

 LOU GALLEGOS

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I went to ask Lou about the CMS system and the printouts. He talked about the mail and the change in mail as a result of chairmanship. "It's crazy. But I guess it's just a reflection of human nature. The first wave letters we got assumed that since he was chairman of the Budget Committee, he was sitting on a big bag of money. They figured it all he had to do was reach in the bag and distribute the loaves. (Here he flings his arms out as if he's sowing seed.)

The next phase was the belief that if you are Chairman of the Budget Committee you must be a buddy of Ronald Reagan's. That means if we will pick up the phone, we can get anything we want. All of a sudden, things that were never considered possible now become double--everything from programs to projects to White House tours. Here's a letter from a guy who tells us he wants us to get him the Botanical Gardens for a reception. Now we have creeping in request from businessmen to take care of their problems. We always had this, but it comes with increasing regularity. This material (he hefts a packet of material an inch thick) is from one of the largest financial empires in New Mexico. They have a problem with the IRS. They have dozens of lawyers; but here they have dumped the thing in the Senator's lap. You call and we'll accept. There is no limit I guess. The chairmanship brought rising expectations. And every miracle you pull off just adds to expectations. Before the chairmanship we were expected to drain the swamp; now we're expected to create a Garden of Eden. Resources are scarcer now than they were. The letters mention that. In fact, that's precisely why they are coming to us--they think we are their only chance to get what they want. The demands are humorous. (He chuckled.) It has given me a great opportunity to observe human nature. I may become the complete cynic, like Philip Wylie.

I'll write another Generation of Vipers saying that everyone is no good."

"We get the mail on many of the subjects we always get. Before he became chairman, they had a New Mexico twist; now they have a national emphasis. People used to write us to say the doggie was up the tree and ask us to do something about it. They just assumed there was something the government could do about it. Now they write and say I read in the paper that the doggie is up in the tree, what are you guys going to do about it?"

Another result of chairmanship. "We get 10-12 letters a day about jobs in this office. By a ratio of 10-1 they come from outside New Mexico. People read about the Budget Committee or they read personal articles about Domenici. A chemistry develops and they say 'That sounds good, I'll apply for a job.' We used to handle them individually; but finally I had to create a library item for them."

"In 1981, our correspondence on the subject of political appointments consumed two man years. It took one-quarter of my time. We handled everything from the Italian ambassador to the Alcohol Control Board in Albuquerque. Some of the letters were about jobs that weren't political. That guy in the social security office is no good. Now that you Republicans are in, fire him."

"Did you get your share?" "Yes we got our share both in rank and in quantity. We got 25 of our people in political positions. There were some disappointments--people we should have gotten. But we lucked in on some others. In some departments, they converted political positions into career positions before the Administration got its act together. In other cases, the Carter appointees changed their spots and kept the jobs anyway. That happened in the Energy Department. Domenici has been on the Energy Committee for a good length of time, and we don't have a single person in that Department. That hurts us in the kind of networking that goes on around this town. And it shows in our relations with them. They are very hard to work with. Of course, your own people are hard to work with sometimes; but you know you can get them."

Hiring of Press Secretary Bradshaw a kind of accident. They have 150 applications--a couple of them well known in Washington (Andrea Best(?) and ABC press Sec'y for Ted Koppel, he mentions). Lou asks KOA if they have anyone interested. Guys at KOA talk about it in Jim's presence. Jim is freelancing. He visits Fran; they like him. Lou calls him. "He was so inquisitive that he interested me. I spent three hours answering his questions." He tells Pete that they have 4 finalists plus Bradshaw "he's worth looking into." ("And I used a ploy, saying that in a lot of ways he's like Steve Bell. Domenici lit up.") Arranges for Pete to meet Jim in Las Cruces. "The vibes were right. When Pete got home from New Mexico, he called up. He was happy. 'I offered him a job; you work out the arrangements. A press secretary is not an appendix to Domenici. It's a vital organ. And it has to be a healthy organ. He is not healthy, given his concern for PR, without a press secretary with whom he has good rapport. It's working--not up to where I'd like it. But he has better rapport with Jim at this point than he had with any other press secretary except for Steve Bell. Domenici relaxes by becoming loquacious. He loves to reminisce about the City Commission and whatever. Jim will sit there and listen. Martha would interpret, , criticize and edit all the time.

Lar CMS "If your CMS operation doesn't work well, you can forget about the rest."

He is spending July working "campaign manual". "About half the assumptions we went on last time still hold. But a presidential year makes a lot of difference."