

Barber Conable

October 17, 1973

"Everyone expects me to go for the Policy Committee. And I've decided to do it--more because I'm expected to than because of the job itself. That's the dynamic."

"Research is an open-ended job, even though I haven't done as much as I should with it. Policy is a much more structured situation. It deals with settled issues. Research deals with issues of the future. It needs some freewheeling young fellow who has the time. I don't. But I haven't offended anyone either. I haven't left any enemies like Charlie Goodell or even Bob Taft. I guess I'm just not a very threatening person. That's one reason why the young people are pushing me for the policy committee. They see Research as an easier position to get and they want it for one of them--so they are urging me to go for policy. But also, they don't see me as threatening to them if I'm in Policy. They feel their options are still open for leadership positions--I want a more structured job because I don't have the time."

"I was amazed at how many offers of support I had for the minority leadership position. But I don't want that--not now. It would be a disaster for me now. I don't want to make a political career in this place. I want to keep my options open. I'm much more needed on Ways and Means. Lots of fellows can do the political job, but not as many can do the legislative job." "I never thought I had a chance. But I was amazed by the offers of support."

Conable (10/17/73)

Spoke of Security Trust Offer.

Rhodes wants Barber to go for Policy. He said he could never have beaten Rhodes. They had same bases of support. Rhodes had earned it by his service, platforms, chairman, etc. But he said there was a lot of dissatisfaction with Rhodes "because he talked out of both sides of his mouth and wasn't a straight-on guy like Gerry Ford."

Rhodes "relieved" when Barber decided to go for Policy and use his energy that way. What Rhodes was worried about was that Barber keep saying that the time of change in leadership was a good time to get structural change in party leadership staffing, etc. and Rhodes was fearful of that--didn't want

For example, Barber thought all leaders should resign after Rhodes was elected leader so he could pick his own leaders. Rhodes didn't like that idea because John Anderson might get beaten. "I need John Anderson. I want an inclusive leadership. If Anderson lost we'd look like a bunch of cave men."

"The fact that John moved up from Policy to the leadership makes it a more prestigious position. Also, the tradition is that the Policy chairman of the platform committee at the convention."

Policy committee staff so scattered "it's a waste of money."