

Mac Collins (R/GA) Interview in Washington, D.C., 9/11/95

- I went to see Mac Collins. He seemed to have decided already that he'd take me. Asked what I wanted. I said "I'm going to try to persuade you to let me come to Georgia and tag along with you while you are doing whatever you do there."
- Any particular thing you want to see? "The more the better." He listed what he did, "town meetings, office visits with folks, riding around the district, visiting stores."
- "I went over to have a check-up this morning and I said to the attending physician, 'I'm not your typical ivy league congressman. I came from the school of hard knocks. I've spent my whole life close by working folks. I cut the grass to get my first automobile. It wasn't much, but I loved it. (pause, then looks at me with a twinkle) And I'm as redneck as they come."
- Ann had told me when I was waiting for him--"You've picked a good one. He's not your normal (pause) congressman."
- "We've have^{reappointment} a time down in Georgia with reappointment. I was down there last week meeting with the Republican legislative caucus. I told them that when they came to make their decision, they should ask themselves one question. I said take the map, erase all the names of the incumbents and ask yourself can the Republicans carry eight of their districts. If they can, that's all you need to know. Vote for it. But if the Republicans can't hold eight of their districts, don't vote for it. I told them, it's not my vote, it's yours. But we've got to have Republicans in Congress if we are going to do what has to be done, if we are going to have people who will follow our leadership in continuing to put through the Republican programs we have to put through. If we don't do it now, in 10 years, we'll wish we had."
- He talked a hard line on policy--said toughest decisions lay ahead.
- "I was just on the phone with a constituent. He is a veteran and a minister; and he had been reading those false reports in the newspaper. He wanted some facts. Folks believe what they read in the papers--no matter what you tell them. They get all riled up and frustrated. On veterans and on Medicare, the organizations here in town get people all worked up. That's how they make their money. They're all telling folks that the Republicans are cutting Medicare, and that is not true."
- He said he had been in the minority in Georgia Senate and on County Commission--that he had run three times for each job before he won. The idea was that losing carried no fear for

MAC COLLINS (R/GA) INTERVIEW 9/11/95-1

him. He seemed very program-oriented and came across as Gingrich fodder.

- Started at 17 driving trucks that hauled cement septic tanks, got involved in "several small businesses" before getting own trucking business. "I'm still in the trucking business. I have 21 trucks hauling lumber for Georgia Pacific. My son (28 yrs.) runs the business now. He's having trouble now keeping drivers, but he'll be all right."
- Son started "as soon as he could push a broom." Comes to father and says he wants to get into management--leave the shop floor. Says he's going to college (Georgia State) to learn how to run a business. "I asked him 'what are they teaching you there.' He said, 'they're teaching me how to run a business.' I said, 'you've missed it son.' They're teaching you to think. If you can think, you can run the trucking business."

MAC COLLINS (R/GA) INTERVIEW 9/11/95-2