

Graham tries his hand at being radio comedian

Associated Press

GILFORD, N.H. — The first line of his script wasn't a tough one for presidential hopeful Bob Graham, who worked Sunday as a stagehand and a radio comedian.

"Hi. I'm Bob Graham, and I'm running for president," said the Democratic senator from Florida.

But the setting was not your typical New Hampshire street corner or Rotary Club meeting. Graham helped out backstage and was the featured guest in a stage performance of *A Prairie Home Companion*, the popular public radio program that brought him a ready made audience that was used to hearing jokes about Republicans.

Host Garrison Keillor opened the program noting he was in New Hampshire, home of the earliest presidential primary, where voters "pay attention before other people in the country are ready to."

For Keillor and the weekly radio cast, it was a chance to bring their folksy Minnesota-based show on the road. For Graham, it was another chance to continue his "workdays" program, in which he works everyday jobs to stay in touch with voters.

Not that standing next to author, singer and humorist Keillor is an everyday job.

"There are a lot of similarities between show business and politics," Graham said afterward. "You have to appreciate the fact that your job is very precarious."

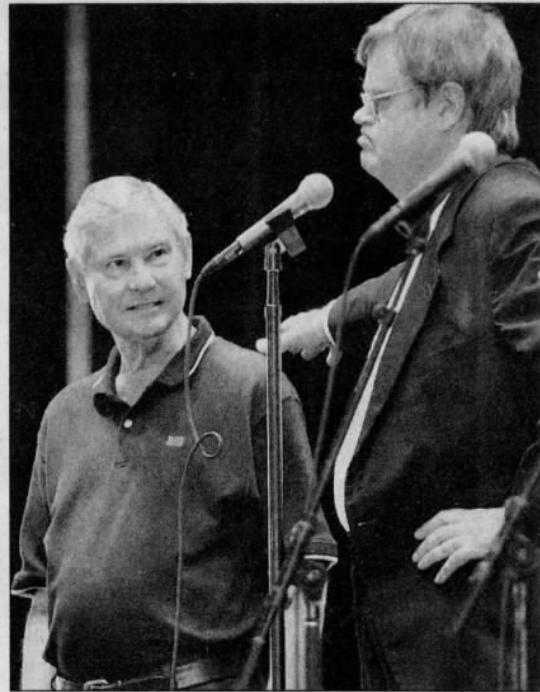
In his skit, Graham played, well, Bob Graham, the candidate.

Keillor played Guy Noir, private eye, who persuades Graham to go fishing, even though he is busy on the New Hampshire campaign trail.

Graham's timing was off a couple of times in the script he had rehearsed for just a few minutes before the program. But overall, his timing was pretty good. And he was able to share Keillor's audience of 4,500 people, Graham's largest crowd so far in New Hampshire, his campaign said.

He had a campaign trip scheduled in New Hampshire when Keillor, an old acquaintance, was performing.

Graham said he's known Keillor for some time, and when he heard the show was coming to New Hampshire, he called to see whether he could get tickets.



AP
Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bob Graham joined Garrison Keillor on a Guy Noir skit Sunday in Gilford, N.H.