

TOM DAFFRON

December 18, 1981

I stopped in to check on the January trip with Bill. He said he (Tom) was happy to have me go because "Our Senator performs better when people he respects are watching him. He's so competitive. He's at his best when they shove a camera in his face and he has to talk or when we say, 'they'll be here in 20 minutes.' You'd better know this.' He'll know it. Thirty-six hours before those hearings on Canadian industry he was a man unarmed. But he learned and came off as a person who knew a lot about the subject. Besides, he likes hearings. He likes to be the only person there. He hates to wait. That's why he doesn't like the floor. It's a show and nothing happens there. It's disorganized. He likes to work in committee. He likes to cross examine. It's the old prosecutorial instinct."

Tom talked about new Senators and we talked about idea of "growing" in the job and what it meant--to no very clear conclusion I might say. He enjoys pontificating about senators, i.e., "Next to Gorton and Rudman who stand out--and Specter is OK too--who else is worth anything among the freshmen." Or "when Grassley and Abdnor talk I'm embarrassed. They can't put a sentence together. Bob Kasten. wasn't much of shake in the House, but he's among the 4 or 5 best in this new lot.", etc.