

Mary Jane Veno

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MJ and I had a long talk about John. She has lots of stories to tell, but they come tumbling out helter skelter and I tend to forget them. She has the best political eye of anyone in the office; and she doesn't feel appreciated.

She came to work in Washington in June 1975, after 6 months in Ohio. When she got there John had not yet met Paul Tipps, the Ohio State Chairman. She says that he "did nothing politically in Ohio for 4 years"--he was on a mission, to prove that he was not a lightweight.

She says she thinks John looks upon his life in politics as "another hitch in the Marines." and she liked my public service idea--we agreed that it led straight to the idea of a constituency as a whole. MJ's interpretation of why John fell for the constituency of the whole idea was that if it worked, it would have made it very easy for John to win in the sense that "he wouldn't have to play the game. He could continue to be John Glenn, the pure and the heroic. It wouldn't require any compromising or courting of interest groups. It would be the lazy way to do it." She sees JG as lazy.

She thinks John will never be a successful campaigner until he realizes he is not a pilot, that he needs to manage other people. And also until he learns to humor politicians. He does not think politics is an honorable profession.

One of MJ's insights which I thought made sense is that John doesn't appreciate her because her function is political and he dislikes doing what she tells him to do. She is always reminding him to what he hates.

1974 he won because of Metzenbaum and Watergate. He had done some party service between 1970 and 1974 "but a lot less than he thinks he did" helped Gilligan. But she can't think of any politician that <sup>h</sup>as helped much. He

He doesn't like to help others. In 1980 they ran a very mild campaign, not much media.

Another insight I thought useful is her statement that "He could never have been a good president. He is a terrible manager. He cannot manage in a way that people work together for him. We all want to help him, but his non-management leads to incredible conflict. The 1974 campaign was a disaster. People who liked each other didn't speak to each other. The office is the same way much of the time. He delegates--everything. He doesn't delegate, he abdicates.

The Melbourne incident (which she described in another interview) was the prime example everything that was wrong with the Glenn campaign. The decision was made by Glenn and *Schneiders* by themselves with no consultation with the home office. The road show and the headquarters were completely separate." Key comes when Dancy asks what policies had failed and how he had voted on Carter proposals. The staff in Washington started scrambling for evidence and couldn't find any. It is that all the press knew he bombed it.

Nerve gas, Reagonomics "haunted him throughout the campaign." There were lots of discussions about nerve gas--she thinks he could not conceive of a situation where expediency called for a vote vs., say, nerve gas. He would vote for it and then explain why.

Reagonomics - didn't tell anyone about it - staff heard his vote on squack box. Ed wanted him to vote vs. RR. And he walked around D.C. for 4 months thinking about quitting.

The Schneider thing is great pro vote to her, too; but she, like Ken, thinks it's

John's doing military trip now,                    he's really enjoying it"  
"intensely interesting". That gripes MJ who said he complained all last week about a loosely scheduled Ohio trip.

John and Annie as loner and very self sufficient - don't socialize.

Wouldn't let anybody do anything pre his announcement so that he'd be ready when announcement came very

He doesn't like to campaign and that's basic thinks MJ - 1970-1974 - he campaigned "gritting his teeth all the way."

She puzzles over Greg and obviously was in big conflict with him - can't figure out the trust John put in Greg. "Never really had a press secretary" and Greg played with both sides of the street.

The road show was Greg and the Senator. They made policy, made decisions, decided on positions just between themselves without ever informing the Washington office."

"The Florida flap presented all the flaws of the Glenn campaign in one case, laid out for all the world to see."

Bill fighting rear guard actions in Washington vs. Keefe et al. - a lost track of the road show - Bill to Schram re "failed policies". "Did he say that?" and then tried to cover up.

Reaganomics vote "haunted" him, so did nerve gas, so did comments to Jewish groups. If you put it to him that these votes would kill him, he would have said "I don't care, it's right." But what he really felt was that it could not probably make the difference. There was no one to tell him 'yes, it doesn't make a difference and it will cost you the presidency"--no one he would believe. "His decisions are between himself and his conscience. He makes all his own decisions."

"He believed he was going to win."

It was the greatest disappointment of his life. He wanted it more than anything else in the world. If he had had to divorce Annie to get it, he would have done it."

After defeat - "Senator Glenn sat home sucking his thumb for eight weeks."

We talked re Mondale relationship at convention. Why should Mondale pay a lot of attention to John - John didn't send out any warm signals and Mondale was up to his ass in alligators.

A lot of the drift of the talk was that she had always blamed everyone else for John's problems. Now she believes it was John - she sees him as great person, lousy candidate and, therefore, would have been a lousy President.