

GENE EIDENBERG

June 31, 1982

I talk to Gene after the AEI seminar. "It's a three candidate race. It's not a two candidate race. I'm not sure yet who the third candidate is. But I think it is John Glenn. I don't think Hart can get it all together. He may have a future in another election, but not this one. But John Glenn is already there. He is the kind of person people want for president--mature, serious, experienced, solid. You want to know what I really think? I think if you took six of the best professional party operatives in this country--took them off the Kennedy and the Mondale campaigns--they could make John Glenn the next president of the United States. I think John Glenn is the third force in the party. But he is so badly staffed it is astonishing. Let me give you an example. I was at a breakfast with the labor states in Philadelphia and I was sitting with Bill Holeter of the Machinists' Union. I told him what I thought of Glenn. He reached in his pocket, pulled out a piece of paper and threw it on his plate. 'Here's why John Glenn will not be President'. It was an announcement of John Heinz appreciation day, a kind of seminar with lots of Republicans there to honor John Heinz. And there in the middle was John Glenn, talking on "the view from the Senate." Now, everything I know about politics tells me that's not the way to win the Democratic nomination. Glenn may be one of those phenomena that comes along every now and then in American politics where one person just grows throughout the primaries and is a kind of force. But I don't see it. In the recent Gallup poll that people are citing, in which Mondale is at 12%, Glenn has actually dropped. Bill Holeter is passing that piece of paper around to every international union in the AFL-CIO. The Ohio AFL-CIO will be with him no matter what. But he can't throw away the Steel Workers, the UAW, and other unions. He has to be more partisan..."

We were interrupted at this point.