

Civil Rights

Advice from Representative Bill McCulloch The Honorable Paul Findley U.S. Representative of Illinois

Representative Paul Findley of Illinois remembers advice from colleague Representative Bill McCulloch of Ohio.

Interview recorded January 12, 2015

He was a decent, middle of the road, conservative on fiscal matters but very liberal on social issues. Bill McCulloch was one of the first men I met after my election and he gave me such sensible advice. Let me give you one illustration. He said that there will—you'll have dealings directly with, with people in the administration when you're trying to help your constituents. He said, "Be on the phone when the, the person you're seeking comes on the phone. Don't just let your staff call you to the phone. You will make quite a hit with the person at the other end by having the courtesy of being there right on the phone instantly."

He also said to write my signature for use on the, the franking of mail plainly, because there would be millions of people who would see that, that frank over the years, and they might, might just as well be able to identify your name with it. He, he, he suggested that when I had any dealings with a, an official of a department, it didn't matter what department, if I could have time to get to the department and meet the, the officer who would deal with the problem face to face, on his home ground, that officer would be very grateful to have that courtesy, because his colleagues would know that a Member of Congress had come to the department on the issue and didn't just grab the phone from his assistant.