

JOHN GLENN

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He thanked me again for what I did at Philadelphia; said we had agreed to visit every now and then and was glad to see me. I said I just wanted to chin a little about his reaction to Philadelphia.

"Philadelphia was a watershed for me. Maybe that's too extreme. I know that when you come back from these things you are supposed to say 'I'm very encouraged' and so forth--but I really am. I've been in 28 states, but here was a meeting of people who had come from every state to a meeting that is ^{preliminary} ~~pick-on~~ to 1984, and they were all very encouraging. I thought so at least. The meetings I had with state chairmen--35 of them I think--and with the labor leaders were all extremely favorable. (Story re press session - children and then hard hats. Everyone was happy and having a good time, and that got on evening news.) I don't know that I was moved any. But my confidence level, that the thing is possible, went up. "What did you think? (in ~~the~~ third place I said) "We've been reading the polls. We've come up a little. But it's one thing to read the polls. ~~It's~~ another ^{to} ~~press session~~ ^{the flesh} the way we did in Philly. A lot of those same people will be at the ^{convention in '84}."

Were you surprised by what the staff did. "On an individual basis, I was not surprised by what they did. We have some very bright people back here. Bill White had put them through more of a drill than I had realized. I wasn't aware of what he was doing. I suppose I should have been, but I was busy with other things. I had an inkling a day or two before. But I did not know how well organized he was. So as far as the ability of each individual, that was not a surprise to me. But as for them pitching in and being organized, I was surprised. I got more comments from our people that my staff was the best

organized, the nicest and the most helpful of any group there. I was not only surprised by that, I was delighted."

Running from Senate "I always thought that came out just about a wash. If you are in the Senate you can vote on things, you can propose things, you are in a position of authority. If you resigned from office so you could have more time to campaign, then you can't speak with the authority of a U.S. Senator. I think they pretty well cancel out."

There was no hint of a style problem here. He obviously hasn't thought about it much. So I asked him if he'd thought about meshing his Senate staff and his campaign staff. "I think the biggest mistake Ted Kennedy made was to try and run his campaign with his Senate staff. It can't be done. You would use your Senate staff to do research on the issues. They would be very involved in that part of it. There is a lot of talent in this office. You might want to take some of them off and put them on the campaign staff. Most of them, though, you would use for background work. The job of running the campaign, however, can't be done by your staff. You need people who read the polls and do the scheduling. You couldn't schedule in the campaign like you schedule as a Senator. You couldn't do that. A Senate staff, an administrative assistant can't run a campaign. It's too big." He asked me what I thought and I said it was "different" as well as "bigger."

"The thing we need now if we are going to continue to investigate this thing, is money. Our money from the Ohio campaign is almost gone. We are down to the short runs there. So we are going to form a PAC, I'm afraid." (Afraid?) "Yes, nobody likes to form a PAC." (It will be a signal to people who are waiting for one.) "Oh it will be received enthusiastically in some quarters, I'm sure." A curious reluctance, still, to plunge in.

Did you feel at Philly that people were pushing you? "Yes, but I've had that for a long time." (he smiled)

At the beginning, in his summary of Philly, he talked about the speech "As far as the speech was concerned, which is 90% of what the press focused on, we didn't do very well. I thought the speech was well received by the people who were there, but we made one mistake. We didn't pack the hall the way Kennedy and Mondale did. I know what they did and I predicted it. You could look out from the podium and see the Mondale people there with their signs and their buttons. I said to someone who was standing beside me backstage, you wait and see what happens when he has finished speaking--they will all leave. Sure enough, they all got up and left. Hollings and the others of us had to talk to the ones that were left. I suppose it was smart politically. I suppose if you want to impress the media you have to create a big hoop la with signs and confetti. But the idea is abhorrent to me. (at that point he squeezed his eyes shut as if to say 'ouch') I suppose that is what we should have done--packed the hall and treated it like show biz." (But you couldn't have done it differently if you had it to do over, would you?) "I don't know."

"When Mary Jane came back and said we were going to hold a reception in a museum, I thought she was out of her mind. But the reception was the coup of the convention.

He then went on to talk about getting home at 3AM from the reception and going on Meet the Press the next day.

"I thought Meet the Press went well. But for me it was special. It was my graduation exercise. As I've told you before, when I first ran for the Senate, in 1970, whenever I would speak and then ask for questions, some kid would invariably yell out and ask me how I liked the Tang. They thought of me as an astronaut. It took 4 years of steady campaigning in Ohio to change

that to where it would come up once in a while, but not constantly. My session with Meet the Press was scheduled the day the space shuttle was launched; and I thought surely they would start by asking me what I thought about our space program. When we went on the air, the space shuttle had been launched only 1 1/2 hours before. It was whooshing around in space. But the very first question went to foreign policy, with Marvin Kalb and not once did they ever mention space. Some of the nations most hard bitten reporters and not trying to dodge the space progression. But I have been trying to win my spurs in another line of endeavor. Nothing could have pleased me more."

I said that I thought his grin and comment on the speech was a graduation exercise, too. He smiled. "The next day I was on one of the morning programs, with Chris Wallace. He asked me about my speech. I said "I am a pilot; and as a pilot I can tell you that I want a very different person in the cockpit than I want reading the charts or talking over the intercom--especially if we're heading into rough weather.' I can't tell you how many people have called me or stopped me to congratulate me on that comment."

I mentioned the meeting of the chairmen - he said 'chair persons' and winced a little. I said "I have trouble with that one, too." He said they had been "helpful", that he asked them about their areas and about his candidacy. It was a very perfunctory answer, without any texture whatever. I said I had sat in on meeting of southern chairmen. "Of course, nothing is locked up yet, but I think I would get the strongest--maybe pretty solid--support in the south. They don't like Teddy; and they don't feel too strong about Mondale. The south is a pretty big chunk. Especially if you remember the early primaries as in Iowa, New Hampshire (he ticked them off till he got to Washington). He seemed to have them remembered. I tossed in N.C. as he went along.

As we walked over to the floor, Bill explained a problem that someone interested in foundations, in Ohio, had called about. There are a couple of exemptions in the tax bill for two (Broadmoor and Houston Chronicle) profit making instits. to control a private foundation. The Ohio guy wants to know why those two and not all foundations couldn't be controlled by profitmaking instit. He has a statement in his hand. "Can you say something about it on the floor." "I don't think that would be much appreciated at this stage of the tax bill. "Just put it in as a bullet." "The time to do these things is in committee when the bill is being written when you can get real input and get something accomplished." He puts it in the But he hates "show biz."

Riding over, he said tax legislation was least understood and poorest put together of all legislation. Often done at night, too. He hates night sessions.

While we were talking Kathy Belle came in "I'm sorry to interrupt but this is the third time the President of American Motors has called-- Mr. Tippet(?)." John goes to the phone (he'd been on the couch). "Yes sir, how are you. We think everything is set. It's been cleared on both sides of the aisle, with Senator Dole and Senator Long. They have even checked it out with the Treasury. It hasn't passed yet. I don't think we'll have any trouble; but I always feel better when these things are passed. I was going to call you when we knew it was in the bill...Yes, your people never have been very active and very helpful. And Ed Furtek of our staff whom you met earlier has been working with them on it. He's over on the floor now keeping an eye on things. Everything looks fine... We'll be in touch with you as soon as we are sure everyting is OK...."Goodbye." He put the phone down. "When they draw up safe harbor leasing, they put a time constraint on

companies. But they also asked them to check their subcontractors. For American Motors that means 15,000 contracts. There isn't enough time allowed for them to do that. They have a 35 million dollar float out there now and the banks are backing away from them because they can't complete their work on time. Several banks had agreed to ^{by}bring their bonds and are now refusing to go through with it. I don't want to see any part of the auto industry go pulling up. In this case Ohio would be harder hit than any other state. It's very important to Toledo. There are 1600 jobs at stake in Ohio... We have a provision which doesn't mention American Motors by name, but it's the only company that fits the provision. Ed Furtek has been working on it for the last two days."

On the presidential thing, he still preserves the rhetoric that he is "investigating" it, but he's in it all right. And the "watershed" reception that he got has clearly given him confidence. I think he has made the decision, but that he just won't allow himself to say so because he's not quite ready to face the consequences of that final step. He's between decision and commitment at this point, in my judgment.