

Frank M. O’Ferrall Oral History Interview – JFK#1, 09/14/1966
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Biographical Note

Frank M. O’Ferrall was a Kennedy family friend, London. This interview focuses on first meeting John F. Kennedy [JFK] and the Kennedy family, O’Ferrall’s personal relationship with JFK after World War II through his Presidency, and reflections on the Kennedy brothers, among other topics.

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Frank M. O'Ferrall

Frank M. O'Ferrall

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Oral History Interview

with

FRANK MORE O'FERRALL

London, England
September 14, 1966

By Joseph E. O'Connor

For the John F. Kennedy Library

O'CONNOR: Mr. O'Ferrall, I'd like to begin this by asking you simply when you first got to meet John Kennedy, or the Kennedy family, and how.

O'FERRALL: Well, the first time I ever met John Kennedy-- in fact, all the Kennedy family--was when they were over here in London, about 1938 or '39. I forget which year it was. Anyway, it was fairly soon before the World War. And, of course, Mr. [Joseph P.] Kennedy, Sr., was the Ambassador here, and I think the actual first meeting I had with the late President was at a big party they gave at the Embassy on Grosvenor Square. I remember that practically the entire Kennedy family were all there in white ties and tails, and it seems now, it was quite a gay party. I think it was given mainly to introduce the family to some of the younger people around London at that time.

O'CONNOR: You hadn't had any contact with them before then; you were just invited to this party?

O'FERRALL: That's right. This is the first time we ever met.

O'CONNOR: Well, did you have any more meetings with them while he was Ambassador here?

O'FERRALL: Yes, we saw quite a bit of, mainly, his brother Joe [Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr.], who was more my contemporary. But we used to play tennis and sort of go have a party or two, and so forth. So I got very friendly with the whole family as a result of that.

O'CONNOR: Well, people have talked a number of times about John Kennedy being a more retiring member of the Kennedy family until Joe was killed in the war.

O'FERRALL: Yes, I think that is probably true, certainly at that time. Because Joe was much more of the forthcoming type in that period and he was a gay, quite a gay sport: he liked going out and about.

O'CONNOR: I don't suppose you ran around much with John Kennedy, though, if Joe was your . . .

O'FERRALL: Not a lot at that time, no. But we used to see him from time to time and always got along well. We used to have fun together.

O'CONNOR: You can't remember any of those times specifically, can you? I wondered what sort of things the young John Kennedy was interested in doing.

O'FERRALL: Well, I think--I can't remember anything specific that I would say he liked doing better than anything else. He was a pretty young man then, you know. He just liked the normal sports and games and so forth.

O'CONNOR: He was also rather sick, I suppose, at various times when you knew him then.

O'FERRALL: Yes, at times, but of course when he-- during the war years he got so badly injured in his back. Of course, I never saw him during that time. But his brother Joe was in the Army Air Force over here, and his sister Kathleen [Kennedy Hartington] was in the Red Cross here. Although I was in the army myself by then, whenever I got any leave, we used to come to London, and we nearly always met up with Joe and Kathleen. And I think I was the last person, outside of his immediate colleagues, who saw Joe Kennedy alive.

O'CONNOR: Oh, really?

O'FERRALL: I was with him on the night before he died. We had a party. I think four of us there were. We went out to a nightclub and so forth. And he told me that he hoped to be back in London again the following night, but he had to go on some mission the next morning.

O'CONNOR: Did he talk much about that mission?

O'FERRALL: He said he couldn't tell me anything about it, it was on the secret list, but he didn't anticipate any trouble and hoped to be back the following evening. So I got a telephone call from his commanding officer the following evening, because I was on weekend leave, to say that he'd been killed that morning. And so I reckoned that I must have been about the last person to see him. Of course, the whole family in America, and elsewhere--and I think Jack at that time wrote to me, they all did, for any news I could tell them on anything that he'd said and did, and so forth. And I tried to bring them a picture of his last few months of his life.

O'CONNOR: That was the first in a long list of tragedies for that family.

O'FERRALL: It was, yes. Then Kathleen married an Englishman . . .

O'CONNOR: Yes, Hartington.

O'FERRALL: That's right. Then he got killed. And then she got killed in an air crash.

O'CONNOR: Okay, you said you were in the military service during the war, so you really didn't see John Kennedy at all throughout the rest of the war. Did you see him after the war was over?

O'FERRALL: Immediately after the war he wrote to me and said he was editing a book on his brother Joe and would like me to be one of the contributors. So of course, I was delighted to do this. He suggested that I should fly out to America and visit the family home at Palm Beach where he was, I think at that time, trying to recuperate from his wounds, and the one thing he was recommended to do was to swim as much as possible. And so I did that. We went to Palm Beach, and I can't tell you what a joy and a thrill it was to be in that sort of world again after so much devastation and dreariness in the past six years. It was something--a visit I'll never forget.

O'CONNOR: Well, just about that time John Kennedy really was becoming involved, or about to become involved, in local American politics, or shortly thereafter when he ran for Congress.

O'FERRALL: Yes. That was the first time, I think, certainly that I'd heard anything about his going into politics. Because Joe had been the one who had always been dedicated for this, and we'd often talked about it in London when he was there in the war. Jack really never came into the picture at that time.

O'CONNOR: Well, many people have commented that if Joe Kennedy had not been killed, John Kennedy

might never have gotten into politics. I don't know whether you care to comment on that, or remember anything about that.

O'FERRALL: I think that is so. But I think that Mr. Kennedy, Sr. was very set on Joe being the star politician of the family and hadn't given any thought to Jack being that. I think, also, that Joe was undoubtedly his favorite, and everything was concentrated on him. So, whether Jack would have ultimately risen so high in politics, one will never know, but I don't think it's quite possible.

O'CONNOR: Another question that relates to this, really, is this: people have said very often that the choice of which man went into politics, whether it be Joe, or John, or Robert Kennedy, was more a choice determined by Joseph Kennedy, Sr.

O'FERRALL: I would say so, definitely. I'm certain of it.

O'CONNOR: Do you think his influence was certainly predominant at that point?

O'FERRALL: Yes, very much so.

O'CONNOR: It's hard to bring that idea in line, bring the idea in line of the father in a sense dictating or pushing one son out before another with the very strong independence of mind and independence of action that is associated with the Kennedy family.

O'FERRALL: Yes, I think so. I think that is absolutely so. And the old man, of course, was always in the background in those days after the war, and he was just beginning to recover from the shock of Joe's death. Already he was then saying that Jack would have to step into his shoes and take over.

O'CONNOR: You don't remember specifically any political discussions that you were involved in at that point, I suppose. That's a long long time ago . . .

O'FERRALL: Well, there were a lot of political discussions at mealtimes out in the garden when we sat around the table because there were always a few political people staying there or visiting there. And, of course, Mrs. [Joseph P.] Kennedy, Sr.'s father [John F. Fitzgerald] had been, I think, mayor of Boston, and he never stopped talking politics.

O'CONNOR: Do you remember him talking at all about Mayor [James M.] Curley? Of course, it was Curley's seat that John Kennedy took in Boston eventually.

O'FERRALL: I do, but of course, it meant very little to me at that time. But, I mean, the name could have cropped up.

O'CONNOR: You know there was supposed to have been kind of a feud between the Kennedys and Curley. I wondered if you recalled any comments that they might have made about it.

O'FERRALL: No, I'm sorry, I can't think of anything about that family.

O'CONNOR: Okay, the next instance, really, when you had contact with him was two years later. You said you had gone to the Dublin Horse Show and to the South of France. Do you recall anything about that?

O'FERRALL: Yes. We took a house in Dublin for the horse show. It was one of the first big horse shows that had been held there for several years because it had all been more or less toned down with no foreign competition, and so forth. But this was

the first big year. And the American team, I know, was there--Mali, many other nations--and we invited as many Kennedys as could come. I think practically the whole of the group turned up, including Jack and Bobby, and his future wife--they weren't engaged at that time; her name was Ethel Skakel--and the sisters, Eunice [Kennedy Shriver], and Jean [Kennedy Smith], the youngest one, and Pat [Kennedy Lawford], married to [Peter] Lawford. And we had a really hilarious week. Of course, none of them are really very interested in horses. In fact, that wasn't what they were there for. They wanted to come to Ireland and to see what it was like again after all that time and have a general get together. The horse show was just an excuse. Then we all went our way, but Jack, if I recall, went on to the South of France, which was always a very favorite place of his. He used to really revel in the swimming at Cannes. He was in the sea all the time; and we were down there at the time, too. I remember we were all visitors at Aly Khan's, the late Aly Khan's. He had a beautiful villa there. A good many times we were often there. And they were some of the most enjoyable days I can recall with him.

O'CONNOR: You must have been getting to know John Kennedy a little bit better then, by this time, I suppose.

O'FERRALL: Yes, certainly. I got to know him, you might say, intimately from then.

O'CONNOR: Well, do you have any comments about what sort of man he was at that time, now? He was much, much younger, of course, then than when he actually became President. People have discussed in many ways the changes that took place in the man, whether he grew more serious, or whether he grew more intellectual, or so forth, whether he grew more responsible as he grew older. Many people have actually called him a kind of a playboy when he was young. I wonder if you'd go along with that?

O'FERRALL: Well, he was always full of good humor and fun when he was with us, because we were right outside the political sphere, and he didn't probably talk so much politics to us as he might have to others. But, I know my wife Angela recalls that he became much more serious minded about sometime in that period. And she used to have long discussions on politics with him.

O'CONNOR: She did?

O'FERRALL: She did.

O'CONNOR: Probably I should have talked to your wife as well.

O'FERRALL: She's very interested. But, of course, we had no idea of the way he was going. We couldn't even size it up how he fitted into the American sort of way of life in politics. Because he was an exceptionally modest person, he never boasted about anything--the sort of folk prophecy that he was going to aim for the presidency or anything of that sort.

O'CONNOR: I guess that was such a long time in the future then that it's scarcely something that can be foreseen.

O'FERRALL: Probably.

O'CONNOR: Okay, you had some more visits with him. You mentioned here, for example, you visited Hyannis Port. How did that come about? That was in 1949, I believe.

O'FERRALL: Well, we were invited over by him to stay at the Kennedy mansion at Hyannis Port in Massachusetts, and that was the first time that we had any view of American politics. He was there, of course, and he was campaigning here and there. And

we did attend one meeting which he was speaking at in Boston at that time. "That was the first time I ever heard him making a public speech." And I remember he told me that he was making a grand tour of quite a large part of the States and wanted us to go with him, but we couldn't at that time. I remember asking if he made the same speech in every place he went to, or what the line was. He told me that he, at the start of his political career, had composed seven speeches, and that he varied them according to the people and the place and the conditions unless they were obviously spontaneous after-dinner speeches, or something of that kind. Otherwise he said he more or less kept to a pattern. I remember him saying he thought it would be impossible otherwise if you were making so many. And he said he could bring up any one of those seven at any given time.

O'CONNOR: Well, you know, he became a rather good speaker when he became President. Do you think he was a good speaker then when you heard him?

O'FERRALL: Yes, I did. I thought he was absolutely outstanding. He was fluent, and it was good material. It certainly impressed us a lot.

O'CONNOR: It must have been an altogether different side of him than you had been used to seeing.

O'FERRALL: It was, and we used to go for long walks down by the sea. He would then tell us his ambitions. And certainly, then, he had his eye on the White House, even as far back as that.

O'CONNOR: Do you really think that . . .

O'FERRALL: Though, I think, at the time, I'm not sure he was even in the Senate. I don't think he was.

O'CONNOR: No, not in 1949. He hadn't gotten in the Senate till 1952.

O'FERRALL: That's right.

O'CONNOR: But his views were that high already?

O'FERRALL: He was hopeful of the Senate, and he really worked day and night towards it. Even at that time when he was on virtual vacation.

In fact, I remember, it was there he asked if we had ever been to an American football match, and we hadn't. And he said, "Well, the next time you come here, I'm going to bring you to one." And he kept his word. We went to the Harvard and Yale match. He took a whole carload of people on the train, brought about thirty or forty people, and we all got on the train, and we were going to make a royal day of it. And they were. . . . He asked me to come and sit with him and have a game of cards. He said, "Do you know how to play gin rummy?" So, I didn't at the time. I said I could try and learn. So he said, "Alright. Of course, you can learn it in five minutes." And I proceeded to win every game for the entire trip, both going there and coming back. And I got a letter from him about a couple of weeks later when I was back home again enclosing a check for my winnings and saying, "Please come back and give me a lesson in gin rummy sometime."

O'CONNOR: Did you find him a very serious man at that time?

O'FERRALL: No. I wouldn't say so, not at all. As far as we were concerned, he couldn't be less so. He was always gay and amusing and wise-cracking.

O'CONNOR: Well, it's surprising that he would have really such outstanding ambitions if he even considered the presidency, or considered running, you know, for a higher position in politics at that time. That's a really rather serious occupation.

O'FERRALL: Well, he was certainly serious as far as that went. Of course, that's obvious.

But he had this much lighter side to him which he brought out for friends and house guests and people, which. . . . Well, he was always sort of the spirit of the place, and making things jolly and gay and fun for everyone.

O'CONNOR: I suppose you never knew him to be serious about a girl until he met his wife, did you? Or did girls . . .

O'FERRALL: Oh, yes. He had, unquestionably, a very good eye for the girls. And so did his brother Joe before him. And I would say they were very much aware of the female, no question about that. I can't recall the names of some of the ladies we used to go out with in those days, but they were always extremely attractive.

O'CONNOR: But I guess he was never serious about any of them, really, until later on, until he actually did get married.*

O'FERRALL: I don't think he really was, no, I doubt it. I don't think so. But he liked nothing better than a night out with, you know, the few females about and around, and they had to be the right sort.

O'CONNOR: What do you mean by the right sort, can you elaborate on that?

O'FERRALL: Well, gay and attractive.

O'CONNOR: Okay. You also saw him, you mentioned here, in the years '50 to '54. You said you saw him in Cannes and in the USA. Could you tell us anything about that?

O'FERRALL: Well, as I didn't go to America every year, by any means, but whenever we did, he always used to invite us over to wherever he was and meet at some point--I think perhaps every trip I ever made to America, and then again in the summer. As I say, he was very fond of the South of France. The climate, of course, is lovely there in August. And I think it's the nicest swimming of any place in the world, practically. And he really went for that primarily. So we used to meet up there. We generally nearly always went ourselves in August for a week or two.

O'CONNOR: Well, just about that time, then, in the early fifties, really, his back was also beginning to bother him more and more. Were you aware of that? That was in the summer of '54 and in '55. And it was just about that time that his back began to bother him so much that he had to go into the hospital for it.

O'FERRALL: That's right. Yes, he had a very nasty time, indeed, but I never personally ever heard him complain. He wouldn't discuss it. And he brushed it off whenever the subject came up. That was his outlook.

O'CONNOR: I would almost think that because of so much trouble, so much physical trouble that he had, it might make him, at times at least, rather irritable. Did you ever see him irritable or angry or anything of the sort?

O'FERRALL: Never. No, I never saw him--I don't think I ever saw him angry or even, as you say, irritable. No, I can't recall a single time when he would have been like that.

O'CONNOR: That's amazing. Okay. You then, I guess, didn't really see him until he had become President, after that, you mentioned the Harvard-Yale football match?

O'FERRALL: Yes, we did. We saw him before he was President, but not long before.

O'CONNOR: Yes, that's right, during the presidential campaign.

O'FERRALL: We had a message from, I think it was his younger sister, Jean Smith, to say that if we would like to come over to the States and go on the presidential tour, that the late President would be very delighted and hoped we'd come along as we'd often talked about this sort of thing and wondered what it consisted of. And we flew out to New York and arrived on the day that he came there from the West Coast, I think it was. He was speaking in New York on that very night, and we attended that, and we went to some reception he was holding afterwards. And he said we were to go with him on his plane for the rest of the tour. I think there was three, or at most four, days left.

O'CONNOR: This was before the election then?

O'FERRALL: Before the election. We did that, and I think we look back on that as one of the most exciting and thrilling things that we've ever done, my wife and I. And we were absolutely aghast at the enormity of the whole thing. The fantastic crowds and the receptions he got were unbelievable, and how he kept up the pace seemed to us incredible. He made, on the average, six speeches a day for the time we were there. We used to leave early in the morning and make six stops during the day. Finally we wound up in Boston for the last night. It was his final speech, and I can still recall the noise in that hall. It was something unbelievable. When he appeared, the cheering lasted fully ten minutes before he could even say a word, and even then there were such outbursts throughout that it was difficult for him to say a word at all. It was a most incredible sight, and noise, and the whole thing was quite unbelievable. But he was so calm and cool on the

plane in between the stops that it really took your breath away because the moment he got out at each stop, of course, you were in a cavalcade with crowds everywhere, and then he'd have to speak to thousands upon thousands. Then he'd come back in the cavalcade, into the plane again, and off. And then he would say something like, to us, for instance, "How am I doing folks?" And joking and in absolutely in the best of humor.

O'CONNOR: I'm amazed that he would still be in a good humor. This had been now a long campaign and a campaign that must have been exhausting for him, you know, particularly in view of the fact that he wasn't in perfect health even at that point.

O'FERRALL: Yes, you'd never have known he wasn't because he was, at the end of the day, the least tired of anybody of the whole entourage, including ourselves. We were pretty exhausted.

O'CONNOR: But even at that point he wasn't irritable or anything, he wasn't short tempered with anyone?

O'FERRALL: Never. He certainly never, whenever I saw him, I never saw him showing anything like that.

O'CONNOR: Did you ever hear him talk about his opponent, Richard Nixon, at all during that period?

O'FERRALL: Well, of course, he talked about him up to a point. He used to have cracks at him, you know, but nothing more than that. I thought he was supremely confident of winning that election, supremely. He didn't have any doubt about the result. And, granted, we all felt the same because he got such marvelous receptions, why we didn't appreciate that it was going to be so close as it was. Whether he did, I don't know. He was so full of confidence that it didn't seem possible he could be beat.

O'CONNOR: Were you there when the returns were coming in? Were you still in the United States, or had you returned?

O'FERRALL: I was. I was in New York by then. On the night of the Boston final speech we all were staying in a hotel in some--I forget its name, but he was staying in the same hotel. And we'd got back and we were going to bed--it was pretty late at night--and we got a message from someone to tell us to go to his suite. So we did. And he said, "Well, now I think we should have a little champagne and . . ."

O'CONNOR: You mean it was over by then?

O'FERRALL: ". . . start celebrating." And we had a terrific party. We all sat around there--there were a dozen of us--for two or three hours. And he was in rip-roar form. I never saw him in better form.

O'CONNOR: Who else was there at the party, do you recall?

O'FERRALL: Well, they were mostly his campaign people. I remember one of them was Mrs. Ronald Tree, I think was later in United Nations. I remember her being there.

O'CONNOR: Do you remember any other friends? For example, you weren't . . .

O'FERRALL: Of course, the sisters were there. The three--Eunice, and . . .

O'CONNOR: Pat and Jean.

O'FERRALL: Pat. I don't think Bobby was there that night. I think he was speaking in some other city at the time.

O'CONNOR: You've gotten to know Robert Kennedy, fairly well, too, by the way, through all of this, haven't you?

O'FERRALL: Yes, but never knew him as well as the others, because he was much younger in the days he was in London. And then we didn't see much of him except when he stayed with us in Ireland, occasionally when we met in New York.

O'CONNOR: I just wondered if you would care to contrast the two or three Kennedy males that you have met. For example, you've already spoken just a little bit about Joe Kennedy, and I wonder if you'd point out, or pick up any things that you feel are specifically different between Robert and John, or Robert and Joe, or John and Joe.

O'FERRALL: I think that they've all got a sense of humor, but possibly Robert has less than the other two. It's a sharper humor and bordering on sarcasm, that's more his line; whereas Jack was never really sarcastic. He was witty and always had something rather nice about it. Joe was much more like Jack than Robert.

O'CONNOR: You mentioned that you'd never really seen John Kennedy angry or irritated. Could you say the same thing about Robert Kennedy, or not? People often commented that he's a . . .

O'FERRALL: Well, I haven't really seen enough of him. I would think that he could get very irritable.

O'CONNOR: People have commented that he certainly can, but I wondered if that was the opinion of his friends. I've actually heard really contrasting views here. Many, many people have told me that Robert Kennedy is much more the fiery of the two.

But, by the same token, I've heard some people say that Robert Kennedy is just as courteous, just as genial, just as . . .

O'FERRALL: I certainly wouldn't call him genial, but on the other hand, he's always been extremely courteous where we're concerned. I think that he and Jack shared one great thing, a tremendous love of their family, which is dominant in both their characters. They're really devoted to their wives--or rather, Jack was--and the children. And that is something that they really do have in common, I think.

O'CONNOR: Well, you know, that brings up an interesting point, really, because one of the criticisms that has been made--at least on the surface at any rate, in newspapers and magazines, and the sort--of John Kennedy was that he wasn't quite as devoted to his wife. They felt that he really wasn't such a . . . He may have had a great loyalty toward the Kennedy family, toward his brothers and sisters, but they've often said that he wasn't a very good home man. Would you care to comment on that? You don't seem to feel that way.

O'FERRALL: No, I'd say that he was devoted to Jackie [Jacqueline B. Kennedy]. I'd say that it was absolutely unquestionable. But of course, he had a--it didn't mean he didn't have an eye for others. He was made that way, but undoubtedly he and Jackie got along like a house on fire; they were always having fun together.

O'CONNOR: That's one of the things actually, among other things, that this oral history project is designed to, in a sense, discover because many unkind things have been said about John Kennedy and his wife, and their relationship. And I'd enjoy hearing from some of his friends, like you, for example, just really what your feeling is.

O'FERRALL: Yes, that certainly is a side of it that I never saw, and I feel pretty sure it didn't exist.

O'CONNOR: Okay, you saw him then several times after he became President. I wonder if you'd care to comment on those at all?

O'FERRALL: Well, the year after he was President we had a long cable from him, inviting us to a dinner dance at the White House. It was in early November, and of course, it was a great thrill, and we had to go. There were about a hundred people, I should think, at it, a dinner dance. He made a speech at dinner which was extremely funny, having cracks about various guests who were there. I think only one other speech was made by Mr. [Franklin D., Jr.] Roosevelt. I think he replied for the guests in equally light vein. It was all a very gay party. We were amazed at the informality of it, having expected it to be much more on the sort of grand line. It was the very opposite. And I remember when we were all assembling for dinner that there was no question of lining up or the fan fare of trumpets or anything like that. Suddenly they just walked in among the people and shook hands everywhere, completely informally, and it made the whole evening much lighter and pleasanter for people like us.

O'CONNOR: Well, you said he had been quite informal when you had known him, in quite good humor, when you had known him earlier, before he was President. Do you think he retained that informality after he became President then?

O'FERRALL: He did, unquestionably. Yes, he did. And at that particular party--I remember I found myself standing on the edge of the dance floor beside him, looking on at the dancing, and I remember saying to him, "Well, you've certainly come a long way

since I first knew you. I never thought you'd end up President of the United States." -And he said--and he was very thoughtful at this moment--"No," he said, "I can hardly believe it myself at times." And then the old light flame came over him, and he said, "And now," he said, "I've got news for you. You're going to see a President of the United States dance the twist for the first time."

O'CONNOR: So, then did he go out and do it?

O'FERRALL: That had never been danced in those sort of places before. And he did. He bent forward, and I think he made headlines the next day.

O'CONNOR: Well, okay. You then had a later meeting with him, you said, not too long before he died. Could you tell us something about that?

O'FERRALL: Yes, it wasn't much more than a week before he was assassinated. We were over in Washington for the International Race at Laurel. And, of course, as always, we let him know we were there. He asked to come and see him in his office--I think it was six o'clock in the evening, or sometime around then--and find out what we were doing, how long we were going to be there, and so forth. So we went around then. They said he was still in a Cabinet meeting in the Cabinet Room next door to his office, but that he'd said that would we go in there and wait. And so we sat in there waiting for him to come, and about a quarter of an hour or so he came in. And we only learned afterwards that it was one of the most momentous Cabinets that had been held for a long time, over, I think it was, whether it was Viet Name or what was rumbling up at that time, but he appeared absolutely calm and gave us no indication of why they were concerned and greeted us warmly. And my wife Angela said to him, "So that's the famous rocking chair where you make all these big decisions." So he said, "Yes, that's the chair." He said, "Why don't you sit down in it and make a decision as to what we're going to do tomorrow night." He said, "I'm free tomorrow night, and we can have a party."

O'CONNOR: It's amazing to find a president free for one night.

O'FERRALL: And he'd invited the, it was some British pipe band over in America at the time making a tour, and they were in Washington. He'd invited them to come to the White House to play for the following evening, and this is what it was all about. So he said, "Well, we better have a little for dinner." These were rather gay, this band, and it ended up a small, but very pleasant little party. And that's the last time we saw him.

O'CONNOR: Do you recall what you were doing, or where you were when you heard that he had been killed?

O'FERRALL: We were at home, just going to sit down to dinner, my wife and I, in our house in Sussex. When it suddenly--the television was on--and it was suddenly announced there. We couldn't believe it, and we didn't have any dinner. We just were so shaken, I suppose like millions of others. But having seen him, too, so very recently before that, made it--sort of brought it home all the more.

O'CONNOR: Well, I'm sure we've missed a good deal on this tape, but I think probably that ought to be enough, unless you can think of anything else that you'd like to comment on.

O'FERRALL: No, I don't think so, but you'll have to be going soon, you know.

O'CONNOR: ⁸⁻Alright.

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