

BILL COHEN

July 14, 1982

Bumped into Bill riding back to the Senate, and I walked with him to his office - he said come in a minute and I did. But I was late to a DP appointment (which was cancelled!) so I left almost immediately. He had been presiding. I said I'd seen him doing his duty "Yes, and trying to figure out why Ted Kennedy voted for the tobacco program and against the Eagleton amendment. (I said I saw him talking with Dee Huddleston.) Yes, I smell a deal there. He walked in smoking a cigar, so we shouldn't be too surprised." He laughed.

He asked me what I was doing, a question that always gives me trouble when I haven't seen the guy for some time. I've neglected Bill and when he asked me I interpret it (probably incorrectly) as 'I haven't seen you for quite a while, have you lost interest in me? "Aren't I doing anything interesting?" I mumbled.

When we got to the first floor, George Shultz, surrounded by a battery of secret service men wheeled out of the hearing room and nearly ran us down. Bill said, "Maybe they can get away with that in the State Department, but this is the Senate." I said "They probably didn't recognize you." He said "That's for sure." I said "Well, the generals in the Pentagon recognize you." He said, "They don't have to worry about us, we kick our heels and say, Yes Sir."

I asked if he's been busy on Armed Services lately. "No. I've been busy legislating. We just finished writing our special prosecutor bill and have introduced it. It's a good piece of legislation, I think. We also have been working on a bill to give the divorced wives of service men equal treatment with women in similar positions in civilian life--with pensions, social

security. They have been discriminated against. Then we get a bill on the allowance and disallowance of disability payments under social security. There has been a lot of inconsistency there. So we've been doing quite a few little things but good things. And I've just finished another book--the one on how to get things from Washington with the guy from Baltimore--that will be out this fall. So I've been busy."

Then he talked briefly about staying in shape. His son is working this summer in Rudman's office. They come in early, shoot baskets, lift weights and swim for about an hour and a quarter every day. He's down to 150, his high school weight--"all muscle."

I said I'd be in to see him and left.