

JACK FLYNT
March 13, 1978

STATEMENT OF Rep. John J. Flynt, Jr.
6th District - Georgia
February 21, 1978
Griffin, Georgia

I shall not be a candidate for re-election to the 96th Congress.

It has been and is a high honor and privilege to represent our District in the United States House of Representatives since November 2, 1954 in the 83rd Congress. I shall always cherish that privilege and opportunity given to me by the people of our District, to whom I express my profound gratitude and deep affection.

When I asked Jack why he ^{retired}~~resigned~~, he put his hand up over his head and said, "Because I've had it up to here, that's why. I can't put up with all the crap you have to take around here. The job is too much trouble. That's a strong statement I know. It wasn't true 20 years ago; it wasn't true 10 years ago. But it is now. I think I could have won again, but what's the sense of beating your damn brains out to get somewhere when there's no pleasure in it after you get there."

When ~~it~~ has ~~is~~ changed, I asked him. "That's a hard question to answer and I'll try to get one for you. A New York Times reporter called and asked me for 30 minutes sometime between now and next Wednesday to talk about my retirement. I told him that if I had 30 minutes to give him, I wouldn't be retiring. I thought that was a pretty good answer."

"Actually I had thought of retiring for the last six years. Each time there was speculation among my enemies about my retirement. But I didn't want them retiring me, so I stayed on."

Said he decided in January of 1977 not to run again. "But I couldn't announce it then. If you do that, you become a lame duck and lose whatever power you had around here."

Where would he go. "We'll live in Griffin. I never gave a moment's thought to living anywhere else."

He said one of the reasons he waited for 6 years also was that he thought he might become Chairman of Appropriations.

Another "contributing reason" for his retirement was his relations with Carter. "Would you believe it if I told you that my relations with the President had something to do with my retirement. He's the first President ever from Georgia; he's the first president ever from the southeast. Yet he and I disagree on almost everything. It's as if he was pointing toward the magnetic south pole and I was pointing toward the magnetic north pole. I'm the dean of the Georgia delegation, the man with the longest service in Congress. I should be out front leading the change for his legislation. But he has hardly sent up anything I can support." And he ticked off energy, consumer protection, B-1, Humphrey Hawkins."

"He's the most anti-business president we have had in the history of this country."

I asked a couple of times if the prospect of campaigning bothered him and he said no. I asked once directly and once "If you had no opponent would you have run." And he said no - but that he would always have had an opponent in his district.

Patty noted that redistricting was coming up and that going home was a strain and she seemed very happy to "sit on the sidelines this time and watch."

Jack said he had noted that he slowed down. "My health is not as good

as it was when I was 39. I can feel that I've put on some years since I was in the hospital with my heart attack."

Back when he was talking about changes he said that reforms had made things more difficult. "The freshmen and sophmores think that just because they don't have anything to do, no one else has anything to do. So they put in these reforms..." and he went to the telephone and didn't get back to the subject.

Re Clayton, South Fulton & Douglas. "There's no way on God's earth that anyone can represent them. They are too transient in their domiciles and in their thoughts to let anybody represent them for long. If they put a man in teh'y'll be the very ones to turn him out, if not in the next election, then in the one after that."

Re airline pilots. "There are 1500 airline pilots in my district and I'll bet not more than ten voted for me." He said they voted Republican as kneejerks and didn't know he was the more conservative man in the race.