

Senator Wyche Fowler
January 9-10, 1992
Georgia Schedule

Thursday, January 9, 1992

10:00 a.m. South Fulton County Town Meeting
Southwest Regional Library

1:00 p.m. Editorial Board Meeting
The Times-Georgian - Carrollton

2:15-3:45 p.m. Carrollton Town Meeting
Carroll County Courthouse

4:15 p.m. Newnan Plant Tour
Southern Mills Cabletex Division
Contact: John Gray at 404/253-8844

5:30 p.m. Beer with Hal Gulliver, Bill Shipp, George Barry,
Maria _____ (Business Columnist-Atlanta Constitution)

8:30 p.m. Dinner with Deborah Douglas and WF

Friday, January 10, 1992

7:00 a.m. Depart Atlanta for LaGrange

8:00-9:00 a.m. Breakfast with LaGrange Black Leaders
LaGrange Service Center

9:15 a.m. Meeting with local Democrats
Cake Box Store

10:00 a.m. WGEN-TV 33 LaGrange
Taping of local talk show, "Now You're Talking" with
host Sarah Beth Mallory

10:45 a.m. LaGrange High School Visit
AAAA State Football Champions

12:00 Noon LaGrange Lunch at LaGrange College

1:45 p.m. Kendrick High School Visit
Coach Busby & Principal
AAA State Football Co-Champions

3:00-4:00 p.m. Columbus Education Speech (Columbus TV)
Davidson Student Center Auditorium

Wyche Fowler - January 9-10, 1992

- "I've done 25 town meetings in 16 days and not one person has asked me about my vote on the war or about my vote on Clarence Thomas---not one." He said this in the car the first morning. And at the end of the first day, he said it again. "Would you believe it, not one person asked me about the war or Clarence Thomas. Thomas' name did come up once very indirectly. And that was a first in 16 days." (see notes pp. 13-14)
- "The only votes that have come up are my votes on the National Endowment for the Arts and the pay raise. The right wingers are attacking me for supporting pornography. These people come and sit in the front row with their tape recorders waiting for me to say something they can use. I'm sure my opponent will have one television ad calling me a 'supporter of pornography.' So I have to keep repeating that I am not in favor of pornography. That the NEA supports programs in all our schools. On the pay raise, I tell people that I voted against it. Then they ask me if I'm going to take it. Then, when I tell them 'my ~~momma~~ didn't raise ~~me~~ fool,' they ask me if I will pledge to vote to reverse it."
- "My opponents are not campaigning against me. Although I hear Coverdell has raised \$300,000. People are not mad at me. My biggest opponent is the public attitude that 'all you guys are to blame for the mess we're in.' And they get a lot of that from these radio talk shows. If I were campaigning against me, I would say Wyche Fowler is a good guy, but he's a career politician and we need a change." It's the anti-incumbent mood that worries them.
- A new opponent has, however, entered the race--Tanksley??
- "I met Coverdell for the first time the other day. I asked him, 'what is it about you, Paul, that encourages more Republicans to get into the race?' He made some whiny reply. I don't know what he is up to. I'm sure he does not have anyone following me looking for material to use against me. I can spot those people. I can't believe that anyone as methodical and well prepared as Coverdell is would not be trailing me--if he were seriously running. I still would not be surprised if he got out of the race."
- "I was down in Macan when I heard about the President's illness. I said I was pleased his health was fine and that I hoped that now he would tend to the health of the economy. I also said that the first time I ate raw fish, I fainted, too!" (He told the last joke nearly everywhere we went in the two days.)
- When he said that he, in effect, had not had to do much explaining of his votes, I asked him what that fact did to political scientists who thought campaigns were a time to explain what they had done in Washington. "I try to tip it a little differently by emphasizing what is coming up in Washington and asking them what they think we ought to do. Explanation comes when your opponent attacks you for something you did or did not do. What is most important, to me, is education. I think a public official is someone who knows the facts and has the

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information; and it's his obligation to educate the public which does not have the facts."

- At the Carroll County newspaper, The Times-Georgian (which Deborah said they did not get in his office and which she and Wyche agreed they should get) WF sat with four people from the paper. He gave his economy and health issues introduction. Editor said, 'no one in Carroll County is going to tell you the recession is over.' And they mentioned a plant that, without notice, laid off 250 people on Christmas Eve.
- Re social security tax cut, the publisher said, "we'll support the hell out of that."
- After a session that focussed mostly on health care (WF called the two women reactionary, conservative), the following took place:

WF: "Let me push one parochial matter. I wish you'd look at something and write an editorial about it. When I came into office, I told my staff that I wanted to do my part to save money, that I wanted to cut 15% from my official allowances for staff for my offices, for travel expenses back and forth to Georgia. I have done better than that. I have saved 18-1/2%, and I have returned \$1 million dollars to the taxpayers."

Publisher: "We wrote a story on it."

WF: "I know, but I want some editorial help. I cut 18-1/2% and I've given back a million dollars. I know you are a responsible paper. If you knew I hadn't reimbursed the government for \$600 for a trip to Georgia, the Atlanta paper would have that on the front page. A million! That's a lot of money! So I'd appreciate it if, on a slow day, you'd give me a little editorial help. I'll send this packet to you."

Publisher (after long pause): "It is a lot of money."

In car, he tells Deborah to be sure to send them the package of materials detailing the \$1 million. (Later in the trip, somewhere, I notice he says "more than a million." And I think to myself that he'd better be very accurate when he talks about things like that. It's bait for opposition eg Mark Andrews.

- In this meeting with the newspaper, he was able to take credit for helping Carroll County get money for a reservoir and for some kind of sewage treatment spray.
- Commenting on the first meeting with the blacks in South Fulton, "I can't get over how many people were there this morning, and in the middle of the day. There was the usual 30%-40% elderly, but all those businessmen and all those women who were heads of organizations. There must have been 200 people there." Mike said, "at least 150."
- I remarked that no one had asked him about his campaign. "I'm glad they

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didn't. It means they don't think I'm campaigning. I don't either."

- On way into parking lot by the Carroll County Courthouse for our town meeting, he said, "when you have a good, aggressive Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, it makes all the difference in the world to a town. In Dublin and in _____ they have people who know what they are doing. A lot of these directors spend all their time on the golf course or drinking coffee. The job is like our job--self-starting."
- Blacks, in town meeting and at next day's breakfast--before they ask a question say, "Good morning, Senator." WF compared their courtesy with whites, "who can't wait to get at you with their questions."
- Current figure--as compared with my August trip--is 120,000 Georgians who have exhausted unemployment benefits. And they got an extra seven weeks from the autumn legislation.
- He talks about his health hearings with Mitchell and Rockefeller in Atlanta that were on C SPAN.
- At Carrollton town meeting, as he was describing the income group whose income rose 136% in 15 years, he quipped, "I see some of you out there" (as he had in the morning) and he got the usual laughs. But one guy yelled out, "Where are you on that chart, Senator?" WF pointed to the low end and said, "I'm down here with the 1%." And he shifted the subject. He never mentioned it during the trip and the guy never brought it up in the question period. I thought it might heat things up. It didn't.
- During the day, we learned that Rep. Lindsay Thomas had announced he would resign at end of term to go to work for the 1996 Olympics. Lots of speculation. "It is not a loss to the body politic. He was not one of my favorite House members--too full of himself."
- Re tax changes, he tells people he thinks there will be a consensus on a middle income tax cut, investment tax credit and IRA withdrawals for certain purposes.
- An NBC crew followed us all day Thursday. They are filming a pre-state of the union bit for the Today Show the week of the 21st in several states. When WF talked to them outside the Southern Hills plant, he came back and said, "We're OK with NBC. They aren't going to say that WF is in trouble over his war vote." They agreed with him that economy and health are big issues everywhere.
- I asked how his fund-raising was going. "We've spent more than I thought we would have by this time. We've done a lot of direct mail--for the first time ever--and it has turned out to be expensive. I think we have about \$1.2 million left and we've collected about \$2.4 million. All I want to do is to stay even with Coverdell; and we won't know how much he has collected until next month. For all intents and purposes, I'm through. I may make another trip to New York or Chicago, or maybe the West Coast, but I have none planned. I'll continue to raise money

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in Georgia. When we go into an area, we will have luncheons or dinners at \$50 or \$100. But otherwise, it will just come in. This is the first time I've ever done so much fund-raising. In 1986, no one would give us any money. We had no polls to lead with, no polls that showed us winning or even having a chance of winning. I've done nothing for the last year-and-a-half, but raise money. I've spent 25 weekends--Friday, Saturday, Sunday--raising money. I don't think I've ever gone a month before this without reading at least two books and usually four. I've told my staff that I will not, under any circumstances, do this again."

- "I think there are going to be some real surprises this year. Some people are going to get beat. I hope it isn't me."
- Are you still targeted? "Yes, I'm always listed among the top five most vulnerable Democrats--Terry Sanford, Tim Wirth--and (he couldn't think of the fifth). That's why I think the Republicans are still looking for someone else to run against me--some attractive 45 y/o with his own money. I think they think Coverdell can't beat me."
- "I still can't get any good media. There are four or five political columnists in the state and they take turns sniping at me. One of them is now attacking my wife. I console myself by saying that no one pays any attention to the print media. It's all television. Television just washes over the newspapers. But there are no experienced political reporters on TV in Atlanta or elsewhere. They keep changing--from one pretty face to an even prettier face; and it's just smiles and happy talk. So the campaign is all going to have to be done with paid media."
- In some ways the most interesting time was the Thursday evening drinks at WF's favorite watering hole with his old friends Hal Gulliver and Bill Shipp, plus two others, George Barry and Maria Saporta, the business columnist for the Atlanta Constitution and Journal. Wyche kept saying all afternoon how he was looking forward to "drinking a little whiskey" with old friends, to "catch up on all the gossip," with people whom he hadn't met" in a couple of months. I think this couple of hours with old friends is a time for him to relax and talk politics. Gulliver (fired from the Constitution for drinking) and Bill Shipp (also left the Constitution and now writes a political column--widely read--for the Gwinnett paper) are very old friends. Gulliver and Shipp lost sons in accidents within one week of each other at some time in the past, and Wyche spent "lots of time" with them helping them through their hard times of grief. The four of them gossiped a lot about Lindsay Thomas' retirement, the Olympic payroll, which they think is scandalous and nepotistic and one with which Barry has some oversight relationship, the Democratic presidential candidates, Bush's health, Dan Quayle (I was put on the griddle here for about 10 minutes), WF's various possible opponents, the marital status of people I didn't know, etc. It was a gabfest over drinks among something of a personal constituency. I say "something" advisedly, because THE most interesting feature of the evening was the contretemps between WF and Shipp.
- For some fairly long time--and I don't have the timetable in mind--Shipp has been writing critical columns about WF--so critical and so regularly

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that WF is annoyed to say the least, and angry to say the most. "At one time we didn't speak to each other for six months. I finally asked him to come to my office and talk about it. I told him I thought he had been hitting me pretty hard, but that I didn't want to jeopardize our friendship if it could be avoided. He agreed that he had been too tough. But six weeks later he went right back writing the same negative stuff." WF told me this on the way home after the confrontation at the lounge.

Clearly, one of the purposes WF had in mind when he went was to "catch up on the gossip about my race. Bill Shipp is an incredibly well informed reporter, a real news hound, and he is very widely read throughout Georgia." And, WF asked Shipp about the Republicans. Shipp told him that a new Republican--Tanksley, had announced and that he, Shipp, thought he had a good chance to capture the nomination. It seems as though he has an important sponsor, _____ Barnes, who ran in the primary for governor in 1988 and got 15-20% of the vote. Then Shipp told WF that he had interviewed Coverdell that very day and was going to write a series of three articles about Coverdell.

It was heated and it went from smiles to seriousness. Afterwards, WF said, "all he wants is to have a contest. He's going to write whatever it takes to have a contest. What bothers me is that he is such an influential columnist throughout the state." He seemed resigned to it as part of his fate with the free media.

On the ride back from Columbus, he said, "I don't think of this as campaigning. I'm doing what I always do when I'm home. I've always filled up my schedule. Even if I were ten points behind with ten days to go, I couldn't do much more than I'm doing now, circling through the five media markets--at least once a day, one after the other. I might fill in spots with one more stop each day and make a few more phone calls. But the main difference would be that I'd have to keep myself available to strike back quickly when my opponent said something that needed a quick reply."

I asked him how he got to be Assistant Leader. "It was very simple.

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When George Mitchell came to me to ask me for my support, I told him that I was going to support him, that I would do so publicly from that moment on, and that I would do whatever I could to help him get elected. I told him that when he got things organized, I would like to help him on the policy side of things, that I would like to be included in the internal work of the party, that I thought I could help on the inside. I think I was his first southern connection. I had already decided to support Mitchell--on the basis of some internal reforms I wanted to see made and some other things."

"I didn't know any one of the candidates--Mitchell, Johnston or Inouye. Bennett Johnston was my chairman on the Energy Committee and a southerner. He was very upset--and absolutely shocked--when he came to ask for my support and I told him I was committed to Mitchell. After that meeting, I went right to Inouye and told him that I was committed. I found out during that time that most senators do not want to commit themselves. They do not like to choose. They don't want to vote because they don't want to make anyone mad."

"On the night before the vote, Mitchell called me and asked if I would second his nomination. Each candidate can have two people speak for him. He asked John Glenn to speak first and me second. That was only the second conversation I had had with Mitchell. After he won, he called me and said he was going to create a new position, Assistant Floor Leader, and he was appointing me to the position. It meant that when there are leadership meetings, I am involved or, if the Democratic leaders go to the White House, I go."

- I guess all that remains for me is to ask why he picked Mitchell and whether he didn't see some better chance of getting involved with Mitchell than with the other two. Also, did he size up what the other 10 newcomer Democrats were likely to do?
- With this as background, it is especially interesting that he chose Mitchell and Mitchell chose him though they did not know each other. It is more interesting because Mitchell had been chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and should have known the freshman from Georgia very well. He didn't because the DSCC did not think WF had a chance in the election and wrote him off!
- "As you know, I was one of eleven new Democrats elected in 1986; and it was the eleven of us that won control of the Senate back to the Democrats. George Mitchell was chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. He distributed a lot of money to the Democratic candidates and he was given a lot of credit for those victories. My campaign was entitled to \$300,000; but he gave us almost nothing. I think \$10,000 or so dribbled in at the beginning. I was 35 points behind for most of the race and they were putting their money where they thought it would do the most good. Bill and I gave up completely on the DSCC three weeks out from the election. They paid no attention to us and we paid no attention to them. Finally, the last week, during our late surge, the committee did give us \$100,000. So we got \$110,000, one-third of what we could have gotten."

"George Mitchell had gone all over the country making speeches for other Democratic candidates. He made two or three speeches for Tom Daschle, Tim Wirth and John Shelby. But he never came to Georgia. Like everybody else in the country and in Georgia, he thought we didn't have a chance. People joked that of all the other new members he had helped and who owed him so much, that the one he didn't help be the one that became a part of the leadership. You heard what he said about me at my fund-raiser, didn't you. That was the layingⁿ of hands. It was his acknowledgement of our relationship. I think he trusts my judgment and my instincts."

"As you know, our strategy was to husband our resources till the end. We had a debate twelve days out. I don't think I could have won without it. We made tapes of the debate and played it on television in Columbus, Macon and the other media markets outside of Atlanta."

- Re his position as Ass't Floor Leader. "I can help a little. I could do more and I'd like to do more. But George Mitchell doesn't delegate well. The first years, he wanted to do it all himself so that he could learn the rules. But even now, he doesn't like to delegate. He's very cautious in everything he does. Sometimes, I can help negotiate something of a policy nature. After a caucus meeting, a few of us will get together with Mitchell--maybe four, not many--Sasser, Sarbanes--and we will divide up policy matters to watch over. If it's anything major, senators want to deal with Mitchell directly."

"Also, when there's a traffic jam on the floor, I can help straighten things out, not because I bring substantive changes, but because I can bring a different attitude and approach to a deadlock. "Why don't you take this and you take this," or "why don't you go first and you go next."
"Do you want to get home tonight?" Sometimes people will listen and I can get traffic moving, without Mitchell getting involved. But when he comes to the floor, he's the boss."

"The egos in the Senate are huge; that's especially true of the committee chairmen. They are little czars. They will hold up the whole Senate on a personal whim. Many of their fights are jurisdictional matters. They aren't going to deal with anyone except Mitchell. Wendell Ford is good at the internal stuff, better than I am. He's the Whip, and has been there a long time. He loves the backroom stuff; he stays on the floor all the time; and he does favors for other senators, Bob Byrd style. As Chairman of the Rules and Administration Committee, he has many favors to give people."

"I'd like to do more on the policy side; but Mitchell is a consensus person. He wants to get everyone on board before he moves on anything. He's cautious like Tom Foley in that respect. He feels uncomfortable if he's out front. I'd like a little more out-front-leadership in my executive. Some of the chairmen are almost Republicans and when you bring them along, you have a policy that is almost Republican. A Lloyd Bentsen tax policy is a Republican policy. And Sam Nunn--he runs his committee by getting all the Republicans to support him plus eleven

Democrats. George Mitchell is very popular. We all like him and respect him. He does a very good job. But I wish he were a little less of a consensus person and a little more of a leader."

- WF is a strong partisan at heart. But he has to curb it at home. I only see him let it out with black audiences, where he can be pretty sure he's among hard core Democrats. But not elsewhere. I think of the mayor of LaGrange who said, "I'm a conservative Democrat. When I started in politics, there was no Republican party in this country. I'm not a person to flip flop, so I stayed a Democrat." Otherwise, by policy, he'd be a Republican. So Wyche has to be careful and restrain himself all the time. In the Senate, behind closed doors, however, he can give his strong, combative partisan instincts free rein. I'll have to ask him about this theory.
- "The only way for me to be of help to Mitchell during the next session is to be on the floor all the time. And I won't be able to do that this year. If people on the floor have to call over to my office all the time to see where I am, I'm no help. I'm afraid I'm not going to be much help to him till my campaign is over."
- Somewhere in the discussion of his Ass't Floor leadership duties, he said, "I have something of a relationship with Bob Dole. We both eat early--around 11:00. He likes to be alone; but we've had some pleasant conversations over lunch. He will listen to me; and sometimes we can actually work out an arrangement that is helpful to both sides. He accepts me--not as Mitchell's spokesman--but as someone Mitchell trusts and who would check with Mitchell."
- At lunch at Columbus College and elsewhere, he talked about his Georgia roots. "I'm a seventh generation Georgian. My family came from Warrentown in Warren County. I wasn't lucky enough to be born in Warrentown; I was born in Atlanta. But I have kin in Warren County and in all the neighboring counties--McDuffie." (and others)
- In Carrollton and elsewhere, he spoke of how his father taught school in Carrollton and revived the football team as its' coach. His father came to the Carrollton town meeting. We talked about it that evening when I sat with his father and mother while they ate dinner and WF changed his clothes. His father especially thought he handled the pornography question well; and it turned out that it was the friend who took Mr. Fowler to the meeting who started the applause!
- When he first greets individuals at any meeting, he says, "It's great to be home," or "I'm glad to be home." When he leaves, he nearly always says to individuals, "Thank you for your public service."
- As usual, he had a set of funny stories which he told, with varying degrees of animation:
 1. The Vidalia Onion festival, where they moved the meeting to an outdoor tobacco shed, everyone got cold, he spoke last and spoke for 45 seconds--"I love Vidalia onions; I eat nothing but Vidalia

onions; I will support Vidalia onions in every way I can. In Washington, I will carry the message of these succulent sweet onions throughout the world if I can. I know you're all cold. So am I. Thank you and good night."

2. The rattlesnake roundup at Claxton, where they pick Miss Rattlesnake. The snakes are all out on the gym floor surrounded with chicken wire. The contestants--Miss Granite Pit, Miss Blessing of the Fleet, Miss Textile Mills, etc.--parade around as the rattlers peck and jump at the wire. Then the winner has to milk the rattler and hold it. He was a judge. "Senator, Schmenator, that's one job no politician should ever take. You make one family temporarily happy and nine other families mad at you for life." When its over, they gas all the snakes, send the venom to the hospitals, use the skins for wallets and sell the meat at \$200-\$300 to those fancy stores in New York as a delicacy--just to get back at the Yankees." "After the next election, I'm going to bring Ted Kennedy and Daniel Patrick Moynihan down to be judges at the Rattlesnake Roundup." High hilarity at this prospect!

3. The black preacher who said he'd like to be President so he could have the secret service around him. "I'd look to the left--secret service. I'd look to the right--secret service. I'd look to the front--secret service. Can I have an appointment, Mr. President?--See the secret service. Can I have your autograph?--Secret service. But I am safer than any President with the secret service. I don't need no secret service, because I have Angels watching over me!"

4. The black preacher who made him an honorary member of his church with great ceremony and great praise and who, when WF started to respond--leaned over and said, "that was just political stuff!"

5. The black preacher who called WF up to pray on his knees with some of the parishners and to say a prayer in keeping with tradition. The preacher had a microphone with a long cord on it and each person would pray into the microphone and pass the mike to the next person. When it came to Wyche, he started to pray and when he got to his second sentence--just getting warmed up--he felt a tug on the microphone and the preacher pulled it away from him. "He didn't want anyone else to steal his thunder. Black preachers want to be in total control in their churches." With this one, WF is down on his knees with all the motions; more hilarity!

- Re Bush, he and George Mitchell are riding back from the White House and WF asks Mitchell "what books do you think the President reads? Mitchell looked at me in some astonishment and said, 'he never reads. He never stops long enough to read. He insists on being completely scheduled. He insists on being in constant motion.'" WF says, "I worry about people who never take time out to read--whether it be fiction or non-fiction--and, just let it wash over you and wash away all the political stuff."

- (M)
- At end Friday, "Bill just keeps me hitting the five media markets. Today we got more media than most. All three Columbus TV stations covered my education speech."
 - As we got in the car after that speech, he said, "There's a campaign story. I just gave a speech about a subject I knew nothing about. I don't believe we can get all the money we need by taking it from the current loan program. I sure was happy when that financial aid officer from the local technical institute jumped up and said what a great idea it was. I'm glad there weren't any real experts in the crowd." There were 200 people there--a big, unexpected crowd.
 - There are 160,000 textile workers in Georgia.
 - "I think Mitchell may be looking for a way out. He may want to get things together to run for President in 1996. If Bush wins this time, there will be Democrats running in four years. His friends think he made a mistake by not running this year. But that's part of his caution."
 - After the group at the Cake Box had featured several elderly people making their pitch--a single woman, a veteran etc, we talked about them. "I don't know which I'd rather have relief from--the notch babies or the veterans. The elderly are doing just fine. They are the only group in society that has never lost anything in recent years." He thinks the cap will be taken off social security.
 - "When I think of the social policies we have put in place in the last 20 years, it makes you wonder if they did any good. Social deterioration has gotten worse."
 - At the TV station, the host of the show keeps asking him if this or that question will be ok. He sifts through them and, thereby, sets the agenda. She asks about the trade assistance act as it affects textile workers. "That's pretty narrow." Then, about his campaign fund-raising. "Oh, I'd like to talk about that. I met my target." She didn't ask either, however. But these guys do have agenda-setting power in these cases.
 - His steady posture throughout the trip--and the tapes will show this--is "when we go back to Washington, we will face these problems. What should we do about them. You tell me and you think about these upcoming problems. It is not a lot of 'what I did for you.' Not retrospective or self-centered to the degree that a lot of presentations are. Gives it a strong policy emphasis."
 - After the talk in the gym and the library at LaGrange High School--to celebrate their AAAA national championship football team, "It's a sad commentary, but for many of these football players, this is the highlight of their lives. From here on it will be all down hill." The principal told me that their quarterback, the best in the state, won't get 700 on SAT to get into college.

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- At Kendrick High School in Columbus, the coach talked to us about athletics and drugs and achievement and gangs and education. "Coach Busby." I thought he was the most impressive person (other than WF) I've met in the state of Georgia so far. Success and failure 20 times a day--self esteem and success. Athletics as extension of education and vice versa, keep people occupied and out of gangs--not one athlete lost to drugs in 14 years--out of gangs--out of drugs, etc.
- He tells story at LaGrange how he pasted "TB" in tin foil onto his chest so that when the X-ray came out, there was a big TB across the front and how father was angry at him for that stunt.
- Then, coming out of Kendrick High School, he told Benny and me that he had once been caught bouncing a basketball when he was head of the school safety patrol, how they barred him from going to Washington with the school trip because of it and how another guy stole his girlfriend on the Washington trip. You get the picture of a cut-up in school. And there's a lot of kid in him when he gets going with his stories--about the magicians as we got back to the _____--Copperfield and elephant; Pen and Teller "with water submersion and rose on the screen."
- TV reporter at Columbus: "How is your campaign going?"
WF: I'm not campaigning. Other people may be out campaigning for themselves. But I'm campaigning for education, better health care and jobs."
- "The Columbus and the Macon papers are both Knight Ridder papers. They are the two best papers in the state. They both endorsed me; and they will again. The Constitution and the Journal will split--one will endorse me, the other won't."
- "I don't go to Rotary Clubs and Kiwanis anymore. I spend most of my time at home in schools urging students to stay in school, stay off drugs, get an education." He likes the DARE program at elementary level--done with police department cooperation.
- The term for community leaders as we ride around--"very involved and well respected." As in: "Gloria Harper will be at this next meeting. She's very involved in the community and well respected."
- Re opponents, "They'll all come after me as "too liberal,"too soft on crime, in favor of pornography." If Supreme Court reverses Roe v. Wade, "abortion will be the only issue, and I'll be attacked as pro-choice."
- WF often refers to his speaking as "preaching."
- He saw a lot of black people on this trip, as opposed to what we saw in August. The breakfast Thursday was all black; the head start group at the same school was mostly black, the LaGrange High School has more blacks than whites; football team 90% black; cheerleading squad all white. Kendrick High School was "predominantly black" (almost entirely); Columbus College was "predominately black." Benny Parker

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unburdened himself for a good hour in the car going back to Atlanta (he lives in Columbus) on the plight of blacks. It was a classic example of me waiting to ask WF some questions on the long ride back and being preempted by a staffer for whom the ride is also a golden opportunity. WF very much at ease with blacks.

- "I have always debated my opponent three or four times. But if my opponent got real nasty, I might have to cut that back drastically. Why should I give my opponent a chance to put that stuff on the air? I've never had a real nasty campaign--I've been called 'the most liberal member of the Congress' which was untrue, but not really personal. I'll give any opponent one debate, but more than that? I'll wait and see."
- Southwest Atlanta - Pride Business Organization - Cascade area meeting: guy called him "congressman" when we met him--WF used to be their congressman in this part of Fulton County.
- He works with charts
- Charts he uses:
 1. "% Changes in Average Family Income After Taxes from 1977-1992 (in constant dollars)
 2. Tax Changes Since 1977 in Billions of Dollars (didn't use this one).
 3. Real GNP (one he talked about in car).
 4. Real Disposable Income. Bush=-.06 (only one in the hole.)
 5. "Personal Savings Rate 4.5% - Bush=lowest.
 - 6.& 7. "Rising Cost of Health Care for Average American"

'60	'70	'80	'90
\$175	\$400	\$1,000	\$2,700
- Questions from group: (1) Loans for education; (2) a group from Atlanta Md - gives long speech - some self-help group been shut down by SEC; (3) minority business loans - new rules and regulations for new business; (4) social security - remove cap on earnings and tax em. "We don't need another perimeter around Atlanta. We don't need another perimeter" (applause for first time.); (5) a Reverend Berry - explaining about post office (his theme that people laugh with when he gets up and WF kids him). He's upset that people aren't getting their social security checks now, with post office in private hands; (6) why not send people money with designation as to what it should be paid for - "let's get away from deferrals and credits and give people real money, now, checks."; (7) flow of Am jobs out of country to other countries - Am corporations evading responsibility - GATT; (8) life insurance companies have surplus of \$840 billion - that won't go to policy holder, will go to insurance comp. He says, "I know where the money is."; (9) economic development and Atlanta - Greenbrier Pkwy area - wants GSA money; (10) DISC - tax benefits to exporters - revive it for small businesses; (11)

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problem of repayment of student loans; (12) protection of pension funds in retirement; (13) new world order? and relation to recession - "We want to know the truth. Can you tell us?"; (14) worker in Atlanta penitentiary - not getting pay raise they were promised. Why? Why can't we look at JFK records. "Will you support legislation to require this? "Yes!" (applause) Next guy (with tapes stopped) "Brother Bo, you look better than I do."; (15) Mortgage companies taking away homes; (16) presidential vetoes are supported by Democrats! "I'm a fighter. But I support the president when I think he's right." "You supported Thomas. And I didn't like that. Anything that Bush does ain't right!" (Biggest reaction of all - loud applause (the only mention of Thomas in 25 meetings!) (17) students finish schools that promise jobs (technical jobs) and can't get jobs and pay back loans; (18) VA hospital; (19) denial of disability claim problem; (20) abandoned child - city hall people make too much money.

- Carrollton Town Meeting, Carroll County Courthouse. I did not tape his opening remarks; but I started when questions started. (1) Why have health care costs gone up? ("Crooked directors" is this guys answer plus people going to doctor when they don't have to. Free Medicare will bankrupt the government.) (2) Reporter C-SPAN: "it disgusts me to see grown men with law degrees sitting up there and quarrelling. Quit yappin at one another and do something for the country." (3) Retired military man thinks everyone should be entitled to free medical care- everyone else has it. (4) NEA (5) Social security system (6) Canadian health system (7) Mayor of Carrollton federal mandate hurts locality.
- Thursday A.M. breakfast - people from LaGrange, West Point and Hogansville. Community "cross section = Girls Club, President, Board of Education, Nurse; Health Department lawyer; Civic League, Mediation Center, Bank, Preacher, Dentist's Ass't, Personnel Director of Troup County, West Georgia Technical Institute, Educator, Red Cross, Sorority Pres, Court Service worker, LaGrange housing authority, contractor, Board tax assessor, school principal, Alderman, City Council, Advisor, LaGrange College, Family Services, Board of Education, Juvenile Court, Dem Exec. Committee, West Georgia Ministerial Alliance. (fair number of retired people here) CEO So. Cooperatives.
- pictures of Lincoln and Washington in the cafeteria wall behind the doors.
- Question (1) legislation for elderly; (2) crime; (3) preservation of historic black colleges; (4) jobs going to Mexico and Formosa (some Amens here when he said "Buy American"); (5) health - people can't afford it (much more partisan talk here!); (6) how stimulate economy? (7) CETA - for "young black males" help city kids, reestablish a program like CETA. 55% unemployment; (8) Dem party problems - Republicans "riding high" - when are you going to offer yourself as candidate for President?; (9) younger generation need to be told that Dem are the best.