

CARL FORD

September 29, 1981

I finally got in touch with Carl Ford, who had been tied up with AWACS.

He seems amenable to my project and will talk with JG. Said AWACS was highly unusual in that Congress usually reacts and oversees in foreign policy, and here they were actually negotiating with Allen and Prince Bandur.

He said he came to believe that administration was setting Glenn up. They were using Glenn to give the signers of the resolution a reason to change their position. The administration wanted votes and a victory and they saw Glenn's plan as the way to do it. But they didn't care what happened to Glenn. So, once the Glenn plan was accepted, the signers would have their rationale for changing, Reagan would have his win and the Jewish lobby would blame Glenn! Now the only way to keep this from happening was if the Administration gave Glenn their "strongest arguments" in the hopes of leaving him out on a limb. He said he felt this "scenario was being orchestrated by certain people in the White House who shall be nameless, but whose initials are GB." (George Bush). So they backed out of the "negotiations." And Allen, for his part, was reprimanded and withdrawn from the negotiations.

He told a story about John's relations with Jewish community. Quite by chance, in 1978, the vote over the sending of F15s to Saudi Arabia came up one month before John was to hold the first, and biggest, fund raiser for his 1980 campaign. The Jewish leaders in Cleveland had pledged 200,000 from a fund raiser to be held in Shaker Heights. The money was to be used as "seed money for the 1980 campaign, to get the campaign started and to launch the various activities" and hence was particularly important. When it seemed as though JG was going to support the sale of the F-15s, bitterly opposed by Israel, the sponsors of the fund raiser came to John and said "No F-15s or no money." And he said "Then it

will have to be no money". And he voted for the F-15s. Carl said "It is easy to see how, at the time, the Glenn people might have felt, 'There goes the election.' But, of course, it wasn't serious as it turned out."

Said he went to the next fund raiser in Shaker Heights where each Jewish leader got up and criticized Glenn and then pledged a certain amount of money to his campaign. "They had decided to buy the whole record. They were saying, we don't always agree with us, but you listen." (I think they were probably saying "What alternative have we got?")

He went to dedication of John Glenn High School in New Concord. Said that JGs seventh grade teacher reminded John that when he was 13 years old he had written a paper on "What I want to be and that he had written that he wanted to grow up and be a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee!"

With respect to constituency activity he said that in foreign policy there's little if any constituency input, but that explanation to the constituency would bring in that angle.