

**Edmund Nix Oral History Interview – JFK#1, 1/15/1966**  
**Administrative Information**

**Creator:** Edmund Nix

**Interviewer:** Charles T. Morrissey

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**Biographical Note**

Edmund Nix (1929- 2010) was the District Attorney of Eau Claire County, Wisconsin from 1958 to 1964. This interview focuses on John F. Kennedy's 1960 primary campaign in Eau Claire County, the issue of religion among Wisconsin voters, and the divide among Democrats in Wisconsin, among other topics.

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By Edmund A. Nix

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Edmund Nix– JFK #1  
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Oral History Interview

with

EDMUND NIX

January 15, 1966  
Loraine Hotel  
Madison, Wisconsin

By Charles T. Morrissey

For the John F. Kennedy Library

MORRISSEY: Well, let's start by my asking you what you were doing in the late fifties when the Kennedy-Humphrey race first began to shape up.

NIX: Well, I had just won election as district attorney in Eau Claire County in 1958, and that was the first successful campaign I had and the first public office that I held. And I had first met Mr. Kennedy at the previous National Convention and was quite impressed with him.

MORRISSEY: Were you a delegate?

NIX: No, I was at that time in the army and happened to be stationed at Chicago, and managed to get some leave time and go over and take part in

the Convention. I guess I ended up getting some page's credentials so I was able to get in and out of quite a bit of the Convention.

And even though I did live a few miles from Senator [Hubert H.] Humphrey's state of Minnesota, and I knew that most of the Democrats in that area. . . . At least the leading Democrats were, of course, for Humphrey; they'd been committed to him for many years. He had always come in and helped candidates running well for the assembly or state senate or congress, and they were pretty much all for him. But I felt that Senator Humphrey didn't have much of a chance, in the end, of being nominated for president, and I thought that a person like Senator Kennedy, young and vigorous, would probably be the one that would get the nomination. Sort of a political gamble or calculated risk that I came out in support of him.

The first real work or involvement that occurred, as far as I was concerned, was a meeting we held at Wausau at which time a state committee, Wisconsin for Kennedy Committee, was formed.

And Ivan Nestingen was elected as chairman. I remember I was selected secretary, I suppose primarily because I had a position as a public official in northwest Wisconsin and they were trying at that time to get a balance of support throughout the state. There wasn't much up in our area. I guess I didn't really meet Senator Kennedy then until after he had made a commitment to come into Wisconsin and he actually started campaigning. But prior to that time, we were organizing a county Kennedy committee and a ninth district, tenth district, third district committee up in that area.

It was extremely difficult to get people who were known in the community to join the Kennedy Club or, especially, to become an officer in it. And eventually we did get a couple people from organized labor who were not union presidents but were representatives of the Chippewa Valley Labor Council. But it was next to impossible to get any labor support for him.

MORRISSEY: What unions did those people come from?

NIX: Well, the one who was most helpful to us was Florence Kitzman, and she was a delegate to the Central Labor Council from White Machine Works which would be the second largest plant in Eau Claire. And she was quite well respected, very well respected among labor, and she was quite a bit of help to us in getting Mr. Kennedy and [Robert F.] Bob Kennedy into some of the labor union meetings when they did come in. Even with her help it was still difficult even to have him make an appearance.

MORRISSEY: I was wondering if some of the senior officials of these unions were so committed to Humphrey that they didn't want Kennedy to come in?

NIX: Oh, there's no question about that. They were all openly for Senator Humphrey and were actually rude to me as I guess I was doing most of the organizational work around in that area, especially with labor. And they were rude in letting us use their hall, for instance, for a meeting or even attending a coffee reception, say, in the morning when Bob Kennedy was in town.

They just apparently didn't want to be seen. They were totally committed to Senator Humphrey and felt that no help should be given to the Kennedys. I'm sure they didn't. . . . Well, some I guess even did dislike them, primarily because of the Teamster activity at the time. The Teamsters in small communities like Eau Claire were, as far as we knew, a clean union with responsible officers, and I guess the Teamsters probably prevailed on some of the others to make it kind of tough when they did come around.

We finally ended up getting some help from people who had never been identified with the Democratic party -- some businessmen who, I guess, felt that they could do something in the political field and that this wasn't really taking a position that would hurt them. I remember one businessman in particular became quite active and has been active in the Democratic party since that time, and I'm sure that he got quite a bit of satisfaction out of making the break, instead of being on the sidelines, to get in and do some work.

MORRISSEY: Had these people previously been Republicans or simply non-partisans?

NIX: Well, some had the reputation of being Republicans. I don't think they ever had been officials of the party or anything, but in the general reputation in the community they were. . . . Of course, at that time almost all the leaders of the community were either Republicans or neutral because the Democrats up until, well, until I had been elected had never elected any officials in the county. And in '58 I was elected and the sheriff was elected on the Democratic ticket. And since that time it's become a little bit more fashionable, I guess, to be a Democrat in that community.

I think my primary responsibility in the primary would be the organizing of clubs and gathering together of names from various walks of life and various religions and nationality groups to use on letterheads and press releases and things like that -- in addition to arranging the itinerary for the Senator and the other members of the family that came in. And we found we had a lot of success in

getting Bob Kennedy to speak at the luncheons; Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, Lions Club, and so forth. They were very interested in his work in regard to labor, the corruption in labor, and, of course, it was a perfect subject for him to talk about, not very politically controversial, yet he was accomplishing getting the familiarity of the name in the area.

He was quite well received except I remember a meeting we did finally get with some of the labor people. And we just put it on the line to the local Teamsters that here was the chance to meet the guy personally that they had been criticizing, and at least they should sit down and ask him questions and get his viewpoints. So we did one afternoon, I believe probably in March -- or maybe earlier than that, February of 1960. He had a meeting with fifteen or twenty labor people that turned out to be a rather heated argument rather than a discussion, and we didn't feel too much was accomplished. There wasn't any publicity attendant to it, but I'm sure that he didn't make

any friends with the people who were his enemies before, and we didn't notice any success at all from that meeting.

MORRISSEY: In putting these clubs together, did you have difficulty in either getting a sufficient number of Protestants to join or not having too many Catholics in charge of the clubs?

NIX: That was a big problem. There was a generous helping of Catholic Democrats who were willing to be associated with the club, but as far as getting Protestants or organized labor or leaders in any farm groups, it was really difficult. And if we could get a club formed in a county and have maybe six names, we felt pretty successful and happy to get six people that would come out.

MORRISSEY: Many people in agricultural areas were dubious about Kennedy's voting record on agricultural issues. Did this cause problems for you?

NIX: Yes, it really was partly his voting record and their knowledge that he was from the East Coast, from a big city and so forth. But in addition to that, our congressman, Lester Johnson, who was

the first Democrat ever elected in that district, I believe -- if not the first one ever elected, certainly the first one in this century -- was very close to Senator Humphrey, and actually Senator Humphrey and Senator [Estes] Kefauver, by helping him campaign, had been primarily responsible in getting him elected. And the farmers of that area knew Humphrey better than they knew any other senator. They weren't particularly, at least the Democrats weren't impressed with either of the Republican senators that Wisconsin had had. I guess at that time Senator [William] Proxmire had just been elected. But in the area, most of the news comes from Minnesota. The newspapers that people read up there are Minneapolis and St. Paul papers, and the television that they get, at that time, came from the Twin Cities, and radio is the same way. And so the people really were as familiar with Senator Humphrey as the people of Minnesota were. They always had heard about him, and so many had personally met him during the times he was campaigning in that area.

I recall the first tour that Senator Kennedy had up in that area. He arrived at the airport about 6:30 in the morning. I had arranged a tour for him from Eau Claire to Chippewa to Bloomer and then to Durand, making a circle around Eau Claire and ending up back in Eau Claire for a rally in the evening. And we got to breakfast at Chippewa Falls, and we were a little late, and the people had already eaten. So he proceeded to talk for five or ten minutes, and most of his talk was devoted to the farm issue because Chippewa and that whole area is a very important farm area, especially dairying. I recall he must have spent half or two-thirds of his time in this short speech saying how hard he had fought for the federal brucellosis bill. Well, brucellosis is a disease affecting cattle, and even the people at the meeting weren't very impressed with that because it was so early in the morning and they were having breakfast and so forth.

So I recall on the way from Chippewa Falls to Bloomer, he asked me for some observations and

suggestions, and I, of course, was quick to point out that brucellosis was not a problem in Wisconsin because Wisconsin had actually solved it before any federal programs had been passed, and that if he would look at the big clean barns and milk tanks and so forth that the farmers have, he'd know that it isn't much of a problem here on that. So I suggested he drop that part of his speech, and he did. And we felt that, even though most of the people he met the rest of the day were farmers or small businessmen dependent on farmers, just by speaking off the cuff that he was making a much better impression.

Then we got to Bloomer; it's a small town about fifteen hundred people, and it's a very Republican community and very strong supporters of Humphrey. The chairman of the Democratic party for Chippewa County at that time lived there, and she was outspoken for Senator Humphrey. Most of the people were up there. But I think it was probably 8:30 in the morning, and about twenty-five or thirty people had crowded into a little

restaurant up there where he was supposed to speak for a few minutes. He got up, and he gave a pretty nice talk and mentioned that he was going to present a flag to the Catholic grade school up the street and wouldn't have much time for questions, but if some wanted to question him, he'd be happy to answer. And one farmer -- he was certainly dressed as a farmer in bib overalls and so forth -- told him that it was nice meeting him, but everybody up there was for Humphrey because he was a friend of the farmer and so forth, and they didn't really expect much from Senator Kennedy as far as help for the farmers go, and he said, "As a matter of fact, we don't even think you know what a farmer is." And it was a very embarrassing situation, tense, and I remember the Senator smiled a little bit and said, "Well, it's true that Senator Humphrey has done a lot for the farmers and worked hard for them, and," he said, "it's easy for you to criticize me because of coming from the East Coast. But," he said, "I'm a little disappointed that you would accuse me of not knowing what a

farmer is." He said, "A farmer is a man 'out standing' in his field."

Well, that broke the ice and people started giggling and laughing, and then the questions were more friendly. And as he left, we saw that everyone was very pleased that they had met him. And we felt that, because of his ability to change the mood of a crowd so quickly, he would be getting a little more support the more he became known. We had quite a discussion about presenting this flag to the Catholic school, but we were quite sure that it was one way of getting some pictures into the paper, especially with the religious issue being there and Kennedy actually presenting the flag to one of the nuns. And that picture did get statewide, and probably nationwide publicity.

MORRISSEY: Why was this considered an asset?

NIX: Well, because he was really not very well known in Wisconsin. He was known by the activists in both parties, but as far as the average person up and down the street, I don't suppose, seeing they don't know their own congressman or senator in half the

cases, they probably never heard of this guy  
Senator Kennedy.

MORRISSEY: But with respect to the religious issue, I'm  
surprised that he would make an effort to have  
his flag donation to a Catholic school publicized.

NIX: Well, it was sort of planned. We made sure that  
the photographers, even the local ones were alerted.  
There was a large gathering of national press men  
with him, I suppose six or eight that were following  
him all that day. But I know it was planned to get  
this publicity, and we were happy that the picture  
was used. We felt that the issue wasn't going to  
get any worse than it was. And he was desperate to  
get some name familiarity up there. We felt that it  
was a very productive trip that day. Later on the  
crowds got bigger. Of course, most of them were  
fairly well staged -- planned ahead of time, people  
pulled in and so forth.

He went to the high school at Eleva and Strum.  
It's a central high school between the two communi-  
ties. And those who went in with him and knew any-  
thing about the background of his invitation to

speaking there could see how tense a situation that was. Eleva and Strum are both Scandinavian communities, small ones -- about fifteen hundred people in each, I suppose. And in Strum there were only two Catholic families in the whole community, and in Eleva I think about three. John Radcliffe was chairman of the Democratic party down there, who lived in Strum and happened to be a Catholic, and we had lined him up for one of the supporters for Senator Kennedy. And I asked him to help with this itinerary for the day. He was also on this high school school board, and he had announced that the Senator was coming through and that he wanted to stop at the school and talk to the children. Well, it took I guess a whole meeting of the school board before they finally did agree that it would be all right for him to speak. But the following day or two John Radcliffe was publicly cursed as he walked down the streets of Strum because of getting involved, getting this Catholic senator to speak, a Catholic who wanted to be president. And one of the churches there even

printed up leaflets criticizing Radcliffe and the action of the school board and so forth. And he felt very bad about it -- Radcliffe did. I remember he called me a couple of times on the phone trying to ask out of it and change the schedule, and we, of course, were quite insistent. We thought it was a good move, and finally they did have it. It was very tense when he was there. Of course, the school had just let out when we arrived and everyone was in the gym; the teachers were lined up like wooden soldiers. He gave a very pleasant talk, partly humorous, and asked for questions. We thought even the children must have sensed a difficult situation, and no one would ask any questions. Finally someone did, and gradually he started to get applause once in a while on some remarks. And as he left, all of the teachers went to the door and lined up and shook hands with him. I guess they had felt kind of bad about it.

MORRISSEY: Offhand do you know how well he did in those two communities when the votes were counted?

NIX: Not very well. Very badly. In one of the two, I

recall at the time, it was at least ten to one he got beat. But he did get more than. . . . There were only four Catholics in Strum, and he got more than four votes, I remember.

It was surprising though, when the election was held for president, in most of those towns he did extremely well. And we felt that once the people had met this problem and talked it out and thought about it, it probably worked to his favor as much as anything else. We closed. . . . In the evening we had a free coffee and cake and ice cream social at the Elks Club in Eau Claire, and we had a tremendous crowd for that. I think probably close to a thousand people came, but we had sent out, I think, ten thousand invitations. That was one of the pleasures of working in that organization. The problem of expenses was nonexistent as far as we could tell up in our area. Whenever we had a program that we felt was justified, there was always money to take care of it. And that was something totally new in our area. Democrats running for any office usually ran with the least possible

money and never. . . . Well, for instance, we'd never have enough money to justify sending out ten thousand invitations to a social hour. But at that one his mother was in Eau Claire as well as Jacqueline and himself. We were really surprised that there was such a good turnout. And it was kind of embarrassing for me: I was master of ceremonies and sort of the person introducing people as they would come up to meet the Senator; there were at least three or four Catholic priests came to it, and it was quite embarrassing to see them circulating in the hall and so forth. Being a Catholic myself, I suppose that I was a little more self-conscious than another person might be. We actually were glad to see them because they weren't particularly known as Democrats, the priests. And actually I had known all of them and knew that most of them were actually Republicans. It was good to see them.

MORRISSEY: In planning itineraries for Senator Kennedy, were there any particular things that he wanted to emphasize?

NIX: Well, mainly, the first goal was exposure -- to get

to as many places as possible and to meet as many people as he could at each place, but mainly to get to as many places as possible. That's why when he was there, he insisted that we have a full itinerary. I remember this one day that I have been talking about, we left this school down at Strum and Eleva which is about twenty miles from Eau Claire. I suppose it was about 5 o'clock when we got to Eau Claire. And I had arranged for the Senator to appear briefly on television during the newscast at 6:30. So there was nothing planned between 5 and 6:15 when he would be at the station. I remember he really was a little bit critical of my arrangements because we had nothing planned for that hour and fifteen minutes. Well, what we did is stopped at one of the large shopping centers and had him shake hands. Well, that satisfied him. But as long as he was there, he insisted that there be something happening at every moment from morning till night. And we were, of course, impressed and inspired by his drive and willingness to really work hard. So it was a little bit encouraging for

us who were battling the odds up there to actually have him there. We were convinced that if he could be there enough, we could even make good headway up in strong Humphrey territory.

MORRISSEY: Did Humphrey campaign much in that area?

NIX: I think primarily he attended large fund-raising dinners. As I remember, he didn't have any hand-shaking tours from town to town, particularly up there. But he did have at least two fund-raising dinners that I can recall that were widely attended.

MORRISSEY: Did the Kennedy people honestly think they could carry this area even though it was adjacent to Humphrey's Minnesota?

NIX: Well, they had polls taken ahead of time which showed how difficult it was. I don't remember specifically what polls, what the results were, but I know it showed him getting beat three and four to one quite consistently in many of the counties in that area.

MORRISSEY: For that reason I'm surprised they just didn't write it off.

NIX: Well, there were some delegates to be elected by the

total vote in the state as well as by those who won in each congressional district, and I guess they felt that the votes that they could pick up there would be significant enough statewide to justify it. In a way, I think Bob either thought we would win it or should win it -- or should have won it after the fact. But the results were not good for Kennedy in the third district and in the ninth and in the tenth which borders on Minnesota.

Many of us afterwards, in seeking appointments to office under the Kennedy Administration, had trouble explaining and justifying the work we did. We got the impression that because they had lost, we were blamed and so forth. And that was true in my case. I had received the support of the local Democrats in Wisconsin -- [Patrick J.] Pat Lucey and John Reynolds, Governor Reynolds -- to be appointed as U.S. Attorney in 1960 or '61. But I think the main reason I didn't get appointed was that the people in the Kennedy organization, especially Bobby, felt that I hadn't produced enough. So I wasn't considered for the job by them.

MORRISSEY: I have heard on the one hand that the Kennedys expected to carry more of the congressional districts than they did. They carried six out of ten. On the other hand, I've heard that they were satisfied to do as well as they did. If you could put yourself into the context prior to election day in that primary campaign, do you think they honestly expected to carry more than six?

NIX: No, I don't think so. The talk that I heard was if they won it, that means if they got more than half the vote -- more than half of the total vote -- that they would consider that a victory.

MORRISSEY: Some of the newspaper people covering the campaign tended to increase the Kennedy prospects as the election day came closer. Did you notice that this seemed to bother him?

NIX: Well, I know it bothered people like [Charles F.] Chuck Spalding, for instance, who was the Kennedy organization representative in the ninth congressional district. And he had been there long enough -- I don't remember how long he was there, probably a month or a little more -- to know that things were bad;

that we weren't going to carry the district; and that we had to hustle and scrape for every vote around. As I remember, the last few days some of the reports indicated a possible sweep and so forth, including doing well in the ninth district. But we were quite certain that there wasn't the case at all. We felt bad about it because we knew that we weren't going to produce the results that some of the press stories said might be possible in our district.

MORRISSEY: Do you recall other occasions when Senator Kennedy campaigned in your area?

NIX: Well, that's about all he campaigned in the area right around Eau Claire. He did appear one more time at the airport just shortly before the election. But other than that he would either travel through La Crosse and in that area or else up further north of Eau Claire, up towards Superior.

I remember one criticism that we got a lot of at first was the criticism of Jacqueline who, the report we got, was seen walking down the street smoking a cigarette. I know that was commented on

in some press story which we felt hurt quite a bit initially. But Jacqueline did come into the area once with the Senator and another time when he was called back to Washington after we had set up a schedule. And on that occasion she and [Edward M. Kennedy] Ted appeared for him and made the rounds. She talked to a few groups of people -- one high school group that I recall -- and did a very fine job, made quite a good impression. We didn't feel that Ted was making any particular impact at all except that it showed the family togetherness and that someone was fulfilling the commitments to appear that we had made for the President.

MORRISSEY: Did the eastern, ivy league manner of the Kennedys score or miss with some of these audiences?

NIX: I always had the opinion when I was with him and watched crowd reaction that his different manner of speaking and crazy pronunciation of a few words helped him, mainly because people were repeating the most obvious of the different pronunciations. And we felt that that had to be good because we were working with someone who was unknown, and if

we could get people talking about how he looked or how he dressed or how he spoke, that was an accomplishment. I think just the general image that he was from a big city in the East hurt him. But I don't think his mannerisms hurt him at all.

MORRISSEY: Was there any antagonism between the local Democrats and the representatives of the Kennedy family, like Chuck Spalding, who moved into the area?

NIX: Very little in our area because there just weren't very many Democrats involved in the Kennedy campaign. Just so very few, and we were happy to get help like Spalding with the check book and free use of telephones, for instance. Just money that was spent on telephones was enough to dwarf a lot of other campaigns that we had been involved in. So we were generally happy to have him. Well, in Eau Claire, for instance, we were a handful, maybe four or five people who were doing any work at all. And he was there full-time, and we were happy to have him. Most of us had jobs that we had to do most of the day.

There was a real serious split among the

Democrats, many of them resentful of myself and others like me that would sort of divide what had been a nice cozy relationship for all of us Democrats. It was the first issue that I had been involved in. Since I got active in 1948, it was the first real issue or personality conflict that we had had. And we were just beginning to break through, starting to elect a few people to the courthouses in each of the counties, and it was very bitter. People remembered it -- people still remember it, still feel antagonistic back and forth.

MORRISSEY: Is it fair to say that this all hinges on personal affiliations between either Humphrey and Kennedy?

NIX: Well, I think it's basically that 95 per cent of the Democrats who were leaders were for Senator Humphrey, and all knew him personally. They had met him ten, fifteen, twenty times, most of them, over a period of ten-fifteen years, and he was, of course, a great spokesman for our state. So when we were supporting Senator Kennedy, we were looked upon probably as traitors hurting our own state and hurting our own area and so forth.

They had a fervent belief that Kennedy offered nothing for the Democrats in our part of the state, or for the state as a whole, and were so closely attached to Senator Humphrey that they couldn't even imagine for a minute that he didn't have a better chance of becoming president than Senator Kennedy.

MORRISSEY: Did this persist into the autumn of 1960?

NIX: Well, within the Democratic party it continued then, and it broke out in party elections, like for party offices for years to come, years after that. It's still going on. I remember one of the prominent supporters of Senator Humphrey, [Arthur J.] Art Henning from Altoona, who was one of the leading Democrats in the area, probably the best known Democrat in the area, after the election was appointed as county chairman for Kennedy and Humphrey -- Kennedy and [Lyndon B.] Johnson rather. Well, that caused a little concern among some of the Democrats who had been for Kennedy from the beginning. And then when we found that all the literature that had been sent to our area was just sitting

in his garage without anybody paying any attention to it and no one concerned about getting it distributed, we questioned whether, even though he said that he would openly support Kennedy, his heart was really in it. I remember we had some difficulty getting the literature out of his hands so that we could get it distributed. And of course, he was busy and had a couple of different jobs, and it probably was that he just didn't have any particular interest in it. I don't think he was trying to frustrate the election of President Kennedy, but he certainly wasn't carrying out his job of chairman of the Kennedy-Johnson group with any vigor or desire to really contribute. I just happen to recall that specific instance.

Many of the Democrats up there were actually apologetic in supporting Senator Kennedy in the November election. They had always been good Democrats and would continue to be good Democrats but really many times would be heard to apologize that "Well, he got the nomination, let's support him. He's a Democrat, let's get him elected." But

without any real conviction and dedication. So, basically, the work that was done in the November election was done by the same people that did it in the spring, even though the fight was over and it was important to everybody up and down the ticket to get votes for the President.

MORRISSEY: Did the Kennedy women attend tea parties in your area?

NIX: Yes, I think at one time or another they were all in the area.

MORRISSEY: Were they successful?

NIX: I think they were successful in getting the name around because we managed to get as many as we could in the little towns and various parts of the city, and there was always gossip among the women that so and so went or didn't go. And the name was mentioned, and we felt that it was just talking up the name. And they were very gracious people. Actually, I think the publicity that they were able to get for the whole campaign was the big contribution mainly.

MORRISSEY: How about the newspapers?

NIX: Well, we had no luck at all with the weekly newspapers. We couldn't even get any press releases or stories in them unless the Senator had actually been in the community. Wherever he went, if we had any time at all, we managed to get him into the newspaper office to meet whoever was there. We didn't make any appointments or anything, but he always would stop in. As far as the local, the daily paper in our area, we got good cooperation, mainly, I think, because I was district attorney and sort of was one of the best news sources for the paper and had developed a good relationship with them. So they would print whatever releases we felt were justified to turn in to them. And the radio stations and television were quite cooperative in granting us free time for interviews and so forth.

MORRISSEY: When Kennedy campaigned in your area, did you feel that he was focusing more on the representatives of the press that accompanied him than he was on the immediate audience?

NIX: I don't know if I'd say he concentrated more on them.

I know that he was always gracious to them and after each stop would have a different newsman sit with him in the car as we drove to the next place and answered questions freely, asked for suggestions and so forth. But I felt that, after he gave one speech a day that was obviously for press release -- statewide and nationwide -- I felt that he really did his best to speak with the people in the smaller towns. And on subjects that were probably of interest to the newspapers.

MORRISSEY: Do you have any other recollections of direct confrontations with him?

NIX: No, nothing significant. The one point that I recall was that even though I had never met him intimately or for any extended period of time, he did have the ability of recognizing me and knowing my name, which I felt was rather remarkable.

MORRISSEY: I've heard people say that while most of the established Democratic organization was for Humphrey, the Humphrey campaign itself was not well organized. Would you say this was true from your vantage point?

NIX: Well, it's not in comparison to the Kennedy campaign. But it was organized as well as campaigns had been run in our area, at least up until that time. But the Kennedy campaign was new and different and effective, and it changed campaigning in Wisconsin ever since.

MORRISSEY: In what way?

NIX: Well, I think the people just realized that you had to have money in a campaign, and they went about raising money a little more enthusiastically after that. When mention was made of a twenty-five dollar or a hundred dollar dinner, people didn't faint. They'd get out their checkbook and buy a ticket because they saw that that's how Kennedy in a very few months was able to do so much in Wisconsin. And it wasn't that he was here all the time either; it was that money was being spent.

I recall a conversation with Spalding where he was interested in phoning, personally phoning, everybody in the community in a city of forty thousand. Of course, it had never been done; we didn't have the people to do it; we didn't have the

list of voters and so forth. Well, he asked me how long it would take me to get the list of voters. And at that time the city was not cooperative in releasing these names. They said we could come over and copy them if we wanted to. Of course, the election would have been over by the time we copied the names. So he asked me to use my influence to have them sell these names to us, to actually run them off on an addressograph and give us the names on the list of voters. And finally I was able to do that. I had asked about the price and who would pay for it and how we'd raise the money. Well, fortunately, that wasn't the problem, and within a day we had the entire list and were able to hire people to make phone calls asking them to vote for Senator Kennedy. Things like that we knew were going to be productive and fruitful, but I was just stunned that there was some money available. We had no way of raising any money. I don't think we raised more than fifty or a hundred dollars in the whole area for Senator Kennedy.

MORRISSEY: Did you go to Los Angeles?

NIX: No, I didn't go out. I was running for delegate in the ninth district and, of course, was not elected.

MORRISSEY: Is there anything you think I've missed in my questions?

NIX: No, I can't recall anything significant.

MORRISSEY: Well, I guess that just about covers it. Thank you.