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Mac Collins (R/GA) in Georgia, February 19-21, 1996

Monday, February 19

- 7:30-9:30 a.m. Breakfast, Black History Month at the Trade Center. Hosted by the Black History Committee and Sanford Bishop. Guest speaker: Senator Carol Mosley Braun.
- 10-10:45 a.m. Meet with Skip and Kike Seda in the Cols. office. Discuss GAO findings in Warner Robins procurement contract for postage meter machine. They ruled against A-1 Postage and Meter Co.
- 12-2:00 p.m. Congressional Club luncheon at the Sheraton Hotel.
- 2:30-3:30 p.m. Meet with John Kinnett in Cols. office.
- 3:00 p.m. Time in the office: Sign certificates for Art Show (approx. 150)
- 5:15 p.m. Visit/dinner. Good Shephard Riding Academy, Warm Springs. Tour the ranch and have dinner with the boys in the group home.

Tuesday, February 20

- 6:30 a.m. National Prayer Breakfast - Fort Benning Supper Club.
- 8:10-10 a.m. Receive Fort Benning Garrison update briefings.
- Rich McDowell, Public Affairs Officer, will take care of Dr. Fenno during our briefings.
- 11:45-1:30 p.m. Speak/lunch - Institute of Management Accountants-- issues of interest: balanced budget, tax reform, health care. Members hold management positions in corporations--work with corporate taxes, P and L, etc.
- 2-4:00 p.m. Meeting at Marianna Gallops Senior Center. Discuss senior issues and answer questions.
- 7:00 p.m. Speak/dinner/award presentation: Pine Mountain Valley American Legion. Speak on veteran's issues. Present Purple Heart to Mr. Tommy Mann.

MAC COLLINS IN GEORGIA (2/19-2/21/96) -1

Wednesday, February 21

- 7:30-8:30 a.m. Tour UPS plant, Griffin. 45 employees will start arriving at approx. 7:30 a.m.--meet employees, speak to them on congressional issues and tour facility.
- 9:00 a.m. Development Authority meeting, Griffin. Bob Glover asked you to stop by and meet participants.
- 9:30 a.m. Commissioner Tidwell meeting, Crawford County.
- 10:30 a.m. Meet/speak Spalding County Senior Center. Walk around and speak to approx. 55 seniors.
- 12:00 noon Lunch, Griffin Kiwanis (200 members). The Southern Mens' Choral Group will be performing. You are the guest of "Young" Doug Holberg.
- 1:45-3:30 p.m. Tour NACOM, Griffin. NACOM is a new plant that manufactures automotive parts and employs approx. 700--tour plant and meet employees. Manager, Mr. Kawata, President, Nigel Thompson.

— Giff !

Mac Collins in Columbus, Georgia, February 19-21, 1996 (books)

Sunday, 2/18/96

- Shirley Gillespie, Clark Reid, Betty Bush, Lisa Parrish.
- I flew down to Columbus via Atlanta. Ate dinner and lunch at Ruby Tuesdays.

Monday, 2/19/96

- Went to Black History Month breakfast--Sen. Mosley-Braun was speaker. Met Mac when he and Julie arrived--hello was all of it. Shirley Gillespie took care of me. Went to MC's office where he had office hours. No conversation as of lunch time.
- At the breakfast, a woman, who gave a plaque to Rep. Sanford Bishop, noted that he had been the moving force behind the breakfast--it was 9th year--there were 800-900 people there. She mentioned that Sanford will not be their congressman any more. "We are going to suffer a lot from the redistricting. Congressman Mac Collins has big shoes to fill." He already represents "North Columbus," now will represent all of Columbus. He picks up the black area.
- Mac now has all of Columbus and that's where his added voters came from.
- MC was in Iowa for the caucuses--actively supported Phil Gramm--did phone banks on Monday, 9:30-3:30. Went to caucus to speak for Phil Gramm. Radio and TV (which I missed) after the breakfast wanted to know who he was going to support in presidential race. He said over and over all day he was going to wait and listen to the message--and the messenger.
- We went back to the office where he had two appointments--one with guy who challenged Pitney Bowes (Kiki Seda) who wants to install postage stamp equipment at Warner Robins air base; and one with TV people in Columbus who want the government to auction the air waves--a provision cut out of telecommunications bill.
- Afterward, he said he thought I was coming in to sit in; but never asked me. So I looked at clips and sat in the main office. When he finished and we were waiting to go for lunch, he said, "I'm a small businessman; I'm interested in small business, and I work hard for small business."
- Then he went on to tell story re Clinton.
- "During the GATT debate, I was called over to the White House to talk with the President. I guess they thought I was

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*For jobs not!
Low in a
7 days*

undecided, though I had pretty much made up my mind about it. I asked him whether, if we went into GATT, wouldn't it cost us a lot of low end jobs. And do you know what Clinton said? He said, 'Yes, we will lose some low end jobs, but we shouldn't worry about that because we were going to lose those jobs anyway.' I could not believe the President of the United States said that. To me we need to protect every single American job--we should not accept the loss of one job. What he said was BS. He's out of touch with what's going on in this country."

- He backed Phil Gramm--as did all the members of his congressional club that met for lunch. AFLAC guy and others.
- Why did Gramm fail. "His message was scrambled. He had the right message, but it wasn't getting through to the taxi driver... He was talking to Dicky Flatt, but in language Dicky Flatt couldn't understand."
- ✓ - He thinks Buchanan has some of the same message, but the tone is too negative. But Buchanan "talks in language the working man can understand." MC uses "the working man" often as his label.
- ✓ - "I'm looking for a candidate with a message--not protectionism, but trade, not isolationism, but fair trade. What we need is a strong body at the table--not some weak person who will cave. 'If you want to trade with us, you've got to let us trade with you.'"
- ✓ - "We don't have any jurisdiction over other countries. But we do have jurisdiction over what happens in this country. The costs of excessive taxation, of overwhelming regulation and expensive litigation are reflected in the price of every single good we sell abroad. Those burdens are killing us in the world competition."
- I spent all day with other people in the car. With Shirley, Julie or the guy in the pick up truck who talked a mile a minute on the way to Good Shephard Riding Academy. So it was not a great day. I got one question in between lunch and the time he left me off at night. I think I got him to trust me a little; but he never asked me about myself--told everybody that "Dr. Dick Feeno came here in 1978 and wrote a paper on the district and has come back to see how it has changed." After the miscommunication about the two office visits in the AM, he let me sit in on one in the PM on treatment of milk in the farm bill (I could hardly stay awake!).
- My one question was to get him to describe district. He did it in terms of which counties he lost and gained. A little more "scrunched" (i.e. compact) and easy because he already

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had name recognition in Meriwether, Muscogee and _____ where he had part of the counties. He has fewer "partial counties" this time.

- In 1992, he got 65% of vote in "top five counties" while Ray carried all the counties below Muscogee. "He beat me by 150 votes in Muscogee county, and that was supposed to be his strongest area." Ray got 45% in lower counties.

- Q: Are the top five counties still your strongest counties? "They are still strong, but I think we are just about as strong in Muscogee county now. I've worked very hard down here. When I come, I just tell Shirley to fill up a couple of days. I like to do what we did today. I have developed some strong ties down here. You heard what Sanford Bishop said at the breakfast, how I helped them get \$2 million for the combined sewer outflow project (CSO). He got \$600,000 from the House Approp. Comm and I got Phil Gramm to bump it up to \$2 million in the Senate. I think it will be a model project for cities with similar problems nation-wide."

"The northern counties of Fayette, Henry and Coweta have been getting more Republican in recent years. Even Spaulding has been getting more Republican. Clayton is independent and goes both ways. It is full of blue collar workers, at the airport, at Ford, in trucking. I carried Clayton; but I think Clinton did, too."

- Said loss of small counties or parts of small counties meant a loss of some small manufacturing and some textile mills. He sees a lot of bedroom counties--in north and around Columbus. Talbot is small and has a sizeable black population. His old district was 16% black. this one is 18% black. He says they vote pretty regularly.
- Clark Reid says district is 52% Republican, 48% Democratic.
- He gave me a copy of a speech last weekend by Bob Dole. He liked the speech and thinks he may have gotten something into it--how, I'm not sure. He says Dole's age is his biggest asset. He won't run again and hence can be fearless, i.e. he'll sign what a Republican Congress gives him.
- "The only military base in my present district is Fort Gillem, at the other end of the district, Forest Park. It was on the endangered species list in 1995. But we were able to get it off. I think we have a good chance of keeping it indefinitely. The national guard is moving a lot of there equipment up there and _____ is going to build a huge development there (a private outfit of some sort).
- Breakfast at Ft. Benning, tour of headquarters building,

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library and museum with Rich McDowell.

- Big case load of social security, veterans, Army compassionate
- He's for Bob Dole he says now. But is not going to come out with it. "He called me yesterday, but I wasn't available to take the call." He doesn't want to make a big thing out of it.
- On trip back from Ft. Benning, Shirley talked the whole time. She's very nice in picking me up and looking out for me. But she has no sense that I might want to talk to Mac or ask questions. Even the one I tried on the case load from Ft. Benning, she answered it and then switched to something else. When I mentioned veteran's concerns, "Tricare," she started in telling Mac about it and they had a conversation in the front seat. At mid-day on the second day, that is, I'm making very little progress!
- Going to senior citizen group. "Ninety percent of this job is listening. I don't debate with my constituents. Of course, I try to explain what ever I know about a subject. But you can't win a debate."
- "I told Coverdell on Sunday that if Dole gets our message, I'll come on board. But if he doesn't get our message, I'm not going to do it." (On phone after senior citizens.) He's on phone with his office and tells 'em to "send that fax up to Dole so they'll know exactly how I feel."
- "I just got through explaining why Mr. Dole is the best candidate, but I'm not endorsing him. The reason I'm not endorsing Mr. Dole is because I haven't talked to Mr. Dole. We've been playing phone tag for three days. The reason I want to talk to him is that I want to see if last Saturday night's message is his message and he's serious about it." (on phone)
- "Alexander is a bureaucratic, education-totin guy. Education is fine, but he's got too much of it." (still on phone)
- One reason he likes Phil Gramm is that he, too, came up the hard way. Overcame handicap in grade school.
- Shirley and MC estimated that they have 25,000 retired veterans in the area. Shirley says that Martin Military Hospital at Ft. Benning takes care of 50,000 veterans, and they live within 90 miles. The way you know that number is that the law says vets that live within 90 miles of a military hospital have to get medical care at that hospital. 91 miles, you can get private care.

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- **As of afternoon of the second day, he has not used the words "Contract with America!"
- I asked him about his freshmen class and mentioned the cohesion of 104th freshmen. He said his group did "stick together" but were not as "raucous" as the new group. He says he's the Vice President of the Class. "We get together every so often. I'm trying to get to meet every Tuesday to find out what's going on and get ready for it."
- "I'm a small business guy."
- Immigration and welfare. "We've dangled dollars in front of people to entice them to come here and receive welfare and health care. We've dangled dollars in front of people who are already here and who don't want to work jobs they don't want to take. We've got to stop dangling both those dollars."
- "We've created an addiction in this country--an addiction to the U.S. Treasury."
- "We've got to get a balanced budget and welfare reform in 60 to 90 days when we get the political problems behind us and the President feels better about himself. Politics drives timing." Idea is that BC needs to keep intra-party competition at bay and when he's sure about it, he'll deal.
- I asked him whether he was surprised when Clinton vetoed budget. "No I was not surprised. Our leadership was hoodwinked into thinking this President sincerely wanted a budget deal. Our two leaders had no experience in negotiation. One was a professor of history, the other a professor of economics. They were not negotiators."
- He had fun with me, telling the financial group that he turned down a \$4 million book deal. He paid my breakfast bill and wouldn't let me pay him back the \$4.50. "You're indebted to me. You're cheaper than a member of Congress! I don't need \$4 million. I got me a professor's book for \$4.50" Got a kick out of that.
- At the senior citizen's meeting--with 20 people at most--he said afterward, "Do you think I convinced some of them to vote for Dole?" He told them what he liked about Dole--getting our message, etc., mostly re his mantra...
- His mantra="excessive taxation, burdensome regulations and costly litigation."
- He says Bob Dole's age is in his favor. He'll only serve one term and he'll be independent and can do what needs to be done.

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- He's filled with facts and figures on tax policy and medicare policy (medicaid never came up) and he hung with the seniors giving it to them straight--no excuses or apologies for the fact that they are hurting. It's got to be done, he seems to say or I don't like it any better than you, but here's the problem we face.
- ✓ - He wants or calls self "a populist, one who understands people, who knows that working people pay the bill."
- ✓ - Today, he identified the key problem (and one he says Dole emphasized) as the "stagnant wages and feeling of insecurity people have."
- On flat tax he used the Herman Talmadge story. "I have friends who are for the flat tax; I have friends who are for the sales tax; I have friends who are for a consumption tax. I am for my friends. I'm going to wait and listen when they come before the Ways and Means Committee. I'm keeping my powder dry."
- At American Legion ceremony, he emphasizes fiscal problem: 50% entitlements, 15% national debt, 15% defense.
- ✓ - "The numbers are pretty overwhelming, 4.9 trillion debt. If we paid off principal of that at 200 billion/year, it would take 30 years. "Who in this room will pay off this debt? None. Who will? Children and grandchildren."
- Cap gains beat overhead as tax break for rich people--yes there are rich people, but also working people benefit from it.
- Barnesville story--woman won't sell her property--"I won't pay taxes to the government." So nothing happened, "no transfer of money, no transfer of property, no cash flow, (because) she hadn't made any money."
- Trying to generate a strong economy 2.5% growth.
- Control expenditures.
- ✓ - We get a lot of criticism--"if it was easy, someone would already have thought of it." What's another tax reform? He criticizes "complexity and unfairness of income tax code and the intimidation of the internal revenue service."
- After the mantra, "we end up exporting jobs instead of products."
- Re Ways and Means Committee: "Lots of people come to see me now. I used to be on Transportation. I didn't get many

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people then."

- "Competition" Sarah Lee guy: Why cut cloth in north Georgia when we can do it cheaper some where else? Only thing we save money on is cheap labor. Why are you asking me for help? Why aren't you helping us? "You're pushing the wrong end of the stick mister. I'm not going to support anything that loses American jobs."
- "We sit down at trade table and we get our britches taken off."
- Dole: "If he stays on message, he'll probably be the best choice."
- "What can you do for small business ^{so we can} to keep what we earn?"
- Addresses tax codes: "I don't care where ^{you} you put the tax, the working people will pay the bill."
- Congress: "It's most partisan political body I've ever been in. It's like the Hatfields and the McCoys. They've been fighting so long, they've forgotten what they're fighting about." 40 years
- The man who runs the Texaco station and owns part of the TV station, coming out of Kiwanis luncheon, calls MC "a grass roots politician." "South Georgia has produced some of the best grass roots politicians. Herman Talmadge was one of them. And this guy is another. He likes talking to people. Look at him over there talking to those two women. He's in his element. He's what we call a grass roots politician."
- Flynt: "Jack Flynt was what we call a 'stumper.' Loved to get up on the podium and throw his arms around. But he was a grass roots politician, too."
- Newt: "Newt was an educated congressman. I don't mean that the way it sounds. But some people use their education and their training to carve out a place for themselves that is above other people. Newt would shake hands with people, but not if he had something better to do."
- He fretted after Buchanan won New Hampshire that "Bob Dole's campaign is isolated. I can't get through to him."
- When I said, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks," he told a story. "When I was a young county commissioner, I was naive. I wanted to pave some roads and get people out of the mud. I learned later that the politically correct way was to promise to pave people's roads and then not do it. But I was a young whipper snapper. And there was one road we couldn't pave because an old farmer owned a piece of land that had an

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char notes
REA pole in the middle of what should be the road. He didn't want to have it moved. We graded around it. So one day I called him up and asked him if I might come around and take him on a drive with me. He said yes. I went out there and we got in my car and drove all around the area talking and finally drove on the road where the pole was. There it was and I had the graded road running around it on both sides! I said, 'Mr. Bob, if you don't move that pole, we're going to have to run the road on both sides of your pole.' He agreed that he would do it. When I dropped him off, he climbed out of my pickup truck, walked around in front of it and tapped on the hood. I rolled down my window. And he said, 'You just proved you can teach an old dog new tricks.' And he walked away."

- We met in the morning after I had checked out and was waiting for him in the lobby of the Holiday Inn. He came around and the corner of the dining room and called me in. He'd been in there with six of the "regulars" who take the corner table and have breakfast or coffee every morning. When ~~me~~ introduced me, one fella said, "And I can tell you the title of his book, "Why Politicians Lie." Everyone laughed.
- For 25-30 minutes. I sat there while they swapped banter and kidded one another. One guy told a couple of off color jokes and one about a skunk who didn't know what he was and another animal told him, 'You're black and white, you must be one of OJ's children.' That was the only racial note I heard. But the conversation was sort of lower middle class white--"the boys" of Griffin--"working people" in MC's term. Most of them were smoking. One had a tie on. One guy was mad because he has a grader and the guy who promised him work that day, had called to say he couldn't do it that day. One guy was on jury duty and they kidded him.
- This went on rapid fire till one guy said, "You got enough for your book?" I said, "you're all too fast for me," and then said 'yes' I had plenty. MC said "Oh, oh, I guess I don't want to be in that book after all, and told his joke about how he passed up a \$4 million book deal. We all laughed. Mac did--when he got a clue--mention his opposition to NAFTA and they nodded in agreement. We commented on this later, that the overt topic would not be politics, but that he would know their politics. "They are my kind of people," he said. "But I didn't even know all their names. I'm terrible at remembering names.
- When I had eaten breakfast, I noticed four or five guys sitting at that table talking about salaries of teachers and
- Talking with MC as we rode away, he told me, "That was the

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early shift. The group we were with was the second shift. When I'm around, I always try to drop in and listen to them. I let them drive the agenda. I never pick a fight. They love to pick on you and they'll test you and test you. But I just sit there. Most of these men are retired. But there's another group that's younger that meets at the other end of town, at the Pastime Cafe. I drop in on them when I can. Down in Barnsville, there's a similar group. They are good people."

- We talked about Buchanan's victory and he said the most interesting thing. He said, "I relate to the same people he does." "We have the same kind of message, but he does it differently than I do. He's too negative."
- "People in the south have the feeling that the government only helps certain people. People say to me, often, 'I don't count. The government will not help me.' There is a lot of dissatisfaction with the government. A lot of it is racial."
- "I'm wary of Alexander. He's a bureaucracy guy." MC likes to say, "I'm a small business guy" or "he's an education guy." He tags people that way.
- "When we took up the budget in my first term in the state senate, I was in the minority. I rose in my seat one day and said I didn't have a copy of the budget at my desk and asked if I could have one. The majority leader, Senator Allgood, went to the front of the chamber, pointed at me and said, 'Young man, there is a copy of the budget at your desk. Young people should be more careful when they speak.' The budget was not there. But I didn't say a thing. When the session ended, I walked up to Senator Allgood and said to him, 'Don't you ever, ever again put me down and embarrass me in front of my colleagues in the senate.' I was gritting my teeth and he knew just what I meant." A year later, we met at a funeral and he said to me, 'I've been watching you. You have been doing a good job for your district.'"
- At Nacom--world class producer of electric systems for autos--Mayor Holberg--proud. "It doesn't look like Griffin, does it." "It's a long way from an old cotton mill." President talked about kids that won't learn and don't care. "There is no place for them in modern society" or "they will be marginalized in a modern society." He'll teach anyone who wants to learn. "It's the ones that don't care or won't try that are the problem. And it's acute. Human resources decide competition--nothing else--he kept saying."
- MC told group in Development Authority meeting his story of a conference committee that produced some compromise on a jet fuel problem. Jennifer Dunn is on conference committee and so

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is Bob Dole. MC needs a concession from them. Jennifer is a very attractive woman. "I told her when she got to conference with Bob Dole, 'Dont think, wink.'" (laughter)

- Shirley says MC had always wanted to be a senator, but didn't run because he still had a job to do--which is just what he told everyone.
- Shirley and Clark both said how he hates to raise money. She would get him in a group and have "a plant" that would ask him "what can we do for you," and MC would say "nothing, I'm all right." Clark said he likes governing best and that his strength is taxes, budgets, etc.--stuff he learned in the business world.
- In veteran's talk and seniors talk (Griffin), he was challenged (Pinto and need for regulation, support for seniors programs) and in both cases, that's what he talked about first thing afterwards. He dealt with both of them, but felt he had the group with him and he shut them down smartly.

Columbus Ledger Enquirer 1/26/96

"Babbit Praises South's Refuges" - praises Georgia's protection of red cockaded woodpecker - tours area.

- MC "How much of this type government and this type bureaucracy can working people afford?" Wants more exceptions and more proof that species are endangered.
- "Collins: We must balance budget." Thomaston Times 1/19 "We are going to saddle our children with this debt. We already have... We have to stop. If we continue and go on the route we are going, we are going to lead to the demise of this country."

CLE 2/19/96

- AP "Georgia GOP non-committal after Gramm's withdrawal." MC says Buchanan will benefit from Gramm's withdrawal. "He has a simple message, it's to the working people of this country and they understand what he's saying." "The other candidates seem to be running vs. Mr. Buchanan rather than against Mr. Clinton for the fall election."
- MC: zero from environmental groups, same as DMC.
- As of 2/11/96, he raised \$336,000 and has \$206,000 in bank.
- I taped (3/4 of tape) his talk to senior citizens. It's a lecture on fiscal conservatism. No chats like DMC. How many listened to that lecture, I don't know. But they sit there! Many can't get up! It is a gloomy, accountant's view of government. And it does not convey any of Mac's optimistic outlook or his good humor. This senior group, like all, has some people who are totally impassive (this group numbers 30+) a few nods when he makes a point. He is educating, but it's hard to know what takes. Near the end of the tape, he gets to "medicare plus" saying that if 24% opted into it will save \$18 billion. He ticks off all the ways they save money. "That's how you save money and save the medicare program. It's castor oil and he is serious about making people take it."

Questions:

- "If we don't make changes, the whole program is in trouble, that's the bottom line."
- "That's more money than a show dog can jump over."
- "I'm a business man. I've been in business 32 years."

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- "We're paying dearly for the Great Society!"
- "This is not an easy task. Congress faces a difficult challenge. If it was an easy task, it would already have been done."
- Critical question re effects of government shutdown on providing for senior citizen programs. Food and transportation can stay. The paperwork can go. Take care of people. The bureaucracy comes last. We spend more money shuffling papers than we do giving services. I'll go with you to talk to the regulatory people. I have no problem with that."
- Tunes at Kiwanis: "Wait till the Sun Shines Nellie," "Sweet Adeline," "My Wild Irish Rose," "Let Me Call you Sweetheart," "Put on Your Old Gray Bonnet."
- When I asked MC how many supporters he had here, he said "100%" and smiled. The tenor was that I can get them all. A guy (one of singers) came up to him beforehand and said, "I'm a Republican. But I had to register Democrat, because that's the only way you could get ahead in the community. Now you can call yourself a Republican. My daddy would have a fit if he heard me say that!"
- A UPS driver came up to him asked him about the flat tax and said he had cut out the form in the paper and figured out that he would come ahead with the flax tax.
- I asked him if people talked about Jack Flynt. "I run into him now and then. He's doing a little lawyering in Griffin. We might see him today. His son was a member of the (state) legislature for one term. He beat Ernie Epps (?) and Ernie beat him the next time. He told someone that he took his father's advice on how to run his first race and won, but that he didn't take his father's advice the second time and lost. He would have loved to run for Congress."
- By the time we drove from Holiday Inn coffee group to UPS meeting, we had developed a joking relationship and we had the best conversation. But it was the last morning, only 10 minutes and was the first time we were in the car alone.
- Republicans "are shooting themselves in the foot." He wants clear message: "get government out of our lives, keep production up." Cited a talk by Thomas Sopell in 1993 at a Republican retreat that "the taxi driver knew what Ronald Reagan wanted. He knew RR wasn't afraid of issues."
- His candidate (and himself) "a populist who understands people, who knows that working people pay the bill."

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- "We've saturated social security with people who paid very little."
- "We've created an addiction in this country. We have so many entities... people get the shakes, they come out of the woodwork when they think about less government money."
- In senior citizen meetings, he fills them with information. Treats them as intelligent and active. Talks straight. Gives sense that he is trying hard. "I don't want to preach gloom and doom. I just want to tell you the facts."

CLE 1/18/96

- "Collins Says He Won't run for Nunn's Seat" Said he came "just right at the edge" of a campaign. "If we could have finished the budget and got on to our work by November, there was a much greater chance I would have announced for the Senate." That's what I heard too--from Shirley.
- Re new district: "It's been pulled down (to the south) some. I won't have the Atlanta Airport. I regret losing it because I have many constituents who depend on it... The Third District came out better than any of the others.
- Re Bill Clinton: "As you concentrate power, you concentrate your voter base into bloc votes for legislation. When he feels safe in his own ranks, he will give in and we'll have a balanced budget in 60 to 90 days. I only hope our side will hold out and not give in."
- He is strong (how strong?) for \$500 tax credit per child. He thinks it will increase buying power and stimulate the economy. On tax strategy for himself, "I'd play it by ear and fight like hell to make sure we don't cut any more than we have to. It puts money into the economy."
- Capital gains? "We'll get it. But the President will not be comfortable saying it."
- At first senior citizen center, he got individual complaint from person with husband's emphysema a couple of surgeries, 16% lung capacity, medicare helped for three years. Now medicare won't pay for it anymore. She gave correspondence to MC. He give it to Shirley and says he'll contact HKVA.
- He also stopped at a cardtable on way in and four elderly ladies hit him on medicare and cited AARP material.
- In meeting, one guy gets up and says, "I'd rather pay more now than get to 2002 and get nothing." Another gets up, praises medicare and says he feels for children.

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- Several times during the trip, he told story of woman he met in Barnesville during first campaign. She lived alone and wanted to talk taxes with him. So she told him that she owned some property and could have sold it three different times, but had refused to sell because she didn't want to give taxes to the government. His point was that she didn't sell and nothing happened, no cash flow, no taxes. Point is that capital gains tax encourages transfer of assets and that creates cash flow, investments, etc.
- His story re trade: Counsel General of Japan comes to visit Jonesboro:

CG: How do you feel about trade?

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*for
clips*

Columbus Ledger Enquirer 1/26/96

"Babbit Praises South's Refuges" - praises Georgia's protection of red cockaded woodpecker - tours area.

- MC "How much of this type government and this type bureaucracy can working people afford?" Wants more exceptions and more proof that species are endangered.
- "Collins: We must balance budget." Thomaston Times 1/19 "We are going to saddle our children with this debt. We already have... We have to stop. If we continue and go on the route we are going, we are going to lead to the demise of this country."

CLE 2/19/96

- AP "Georgia GOP non-committal after Gramm's withdrawal." MC says Buchanan will benefit from Gramm's withdrawal. "He has a simple message, it's to the working people of this country and they understand what he's saying." "The other candidates seem to be running vs. Mr. Buchanan rather than against Mr. Clinton for the fall election."
- MC: zero from environmental groups, same as DMc.
- As of 2/11/96, he raised \$336,000 and has \$206,000 in bank.
- *1996
visit* I taped (3/4 of tape) his talk to senior citizens. It's a lecture on fiscal conservatism. No chats like DMc. How many listened to that lecture, I don't know. But they sit there! Many can't get up! It is a gloomy, accountant's view of government. And it does not convey any of Mac's optimistic outlook or his good humor. This senior group, like all, has some people who are totally impassive (this group numbers 30+) a few nods when he makes a point. He is educating, but it's hard to know that takes. Near the end of the tape, he gets to "medicare plus" saying that if 24% opted into it will save \$18 billion. He ticks off all the ways they save money. "That's how you save money and save the medicare program. It's castor oil and he is serious about making people take it."

Questions:

- "If we don't make changes, the whole program is in trouble, that's the bottom line."
- "That's more money than a show dog can jump over."
- "I'm a business man. I've been in business 32 years."

MAC COLLINS FEB 19-21, 1996 (BOOKS)-11

- "We're paying dearly for the Great Society!"
- "This is not an easy task. Congress faces a difficult challenge. If it was an easy task, it would already have been done."
- Critical question re effects of government shutdown on providing for senior citizen programs. "Food and transportation can stay. The paperwork can go. Take care of people. The bureaucracy comes last. We spend more money shuffling papers than we do giving services. I'll go with you to talk to the regulatory people. I have no problem with that."
- Tunes at Kiwanis: "Wait till the Sun Shines Nellie," "Sweet Adeline," "My Wild Irish Rose," "Let Me Call you Sweetheart," "Put on Your Old Gray Bonnet."
- When I asked MC how many supporters he had here, he said "100%" and smiled. The tenor was that I can get them all. A guy (one of singers) came up to him beforehand and said, "I'm a Republican. But had to register Democrat, because that's the only way you could get ahead in the community. Now you can call yourself a Republican. My daddy would have a fit if he heard me say that!"
- A UPS driver came up to him asked him about the flat tax and said he had cut out the form in the paper and figured out that he would come ahead with the flax tax.
- I asked him if people talked about Jack Flynt. "I run into him now and then. He's doing a little lawyering in Griffin. We might see him today. His son was a member of the (state) legislature for one term. He beat Ernie Epps (?) and Ernie beat him the next time. He told someone that he took his father's advice on how to run his first race and won, but that he didn't take his father's advice the second time and lost. He would have loved to run for Congress."
- By the time we drove from Holiday Inn coffee group to UPS meeting, we had developed a joking relationship and we had the best conversation. But it was the last morning, only 10 minutes and was the first time we were in the car alone.
- Republicans "are shooting themselves in the foot." He wants clear message: get government out of our lives, keep production up." Cited a talk by Thomas Sowell in 1993 at a Republican retreat that "the taxi driver knew what Ronald Reagan wanted. He knew RR wasn't afraid of issues."
- His candidate (and himself) "a populist who understands people, who knows that working people pay the bill."

MAC COLLINS FEB 19-21, 1996 (BOOKS)-12

- "We've saturated social security with people who paid very little."
- "We've created an addiction in this country. We have so many entities... people get the shakes, they come out of the woodwork when they think about less government money."
- In senior citizen meetings, he fills them with information. Treats them as intelligent and active. Talks straight. Gives sense that he is trying hard. "I don't want to preach gloom and doom. I just want to tell you the facts."

CLE 1/18/96

- "Collins Says He Won't run for Nunn's Seat" Said he came "just right at the edge" of a campaign. "If we could have finished the budget and got on to our work by November, there was a much greater chance I would have announced for the Senate." That's what I heard too--from Shirley.
- *Review myanmar RJP* Re new district: "It's been pulled down (to the south) some. I won't have the Atlanta Airport. I regret losing it because I have many constituents who depend on it... The Third District came out better than any of the others."
- Re Bill Clinton: "As you concentrate power, you concentrate your voter base into bloc votes for legislation. When he feels safe in his own ranks, he will give in and we'll have a balanced budget in 60 to 90 days. I only hope our side will hold out and not give in."
- He is strong (how strong?) for \$500 tax credit per child. He thinks it will increase buying power and stimulate the economy. On tax strategy for himself, "I'd play it by ear and fight like hell to make sure we don't cut any more than we have to. It puts money into the economy."
- Capital gains? "We'll get it. But the President will not be comfortable saying it."
- At first senior citizen center, he got individual complaint from person with husband's emphysema a couple of surgeries, 16% lung capacity, medicare helped for three years. Now medicare won't pay for it anymore. She gave correspondence to MC. He give it to Shirley and says he'll contact HKVA.
- He also stopped at a cardtable on way in and four elderly ladies hit him on medicare and cited AARP material.
- In meeting, one guy gets up and says, "I'd rather pay more now than get to 2002 and get nothing." Another gets up, praises medicare and says he feels for children.

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- Several times during the trip, he told story of woman he met in Barnesville during first campaign. She lived alone and wanted to talk taxes with him. So she told him that she owned some property and could have sold it three different times, but had refused to sell because she didn't want to give taxes to the government. His point was that she didn't sell and nothing happened, no cash flow, no taxes. Point is that capital gains tax encourages transfer of assets and that creates cash flow, investments, etc.
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