

Barber Conable

April 20, 1974

"I had a meeting with the Labor Council last Saturday. I thought they wanted a rapprochement, but all we did was trumpet and bellow for an hour and a half. It was a fruitless exercise. I don't know why they wanted it in the first place. Maybe so they could say I asked for the meeting and thus indicate how important they are. I didn't ask for it; they did. But they said I did. The only vote of mine they could identify was minimum wage. I tried to explain the youth differential to them, but they didn't listen."

Spoke of AFL-CIO offering \$50,000 to bonafide candidates in districts of Republican leaders. Said Jimmy Powers took it, that he would be "a formidable candidate", that when I saw him in the fall, "I'll be embattled."

Said Powers couldn't go after him on issue of abortion since Powers voted for the liberal state abortion law. He, Barber, won't sign the discharge petition on the Hogan (anti-abortion) Bill. Says the Right to Life people are upset with him and they may give him a Republican opponent in the primary.

When he gave me the maple syrup, he said he hit upon the idea of giving 25 or so of his friends a jug every year "to help identify myself with Western New York, so people won't think I'm

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from New York City." When I asked who he gave 'em to he said,
"Jerry Ford, John Rhodes,—people who have been good to me."

Spoke about fact that his interns usually come from the rural area and how that gets him in trouble. "I'm too strongly identified with the rural part of the district already." When we chose interns from Corfu and Attica, he moaned and said that they were on either side of Alexander.

He had just written a newsletter on group ratings and was upset about them. He argues that they are tailored to the extremes of right and left and that people like himself don't get their due. "The liberals think I'm too conservative and the conservatives think I'm too liberal. I end up not pleasing any of the raters." The burden of his newsletter was that he would only talk about specific issues. He used education as example. He votes 1B increase; NEA wants 2B increase amendment which he votes against; he comes out anti-education. I said only rating he'd have to live with all fall was his 89% support of Nixon. He agreed. And said that was, however, the best of the lot!