

With DQ 'nicky' has in SC.
With LG 'nicky' has in SC

A mind-changing visit
for me.

SC

Lindsey Graham (R/GA) February 21-24, 1999

- I flew down on Sunday, rented a car and drove to Clemson. The plan was that I would meet Lindsey at noon at the Holiday Inn in Clemson and stay with him that day (the 22nd) and go to Anderson office to look at clips for the day Wednesday.
- I went to dinner Sunday with Judy and Dave Woodard at Capri--down the highway from Comfort Inn.
- We talked a lot about Lindsey--for whom they both worked--and the Inglis campaign, in which Dave was deeply involved. (He thought right to the end that they might win, but they lost badly--by 47%.
- "One thing I learned was that someone who has been successful in politics (Hollings) knows how to get it done. He knows who to call, when to call, what to say and what to do. Especially how to get out the black vote. Hollings is a throw-back. He said, I know how to get pork for you? And that's what people wanted. We were badly misled by our pollsters. They did a terrible job. They told us we were ahead. Whit Ayers served us badly. Our media people ran a terrible ad that hurt us. They didn't know Bob Inglis and they didn't know what people in this state are like."
- The ad they put on was a tape of Hollings (in 1992) telling people to "go to hell." And the ad repeated that phrase--"go to hell," "go to hell"--so much that it offended people and made Inglis out to be someone who liked to talk that way. But, they admitted, Inglis ok'd the ad.
- "The Republicans did not turn out. They were not energized by our message--because we had none."
- Dave was as usual, very good natured about this. He did help elect an old friend in Inglis' place--DeMint--and that made him happy. He just loves the adventure of it all, the uncertainty, the involvement--which he does in his spare time."
- On Lindsey, they are mostly spectators. They talk to Lindsey off and on, but they are just fascinated by his rise in fame.
- "He's the golden boy of South Carolina politics right now.

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The national papers call me a lot. The national media love him. He gets standing ovations here. People around the state are listening to him. Everybody wants to know what he thinks, what he's going to do. It's amazing--you had three young Republicans elected to Congress--Bob Inglis, Lindsey Graham and Mark Sanford. And Lindsey seemed the least likely of them all to be the leader. Now Inglis has been defeated for the Senate, Sanford has term-limited himself and the successful one--the star--is Lindsey Graham. And that's because he has the best instincts of all of them."

- "I think that's why the media likes him so much. He's not typical. He came out of nowhere. He is not flashy. He's not glamorous. He's not the most polished. He's not the smartest. But he's smart and he has the best political instincts. I would trust his instincts more than I would any politician I've ever met. He has it; Inglis doesn't.
- Dave, "I'll always remember something he said to me about campaigning. 'I know I can't do everything. I'm not smart enough. But I am smart enough to hire people who can.' And he did. He would always say to me, 'You know what you're doing. Go do it.' Inglis wanted to do it all himself."
- The first thing I asked them was, "Is he still Lindsey?" They said yes. And they talked about how down to earth and unimpressed with power he had always been. Later in the dinner, they said they'd be interested whether I found this to be true. "Power does strange things to people." But they believe that the reason the media like him so much is that he is "just Lindsey," and that he does come from such humble origins.
- "He still keeps the same people around him that he always did--he still goes to the school yard to play touch football with the same people he always did every Thanksgiving."
- I tried my ideas on them about his special qualities: a fighter, authentic and just plain more interesting than most other managers. And they agreed.
- Judy spoke of a telephone conversation she had early on in which he told her that he was going to find out all he could about Clinton and that he didn't care where it led, or what the consequences, he was going to get to the bottom of it all.

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main category / politics - Bank, too.

"He's a fighter," she agreed.

- Re Judiciary Committee, they talked about a visit Newt Gingrich made to the district because his GOPAC course was being taught here (by Dave), but that it hadn't been coordinated with LG beforehand. It wasn't clear whether LG was even coming. "They hadn't talked to each other since the coup." At last minute, Lindsey walked in one door and Newt Gingrich walked in the other door and they went right into a private room. When they came out, Lindsey was on the Judiciary Committee. Everyone has been dying to know what went on in that room. But we have no idea. It was the very day the Lewinsky story broke; but no one had any idea what was going to happen."
- Derrick Pierce has been elected to the Clemson City Council. Dave has lots of his students salted all over SC politics. "Kid him about it," says Dave. "We meet two nights a week," says DP. Won runoff is an unpopular woman, he says. Showed me great three-paged letter re barking dogs.
- When I asked them "what should I ask Lindsey?" they wanted to know his career plans. "What everybody wants to know all over the state is, 'what is he going to do for an encore. He can't stay on the 'high' forever. We think he wants to run for senator. He tells Inglis 'you run for governor, I'm going to run for senator.'"
- Judy said, "ask him what he thinks about the media?"
- *One thing I would say after reflecting on the dinner is simply that careers have to be written from both angles, Washington and home. If you think of this unfolding LG story, it has to be written in terms of who he is (and that's a home story), and in terms of what he's doing to make him a person to be reckoned with at home (and that's a Washington story). And who he is affects what he does in Washington which, in turns, affects who he is at home!
- On Tuesday, I hung around, walked around campus till noon time and went to Holiday Inn to luncheon for his newly formed Capitol Club--for donors. About 35-40 people came. Met Denise and Jennifer Adams. She's his campaign office person--open 10-5 everyday, mostly to handle money and organize campaign stuff like this luncheon. When he came in, he

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greeted me, "Hey Doc, how are you doing. We'll have a lot of time to talk. What has happened to me is unbelievable!"

- He gave a talk, the main item of which was that he has decided to run for the Senate when Strom Thurmond's term ends in 2002. "I am saying this for the first time, right now. I wanted you to be the first to know, because you are the people who have been with me from the start."
- It will cost \$2 million to run a primary. And he wants them to help him network. "I'm accepting speaking engagements all over the state; and I need your help in talking to your friends throughout the state." He pointed to people in the group whose company's had business state-wide, asking them to get in touch to recruit for the Capitol Club. It has three levels of membership, \$500, \$1,000, \$2,000.
- "I'm not making any public announcement until after the next congressional election, but the Senate is my goal. I want it and I'm in it to win. Once I decided to run for Congress, I never looked back. (Dave says, "He went into the closet, shut the door, prayed, came out a few minutes later and said, 'I'm running.'") I've made my decision now, and there's no looking back. I don't care who else runs, I'm running. And from now on, I'm thinking primary politics, not general election politics--that would be foolish. Anyone who runs in the Senate primary is going to have to run over me. Right now I enjoy a lot of popularity. I know it won't last long. And I want to capitalize on this opportunity to start building on that popularity."
- "Right now I have \$130,000 in the bank. That's enough to get started. But the Democrats are not going to give me another free ride in 2000. They'll come after me, at least they'll try. I'm not sure who they could get to run, but they will do everything they can to keep me from getting any more popular.
- People asked issue questions and implementation questions. "You should go after young people and old people by asking for one dollar."
- Very strong pitch that Rep. should be proud about standing up "in face of polls to do what was right." "Since when did you every see a politician do something that was unpopular?"

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- Denise, who loves it and is very savvy, groans at the money-raising prospect--says Lindsey doesn't like it and isn't good at it. But when he says what a great turnout they had for the luncheon (not enough chairs to seat everyone), she says to him, "You know why they all came? Because you called them." One way of impressing him that he has to do the fund-raising.
- Afterwards, "These were my friends who were with us from my first campaign. I feel especially close to them--and they do to me. I didn't want them to hear about it from anyone else before they heard it from me." (Dave calls it "the worst kept secret in SC.")
- Denise noted that the Capitol Club is a new idea. "It's been used by other members of Congress."
- We went back to headquarters and I talked with LG in the back room.
- His first exclamation was, "There have been the wildest four months of my life. Everything in my life has changed."
- At other times, he would say, "So much has changed; the last four-and-a-half years, that it is mind boggling. It blows my mind." Sometimes it's months, sometimes it's years.
- Or, "the impeachment business has accelerated my career plans by a decade."
- He was always ambitious for higher office. But now he's been given an opportunity and he has no hesitation in seizing the opportunity. He is not a wait and see what develops--or what other people are going to do--guy. He does not think Carroll Campbell wants to run for Senate; but wants to run for Governor "to retrieve his legacy" (his hand-picked successor--Gov. Beasley--lost badly in last election and pulled whole ticket down with him--all agree).
- "If he runs, I'll beat him. If he knows he can't scare me out--and he can't--he won't want to run in a tough primary. He knows I'll be there. I'll never look back. He knows it will be a hard, hard fight. He's been in Washington making \$1 million a year in insurance and he doesn't have the old-money people with him. He would go after me as being too far to the right. But that would be risky because with the party's base,

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I'm solid. And I have strength beyond the base, too, because people know that I have worked for bipartisan solutions in Congress. I don't think he wants it unless it is handed to him. He wants to be Governor."

- "My strategy is the heir apparent strategy. I want to get known as the heir apparent to Strom Thurmond. That's a strategy that will hold right up till election day."
- To state the general points he made about what he kept calling "the trial", i.e., impeachment:
 1. His experience in the Army as a trial lawyer was the "model" that he said influenced his behavior.
 2. He tried hard at the beginning to work for a bipartisan censure resolution. He thinks Republicans and Hyde made a mistake not to negotiate with Dems on procedure early on. He puts some blame on a scared Henry Hyde, and some on Republicans who wouldn't compromise, but mostly on Clinton who would not agree to any wrong doing. "At every stage, at every decision he made, the President made the wrong one--went the wrong way, the unlawful way."
 3. "I worked hard to find a bipartisan way out--one best for the party and the country. But once censure failed and partisanship broke out, I shifted gears and went all out, balls to the wall, in the other direction." "I'm a prosecutor and a prosecutor fights as hard as he can to convict."
 4. He believes that the "Blumenthal scenario" might have carried the day if a full trial had been held. He wanted a trial, "It was our only chance--maybe a slim one--but a confrontation might have produced an event that caught people's attention." He outlined the "Blumenthal scenario" as his key (from his own research and staff's) everywhere. And he honestly thinks that other women's cases will be uncovered and hit the news and keep the thing alive. He says that no closure was achieved, that it will never go away and that historians will be picking at it forever.
- Over and over, too, he says that he tried to convince people

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in his party that bipartisanship would be "best for party and country." Breakfast club, etc.

- "Eighty percent of the guys in our conference despise Clinton. Some of them didn't do any research. They just wanted to get him out of there."
- But he did not accept the full idea that hatred of Clinton drove the Republican case. He sees it as a legal proceeding in which he and others made the case. And he stresses that once partisanship took over, "it was all about convincing the moderates on the merits of the case. And I think we did that. They started to come over one-by-one because they listened to what we were saying. Jack Quinn was a huge turning point. (He had declared as opposed to impeachment.) He came and sat in the hearings for two full days; I talked with him; and he came out convinced on the merits of the case. It wasn't political pressure. Clinton's behavior helped us, too, at that point. He refused to reconcile himself with the law."
- "Before Blumenthal, before I put together what they were doing, I was disappointed and upset that the case was all about sex. I had thought it would be deeper. There was no broad theme. Starr had missed it. He had done a good job with the facts. But he had no broad theme."
- "The best thing to do is to find bipartisan ground and let the President meet us half way. We could have met our legislative responsibilities with censure. But the White House was unwilling to do anything."
- "The mistake we made was not having a bipartisan vote before we adjourned for the year. We each had alternatives, and we could have come up with a bipartisan investigation procedure. That was our biggest mistake. The hard core said no; but we could have gotten 300 votes."
- "The Blumenthal scenario was chilling. It was a trailer trash thing with Paula Jones. With Lewinsky, it was something else."
- "I could have voted for censure if the President had reconciled himself with the law--an admission, but not one that would send him to jail or knock him out of his job."

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- "In conference, I asked the question: who is our audience? It was the Republican moderates. We had to convince them that it was a high crime. Over time, as we developed the facts, and as they heard the Democratic sound bites screaming at them, they became impressed with our reports. Schippers did a great job at that point. It was his finest hour. The Democratic rhetoric was loud and obnoxious. Any admission by the President would have peeled off a dozen or more moderates. They were ready to go. Even I had asked him to reconcile himself with the law. But he would not meet us half-way. His behavior and the Democratic rhetoric turned off the moderates."
- Re managers, he said, "We had the idea that we had to play hard ball to let them know we were in charge. But the divisions among our leaders are incredible."
- "I went from the back of the pack to the front of the pack during the trial."
- They divided up the work--Sensenbrenner--opening statement. "He did a good job, but he didn't get the problem engaged so it was convincingly laid right down at your feet."
- The "fact group" was Asa, Rogan and Bryant.
- The "law group" was Canady, LG and Buyer(?). "Our job was to argue against dismissal, to argue that it was a high crime as worded in the Constitution." He thought Canady and Buyer (less so) did a good job as part of the "law group." And, "the best thing I did was to talk about the three judges. I just talked to the Senators about that."
- "Henry was using me on TV. I did two for everyone else's one. He liked the way I did it. I answered their questions and I was more moderate than the rest of them. At the end, I changed and then the question became 'Why did he change.'"
- "My talk about the three judges (who were impeached) changed my role in the trial. It had an outside the belt way appeal... I knew my role had to change if we were to succeed, that I had to get tougher. I knew where I would go--to the Blumenthal scenario--and that would make the President less willing. I had to go do it because I had been more balanced before."

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- Why "balanced" or "moderate?" "As a trial lawyer, I'm not as likely to get wrapped up in the case. A trial lawyer takes the facts and markets them. You fall back, advance, strategically. A politician pursues a cause. Not all lawyers are trial lawyers. All the models I worked from during the impeachment go back to my trial experience.
- Once the trial began and we couldn't get witnesses, we were in a spot, and we had to get out of a bad spot with honor. Bipartisanship would have gotten us out of it, would have been good for the party and for the country."
- "My last trial balloon was the bifurcated vote. It was my last effort for a bipartisan vote--vote to convict and vote not to remove. We got that close (fingers barely apart) to bringing that to reality. It had been done twice in judges cases. It was the ultimate solution, and it would have been censure. Again, the President killed it."
- "It would have been better for the nation if we had closure. And, no joke, that's what I was trying to do--so that it would never again be taken off the shelf lightly. That would have helped the party as well as the country. Now there will be no closure. People will paw over it forever. We will be the Warren Commission of Impeachment."
- He wanted a trial with witnesses as "the only hope" for the managers--cross examination of witnesses can produce "an event" that public would notice (or "might" notice). He was hoping for "a chilling moment." "When a witness lies to you under oath during cross examination, that's a chilling moment."
- On the back and forth between himself and Cheryl Miller when Lindsey compared sexual harassment to civil rights, LG says that Miller said that BC had "an impeccable record on human rights." And he said he'd like to see that tested, that BC's civil rights legacy would be that he failed "individually and miserably" because in ways he sexually harassed women.
- I asked him if there were any models, any experiences that guided him during the impeachment business. He cited the Army drug experience immediately. (I don't have the details; and he wants to get me the 60 Minutes tape.) But the lessons are

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clear. So here goes!

- "As a lawyer in the Army, I got involved in a drug case. I was a young lawyer, just out of law school. I was like a public defender. There were problems with the Army's drug testing program--too many false positives. I had been assigned to prosecute these cases. A young man, on his way to becoming a senior non-commissioned officer, was on trial for the use of marijuana. I told the Commander that he was a young guy on his way up and that there were problems in the lab, that he should not be convicted. The Commander stood behind me, to the detriment of his career, he testified in favor of the young man. He investigated the lab and they shut it down."
- "Here I was, a young lawyer, given a responsibility, who got people to come forward and give testimony that might hurt them and close down an Army laboratory. When I committed to a worthy cause, and can get people to help, I thought I can change anything. People trusted me and came forward. I had taken on city hall and won. Here (impeachment) we were up against another big institution and a popular President. And the dynamic of impeachment had put us as the underdog. But I thought that we could get people to help in a just cause. I'd seen it happen. Here another situation you could get your hands around and get an answer."
- The one he took on was the Blumenthal one. "The idea of using the White House in an improper fashion is the key to me. It was the nastiest thing he did." *fr*
- "I was more involved in painting broad themes. You can't impeach a President without striking at the core of a case. His behavior was beyond technical. Starr had the facts, but he had no broad theme. Lying and covering up is not a broad theme. He lied and he used lies to threaten. What Nixon did to the political system, Clinton did to the legal system. That's why I asked is it Watergate or Peyton Place. When you use your office to intimidate women and ruin their lives, that's not about sex. It's not Peyton Place. That's Watergate."
- "His unwillingness to reconcile with the law made it worse. That's like spitting in your eye."

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- On getting on Judiciary Committee, Derrick says, "He lobbied hard for it. I heard him lobbying." (Gingrich, I think.)
- "Any lawyer would want to get on that committee. There were two vacancies. Impeachment was in the air and Newt wanted people with prosecutorial experience. We were preparing ourselves for that eventuality. I talked to Henry Hyde and he wanted me. Rogan and I were his two picks. When Newt came to talk to the students at Clemson, I introduced him, took him around and he asked me to take it. I learned that others (Hyde?) had already spoken on my behalf. At that point, no one imagined it would go all the way."
- Re Hyde and his selection of LG as one of 13 managers, "He said he liked the way I handled myself in committee and he said that if things ever went to trial, he wanted me to be one of the managers. Asa, Jim and I were his three picks. He ran into trouble with some of the older guys."
- He repeated the idea that his was a broad theme. "The broad theme was an abuse of power--an abuse of women. People will rally around an institution like the Presidency. Plus they do not like personal details--and they shouldn't. So we were highlighting criminality without a broad theme. People bought into the lie, but there was no abuse of power they could relate to. We proved he did two things. Goal #1: What he did was not a chivalrous thing to do, abusing women and waving his finger at us. That reminded people. Goal #2: Was to define what he did as Watergate. It always stayed Watergate."
- After his two town meetings, he said, "I try to tell jokes. And when I criticize the government, I always end by giving hope."
- He still talks about the Contract and how his friends are still his friends from the class, his buddies were Largent, Sanford, Chamblis, Norwood. "Rogan now. He's my buddy. And he's my hero. He put his seat on the line."
- Re old guys he said again re 1994. "A lot of the old guys didn't want to govern. They liked it just the way it was."
- Denise re his first campaign. "In high school, there was not the slightest indication of what was to come. He was just one of the boys. No one thought he would go anywhere special."

*Note
"golden boy"*

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When I tried to get people to come to his first rally and I said, 'Lindsey's running for the State House,' the reaction was, 'Oh, isn't that cute.' Everyone was surprised and no one took it seriously. Then he got up and they saw all that intelligence. People were amazed. The reaction was 'Lindsey Graham? Where in the world did that come from.'"

- She raised \$200 for that campaign.
- When I said to Denise, "He's smart and he's articulate," she laughed and said, "He's more articulate than he is smart, but I won't tell him that." It was a joke, so I don't know how to treat it.
- "Everybody wants to come down to my district now--I could get a plane load to come down because people are so proud of our party. We just say to any prospective President, 'We don't ask you to do anything that a decent person wouldn't do. Don't like, don't cheat. Tell us the truth and don't play us for the fool.'"
- About the Greenwood and Laurens town meetings, it's hard to describe them. I had never seen anything like it in all my years of traveling. There were 325 people at Greenwood (275 in chairs (not one empty one) and another 50 standing or sitting on tables around the room (I sat on the stage and taped it). It reminded me of a gymnasium at graduation time. When he walked in the back door, they got up and started clapping, which they did as he walked down the aisle and got up on the stage, when they kept clapping. It was a two minute standing ovation--hard clapping for the most part, warm, appreciative, a salute, a thank you--all of that. He called it a "welcome home." But it was a phenomenon--in a country of presumed cynics, skeptics, anti-politics people. Here, on a week night, not in his home town, on a raw evening, this huge crowd had come out to see him, hear him, thank him for something he had done as a politician.
- It was a working people, small business, crowd, more than any elite kid of crowd--lots of couples, very few if any suit and tie people. Elderly to middle age with a sprinkling of young people (in each meeting, at least one teenager asked a question). When we drove up, there were hundreds, a sea, of cars in front of the building and all around it. LG was stunned. "I can't believe it."

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- I've seen major political rallies with that many people, but never a town meeting or any other kind of meeting like it. And no political rally could have ~~that~~^{the} emotional wallop that this one did. It wasn't about politics. It wasn't about promises. It was about someone who had stood up for something--something these people wanted very much to have said on their behalf--however "popular" it might have been. In a sense, too, there were thanking a loser. He had lost! So it wasn't a victory celebration. It was as if they had discovered a champion. And in their midst--"one of them"--they never knew they had. In a time of apathy, here was emotional commitment. It was an American Legion Hall, and when we came in the door, a friend said to Lindsey, "There's a lot of emotion in there." There were lots of good, policy questions of the normal town meeting sort, but the ambience was very different. (A guy came up to me afterward, born near Buffalo, was at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese bombed it. That's because LG had acknowledged me.)
- On the way to the Laurens meeting, I asked LG to guess the attendance there. He guessed 75. There were 150! They were packed into a much smaller room in county library and some had to listen in the hall. Again, a standing, hand-clapping welcome that continued ~~to~~^{for} a bit while he just acknowledged it with thanks. Again, he talked for a while about the trial and then about social security, medicare and taxes. Then he opened up for questions.
- Until I heard LG speak on these two occasions, it hadn't seemed to me that he was senatorial material. Now I think differently. He is smart enough, sufficiently policy oriented and policy knowledgeable to hold his own with anyone. He is certainly articulate, good humored. He has a strong, consistent, thoughtful, anti-government, free enterprise theme that carries philosophical punch. You would always pretty much know what he thought. He's energetic, telegenic, down home. He remains upbeat in sense that "there's hope" and in the sense that he wants to work things out. "I'm going to get together with Pat Moynihan when I get back to see if we can work out a social security package. I'm going to see if I can't sit down with Barney Frank and see if we can come up with a bipartisan solution to the independent counsel problem." He has the conservative base with him and he has a religious grounding, but he does not parade religion as the

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basis for what he says. He keeps religion as underpinning, but does not push it. Nor does he picture himself as a role model, religious poster boy--as David McIntosh does. DMC wears religiosity on his sleeve. Lindsey does not, and that will give him broader appeal. Anyway, I now believe he has the stuff to be a U.S. Senator. He's certainly got guts, too. All the rest remains to be seen.

- "I'm not a member of the Conservative Coalition. I agree with them on a lot of things, and I listen to them. But I am not one of them. And I don't need their support. They did not support me in my first primary. I beat them. I'm not a "coalition candidate."
- Denise broke in. "They didn't support us in the primary. After they lost, their leader came over to us and started to tell us what they wanted Lindsey to support. I told him not to bother talking to Lindsey. 'He knows what he thinks about all those matters. You should go home and decide whether you want to support him or not!' They sulked for a while and then they came to us and said they were supporting Lindsey."
- Re impeachment impacts, "During the trial, my name recognition went through the roof."
- "For six weeks, I was on weekend talk shows every weekend, sometimes twice a weekend."
- Derrick, "Since impeachment, we get ten times as many invitations than before for Lindsey to go somewhere and speak--or appear. And the office gets many more requests for help than ever before. People see his name in the papers. 'That's my congressman. I guess I'll take my problem to him.' When the Washington office gets flooded with calls, people from out of state who want to say thank you or get in touch will call us here in the district."
- LG, "We've had 30,000 hits on our website since impeachment."
- He wants to put up a campaign website, and he keeps asking Denise about it. She's not gung ho, it seems. Soon, they'll need some full time state-wide campaign talent.
- Do people see you in the same person they elected? "Yes."

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They see that I'm consistent in what I say at home and in Congress. People see a side of me during impeachment--as a tough prosecutor with fairly serious views--that was not unknown to them when they sent me to Washington. They know that I am aggressive, engaging, that I tell jokes and talk plain--they get reinforcement when they see those positive traits during impeachment. They have pride that I'm not one of 435, that I'm carrying the ball in a major event. They know I'm credible and they trust me. I said I was going to vote against Article Two and I did." Did you get pressure on that? "You wouldn't believe the pressure I got."

- "With trust, the dynamism of a southern incumbent has set in. I'm still running against the Washington establishment; I still have the Contract With America mentality--plus accountability." i.e., he's solid.
- Re district, "It's pretty homogeneous--not a lot of country club Republicans. The people in Aiken are a little better off--but they are yellow dog Republicans."
- I posed the question about his constituency relations and whether they had gotten better over time. He answered strongly in the affirmative, but I never got it pinned down well. So I've got a lot of comments that add up to strong ID on both sides. Other than those on the previous couple of pages, here are some others.
- "If you have any antenna at all, you can tell where your people are at. When I talk about 'my district' in Washington, I'm not talking about some 'people.' I'm talking about people I was talking to at home the day before."
- Re DC activity and home activity. "My politics is defined by what I do in Washington. The trust I have is defined by what I do at home."
- "My activity in Washington is dominant because of the media. What I do there can be home in 20 minutes. My home activity can be wiped away by what I do in Washington. I've been defined very differently than a southern congressman who is quiet. But home is still the under-footing, the floor. I enjoy coming home. I'm still flattered after five years at it that people want me. So I keep coming back. My time in the district is well-documented."

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- Says Denise, "He stays in touch so much that all ten counties think they own him. They expect him to come and if he comes, they expect him to come again. If he goes to the Laurens X-mas parade one year, they expect him to come the next year. It gets to be a problem, because he doesn't want to say 'no.' At the Laurens town meeting, one woman got up and said 'you're invited to next year's x-mas parade.' LG demured, saying "People up north think we're crazy down here with our x-mas parades."
- "People think of me as the home town boy. I'm just 'Lindsey.' I've been adopted in all 10 counties. I've grown into being their home town boy." I posed the "one of us" view and he agreed strongly. He came back to it later. "How was it you said it?"
- "If I came out ^{of it} with something, it was ^{credibility} at home. When people say to me 'you can't do this, you're people will leave you,' I don't worry. I think people will say 'if Lindsey is for it, it can't be all bad.' I have confidence doing whatever I do in Washington. If I didn't know that people at home trusted me, I wouldn't feel secure in doing what I do in Washington. And if I didn't come home, I'd lose that trust." He talks about "leeway" in that way.
- I drove Dave to the airport with me and he said something about Lindsey that I see, too, but hadn't articulated. He says that LG has a knack of talking to people in ways that they want to hear and in ways that connect with them--his examples, his stories, his jokes, his expressions. And he does--he connects well in his talks. It isn't just the mass of facts at his command, it's the manner. (I'll have to talk to Kurt Smith about it.)
- In that regard, LG said to me "I always try to stay relevant. Even after the Senate vote, you want to be listened to. What's the point if you spoke and no one listened."
- Several times he emphasized "people are job-scared in Washington. You can't accomplish anything if you are job-scared. I'm not. I'm term-limited."
- A key point about the Laurens and Greenwood audiences. LG and Denise did not expect such an out-pouring because, unlike

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Clemson and Anderson, they did no home mailings. They advertised by radio and newspapers. That was part of their shock at the turnout.

- Also, Greenwood and Laurens are in a part of the district where LG is not as popular as in his northern base. And LG said in both cases "most of the people I've never seen before!" Denise thought that was great, that the fact they came meant commitment and commitment means participation. You couldn't go to those meetings and still say "people are apathetic."
- "Throughout the course of events, I was trying to get us out of this mess."
- Re media, "the thing I worry about most on interview shows is that I will not make myself clear, that I won't get a chance to say what I really believe and that people will not know my position."
- On media types "my favorite is Bob Schieffer. He's an old time reporter who shifted to television. He is laid back, not as competitive as the others and he's only interested in the story. He and I have become friends. We play golf together."
- "I like Tim Russert; but boy is he competitive in chasing guests. He's smart. On the air, he is easy going, but behind the scenes, he is fiercely competitive."
- "I like Jeff Greenfield. He's smart; but sometimes he goes a little far out on a limb in the prediction business."
- In presidential race, he does not want to "anoint" anyone, i.e., Bush. "I like John McCain. I may end up supporting him. He's independent. If I disagree with him, I can tell him so, and we can go right on to other things. I know he's got some personal past, but that's not a problem with me."
- I pushed two things with him. First that GOP should focus on Presidency and nothing else. Second that they should push social security, not tax cuts. Get social security off your backs, give Clinton his legacy. If he doesn't want it for his legacy, make him say so. I also pushed idea that "the base" is not enough to win Presidency.

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- It is Lindsey's weakness that he's too southern. He's too protective of the base, which is 30% and has no good plan (except some great leader) for getting the other 20%. I told him several times that "the base" should be so happy after what the Republicans did for them in impeachment that they should be happy to give ground. But LG and Denise said "base wants more." Well, I said, be happy with your 30%! Only a southerner would be so attached to the base that he wouldn't go to that faction and say, 'it's your turn to bend a little.'
- Dan Quayle wants LG to be his point man in SC. He will help, but won't take on that losing position. He and Denise say that DQ was good to LG. Derrick, however, says that DQ pushed LG to let him do the fund-raiser for him and never thanked him! Not that it matters now.

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