

TOM DAFFRON

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I ran into Jeff Minsky and talked to him about the special prosecutor and contracting bills, which soon will come to markup, and also about the Canadian imports bill which is going to Finance and will be introduced soon.

Then I went to see Tom Daffron and talked about Bill. He said that they were doing "nothing exciting right now." I said I had watched Bill on defense. "We're in a box on defense. There are going to be dozens of amendments transferring money out of defense and into other things. Since we've been so supportive of the defense budget, we don't have much flexibility left."

I ask: Hasn't Bill been pretty loyal to Tower. "He's been very loyal to Tower. Tower has been awfully good to Bill and Bill is always loyal to those people who have helped him--too loyal sometimes in my opinion. For the past couple of years, defense has been "in." If the public turns down on defense, like they did in the early seventies, we could be in trouble. Tower doesn't plan to run again, but Bill--I assume--does."

"Governmental Affairs is a good committee for Bill. It was his first choice, you remember. For one thing, it has no permanent constituency. For another thing, its jurisdiction allows you to tackle just about any subject that interests you. And third, it helps Bill offset the hawkish image he gets on Armed Services, because he can go after the military matters like procurement."

We talked about the Committee, as I had with Jeff. It's given Bill a subcommittee staff, a chance to look into almost anything that interest him with the oversight subcommittee. He received high marks for his inspector general bill--not with the problem, but with the ten people who understood it. The N.Y. Times editorialized that it was a good piece of legislation."

Susan Collins is chief of that staff. Jeff, Peggy Weeks.