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Biographical Note

Cauley, a journalist and foreign affairs editor for the Washington bureau of the *Kansas City Star* (1957-1964), discusses John F. Kennedy's (JFK) visits to Kansas and Missouri, JFK's interactions with Midwestern political figures, and JFK's relationship with the press, among other issues.

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Oral History Interview

Of

John Cauley

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John Cauley

Table of Contents

| <u>Page</u> | <u>Topic</u> |
|-------------|---|
| 1 | John F. Kennedy (JFK) in the Senate |
| 2 | 1956 Democratic National Convention |
| 3 | Robert F. Kennedy |
| 5 | 1960 presidential campaign |
| 10 | JFK's relationship with the press |
| 12 | Rumors that Lyndon B. Johnson would not be vice president in 1964 |
| 13 | JFK's personality |

Oral History Interview

with

John Cauley

January 10, 1966
Washington, D.C.

By Joseph E. O'Connor

For the John F. Kennedy Library

O'CONNOR: Mr. Cauley, when did you first meet John Kennedy [John F. Kennedy]?

CAULEY: I first met John F. Kennedy when he came to Washington as a senator in 1953. Then as time went on I got acquainted with him mostly as a result of his membership on the Senate committee which was dealing with labor rackets [Committee on Labor and Public Welfare]. Robert F. Kennedy [Robert F. Kennedy] was the general counsel.

O'CONNOR: Do you have any impressions from those early days as a senator, particularly with regard to this particular labor rackets committee?

CAULEY: The Senator, as he was on everything, was always well informed and never afraid to speak out on the views that they were uncovering.

O'CONNOR: About his relations with Senator McCarthy [Joseph R. McCarthy], do you have any comments on that?

CAULEY: I don't remember too much on that. Although they were friends, they did disagree very sharply on many issues.

O'CONNOR: Well, any other impressions that you have of his early tour in the Senate on such issues as his foreign policy?

CAULEY: Well, like I said a few minutes ago, when he made a foreign policy speech he always did his homework. He was always able to answer questions afterwards with people who wanted to go into these

[-1 -]

issues a little bit deeper.

O'CONNOR: How about his farm price support stand? That must have been an issue in the middle west.

CAULEY: It was, and I think that one reason that Senator Kennedy didn't get the vice presidential nomination in 1956 was that a lot of the delegates there were uncertain as to where he stood. By that time he hadn't had time to acquaint himself with all the facts of the farm situation, which was very complex, though he tried hard to learn these things. I remember some man in Kansas City told him one time.... This was later on—he was out there looking for some delegates in Kansas. I remember this man said, "Senator, don't worry too much about the farm problem. Nothing you propose or nothing your opponent proposes is going to work."

O'CONNOR: Do you recall anything specific about the Missouri delegation in 1956 or the Kansas delegation, for example?

CAULEY: This campaign for the vice presidency got going all of a sudden. There wasn't that much preparation. All I know, that some people in the Missouri delegation were not quite certain of Senator Kennedy's sympathy for the farmer. He was an easterner and easterners traditionally were skeptical of the farmer. They were just unsure of his stand. So I think that was the reason it occurred.

At one point Missouri could have gone for Senator Kennedy and put him over, but I think this defeat he suffered there was a blessing in disguise. If he would have won the vice presidency, there wouldn't have been a chance that he and Stevenson [Adlai E. Stevenson] would have been elected in 1956. He would have been tarnished with defeat. The way it was, here was a bright, young, new face who got great exposure on television. A lot of people never knew Senator Kennedy until that time on millions of television screens. He made a great impression on the people. I think it would have been much more difficult for him to get the nomination if he would have been the vice presidential candidate. I think most of the people around him felt the same way.

O'CONNOR: Moving on beyond the 1956 convention then, he went to Kansas and Missouri in 1957.

CAULEY: He came in 1956 one time. Father von Akron was president of Rogers

College, a Jesuit school, which I attended for two years. They had a dinner every year with all the leaders of the community there. I went in to invite Senator Kennedy. I remember he was sitting in the rocking chair in his office. I asked him if he'd come out and speak. I expected to be turned down. He said, "No, I'll come if you can arrange it for Saturday night." He said, "I'm going to speak up in Iowa on Sunday, and I'll go to Kansas City and speak on Saturday night." They didn't want it on Saturday night; they had preferred some other night. But I called Father Van Akron and I said, "Why don't you change the dinner to Saturday night and have him come?" So I went back and told Senator Kennedy, "It's all set for Saturday night," and he came out.

[-2 -]

O'CONNOR: Was he also looking for delegates at that time?

CAULEY: I think he was interested in getting the feel of the country, but he didn't start looking for delegates until later on.

O'CONNOR: He also did come out to Kansas and to Missouri in '57, and I wondered if you had anything to do with that or any contacts?

CAULEY: I didn't see much of him in those days because he was up here and I was in Europe in '57.

O'CONNOR: Oh, I see. Well, were you connected with him during the 1958 campaign in Boston, or, I mean, in Massachusetts?

CAULEY: Yes, well I covered some of it.

O'CONNOR: Would you care to comment on the influence of Joseph P. Kennedy [Joseph P. Kennedy, Sr.] and his political activity in those days?

CAULEY: Well, I talked to the ambassador, but I didn't go into any issues on what President Kennedy was going to stress or anything like that. We more or less talked about the mechanics of the campaign.

O'CONNOR: Did you print that interview with Joseph P. Kennedy?

CAULEY: No, I didn't. In my estimation it was more or less a background, off-the-record thing and I didn't go into it.

O'CONNOR: No one ever approached you with the request not to print or anything of that sort.

CAULEY: No.

O'CONNOR: All right.

CAULEY: I don't think anybody knew I had the interview with him.

O'CONNOR: I see. Did you have any contacts with Robert Kennedy at that time during the 1953 election?

CAULEY: I did come up in Boston. I covered the senatorial campaign for three or four days in and around Boston. Then I went to other places up in New England with several of the other senators.

O'CONNOR: Well, you have seen Robert Kennedy since then, have you not?

CAULEY: I've seen him quite a bit—Robert Kennedy.

O'CONNOR: Would you care to discuss this? How did you happen to have contact with him?

[-3-]

CAULEY: Well, I had contact with him. First, we were friends. I used to go out to his house. Then I really got acquainted with him when he was counsel for the McClellan Committee [Select Committee to Investigate Improper Activities in Labor-Management Relations]. There were some Kansas City angles in these investigations they were conducting. So I used to spend quite a bit of time up in the Senate at these hearings and then talked to Robert Kennedy. Later when Robert Kennedy was attorney general I saw quite a bit of him then.

O'CONNOR: It's often said that he was a very rigid, very emotional man.

CAULEY: You mean Robert Kennedy?

O'CONNOR: Yes, Robert Kennedy.

CAULEY: Well, I had a great admiration and affection for him. Of course he and the President were two different personalities, in my estimation. I think that Bobby was the lightning rod. He took some of the heat on some of the things the President didn't want to do and Bobby had to get done. But he was a great organizer and had immense vigor for getting his campaign going.

O'CONNOR: Do you think he's changed or mellowed any since you first met him?

CAULEY: Well, I don't notice a whole lot of difference. He's about the same.

O'CONNOR: Well, do you have any other comments on his activities in the McClellan

Committee?

CAULEY: Just like the President, when they went into something they went into it thoroughly. They had the evidence ready to confront these people with. As I say, he was a terrific worker. They used to work day and night. I think they did a lot of good.

O'CONNOR: When they struggled to gain evidence against Jimmy Hoffa and the teamsters, did you ever feel this was a personal vendetta with Bobby Kennedy or did it ever become so?

CAULEY: Well, a lot of people said it did. I really don't know. I think that he sincerely felt that Hoffa was a menace to the labor movement, and they had too much evidence on him, they thought that he should have been convicted.

O'CONNOR: He never talked of this in private or off the record with you?

CAULEY: No.

[-4-]

O'CONNOR: Getting back to the 1958 campaign, very briefly, do you have any comments on the Kennedy organization—Kenny O'Donnell [Kenneth P. O'Donnell] or Larry O'Brien [Lawrence F. O'Brien] or any of the other...

CAULEY: Well, they were just beginning to get their feet wet in those days, but they were going to work it out. Of course, they didn't have such opposition at that time up in Boston.

O'CONNOR: Okay. Kennedy came to Kansas or Missouri again in 1959 before his political campaign really got rolling. I wonder if you had anything to do with those? He came for delegates really.

CAULEY: Well, he didn't try for any in Missouri because Stuart Symington [Stuart Symington II] had them sewed up. But he did try for Kansas. I know he went out and talked with Governor Docking [George Docking] and several people. I always will remember one thing. He was in Kansas City in 1959 and he was going out to Kansas and I said, "Senator, you ought to come down and see Roy Roberts [Roy Allison Roberts]."

Roy Roberts was the president of the *Kansas City Star*. For many years he had been very active in Republican politics. We'd never supported a Democratic candidate for president up to that time. But Mr. Roberts, when he had been up here before, was quite impressed with Kennedy. I remember that time he said, "If I were you, I'd take that book you've written, *Profiles in Courage*, and send it to every delegate to the convention." I think

the Senator did that.

I remember that they went in for a talk. Usually some of those things last one-half hour. This went on for two hours, both of them intensely interested in politics. The Senator was trying to pick up some ideas from Mr. Roberts, and Mr. Roberts was anxious to assess this new figure on the political horizon.

O'CONNOR: As a result of this personal contact, did the *Kansas City Star* go for Kennedy in 1960?

CAULEY: No. It did not, it went for Nixon [Richard M. Nixon].

O'CONNOR: Do you know anything about Kennedy's relationship with Governor Docking?

CAULEY: Well, I think they were good with both the Governor and Mrs. Docking [Mary Virginia Blackwell Docking]. However, at the Convention a very unfortunate thing happened. The Kansas delegation became embroiled in the controversy. When the time came for them to ballot—they were out caucusing trying to resolve this and they never did push one on the first ballot, you know.

O'CONNOR: Yes. Do you know what that dispute was about?

CAULEY: No, I don't. I could find out though.

O'CONNOR: But they passed.

[-5 -]

CAULEY: Yes.

O'CONNOR: Okay.

CAULEY: It was just over some.... I suspect that it may have had something to do with Kennedy's religion. In other words, the political reality of whether a Catholic would win Kansas. I think that probably was what one of the problems was.

O'CONNOR: Who really controlled that delegation?

CAULEY: Oh, I don't think anybody. Docking was, of course, an important figure at the time. Frank Theis [Frank G. Theis] was the national committeeman. But I think Senator Kennedy was pretty annoyed at all of this. A lot of other people were too.

O'CONNOR: You don't know where Frank Theis stood in this issue?

CAULEY: No, I don't.

O'CONNOR: No, I believe, was the contact man the Kennedy people met in Kansas.

CAULEY: Yes.

O'CONNOR: All right, now with regard to the 1960 campaign, did you travel with him at all?

CAULEY: I traveled with him quite a bit.

O'CONNOR: You went through some of the primaries then?

CAULEY: No, not the primaries.

O'CONNOR: Then at the election campaign?

CAULEY: At the election.

O'CONNOR: Well, do you have any comments?

CAULEY: That's all of it. I was with the Senate in those days when he was running. I remember lots of things about the campaign. The weekend before the election we were with a motorcade. We were in New York on Saturday before the election, and then Saturday night we went through Connecticut, and went through a lot of towns in Connecticut. He had a microphone in the car and he would speak in the main street. And we were behind schedule as usual. We wound up in Waterbury, Connecticut at two-thirty in the morning, and there were twenty-five thousand people out there in Waterbury waiting to see him. He spoke to these people, and it was very cold, too. They all stayed up for him, to hear him.

Then the next day we went back through some other places in Connecticut—that was Sunday. He had promised Ed Muskie [Edmund S. Muskie] of Maine that he

[-6-]

would make that speech in Lewiston, Maine. We got up at Lewiston, Maine, at two o'clock, he made the speech about one o'clock in the morning.

Our next stop was Providence, and I rode on the plane with him from Lewiston, Maine, to Providence, and he was very tired. He went back into his cabin and never.... There were a couple other reporters in the plane, but he didn't talk to us. Then afterwards I saw him, after he got off the plane, and I asked him how he sized up the chances, and he said that—I remember his eyes were red from lack of sleep and the lines were peaked in his face—"The one question that I'm asking myself frankly is whether this country is ready for a

Catholic president.” And he said, “I don’t know. Look at Oklahoma. We should never lose that state, but I’m afraid we will.” And they did. They lost Oklahoma.

O’CONNOR: This is very late in the campaign, isn’t it?

CAULEY: This is the last.... Well, it was Monday actually, the Monday before....

O’CONNOR: Did he ever talk about the religious question before then?

CAULEY: Well, he knew that it was a handicap to him; I think. I think. I always will remember how he cut in the 1960 campaign. John Dalton [John M. Dalton] running for governor of Missouri, then attorney general. Ed Long [Edward Vaughn Long] was running for the Senate. I don’t recall these exact figures, but Dalton won something like almost three hundred thousand votes. Ed Long won the Senate by a hundred, hundred and twenty-five, and Senator Kennedy won Missouri by less than ten thousand.

O’CONNOR: Do you think that was inspired by him...

CAULEY: And the only explanation for it is the religious feeling.

O’CONNOR: Where else did you go with him in the 1960 campaign?

CAULEY: Well, mostly in the East. I didn’t go to any California—of course, I was at the Convention when he was nominated.

O’CONNOR: Well, talking about that Convention then, did you have much contact with Stuart Symington at the Convention or before?

CAULEY: Well, some, yes. I knew Senator Symington very well but they—the Symington people—they were pinning their only hope on a deadlock, that he would be the compromise candidate in the case Senator Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson [Lyndon B. Johnson] didn’t.... In other words, if there was a deadlock, and Symington was going to come in and be the compromise candidate.

O’CONNOR: Do you think that was Symington’s strategy right from the beginning?

CAULEY: Oh, I think so. There’s no doubt about it.

[-7-]

O’CONNOR: Do you think that’s why he didn’t run a more vigorous campaign?

CAULEY: I think so. And then he didn’t have the money either.

O'CONNOR: Do you have any comments on what he personally thought of John Kennedy?

CAULEY: I think Symington—he told me lots of times, you know, how much he admired Senator Kennedy. They used to talk a lot about, Kennedy would want to get some information on the farm program, he'd talk to Symington, and on military affairs. Of course, Symington was the first Secretary of the Air Force.

O'CONNOR: Was Symington very disappointed that he didn't get the vice presidency?

CAULEY: I think so. I can't prove it, but most people thought Symington would get it, and this was quite a change when they went for Johnson.

O'CONNOR: Did Symington have any hopes of getting secretary of defense?

CAULEY: I don't know whether he wanted it or not.

O'CONNOR: That brings us to another important personality in politics, Harry B. Truman [Harry S. Truman]. I wonder if you could comment on his attitude or his....

CAULEY: Well, as you know, Truman, before the Convention came out and said something to the effect that Kennedy was too young; he should get some years on him. Then I think what was one of Senator Kennedy's most brilliant speeches. He went on TV and cited examples in the past of prime ministers like William Pitt [William Pitt, the Younger], people like that who were younger, younger than he was, and who had assumed positions of world responsibility. I think Truman was probably more for, preferred Mr. Johnson, Senator Johnson.

O'CONNOR: Do you think this was really a personal dislike or a professional disagreement, or was it both?

CAULEY: I think mostly professional disagreement. I don't think they were very close personally, but I don't think there was any dislike there. I think maybe it was Truman's inherent skepticism of somebody from the East, preferring to back Lyndon Johnson from the Southwest. Johnson was more Truman's kind of politician.

O'CONNOR: Did you ever talk to Truman or Truman's aides about John Kennedy?

CAULEY: Not very much. No.

O'CONNOR: I wondered if Truman was particularly piqued by the criticisms Kennedy had made of Truman's policies back in the early fifties.

CAULEY: No, never let that out, to my knowledge.

O'CONNOR: Do you think Truman's opposition hurt Kennedy in Missouri?

CAULEY: I think so. But the religious issue—I'm not typing Truman to the religious issue—but the religious issue in Missouri was.... It had to be. There wasn't any other deduction you could make from that vote. And Missouri is traditionally a Democratic state. But the Missouri delegation was fearful that with a Catholic on the ticket, they'd lose the state.

O'CONNOR: Do you know anything about Congressman Bolling [Richard W. Bolling] and his relation with John Kennedy?

CAULEY: Well, I think Congressman Bolling and Robert Kennedy were very close. Bolling's ideology fitted in pretty close to Senator Kennedy's.

O'CONNOR: Why was he close to Robert Kennedy?

CAULEY: I don't know. They hit it off. Dick Bolling had what looked like was going to be a tough reelection battle in the last campaign, and Bobby Kennedy came out to Kansas City and the crowds just poured out to see him. He came out to speak for Bolling, and I think more than anything else, that put Bolling over big.

O'CONNOR: You mean, this was in 1964?

CAULEY: That's right.

O'CONNOR: Well, Bolling also campaigned very actively for Kennedy in 1960, did he not?

CAULEY: That's right.

O'CONNOR: It was said he went around blackjacking congressmen.... Do you have any comments on the relations between any other local Missouri or Kansas politicians and John Kennedy, Senator Long for example?

CAULEY: No.

O'CONNOR: Or Clarence Cannon?

CAULEY: I don't think Cannon was very close to John F. Kennedy.

O'CONNOR: There is a story that Senator Long got his appointment to the Judiciary Committee by some finagling Bobby Baker [Robert G. Baker]. Do you know anything about that?

[-9-]

CAULEY: I don't know anything about it. It's news to me. Bobby Kennedy and Senator Long have been sparring back and forth over some matter in the Judiciary Committee—and I can't recall what it's—because he said to me, and I printed this.... Oh, it was all on these devices to get information, and Senator Long campaigned against that. Bobby Kennedy criticized him. And Ed Long told me, "One time he said, somebody told me he had a little boy before him, and I found out." I don't know whether.... It could have been when Bobby was Attorney General, but I know they had some disagreement on the use of these devices, you know, electronic eavesdropping.

O'CONNOR: It is said that John Kennedy was very, very sensitive to the press. Did you ever see him angry at a reporter before he became president or after he became president?

CAULEY: Naturally, nobody likes unfavorable stories. I don't recall.... I only saw him angry once publicly, and that was when a woman reporter aboard the [inaudible] in the State Department got up and prefaced her question about two men in the State Department being a security risks. In other words, she presumed this, and he was pretty sharp with her. I remember he actually wouldn't get angry.

Somebody would ask him questions about his relations with the business community, and they were critical of him, and he'd say, "Well, the *Wall Street Journal* had a page one story today on corporate profits. They have this every year on how high corporate profits." And he said, "Column one"—he knew the column, column one. So I remember that. He may have been angry.

He used to get upset at *Time* magazine, and not at their correspondents at the White House but the way it finally came out in New York. He used to get the magazine mailed out. I think he got the first copy. I think it's been in some of these books that he protested to Henry Luce [Henry R. Luce].

O'CONNOR: He was never critical of one of your articles was he?

CAULEY: No, never.

O'CONNOR: You know if he ever gave preferential treatment to any reporters?

CAULEY: Well, he saw a lot of reporters privately. I suppose anybody who made an effort to get in to see him, though naturally he talked to the people he knew from his days in the Senate, ones he could trust. I don't think he'd go out of his way to pick somebody who had been hostile to him in the past.

O'CONNOR: How about the innovations that were made in the handling of the press during his presidency? Pierre Salinger's [Pierre E.G. Salinger] innovations like, oh, simply the live television coverage. Do you know anybody that was very critical of this?

[-10-]

CAULEY: Well, of course, the live TV press conferences were a natural for him. He liked them and knew how to pull them off. I personally didn't personally care too much for them because it was too much of a circus for the reporters seeking publicity themselves.

O'CONNOR: Do you know anybody else who didn't like them? This, in effect, was going over the head of the reporters?

CAULEY: That's right. You always got a story out of Kennedy's press conferences because he was always extremely well informed. I suppose there were a lot of people—in other words there are a lot of reporters who use this for their own purposes, to project their own image.

O'CONNOR: How about making the White House an open beat, meaning you could go in and contact anyone? You didn't have to go to the Press Secretary.

CAULEY: That's right. At least I never did, and I know lots of others didn't have to. Like if I wanted to see Ted Sorensen [Theodore C. Sorensen], I'd call up his secretary, and say, "Can I see Ted Sorensen, and when can this be arranged?" In the previous administration Hagerty [James C. Hagerty] had his hand on everything. You very rarely ever saw anybody in the inner circle.

O'CONNOR: Who did you contact? Since you could contact anyone did you have anyone in particular that you contacted in the White House?

CAULEY: I used to see Pierre, who I knew when he was an investigator for Bobby on the Hill [Capitol Hill], and I knew Kenny O'Donnell, and I knew Ted Sorensen when he was with Senator Kennedy, and Ted Reardon [Timothy J. Reardon, Jr.] I knew very well. So those were the ones, and of course, Bobby.

O'CONNOR: Did you ever notice any rivalries in the White House staff?

CAULEY: Not a bit.

O'CONNOR: Any ill feelings? How were the relations between the President, or particularly Bobby Kennedy and the Vice President? Did you ever see anything that would indicate hostility?

CAULEY: No, I never did. I remember one time when I was talking to Vice President Johnson, and he mentioned something about whenever he called the White House, he said, "For example, nobody is nicer to me down at the White House than Kenny O'Donnell." And he was also very appreciative of the fact that Mrs. Kennedy [Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy], whenever there was an affair at the White House, would always invite Mrs. Johnson [Claudia Alta "Lady Bird" Johnson] and be sure she was there.

[-11-]

O'CONNOR: You never heard of any rivalities or any...

CAULEY: I think there might have been but I didn't see it then.

O'CONNOR: I thought Bobby Kennedy or Kenny O'Donnell told you privately, because you did see them.

CAULEY: No. But you know, naturally there was, as I think most people know, the White House staff and Johnson was not intimate.

O'CONNOR: Well, of course, there was a rumor at one time that a movement was afoot among White House staff members to drop Lyndon Johnson from the ticket.

CAULEY: I'll tell you a story about that. At noon on November the twenty-second, 1963, Roy Roberts, who's the retired chairman of the board of the *Kansas City Star*, and myself had lunch with Ted Sorensen in the Carlton Hotel. And that was the question brought up. Mr. Roberts said, "I understand that the Kennedys are going to dump Johnson." And he said, "That's not true." He said, "Johnson's been a team player with us. We want to keep him." And then Ted left about one-twenty or one twenty-five and his secretary called me. She didn't say what she wanted. She was trying to locate him to tell him the President had been assassinated, but I remember that very vividly.

O'CONNOR: Would you care to comment on Salinger, contrast him with George Reedy [George E. Reedy], Moyers [William D. Moyers], or Hagerty?

CAULEY: Well, they all are different types of operation. Eisenhower [Dwight D. Eisenhower] didn't want to fool around with the press. He gave all the responsibilities to Hagerty and Hagerty ran it his own way. And of course, President Kennedy liked to have a hand in what news went out and what direction it was taking, things of that sort. So he in a sense took over part of the Press Secretary. Salinger is a very bright, very able fellow, and I think Reedy, as everybody knows, had his problems, of not being well informed by the President. But Moyers is doing an excellent job, most of the reporters think, and I think so.

O'CONNOR: Has the change in the presidency to Lyndon Johnson affected your work?

CAULEY: No.

O'CONNOR: You can still walk into the White House and talk to people if you like, or is there a difference in this?

CAULEY: Well, I haven't seen them as much as I used to see the Kennedys, but I... For example, when Reedy was press secretary, I used to go in and see Moyers and people like that.

O'CONNOR: Apparently Salinger hired a man specifically to deal with the foreign press. The man's name was Jay Gildner. Do you remember him?

[-12-]

CAULEY: He stayed briefly. I don't know whether that worked out or not. I got to know him, but apparently it didn't pan out the way he expected, because he was dropped.

O'CONNOR: I wanted to ask you if you knew anything about why he was dropped?

CAULEY: No, I don't. I think he was with the USIA [U.S. Information Agency] originally and then he went back. I'm just guessing at this, that this didn't work out.

O'CONNOR: Well, that just about ends my questions unless you have any other comments you'd like to make.

CAULEY: There are two or three things I remember about the President Kennedy. One of them was—I read a book put out, it wasn't a campaign biography. It was called, *John Kennedy: A Political Profile* by James MacGregor Burns. So there was a part in this book in which Burns said the senator could bring bravery and wisdom to the presidency, but whether he could bring passion and power would depend on his making a commitment of mind and heart which he'd never been required to make before. This sort of intrigued me, this passage.

Frankly, I was a little puzzled about it. So I went up to see Senator Kennedy. And I remember he sat in the rocking chair and I pointed this out to him. You could see that he was a little annoyed. And he said, "The trouble with Jim Burns is that he wants me to believe like some of those older liberals in the Senate. I suppose I'm not the believing type." I thought that was a very significant little incident with President Kennedy.

I think that the times I talked to him he would often use very picturesque language. One time he said, "The people of this country ought to realize that we are carrying a hell of a burden; we are shouldering the load of the free world everywhere, all the way from Berlin to Saigon. We've only got six percent of the world's population, but we've taken on too much

of the burden.” And he was haunted. He used this word several times in that. He was haunted by the fear of the spread of nuclear weapons, which is a problem that is still with us. I know he once said that, “The Chinese are still some distance away but they may be able to test in my term of office.” I think he said that publicly—was going to.

Now, I remember the human side of John Kennedy. I was at Hyannis during the election night and, you know, it looked like he had wne that night, and then the next day it was not certain. But two days after the election he had the press at his father’s home for a little party. He brought Mrs. Kennedy in and took her around and introduced her to everybody. Called everybody by his first name. I remember it got dark, it was late in the afternoon. We were all getting ready to leave, and he came up to me and he said, “Have you got a ride?” Here was a man just selected president, and he wanted to know if I had a ride. Then he said, “I want to talk to you.” And we went out on the porch, and he told me some—“Sorry, about Charlie Brown [Charles H. Brown].” Charlie Brown is a congressman from a

[-13-]

district in Missouri that got defeated, and he said, “I’ll try to do something for him.”

But I remember that he and Bobby both up there gave their appraisals privately on why they won. The debates were the big thing. In other words, the debates showed Kennedy as a mature, intelligent young man, and demolished the Republicans’ charges that he was too young and immature, and that sort of thing.

O’CONNOR: All right. Any other comments at all that we’ve forgotten to talk about? Perhaps relating to days when he was with the McClellan Committee or anything else?

CAULEY: Well, I remember one time—this is a personal—my sister and her three daughters and her husband came up here, and I just asked somebody in the White House if we could possibly see the President. And he said, “Well, you’d rather not count on it.” And they called me back and said, “Be here tomorrow morning at nine o’clock.” We stood in the cabinet room, and he was having breakfast with the legislative leaders, and pretty soon he comes walking down this little porchway around the back of the White House, and he comes in the cabinet room. I introduced him to my brother-in-law, sister and her three daughters, and then he brought in Johnson, Mansfield [Mike Mansfield], Humphrey [Hubert H. Humphrey], McCormack [John William McCormack] and George Smathers [George A. Smathers] and introduced them all around. And here they got to meet all the wheels of government in one occasion.

Another thing I remember, and I never will forget this. This is the greatest demonstration I have ever seen. The greatest outpouring of affection was when Kennedy was in Berlin. It was just fantastic.

O’CONNOR: You were there?

CAULEY: I was there on the trip. I was with him on the whole trip. The Germans would sort of chant, “Ken-ne-dy, Ken-ne-dy.” It was just the greatest thing

I have ever seen.

Then I remember when.... I stayed over. I mean I didn't go back with him. I stayed over in Europe. His little son [Patrick Bouvier Kennedy] died shortly after he got back, and I remember I was in Paris when.... I wrote him just a handwritten note expressing my sympathies, and sent it to Salinger. And by the time I got back I had a personal letter from him which says, "Dear John, You were kind indeed to think of us in this very difficult time. Your message was a comfort to me and my family, and we are very grateful to you. Sincerely, John F. Kennedy."

O'CONNOR: I don't suppose you traveled with him the time he went to Paris and to Vienna, and not with Khrushchev [Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev]?

CAULEY: No. I remember that. That was June of '61. I remember that he said once that he was pretty well shaken by the bellicose attitude of Khrushchev at this meeting. I remember he said in connection with that, "We must live with the Soviets and attempt to calculate our wish. When we feel the time is ripe, those risks may bring about success."

[-14-]

One other.... It's all right if you permit human....

O'CONNOR: Sure.

CAULEY: I always will remember one time in April of '61 that there had been a picture in *Life* magazine. It was a big picture, it showed Senator Kennedy calling at the White House before his inaugural. This picture appeared early in January. It showed the President on the north portico of the White House carrying his hat, and President Eisenhower met him. And my picture was in the background. I was there covering it.

So I got this picture from *Life*. So after John F. Kennedy became president I took it over to him to autograph one day, and he stood up on the front step right in front of his desk and he reached over, and he got this pen and he wrote, "To John Cauley, whose presence"—that's what he wanted to write. He quoted the word, presence, and he looked up at me and said, "How do you spell presence?" And I said, somehow or other I got it out, p-r-e-s-e-n-c-e, and he said, "You know, I'm a graduate of Harvard and I don't even know how to spell presence." But he wrote, "To John Cauley, whose presence made it official. With esteem and best wishes, from his friend, John F. Kennedy."

Another time I remember my two editors were here. John Colt [John W. Colt] and Dick Fowler [Richard B. Fowler]. Mr. Fowler is president and editor, and Mr. Colt is executive editor. But I arranged a meeting with President Kennedy. We were in Salinger's office and he came in with General Clifton [Chester V. Clifton, Jr.], and he said, "We got to go to a reception." He said, "Come and go with me." So we walked alone. He was a very fast walker. And

we went up to this reception. It was for Daisy Borden Harriman [Florence Jaffray Hurst Harriman], a plaque she was getting or something. When they got up there in this room, he said, "As soon as I get through with this I'll tell you, and then we'll go out to my office and talk." And somehow or other when it got time for him to present the plaque they couldn't find him. And he said to an aide, I forget whose, General Clifton's or somebody's, "What have you guys been doing all week?" And then he finally gave word, "Let's go." And he walked on down, went in back to his office, and we stayed there for about twenty-five minutes and had a very fine conversation with him. You got enough?

O'CONNOR: That's just about it unless you've got some more to tape.

CAULEY: No, that's covered it.

O'CONNOR: All right.

[END OF INTERVIEW]

[-15-]

John Cauley Oral History Transcript
Name Index

B

Baker, Robert G., 9
Bolling, Richard W., 9
Brown, Charles H., 13
Burns, James MacGregor, 13

C

Cannon, Clarence, 9
Clifton, Chester V., Jr., 15
Colt, John W., 15

D

Dalton, John M., 7
Docking, George, 5, 6
Docking, Mary Virginia Blackwell, 5

E

Eisenhower, Dwight D., 12, 15

F

Fowler, Richard B., 15

G

Gildner, Jay, 12

H

Hagerty, James C., 11, 12
Harriman, Florence Jaffray Hurst, 15
Hoffa, Jimmy, 4
Humphrey, Hubert H., 14

J

Johnson, Claudia Alta "Larry Bird", 11
Johnson, Lyndon B., 7, 8, 11, 12, 14

K

Kennedy, Jacqueline Bouvier, 11, 13

Kennedy, John F., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,
12, 13, 14, 15
Kennedy, Joseph P., Sr., 3, 13
Kennedy, Patrick Bouvier, 14
Kennedy, Robert F., 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14
Khrushchev, Nikita Sergeyeovich, 14

L

Long, Edward Vauhgn, 7, 9, 10
Luce, Henry R., 10

M

Mansfield, Mike, 14
McCarthy, Joseph R., 1
McCormack, John William, 14
Moyers, William D., 12
Muskie, Edmund S., 6

N

Nixon, Richard M., 5

O

O'Brien, Lawrence F., 5
O'Donnell, Kenneth P., 5, 11, 12

P

Pitt, William, the Younger, 8

R

Reardon, Timothy J., Jr., 11
Reedy, George E., 12
Roberts, Roy Allison, 5, 12

S

Salinger, Pierre E.G., 10, 11, 12, 14, 15
Smathers, George A., 14
Sorenson, Theodore C., 11, 12
Stevenson, Adlai E., 2
Symington, Stuart, II, 5, 7, 8

T

Theis, Frank G., 6

Truman, Harry S., 8, 9

V

von Akron, Father, 2