

Mac Collins (R/GA) October 21-24, 1996

Book #1

Wanda \_\_\_\_\_, Clark Reid, Betty Monroe, Julie Collins.

Monday, October 21: Fayette, Whitewater Creek Country Club (stop on way to see wealthy man involved in cement center--need banners).

Tuesday, October 22: Candidates forum, Newman Country Club. (early morning)

- Visit with Mayor of Newman in his real estate office re FAA locating a facility in Coweta.
- Campaign headquarters, Newman.
- Lunch-Kwanis Club, Newman.
- PM: I sat in campaign office (amid chain smokers) and did notes (and felt tired).
- 7:00 p.m.: Landmark Christian School--Speaker Cal Thomas

Wednesday, October 23

- Drove to Columbus
- Tour South Columbus with Mimi Woodson, councilwoman.
- Luncheon speech to Columbus Quality Council.
- To District Office and to real estate office to sign lease on new office space--visit to office space.
- Clayton--"about one-half Republican, one-half Democratic. Fayette is a good Republican county, Coweta is a good Republican county. Henry is a good Republican county. My opponent comes from Henry County. He's a member of an old line family. I don't know how many of those people I'll get. I don't suppose I ever get many of the old line families anyway."
- "The only difference between Overby, my opponent last time, and my opponent this time is that last time, my opponent distorted the truth about my private business, and this time my opponent distorts the truth about the people's business, the public business. That's the only difference. They both lie." He said this to me after I looked at the debate on TV; he said it to several people at the Fayetteville reception/fund-raiser and he said it to all of them there in his talk to the group. *A singular propensity-*

Mac Collins (R/GA) October 21-24, 1996-1

- He began his talk: "A lot of you have been asking me how Newt is doing. Newt is doing just fine. He's taken a lot of heavy blows, and it must wear on him inside. But it doesn't show... He still has the same vision he always had. And it's the right vision. I think the Republicans are going to keep the House and that Newt is going to be Speaker again."
- Mac introduced me to the group as "Dick Feeno... from Syracuse or some place like that up north" and said I had written a book about the Flynt-Gingrich campaign. Said I'd been back earlier in the summer. He gets it all wrong, which shows how little he actually cares about who I am. But he likes to show me off--as Jack did.
- *Fruity  
country  
people* When I asked Mac how he would describe the guests--about 65 came to this big country club with a huge room (and a tiny TV set showing the second game of the Atlanta-Yankees World Series--for which I took a lot of good-natured ribbing. Mac said, "They are Republicans, the Republican party. This is one of the most affluent counties in Georgia." Then, after he had said his ~~hard~~ core supporters were "small businessmen and professionals," he added, "and that was mostly who was there tonight." I had also asked Cindy (the person who ran it) who was there and she said, "mostly small business people--men and women."
- People I talked to called him "approachable," "down-to-earth," "the salt of the earth."
- Eric Dial, the young Georgia state student who works for Mac, told me that "Mac is a man of few words. When I went to work for him in Washington, he gave me one piece of advice: 'Don't talk too much. You'll learn a lot more if you watch and listen. Washington is full of people who talk too much.'" I was glad to hear him say that Mac didn't talk a lot, because I find him nearly impossible to draw out. Though he is very cordial with people at functions like this and was very nearly the last to leave.
- I had an interesting talk with a man and wife who worked for Newt. He said that he had been one who had persuaded Newt to run a third time, that Newt wasn't sure he wanted to run again and had to choose between tenure and politics. He said, "we had a lot more fun running against Virginia Shapard than we did against Jack Flynt. She had done some pretty liberal things in the state senate, whereas Jack was no liberal."
- About Mac: "In some ways, he's a lot like Jack Flynt and in other ways, he's a lot like Newt Gingrich. With people, he's like Jack. He's done a great job of winning people over--one-by-one, and two-by-two. When our son was to be married, Mac and Julie arrived at the house one day to deliver a present.

Mac Collins (R/GA) October 21-24, 1996-2

It was all inscribed--china, I think. I couldn't believe it. A congressman delivering a gift! Newt would never do anything like that. He came home a lot, but he didn't take the time with people. He had a lot of trouble with the old 6th District. He was too urban. Ideologically, however, Mac is like Newt. Mac doesn't have the vision, but he thinks the same way as Newt on issues...he's an amalgam."

- Fayette is Newt country--no doubt. One woman called it "93% Republican," and said that Fayette and Gwinnett were the most Republican counties.
- Mac said there was talk that 3rd District was winnable for the Democrats, but "I think it's just away of raising money. In our August poll, there was a 47 point spread." But he commented on the union "advertising barrage" on Atlanta TV.
- His videos "all positive." 800 grp's-2 weeks-2 ads, \$140.000. Made a third ad, but couldn't afford to put it on.
- Most of car ride to Griffin was talk re Valujet. He helped keep lines of communication open between Jordan and FAA. He was one who brought the two sides to the table--wanted same energy given to closing them down, also given to helping them recover. "A lot of former Eastern employees had first found a second go-around through their niche with Valujet, and I didn't want them to be out of work. It was the workers I was worried about." He takes a lot of credit for the negotiations. Thinks there was pressure on White House by the unions to slow down the recovery process. Said "I took the first plane that flew to Washington after they went back in the air. The picture of me sitting there in the plane was worth a million words. And I rode back home on it, too." A symbolic act of representation.
- He said he got a provision in the budget (the one vetoed by BC) to extend the moratorium on a jet fuel tax from two years to four years. He lost it with the veto and there was no other tax vehicle for it the rest of this session. "There was a small business tax bill, but no one considered my amendment as small business."
- The next day, Betty and Clark were talking about lack of newspaper coverage. Said they held a hearing before W&M on jet fuel--a very important matter for the district. They asked the Atlanta Constitution to come and they didn't. Clark, in the car when he picked me up, simply said: "The media are against us; we just have to accept it and live with it."
- Re W&M, "That's MY committee. It was my goal from the moment I got to Congress." How did you get it? "By lobbying for it."

Mac Collins (R/GA) October 21-24, 1996-3

Newt helped. Bill Archer liked me. And the barrage I took on Transportation (committee business) during the election." Why did Archer like you? "I had gotten to know him. He had held a meeting with 7 or 8 of the freshmen to get their thinking on taxes. When he came to me, I listed the tax problems one-by-one. When I finished, he said, 'You certainly were prepared!' I said, Yes, I know about taxes."

- Re Lorenzo who "drove Eastern into the ground because he was mad at the unions." "And of course, the unions were mad at him, they drove him into bankruptcy."
- \* Monday night and tuesday morning, we were at country clubs. I never saw Jack at a country club. Relatedly, Mac talks about golf ("I never played this course"); Jack talked about hunting. Jack was exclusively (almost) people-oriented. Mac is people-oriented, but much more ideological, partisan and issue-oriented.
- I tried hard to get Mac to designate a county that didn't fit-like Jack's feeling about Clayton. But I couldn't. "Clayton and Muscogee are a lot alike. Each one has a large concentration of blacks." Then he went into the way in which the old redistricting done for the 1992 race (at least 1994 or the one before 1994). Point was that the redistricting nibbled away at a lot of his counties taking blacks out of his counties and giving them to others. Bishop got one-half of Columbus, some of Meriwether. McKinney got a hunk of Henry.
- He went into the story at some length of one redistricting--the one that carved his home in Butts county out of his district. And carved his prior opponent's house into the district. Eventually, both were cut out of the district. Before the court stepped in and drew the 1994 districts, MC said, "I submitted a couple of plans that would have put Butts county back in the 3rd District." But nothing would fly. He said that Charlie Norwood objected to almost every plan because he would get too many blacks. "We had agreed that if we couldn't all agree on the plan, we wouldn't back it." Norwood has 38% or some like number of blacks. He's struggling, but he'll survive."
- On Tuesday on the road from Newman to Fayetteville to Jonesboro, I saw Jack's Bros. General Store. It's Route 34 that turns into Route 54. And I think it was on the Route 54 north portion. It looked abandoned, but there was a delivery truck off to one side. The sign was faded badly. There were bars on all the windows. Mac and Betty were working over a Press Release about the Yamaha plant tour and so I couldn't call Mac's attention to it. But about five miles down the road, I asked him if he had noticed it. "I don't think I ever noticed it. I doubt if it's still open. I should have turned

Mac Collins (R/GA) October 21-24, 1996-4

around." I told him it was a Jack Flynt haunt. None in the office knew about it.

- I asked about "the state of the textile industry." "It's stable (he listed two plants) and Dundee Mills has been bought by Springwear, so it's fine." So I asked: Is the textile industry still the dominant industry? "No, the dominant industry now is people driving to Atlanta every day."
- At Yamaha, after the tour, in the executive offices, they talked about environmental regulations. Their complaint is that they have an emission cap of 100 tons of certain pollutants. They want to expand. But they can't get the cap changed. If they built a new plant, they could get a higher cap. After a discussion, Mac says, "I'm a jobs nut. I'm a believer in manufacturing. I come down on the side of development." He criticized the groups that "score members" voting records because he gets lower labels than he should. But he leans vs. the environmental movement. He speaks of "lower taxes and more take-home pay and bigger pay checks"
- At breakfast, Barbara Scruggs, who worked for Newt (so did Wanda, so did Audrey--the social security person) said, "Newt was always in a hurry. Mac is laid back. He takes the time to talk with people. He loves it." Last night, they used the term "grassroots" to describe MC. "He's close to the grassroots."
- Re Peachtree City: "It's a planned community. It's upper income. It's got several golf courses."
- At Kiwanis, we have high school singers. But Mac gets a chance to stand up, participate in the high jinks and say a few words about cutting taxes and more take-home pay and say he's honored to be their congressman, etc. It's a little like David McIntosh in church. You go with your crowd, where no one would resent it, and you can "campaign." Of course, they all knew him anyway.
- MC uses word Republican a lot--it means a lot to him. Mostly, the people he sees, he sees as Republicans rather than any other demographic characteristic. Jack did not talk about "Democrats" much, because he was out of sorts with national party. Except his comments re LBJ and Carter--neither of whom he liked.
- Superintendent of Schools (Newnan) tells MC that they have 924 new students this year.
- Wednesday, a.m. Mac picked me up at the Holiday Inn in Griffin and we headed for Columbus.

Mac Collins (R/GA) October 21-24, 1996-5

- "I'm tired. So is the other fella, and he doesn't know his way around the district. And he doesn't have any money or any momentum. He lent himself \$20,000 recently, and before that, he had raised about \$30,000. That \$20,000 will pay the staff for a month and allow him to catch up with some of his outstanding payables. Unless the Democratic committee or labor gives him some money, there's not much he can do now."
- Mac has been on TV in Columbus for several days--the girl at the desk at the Hilton and the real estate guy where they signed the lease on the new office both said they'd seen it. Or I assume that's where the woman had seen him--she just said to me "Haven't I seen him before?".
- We had a nice talk in the car; he said on his Medicare as "the biggest piece of corporate welfare in history." "Let me run this by you." By the end of the day, in the Columbus office, he was parodying himself as the southern blow hard and had everyone in the office (Betty Bush, Betty Monro, Lisa and Shirley) laughing. Not exactly a Jack Flynt imitation, but it was something Jack would not do. And it showed a side of Mac that doesn't show through often (when I'm around anyway).
- Late yesterday, Betty told Julie that I had said, "Mac is a man of few words." Julie had agreed and said that sometimes, he's so quiet for so long that "when he turns on the radio, it's a relief. He's just thinking." After two days, I think he's still a man of few words, but he has loosened up so much with me that, far from being puzzled and frustrated, I now worry that I'm too friendly and perhaps that I initiate helpful comments rather than maintain a totally reactive posture. We're getting to be sort of friends in the sense that he treats me as "good company." But he still has not gotten straight exactly what my 1978 book was about (he thinks it's Newt and Jack and one campaign!). And today, in a lunch meeting of business people, about 200 of them, he talked all about who I was, what I did, had done, etc. It seemed inappropriate, but he likes to do it. I think I'm (as an academic) something novel to him. He doesn't talk about books, etc. But went out of his way to show me Warm Springs' Main Street and the FDR little White House. It was closed, but I saw the park.
- Columbus is very much at the center of the <sup>his</sup> current thinking--and it is expansionist. Methodologically, what's interesting is that you can't tell that unless you go to Columbus. From the northern part, and anticipating debate in Columbus, it's clear that Columbus is different and they expect "a tougher crowd" at the debate. Someone even spoke of tomorrow's debate as taking place "in enemy territory--well, I don't mean enemy, just a tougher crowd." (Mac didn't say that.)

Mac Collins (R/GA) October 21-24, 1996-6

- Then, when we got to Columbus, we spent two-and-a-half hours with councilwoman Mimi Woodson in South Columbus--the poorest section of the city, with crime, drug houses, prostitution, etc. It has a very nice black middle class section and a drug infested section she is trying to close down. She is hispanic. There are a lot of hispanics in the area, but she says they are scattered all over the city (she's making up a register of hispanics that can help with her projects). She's a pistol, a model community organizer and activist, brimming with energy and ideas, a constructive force in the community and has her hand in all kinds of neighborhood, church, school projects--runs a candy store, husband teaches about chemical warfare at Ft. Benning (regular Army) four kids--two teens, two small. "I want to teach and show people that they can organize and they can take their neighborhoods back." She's got little groups going all over her councilmanic district and talks a blue streak about all of them as we drive around.

99 got up and  
got piece of  
but I never  
saw in  
Jacks company  
- MH energy

- Mac met her when she and a black leader came to DC to see him. "The black leader was so rude and confrontational that I finally said, this is going no where, I've got to go to my committee. But she stayed behind and said she liked some of what I said and wanted to get together again." Out of that came the visit--strictly no media (I had to be cleared as "not a reporter") and I stayed in the car when she took him to meet the owner of the only hispanic grocery store in Columbus--"Su Tienda Latina" and to meet Pastor of the "South Columbus United Methodist Church."

- She told a story about this Pastor Joe Robinson who found himself assigned to an all white church. He tried to get her to come to church and he said, "you can pass for either." She said "you're only using me, Joe. You're black and I'm brown." She laughed all the way through this. Said the church membership dropped and has come up again. "He must be doing something right." Nearby was Baker housing project and he got her to come to a meeting of the school there and she got elected Vice President. "You conned me, Joe," she told him. Mac had been invited to a celebration at Baker a few weeks earlier. "I didn't go because it would have looked too political. People would have thought the only reason I was there was to get votes."

- He does, however, want to cultivate Columbus in general and the new part of his district.

Example: His much bigger new office space is much closer to the black side of town--it's on the street that divides the two (northside).

Example: He's going to expand his Columbus staff by one and it's a black man. ("Not because he's black, but because he's good.")

Example: He asks Shirley "What do you hear from \_\_\_\_\_?"

Mac Collins (R/GA) October 21-24, 1996-7

Are we making any inroads?" (ans: No, but when you come here and people see you, you will.)

Example: The short-term project he took away from the tour was the four elementary schools that had lost their after school program. They had failed to meet some criteria and lost their grant (State grant, I think). Any how, he asked Shirley to look into it, asked Mimi more about it than anything else and took a couple of pages of information from her on it.

- After her tour, "that was a good morning. That was 2-1/2 hours well spent--very well spent." He got about as enthusiastic as he ever gets.

- After all, Columbus is his one big city--a real city--and one that seems to be growing and prospering. (It's a little weird writing this in the same hotel where Wyche Fowler held a fundraiser in 1992. We drove back to Atlanta after Fowler's meeting.) Its got some big business AFLAC headquarters (a medical insurance company). He told me how he got a definition of duplication that helped AFLAC write a kind of insurance that was being threatened in Alabama--and might have gotten contagious if Alabama succeeded. He put it in the health bills; it involved a specification of the word "duplication." Under one usage, AFLAC couldn't sell insurance to certain people. Under the one he got in the bill, they would, and he made it apply back to an earlier date to take ~~to~~ the Alabama litigation out of play. He was pleased about that. And his opponent~~s~~ raised it in their debate on TV. "A provision," I said. "A provision" he said and smiled.

- In Meriwether County re Warm Springs, "I came down here to big celebration they had not long ago. I pay attention to small towns. Some politicians spend all their time in the big city, with the media and that sort of stuff. I don't. I like the small towns. Nobody pays much attention to them. I do."

- When we first met, he said of his opponent, "We debated last week in Columbus. It was a set-up. Some black ministers arranged it. They seemed real surprised that I showed up. I wasn't going to give them that satisfaction."

- People call you "Sir" in the south when they don't know you well. "Yes, Sir." "How are you, Sir?"

- Guy at Xian school dinner was Mac's campaign chairman in Coweta. Called Mac "a blue collar Republican," different from most Republicans and a good man.

\* Jack's old district fell like dominoes to the Republican party. Lady at Fayette told me that Fayette (and one other, I think) was the first county in the old sixth district to

Mac Collins (R/GA) October 21-24, 1996-8

*LHWJ  
but different -  
MC system  
Mr. Jack  
lived in  
them &  
for them  
wouldn't ever  
say "DPA  
after he  
from  
Hannah  
depend on  
reminded about*

*2nd largest in ga.!*

*Mac's idea that his not like most Republicans  
mg be important.*

turn Republican. I could trace that succession, county-by-county.

- ⊗
- Mac and Newt. Al Hunt misused the Newt and Mac quote. Mac was talking about background. "That quote came from the debate. When I was asked the difference between Newt and me, I said that we had very different backgrounds. He had been an educator and I had been a businessman. He had been to college, I had been to the school of hard knocks. But when it came to the Contract With America, that there was no difference between us."

## Book #2

- a big a minor
- "Once we had the Contract, I told Newt that he had to decide whether he wanted to use the Contract to win a Republican majority or as a legislative agenda--that there was a big difference. We talked about it a lot, but he never could decide."
  - He blamed the freshmen for the shutdown. "I backed Bob Dole, 'open it up!' But it was the freshmen who wanted the shutdown. They learned that when you try to piss on the President, you just get yourself all wet."
  - On running for Congress, "Newt was not courting me as the candidate for Congress. He wanted State Representative Skin Edge. He was a college graduate, a lawyer, well spoken, very personable. I was just some old truck driver, never been to college, cowboy boots, stetson hat, the whole nine yards. Newt didn't want a primary, so he got the two of us together--Skin, myself, Newt and two of his aides. They danced around the subject, trying to appear neutral, but leaning everything toward Skin. I didn't say much. Finally, I said, 'Skin, it's all up to you, it's your choice.' He sat up straight and looked pleased at what I had said. And I continued, 'we can do it with knives, pistols or a primary--because I'm going to run for Congress.' Sometimes, you just have to dominate. I dominated him and he didn't run."
  - Having used the word dominate, he went on. "It was the same thing in the debate yesterday. My staff got all upset because I used up more than five minutes listing all that I had done. But I knew the time-keeper would be lenient. It wasn't what I said. I knew people wouldn't remember what I said. They would remember how much I had done. I wanted to dominate the debate by coming on strong, and I think I did."
  - "If I went around the district praising Newt and saying that Newt and I were buddies, that I had followed him in Congress, it would not help me. I do say nice things about him--to select audiences." (Like the one at Fayetteville? "Yes.")

like to be seen  
I dominate  
see debate.

Mac Collins (R/GA) October 21-24, 1996-9

- He started in, on the trip to Columbus, talking about the whip organization as "part of the leadership," as the last part of the funnel before legislation goes to Rules, as a party group that scrutinizes prospective legislation, in the presence of the committee chair, and can stop it or change it. I think he'll use it in the Columbus debate.
- "As a whip, I am part of the leadership. We are the last part of the funnel before legislation goes to Rules and to the floor. The whip organization usually meets with the chairman of the committee to look at the bill and pass it along--or stop it. I like it; I'm thinking of going for regional whip."
- "Gerry Solomon wanted me to go on the Rules Committee. I'd love to be on Rules. But Ways and Means is the best one for me."
- "Newt was a lot less popular in the 3rd District than he wanted to be. The reason? Eastern. He would not go to bat for the employees against Lorenzo when he was taking Eastern down. Thousands lost their jobs. They never forgave Newt."
- That may explain why he left that district. Several people hinted at that--that the 3rd was not a good fit for Newt.
- Mac, on the other hand, tried twice to pass a bill to the effect that any one who had led two airlines into bankruptcy, could not be given a license to operate a third one, targeted at Lorenzo. "The Chairman of the Aviation Oversight Committee would never give me a hearing on my bill. So it didn't go anywhere. But when Lorenzo petitioned the DOT for a license to operate, I was allowed to testify against him because of my efforts to pass those bills. And that time, he was denied."
- "When you were here before, I told you I would not endorse Bob Dole until I had a chance to talk with him face to face. When we got back to Washington, I went to see him. I remember I pulled my chair right up under his nose. Here I was, one little member of Congress. But I am respected in Georgia, for what that's worth. I told him that what the people in the 3rd District of Georgia want is a balance in the budget and a balance in trade. I told him that in order to get the first, they wanted lower taxes, less regulation and less litigation, and that in order to get the second, they want someone who will be firm at the bargaining table, to make trade fair and to worry about losing jobs. I said to him, stop talking about Pat Buchanan, forget about him, he is not your opponent. Bill Clinton is your opponent, focus only on Bill Clinton. He said, 'Mac, they hit on me 37 times with the worst stuff in New Hampshire' and so forth. I put my nose right to his and I said, Listen here! You've been in politics 35 years and you've got a tough enough skin to forget it. Leave Pat

Mac Collins (R/GA) October 21-24, 1996-10

Buchanan alone. Go after Bill Clinton. 'Well,' he said, 'I'm going to be in Georgia tomorrow.' I said, 'Well, I won't;' and I didn't endorse him. but I got back to my office and said to myself, 'Of course, I'm going to endorse him. I have no choice.' So I called him, he postponed his trip a day, and we rode down together. I showed him what I was going to say and I said, If you don't approve of this, I won't say anything. He said he did approve. I spoke about balanced budget and fair trade and endorsed him--with all the media there. But most of what I said he would do has vanished into air now. He would make a great president, but he was a very poor candidate. He couldn't distinguish himself from Bill Clinton. And when he does make a distinction--with the tax cut--he can't tell us how he's going to do it."

- At lunch in Columbus, when Mac asked the 200 people how many had ever heard of Butts County. I saw no hands go up. That gives you a good idea of the distance between Columbus and the rest!
- Story of his son wanting to be in management because he's studying business management at Georgia State. Mac tells him that they are teaching him how to think. Son takes over the business, "One day, I'm coming up to the house, my son is waiting at the front door. My brother-in-law was working for the company at the time. He says 'Daddy, I don't know what to do with Uncle Bobby.' I said 'Uncle Bobby isn't in your textbook. That's one you have to think your way through--especially since he's a relative.'"
- Betty M. says he was only person on his committee who refused to give the chairman his proxy. A straight arrow quality.
- She also said i.e. his opponent, "It's a good thing Jim Chafin is a nice guy. Otherwise, Mac would go for the jugular."
- At the Columbus Chamber debate, Mac turns in chair and listens to a fairly lengthy speaker; Chafin faces front and writes. He is a nice guy. As I was helping Julie set up a video tripod, I heard Chafin say to Mac, "Did you know that you received the endorsement of the Ledger this morning." "I didn't know that." "They said nice things about what you have done for the community. They said nice things about me, too, but I wanted the endorsement." "Thank you," says Mac. Then he tells Julie of the endorsement. I ask whether they are surprised. They have been talking about how "hostile" the Ledger is. When Mac's picture appeared in yesterday's paper, Julie said, "That's a surprise. They never give us any publicity."
- The format of the CC debate had Mac/Chafin contest on same program as a Georgia House of Representatives race. The

Mac Collins (R/GA) October 21-24, 1996-11

questions went from one to the other, one question at a time, no rebuttal.

- But Chafin comes across as almost a Republican--very moderate. Supports the War school at Benning, capital gains reductions, no term limits (an exception). He's very smooth--supports balanced budget amendment.
- Chafin managed the campaign of the man Mac unseated for State Senate. "He defeated me the first time and I came back and unseated him. Everywhere we went, we took the camera and taped him. It made him very nervous."
- Some of Mac's history on ride from Columbus to Jonesboro with Julie--passed the general store on this trip. Mac youngest of four boys. (Other children died near birth--one at 16 in accident.) Oldest son (Mike) runs the business--Julie tried to work in the business when she came home from DC--too much work. Wife of Mike left good job as nurse to work in the office. She, plus a woman (who's been there 18 years and came to them out of high school) runs the office.
- Julie, like Mac, points out that in his first run for Congress, he won only the four <sup>big</sup> big counties--that he "got in there and worked and proved to people that he would help them, that party didn't make any difference and won their trust. The next time he ran, he carried all 16 counties." she was talking about Upson, Monroe, etc. at the time. This sequence ends with the idea that he'll get Columbus, too.
- She talks about how he wants to win everywhere, won't slow down--expansionist talk. Then there was a joke about why he wanted to be on three bus tours around the state (getting up to Atlanta by 6:30 a.m. tomorrow) in the next few days. Idea is that he might run for governor.
- Julie drove me by Jackson's General Store, site of my hat-<sup>passing</sup> passing. On the outside, it has bars on the windows; inside it is a poor man's 7-11 convenience store. The ceiling has been lowered, the aisles are wide. On one side of the store are stacks of soft drinks. The aisles are partially stocked--with snack foods and staples. On the left hand side a TV is playing. There's a microwave to heat up snacks. There's an old table and chairs and one old, cracked and patched display case with sundries. At the check out counter, there is another display case with cigars inside and penny candy on the top--Mary Janes for five cents (no longer one cent). Gasoline is still for sale out front. I asked the woman (Gladys) if she owned the store. She said no, she leased it from Mr. Jackson. It had no charm or character left--but a couple of artifacts--the display case. I said to Gladys, "It used to be a country general store?" She said, "It still is a country <sup>money</sup>

Mac Collins (R/GA) October 21-24, 1996-12

general store." In the 1970's, it looked like the 1930's; in the 1990's, it looked like a low budget, uninspired makeover.

- She talked about Clayton County being still Democratic in many ways. She speaks of two long-time Democrats--one State Senator Terrell Starr and a State Rep. Bill Lee. Lee, she says, has "permanent" tobacco stains on both sides of his mouth from chewing. Reminded me of Jack, who chewed and spit. Mac does not. *Lee was a SF mainstay!*
- Mac to Mimi Woodson, "In my first race for Congress, I carried four counties. In my second race, I carried ~~all 16~~ <sup>13</sup> counties. I didn't carry Columbus last time, but in 199~~0~~, I will." Nice.
- Mac talked a lot about medicare and corporate medicare on the trip to Columbus. I tried to keep up with him, but I've lost most of it. The point of this comment is just to emphasize how issue-oriented he is. A key difference.
- Re staff: Clark is married to Mac's daughter. Betty was a lobbyist (15 years) for airplane industry. She was an assistant for aviation to Transportation Secretary in the Bush administration. Attracted to Mac for aviation interest and conservation.
- Mac's description of Mimi--which he used often and which I think he would like to adopt for himself: "Some politician's agendas are set by their constituents, other politician's agendas are set for the constituency. She is one of the second type."

Mac Collins (R/GA) October 21-24, 1996-13