

Jack Flynt

June 13, 1973

Visiting with Jack's office staff: Mary Lou Lucas, Jane ,  
Tom <sup>F</sup> *Brendine* , Col. Charlie Redmond, Maitland . Steve Weisbrunn<sup>AW</sup>~~er~~  
(intern whose father runs clothing store in Barnesville).

We talked some about the district and some of the points that were made were that:

District has changed continuously since Jack has been in office. (1) greater percentage of people make livelihood from other than farming. They keep the farm but hold major non-farm job on the side. Still there are a lot of businesses depending on the farm. But decline in farm and rural influence is very great. (2) Concomitantly, the influence of Atlanta has grown--as Atlanta has spread physically and grown economically. Tom said when he was a kid, Atlanta was a major trip from Griffin. Now the kids go up to Atlanta in the evening "for a date." New circumferential highway will pass 20 miles from Griffin.

Much talk about new part of district, how they are accepting all invitations from there (we've accepted one for November 10th) but how it's very slow. Jack is not rushing things, poking his nose in there or plugging in where he doesn't know the lay of the land. They kept comparing it to the challenge of Macon earlier on and how they licked that one after feeling their way for a couple of years. It

was the 1966 campaign that really propelled him into Macon as "people had to take sides" and he got a good young aggressive group that took over his campaign there and got him known. Idea is that it is a campaign that allows you to break new ground and maybe will be a necessary condition of any big activity in South Fulton and East Point. The difference between the new part of the district and Macon is that Macon is a community--own newspapers, TV, social structure, etc.--whereas South Fulton is amorphous. They hate Atlanta and don't want to be thought of as part of Atlanta, but they don't want to be thought of as part of the rural 6th District either. They want their own identity but don't have it. How do you campaign and be sure you've hit your constituents in South Fulton--in shopping centers, for example. No such problem in Macon.

Fletcher Thompson was talked about as possibility for running vs. Jack--rumors, but nothing hard. Jack's posture is wait and see. A local state legislator is also nosing around in South Fulton.

Steve says blacks are organizing in Barnesville and that Jack has spoken to them and will probably get them their votes. Mary Lou says Jack is speaking to a black school group in Locust Grove. Nothing very illuminating. Proportion of blacks about same in new as old part of district--"less than 30%."

Jack talked about his trip to South Africa--by South Africa Foundation--trying to improve image of South Africas--Jack seemed

impressed. "If the blacks took over in South Africa, the country would fall apart." Said he'd been allowed to see anyone--but said he was sure they hadn't arranged for him see any "militants." He seemed not unsympathetic to fact that "South Africans feel they have been subjected to abuse throughout the world, on an emotional rather than a rational basis."

Jack said he and a friend were talking the other day about the quality of the House. "I see--or I think I see--an undesirable decline and a deterioration in the quality of the members of the House, compared to what it was--or to what I thought it was--when I first came here." No elaboration.