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"This office is different from most offices up here in that nearly everything we do is oriented toward the constituency. We don't pant, like most people here, to be the 27th name in the New York Times wrapup. We're a lot more concerned about getting on page one of the Bangor News or the Portland Press Herald. That was particularly true in 1979 and 1980. We wanted people to think of him as somebody who was on top of constituency matters and not the show-off of the impeachment hearings. He made a speech last week about our three main industries--agriculture, wood products and fishing, all of which are being hurt by Canadian policy. Our job in the office is to keep the constituency base covered. Of course we look for national opportunities, but their state comes first--Loring Air Force Base, Dickey Lincoln, Indian Land claims and a lot of other things nobody here cares about. Half the staff comes from Maine, and half not. But the people who don't have been here so long that they 'think Maine'. Parochial may be a little too strong to describe the staff; but that's not far from it. The constituency emphasis comes from his work in the House. And the whole delegation is oriented that way-- and Mitchell herself. It's different from the days of Margaret Chase Smith and Ed Muskie. Our constituency operation gives Bill tremendous flexibility. His position on SALT or AWACS (no, that's not a good one because of the Jewish constituency) and a lot of other things results from that flexibility.

I met Bill on the elevator and he suggested I might follow some Defense Procurement Hearings. Tom said: "I've been getting a little worried about Bill's reputation as a super hawk who wants to spend billions for missiles while people lose their food stamps and die of malnutrition. Nobody has

anything to eat but we build holes in the ground to kill people. That is Bill's instinct, too. We think that defense ought to be held accountable to the same standards as other programs. In the Armed Service Committee you have the same eight generals talking to the same eight committee members all the time. Everything becomes so intra-mural. And it all goes on behind closed doors--not because it all has to, but because it's more comfortable that way. We'll see how these defense experts act outside that setting. The question is whether Roth will want to take it on in an election year. We know it's a good issue. Maybe if it's too good, Roth will take it over himself."

He described Bill's legislative activity as spent 65% on defense, 25% on governmental affairs, 5% ageing and 5% indian affairs.

He called Bill "a mainstream left of center Republican. It's so different from the House. Over there, he was always thought of as one of those six or eight who were always off the reservation. Here he's viewed as mainstream--even though he is still left of center. We save our powder for occasions when it's most useful. Otherwise, he's on the reservation.

He described governmental affairs. "It's an interesting committee because you have a floating constituency. The groups that are interested change with every issue. You don't get the same peanut farmers coming back every year with the same arguments."

Cohen. "He's not the most partisan guy around." His friends are Hart and Biden, re admires Hart and Bumpers.

"Bill does his best work when he's interested in something. So I tell the staff that it's their job to get him interested. When he gets interested, he does a good job, when he does a good job, he gets good press; when he gets good press, he gets more interested and so on. The way you get a reputation

around here is to beat an issue to death. Pretty soon you're considered an expert, people notice, the press picks up and you get to be treated more as an expert."

Re Glenn. "When he first came here he was considered a lightweight, because he was an astronaut. Now he's considered a heavyweight. Up close, he is a good Senator."

Re Howard Baker. "We fell on our sword for him in Maine. But he's good--the way he keeps the coalition together. Congressional Quarterly called our support of Baker a mistake. What are they thinking of? If you campaign hard for the Chairman of the Board to become President and he loses but he's still Chairman of the Board, is that a mistake? The best thing for us is that Howard Baker is right here.! So he lost 3 percentage points in popularity and he's now down to 74 percent."

"When I asked him about BC's propensity to pick up on amendments, and push them on the floor he said "occasionally," and cited one on potatoes recently. "Bill does his best work in committee and not on the floor. He'll go over to the floor to gossip and see people. But he has not played an active part there"

It was after this that he spoke of Bill as more "mainstream" now than "left of center." Perhaps where you do your work affects your Senate reputation. Weicker gets seen as maverick and left of center because he filibusters. Likewise, Helms on his side of things. The arena matters.