

Weber, Vin, Interview

S-1994 Vin Weber interview in St. Cloud, MN

4230 Vin Weber (1952-)

Vin Weber won election to the 6th Congressional District in 1980 and has served until the present time. Minnesota's 6th District stretches from western Hennepin County to the South Dakota line.

The interview covers Weber's personal background including his parents, education, and involvement in politics. The interview also covers working for Tom Hagedorn for election to Congress and his own attempt to run for the State Senate in 1976, and working for Rudy Boschwitz campaign in 1978. Also included are campaign plans to run for the 6th District in 1980 and personal interests involving the economy, the decreased role of government, and reduced spending.

INTERVIEWERS: Dr. Calvin Gower and Al Nielson

DATE: April 22, 1981

SUBJECTS COVERED: Tape 1 Side 1

007 FAMILY BACKGROUND:

007 Father's side came from Currie from Murray County.
 010 Great-grandfather was Nicholas Weber, a farmer in Currie that sold insurance.
 016 Grandfather was namesake, John Vincent Weber, had purchased Murray County Herald.
 020 Mother's family came from British Isles.
 023 The Lee family on mother's side was related to Lee family of Virginia.
 026 The Molohon family on mother's side came through the south to Mankato.
 030 Mother went to Medical Technical School in Slaton.

035 PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

035 Weber was born July 24, 1952 with two younger brothers, Jim and Joe.
 043 Went to Slaton High School, and University of Minnesota, but didn't graduate.
 046 Was hired by Tom Hagedorn, the last quarter of senior year, majored in Political Science, and to be press secretary.
 049 As press secretary he worked on 1974 Congressional campaign.
 051 1974 was a tough year for Republicans with Nixon resigning and Watergate.
 057 Worked for him in Washington.
 061 Weber had formed a teenage Republican club in Slaton in 1965 or 1966.
 063 The Weber family has been active in politics.
 065 Weber was active in college Republicans and had intern for Bob Brown.
 078 Father's family was Republican and mother's was Democrats.
 100 Grandfather was an influence on his career.
 115 Father ran for state legislature unsuccessfully.
 130 Vin got involved in 6th or 7th grade when Goldwater ran for president.
 136 He got involved because he loved the issues.

152 POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT:

152 Worked on the Hagedorn campaign for six months and worked in Washington for a year.
 155 Returned to Minnesota and ran for state legislature in 1976.
 174 Difficulties in 1976 after Ford pardoned Nixon and grain embargo.

200 In 1978 he worked on the Boschwitz campaign for senator as manager.
220 After he had lost in 1976 he was a little discouraged.
300 Started early planning for the 1978 election.
315 As campaign manager he used political science and previous experience.
336 There had been no Republican senator since 1952.
350 The major strategy was good organization.
390 Stressed the positive credentials of Boschwitz.
410 Boschwitz was a successful businessman.
422 Boschwitz was chairman of the mental health group, and other organizations.
430 The image of success was projected.
442 Senator Boschwitz made Weber head of the Minnesota office in St. Paul.
466 This was a full time position from May 1977 to election in 1978.
477 Major changes in Minnesota politics.
520 Weber had no thought for running for 6th District.
522 Weber also worked for Gov. Quie as an advisory person.
536 Gov. Quie had offered Weber a job as Coordinator of Communications.
557 Weber had intended to take job.

SUBJECTS COVERED: Tape 1 Side 2

010 SIXTH DISTRICT CAMPAIGN:

010 Weber had traveled in the 6th District in 1979 and Gov. Quie had talked to him for running for office.
023 He turned down the job and decided to run for office.
034 Plans were made to run against Rick Nolan.
040 In February he announced plans to run for office.
045 Nolan decided not to run for office, surprised everyone.
085 The key element to beat Bauman was getting into the race early.
120 Gov. Quie talked to all the candidates to avoid difficulties.
152 They agreed to no primary fight as an attempt to unify the party.
160 The economy was the key issue against Bauman.

175 PERSONAL INTERESTS:

175 The economy, decreasing the role of government, and reducing spending.
205 Agriculture is in transition and should prosper in the future.
220 There will no longer be surpluses but grain shortages.
234 If subsidized prices are too high, they will be cut of from world markets.