

LOU GALLEGOS

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I waited for 3 hours for a chance to talk with Pete Domenici. He was far too busy (or preoccupied) with the new budget, and I didn't make a connection. He left the office, calling, "Sorry I didn't get to talk with you, Doc... Don't believe all Gallegos tells you." I said "We'll do it another time." But I was disappointed.

The interesting thing is that while Pete was in the office talking about the Reagan budget--which he is now shepherding through the Senate. He is the point man for the entire Reagan program right now. His Budget Committee meets everyday--while all this was going on in his office, Lou was talking to me about getting him back home.

with media  
"How do you know where he should go when he goes home?" We tried to chart his trips and it looked like a spaghetti bowl. How much do you get out of each particular visit. I want him to go home and see the little people. The problem is that unless you work at it, he will see the same people he always sees and rely on the media to reach the others. Those are the same 5% that know what he's doing in Washington and like the fact that he's a national senator. But 95% of the people of New Mexico will never leave New Mexico. They'll never see Washington, D.C. Those are the people I want him to go and see--even if there's no media. And in a lot of those little towns, there is no media--they are dead areas for the media. I don't want him to get out of touch with those people. And I don't want to wait till the year before the election for him to start."

We went to the map and he showed me a middle area in NM where he was going to try and get Pete to go.

Said he was going to NM in April and East Side in May. Lou was trying to keep Pete in touch when he was getting out of touch.