

TOM BRAZAITIS

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I ran into him after his interview with JG.

"He still thinks he lost because he didn't get his issues across. He talked about his five point program and he complained that he had to buy TV time to present them. He still thinks politics is about issues. Do you think the people who voted for Mondale know his positions on five issues? Of course not. Politics is about something else. People vote for a person. John doesn't see it that way. He still won't say it hurts him to lose. He still doesn't admit that it was his fault. He's the Marine. He stands at attention, sticks his chin out and says I can take it. The idea that it's the issues is an optimistic view. It keeps him from recognizing that it's really his fault. He doesn't show the personal side of himself. I think that's part of his problem--how he perceives himself. I know his family quite well. When he's with his family, you see a side of him that you never see in public--I mentioned the Ohrenstein kids/^{comment}at brunch."

"That's a side of him you never see on TV."

Two vignettes from Iowa. (1) Tom flying co-pilot on each trip to Iowa. April 1983(?) to speak at Jeff and Jack. dinner I think. He's the only reporter on the trip Glenn asks him "Do you think I have to go into Iowa as well as New Hampshire? Even back then he had doubts about whether he should go into Iowa. He always felt New Hampshire was his state."

(2) John is in Washington and on way to N.H. on election there.. It's Annie's birthday and they are having a birthday party in the airport. "Annie says to John "Don't you wish we could just stay here and nto go to Iowa." John says "Don't I wish". And then, he says, off the record. He knew it wouldn't be

good news. Iowa was a very inhospitable place for him."

We went into the organization - which he said was awful. "You can't blame Bill White for it all. Sure, he wasn't up to the job. Can you imagine Bill White running a national campaign? He was over his head and he knew it. That's why he delegated so much to others. But he didn't do well what he had left--like watch the money. Ultimately, the blame has to fall on the candidate. It was a big mistake to choose Bill White. But even after that Glenn couldn't decide what kind of organization he wanted."

There's a view of staff here that is important to Glenn's outlook in general. Why hire White? Thought he could do it. Why? Tom agreed when I suggested Glenn had no idea how hard it would be.

Brian Usher talked of White "He stepped aside. Well, actually he jumped-- just before he was pushed."

Re the organization, he said there were tons of problems - but he didn't get to them. But he did say "For most of the campaign you had John, Annie and Mary Jane out there all alone on the front line. They couldn't sign up all the people who wanted to help and asked to help. They had no way of dealing with those requests, so they lost lots of workers, and no campaign got put together. It wasn't till the second staff shakeup that they actually had a campaign." (fits perfectly with Larry Kirwan's story)