

McGovern interview by WKOW-TV of Madison, Wisc. at Rockland airport 11AM, Sept. 8

McGovern said he would consider Wisconsin Governor Patrick J. Lucey for an administration job, if elected. If Lucey is interested, "the door will be wide open" in a McGovern administration. Asked whether endorsement of Nixon by Marianne Maier, wife of Milwaukee Mayor Henry Maier, hurt Maier with the Democratic party, McGovern said "I don't think so." He said "most wives" form their own political opinions. As far as he knows, McGovern said, Mayor Maier is supporting him.

There was a lot of back and forth on Watergate and McGovern emphasized his conviction that it was a major issue. Usual quotes, one variation being that agents of the President's Reelection Committee were "caught with their burglar tools" instead of "rubber gloves."

McGovern expressed confidence about doing well in Wisconsin in November. "I think we will carry the state. It could be a very close race. I fully expect we will carry it." He denied that the Wisconsin McGovern organization which helped him win the primary "has broken down" and said "the organization is very strong" in the state. Then, going on to other organizational problems, he said, "We have had a few problems at the national headquarters. But the election isn't going to be won there. The election is going to be won out in the field. I think probably the difficulties that we are going through at the national headquarters are to be expected. . . it's a new experience for most of us. So I don't worry too much about things like that. Those things can take care of themselves."

McGovern sidestepped a question on Hoffa's proposed mission to Hanoi by saying that he didn't think he should comment on it because "I don't know very much about it." Asked if he opposed sending private citizens on such missions, he said "I don't think they should be sent to negotiate" for the government, but he went on to say that he has no objection to private citizens seeking to accomplish such goals acting strictly in a private capacity.

As McGovern was leaving the interview, he was stopped by a TV correspondent from Chicago, I think the CBS affiliate, who asked how he was doing with labor. McGovern said labor support was "coming along." He said about thirty large international unions have now come out for him and he expects unions representing about 80 to 85% of the AFL-CIO membership would endorse him. He said that it wasn't unprecedented for Democratic presidential nominees to have trouble with important figures in organized labor. He recalled feud between FDR and John L. Lewis. Then, asked the basis of his problem with Meany, the candidate replied, "I suppose Mr. Meany's problem with me is that he can't control me. I won the nomination without his support and over his active opposition. He is probably licking his wounds."

Sept. 8 aboard plane - Herrington

McGovern and Richard Johnson chat in McGovern's lounge. Johnson, 43, is the subject of an NPACT study on how a common everyday-type reacts to a firsthand look at a presidential campaign--the travel, the press, the candidate, etc. etc. Johnson is the credit manager at the National Steel Service Center in Evanston. He lives in Rolling Meadows, Ill., 21 miles Northwest of Chicago.

They talked about Northwestern University and its football history. McGovern recalled he had tutored football players while a grad student there.

Johnson said, "I really can't believe this is happening." "I'm so thrilled at everything that's happening to me."

After the Northwestern and football talk, Johnson asked McGovern if he thinks the campaign's going smooth enough. McGovern gives standard answer. "Not quite as well as I had hoped. It's very tough to put together a national campaign." said they're up against one of the old pro's. Nixon's "been around this game of politics a long time. We're going to make some mistakes."

They talk about taxes and wage-price freezes. Johnson tells McGovern that's the main issue that bothers working people.

McGovern asks Johnson how he thinks McGovern is doing. Johnson says lots of mixed feelings. Says he's from a Democratic area. On the whole, he said he couldn't predict McGovern's chances. "Nobody knows," he said.

Afterwards, Johnson said of McGovern, "He's a very congenial man. I wish he was a little more dynamic. Impressions are based not so much on what people say as how they say it."