

**Orren Beaty, Jr., Oral History Interview – JFK#14, 2/27/1970**  
Administrative Information

**Creator:** Orren Beaty, Jr.  
**Interviewer:** William W. Moss  
**Date of Interview:** February 27, 1970  
**Place of Interview:** Washington, D.C.  
**Length:** 20 pages

**Biographical Note**

Beaty was administrative assistant to Congressman Stewart L. Udall during the late 1950s and assistant to Secretary of Interior Udall from 1961 to 1967. This interview is primarily a review of the papers that Beaty donated to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library.

**Access**

Open.

**Usage Restrictions**

According to the deed of gift signed July 23, 1979, copyright of these materials has been assigned to the United States Government.

**Copyright**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be “used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship, or research.” If a user makes a request for, or later uses, a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excesses of “fair use,” that user may be liable for copyright infringement. This institution reserves the right to refuse to accept a copying order if, in its judgment, fulfillment of the order would involve violation of copyright law. The copyright law extends its protection to unpublished works from the moment of creation in a tangible form. Direct your questions concerning copyright to the reference staff.

**Transcript of Oral History Interview**

These electronic documents were created from transcripts available in the research room of the John F. Kennedy Library. The transcripts were scanned using optical character recognition and the resulting text files were proofread against the original transcripts. Some formatting changes were made. Page numbers are noted where they would have occurred at the bottoms of the pages of the original transcripts. If researchers have any concerns about accuracy, they are encouraged to visit the Library and consult the transcripts and the interview recordings.

**Suggested Citation**

Orren Beaty, Jr., recorded interview by William W. Moss, February 27, 1970, (page number), John F. Kennedy Library Oral History Program.

JUL 22 1970

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE

Gift of Personal Statement

of Orren Beaty

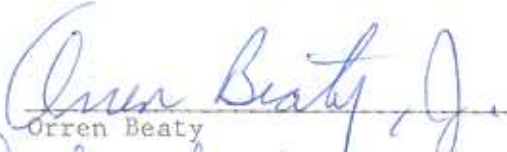
JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY


I, Orren Beaty of Washington, D. C., do hereby give to the John F. Kennedy Library, for use and administration therein, all my rights, title and interest, except as hereinafter provided, to the tape recording and the transcript of the interviews conducted at Washington, D. C. on October 10, 1969, October 24, 1969, October 31, 1969, November 7, 1969, November 14, 1969, November 21, 1969, December 5, 1969, December 12, 1969, December 19, 1969, January 9, 1970, January 16, 1970, February 13, 1970, February 20, 1970 and February 27, 1970 for the John F. Kennedy Library.

I hereby donate all literary rights in the transcript of the aforesaid interview to the John F. Kennedy Library.

The tape and transcript may be opened to researchers at the discretion of the Director of the John F. Kennedy Library; his decision to be based on such considerations as potential embarrassment to living persons or their immediate successors, the interests of national security, or potential prejudice to the friendly relations between the United States and foreign nations.

This agreement may be revised by mutual consent of the parties undersigned.

  
Orren Beaty  
July 4, 1979  
Month Day Year

  
Archivist of the United States  
July 23, 1979  
Month Day Year

Orren Beaty, Jr. – JFK#14  
Table of Contents

<u>Page</u>	<u>Topic</u>
313, 320, 330	Explanation of papers
318	Perceptions of the interactions between White House staffers
328	Efforts and resistance to hiring minorities
331	Individual White House staff members

Fourteenth Oral History Interview

With

Orren Beaty, Jr.

February 27, 1970  
Washington, D.C.

By William W. Moss

For the John F. Kennedy Library

MOSS: What I want to do this morning on these papers is first of all get you to explain in your own words what each of these folders of papers consists of, and we'll put a little mark on each one so that it can be identified when we play the tape back later. I came away without a pen. Do you have something that I can use?

BEATY: Do you want to write with a light one?

MOSS: Okay, it doesn't make much difference. Okay, this first folder that you have here in front of you consists primarily of what?

BEATY: Memos from me to Stewart Udall [Stewart L. Udall], who at that point was the Secretary-designate of (Department of) Interior.

MOSS: And what time frame is this? Between December 8 and...

BEATY: It's December and up to about, I suppose, a week before the inauguration of President Kennedy [John F. Kennedy].

MOSS: Okay, and what type of things are these? Now you say they're memos; were they things that he had requested or things that you were bringing to his

attention?

[-313-]

BEATY: For the most part they weren't things that he had requested. Mostly they were reports on conversations I'd had with people who wanted to see him and for whom he had no time with all the other things he had to do: job applications, people who had some gripe against the Eisenhower [Dwight D. Eisenhower] administration and some of its activities and were trying to get him on the right track, that sort of thing.

MOSS: Unsolicited advice.

BEATY: Mostly that's right, yes. In many cases they were people that he did want to talk to but didn't have time to, and he asked me to talk to.

MOSS: Okay, so that's primarily in this folder here, this first folder.

BEATY: That's right.

MOSS: Anything else in it that does not come under what you.... Let me put a little one here so that I'll be able to identify them later.

BEATY: Okay. You'll see it relates to Indian affairs and oil imports and the Virgin Islands and a few reports from the Democratic National Committee or the Kennedy talent search group passing on recommendations.

MOSS: Since you mention the Democratic National Committee, let me jump in time a minute to the '63 period. I've been asked by somebody else who's working on the Democratic National Committee, to ask you what use to you and to Stewart Udall was the research operation run by Bill Keel [William A. Keel] over there at DNC? It would be in preparation for '64. Do you recall?

BEATY: Who was Bill Keel?

MOSS: He was the head of the research operation. There are several memos in the DNC files that indicate that he was writing memos to you and to Stewart Udall and to the White House, looking around for statements, public statements, that could be used or embellished or put into the publication *The Democrat* that they were putting out, and this kind of thing, ways to exploit the political situation.

BEATY: Yeah, I had contact with lots of people over there. I don't recall that they were any help to us. They were providing us with--I don't remember Bill Keeler [William W. Keeler]. I think maybe I should, but I don't.

[-314-]

MOSS: Maybe I have the name wrong. There's Bill Keeler who was the Indian fellow.

BEATY: Well, that's right. Oklahoma. You'll find his name mentioned in some of these memos.

MOSS: Yes. Now maybe I've got the wrong name. Wait a minute. Maybe I have a...

BEATY: But whoever it was, they.... In my own mind I was...

MOSS: Bill Keel. Not Keeler. Keel.

BEATY: Yeah, that name sounds familiar.

MOSS: Right.

BEATY: I started to say, in my own mind I tolerated this stuff because I knew they were going to do it. I provided them with whatever they requested from us if I could find this sort of thing. But I didn't really think we'd ever make any use of it. Our people making political speeches or going out to help candidates would have their own things to say about things that were happening in the department, and they were sharp enough, I think, to read the daily papers and see what was happening in other areas that they might be called upon to comment on.

MOSS: So would it be fair to say you regarded it as more superfluous than anything?

BEATY: That's right. I don't think it caused.... To us, at least, I don't think it provided anything.

MOSS: Okay. All right. So this is, back to the folders again, this first folder has the things that you mentioned and really not much else. Okay? Any particular item in here that you recall that is of special interest? Or any particular thing that you were dealing with that required special attention beyond the routine?

BEATY: Well, some of these you're looking at now--December 12, 1960 and December 10. This was in a period I think Udall was back in Arizona, and I was sending this stuff out to him airmail. Obviously if it was important enough to bother him with, I'd have gotten him on the phone because we worked on the telephone every day and probably several times. These were more or less routine things that I had just knocked out between meetings. I'd talk to somebody, and if I had time I'd make a note on it and then send him out the whole compilation.

[-315-]

MOSS: "Things mentioned on tonight's phone conversation so rapidly I'm not sure it

all had time to register.”

BEATY: Yeah, that's right.

MOSS: That's the subject of one memo here.

BEATY: Well, you can see a number here which indicates that Drew Pearson was calling us about something. I don't know what it was, Jack Anderson with him. I seem to remember that someplace in there there's the thing I mentioned that Adlai Stevenson [Adlai E. Stevenson] had called to somebody, perhaps to the President--elect or to one of the people, Larry O'Brien [Lawrence F. O'Brien] or Adam Yarmolinsky, and Adam was passing on Stevenson's endorsement of Frank Ellis [Frank B. Ellis].

MOSS: I see here a mention of the Viva Kennedys. Do you recall their activity in the campaign at all?

BEATY: Oh, sure. They were active and stirred up a lot of enthusiasm in Arizona and New Mexico, and I heard they did in Texas, but I wasn't there. There was a guy named Carlos McCormick [Carlos J. McCormick] whose father-in-law was one of Stewart Udall's early sponsors when he ran for Congress; a man named Carlos Estrada, no--something Estrada [Ralph Estrada]. But Carlos had worked on the Hill as a policeman, was going to law school at night. He got to know the Kennedys, became very active in the campaign and later got in trouble, and is either serving time in jail now or is still trying to beat it. But this had nothing to do with government. It had to do with some private insurance, a thing involving Mexican-Americans, the Alianza Hispano-Americana (now called Alianza), which he became president of. But I remember one rally in south central Arizona, the mining district in Pinal County between Phoenix and Tucson, where the Viva Kennedys were all over the place. They had burros and Mexican hats with Viva Kennedy stickers around the tops of these Mexican sombreros. They had Mexican music. It added a lot. It got a lot of people out that normally don't show up at these rallies.

MOSS: Item here, number nine on this item of...

BEATY: This pink sheet?

MOSS: ...this pink sheet of November 18, 1960, a memo. I see in each case the memo is entitled "Memo to SLU," Stewart L. Udall, I believe...

BEATY: That's right.

MOSS: ...rather than a misprint for STU.

[ -316- ]

BEATY: That's right.



MOSS: Okay. On that number nine you talk about a manning problem or the employment roles in the department and that it depends to a certain extent upon the President-elect. In what way is that reference made? What is the background of that particular reference? Do you recall why did the employment roles depend to a certain extent upon John Kennedy at that point?

BEATY: Well, I think probably--I'm reconstructing this from a very weak memory—that Stewart understood from conversations with O'Brien or Yarmolinsky or somebody in that area that we would be getting recommendations we hadn't gotten yet for various positions. We were careful not to fill up every available schedule-C job until we knew more about what kind of recommendations we'd be getting. This is the only thing I can think of.

MOSS: Okay. I think that what probably should be done on these is at some future date after somebody goes over these carefully and makes up a list of specific questions on them we ought to come back to you.

BEATY: Yeah, I think that's probably best. You'll know which ones are of some interest.

MOSS: Okay, that's the first folder. Now the second one you have there is what?

BEATY: Well, I've got it labeled "White House Data for Demos", for Demo National Committee. It has to do with requests. The label is misleading because I just threw a lot of things in it including memos from Fred Dutton [Frederick G. Dutton] at the White House and probably a number of other people. But as I think I mentioned last time we talked there was, in my mind at least, a rather close working relationship between the national committee and some of the people in the White House, so I regarded it pretty much as all the same thing. These dates are really jumbled up. The first thing I'm looking at is a memo for all cabinet assistants from Fred Dutton, and he's talking about how we go about supporting the President's programs. The next one is dated March 25, 1963, and is to the Secretary from me about a conversation with Lee White [Lee C. White] in connection with the North Pacific fisheries treaty. Senator Magnuson [Warren G. Magnuson] was involved and Senator Jackson [Henry M. Jackson]. I don't know why I would wind up with an original because this theoretically should be in Udall's file and I should have a carbon, but it may be that he just threw it back to me, and a lot of times he did. He just gave it back and I kept it. Do you want to look at it, look through it?

[-317-]

MOSS: Yeah, let me have a look there for a minute. It's more or less a mixed bag of memos over the years?

BEATY: It is. The third item there is one early in the administration, and I think there

are probably two or three copies of that one thing in there. But you can look at that and see what...

MOSS: "Materials Requested by the White House March 24, 1961."

BEATY: This caused me to get together with somebody on the resources program staff who could go to the different assistant secretaries, the bureau chiefs, and scrounge out the information we wanted, or they wanted.

MOSS: Now, it's my understanding that in the early part of the administration, you were sending these sort of fact sheets or departmental reports fairly regularly up to the White House. Did this fall off after a time?

BEATY: Yes.

MOSS: And for what reasons?

BEATY: Well, I just think they were snowed under with papers that didn't mean a lot, providing no particular help, and they went on to other things without ever making any conscious decision to do something different. Then, of course, as the 1962 campaign approached and we got ready to help retain control of Congress, then came the request for lists of accomplishments or major gains or whatever the situation was which could be useful.

MOSS: Yeah, is this now a sample of the kind of thing that you sent up? It's dated March 20, 1961 and it's called a "Summary of Major Actions on Natural Resource Programs Since January 21." There's a covering memo to Dutton. So this was the kind of thing that you sent in response to that request for fact sheet.

BEATY: That's right.

MOSS: Okay. White House briefing material; again natural resources; information for Dutton.

BEATY: That's right, which I'm sure he farmed out to people like Lee White and others. I may have mentioned this, but I found that there was--probably the whole time that we were there, but particularly the first year or two-- inadequate liaison within the White House between the people we were dealing with directly like Dutton or Mike Feldman [Myer Feldman] or people like that, and the congressional

[ -318- ]

liaison people. Larry O'Brien or Claude Desautels [Claude John Desautels] on his behalf would call and scream that they hadn't been informed, and we'd been working day after day with perhaps Feldman or Dutton or somebody else.

MOSS: Okay, now you put Dutton and Feldman in more or less the same category. Does this hold up?

BEATY: I don't mean just them. It just happens they're the ones I always was talking to.

MOSS: Well, would they handle the same kind of things and was there good communication between them, say?

BEATY: Well, I don't think there was any lack. I'm not implying that there was any lack of communication between them, but it seemed that for the president's congressional liaison people to be informed, we had to do it rather than count on the people that we were dealing with on the substantive questions in the White House. There was a breakdown or there was inadequate liaison between each office over there, or else they expected us to not only supply the answers to questions raised by Dutton--I'm just using him as an example--people that were working on the problems themselves and then with those who had the contact with people on the Hill. We learned from experience if there's something that involved a congressman or a senator, we'd let the congressional liaison people know about it, regardless of how many other people in the White House we thought already knew.

MOSS: Well, I think what I'm fishing for is did you notice any distinction between the area of responsibility that say the special counsel's office had, the Sorensen [Theodore C. Sorensen]-Feldman-White [Byron R. White] operation, and Dutton's group as the cabinet secretariat? Was there any distinction in their areas of responsibility that made you respond in a particular way to one and another way to another?

BEATY: Well, you know, I would think that Dutton was more of a--I was going to say generalist. He had overall responsibility for keeping contact between the cabinet officers and the President through the cabinet secretaries' apparatus. I would feel--I think I would have felt if we had questions from Sorensen or White or Dungan [Ralph A. Dungan] or Feldman, that we needed to supply very specific information; where with Dutton it was just a matter of telling him, "Well, we're working on it, and it would be over to you shortly." That sort of thing.

MOSS: Here's a memo from you to John Seigenthaler on department programs since January 20, and this is November 6.

[-319-]

BEATY: Now John, although he was working in the Attorney General's [Robert F. Kennedy] office was used a lot, I think, in coordinating programs for the whole administration. You notice he wasn't here too long. He moved back to Tennessee, I suppose in '62 because John, no, Symington [James W. Symington], Jim Symington moved in there as a special assistant to Kennedy after Seigenthaler left, if I

remember the chronology right. This was undoubtedly something that had been requested in...

MOSS: Well, what was the role of the Justice Department in these things? Why did they have to have it, or was it just...

BEATY: He was not working, I don't think, as an assistant to the Attorney General even though it's addressed to him like that. I think he was working on behalf of the White House or somebody over there who said, "Look, you pull this stuff together." This is really just another one of those memos like that March one that you were talking about.

MOSS: Sort of information on what you were up to.

BEATY: A few months later, what we had done or were working on in conservation and resources.

MOSS: More an interdepartmental information service kind of thing?

BEATY: Yeah, but we weren't letting him know because Justice wanted to know, I don't think.

MOSS: Okay. These two things look pretty well self-explanatory. They're lists of projects and that sort of thing with money.

BEATY: Being distributed to...

MOSS: Estimated expenditures on the projects both for reclamation and Indians.

BEATY: Neither of those refers to accelerated public works?

MOSS: No. Now this is a rather curious little thing, the "Wallace Press Continuous Forms and Commercial Printers." It's a blank memo form, but at the top it says, "Welcome Republicans." What's that doing in there?

BEATY: Oh, somebody just passing it out as a gag one day, and I decided to hang on to it. I didn't.

MOSS: Okay, that's folder number two. Okay. Now the third folder you have is...

[-320-]

BEATY: I would think this might be illogical to put in there in that order. It doesn't have any label on it, but the front's all marked up with October travel and it

had to do with the Secretary's activities in the campaign that year, 1962. On the front is the name and number for Al Barkin [Solomon Barkin] of the AFL-CIO (American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations) COPE (Committee on Political Education)--so apparently he was involved in it too. George O'Gorman [George D. O'Gorman] who was in and out of the Kennedy campaigns and in and out of the Executive Office Building on different jobs and national committee too, probably--this is addressed to George O'Gorman, the Democratic National Committee and has to do with Udall's speaking schedule for October.

Then there are memos from me to the Secretary about somebody's travel plans, and a letter to me from Governor Gaylord Nelson's office about Udall's appearances in Wisconsin, League of Women Voters in Wisconsin, and a trip into Kansas and Oklahoma. California's involved and Idaho, if I remember right. Gracie Pfof [Gracie B. Pfof] and Ralph Harding [Ralph R. Harding] it seems to me were mentioned in one of them. I'll toss it over to you and let you look through it. Again, you'll probably find that there are two or three copies of some of these things I've just never gone through and sorted them out.

MOSS: Okay. But this one is pretty well compact in that it's all generally around the one subject of Secretary Udall's campaigning in October '62?

BEATY: That's right. That one you're looking at right now is from Bill Davoren [William T. Davoren] who was our field representative in the Pacific Southwest area. It was during this period that the Canyonlands National Park project was going on, and the papers there were giving us a hard time and giving Udall a hard time for trying to "lock up Utah's resources" instead of letting them mine and graze and hunt. You can see this writer—"Controversial Udall and a Controversial Park"--and a controversial this and that.

MOSS: Everything's controversial. Okay. Now the fourth folder.

BEATY: This is one that I labeled "Cabinet assistants," and I think it's one you looked at last week. A memo of the cabinet assistants regarding the present staff from Fred Dutton. There's some penciled notes from one of the meetings with Dutton after a cabinet meeting in which he was reiterating the things the President had already told the cabinet members, I'm sure, or that had been discussed there. I'll just let you take it, I think, and if there's any questions...

MOSS: Okay.

[-321-]

BEATY: ...we can talk about it.

MOSS: Let me cut this. (Interruption) There is a memo from Dutton to all cabinet members requesting that speeches or prepared public statements concerning

changes in policy by the administration should be provided, he says here, I presume his office, forty-eight hours in advance of the release. Was this pretty well adhered to throughout, or did it devolve into a different kind of operation?

BEATY: I think it was watched fairly closely. I think we made our own judgment on things, things we knew they would never have any interest in, or if we knew that the only person who'd have an interest in it would be one key member of Congress, we'd make sure the congressman knew about it so that there wouldn't be any complaint to the White House that they were being bypassed. I think that thing evolved from this particular announcement. We talked about this a little bit.

MOSS: Right. Yes. This is the early Udall policy statement.

BEATY: On public power. And as I think we've mentioned, at that particular time in U.S. resources history, the average eastern government official thought about resource development as building dams and distributing public power. It was the thing that had the most general acceptance among liberal Democrats and gave them something that Kennedy had mentioned in his Billings (Montana) speech. Apparently somebody in the White House thought that he should have made this announcement rather than have it made by Udall.

MOSS: Okay. Another item here, this time from Larry O'Brien, in which he says he's calling a meeting of all congressional liaison officers and asks for a brief, or a report in writing, "describing briefly and explicitly the congressional liaison procedure which your department or agency has implemented as a result of our meeting of some three weeks ago." What sort of procedure is he talking about? Did they set up a particular plan for you to follow?

BEATY: Yes, they wanted us to keep track of each request from a congressional office and any comments of any significance that might affect the member's attitude toward the administration, or the possibility, I suppose, of having done something for them, getting them to vote for us on something. It was kind of a record-keeping thing as much as anything else, but also I think keeping the White House liaison people informed on who was showing interest in things. From our standpoint at least, it never did develop into much of an intelligence service. I rather doubt if it did with the other administered departments.

[-322-]

MOSS: You don't recall who this man was do you? Here's a memo from Maguire [Richard V. Maguire] to you on January 8, 1961, saying, "This is the man for Cape Cod."

BEATY: Well, he had called me and told me they had somebody who was interested in serving on that board and he would send me a resume or something--and you

can see it's been ripped loose from the top up there--and I don't remember. I think I can probably reconstruct it if I saw the name because two or three of these---we were given them several times.

MOSS: There's a memo here on the sixteenth of March, again from Fred Dutton, in which he forwards a standard route slip for White House correspondence. It's forwarded to the agencies and departments. How useful was this? Did it hold up very well, or did they ignore it as much as use it?

BEATY: Let me look at it a minute and see what I can.... Oh, they used it quite a bit. I think something like this was used the whole time we were there. Usually, though, it was--we got a lot of stuff in kind of a bulk, just got it in bulk, and it was all marked just "reply." It didn't say reply on behalf of the President, just for us to respond to. If it was "reply on behalf of the President" or "draft for the President's signature" or that sort of thing, we got it usually in a separate envelope, and a lot of times with a note telling us just what they were looking for.

MOSS: Right. If you got it in bulk, it was just "you handle it."

BEATY: That's right.

MOSS: The best way you can.

BEATY: Yeah, but they used that form on it.

MOSS: Okay. Now the next folder you have....

BEATY: I find this is just full of stuff that you mailed me when we were getting set up on this, and newspaper clippings and things that.... There are a few papers, and we might just pass them back and forth and see what.... Some of these, I think, are of some general interest, would be. This is a letter from, I think, Staats [Elmer B. Staats].

MOSS: Staats.

[-323-]

BEATY: It could have been Sam Hughes [Phillip Samuel Hughes], but I think it seemed to me at that time Staats was still the deputy. It had to do with differences between Interior and [Department of] Agriculture over various recreational things. Here's a draft press release. The top thing, I'm sure, was typed up in the Budget Bureau or the White House. Fourth draft, does it say?

MOSS: Yes, fourth draft.

BEATY: They ran it back and forth between Interior and Agriculture, and I think probably two of the sheets down there are things that we typed up in response, when you see it change color. Perhaps not. I don't remember because it was one of these things that went on and on.

MOSS: So this is sort of drafting the communiqué on the Interior-Agriculture agreement on how to share the recreation responsibilities.

BEATY: That's right. I forget what it was, some effort of Interior and Agriculture to announce a policy of consulting each other and cooperating on something. It wasn't something that had White House interest as this one did, but as it turned out our department and their department couldn't agree on the press release. It wasn't anything that ever got to the level of Udall and Freeman [Orville L. Freeman], although both of them knew about it, I'm sure. It was more at the staff level, resources program staff in our case and somebody at a similar level at Agriculture, and it went back and forth a few times and finally just died. It was never issued.

MOSS: Almost like international diplomacy at the summit meeting, not being able to agree on a joint communiqué.

BEATY: That's right. This, in connection with this same thing, there's a note from Freeman to Udall and Udall to Freeman. It's all part of this package. Some hurt feelings on the part of Freeman and efforts by Udall to smooth it out. As I think we've mentioned before, I think the people in the Forest Service were constantly needling Freeman. Interior was trying to take over everything and point out to him how Udall was running end runs around him, and then he'd feel compelled to protest.

MOSS: Well, this one's going to be tough to microfilm I think.

BEATY: It is. I know it is.

[-324-]

MOSS: It's a very light xerox copy of the letter from Freeman to Udall. What I may do is try to type a copy of it to be microfilmed right after it so it can be compared with the light copy.

BEATY: I would think that would be a good idea.

MOSS: This April 5 in here is, I suppose, a reply.

BEATY: I think so.

MOSS: From Udall to Freeman dated April 12.



BEATY: As I understand it, Freeman's memo to Udall either was read by Staats, or a copy was sent to Staats, although it may not show that.

MOSS: Which resulted in the Staats memo to Udall and the draft that they....

BEATY: Well, there was a lot of coordination in.... Well, this is nothing of any consequence. A memo to Lou Swartz, 1966. Oh, we're getting a little beyond things. You and I have talked about the governorship of Samoa. I know you've gotten to that appointment. This is from one of the assistant solicitors in the department to John Carver [John A. Carver, Jr.] about the situation.

MOSS: Bernie Myer [Bernard R. Myer]?

BEATY: Yeah.

MOSS: Bern--one of the solicitors?

BEATY: That's right.

MOSS: For the territories?

BEATY: Well, at that time he was.

MOSS: This is March 25 of what year, do you recall? '61?

BEATY: It was 1961, I'm really confident.

MOSS: Okay. "Make sure," let's put on there.

BEATY: The stuff back here happened long after President Johnson [Lyndon Baines Johnson] took over. In fact, I don't know why it happened to be in this folder; I couldn't say.

[-325-]

MOSS: Perhaps I could put it in the number--this stuff that you handed me here I could put in the number two folder, which was sort of a mixed group of memos covering the whole three years. So I'll just slip that in there, and I'll pick up a new, number five. Now...

BEATY: Maybe we'll have to get another folder because I think a lot of the next stuff is also of little interest. But now, I think you'll find that of interest.

MOSS: January 18, 1961, Udall to Sorensen. "Suggested language for the State of the Union Message." I've just been reading John Kenneth Galbraith's journal in

which he claims credit for the “never negotiate out of fear, but never fear to negotiate” phrase.

BEATY: Yeah, that's right.

MOSS: “Suggested remarks for the President's supplement to his State of the Union Message regarding the Interior Department.” Okay, that's good.

BEATY: And here's a... I would assume this is something we got from one of the bureaus in response to one of the requests from Fred Dutton for information and which we consolidated into one of the other reports. It's from Dan Janzen [Daniel H. Janzen, Sr.] who was the director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife at that time. Here's a memo regarding the helium program, helium conservation program which was authorized by Congress in the last year of the Eisenhower administration, but it fell to us to implement.

MOSS: Right. This is the one where you got in trouble with GAO [General Accounting Office] on the overcost of it.

BEATY: That's right. This is something that... It was written before we issued... There weren't any contracts or anything.

MOSS: Okay. This is a memo to John Kelly [John M. Kelly] from Jack Spore [Jack L. Spore]. Who is he?

BEATY: He was one of the staff people, the technicians.

MOSS: In Mineral Resources?

BEATY: That's right. It refers to Congressman Mike Kirwan [Michael J. Kirwan] and Jensen [Benton Franklin Jensen] who were the ranking Democrat and Republican on the subcommittee that would appropriate money for this program. Exactly why this meeting was arranged, I don't know--I suppose to inform the congressmen what we were doing. They probably requested it.

[-326-]

MOSS: Yeah. It's evident from the memo that Kirwan and Jensen didn't like the way things were set up.

BEATY: That's right and which probably meant that...

MOSS: They had asked for clarification...

BEATY: Yeah, and that their staff man who had been working on this didn't like it,

Gene Wilhelm [Eugene B. Wilhelm]. Now this next one is rather self-explanatory.

MOSS: Attention Claude Desautels. Letter "Dear Mr. O'Brien." It's September 15, 1961.

BEATY: The Secretary's signature to Larry...

MOSS: San Luis contract.

BEATY: Yeah. California. Governor Brown [Edmund G. Brown] is involved as you can see.

MOSS: This may be another one in which we're going to have to do a retype job to make sure it comes out clear.

BEATY: Yeah, it looks pretty blurry. Now here's a note to Larry O'Brien from me attaching material that somebody else in the department prepared for me. It's summarizing the first two years of legislative work as far as the departments concerned. And I'm sure it was partly in preparation, at least, for the...

MOSS: Fall campaign?

BEATY: That's right. Go ahead. I'm just getting these oriented. There's a lot of stuff that doesn't even interest me at this point.

MOSS: I imagine there's a good deal of that. This is rather interesting, though, this...

BEATY: Yeah, I thought so.

MOSS: ...from Fred Dutton to you talking about putting the arm on the concessionaires in Yellowstone National Park to comply with departmental regulations forbidding discrimination in hiring practices.

BEATY: That's right. Yeah, I think that's a good one.

[-327-]

MOSS: And this is dated June 16, 1961. Otis Beasley [D. Otis Beasley] was the department's representative on the Civil Rights subcommittee, of what?

BEATY: I don't know.

MOSS: The fair employment practices...

BEATY: That sort of thing.

MOSS: ...thing that Johnson headed?

BEATY: I imagine that's the situation. Otis, as I think we've mentioned before, is a very smooth-operating career official. I carefully avoided saying bureaucrat.

MOSS: Well, it's not necessarily a pejorative term.

BEATY: That's true. But he was bureaucratic in my mind in the sense that he could be enthusiastically and indignantly in favor of going along with the Secretary's and the President's efforts in public meetings. Enthusiastic for doing it, indignant that these problems existed when they shouldn't exist, and yet go through motions without producing results because I don't think he was.... I think his southern background and his experience with Negroes as "lazy and incompetent messengers" a term that I've heard him use.... Over the years he didn't feel any great enthusiasm for broadening the racial patterns in hiring and that sort of thing. I don't think that he consciously avoided doing anything about it, but we got more results when Udall took a personal hand, or when he put Frank Barry--he had a team working with Otis Beasley to do something about it.

MOSS: On particular occasions rather than as a broad-range policy.

BEATY: That's right. That's right. And as the administrative assistant secretary he was the logical person there to handle this, and the people that worked on it were under his general jurisdiction. I couldn't cite a single instance that would give any evidence that he was less enthusiastic, but I don't think he was.

MOSS: In other words, when you had to get something accomplished in this area, it took a special note from Udall or a call or Frank Barry getting in or a meeting or something to blast them off their duffs.

BEATY: Right. Well, we'd.... Interior was very low in the percentage of minority, of Negroes working at levels above GS-4

[-328-]

or 5. When this would be called to our attention by the White House, and we'd have a meeting, Otis would be quick to point out, "Well, they don't take into consideration the fact that our Indian Bureau is about 60 percent Indians, and these are minority people. It doesn't mention that there are a lot of Spanish-Americans working for us in the Southwest," and so on and so forth. There was always some reason why the figures showing us in the bad light weren't correct or didn't reflect the true picture.

MOSS: You made a concerted effort at one point to recruit southern blacks into the National Park Service, didn't you? There was an internship you tried, you set

up one summer.

BEATY: That's right. This is one of those deals where Beasley went out and did a good job. I think he actually toured a number of southern Negro college campuses and talked to the faculty administrators and the students. He took somebody along from Park Service, I imagine, and probably somebody from the solicitor's office-- again, this Frank Barry-Otis Beasley team effort. This was to get students and faculty members to work in the parks in the summer, temporary jobs which we hoped would lead some of them into becoming full time Park Service employees in jobs other than custodial. I think this program worked fairly well. It certainly was an improvement over the previous. The Fish and Wildlife Service, Park Service, almost lily-white organizations. Fathers grow up in the Park Service and then their kids come in, and their kids are not black. I think some improvements have been made, but it's still probably a very low percentage. This next packet you probably have and don't need from me. It's a duplicated set of President Kennedy's speeches on the conservation tour he made about a month before the assassination, as actually delivered. I think these were taped and transcribed and duplicated.

MOSS: Oh, I see. Well, I'm pretty sure they.... Let's see. This comes from what originally? Office of the White House press secretary. Okay. I'm sure this is in, if not in the White House papers, in Salinger's [Pierre E.G. Salinger] so that I don't think that we'll need this. I'll double check though at the office and see if they have one.

BEATY: There are some things there. Lewis Flagg [Lewis S. Flagg III] who's mentioned in the second paragraph, second item, I believe, is a Negro. He was active in veterans' affairs in New York City and also in the Democrat political machine. The people up there who ran things knew him, and when we were looking for at least one Negro in the associate solicitor level, his was the name that was given to us as the most likely prospect. I believe he's probably still over there because of their shortage of high-level Negroes in this administration.

[-329-]

MOSS: This is an intriguing item simply because it seems to be such a mixed bag, this Bonneville [Bonneville Power System] steel bid. "I checked with George Toman [George W. Toman], and he said that other than a phone call from the Italian embassy, there'd been no kickbacks on the delay of contract award." Do you know what that's all about?

BEATY: Oh, yeah. The Italians were underbidding I think, probably some New York firm that a congressman who's on the [House] Rules Committee, a New York congressman who's on the Rules Committee, is interested in. I can't think of his name, but we can check it easily enough. Usually Italian steel was underbidding American companies in supplying steel towers and cross arms and all these things to go on power-line construction in the Bonneville power area. A tremendous amount of political

pressure built up by American steel companies to reject this whole thing and go with American firms. There was counter pressure from this company through the congressman whose position on the Rules Committee made him important to the administration. He's a liberal Democrat on most things although he's a Catholic who helped through the script the operation on the federal aid-to-education business when they got the religious issue involved in that. Let me see. Here's a *Congressional Directory* and get his name. His office used to be right across from us in the House Office Building, so we knew him pretty well. A guy like that you have a hard time saying no to, but we were stalling this contract. It wasn't a contract in that particular case. James J. Delaney is the congressman.

MOSS: Here's this Pozen [Walter I. Pozen] memo to you. The last item says he's going to do a separate note to Udall on this one, but John Kelly [John M. Kelly] "just told me that our jurisdictional problems with OEP (Office of Emergency Planning) on the oil proclamation have been resolved in our favor." And this is October '62 which was just about the time that you were really working on that oil import quota thing. Eventually the Frank Ellis operation was to take it over rather than the Department of Interior, but there's some confusion as to jurisdiction on the whole thing.

BEATY: Well, I'm confused too. At this point I don't think I can add anything to that.

MOSS: Okay, okay.

BEATY: Let's see. Where was I on this list? Mostly it's just newspaper and magazine clippings that I...

MOSS: Here's a little sidelight on this Lewis Flagg appointment, a question of whether it should be announced by Vice-President Johnson or by Udall. And Walter Jenkins [Walter W. Jenkins] pushing for

[-330-]

Johnson announcing it and Louis Martin [Louis E. Martin] feeling that Udall should do it. Was this very significant, or was it just...

BEATY: I don't remember.

MOSS: It sounds like Jenkins pushing for his man to get a little publicity and Martin trying to keep the Vice-President in the background.

BEATY: It sounds like it, doesn't it? But I just don't remember. Something I probably knew about at the time and promptly forgot. Here's an example of how hard it is to consolidate offices and reorganize: an Edith Green [Edith S. Green] letter to Larry O'Brien which he passed on to us.

MOSS: So she's complaining that consolidation and reorganization is hurting her

district by pulling it out and putting it into Seattle.

BEATY: That's right. Then that would have an effect on it. There were changes proposed and probably made which transferred people across the Columbia River into the adjoining area of the State of Washington. This might, from a prestige standpoint, hurt congressmen to lose an office to the other state, but actually people living in that metropolitan area--and it doesn't make a lot of difference, but we got kicks--I forgot what it was, some minor move that was proposed or rumored, and the congressmen kicked up a storm on that. "That's really all I've got."

MOSS: Okay. I'll make this...

BEATY: And I'm sure there are a lot more things I can dig out.

MOSS: ...the substance of a fifth folder then. Let me, since I've got a little tape left on the end of this, ask you one or two things about particular White House people that while we may have mentioned in passing, you haven't talked directly about. You mentioned Dick Donahue [Richard K. Donahue] before and Claude Desautels. I don't think we've really mentioned Henry Wilson [Henry Hall Wilson] and the liaison staff. Do you recall how he operated?

BEATY: Yeah, I think actually I've worked with him, or he and I were on the phone more than anybody else in the congressional liaison operation except Claude Desautels, who is, of course, the constant contact man. But Henry, running into something on the

[-331-]

Hill, would phone that congressman's office, get on the phone and talk to me because he knew he could get me any time. I wasn't over at a cabinet meeting or testifying on the Hill or something as Udall would be. But in the congressman's presence, he could show that he was asking for immediate attention to whatever problem there was. Also he followed things fairly closely even though he had three or four assistants in the House. I think he coordinated it very well and would make follow-up calls, and there was, I'm sure, some mail, but mostly it was telephone.

MOSS: How about Mike Manatos [Mike N. Manatos]?

BEATY: He was a lot like Henry, but in a different.... Maybe there are fewer senators. There were fewer contacts, and also he had a way of calling Udall more than me. He wanted to talk to the Secretary.

MOSS: And he would call direct rather than going through you.

BEATY: That's right.

MOSS: Okay. How about Chuck Daly [Charles U. Daly]?

BEATY: Well Chuck and I knew each other personally and had known each other for some time, and whenever anything came up he'd call me. You know, there just wasn't any problem.

MOSS: Do you have any feel for the kind of area of responsibility that Ted Reardon [Timothy J. Reardon, Jr.] had?

BEATY: No, I think I always had the impression that Ted really didn't have any major responsibilities, that he was kind of lost over there, that he'd been with John Kennedy so long that they felt a need for him around, and yet they didn't have a specific slot for him. And he would turn up in cases or issues of one kind or another that bore no particular relevance to the one that we talked about the first time, the previous time. I saw him frequently and talked to him, but it was usually just visiting. I don't recall working on any real problems with him.

MOSS: Okay. Did you have much contact with Kenny O'Donnell [Kenneth P. O'Donnell]?

BEATY: Yes, he usually...

MOSS: What kind of things?

BEATY: Well, these were about meetings over there: who needed to come, who was going to come.

[-332-]

MOSS: What about patronage problems?

BEATY: Mostly, I don't think so of Kenny. We got some from Dungan, some from Dutton, but mostly they came from Maguire and Donahue and Chuck Roche [Charles D. Roche]. Harris Wofford [Harris L. Wofford, Jr.] was working in the White House or in the Executive Office Building on personnel matters, and I think, probably minority employment was his special assignment more than patronage. I think the ones I mentioned first there pretty well cover the list.

MOSS: What kind of feel do you have for what Dick Goodwin [Richard N. Goodwin] was doing before he moved over to State Department?

BEATY: I didn't have any real contact with him.

MOSS: Was there much contact between you or the department and the press liaison



people, Salinger's outfit?

BEATY: A fair amount.

MOSS: Andy Hatcher [Andrew T. Hatcher] and Mac Kilduff [Malcolm M. Kilduff]?

BEATY: Yeah. Not Kilduff as much as.... Andy and Pierre I think, were the two that we talked to the most, and it had to do a lot of times with coordinating releases. I'm sure that their office at least had liaison with the congressional liaison people and this was part of the deal to coordinate these releases so that congressmen didn't get upset over who announced what and when.

MOSS: Okay. Well, I think that about wraps it up as far as I'm concerned on this. I'll cart these over to the Archives and get the microfilm people on it and get them microfilmed and get them returned to you.

[END OF INTERVIEWS]

[-333-]

Orren Beaty, Jr. Oral History Transcript – JFK #14  
Name Index

**A**

Anderson, Jack, 316

**B**

Barkin, Solomon, 321  
Barry, Frank J., Jr., 328, 329  
Beasley, D. Otis, 328, 329  
Brown, Edmund G., 327

**C**

Carver, John A., Jr., 325

**D**

Daly, Charles U., 332  
Davoren, William T., 321  
Delaney, James J., 330  
Desautels, Claude John, 319, 327, 331  
Donahue, Richard K., 331, 333  
Dungan, Ralph A., 319, 333  
Dutton, Frederick G., 317, 318, 319, 321, 322, 323,  
326, 327, 333

**E**

Eisenhower, Dwight D., 314, 326  
Ellis, Frank B., 316, 330  
Estrada, Carlos, 316  
Estrada, Ralph, 316

**F**

Feldman, Myer “Mike”, 318, 319  
Flagg, Louis S., III, 329, 330  
Freeman, Orville L., 324, 325

**G**

Galbraith, John Kenneth, 326  
Goodwin, Richard N., 333  
Green, Edith S., 331

**H**

Harding, Ralph R., 321  
Hatcher, Andrew T., 333

Hughes, Philip Samuel Hughes, 324

**J**

Jackson, Henry M., 317  
Janzen, Daniel H., Sr., 326  
Jenkins, Walter W., 330, 331  
Jensen, Benton Franklin, 326  
Johnson, Lyndon Baines, 325, 328, 330, 331

**K**

Keel, William A., 314, 315  
Keeler, William W., 314, 315  
Kelly, John M., 326, 330  
Kennedy, John F., 313, 314, 316, 317, 319, 320,  
321, 322, 323, 326, 328, 329, 332  
Kennedy, Robert F., 320  
Kilduff, Malcolm M., 333  
Kirwan, Michael J., 326, 327

**M**

Magnuson, Warren G., 317  
Maguire, Richard V., 323, 333  
Manatos, Mike N., 332  
Martin, Louis E., 331  
McCormick, Carlos J., 316  
Myer, Bernard R., 325

**N**

Nelson, Gaylord, 321

**O**

O’Brien, Lawrence F., 316, 317, 319, 322, 327,  
331  
O’Donnell, Kenneth P., 332, 333  
O’Gorman, George D., 321

**P**

Pearson, Drew, 316  
Pfof, Gracie B., 321  
Pozen, Walter I., 330

## **R**

Reardon, Timothy J., Jr., 332  
Roche, Charles D., 333

## **S**

Salinger, Pierre E.G., 329, 333  
Seigenthaler, John, 319, 320  
Sorensen, Theodore C., 319, 326  
Spore, Jack L., 326  
Staats, Elmer B., 323, 324, 325  
Stevenson, Adlai E., 316  
Swartz, Lou, 325  
Symington, James W., 320

## **T**

Toman, George W., 330

## **U**

Udall, Stewart L., 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 321,  
322, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 330, 331,  
332

## **W**

White, Byron R., 319  
White, Lee C., 315  
Wilhelm, Eugene B., 327  
Wilson, Henry Hall, 331, 332  
Wofford, Harris L., Jr., 333

## **Y**

Yarmolinsky, Adam, 316, 317