff guy to show me his district! Also, STJ drove herself around. LS had a driver. "We're doing one thing now that LS would never do, driving around the district by ourselves. Someday I may have to get a driver to get me from place to place, park and be ready to go. But I still ride public transportation--which I often did when I was prosecutor."
- This is just part of a mosaic from the visit which indicates a strong person-to-person strategy.
- At MLK library, where we only were to stop by, she got suddenly introduced during the proceeding and got a huge, heart-warming, spontaneous, appreciative cheer (my most significant signal of constituent approval during the trip). She stayed for a long time, warm and engaging and hugging, signing autographs and having her picture taken by some of the 300 people at the meeting in the MLK building of the Cleveland Public Library (the first black director of any part of the CP library). So the celebrity stuff is still there to some degree. With LS, it was an arms-length "I'm proud of you" kind of celebrity.

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- She is bubbly and smiley and warm and engaging and accommodating and gives off general joy. At one point at lunch, talking about testifying about something, she said, "you know that smile I always have... well, when I gave my testimony, I did not smile once."
- One theme of our conversation that began early and ended at our lunch began with a question I asked about her relations with the CPD. A reporter (Hallet?) wrote a story with headline like, "Is there a void in black leadership in Cleveland." She said that the reporter (who couldn't get Mayor White to talk with him) went to her and asked "Are you a leader?" "I said, I get 79 percent of the vote. I have a broad group of supporters. Does that make me a leader?" (She got sidetracked talking re Caucus and came back to it at lunch.)
- "The reporter said there was criticism that I had failed to speak out on any issue of great importance to the black community--the presence of the KKK in Cleveland. The Mayor had cordoned off a big area so they wouldn't get hurt, and there was a lot of talk about it. I knew they had a right to free speech, and that the KKK used to be a big issue in the south, but that they were not important now. I had just gotten to Washington and I was learning my job. I thought I could do a lot more good for my constituents learning my job than coming back and making statements about the unimportant little guy. But the reporter said that I was not 'speaking out.' That tells you something about my relations with the PD."
- During the day, I heard several black people say, "I wish we had a good paper--not the Plain Dealer. No one pays attention to it, but it's the only one we have." Sorta just there.

Book #2

- In the morning edition of CPD, after the youth conference, there was a nice story with two pictures--but not one about STJ. "I was angry--no not angry, disappointed. Dennis Kucinich did something a lot less important the other day and his picture was in the paper. I console myself by thinking they may have thought I was in an election campaign--my primary is March 7. Also, Dennis used to be a newspaperman, so there is that connection."

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- "I like Dennis, but I can't trust him. That's the hard part. And I hate that. He's a publicity hound. I'm not a publicity hound." And she told some story where she and DK were on a panel of some kind. She broke it up with a joke. He got upset; but he got the credit--some rivalry.
- "One advantage I have over Lou Stokes was that I ran in all of Cuyahoga County where blacks make up only 24 percent of the population. He ran in a Cleveland district where blacks make up nearly 75 percent. He had a very different ratio of tenure to base... I ran well on the west side; and I could win even if a lot of my congressional district were on the west side. It would be harder, but I could do it. That's why I don't worry about redistricting. The Republicans say to me, 'You draw the lines for your district and you can have it,' but I don't trust them! I don't care what they do. I will win no matter where they put me."
- **Key point:** LS needed a black majority. She does not. *Dr. does it think she does,*
- *The entire idea about generations has to be cast differently. The big difference between STJ and LS is that she has held elective office and run several times in several jurisdictions. She ran state-wide and lost by 51,000, "I told them I'm not running as a token. If I'm in it, I'm in it to win. I campaigned in 40 counties."
- "That set me up for the run for prosecutor." She ran for municipal court and court of common pleas and prosecutor. LS had none of this. For many of my questions, her first reply would be "when I was prosecutor," or "when I ran for prosecutor." That is big event in her career. She's been through expansionism. So I guess she's a protectionist already. But different reasons than LS. She is more of a political animal than LS. Lou always worried about protecting his back. That may be a first generation problem, with lots of pent-up black ambition. Which means that things had settled down in Cleveland when STJ came along.
- STJ: "While Lou Stokes was congressman, I never said one word to anyone about running for Congress. I never mentioned it. I knew Lou was paranoid about it and I knew that if I ever ran, I wanted to run with his support."

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- The other interpretation is that Lou was worried ('paranoid') because he was so inexperienced at politics. He never knew when he was secure. Lou was interested in the Caucus to protect himself. STJ is interested in Caucus so that she can step into Lou's position and not lose prestige. She said that when Lou said she could pick her own Executive Director of the Caucus, "He was passing the mantle to me." A pivotal decision that consolidates her local standing as congressional candidate.
- The victory she really savored was the county prosecutor race. The incumbent (Corrigan) had been in a long time and wanted to bequeath it to his son. So he resigned in the middle of his term, catching everyone by surprise, with the law providing that the successor should be chosen within 30 days (or so). Idea was that opposition couldn't organize in that short period. Democratic nomination was the key. The Corrigan forces: "They thought it was an Irish fiefdom that could be handed down from generation to generation. They put pressure on people and even threatened. I don't believe in retribution. I don't operate that way. (In fact, people stayed away from the vote, she said, out of fear that if they voted vs. Corrigan and he won, they would be harmed.) The vote, incidentally, was public. "People in the black community started calling me and asking me to run, because of my state-wide race for ~~Attorney General (?)~~. We don't want a dynasty." *Supreme Court. didn't?*
- I decided to run on January 4th and the vote was on January 14th. I ran a 10-day campaign. The vote was by the 1,600 committee members, a public vote--no secret ballot. It was like a convention. The party leader, Jimmy Dimora--who had been fighting Lou Stokes like cats and dogs, a terrible fight--stepped up and supported me. That was very important to me. Most important were my African American supporters. They turned out for the vote--all of them. Only 1061 committee people showed up and voted. And I won by 31 votes. They couldn't believe it. They were so surprised that they counted the ballots three times. It was a celebration! The newspaper headline said, "Jones Topples Old Guard." The word was passed around at choir rehearsals; people watching football saw it on the trailers where they give special weather warnings."
- *Policy!* "When I became prosecutor, there was one black person on the

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support staff. When I left, there were 50. There were 10 black prosecutors; I hired, at one time or another, 50. There were 10 women prosecutors when I got there; when I left there were 40. There was one Jewish prosecutor; when I left there were 14."

- Several times, she mentioned the campaign taunt by her opponent, Johnson. "What have you ever done for black people?" And she immediately went into the jobs she provided as prosecutor. Two complaints really irritated her. Are you a leader? (Implied answer: no.) And "What have you ever done for black people? (Implied answer: nothing.) A third one she said she heard early on, "We don't see you enough." (Implied answer: you've gone Washington.)
- Monday was busy for her: TV in morning, speech at youth coalition, speech at mother's church, showing up at library.
- At end she said, "I've been Martin Luther Kinged to death today." And "they got butter out of the duck today." She was tired and was going home to go to the movie Hurricane with family. Marcia got 150 free tickets for inauguration present. "I like boxing," says STJ. She did work hard. And her staff thought it was a very busy day. I've seen busier. And we did have a long lunch for which I was grateful. I guess I'd have to be around her more or see her schedule to make a final judgment on how hard she works. One thing is for certain. I did pick a good time to come, because the staff kept telling me what a busy time it would be for her and what a good time to come. The first two days were a drag. But Monday was excellent--the best, as good as it gets. By that I mean she wore me out!
- At the entrance to the Technical Building at CCC, there is a huge photo of Lou Stokes flanked by two huge glass cases filled with plaques and citations and awards from Stokes' career. "He's everywhere. But this is his special place," she said. The building is named after him, and he got money for it.
- When people ask what have you done for black people, they want an instant Stokes, I guess. *And they start with Stokes' perception of coalition!*
- She did talk about money she had gotten for a stream that runs through University Circle, money to widen a road leading from

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downtown to University Circle. And she took me to see the Cleveland Clinic--we drove around all sides of it. "It is the biggest employer in my district... I voted for the omnibus appropriations bill when most of the Ohio Democrats did not, because of all the money that was in there for my hospitals--the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospital. They could not hold their ground without it. There was a lot I did not like about that bill. I think Tom Sawyer and I were the only ones who voted for it."

She said BEDCO was formed because of her prosecutor's race. She said that a couple of times. I guess it was because the race opened some wounds. Any how, sometime after she was elected, one of the "leaders" called a meeting without notifying her.

- *I need to probe the relation of the prosecutor's race to formation of BEDCO.
- Re the "attack on affirmative action": "I'm an affirmative action person. I wouldn't be standing before you today if it hadn't been for affirmative action. I got good grades, but I tested terribly. I couldn't have gone to college without affirmative action."
- In same set of items where she saw programs "under attack," she mentioned women's right to choose, school vouchers (strongly opposed) and faith-based institutions.
- She told a great story about LS and Caucus transition. "When we talked, I told him that I wanted to be able to appoint my own executive director of the Caucus. He said that was fine, and that he would tell Ms. Chapman. She had been executive director for 25 years. So I made my choice, and I took her with me to my first Caucus meeting. I assumed Lou had told Ms. Chapman, but to my horror, when we got there, I found out he had not told her that she was through. When I went over to her to say hello, and introduce her to her successor, she said 'there must be some mistake. I am still the Executive Director.' So I went over to Lou and said, 'Ms. Chapman has not been told of our arrangement.' He said he'd talk with her. So he went over to her and told her she was fired. Just like that!" She shook her head, but didn't comment. But the tone was that's the way Lou operated, the kind of control he exercised.

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- experienced
negotiation*
- About BEDCO I asked, "can you stay out of local politics?" "After my election, I let everyone know that I was going to go to Washington and for the first six months, I was not going to get involved in local politics, that I was going to learn my job. I like to prioritize and I thought that was the best use of my time. I learned that one of the men who thought of himself as a leader of BEDCO had called a meeting--without even notifying me. I called him and asked him why did you do this without so much as calling me. He said, 'why should I call you. It was Lou Stokes' organization.' So I got on the phone and got the meeting quashed. The group had been started by Lou after my election as prosecutor. Lou and Jim Dimora were fighting like cats and dogs--a terrible fight. When Lou retired, the group was split. One of Lou's opponents did the calling. I came home; we had a meeting; and I was elected chairman of BEDCO. I found it impossible for me to stay out of local politics."
 - I asked her how come she got into politics in the first place. She had been talking about this sewer project for the stream near University Circle and had said, "when I graduated law school, I thought I would be an environmental lawyer." Her answer was, "People always ask me that and I really can't answer it. I guess it's because I was active in the Black Student's Union in college and eventually became its President. In law school, I became active in the Black Law Student's Organization and became President of it. Then three of us worked to help elect a municipal court judge. We were so successful, that we decided one of us ought to run for municipal court judge. And I was it."
 - *she walked the walk*
key to career How she drew the long straw at that point is not clear. But she is a born activist, who rises to the top in organizations. Lou rose to the top, too, in a lot less sweaty way. A lot of the sweat was Carl's.
 - *LS* "People think just because LS was so involved at home, I should be too. But I think I have to learn my job in Washington. People say to me, 'you've got big shoes to fill!' I tell them I'm not trying to fill Lou's shoes! I want to stand on his shoulders, to help finish things he began. I'm not Lou Stokes. I don't want to be Lou Stokes. I am me."
 - CBC: "In new situation, I just sit back and observe. I want

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Black

to get the lay of the land. There are some things the Caucus can do and some things it can't do. We meet for lunch every Wednesday. I like those meetings and I look forward to them."

- Went on to talk about Barbara Lee (CA). "We met standing in line at a Democratic function before the election. I turned around and I said, 'I'm STJ and I'm running for Congress from Cleveland.' She said, 'I'm Barbara Lee and I'm running for Congress from Oakland.' We've become best friends."
- "I'm not a publicity hound. When I was prosecutor, I let the prosecutors get the credit." She said the guy handling Sam Sheppard got into trouble. "I said that he was speaking for himself, not for the prosecutor's office." She went into some detail re Sam Sheppard--a civil trial is coming. She stopped the criminal trial--couldn't trace DNA--contaminated.
- Everywhere we went, she seemed to know people. So I asked her how many in each group. At the library, "one in three, maybe two in three, because I served on the Board of Trustees of the library." (300 people) At her mother's church, "I only knew one person there, besides my mother." (40 people) At the Service Coalition speech, "I didn't know any more than 20 of the people (300+ people) there." (Young people)
(taller she felt the room w/ B. Lee)
- "People say 'I never see you.' I say whaaat! I'm here all the time." It's a constant refrain--but it could be true for her. I'll have to keep watching.
- Two people in the car wash said they'd seen her on TV that morning. "You looked pretty peppy," said one woman behind the counter. The other guy, in line, she knew when she was prosecutor. He works for the county. "I got a lot of coverage today." Re this TV and PBS taping she did earlier and that was scheduled to play for holiday.
- Riding near the Cleveland Clinic, the street was blocked. She pulled up and talked to a young policeman. "I'm Stephanie Jones." "I know who you are. We are watching traffic on your street." "Thank you very much." "They are traveling 45 mph on that street." "It's too fast. I thank you." "You can go right on through."
- Then at next intersection, there's a cop in the middle of the street directing traffic (there's a big event at the theatre).

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She rolls down the window and yells out, "are you trying to get run over?" He waves as we go by. (Both these cops are white.) Another totally non-Stokes act! She is very high spirited.

- "When I became prosecutor, I met and talked with as many of the policemen as I could. I wanted to get to know them and for them to know me. I also wanted them to know that if they did not do their job, that I could not prosecute their cases, and that if they did their job, I would prosecute their cases. Of course, some of them would have just as soon put my butt in jail."
- "I don't do negative campaigning," re '98 race.
- Re prosecutor's staff when she got there: "I could not believe how parochial they were. Some of them had never been outside Ohio. I believe in training. So I set aside money to send them to DA's meetings around the country."
- She said at one point that she had absolute power to hire and fire the support staff and the prosecutors--that the office was a "patronage hole." It would be interesting to find out how good a prosecutor she was. She did say apropos of her style, "I only prosecuted cases I thought I could win. Some prosecutors go for the publicity first and then figure out how to prosecute the case. I did it the other way around."
- "Now we are driving up the hill on Stokes Blvd. It used to be Fairhill. There's a Stokes' wing on the library, a Stokes' wing on the art gallery, a Stokes' building at Cuyahoga Community College, a Stokes' wing at University Hospital, a Stokes' building at Maherry College, and one at Howard University. He's everywhere. His friend, Bill Clay, says, "why don't you just rename Cleveland Stokes City! Then I won't have to come here all the time to speak at dedications."
- Re trust and pride, when people wrote congratulatory letters after she won, she wrote back, "I thank you for the trust you have placed in me... I want to make you proud." Same terms at LS, but much less frequently used by her. She told me about the letters when I asked about trust. It didn't work well. But when I followed up with explaining, she said she had not had to explain any of her votes to anyone.

Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D/OH) January 2000-22

- Re votes, her hard ones seen to come on omnibus type legislation. One that had troops for Bosnia in it, she voted against. She did cite about three "tough votes," but I cannot remember them. It did seem as though she measured her votes vs. her Ohio colleagues--see the budget vote re hospitals. She objected to Republicans bundling things together.
- She has no political survival fears that I could detect. Went through a few people. The new prosecutor? "He's reached his limit. He'll be prosecutor for life--if he can hold it." Fingerhut, "You know him. He says he's supporting me and he has. He won't run." None of the elected officials in legislature are a problem.
- In 1998, her strategy: "My assumption from the beginning was that I would win. I went around and campaigned, but I knew they could not beat me. I told you my three campaign slogans--'you know me, you know me, you know me.' And you know me because I have lived and worked in this community. I'm intelligent, but I don't have to use big words. I can talk as I did in church so ordinary people can understand what I'm saying. I'm a people person." Very self-confident and her strategy starts there.
- The most fascinating event for me was her Monday talk at her mother's church. It was located at the corner of the street where her mother and father still live, and where she lived from 13 years old--Rutland Avenue. The area used to border a golf course, and the church used to be a bar called "The 19th Hole." Her father is a golfer--"one of the first black golfers," she calls him. The church was a cinder block, one-story, no windows--some opaque squares for light--building about the size of a clubroom--maybe 75 feet by 30 feet. It had six rows of benches, length-wise across the room, with a little aisle between them. The benches were wooden with backs. Up front, there was a raised podium with a big, rough-hewn wooden cross behind it. The altar--a table with a picture or statue (I can't recall)--was off to one side. The "Reverend Sanders" had a tiny office where we put our coats. The building had a basement where refreshments were served afterward, but we didn't go.
- (Her mother came up to me after the service, introduced herself and said, "Won't you join us for refreshments?" I

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said, "I do what Stephanie tells me to do!" She said "And Stephanie does what I tell her to do." She goes over to Stephanie who tells her mother, "We don't have time. I have to go to another event." Her mother comes back to me and says, "You don't have time." I tell her, "We both lost!" Eventually, STJ drove her mother around the corner and home.) Anyway, there must have been about 40 people there--some kids, mostly elderly, a few middle-aged. The room is about as dingy as you could imagine. But the spirit is warm and alive, and participation is total and heart-felt.

- I can't recall the sequence of events, but several things took place. Early on, we made a circle, standing and holding hands while the minister prayed. Then we sang "We Shall Overcome" and the guy next to me shouted it--all off-key. Then we shook hands with everyone near us saying "God bless you." Then the minister went over near the altar and prayed loud and hard. At one point he said, "Lord, protect our congresswoman--put angels to the left of her, angels to the right of her, angels beneath her, angels over her, angels all around her." Then he called the children 6-8 up to the altar and we all stood up and held hands while he talked to them. At this point, STJ and I are holding hands! As part of the circle. Then I think she spoke. I have it on tape and it is a good example of her warmth. She had a text which she read and paused every so often to talk about her family and the importance of love in the family, etc. Then we all sang the Negro National Anthem. Minister says he doesn't know all the words. Then we all held hands again in a circle while the preacher gave the benediction. Then there was a very lively question period. When the parishioners left, several came over and hugged me. The minister took pictures of STJ and different groups.
- It was like nothing I could have imagined--church in this old dingy room, an ex-bar, with the congresswoman, her mother and 38 or so other people. The minister talked about them giving old clothes to help the less fortunate. These people were working class and didn't have a lot, but they had their church. The minister had some other job, of course. They could hardly pay him a full salary. It was an emotional event--and the church setting contrasted night and day with the gorgeous old one we went to on Sunday. There's a flavor to both churches that helps you understand a little of what the long struggle of black people has been and how their faith has kept them going. It's a feeling I can't describe--but I

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got a better feel in the two churches than I ever got from my church experience with Lou Stokes. (This is why I know only black scholars can do the reporting job--not me. There's too much history and too much religious emotion for me to grasp or convey to others.) But if anyone had taken me to that little beat-up room and told me it was a church--before I went to church with STJ, I'd have had them committed! I'm still whistling, "till victory is won."

- *crystal* "With the exception of Shaker Heights, which has some of the wealthiest people in Cleveland, all my suburbs are working class suburbs." *like BJ*
- *cool* The spirit of my visit was very much the idea of service, do something for others, get involved and, also, "empowerment" (a favorite word). Her speech to the Cleveland Service Coalition was very motivational. She had them repeat, "Everyone can be great, because anybody can serve." And also they repeated, "You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." The minister at the youth conference spoke the same way: "Get involved and make a difference," "live for your grandchildren," "If vision and philosophy can bring a resurrection to the Cleveland Indians, what might visionaries and philosophers do for our children," "I don't care what you do, please do something." They play off of MLK, and the theme is social action.
- The woman who got sworn in as councilwoman in Warrensville said that her touchstones were "concerned, caring, compassionate and involved," "look out for your neighbor."
- *cool* STJ talked a lot about community, sacrifice, helping others, "solving problems that plague our society," service, "the plight of our brothers and sisters," mutuality, work together. See CCC speech for this theme.
- Re Caucus, she said the picnic was a big success. She made a couple of changes--shortened it, and did not invite Dick Gregory. "Lou always had Dick Gregory. I like Dick Gregory, but we had enough of Dick Gregory. I tried to get one of the two young local comics--and Arsenio Hall, but I was too late. I'll try earlier next year. People thought the picnic lasted too long. The parade got off on time and we were all done by 3:00 instead of the usual 4:00."

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- Re following Lou in other ways she said she was not going to follow his X-mas party with presents and turkeys. She wants to start a 501(k)3 so people can give charitable contributions. She'd like to send some kids to a camp in Israel.
- Her advice to the new mayor, "One day at a time," and "family comes first."
- Most of Glenville is Ward 9. George Forbes had it gerrymandered so he could control it.
- 43 / - "This is not for publication, but Lou was not for me in the beginning. He didn't think I could do it. But he came aboard and once he did, he came shooting both barrels."
- Coming out of CCC talk: "I just met someone with the same name as a man I used to know who worked in the water department." Always cross-checking names!
- Steve LaTourette: "We get along fine. We were prosecutors together. At DA conventions, he would tell people that I was his date! We may even work together on some initiatives."
- ~~There's politics in the family.~~ Her sister was her campaign manager in the congressional race. Now she works as Marcia Fudge's chief of staff. Her sister-in-law wants to run for something in a small town and STJ was worried about her chance in a primary.
- As part of her openness, she talked about her looks. Says that her sister is a fashion plate, that she worked in corporate world and that she fusses over STJ's low moccasin-type shoes. "I did wear heels to the swearing-in. But when you have to stand as much as I do, you want the most comfortable shoes." Then she said that someone who saw her on Ch. 8 today said, "You looked 'done up' today." Riding in the car, she'll pull down the visor and say, "let's see how my make-up looks." She wears long skirt and is not a fashion plate. But she talks about "looks" in a way that a man never would; and says that women pay attention to these things. *Much greater openness. Leads me to ask: how much of her difference from STJ is fact that she's a woman?*
- Call and Post is owned by Don King, the fight promoter. They do well by her, but she said nothing specific.

Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D/OH) January 2000-26

*Maybe a woman
doing as a
natural time
filter, as
men talk
baseball?*

- Re primary, "Of course I wanted Lou Stokes' support; and everyone knew he was supporting me. There was a Plain Dealer cartoon showing Lou sitting with his fishing pole and sticking out of his back pocket was a paper which said Stephanie Tubbs Jones is ok. I'll have to get that cartoon and have it framed."
- Her opponent, Jeff Johnson, got into trouble of some kind. "Some people thought I was responsible!" Johnson's campaign was that "I was not active enough on behalf of African American community." (And) "I was responsible for the unfavorable story about him."
- Magic Johnson has opened a movie complex right in the heart of her black area--in the suburban part, I think. "The other day, someone was shot near the theater. I hope that doesn't hurt attendance there."
- Beverly Charles worked for STJ in prosecutor's office. She has a lot of loyalty to people, it seems.
- She emphasized the services of her Cleveland staff. Mary (who we ate with at pizza place) is the only white person on the staff. Betty Pinkney is really an LA. But she's located in the district because education is her subject. Maybe there are personal reasons, too. I'll need to find out more about the staff. "I'd rather have fewer people and pay them better."
- "I have a wonderfully strong relationship with the Jewish community. I'd like to have a Jewish person^{as} part of my staff. I'm looking. I found one woman whom I liked a lot, but she wanted more money than I can offer her. She thinks she's worth more. She's still looking for work."
- Several times she said, "I tried to get some money" for this or that. "I'll try again next time."
- When I mentioned Louise Slaughter, she said "I talk with Louise. I want to get on Rules. She says there are drawbacks, but that's the committee I want. Everything goes through you."
- Says Caucus has pretty good relations with Gephardt--that he got three Caucus members on "Approps."

Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D/OH) January 2000-27

- calute*
hands on
- As she drove me all around Glenville and then to lunch, she said, "I'm doing something Lou Stokes would never do--driving myself around. He always had a driver. I still ride public transportation. When I was prosecutor, I often rode the train. People said 'you shouldn't do that.' But I said that I knew enough not to take risks."
 - When she talked to the large, jam-packed, standing-in-the-aisles, service coalition group, she spoke of "hanging out with you today"--a very non-Stokes sentiment.
 - At MLK ceremony, she got introduced--it was another occasion where we held hands and sang "We Shall Overcome." Choral group sand "Rocking Jerusalem."
 - At her mother's church, I went out to her car and got out a box of calendars. She left them all there to be distributed. She did the same thing at the youth conference. She uses these all over the district I would assume--a connection.
- Service*

Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D/OH) January 2000-28