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Biographical Note

Boring, an agent on the White House detail of the Secret Service from 1943-1965, discusses John F. Kennedy's (JFK) trip to Lyndon Baines Johnson's ranch in Texas after the election in 1960, advance work that Boring did for JFK's international trips, and refutes media claims about JFK's extramarital affairs, among other issues.

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Oral History Interview

with

Floyd Boring

February 25, 1976
Washington, D.C.

By Bill Hartigan

For the John F. Kennedy Library

HARTIGAN: This is Bill Hartigan in Washington, D.C. The date is February 25, 1976, and I'm interviewing Floyd Boring, former assistant special agent in charge of the White House detail during the John F. Kennedy administration. He served under all the presidents from Franklin Delano Roosevelt to the first two years of Lyndon Johnson's [Lyndon Baines Johnson] administration. Floyd, in the interest of background, would you be kind enough to tell us something about yourself and what you did before you became a secret service agent?

BORING: I come from a small coal-mining town in northwestern Pennsylvania, Bill, and I was lucky enough to join the Pennsylvania State Police in 1936, and worked there until 1942. And in '42 I joined the security division of the National Tube Company in the national works in McKeesport,

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Pennsylvania, where they were making their big inch line for the oil company. I remained there for a little over a year and then joined the Secret Service in 1943.

HARTIGAN: And you served under all presidents since Franklin Delano Roosevelt?

BORING: I was on a... I first went with Franklin, Jr. [Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr.], and then was transferred to the White House detail and was there during the latter part of President Roosevelt's times and was on the detail the day that he died in Warm Springs, Georgia.

HARTIGAN: Floyd, when did you first come in contact with President Kennedy and his organization?

BORING: The evening of the election when he was running for president we found about six in the morning, we found about six in the morning, we were told about six in the morning that the President should be protected. And I was in charge of the detail and took over seven or eight agents and cursorily looked around the place and with the local police department set up security around the now-existing Kennedy compound [Hyannis Port, Massachusetts]. And about ten o'clock in the morning the President came out, and seeing a strange group of people around, I thought it might be wise to go over and introduce myself. So I walked over, and he had a slight smile on his face. And I said that I was Floyd Boring from the Secret Service and that we had set up security around,

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the area and that we would be with him from then on in. And he said, "Does this mean that I won?" And I said, "I guess so, Mr. President," as we walked towards his father's [Joseph P. Kennedy] residence in the compound.

HARTIGAN: Who were the members of the Kennedy organization that you first made contact with?

BORING: Well, I first met you, Bill, quite shortly after as you were doing advance work in West Palm Beach. I ran into, as a matter of fact, Mr. Behn [Gerald A. Behn] and I (Mr. Behn joined us that day. He was in charge of the detail)—we had a conference with Mr. O'Donnell [Kenneth P. O'Donnell], the late Senator Kennedy, Bobby Kennedy [Robert F. Kennedy], and I can't recall who the other individual was but there was another individual at the meeting. And we asked that we should be notified at the early movements of the President so as to make it more convenient for him and that we were there to help in every way that we could to make life as pleasant as we could for a very trying job.

HARTIGAN: That was the period of time between the election and the inauguration. Is that right?

BORING: That's right. It was known as the president-elect detail. And this is a time in which the President—it's sort of a lame-duck type of time, generally from November through, January at the time of the inauguration. It's a time in

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which most of the presidents that I've been with rested, vacationed, tried to recoup their physical being.

HARTIGAN: President Kennedy also used that period of time to interview cabinet members, I believe it was.

BORING: Yes. The President had a home in Georgetown on N Street, and during this time, shortly after a vacation, of course, at West Palm Beach, his father's home, he came back and had this home at N Street. And at that time he interviewed persons who would probably be in his cabinet.

HARTIGAN: During that stay in West Palm Beach immediately after the election of 1960, the President planned a trip to visit the Vice-President-elect, Lyndon Johnson. Would you care to...

BORING: Yes.

HARTIGAN: ...Remark on that, on the.... You advanced that trip for the President.

BORING: Yes. It was my first encounter with the late President Johnson. I had never met him, and I don't think that he had any knowledge of how the Secret Service operated. I was shipped there by Mr. Behn, Mr. Gerald Behn, and had a briefing just before leaving with some of the staff of the Kennedy administration. The fellow who briefed me was Kenny O'Donnell. We went over to my airplane, my private airplane, to Austin, Texas, where I met the agent in charge of the Austin area, Clarence Knetsch. The following day we had conferences with the late President Johnson and made the necessary arrangements for the President's (the late

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Kennedy's) visit.

HARTIGAN: I understand there have been some humorous sides of that visit. You met also for the first time some of the Kennedy advance men that we had during the campaign that were sent over there to assist in President Kennedy's arrival.

BORING: Yes. The evening of my arrival we contacted George Reedy [George E. Reedy, Jr.] who was the press secretary to the President...

HARTIGAN: The Vice-President.

BORING: I'm sorry. And he said that there were several Kennedy advance men in the area and wanted me to contact them. Which we did immediately because we wanted to work very closely with some people who had done the advance work for the President, like running his campaign. We met Joe Gargan [Joseph Gargan], Jerry Bruno [Gerald J. Bruno], and John Treanor [John H. Treanor] in the hotel room, and we went over the agenda and decided that we would have.... We had a ten o'clock appointment the following morning and we would go to the ranch together, the LBJ ranch together. We arrived in the ranch, and of course the President, the Vice-President-elect was several hours late which added to some of the tension in the area. As we sat there the President, or the Vice-President-elect wanted to know who was in charge, and Mr. Gargan said that he was. And as we spoke along, making the agenda remarks Mr. Bruno added a few comments

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about the press which apparently irritated the Vice-President-elect. He sharply asked Mr. Bruno who the hell he was, and Mr. Bruno said he was one of the advance men of the Kennedy political campaign. And he asked around the room who each individual person was, and he finally got to me, and he said, "Who are you?" And I said, "I'm Floyd Boring with the Secret Service." And he said, "Well, he says "What the... Will all the rest of you people shut up. I just want to talk to Floyd." So some of the embarrassing things—it brought a great amount of tension actually to the members of the Kennedy advance team, because they'd worked so hard to make these plans throughout the President's campaign, they felt that they should have something to say about it, and I did, too.

Finally the Vice-President asked where are we going to arrive, and, or, the President going to arrive and, I said "They'll be arriving at Bergstrom Air Force Base." He said, "Is there any real reason why we need any major affair at the base? Should we have the military, a live military complement there?" And I said, "No, that's entirely up to you. You're the host, and you may have what you wish there." I said, "I'm sure the military would be glad to have an honor guard or anything that you'd wish." So he said, "Let us not have anything there. We'll meet him informal. We'll get into my plane and come to the ranch. Fly him to the ranch." I said, "Fine." He said,

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"And by the way, I don't want any press at this place at all." And I said, "Well, Mr. Vice-President," I said, "I don't know whether that would be the right thing to do because the press always travels with the President if nothing more than a pool type, an AP [Associated Press] or IP [International Press Service of America] correspondent." He said, "Well, I don't want them there, and I don't want them out to my house." Which threw Mr. Bruno into a bit of a tizzy. However the situation was worked out later with George Reedy and Jerry Bruno to a satisfactory conclusion.

HARTIGAN: My recollection of that trip is that we couldn't find a horse to ride down there. [Laughter]

BORING: It probably is not a well-known fact that the Vice-President only owned, at that time, approximately 300 acres of ground which we were interested in protecting. And through the state, Texas Highway Patrol and the Texas State Police we were able to do this with their help. He did own and had leased several other ranches in the area in which he visited regularly and hunted on, and I did not see any horses either, Bill.

HARTIGAN: Floyd, did you go with President Kennedy on his little tour of the ranches with Vice-President Johnson?

BORING: Yes, this was quite a humorous situation, too, because of the newness of us with the Vice-President and the President-elect. We didn't know just exactly how to approach the situation.

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And I was awakened about four o'clock in the morning by George Reedy, and said that the President was going to go hunting—the President-elect and the Vice-President were going to go hunting at around five o'clock in the morning. I hustled myself together and got over to the front of the building and we had an automobile brought up in which there was a Lincoln Continental, a white continental that was assigned to President Johnson. President-elect Kennedy and Vice President-elect Johnson came out together with Torbert MacDonald [Torbert H. MacDonald], Kenny O'Donnell, Judge—I can't think of his last name, but a very dear friend of Vice-President Johnson—and myself. We got into two automobiles and left. And I positioned myself in the rear of the President's car. The car in which the President and Vice-President were riding. I do know that when the President shot a deer, his first job, first shooting, first time hunting, he felt very ill at the stomach. He didn't like to see anything killed, and that was the last shot that he fired on that day.

HARTIGAN: But he shot a deer.

BORING: He did shoot a deer and so did Kenny O'Donnell. By the way, these two automobiles they were riding back and forth between cars. Torbert MacDonald would ride a while with the President and the Vice-President and myself, and then Kenny O'Donnell would ride a while with us. And it was split up

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so that everyone had an opportunity to be in each other's automobile. But it was a good day, and the President was happy, although, as I said before, he didn't go much for using these large rifles to shoot little, tiny deer and made remarks to the Vice-President along those lines.

HARTIGAN: Was the Vice-President quite surprised to find out that that

northeastern man could hit a deer?

BORING: As a matter of fact, he shot the deer with one shot right straight through the heart. The deer dropped like a lead weight, never moved from the place. I would say the shot was about 150 yards away.

HARTIGAN: Was the Vice-President surprised?

BORING: The Vice-President was very pleasantly surprised because he had missed several shots prior to that. [Laughter]

HARTIGAN: During the time that you worked in the White House under John F. Kennedy you also did some other travelings. If I'm not mistaken, did you do advance work for the European trip?

BORING: Yes, part of my job at the White House during the entire President Kennedy administration was to be in charge of the advance work. I used to assign people to do the advance work, and most of the overseas trips I did myself in conjunction with other people on the detail. Right shortly after the Ottawa [Ottawa, Canada] trip which was the first trip the President made out of the country, on which I did the advance

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work with you, Bill, as you recall, we left and went to Vienna, Austria, where the President was making a trip to visit Nikita Khrushchev [Nikita Sergeyeovich Khrushchev]. And this was the first confrontation we had had since the Eisenhower [Dwight D. Eisenhower] administration with the Russian police, their NKVD [People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs]. It apparently went along very well. The President did very well with Nikita Khrushchev, as everyone knows, calling his cards at every step of the way at all the meetings.

HARTIGAN: What problems, if any, do you recall having with the NKVD?

BORING: Actually, security-wise, the police departments throughout the world work almost identically. The NKVD were exceptionally bright, exceptionally good security people. They were very cooperative. We had no problems whatsoever with the NKVD at all. We had no trouble with the British. They were a little stiff and were very stubborn in their ways, but we had no basic problem with them. The same with the French. We had no basic problems with any of the police departments throughout the world. They all seem to work in the same fashion.

HARTIGAN: I was with you in Vienna, as you recall, on the advance, and my recollection is we had probably one minor problem and that was with our own embassy.

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BORING: Yes, well this...

HARTIGAN: You remember the laying of the wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier was a problem.

BORING: Right. Every one of the overseas trips that I've ever been on, our main problem has always been with the administrative part of the State Department. Their security people, of course, are located in each of the embassies overseas. They're pretty much relegated to passing out identification to their local people to enter various secure areas. However for some odd reason the administrators and especially the DCMs [Deputy Chief of Mission] or the second people in charge are generally given the go-ahead by the Secretary of State to set up the visit of a president. And generally they have this prepared as you would prepare a trip of a congressman or a senator, not taking it into any consideration the safety and security and the convenience of the president. In most instances and incidents that you talk about—in Austria is a good example and then I can recall one that occurred in Bonn, Germany, in which I was involved with a man who here I shall not—who shall remain nameless because I said he's still in the Department of State. He had the President traveling an excess of 60 miles in a motorcade the first day, and several of these stops were in the American sector. And it was my opinion at that time that we should have him stop

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at one place within the American sector to save the President a half an hour of time and also to save him another speech, another talk. In addition to that we had felt that the President should have a private home in the Petersdorf area as opposed to living at the residence of the ambassador because, generally, the ambassador was put out of his own bed or he was inconvenienced. And President Kennedy did not want to inconvenience anyone and gave instructions to Kenny O'Donnell to seek a home there belonging to the State Department and live in that home. We had found a home in the area that we thought would be ideal. The individual who was staying there, a DCM, had gone back to the United States on a transfer, and the home was available. There was no one having to move. And I took this situation up with the DCM or the administrative part of the State Department, and he violently opposed and said that he was going to contact the Secretary of State and have this matter clarified. And I said, "Well, I think I could even do better than that for you. I'll call the White House and see what they say." And at that time I picked up the phone, and it was about time to report in to our people and Kenny O'Donnell anyhow, I made a call directly via the secure line from the area to the White House, over the security line. And asked to speak to Mr. O'Donnell.

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Mr. O'Donnell got on the line. I told him the situation, and he said, "Just a moment, Floyd." And he came back in about three minutes, and he said, "Tell them that he would—the President would contact the Secretary of State, if necessary, but he wanted to stay where we had suggested." And that was the end of the conversation with the administrator. He felt that he'd better not try to step over the President's desires.

HARTIGAN: Well it seems as though the few trips that I was on that's all we did, was to, seemed to be, to call back Kenny O'Donnell at the White House to have them contact the Secretary of State, it happened but I feel that we thought we had to do.

BORING: I think we can say, Bill, that Kenny was the great equalizer.

HARTIGAN: Along the same lines, Floyd, do you recall an incident when we were planning the trip, the President's arrival in Paris, and the discussion came up over the interpreter that was going to be in the car with President DeGaulle [Charles A. de Gaulle] and President Kennedy.

BORING: Unfortunately, Bill, I wasn't picked to do the advance work there, and I can't recall even hearing of the situation until you brought it up.

HARTIGAN: About the Russian that was going to be the interpreter?

BORING: Well, as I say, I can't recall the incident because I wasn't...

HARTIGAN: Would you refresh my memory just for the record. Was

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Mr. Campion [John Campion] the agent at the time?

BORING: I think that John Campion was the agent doing advance work at that time.

HARTIGAN: Is he still available?

BORING: Yes, he, by the way, was raised in Rhode Island and now is retired...

HARTIGAN: In Rhode Island?

BORING: No, he lives in North Carolina—New Bern, North Carolina.

HARTIGAN: Later on I might get his address from you, because I know that was a very interesting confrontation in the State Department on that issue of the Russian interpreter in the car with the two presidents.

BORING: Right.

HARTIGAN: Moving on, you did advance work on that same tour of Kennedy's—that was his first tour to Europe that we're talking about. He had already met with DeGaulle, met with Khrushchev, and then he was going to England...

BORING: Right.

HARTIGAN: ...to be godparent to...

BORING: Right.

HARTIGAN: ...One of the Radziwill children.

BORING: Right.

HARTIGAN: Any interesting....

BORING: No, other than—in those days, Bill, when we were through with an advance tour—you can imagine the amount of work that goes into one of them because you've done it yourself—

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we rejoined the detail but as a working.... I think that I was in the follow-up car, as I recall it, in both Paris and in Rome, or in England. So I didn't have any touch with the advance people other than doing my eight hours' work.

HARTIGAN: As a non-professional security man, one question on the foreign security agents. Was I right in being very much impressed with the French security people?

BORING: Yes, as I said before, Bill, the French were our top-notch people. There's no doubt about it. They have, as I said before and I'm going to repeat it again, the people we worked through throughout the country and throughout the world, the Germans, the British, the French, the Belgians, the Russians, the Japanese that I've worked with, all basically do police work alike. Their only interest is to get their principal person they're protecting through a line and into and out of areas in which they're protected.

HARTIGAN: The French impressed me. They seemed to have been bred for that type of work.

BORING: Yes.

HARTIGAN: Their physique, their...

BORING: Right. They've had some bits of trouble even before we have had in this country, any rioting. As you know, they have a large communist part of their government, and they do have, they know how to

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handle people. They know how to handle just, demonstrators. They know how to handle strike situations. So they are a top-notch police department. There's no doubt about it.

HARTIGAN: Floyd, what was the last trip that you handled for President Kennedy before he was assassinated?

BORING: Bill, I was on the last prior to the assassination. The man who was riding with the President at that time and I were dividing responsibility for the trips. I was on the trip in which the President left the White House by helicopter and went to the borderline between Maryland and Dover where we met the two governors, (Maryland's governor and the governor of Delaware), and he dedicated the now JFK Memorial Highway, the expressway that linked the New York area with the Washington area. He left by helicopter and went to Dover and took a small pilot flight. I'm sorry he took a plane—not a private plane a military plane—from there to New York. The President spent an evening in New York, staying at the Carlyle Hotel and also visiting with Arthur Quinn. The following morning we left and went to Hyannis Port where the President spent several days visiting with his father who, as you know, had a very serious stroke and was in the process of recuperating. There were also several other members of the President's immediate family there: Jean Smith [Jean Kennedy Smith] and several of her sisters. And they had sort of a little party-

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type reunion with the father. And then we left, and we went to Palm Beach for his last vacation. Of course, we didn't know it was his last vacation at the time, but it turned out to be his last vacation. He spent about eight days in Palm Beach, and we left Palm Beach and went to Tampa on a political meeting in which he spoke at the local armory. And, of course, that indicated to us that he had been accepted by the local people in Tampa. Then we flew from Tampa and went to Miami where he spent the evening speaking before an organized business group. And after the conclusion of the speech we went back to the aircraft and flew back to Washington, D.C., and this was probably on the 19th of November, several days later he left for his fateful trip to Texas.

HARTIGAN: And Agent Kellerman [Roy H. Kellerman] was the agent that was in charge of the advance detail for the Texas...

BORING: That's right. Agent Kellerman who had the same position that.... He was the third man at the White House. He and I were doing the trips in opposites from one another, and the advantage of that, Bill, was that he remained back while we were on the trip that I just talked about, and talked with those people making the advance arrangements in the Texas area, and it was fresh in his mind on the basis of what they were going to do in Texas. The idea was great,

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and it was unfortunate it had to be culminated by the assassination.

HARTIGAN: Is Kellerman still available today?

BORING: Yes. Roy Kellerman has been retired for about five, six years, and is now living in St. Petersburg, Florida.

HARTIGAN: I might possibly be able to interview him later on.

BORING: Right.

HARCIGAN: The assassination, of course has been discussed pro and con.

BORING: Right.

HARTIGAN: Emphatically, heatedly, and every other way, I guess. What is your evaluation of it in terms of the results, the Warren Report [Report of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy, 1964]?

BORING: I think from reading the Warren Report (and I have a copy of it), and also I know that the investigators that did the Warren investigation both in the Secret Service and the FBI were very competent people, and I think they did an excellent job, and I concur 100% with the Warren Report. Their findings were exact... [Interruption]

HARTIGAN: Thank you for your patience on that little interruption, Floyd. We do have to change tapes once in a while. When we left off on the last tape I believe you were talking about

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a doctor just reviewing the autopsy reports from President Kennedy.

BORING: Right. And his conclusion, Bill, and after going over the autopsy

reports and studying the x-rays and studying the various means with which they do an autopsy, he concurred 100% with the Warren Commission and it was the exact amount of shells that were alleged to be fired and that the damage was severe. And he reported that the first shot that hit the President in the upper neck area had done considerable damage to the spinal cord, and that had the President not received a second shot that he probably wouldn't have been able to use his legs or his arms or the rest of his body during the rest of his administration.

HARTIGAN: Naturally, I assume the attitude of the Secret Service was that everything that they could have possibly done had been done under that emergency. Is that...

BORING: Yes. What the problem, Bill, is—and you're familiar with this. We've talked about it many, many times and so has the press and other people. But we have—and my experience, which is over twenty years—we finally came to the conclusion that we could only protect the President on close contact with people if they had an opportunity to be there in his presence and close. We could probably protect maybe an injury. However, we all came to the conclusion (and I don't

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think anybody in the security field would differ with me) that if the principal or the President or whoever you might be guarding or protecting has to meet people, has to be with people, the possibilities of him being shot or killed are very great in that they have the first action; the first action is taken by the assassin. If the assassin is willing to give up his life to kill someone, I don't think anyone can prevent those actions under those conditions. In other words, if a president has to speak, or talk and to shake hands closely with people that that we don't know—we can't screen everyone in the United States—it's possible for a person to either kill the President by poison, by hitting him with a knife, by shooting. Any of those means can be used at close range, and there's no way to prevent this because he does have the initiative and the first strike. You have no way of hitting him before he makes the first strike.

HARTIGAN: But, Floyd, in the course of your activities in the Kennedy administration, did you ever, ever have an opportunity to talk to President Kennedy about security?

BORING: Yes. On several occasions, and when you talked to the President, he was an extremely intelligent man. And in order to converse with him on our level it was very difficult, and we used to do it, or I at least, would try to insert some humor

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into it as we could not make it appear that you were trying to advise him to do anything, because there was no way that the Secret Service could advise the President unless they had

substantial knowledge that something was going to happen. Then we could advise him, these are the facts. But on several occasions in the White House when he started to enter into crowds and shake hands and do—he was actually the first, to my knowledge, of any president who left the vehicle and was gregarious enough to go into the crowds and shake hands and so forth. I, in the automobile one day, said, to the President, “You know, Mr. President, I think that by going into these crowds you could be leaving yourself wide open to be assassinated or seriously injured.” And he said, “Well, Floyd, I'll tell ya. I couldn't get elected dog catcher, and I don't think any other politician could, if they didn't get out and meet the people. People vote for us, and we have to go out and shake hands.”

HARTIGAN: So your experience, then, in working for five presidents—would you say it's reasonable to assume that all of them were aware or are aware of the risk that's involved in being a president?

BORING: Oh, I don't think there's any doubt, Bill. The President.... Let's go back to President Roosevelt who was very protected because he couldn't physically move, couldn't walk around in the crowd. I think the mail alone, the threatening mail—the president

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makes a decision that's not popular. They get threats, constant threats, of “If I see you, I'll kill you,” “If I get the opportunity, I'll kill you.” Right? And the malicious situation where they are very abusive and talk about the president's death, hoping even to wish him into death, create a serious problem.

[Telephone rings]

HARTIGAN: Talk about the mail, before we were interrupted by a phone.

BORING: Yuh, well, as you know, the Secret Service has as a widely-known thing that we call the protective intelligence area in which all the letters sent to the White House that are threatening or abusive are sent to the Secret Service for analysis. Most of these letters are either investigated if they're not anonymous—and some of them are even anonymous ones that trail or trace to an individual, and those people are investigated. However, through the course of time, no one has ever written a letter threatening the President, with the exception of President Arthur [Chester A. Arthur] who was assassinated in the Union Station in, I think it was either, I'm sorry President Garfield [James A. Garfield] who was assassinated in Buffalo; and the man who had been priorly working with them on the campaign and so forth had turned bad due to the fact that he couldn't, didn't get a job, actually assassinated the President and did write a letter to the President to that effect. And since then, no one has ever written a letter announcing the fact that he was going to shoot or kill the president

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and actually did it or attempted it.

HARTIGAN: Floyd, the Secret Service now have expanded their responsibilities to include all candidates. What is your opinion on this new law that requires that [Interruption. Phone ringing]. Excuse the interruption. What is your opinion with reference to this new law that expands the Secret Service responsibility to protect the candidates for president?

BORING: Bill, I feel that the Secret Service is doing as good a job as can be possibly done in the circumstances. What they've done is have to hire an inclusive amount of agents. They had to strip the field of all our bureau officers only to protect the candidates. My personal opinion is that the candidates should not be protected until after one of the national parties has nominated their candidate and then the candidate should be protected from that time on, both the president and vice-presidential candidates. However, anyone, under the present setup, who qualifies for money through the federal government and announces that they have actually been running for president can claim secret service protection, and this runs into the hundreds and billions of dollars, I might add.

HARTIGAN: Floyd, once again I must apologize for the interruption. On the current publicity that's coming out in the newspapers

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with reference to the “girls in the life of President Kennedy” (and I want that in quotes), you folks—I mean the Secret Service—probably spend more time with the President or presidents that they cover than anybody. What is your reaction to these stories that are coming out, based on the fact that you were there? What, honestly, is your opinion of these stories?

BORING: Bill, I guess the Secret Service is probably as close to any president physically as you can get without interfering with his bathing and personal habits. I can't recall—and I was there the entire time during the President's administration and prior to the President's administration and I know I can never recall at any time the President meeting with any girl. Everything I've ever seen the man do was with a moral attitude. Naturally, he had friends; his sisters had friends, and if they were in a swimming area or that type of thing there was nothing that I ever saw that would lead me to believe that the President was at fault.

HARTIGAN: With reference to this Judy Campbell Exner [Judith Campbell Exner], you don't recall anything about her?

BORING: Never seen the girl. Never heard her name until I read it in the paper.

HARTIGAN: And the recent one, this Meyer [Mary Pinchot Meyer]?

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BORING: Wouldn't know her. As a matter of fact, I never saw any of these girls that they mention today.

HARTIGAN: I notice that this type of news brings up authors of past books. What do you recall about the kennel master [Traphes L. Bryant] over at the White House that wrote a book where he observed all these nude swimming parties? What's your answer to that?

BORING: I feel he was trying to make a few bucks, Bill, and the fellow didn't use good judgment. My concern is in the fact that he trusted him fully. If the President feels that he should be that close to him, that's no real reason why he shouldn't be, accuse constructive criticism towards him after he's dead. I just can't see how anyone can write a book that he isn't able to prove after the President is dead. The President has no way of protecting himself. It's just unreal to me that anyone would write a book that would say that the President you know....

HARTIGAN: And these stories of nude parties around the pool. Some secret service agent would have to have been there.

BORING: Absolutely, no fact. As a matter of fact, if you knew the situation in the White House, if you knew the physical situation in the White House, no one could see in the pool anyhow. It's impossible to see in.

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HARTIGAN: That's an interesting point. These news stories also prompted, I suppose, what one would call an attractive news story because it involved Frank Sinatra. Do you have any observations...

BORING: I would say that probably Frank is the victim of some of the publicity, trying to get [Unintelligible] I know that the President, although he knew Frank Sinatra, I never at any time had ever seen the President with Frank Sinatra. As a matter of fact in using Bing Crosby's place in Palm Springs, California, for a rest after the campaign. I know that Frank Sinatra was in the area, but at no time was Frank Sinatra at the President's house. He was surrounded by his friends, his assistants, his office [Unintelligible]

HARTIGAN: And these stories about Marilyn Monroe getting to see him while he was in Palm Springs on that rest period?

BORING: Absolutely untrue. Because the place was completely under.... You

couldn't even get in the road. The average citizen wasn't permitted on the highway leading to this little, small compound where he was at home. It was absolutely impossible for her, unless she was a mountain climber, to climb up where the house was

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situated. I doubt that she was....

HARTIGAN: Floyd, are there any other observations you'd like to make in concluding our interview here today?

BORING: No, but one thing I'd like to say, Bill. I enjoyed working with the fellows who worked in the Kennedy administration and of all the administrations I worked with, the President and the people surrounding the President were very gracious and were very cooperative. As a matter of fact, you can't do this type of security work without cooperation of the people surrounding the President, and I...

HARTIGAN: I suppose, supporting that, is the fact that you've been friendly with them ever since, even after your retirement.

BORING: Yes, that's my [interruption, telephone ringing] [Unintelligible]

HARTIGAN: Floyd, you also, as I recall, assisted me and ____ in the headquarters security for Bobby Kennedy. I don't mean on the road....

BORING: [Unintelligible]

HARTIGAN: Well, do you think we might get into another campaign, and use your services sometime before the end of the elections? [Laughter]

BORING: No, I'm sorry.

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HARTIGAN: Floyd, one last request. Offhand, do you recall any memorabilia that you've collected in the course of President Kennedy's administration that you may feel would be of interest to the Kennedy Library that you would see your way clear to donate to them?

BORING: Actually, I don't have any memorabilia. [Unintelligible]

HARTIGAN: No personal notes that he left?

BORING: No personal notes.

HARTIGAN: Floyd, I know if you happen to think of anything that might be helpful for the Library, you'd let me know—or some people that maybe you feel would be of interest on some tape, would you let me know?

BORING: Certainly.

HARTIGAN: Thank you very much, Floyd Boring.

[END OF INTERVIEW]

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Appendix: Comments at end of tape by Mr. Hartigan:

I don't know what's wrong with the sound on this tape, but it gives Mr. Boring and myself a very high-pitched voice which neither one of us has. I don't know if it's the new tape I used or some adjustment I should have made on the tone. At any rate, the last two interviews, each one of these gentlemen are available for a follow-up if in the judgment of the archivist in the Library that there may be some questions that I forgot to ask that they feel would be helpful in completing these interviews. So if you let me know, I could get back to these gentlemen very easily and present further questions to them. They both agreed to be interviewed in any depth that we wish.

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