

PETE DAVIS

November 19, 1981

purge
up

Had lunch with Pete, who told me of his Tuesday PM meeting with Domenici. He said that PD called Bell and himself over and that Martha and George Ramonas and he and Bell were there. Bell has been urging Pete to distance himself from the President and Pete wants to give a 'national' speech in NY in January, at the Economists Club.' Bell tells Pete Davis (and...it's what he's also telling Domenici) that a national leader has two things--a world view and gets his programs passed. Domenici is thinking of "writing a new tax code" among other things. He wants, in effect to stake out a defense of his mark on the economic side but also to take on broader issues. He wants to put forward a national program. Pete says not only does he not talk about running for President or Vice President, he even says he doesn't want to take national leadership on the matter (Bell says "Oh, yes you do.") Pete again says he doesn't know how much of Pete Domenici is really him or how much is Bell. Bell keeps pushing on him all the time."

The key says Pete is that Dan is convinced that the economic issues will be bad for the Republicans in 1982. He doesn't think the admin. will really move and he wants it to. How will a new vie play in NM, Domenici is asked in the meeting. He tries to balance national and local all the time says Pete Davis. That distinguishes him, says Davis, from some Senators who are just national and some who are just local.

I said I saw Pete as always reaching and he agreed.

I asked Pete if he thought PD was competitive. "I'm amazed at how uncompetitive he is." He didn't take Heinz off the Domenici-Heinz tax measure. Later, Pete said "Right after Kassebaum turned on him in committee, he let her hold hearings and on a subject he's interested in. If she had voted against me, I'd have taken the hearings away from her. But he's not like that."

He said that Bell played hard ball but that PD didn't.

"He's a strategist. When he calls you in to talk about something, it's not something he just thought about, something he wants to bounce off the wall. He's thought about it, he has a conception and he knows how he wants to implement it. He's a gardener. He plants the seeds and watches them come up. When he takes a position, he has a conceptualization underneath it and when he tries to persuade others he has that conceptualization to fall back on. He doesn't persuade people by giving them something or taking away a . He persuades them because his idea makes sense. And he looks at things over the long run. He almost lost his election because of it in 1978. But he won't harvest till the sun is in the right position and the soil is just right. He's a strategist and a nurturer. It's great for energizing the staff. We know now what he's going to be doing in January. That's around here."

He says Pete wants to do Op Ed pieces in NYT and Wall Street Journal - flood the place with press stuff, etc., etc.

I called PD restless and Pete agreed. You can see that after the defeat of his mark, he shifted gears, assumed his loss and started figuring out what to do next. He cannot stand inactivity in that sense either.

He said that Sec. Treas. did call Quayle about his vote on Dom. mark.

He said at the caucus yesterday, Gorton and Symms "got on Quayle and Kassebaum for their votes."