

Dave Woodard April 11, 1995 (Lindsey Graham, South Carolina)

- He told a story re LG: We were walking along behind the Capitol and Lindsey said, "Is that the executive office building over there?" It was the Library of Congress. He was 'country comes to Washington'.
- He doesn't know why Derrick quit. But he speculates, "After his vote on the Brady bill, he came home to do town meetings. People were so mad, he had to get the state patrol to usher him in and out of the meetings. I think when he saw that, he decided it was time." Later, Lisa and Lindsey said the budget vote was very bad. "He was high-fiving it on CSpan: He was deputy whip and tied to Democratic leadership in the House.
- Graham's key counties were Anderson and Greenwood. That's where they put all their effort. "The Republicans in Oconee and Pickens hardly ever saw him. He spent all his time in the middle counties--Anderson and Greenwood. He and I would meet each other several times a day criss-crossing Anderson county. The paper (Mail) endorsed our opponent. And I didn't think we got good coverage... But we carried both Anderson and Greenwood.
- "The amazing thing about the election was how national it was. The contract made the difference. We had this national program and our opponent just sniped at us. With him, it was politics as usual. And when we got on the stage with him, Lindsey had all the issues."
- "I was intrigued by the technology. Once a week I would phone the NRC and tap into their round-table of campaign managers. We would introduce ourselves and discuss our problems. They would give us all the latest poll results. Then there would be a speaker and I'd sit here scribbling down everything he said on some issues. Then we'd go out on the stump with the information, or with a rebuttal to what our opponent was saying. So much information came in that we would put it in issue piles. When an issue came up, we would pick up the pile and say, "In SC 3rd, this is the situation." And the faxes. When I opened the door every morning, the faxes would be piled high on the floor.
- They spent \$510,000. \$156,000 was PAC money. "We did enough TV to tie our opponent. He went on TV, we had to go on TV. I don't think it made any difference. But we had to have it."
- He spoke about collecting PAC money--the triangle; you get a local optometrist to call the state association; the state calls national association--you get the money--lot's come in at the end.

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- They polled--bench poll and every week near the end.
- In primary, they won it in Oconee, Pickens and Aiken. "If we had had an opponent from Aiken, we would have been in trouble." Both opponents came from Anderson.
- "As soon as Derrick announced his retirement, Lindsey decided to run. He said that he went into the closet, said a prayer, came out and said, "I'm running."
- He won a law suit and got some money and people knew he had it. Dave said his primary opponents were weak. He said state senator who ran vs LG in general election was a good guy with no message--old line Democrat.
- They had an extensive volunteer effort, esp. in Anderson and Greenwood, did a lot of door hangers and house-to-house work.
- "With the contract, he's been carried along like rafting, shooting down the river. He calls me and asks, 'what do people think about the contract?' I tell him, 'Just keep going. They love it.'"
- He said they couldn't decide at first whether to go up to DC and sign the contract or not--said LG was skeptical. But once he got there and talked to other candidates, he got pumped up.
- Graham lost both parents within eight months when he was in high school. Had a younger sister to take care of and they moved in with his aunt. "He's a bachelor. I asked him one day, "Lindsey, are you gay? Are we going to have trouble with that?" He said, "I'm only 38. My parents married in their 40's, so I'm right on track."
- "He still lives with his aunt, in a back room."
- "He's what America is all about."
- "He likes people and people feel that he cares about them. The first time I met him, I knew he was going into politics. Dave calls him young turk in SC legislature."

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