

TOM DAFFRON

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I talk to Tom about my co-sponsor data--hypothetically. His feeling is that it tells you something but that it's a "yes, but" proposition. Cohen "jumps on" all bills about Jewish emigres. There are resolutions on potato week etc. So he suggested only important ones. But who knows about how to draw line.

He suggested that "original Co-Sponsor" are more meaningful. But we couldn't figure out how you could track those down. "Dear Colleague" is the best source.

But he does think it might give you a measure of floor activism as opposed to committee activism. Bill, he always says, is better in committee. Amendments would be best for that, I assume.

"In the House, everybody steals everyone else's bill. But in the Senate, it's incredibly bad form to someone else's bill. We ran into that problem with Birch Bayh when we first got here. We had a bill of ours in the House, and we put it in over here in the first two weeks. Birch Bayh got all upset, told us those things weren't done over here and we had a few weeks of trauma. Then we found out he had stolen his bill in the Senate from our bill in the House. Over here, the first person who puts in his bill or the first one to steal a bill from the House is supposed to have established a chain to it. An important result of this is that Senators get identified with a new --Muskie and the environment--and they get a national constituency. That is very helpful. When we polled for Percy in 1972, we found that the people of Illinois didn't know anything about him as a Senator. They knew he was a wonder boy and that his daughter had been killed. They were mildly positively disposed toward him. But they didn't know anything about him."

He talked about Kemp-Roth having 4 separate lives. Kemp is "Johnny one note" on subject. And the idea was up, down up. etc. Point is that it's useful to get an identity like that. And if you stay with it, your day may come.