

Barber Conable--talk during airplane ride home sometime in the Spring of 1966.

I think this was at time of spec. Hearing B.C. - when Ten tried to get B.C. to go along with J.F. & B.C. told J.F. he was in his own mind of course & B.C. would not go along.

In a conversation I had with Barber toward the end of his first term and before he had been put on the Ways and Means Committee, he said "I'm terribly frustrated. I can't get any of my ideas into the mill. The other day I went to Jerry Ford and said, 'Jerry, I've got some things on my mind and I'd like to talk to you about them.' And he said, 'Sure, Barber, we'll have to get together sometime.' He walked off and that's the last I've seen of him for weeks."

I don't think we ever talked at home's family dinner or that B.C. was id. very concerned and concerned with his relation with Jerry Ford they got increasing better. Anytime Barber got Republican & "home", he was in good terms with Jerry

Barber Conable--interview sometime toward the end of his first year on Ways and Means--1967.

"Wilbur Mills is a fascinating person. My introduction to Wilbur Mills, the politician, came when Art Richardson called me and told me that the Security Trust was going to have their anniversary dinner. He said all the business leaders in Rochester would be there, that they would like to have a big name speaker and did I think I could get Wilbur Mills. Well, I said I didn't know but that I would try. So I went down to his office and saw him and told him about this ^{dinner} meeting. 'Mr. Chairman,' I said, 'I don't know whether you do these things or

not, but it certainly would be appreciated.' He leaned over and put his hand on my arm and said, 'Barber, do you want me to come?' Well, I backed off a little and mumbled something. He leaned over again and said, 'Barber, if you personally ask me to come, I'll do it.' Well, all I could say was thank you very much and we'll ^{look} forward to it and so forth. That showed me that Wilbur Mills wants to lead his committee. He knows I'm smart enough so that he won't have to remind me that I now owe him something. They tell me he wrote a letter to help Jim Battin in a hard campaign out in Montana last year. Jim printed it up in all the papers--a letter from my Democratic Committee Chairman. He won, and you'd be surprised how responsive Jim has been to Wilburn Mills ever since. Wilburn sees the Committee as his personal responsibility. He wants to run that committee; he's always on the lookout for leverage and he'll go to great personal inconvenience to get it. He reminds me of Walter Mahony who always wanted to establish a warm personal relationship with everyone and who was always trying to stay one leg up on you all the time. I don't say this in a disparaging or critical way at all. It showed me that he wants to be the leader of the committee. It showed me that 'Wilbur Mills cares'."

Wilburn Mills, says Barber, is spending a lot of time this year investigating the impact of rising hospital costs on medicare. He felt that he was responsible for medicare, that his change of heart passed medicare and he takes it as a personal responsibility to make sure it's

working well. He described how Wilbur went over all of the testimony with the actuary from the Social Security Administration, rooting out his assumptions. Barber stood in great awe of this performance.

Wilbur dominates the Democrats, says Barber. 'He has 15 votes and no one else has. The Republicans don't have 10 votes. We split off in all directions.'

Barber says he's been getting more mail since he went on the Ways and Means Committee--that he is getting double the amount of mail this year that he got last year."