

**John H. Glenn, Jr. Oral History Interview – RFK#2, 6/30/1969**  
Administrative Information

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**Biographical Note**

(1921 - ) Project Mercury astronaut; pilot, Friendship 7 space capsule (1959 - 1964). Discusses personal relationship with Robert F. Kennedy, working on the 1968 presidential campaign, personal anecdotes, and RFK's political and personal philosophy, among other issues.

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Interviewee

9-13-10  
Dated

  
Assistant Archivist for  
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11-30-2010  
Dated

John H. Glenn, Jr. – RFK #2

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Second Oral History Interview

with

John H. Glenn, Jr.

June 30, 1969  
New York, New York

By Roberta Greene

For the Robert F. Kennedy Oral History Program  
of the John F. Kennedy Library

GREENE: Maybe you could begin by contrasting the different areas of the country as far as their reception to Senator Kennedy [Robert F. Kennedy] and the enthusiasm and the position on the different issues that were being raised?

GLENN: Well, I don't think there was a whole lot of difference in one part of the country to another other than the normal differences people have for anyone coming through. In other words, I don't think there was any special difference just with Bob coming into an area. Farm people, rural people, are a little more reserved and less expressive, for instance, in Nebraska, but that's their nature, that's with anybody coming in, not just him. The same thing in rural areas of Oregon or in Indiana, anywhere else. So I think the differences that you'd see in crowds and how they respond were just their natural variations. There was a lot of excitement. Maybe different types of questions people were interested in that they would ask in different parts of the country when Bob would always give a little talk and then open the thing up for questions and answers from the crowd. You'd get different type questions depending on what they were interested in, of course.

One of the things in Oregon was water diversion from Oregon down through some of the river systems in California and what was going to happen to it, and so on. And this was one that, of course, doesn't come up anywhere else in the country. Farm problems would be

the big question in a place like Nebraska. In a city, for instance, Indianapolis, more of the urban problems or the problems of....

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Race problems of the ghetto might be more of the questions he would get there. The same thing in Los Angeles. So the questioning varied and the reaction of the crowd would vary from place to place just because of their local interest.

GREENE: What was the feeling in Oregon before primary day? Did he ever express the feeling that he felt he would probably lose?

GLENN: Well, he knew it was going to be very close there, but that was about all that was ever expressed. I think he just felt that it would be very close was all.

GREENE: What do you remember about his reaction after the results were in?

GLENN: Well, he was very disappointed, of course. But the main thing was just to get on with the California primary then and see what could be done there and base much more of the plan for the future on what happened out at California.

GREENE: What did you do in California? Were you actually speaking or appearing with him and just introducing him?

GLENN: Well, I did both. I traveled with Bob most of the time, and then I was off on a couple of days on my own where I gave talks, flew from one place to another and gave talks on my own on his behalf. And these groups then were set up or organized by the local organization, and that was pretty much all over the state. Well, let's see, I guess my speaking things were all mainly in the southern part of the state—San Bernardino, Monterey, Lancaster, Los Angeles, places like that.

GREENE: Do you remember discussions about the California organization. Unruh [Jesse M. Unruh] and his people and how Robert Kennedy felt about the operation there, how well it was working?

GLENN: No, no, nothing specific. There were so many different groups working for him out there: it was rather confusing a lot of the time as to who was doing what and who was arranging what and. . . . And of course, I wasn't there all the time so it made it a little difficult when I'd be in for a couple of days and then gone for a week and then back in for a period of time. It made it difficult to keep up with the day-in, day-out things going on.

GREENE: Did you go to the Oakland black caucus meeting with him?

GLENN: Yes, I did.

GREENE: What are your recollections about that?

GLENN: Well, that was a very interesting one because he had been invited to come talk to the Negro leadership for the San Francisco and northern California area. This was very interesting. An invitation came in late and he already had his

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campaign schedule set. They said, well, that they would meet with him if he would come at the end of that day's campaigning.

I came in that particular day—came back from the East—and met him that evening and we made a couple of the stops with groups. We were running late on the schedule and so it was after midnight, I guess, by the time we finally finished the last one and went to this place in the middle of the West Oakland ghetto area. It's where the Black Panthers started.

The meeting was to be held in a church and they had specified that he was to be the only one who was to be permitted in. Well, when we arrived and he went into the church, the people at the door would not let me in at first. They didn't know I was going to be with him and they had said no one else could come in with him. After they knew who I was and everything, why, they let me go in with him. So there was just the two of us in there for a while. Then later on, they let Rafer Johnson come in, too, finally.

It was the whole spectrum of Negro leadership. They wanted to get a lot of ideas across to him and hear some of his thoughts, but mainly they wanted to tell him how they felt about things. So the whole meeting went the whole spectrum of feeling from the Black Panther militancy and threats of revolution and taking over forcibly in the country—went from that to the more responsible leadership that professional men, lawyers, doctors, people of that type who wanted to put across ideas they had for what could be done in the Negro community in that area.

It was a very, very interesting meeting and it went on for, probably an hour and a half or two hours, I guess. When it was, I don't know. It must have been 2 o'clock or so before we left there. But they just poured out their whole spectrum of feelings to him. I think there are few people could have gone into a meeting like that in this country and really talk to them and, in a way, reasoned with them and tried to put across both sides of the questions that were up before them.

One of the rumors that was rampant out there at that time that someone was spreading was that the old Japanese internment camps on the west coast were being refurbished and painted up and being made usable again. And the purpose of this was because they were going to intern most of the Negro leadership from the west coast. Where this started, I don't know, but that was one of the big things that came up that night. They were firmly convinced that that's what the plan was, and so much of what Bob said was addressed to that problem that night.

GREENE: How did he feel about it? Did he feel that this kind of a meeting was profitable? I understood from other people that he felt this type of large meeting was somewhat less

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useful than some of these smaller meetings with just one or two or three leaders. Did he discuss this at all?

GLENN: Well, he felt that sometimes in a meeting like this—and this would not be a criticism just of the Negro leadership; it would be anything where there was a group of disadvantaged people like this—quite often vying for leadership within their own ranks. Sometimes in a meeting like this, they get up and make statements that are meant to be heard by their own people as much or more than by the person that they're addressing them to. In other words, by getting up and making an extremely harsh or militant statement against Bob and making it very forcibly, they're using him as sort of a sounding board to bounce these things off of. But really what they're aiming at is to let their own people hear them and to enhance their own stature with their own people by being able to accuse somebody like Bob of other things. He felt that in that way some of these things were not as productive as they might have been other-wise, had he been able to sit down calmly with two or three leaders and talk to them personally, rather than having them get up and give a public diatribe against him in front of two or three hundred people, there's a little difference of meaning there, I guess, or a little difference of feeling. He felt that he would accomplish much more, probably, had he been about to sit down and reason with a few people together than having to hold it in such a large group. And I think he was probably right.

GREENE: Did you speak to any of the black leaders afterwards to get their feelings on how it went?

GLENN: No, because that night, once the meeting broke up, it was quite late and we had to leave and go on back. We had a lot of contact during that campaign with the black community and the ghetto areas there—Watts— walking, through these areas and just talking to people informally as you go along through an area like that on the way to a meeting or something. There were always a lot of kids around and they'd be walking along. Bob always got a big kick out of joking with the kids or asking them questions; there'd always be a gang of them around him as he was walking along, something he was very, very much concerned with, of course.

I think the forward to his book, To Seek a Newer World, was rather indicative of the way he felt because he was fond of the quote from Camus [Albert Camus], concerning the children and what. . . .

[Interruption]



On that dedication page of To Seek a Newer World, he started with a dedication that said, "To my children and yours," and then he followed it with a quote of Albert Camus, who is one of his favorites. The quote went, "Perhaps we cannot prevent this world from being a world in which children are tortured, but we can reduce the number of tortured

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children. And if you don't help us, who else in the world can help us do this?" So he always had a big concern for children, the thoughts that everyone must have the same opportunities for education and to work to get ahead in the world no matter what their economic background might be when they start out as children.

GREENE: Were these feelings and attitudes towards the issues and, particularly, towards the underprivileged people as evident to you when you first met him as it was in the last couple of years?

GLENN: Oh, I think he always had that concern. I think, probably, it became more pronounced a little bit later on. It's something you don't just sit down and talk about, you know. You don't just say, "I am now more interested in children," or, "I am more interested in something." It's more what you see by action or by concern or by things that happen, or little statements that are made, or by what book he happened to be reading at a time, or a hundred and one little things like that that indicated his interest more as time went on.

GREENE: Why don't you go ahead with some of the things that you had wanted to.

GLENN: Yes, I might, oh, just give some rather random thoughts here on different things that happened, or recall a few different events, I think, just in campaigning. Whenever I think of the campaigns and being out in a crowd, one thing that always pops to mind is about Freckles, the dog, because Freckles must be one of the world's greatest dogs the way he behaved on the campaign. Bob liked to have him along in the airplane and would take him along with us even out in the convertible in a crowd someplace. Freckles would always stay there in the car while we were doing something.

In California in particular, Bob got a big kick out of the fact that when we'd be driving down in a motorcade or in a crowd and be sitting up on the back of the convertible. Bob would be on one side and I would be on the other, and finally Freckles, instead of just lying on the floor as had been his custom, Freckles would finally get up and sit up between us on the back of the convertible. This looked almost like the third candidate or the major candidate sitting in the middle. And so he got a big kick out of that and he said he thought that the day that Freckles started shaking hands with the people, that was the day he would quit. But Freckles was really a great dog.

Bob's curiosity about people and what motivated them and what made them what they are and the events that had shaped their lives, he was always very interested in that. One night in New York we had quite a diverse group. We had a dinner; it was a group that

happened to be in New York. I was in the group and there was Rod Steiger and Sidney Poitier and Mike Nichols—I can't remember too many others. At one time in the evening there was sort of a general discussion and Bob asked

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what each person felt had been the most important event or decision of that person's life that had had the greatest effect later on. This was sort of a trait of his; he was always probing and curious, and there was little real idle conversation. Most of the time after a little idle conversation there'd be some question like this; it was quite thought provoking. That one was a pretty good one because we went around the table and everyone answered what they felt was the major turning point in their life or the event that had had the biggest effect later on. [Interruption] Rod Steiger said the biggest turning point in his life was when he went to work for civil service after having been in the military. It turned out that then when he went in the civil service in order to meet some of the girls and date any, he became interested in a little theatre group and that then led into his whole acting career later on.

The one that I thought was the biggest turning point in my life was my decision to remain in the marine corps after World War II and continue flying, for this then led on to test-pilot work and then into the space program.

Bob felt that the biggest turning point in his life was his work in support of President Kennedy in the campaign of 1960, for this had led on to so many other things for him—the Senate and other things. But it was very interesting, anyway, to hear the answers.

GREENE: Can you remember other conversations along this line where he would throw out a provocative question of that nature?

GLENN: Oh, I don't remember others that were quite that direct and provocative. Usually, when you were with him, there was some particular issue that was up that people were considering, or thoughts about if there had been an event in the newspaper, of student disorders, or something had happened in Vietnam. Usually he would have very definite questions about some event like that, more than just a rather provocative thing such as this was.

Just another random thing that comes to mind: I think the esteem with which he was held was illustrated at the funeral in New York at St. Pat's [Saint Patrick's Cathedral] when we had an honor guard formed, several people along each side of the casket. They were just people who had felt drawn to him—there were students and there were the poor and civil rights workers and city officials and quite high government officials and military and personal friends. They all took their place in this honor guard from time to time and would be there for several minutes before they were relieved by someone else. I remember being impressed with the variety of people, as I was in the honor guard for a while, and being particularly impressed when someone tapped on my shoulder and as I stepped back to let them take my place, it was Mr. U Thant, secretary-general of the UN [United Nations]. So there was the esteem with which he was held—I think it was very well illustrated at that time.

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There were many funny things, of course, happened, too, during the campaign, and one of the ones that Bob got such a kick out of was one that happened in a crowd in Los Angeles during the California campaign. Rosey Grier [Roosevelt J. Grier], the tackle from the Los Angeles Rams football team, was one of Bob's most ardent supporters, and Rosey, of course, is about six-foot-six and weighs somewhere on the far side of three hundred pounds, I guess. In a crowd, Rosey was quite a handy addition to have along, of course, but the funny thing that happened: at one stop Rosey had given a few remarks about Bob's candidacy, and it was a rather small platform. After he had given his remarks, he crouched down beside the podium with his back toward the audience. Bob then was giving his talk. The crowd was very enthusiastic but there was one wee little, tiny man who was right behind Rosey. As Bob spoke, he'd bring up some problem and what he wanted to do about it, and then he would say, "I need your help." He did this almost every stop. This little man that was right behind Rosey had a very high-pitched voice and he may have been drinking, I don't know, but every time Bob would say, "I need your help," the little man would just scream, "You got it, Bobby. You got it," just at the top of his voice. In fact, he kept this up so much that he was even yelling, "You got it, Bobby," sometimes when there wasn't anything to yell about, and he was interfering with the speech. Bob had looked at him several times trying to get him to keep quiet and it was getting a little bit out of control; the crowd was beginning to pay much more attention to the little man than they were to Bob. Finally, after one of these big screams of, "You got it, Bobby. You got it," Rosey Grier slowly turned around to the fellow—and of course, Rosey was so massive compared to this little fellow—and Rosey said, "If you don't shut up, you're going to get it, man." And the little fellow never opened his mouth again during the whole talk. Bob got a big kick out of that, and he told the story himself over and over again after that.

There was a plaque that was a quote from Theodore Roosevelt that used to hang in Bob's office by his Senate office door. It was quite good and I asked Angie [Angela M. Novello] one time to type it off, and I have a copy of it here. I think it's very good. In a way it describes some of Bob's feelings, too, I think. This was the quote from Theodore Roosevelt: "It is not the critic who counts. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, and at the best, knows in the end the triumph or high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly so that his place will never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat." I think that's very good and describes some of his feelings about doing things. When Bob declared his candidacy he was surprised and somewhat hurt that a couple of the people.... I guess I commented on that before.

GREENE: Well, not specifically. You mentioned that in general he was disappointed.

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GLENN: He was somewhat disappointed, and I don't want to put any names to this, but I mentioned once I had thought it was too bad that some of his friends had taken the attitude that they had toward this. He replied that he guessed

in politics it was a rare thing to have a true friend, and that these things could usually be thought of as only arrangements and alliances, which is. . . . I think I did comment on that earlier, because I remember saying I thought in some ways it's understandable for these people who are representing others just in themselves, too.

Perhaps, that's also the same thing, though, as the. . . . I know Bob felt that in 1963, after the president was killed, he was surprised then that many of the people who he had thought were very close and were friends—and lasting friends—suddenly seemed more distant and didn't want to help out. Or when he would call, they were no longer in, or there was. . . . In other words, much of the attraction obviously had been in the power that was involved that people saw and wanted to be associated with. When that power was no longer there, they weren't nearly the friends they had been before. This hurt him some, but I think he felt that he had also learned a lot from that, too.

GREENE: I was going to ask you, do you think that he was somewhat more cautious in allowing himself to get close to people after that? A little bit more skeptical?

GLENN: Possibly so. I don't know. I hadn't known him well back in those earlier days, in '63, so I don't know how it compared with what he was later. I think he tended to be, well, shy, hesitated to give his innermost feelings out and thoughts and friendship, and I think he held these things very close.

One rather amusing thing he used when traveling through an area, for instance, in Nebraska, I remember. . . . Nebraska, of course, is a big agricultural state, he enjoyed telling a crowd they should support him since he and his family were probably doing more towards the consumption of agricultural products than any family any of them had ever heard of. But he always followed that up by saying that he also came from a great agricultural state of New York which led the world in the production of sour cherries. [Laughter] They'd always get a big kick out of that.

These are rather random thoughts, obviously, and one that just happened to come to mind was one that my daughter recalled not long ago. We were campaigning in San Francisco and that particular morning we were to ride downtown from the Fairmont [Fairmont Hotel] on a cable car. We went out: all of us got on. Annie [Anna C. Glenn], my wife, and Lyn [Carolyn Ann Glenn], my daughter, were along; and we all climbed on the cable car. It was extremely crowded. People were just hanging all over the car, and a big crowd along the side and on the street. As we went down the hill, Lyn, my daughter, was standing right by the driver or the motorman, whatever you call him on the cable car—gripman, I guess it

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is—and she asked him how he was ever going to collect all those fares. He said he wasn't going to even try and collect a fare that day with the senator aboard, and he said that he hoped everyone would work for Bob.

Each one of the gripmen out there has their own distinctive way they ring their bell—you know, it's a whole series of patterns, a very rhythmic pattern that each one of the men

develops after he's been on the cars for a while. As he went down the hill, he kept this bell dingling away all the way down. And he turned to Lyn, my daughter, and said, "The least I can do today is ring my bell for him anyway," and she always sort of remembered that. In a way, it was rather symbolic; I think many people felt that way. They didn't maybe have a lot of money they could give him for his campaign, and they were bound up in their own jobs and couldn't do some of the things they would like to have done, but they did what they could anyway. In a way, it was somewhat symbolic.

GREENE: Did he ever discuss the war and the whole student movement with your children that you can recall?

GLENN: Yes, very much, and in fact, every time Dave [John David Glenn] and Lyn were at Hickory Hill, or we were skiing together and there was a time to sit and talk, almost invariably Bob was very curious about their thoughts about the student movements and feelings of the younger people in their attitudes towards the war, and what changes should be made on the campus, and their attitude toward government, why they felt the way they did. There was always a lengthy conversation in that regard. And they were quite frank with him, too, in their feelings. Dave was going to Harvard [Harvard College] then and Lyn, our daughter, was in Mt. Holyoke [Mt. Holyoke College], so they were right in the middle of all of the student interests. He was very curious about their thoughts about all these things. They would have very long and detailed conversations on it.

GREENE: Do you recall what his sentiments were, especially towards the student protest movement?

GLENN: Oh, in some of these areas he sympathized with them, in some he criticized them. He sympathized with some of their objectives and their concern and their idealism; he thought that was good and spoke well for the country for the future, that the younger generation did feel the way they did and had enough concern to really do things and be concerned enough to take action. On the other hand, the radicals, the extremes that were burning down the universities or were trying to take over and go completely outside our normal channels, he did not agree with. But he was very concerned that we continue this idealism and this motivation of youth to be involved and to do things and to act, and not just to sit back and let someone else do it. He was very concerned that we do what we could in that area.

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GREENE: Were your own children urging him to run in '68?

GLENN: Yes, particularly Lyn, my daughter. And in fact, Bob later on after he had made his decision to run kidded Lyn several times when there would be a problem or something. We were traveling with him and we'd be hot and tired, and he told Lyn several times, "See, you convinced me to run and now you got us into this." and he'd blame her for his whole candidacy, which she got a kick out of, of course. I

remember up at Waterville Valley, after skiing one night I had run into a Shakespeare [William Shakespeare] quote, and Lyn gave it to Bob one night—that's when he was trying to make up his mind what he was going to do. The quote was, "Our doubts are traitors and make us lose the good we oft might win by fearing to attempt." And I remember he was quite impressed with that particular quote.

GREENE: Would this have been at Christmas?

GLENN: No, it was probably about Washington's Birthday. We'd been up there several times over that Washington's Birthday weekend for a long weekend of skiing, and so it was probably that time.

GREENE: What do you remember about Mrs. Kennedy's [Ethel Skakel Kennedy] attitude towards his running in '68?

GLENN: She never really expressed herself too openly on it. I think this was a decision she wanted to be his, and I think any counsel she may have had in that area, she pretty much kept to their private times together. She wasn't public in her statements about what she thought he should do.

I think you can tell a lot about a person sometimes by what they're interested in reading, or have made special notes of. The next day after he was shot in California I brought six of the children back to Hickory Hill, and that night after the kids were in bed, I went up in his study for a little bit, and on his desk one of the books was A Collection of Poems and Essays by Ralph Waldo Emerson. I picked it up and was leafing through it. Bob had the habit when he had been reading something of making margin notes with a pencil or pen—just a mark to indicate a passage that he was interested in—as many people do. As I went through this book by Emerson, there were three pages, three places that had margin notes like this that indicated a particular interest he had had. They were particularly good and I copied them down. They were the following: The first one said, "If there is any period one would desire to be born in, is it not the age of revolution, when the old and the new stand side by side and admit of being compared; when the energies of all men are searched by fear and by hope; when the historic glories of the old can be compensated by the rich possibilities of the new era? This time like all times is a very good one if we but know what to do with it," which I think is

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very good.

The second one was, "What is the remedy? They did not yet see, and thousands of young men as hopeful now crowding to the barriers for the career do not yet see. But if the single man plant himself on his instincts and there abide, the huge world will come round to him." I think that's a good one, too.

The third one was perhaps on a more personal characteristic note than the first two. But it went as follows: "The characteristic of heroism is its persistency. All men have wandering impulses, fits and starts of generosity, but when you have chosen your part, abide

by it and do not weakly try to reconcile yourself with the world. The heroic, cannot be the common, nor the common the heroic, yet we have the weakness to expect the sympathy of people in those actions whose excellence is that they outrun sympathy and appeal to a tardy justice. If you would serve your brother because it is fit for you to serve him, do not take back your words when you find that prudent people do not commend you. Adhere to your own act and congratulate yourself if you have done something strange and extravagant and broken the monotony of a decorous age. It was a high counsel that I once heard given to a young person. 'Always do what you are afraid to do.'"

I think those three that were from the Emerson book were very indicative of things he admired or thought, or even personal characteristics that he himself had.

Someone once said a long time ago—and I don't know who it was—that a man is as big as what irritates him. And if that's true—which I think it probably is—Bob was indeed a great man, because the things that irritated him most were really the greatest problems we have. They were the problems of race and of war, and of man's inhumanity to man, and of injustices and unequal opportunities. He wanted every single child to be able to make of himself whatever his talents and his ambitions would permit, and not have any restraint from lack of opportunity to do this. In other words, he would have adequate education and all the preparation that he needed for this.

When you think of Bob and his life and what he did, you think naturally of a person who was indeed born into a favored position. He had money and didn't have some of the economic problems that the average person had. But this makes it even more remarkable to me, that he saw this independence and this freedom from economic worry as—well, he could have spent his time in just doing nothing, of course, if he had wanted to—he saw this as a responsibility and as a platform from which he could really act, and write, and attack some of these injustices that he saw in our midst.

If there's one big characteristic that he had, it was that he was a very compassionate man. I think he was very empathetic. He had deeply ingrained feelings and concern for people who did not have the same opportunities he had. Everywhere we went on the campaign, you

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know, he'd bring up some problem and then finish with, "That is just not acceptable. We can do better." These were two phrases we heard over and over again. That was how he felt about it—that these things weren't acceptable. And as long as they were not acceptable, it was up to him as one man to rock the boat, to try and do something about these things. If there's one lesson comes out of all of his life, I think it is that one man can make a difference, one man that really is willing to try can make a difference.

GREENE: Did you get the feeling that he enjoyed confronting a group and challenging them?

GLENN: I think he enjoyed challenging a group, yes. I think he was shy enough that he did not enjoy getting up and giving speeches and talks. I think this was sort of a chore for him. But once he got going and the challenge of ideas

and the challenge of what could be done came out, then I think that's where he really came into his own. He could get across his ideas very forcefully at that time.

I think one thing that comes out over and over again—and in that Camus quote that I used a little while ago—was his concern for children and how we mold these children. The molding influences that shape their lives really are going to determine the future of this world. As he said in his announcement of his candidacy, he sought to work for the reconciliation of men. He wanted to bridge these chasms in our society between the races, and the rich and the poor, and young and old, and students and nonstudents, and all the others. And this was his constant theme.

GREENE:           What was his feeling about his own children as far as their futures went? Did he want them to pursue public service or was he. . . .

GLENN:           No, he wanted each one to develop in their own line whatever they wanted to do. I never saw any indication he was pushing any one of them toward any particular vocation at all. I think he felt that part of this reconciliation even between these groups had to be between the groups and their government, too, because he felt that government had gotten too big and too impersonal, that every man must have sort of a personal relationship to his government. He'd quite often quote Thomas Jefferson who said that if our democracy was to work, every man must have his voice heard in some council of government. He felt that this was very important, that the personal relationship, this feeling of a man toward his country and his government, was a most important thing.

One of the things that he planned to address himself to after the California primary was this thing of getting government back on working level with the people. In all his talking and meeting with different groups, he tried to get across this idea that the government wasn't just

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some nameless, bureaucratic bunch of people off someplace; they were the representatives of the people and this was the thing that we had to continue.

Bob had a particularly effective way of getting his ideas across, that we should all work together. It was a way of speaking as well as what he said. He didn't talk as much to a group or at a group; he had the attitude of talking with the group and would ask them questions and solicit their ideas and their thoughts. And this seemed always to be true whether he was talking with students or civil rights leaders or anybody else in our society.

His interests went beyond this country, of course. He was much concerned about what was going on around the world. There weren't any national borders that his concerns were limited to. He was primarily concerned, of course, with injustices and deprivations and things that he thought were intolerable, not only in this country but also in other parts of the world. He had traveled to these areas, been to South Africa and witnessed some of the problems there and had been in the Far East and had seen some of their problems.

I think the more he saw of these other areas, the more dedicated he was to our own way of life as being what he'd quote as "the best hope for man—which I think was another Jefferson quote, that our form of government was the best hope of man. And it was these



feelings of wanting to make our system even better, and to cut out the inequities that we have in it that were intolerable to him and largely responsible for leading him to run.

I had a quote here that Senator Javits [Jacob K. Javits] used in his eulogy on the Senate floor that I think was very good, that was along this same line. Senator Javits said in part in speaking of Bob, "His hope and idealism made him a force for constructive change which inspired the youth of the nation. He had, so far as I know, the deepest concern for the underdog of anyone I had ever met. To put it in very blunt terms, he had deep concern for the people whom our society, notwithstanding its many blessings—and it does have them—had disfranchised in terms of opportunity and in terms of the legacy to which we feel all Americans are entitled. He was not the only man in public life to have this feeling in his heart. But in my judgment, it burned in him more brightly than in any other man I have ever known." That's a very moving statement that Senator Javits made.

You know, we always think of the public Bob Kennedy, and the campaign and issues and platforms and travels, and so on, but, of course, there was always the very personal Bob Kennedy, the father and the playing with the children and.... Of course, one thing he encouraged them to do was always try a little bit more than they thought they could do. When you were on a camping trip or a float trip down the river or something, he always seemed to have a way of, sometime during the day each child would be picked out for some sort of special

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recognition that set him apart or set him up. It was sort of a little appreciation for something extra that that child had done, whether it was diving off a rock into a pool a little higher than anybody else had gone, or excelling a little bit in fishing, or just in anything that would come up. There was always a time of appreciation and that was very noticeable, too. In other words, I guess he just encouraged the best in each one of them and then they responded accordingly.

GREENE: Was this your feeling about his effect on the people he worked with, too? That without saying thank you and all kinds of formal notes of appreciation, it was obvious that they were not only appreciated but that he encouraged them to do even more than they felt they could do themselves.

GLENN: Yes, I think they were just expected to work hard. He kept himself surrounded not with a bunch of yes-men. Within his own office staff he had people with quite widely divergent views on some of the issues of the day, and he used these as sounding boards to get ideas from all sides, which I think was very good. I think we talked a little while ago about friendship and how Bob was somewhat disappointed at times in some of the people in Washington that he thought were his friends who didn't back him or who took another tack once he had declared his candidacy. This brings to mind another one that happened during the float trip in Idaho. Around a campfire one night Bob asked about.... Well, we had been talking about the name of my spacecraft which we had named Friendship Seven and the reasons why we had picked it, and I had described how my children Dave and Lyn had really selected it finally. Then we got talking

about components of real friendship, and Bob asked the people around the campfire how many real friends each person thought they had, persons in whom complete trust could be placed—family, money, whatever—just complete trust. And I think almost everyone around there had serious trouble getting one hand filled up with the number of people in which you had that kind of trust.

It was interesting, once again, in this sort of probing idea, throwing out a question sometimes that makes everyone think. I think there was one single personal characteristic that set him apart: it was a very insatiable curiosity, not only about people, but events and how we could motivate changes in our society, and curiosity in personal relationships he had with other people. I think this questioning nature, maybe, is one of the hallmarks or the common denominators among all great men, or many great men, anyway. I think it becomes a way of life which not only gives them facts and a fund of knowledge; it's also just sort of part of a general pattern of a pursuit of excellence if you're always questioning, not only how you can learn new things, but how you can do things better and whether you've done your best in a particular situation. If I remember right, it was Socrates who once said, "Wisdom begins in wonder." In other words, wisdom begins in curiosity and if that's any criteria, if

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that is true, which I think it is, Bob was a man with great wisdom because he was certainly one of the most curious people that I've ever known.

I think probably one of the many memorials to Bob—one of the biggest memorials—is that we continue the things that he was interested in. He was optimistic that some of these problems we have could—as he said, they were man-made problems, they also could be man-solved. And in much of the current unrest and the dissidence and disagreement, he saw not only the problems, but also saw that because there is such interest in these problems and so much energy being expended in dissident groups and awareness of our problems, if we can just take this same activity and channel it in the right direction, it's our biggest hope toward building a solution in the future.

And as that quote from Emerson indicated a while ago, to him the times that have changed were also the times of the greatest opportunity when these things could be molded.

I think perhaps the inscription he put in a book to my son Dave was indicative of what our attitudes should be now. In his book, To Seek a Newer World, he was giving Dave a copy of it, and he sat for several minutes before he put the inscription in the front of the book. In fact, he sat thinking about it long enough that I was beginning to wonder what on earth he was going to put in the book because he had opened it and then sat and didn't say anything for a couple of minutes. And finally what he wrote in the book was as follows: It said, "For Dave,"—remember the book was To Seek a Newer World—and he said, "For Dave, if we don't find it, you must," and signed his name. And I think, in light of all that's happened, that's rather powerful. It meant an awful lot to Dave, I think the way we all feel now is that we can show no less dedication to our country and the problems and helping solve these things than Bob did.

[END OF INTERVIEW]

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