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GIFT OF PERSONAL STATEMENT

by

EDWARD A. McDERMOTT

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>First association with John F. Kennedy [JFK]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>JFK’s interest in the Tydings-Butler campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Correspondence with JFK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Discussion of vice presidential nomination for JFK at the 1952 Democratic National Convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>JFK’s commencement speech at Loras College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Contact with Ted Sorenson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pushing to start campaigning for JFK in Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>The religious issue in Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>JFK’s visit to Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Student worker strike at the Iowa Memorial Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Traveling with JFK around Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Campaign visit to Des Moines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>JFK’s nomination as the Democratic presidential candidate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This is Charles Daly. I am interviewing for the Kennedy Library Edward A. McDermott, the Director of the Office of Emergency Planning, now as he was in the Kennedy Administration. Ed, you and I have worked out a rough outline which I think we might follow, and I will make some notes of questions as we go along. We will start with your first associations with the President.

EAM: All right, I'll start drawing upon my recollection and covering these points as we have outlined them and you can maintain the chronological sequence by any suggestions or questions that you think are appropriate. My first association in relationship with President Kennedy was in 1950. At that time I was an associate in a law firm in Iowa and I was appointed by the Chairman of the United States Senate Subcommittee on Privileges and Elections as Chief Counsel of that Committee of the Senate. I came down to Washington at that time and served in that capacity for a period of approximately one year, during the course of which we conducted the very interesting investigation and hearings on the famous Tydings-Butler election controversy arising out of the 1950 election in the State of Maryland.

Daly: Cropped photo and all that?

EAM: That was the situation where there was the cropped photograph -- the composite photograph of the late Senator Tydings and Earl Browder and so on. John F. Kennedy was serving in the House of Representatives at that time and he had an interest in this case, as he had an interest in all facets and aspects of political life. I first met him during that period. My family was not here at that time - they remained in Iowa. I had a social relationship with the President during that approximate year and then I maintained a rather regular contact with him in ensuing years.

Daly: What would a social relationship be?
EAM: Well, he was interested in the Tydings-Butler case as it went along and although, of course, he was a member of the House and this was a hearing going on in the Senate -- as a member of the House he was interested in various facets of the case. We had lunch together a number of times and dinner together several evenings and generally we would discuss this case and its implications, and then, as always in discussions about politics, we would branch off into other and broader political subjects. But it was a casual social relationship during that year. Of course at that time there was no discussion or suggestion of any aspirations by John Kennedy other than an intention to be a candidate for the Senate two years later. That candidacy did, of course, develop and he won that election and subsequently served in the Senate -- but I was not here in Washington during that time although -

Daly: Did you have any thought in your mind then that beyond the Senate, as far as this young guy was concerned -

EAM: Well, he, of course, was a tremendously attractive personality. I was attracted to all the qualities that later became so well known not only to all of America but to all of the world -- that is the depth of his interest, his personal charm, personal attractiveness -- and while I must confess, I was not thinking in terms of the Presidency of the United States at that time for John Kennedy, it was obvious that he had all of the qualities -- and that if he had the aspiration, as he later developed, that he probably would attain it, because he had that perseverance that suggested he would probably get whatever he went after.

Daly: What do you think prompted his particular interest in that Tydings-Butler -

EAM: Well, it was kind of a unique -- not kind of -- it was a very unique election campaign. There were many facets of that campaign where the Republican candidate in that Senatorial election was in a sense an involuntary candidate. He had been selected by a group that was especially interested in the campaign as the man to run against Senator Tydings, the incumbent Senator. John Marshall Butler, who was the Republican candidate, was a successful, practicing lawyer in Baltimore - who had no particular political experience behind him, nor had he indicated any intention to be a candidate for political
office, but he seemed to possess all of the qualifications of a good candidate. He was an attractive man - he had a nice family - he was successful in his practice. He became the candidate but as the investigation and hearing subsequently developed, he actually had very little to do with his own campaign. It was a campaign that was run essentially, if not nearly exclusively, by outsiders - people from outside of Maryland. They brought in a campaign manager from Illinois who actually ran - dominated - the campaign. As a result of these hearings and investigations he was subsequently indicted for violation of Maryland election laws and was either found guilty or pleaded guilty to those charges. It was a campaign where the principal activity and the principal actors in the campaign were all people from outside the State. I think that was the first time in our contemporary experience that outside interest had so effectively dominated a campaign and I suppose that with the political heritage that John Kennedy had, coming from Massachusetts, that attracted him to this case.

Daly: Do you have any knowledge or comments regarding his future interest in young Joe Tydings as a Senatorial candidate? (Joe having just beaten Louis Goldstein here in the primary yesterday.)

EAM: No, I know that the President had a relationship with the now Democratic candidate for the United States Senate in Maryland, Joe Tydings -- and I know he has visited -- that Joe Tydings had visited the President at his home while he was alive and the President visited Joe Tydings. But Joe was actually not active or involved in any way in the campaign of 1950. I don't recall ever having met him at that time and I don't believe that he was ever involved in any discussions that I had with John Kennedy at that time. Then subsequently, after I left Washington and returned to my law practice in Iowa, I maintained a correspondence contact with John Kennedy and as I would come to Washington from time to time in connection with the practice of law, I would see him when I was down here. Then about a year later we began preparations for the Democratic National Convention which was being held in Chicago that year in 1952.

Daly: Your correspondence with him was casual -

EAM: Yes, casual and social: "how are things going" and "what are you doing" -- political comments along the line -- what the situation was in Iowa -- who the Iowa Democrats were likely to favor in '52 -- and that sort of thing.
Daly: Did you retain copies of his correspondence?

EAM: I have some of it, but unfortunately, not all of it. I do have some of that correspondence. Then as we made preparations for the Democratic Convention in Chicago in '52, I was elected a Delegate to that Convention from the Second Congressional District of Iowa. That was the first Democratic National Convention I had ever attended as a Delegate. That, of course, was a very interesting experience and I had my next contact with John Kennedy at that time. He was then, in the summer of 1952, engaged in his campaign against Lodge for the Senate in the State of Massachusetts.

As occurs at National Conventions, there was considerable discussion about who might be the Vice Presidential nominee that year, and particularly who might be nominated -- whose names might be placed in nomination for the Vice President. During the course of the Convention and after it was underway, somebody, the identity of the individual I am not clear about, but somebody came up with the idea that it would be an excellent idea to nominate John Fitzgerald Kennedy for the Vice Presidency of the United States. Now this was really the first National Convention that had extensive television coverage. The sale of television sets by 1952 had reached the point where they were in many homes across the nation and there was great interest in this Convention because it was the first one many, many could actually see on television. So whoever came up with this idea thought it would be very good exposure for John Kennedy to be nominated as Vice President of the United States.

When this idea began to be kicked around by those who favored it, they started lining up individuals who might make the nomination and also individuals who might second the nomination. And it was at this stage of the discussions that I again entered the picture. I happened to be one of the younger, if not the youngest accredited delegate to the Democratic National Convention that year. I was 32 years of age at that time and I was contacted and we had some discussions about the possibility or advisability of my making a seconding speech for John Kennedy if his name was placed in nomination for the Vice Presidency. There were several reasons for that -- one was age and another was my geographic origin which identified me with the Midwest. Also, I had been quite active in the activities of the Junior Chamber of Commerce in my home community and in my State -- and for those and perhaps for other reasons this suggestion was made.
I was very thrilled and honored at this possibility and very quickly set about the drafting of a most eloquent speech that I was prepared to make from the rostrum of that crowded Convention -- but -

Daly: Do you have a copy of that classic in your file?

EAM: No, unfortunately, I do not. I did not know that these things would have significance but I guess wiser heads and better political judgments began to enter the picture because before this whole concept saw the light of day, the decision was made that it probably was not a good idea to place John Kennedy's name in nomination. The situation at that time -- it is hard to believe it as you look back just a little more than one decade -- the feeling was that placing his name in nomination would not be taken seriously and it would be interpreted solely as a publicity exercise in support of his campaign in Massachusetts. If that was the way it would be interpreted, probably the disadvantages outweighed the advantages -- so the fact was that his name was not placed in nomination.

This is interesting because we're all familiar with what happened at the Convention in 1956 but very few people, I suppose, other than those directly involved, realize that his name was close to being placed in nomination in 1952.

Then, after the Convention, I continued to reside in Dubuque, Iowa, continued in the practice of law, continued a casual, social-type relationship with Mr. Kennedy, seeing him generally at his office or elsewhere in Washington when I happened to be in the city.

Our next close political contact was in connection with the Democratic National Convention in 1956. On that occasion I was not an official Delegate -- an accredited Delegate to the Convention -- but I was at the Convention with the Iowa Delegation and was engaged in activities related to the business of the Convention. I, therefore, did not have a personal opportunity to cast a vote for John Kennedy as the Vice Presidential nominee of our Party but I was present in the Convention Hall during those dramatic hours of the balloting on the Vice Presidential nominee of 1956. Just prior to that Convention, Mr. Kennedy was in Dubuque, which is my home town, because he had been selected that year as Commencement speaker at
Loras College in Dubuque. Loras was the school from which I received my Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1939 and the authorities of the College invited Senator Kennedy to be the Commencement speaker -- and he came to Dubuque on a beautiful and warm summer Sunday in 1956 and delivered the Commencement Address on that occasion. Then -

Daly: Did you see him socially out there?

EAM: Yes. Correct -- but like everything he did, he accomplished as much as he possibly could in the shortest possible time and as I recall it -- he arrived by plane the morning of Commencement -- he participated in the official activities of the Commencement and departed that late afternoon.

Daly: How big a crowd did he draw?

EAM: There was probably a greater degree of interest in Senator Kennedy's appearance at the Loras College Commencement than there had been before or since at any commencement. On this occasion the audience did not consist exclusively of the graduates who were happy to be there - but hoping that the occasion would come to an early end - and their admiring and grateful parents, but the gymnasium at Loras College, which is a very large building and is generally half-filled for Commencement, was, I recall, filled to overflowing with the balconies crowded and there was a great turnout. Senator Kennedy, of course, was a favorite of Dubuque and eastern Iowa. Dubuque, Iowa, happens to be the seat and center of Catholicism in the Midwest and it was from that point that the Church moved westward so there is a great history of the Catholic Church that is associated with Dubuque. This being a Catholic College -- and Senator Kennedy being a most distinguished representative of that faith -- there was great interest and a great turnout.

Daly: Did he use -- he would not, I assume, use advance men and so on -- just came in on -

EAM: No, there was no -

Daly: He just came in -

EAM: That's right. He travelled very austerely -- there were no advance men -- he came in, as I recall it, practically carrying his own bag and briefcase. The day of the advance man, as I became familiar with it, did not develop until we neared the momentous days of 1960.
7

Daly: What do you think motivated him to go out there?

EAM: Well, I think an interest in the school; he had been aware of course of Loras College. And then there is a great friend of mine who is a friend of Ambassador Kennedy's and also a friend of the late President and his brothers, Bobby and Teddy, and the late Joseph Kennedy, Monsignor Maurice Sheehy. Monsignor Maurice Sheehy has a close association with Loras College in Dubuque and during World War II, Monsignor Sheehy was a Chaplain in the United States Navy and actually was Chief of Chaplains of the United States Navy. In that connection, I believe that Joseph Kennedy, the President's elder brother who was killed during the war, was in the flock for which Monsignor, then Admiral Sheehy, was responsible. So there was a close relationship between Monsignor Sheehy, through Joe, Jr., with the Ambassador and other members of the Kennedy family. Monsignor Sheehy probably was the responsible intervenor who was able to get the then very popular Senator Kennedy to come to Loras College for that Commencement. I know that that year and every other year subsequent to that, the President had, -- the then Senator and later President, -- more requests for participation in commencements and more offers of honorary degrees than he could possibly accommodate. But to the great good fortune of Loras College, he was there in 1956.

Then, things moved along rather quietly as far as our relationship was concerned for the next couple of years; we continued the same sort of casual contact usually related again to political activity, both here in Washington and in the Midwest. About late 1958 and early 1959 the presidential aspirations of Senator Kennedy began to come to the fore. During this period, 1957-1958 -- I was also in rather regular contact with Ted Sorensen, particularly -- and also other members of the Senator's staff.

Daly: What would your contact with Sorensen be?

EAM: Well the contact with Sorensen had to do exclusively with what the Senator was going to do in 1960 and how soon we could start some activity in Iowa specifically -- the Middle West generally -- that would be consistent with the wishes, desires and objectives of Senator Kennedy.
Daly: You were pushing to get the activity started?

EAM: I was the one -- for a particular reason. It was quite apparent there were going to be a number of candidates. It was apparent perhaps in mid-1959, or in the Fall of 1959, that there were going to be a number of contenders for the Democratic Presidential nomination in 1960 -- several of whom, came from states that were actually contiguous to Iowa. We had Senator Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota on the north; Adlai Stevenson in Illinois to the East, and Senator Symington to the south in Missouri. So I knew that if Senator Kennedy were to be a candidate for the Presidential nomination, some early work would have to be done in Iowa if we were going to overcome the natural tendency of the Democrats of that State to identify with someone who is geographically closer to them. I was quite anxious to get authority to "start the action" -- if you will. And eventually, -- I do not have the exact date but I do have this correspondence and I can identify the date -- we got the "go" signal that certain actions could be taken and this somewhat antedated the formal announcement by Senator Kennedy of his candidacy.

We got to work just as soon as he and his associates, specifically, Ted Sorensen, indicated that it was appropriate to do so. The reason that we wanted to get started early, of course, was as I have indicated to you and then also, like in most States, we have a tradition in Iowa that when the delegates are elected to the Democratic National Convention, if we have a Democratic Governor in office at that time, the Governor has a tendency to exercise considerable control over the actions of the delegation at the Convention. I was not confident at that time that the objectives that I had, which were to see that the Iowa Delegation was for Senator Kennedy, were exactly the same as the Governor's intentions. I thought that the best way to assure a favorable vote in the Iowa Delegation for John Kennedy was to try and have individuals from the Democratic Party elected delegates to the convention in Los Angeles that were predisposed, if not pre-committed, to support John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

So we faced this problem of the feeling of geographic closeness with the several candidates which surrounded us and the activities of those candidates. Also, the Johnson forces from Texas subsequently became active in Iowa and there was much competition for delegates. By starting early however, and by following the approach that was followed -- which was fully endorsed by the Senator
and Ted Sorensen and others who subsequently became involved -- we were able to travel around the State to contact people who in many instances had never before been a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. We knew that the only way we could get this consistent and loyal Kennedy support would be to find the people that felt as many of the rest of us did -- that he was the best man our party could nominate -- and then have those people do whatever was necessary within their own Congressional District to see that they were nominated and elected as Delegates in their respective District caucuses at the State Convention.

So this meant that a kind of new crop or new breed of delegates actually emerged at the Iowa State Convention because many of the people who were elected delegates from Iowa in 1960 were enjoying their first experience and many of the people who were traditionally delegates to the Democratic National Conventions were defeated in District caucuses by this new group that came forward as a result of this effort.

These activities presented an interesting challenge and were very rewarding because they were so productive. As I travelled around the State there was great interest in Senator Kennedy and it was easy to identify distinguished people in the Democratic Party who not only shared the view that he would be the best man but were also ready, willing and anxious to do whatever they could in aid of his candidacy.

We had some religious problem in Iowa in this connection because Iowa on the south borders the State of Missouri which is strongly Baptist and on the north borders Minnesota which is strongly Lutheran; I wouldn't be prepared to ascribe it to anti-Catholicism but there was a religious element in the campaign in Iowa. I enlisted, in support of these on-going efforts, the services of a good friend of mine, a distinguished lawyer in western Iowa by the name of Lumond F. Wilcox. Lu Wilcox, who practiced law at Jefferson, Iowa, was a leader in the Methodist Church in the State of Iowa -- a lay leader in the Methodist Church, a good Democrat and a strong supporter of Senator Kennedy. He agreed to serve with me as co-chairman of the entity that we organized called "Iowans for Kennedy." This was prior to the Convention in 1960.
Daly: Did he know the Senator personally?

EAM: He had not met the Senator personally. His admiration and enthusiasm developed from observation rather than close personal contact. But subsequently, he did meet the Senator. As a matter of fact, the Senator first visited Iowa in connection with his Presidential aspirations in the late fall of 1959. I was anxious to get him out there to get this exposure in the State and we finally worked out an arrangement for him to visit Iowa, specifically Iowa City, for the Iowa-Notre Dame game which is played annually at either Iowa or Notre Dame and which is a great — a great historic rivalry between those two schools and is one of the big athletic events of the Fall season. In 1959 this game was being played at Iowa City so the Senator came into Iowa City on late Friday night. Travelling with him were Dave Powers and, I believe, Ted Sorensen was also with him in the party. They arrived in Iowa City, Iowa, which is the site of the State University of Iowa, on Friday night. On Saturday morning we had a breakfast at the hotel for the Senator with the members of the Democratic State Central Committee of Iowa. Then at 10 o'clock that morning there was a big public reception for him at the Memorial Union Building in Iowa City and following that we attended the Iowa-Notre Dame football game together — after a luncheon at the University Club which is a private club near the Iowa football stadium.

Daly: Did you have time for conversation with him during that visit?

EAM: Oh yes, we had long conversations at that time. He was now all enthused about the possibilities of his winning the nomination. He was very anxious that everything we had been hoping to do, -- and waiting to do -- should then all of a sudden be done immediately. He injected a great sense of immediacy into everything that we planned to do. That morning, after breakfast, we were planning to go to the Iowa Memorial Union for this big reception. We received word at the hotel that the Memorial Union was practically jammed with people. Once again, this was an unusual experience on that campus. It demonstrated the attractiveness of this individual and his personality. But the unfortunate word that came with this announcement was that the student waiters who worked jobs in the cafeteria which was in the basement of the Memorial Union suddenly decided to go on strike in demonstration of their criticism of some administrative policy that
the operators of the student cafeteria had imposed upon the waiters. I don't know whether it had to do with hours or pay or quality of food or what it was -- but a picket line of student waiters was suddenly forming around the entrances to the Iowa Memorial Union. Well, this was sort of a distressing development because there was going to be very generous press coverage of the Senator's visit to the Memorial Union and the football game and we were faced with the problem of dealing with this picket line. It was not a -- it was unlike many picket lines I suppose, but it did put the President, -- the candidate rather -- in a position of having to perhaps make some choice of sides on the issue. So he thought it would be a very good idea if I went down to the Memorial Union to talk to the leaders of this movement to see if they would not agree to withdraw their pickets as he entered and when he departed from the Memorial Union.

So I charged off on that mission and the first problem I had was to identify leadership within this group but when we did identify leadership I had discussions with these young men and explained to them that Senator Kennedy was no part of this controversy and that it would be embarrassing for him to be involved with their picket line. They were quite unwilling at first to remove the pickets. They were very quick to point out to me that they had purposely selected this occasion because they didn't see how they could more dramatically bring their complaints to the attention of either the University officials or the people of the State of Iowa. But with the understanding that many people demonstrate in these situations, they did finally agree that the pickets would be withdrawn. I hurried back to the Hotel Jefferson in Iowa City and gathered together the official party and the candidate and got back and into the Memorial Union before there was a change in attitude. I must say that the highly informal agreement that was negotiated under a tree at the corner of the Memorial Union property was honored by all involved and the pickets did not appear during his presence or upon his departure.

The reception that he received at the Memorial Union was like many that we were to see later during the campaign in other places. He addressed the people -- the assembled group which included not only students and faculty members of the University but many, many adults and children who were in Iowa City for this historic football game. He charmed them with his remarks. I do not at this moment recall the substance of his remarks but I was on the platform -- I introduced him -- and I looked out on the expressions on the faces of
the people that were jammed in this huge room that were watching and listening to him -- and you could see the admiration and respect that they had for him and he was nearly mobbed, after he finished his remarks, by people wanting to get close to him -- wanting to shake his hand. Again, a quality that was demonstrated by peoples all the way across the country as we observed it later during the campaign.

The press, of course, were trying to get his opinions on all subjects including his choice in the football game that was to begin a couple of hours later and they called to his attention specifically his religious affiliation and the fact that Notre Dame was playing Iowa. They pressed him to identify his favorite in the game and I recall the spontaneous comment that he gave them that sort of brought down the house, including the members of the Press, when he said that he hadn't made any final judgment in the matter but his decision was that he was "going to root for Iowa and pray for Notre Dame."

And then, after we left the Memorial Union, we went over to the Athletic Club where we had luncheon. The Governor of Iowa was also there for the luncheon. It was essentially a business-political-social luncheon discussing the status of the party in Iowa and plans for his campaign in Iowa. We went from there to the Stadium. I remember that as we moved by car trying to get in closer to the entrance to the Stadium, the people crowded around the car -- it was nearly impossible to move forward. There was no identification on the car -- there were no banners saying that Senator Kennedy was in it but the word seemed to pass very quickly and it took a long, long time to get the very short distance from where we had lunch to the Stadium and as a consequence, we missed part of the game. But that was his first visit to Iowa. He came back again later.

Daly: You're not going to tell us who won?

EAM: No, I'm not going to tell you who won -- as I recall though -- Iowa won and that's as it should have been. He came back to Iowa again in the campaign -- immediately after the Iowa Delegation was composed at our State Convention, and before the convention in Los Angeles and on that occasion he made two stops. He stopped first in Cedar Rapids where he met with the half of the Delegation that lived in the eastern part of the State and then we moved on from there to Des Moines where he met with the balance of the Delegation.
Daly: Did you travel with him?

EAM: I travelled with him at that time -- he arrived by the "Caroline" -- and now we have advance men entering the picture and on this particular occasion we had a very distinguished advance man because it was R. Sargent Shriver who happened to advance that particular trip.

Daly: Do you recall any particular comments the Senator made then or particular things that were bothering him or that he was cheered by?

EAM: Well, of course, he was very much encouraged. Iowa has a tradition of Republicanism but he was cheered by what people were telling him; it turned out to not be true actually -- and that was that he could carry Iowa -- but he was very encouraged by the reception that he received there and he seemed to exude confidence that there was a real chance that he would get this nomination -- and not everybody was agreeing with that point at that time. He also seemed convinced that if he would get the nomination he could win the election.

The discussions that we had on that day dealt with plans for future activity in the campaign and plans for Los Angeles. He met with the delegation, addressed them as a group, and then he made it a point to discuss with every individual member of the delegation any particular issue they thought was important. He, here as he did so consistently -- demonstrated his interest in people -- his interest in their views and their observations. People -- individual delegates -- talked to him about the religious issue -- talked to him about labor problems and he was very inquisitive and inquiring. He wanted to know -- get as much information as he possibly could about any problem and he would spend 10 or 15 minutes -- which is a lot of time in the day of a busy candidate, talking with one individual delegate about one individual problem.

Daly: Did he come in there with files on the individual delegates or was he getting briefings from you?

EAM: No. I briefed him on the Delegation. We were actually in the process of compiling these files on the Delegation but he was not referring to those files at that time -- he was relying on individual
briefings. It worked out well on that occasion because the Delegation was split in two parts and before he met with the group in Cedar Rapids we were able to cover those delegates and then enroute to Des Moines we covered the balance.

His reception in Des Moines was the same as it was in Cedar Rapids -- a great turnout of people. We tried to make his meeting with the elected Delegates to the Convention sort of an Executive Session so he could speak candidly and freely with them -- and that was accomplished only with difficulty. I guess we needed more police or United States Marshals and other authorities than we actually had available; there were actually mobs of people in the streets. The hotel was jammed. The hotel lobby was packed with people who wanted to get close to the Senator; and remember -- at this time he was still Senator Kennedy and was not yet even the Democratic nominee for President.

I've had occasion in my political experience in Iowa to take the ride from the Des Moines Airport to downtown Des Moines with many political luminaries and on no occasion was there any evidence of public interest in the personality to compare with that Senator Kennedy enjoyed that day. There was very good press coverage of his visit and he was very generous with his time with the press. We retired to a suite in the hotel following his meeting with the delegates on this particular Sunday afternoon in Des Moines -- and there were several individual radio and television stations that wished to have exclusive interviews with him. He sat on the davenport in that suite and gave 10 or 12 minutes individually to everyone of the media representatives that wanted an interview.

Daly: This is local press?

EAM: This was local press coverage.

The activity that continued in Iowa after his departure did not directly involve him. It was however all in support of his objective, -- the Democratic Presidential nomination.

I saw him several times during the campaign in Chicago, in Rock Island, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Davenport, Iowa, -- when he made his visits to those communities. I also was with him in
Minnesota and in Lincoln, Nebraska, when he made his appearance there. On each of those occasions he was, of course, a busy, busy man and a busy, busy aspirant for the Democratic nomination. But he was never too busy to talk about old times -- reminisce about earlier experiences -- to ask about my wife -- to ask about the family. He always seemed to evidence a genuine interest in the individual with whom he was dealing and this was not a phony-type of interest. This was a genuine and real interest in those that he had -- in those people with whom he was associated.

I was a delegate to the Convention in Los Angeles -- and I'm sure that others will cover in great detail all of our experiences there. I had occasion to see him on a couple of occasions in Los Angeles. I also had during that period contacts with Bobby and Ted and Sarge -- with all of the others -- most of the others who were working in the campaign.

We all shared the great exhilaration and extreme pleasure that came with his nomination. Perhaps one of my most vivid recollections of the Convention is on the evening of his acceptance -- not his formal acceptance -- but his arrival at the Convention Hall after he won the nomination. I was in a group of probably 40 or 50 -- maybe more -- people that assembled in the house behind the Sports Arena -- this house that had been used by the Kennedy organization as one of its headquarters during the campaign. I recall Bobby, later to be the Attorney General, waiting with the group for the nominee to arrive from out in Beverly Hills. I remember hearing the sounds of the sirens as the Senator's car approached. He entered this house. He was, of course, happy, exhilarated and proud. He greeted everybody that was in his route as he traveled through the house, calling everybody by first name. He spotted Bobby, who was standing in the living room of the house. It was the first face-to-face meeting of the candidate and Bobby after he received the nomination.

Second Tape

Daly: We are in Mr. McDermott's conference room continuing with Edward McDermott's interview for the Kennedy Library. In the last tape he was describing the scene in Los Angeles when Robert Kennedy and a group of about 50 others were meeting just after the time when Senator Kennedy received the nomination.