

FRAN LANGHOLF

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I went to PVD's office and talked to Fran. She's had an operation on her left hand; Lou Gallegos is going to run for Congress vs. Bill Richardson; Pete comes to the state this weekend; a campaign headquarters is open in a remote, (nearly inaccessible) office complex Home Office Plaza.

Zia~~n~~ has taken a poll; and they^(pp) have a poll. Pete has 79% job approval rate. And when Democrats were asked who could do best against Pete, 75% said no one could beat Pete. She also said something about their approval of his constituency work, and I'll go back and check that out.

There are 4 people on the campaign now--Frank Bond the manager, David Nummy from Budget Staff, someone on fund raising.

"We're working primarily on fund raising. It's been real easy--so easy it's scary. People just come up to me and offer to contribute. Sometimes they want to contribute more than they are allowed. We set a goal of a million dollars in 1983, and we have just about reached it. We wanted to get all the 1000 contributions we could before the primary so we can go back again for another 1000 for the general election. Our goal was 2 million for the campaign; but I don't think we are going to need it."

I said that it might be an issue in the campaign--that it was last time. "In 1978 we were the first senate candidate ever to go over a million. They made an issue of it. But in the last campaign, both Schmitt and Bingaman spend about about 1.8 million. That issue is gone now."

"Our strategy is one I didn't agree with at first. But the more I think of it, the more sense it makes. Pete gets so much free publicity

as a Senator that we are going to rely on that for as long as we can. We are going to do everything we can to play up Pete Domenici the senator and play down Pete Domenici the candidate. Once people see you as a candidate, the newspapers get real bad about giving you any publicity without also mentioning your opponent. You lose your free media advantage. Pete will announce on February 12th. You have to declare by February 28th. But we will not play it up. We have a headquarters going, but it's tucked away where no one can see it--or find it. At first all this didn't make sense. I thought if you were going to run you ought to make the most noise possible and let the most people know about it. But now I agree we should take advantage of the free publicity Pete gets as Senator." This comes from his great national strength.

Nick Franklin will be the opponent. He has a primary opponent named Pratt. "She's so liberal she's the closest thing to a communist we have in this state. "She will make a lot of noise and Nick will just sit back and listen. He'll win."

She said PVD's casework tripled once Reagan won. "People think that because he is influential in Washington, he can do more for them with their problems. So we get cases that otherwise would go to other members of the delegation. Who wants to go to a freshman senator when they could go to the Chairman of the Budget Committee? Of course, we can't always do anything to help; but we try awfully hard. Our polls show that the voters are very happy with Pete's constituency work. We can pat ourselves on the back for that."

She says Bob Beier of AJ is new man who knows Pete best.