



He talked a little bit about the Sasser amendment. Said he wanted to table Jepsen which he did. But he said that motion helped Republicans more because it showed them where the votes were and gave them a chance to regroup for the next day. Why Sasser tabled Domenici the next day, he couldn't say. "Ask Sasser." But he did not dispute my 2 bites of the apple idea--which he suggested in the first place. He did say that "The Republicans thought the Sasser amendment was going to cause them to lose the whole resolution. They thought the dam would break, unemployment compounded pass, and the whole resolution would go down. Whatever they did to contain the damage, they were very successful." The way he spoke of that, it seemed as though Sasser was a pivotal point for Republicans.

"I was more involved with both sides on strategy, last week than I have been at any time since the Natural Gas Bill of 1977. That was high stakes poker out there."

Said he couldn't talk about it, but said that Monday conferences were key to putting it together. That a lot of people went along holding their noses. "It was amazing to me that only Weicker and Helms voted against the budget. A lot of Republicans went along holding their noses over that 116B deficit. That we passed the budget was due once again, to the skill of the majority leader. His job is to do just that, and he did it again this year... The majority leader has so little to give out that parochial interests usually win out. But here you had people willing to put parochial interests behind a view of the national interest as they saw it... It's like Dr. Johnson and the Dog. The wonder is that we passed any budget at all."

He said he planned to be out by 2:00 Friday because the Dems had their retreat.