

Jack FlyntNovember 23, 1976

I had an 8:30 appointment with JF at his office. He got toothache during night, had long dentist appointment, and he got into his office, with novocaine and cotton-stuffed mouth at 10:45. Great for interview! But we went up to his committee room and talked for 15 minutes--as best he could--with John Swanner and John Harper and Col. Redman at other end of long table. I laid out county totals and his predictions.

Butts - "I did better than expected because of local organizers, and professionals who knew what they were doing--some of them people whom I have known for 25 years."

Carroll - "This was a vast improvement over two years ago, largely because of a heavy concentration of effort by me and by local people who were identifiable Democrats."

Clayton - "This was an absolute shocker to me. I don't know what I could have done to change it. We put in more effort there than anywhere else--day and night. We even knocked on doors. What happened, I do not know."

Coweta - "That went about as I had expected."

Fayette - "It was a disaster, almost as bad as Clayton. A lot of it was because I had the wrong man actively associated with me. Whether that accounted for a switch of 500 votes one way and 500 the other, I don't know. You remember the rally we had on the Friday before the Tuesday election. That was an absolute disaster. The man who ran it didn't know what he was doing and made no effort to coordinate with the other candidates."

Fulton - "The black vote was heavier than usual and it went 90%--no, 80-90%--for me. I was disappointed in some of the outlying areas in the county. I thought I could have carried it. We lost some precincts there we didn't feel we should have, but the black turnout compensated for those losses." How much do you attribute to your vote for Jimmy Carter? "About 50-50. He ran stronger in the district than I did. He got some young people I lost. But I picked up some older people that he lost. My percentage in the district was higher than his percentage in the country."

Haralson - "I hit Haralson right on the head. I won because of an organized local effort by real professionals who knew what they were doing."

Heard - "The same thing" (as Haralson) and when I said same as Butts, too, he said yes."

~~Heard~~ Heard - "It was a disappointment to some. But it's a changing population county, so I was pleased with it."

Jasper - "Last time I got 80% in Jasper. I fell off. But 75% wasn't bad. Here, again, there was a local effort by professionals--people I have known and people they knew."

Lamar - "Not quite as good as last time. He had some people working for him who took the position that anybody over 35 is kaputt."

Pike - "Not as good as last time. That's because of some new people."

Spaulding - "I was right on that one. Spaulding is back in good shape and will be even better in the future--mainly because I have made peace with the newspaper."

I asked him what, if anything, he had done between 1974 and 1976 that helped him between 1974 and 1976. "Yes, opening a district office in South Fulton; going home every weekend; and rescuing and cementing--no,

let me change that--cultivating new friends without in any way whatsoever damaging my relations with my old friends. Those three things."

When I asked him whether, as a result of the '76 results, he could see things that needed to be done for 1978, he said "It's too early to tell."

And when I noted that he had announced he was going to run again. "I had to. My enemies began circulating rumors as early as 8:30 Wednesday morning that this was going to be my last term. If I hadn't scotched that immediately I wouldn't have been worth a damn in Washington or in Georgia for the rest of my term. (Were the rumors put out by Republican or Democrats?) Mostly Republicans, with some Democrats joining in."

Can you do anything to stop war with Atlanta paper. "If they will be reasonable. They did everything they could possibly do to defeat the man within the Georgia delegation who can do more than anyone to make sure that the Carter administration is a great one. And I wanted to tell them that. I don't know whether they did it out of vindictiveness and malice or whether they did it because of misinformation, but their attack on me on the lobbying bill was the most vicious attack I have ever seen in my life." He then went into the Bolling story and said Bolling had refuted them and how they printed Bolling's letter as a letter to the editor without comment. That he had talked to Gulliver and ^hSkipp.

Story - to make a point about difference between what's "correct" and "what's right". "A man from Zebulon in Pike County took the train to Washington, got off at Union Station, got a taxi and told the driver to take him to the Willard Hotel. When they got there, the man asked "How much?" The driver answered "85 cents". The man searched in his pocket, took out 3 quarters and a dime and handed them to the driver. The driver

held them in his hand and just looked at them. And the man from Zebulon asked him "Is that correct?" "Yes" said the driver, "It's correct. But sure isn't right."