

Arthur and Virginia Baxter: November 2, 1991

- 404/332-5485 or 404/252-5793
- I went out to the Doubletree one hour early to talk with the Baxters. Howard was WF's campaign treasurer in his first, 1977 campaign for Congress. They were neighbors of the Weltner's and are Republicans, but they've worked for Weltner and WF ever since. Virginia works with Muldauer on the financial side of things as a volunteer.
- Arthur went up to Washington with Bill Johnstone to set up Wyche's office in the House after the victory. "It was all done in three months."
- "He never votes like everybody wants him to. I'm a banker; but he has never done anything for the banks."
- Strong in Jewish community.
- Talked of his vote on the energy bill the day before (the one the Atlanta Constitution called "courageous." I have the story.). "He isn't going to get any oil money, but that's not unusual for him."
- Says he advised Weltner to sign the loyalty oath; and that he "dropped out" of politics when CW decided not to run. (CW tried a come-back in 1968, but lost to Fletcher Thompson).
- Re the race vs. Wade Mitchell, WF said, "We'll beat Wade Mitchell, because he's not a politician, he's a chairman! And he beat Mitchell into the ground."
- "He gets out and talks to people and sees people."
- Baxter was much impressed that Wyche could get Danny Rostenkowski to come to Atlanta three times and that Wyche could get Danny to a meeting limited to 40 businessmen. Thinks that raised Wyche's stature at home in business community.
- When he explained his Thomas vote to the Georgia Black Legislators Caucus, "about one-half clapped, but even more clapped for the other side."
- He said that 60-70 people had "maxed out" i.e. contributed \$2,000 and that they would come to the first hour of the party.
- Virginia said that after the Thomas vote, "one contributor wrote to ask for their money back, but a number wrote saying, 'it would have been more, but...'"
- WF was first Atlantan to win Senate seat.
- They said all his congressional races "were close, but no one stands out."
- They agreed that "his major interest is the environment. He doesn't feel strongly for the business community. I tell him that business won't give

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him money. He said, 'I don't care.' He's head and shoulders above everyone. People may not like the way he votes, but they have confidence in his judgment, that he will do what he thinks is right. They think he's the best man for the job."

- He said Wyche went to some Rotary Club to explain his Gulf War vote, that he said he would tell them why he voted as he did, but that he never told them. Arthur thought he did very poorly. "He called me after his speech and said, 'How did I do?' I said 'you did horrible. You never did explain your vote. He was upset and he hung up. A little later, he called back and said, 'You were right.' I think he should have said 'I was wrong. I made a mistake.' As it turned out, he did make a mistake." I said to Arthur, "You didn't really expect WF to say that did you?" He said, no he hadn't and we agreed it wouldn't have been in character for him to do so.
- Virginia came up after dinner and said that she'd forgotten but that 15-18 people had gone down to St. Simon's Island before he "decided" to run for the Senate and talked it over. She said she'd get the list for me.