

BILL COHEN

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I went in to get a wrap up on the clothespin story from Bill.

"It wasn't too difficult. Bill Brock is a friend of mine and he was a Senator. He is sensitive to the need to help your constituents and what it means for staying in office. Donde Kiefer in his office was also very sympathetic. He came to our hearing on Canadian imports, and has been helpful ever since.

"I called Brock and said that I knew what the political pressures were, that quotas went contrary to policy, that only one state was involved and one small industry. But I showed him that the industry had done all it could, that Mrs. Gould had put 1.5 million of her own money into her plant, that the industry had done everything asked of it, that the ITC made a unanimous decision favoring a 3-year extension. I told him that I needed some support."

Brock said we should talk to de Kiefer. But Umphrey was in touch with de Kiefer on a daily basis. Finally he called and offered us a three-year phase out of the quota--10% reduction in the first year, 25% in the second year, 40% in the third year. I had told them that while we wanted a 3-year extension we could live with two-year extension. I had said that even though it was not in my interest to have a two-year extension, since it would expire in the year I'm running. De Kiefer said that his 3-year phase out would help my political problem. I went to the industry with the 3-year plan, and they said it would be a slow death, that a straight two-year extension would be better."

"So I called Brock again and he said 'Here's the reality. There isn't anybody in favor of this but me. And frankly I think the White House will torpedo it when it comes to them.'"

"At that point, I was leaving for my whirl wind tour of the Middle East. I called Deaver. I had already sent him one letter. I said to him, 'before

the President does anything, I've got to talk to you or the President, preferably both. I said I was sending him a second letter. He said, 'Come on down.' I went down the day I was to leave for the Middle East. I talked to him for 45 minutes or an hour. I went through it with him and Craig Fuller, the Secretary to the Cabinet.

I told them that I had been supportive of Reagan's economic proposals but these proposals caused special problems for New England and that I can't be supportive if you aren't sensitive to some of those problems, if you take the attitude that 'It's only Maine or only New England.' You can't expect us to support policies that don't take into account regional needs. I told them that I've got to show the people of Maine that you're not ignoring them. I said that the quota extension will take no money out of the Treasury and it means 500 jobs. It's not like giving artificial respiration or breathing life into a dead patient. The industry has demonstrated that it can be self sustaining. I wouldn't be here if that weren't the case."

"I told them that there was a perception that there has not been fair treatment, and that now we are only asking for something that doesn't cost anything. I told them that I need some support. I told them they could reciprocate in ways that don't cost, that this was a time we could make a case, that ITC had recommended extension and so forth.

"When I got back from my trip Deaver called and said there would be a two-year extension. It wasn't a trade. It was a matter of: Look, you've got this image of being unfair. We're not asking for anything that costs money. You don't turn a deaf ear in such a situation."

I asked Bill if he would talk about it in Franklin County this weekend and he said "if they ask."

That surprised me a little and I said, 'Do you consider it a little thing, a big thing' or what. Are you happy about it? He answered "I'm overjoyed and

overwhelmed. It's the first thing I've been able to point to that they've done down there. I get no help on textiles, none on shoes."

Then he started on another tack and I think he was going to indicate frustration, but he couldn't conclude. "I called Don Hoag and he was delighted and he thanked me profusely. Then I called Penley and he grumped, 'well, it should have been three years, but he guessed he could manage. Pt that together with _____ Strayer (or something like that)....and he started off on this guy who was vs. her on AWACS who said he went thru Mitchell on something and Bill said why don't you go to Mitchell again or something--phone rang and I left for Rudman appointment.