

**Leverett Saltonstall Oral History Interview – JFK#1, 11/19/1964**  
**Administrative Information**

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**Biographical Note**

Leverett Saltonstall (1892-1979) was a Senator from Massachusetts from 1945 to 1967. This interview focuses on Saltonstall's professional relationship with John F. Kennedy [JFK], JFK's time as a Senator, and Massachusetts politics, among other topics.

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Oral History Interview

with

LEVERETT SALTONSTALL

November 19, 1964  
Boston, Massachusetts

By Daniel J. Lynch

For the John F. Kennedy Library

LYNCH: Senator, before we get into your relations with the late President Kennedy, I thought it might be interesting to learn if the Kennedy family and the Saltonstall family knew each other back in the earlier years. I have in mind that the Saltonstalls are an old Massachusetts family and the Kennedy family goes back a good many years too. For instance, did you have any relationship with the grandparents of the late President?

SALTONSTALL: Yes. I did, Dan, and may I say before we go any further in this interview that I am glad to be with you because we have been associated together in various positions over the last thirty-five years. We know each other well and we know of the many contacts we have had together with the various political leaders in Massachusetts, and this of course goes especially for the Kennedy family.

You asked me about my relations with the late President's family. I think I knew most intimately John F. Fitzgerald, his grandfather. I have always known his father pleasantly, although we have not met often. I did know his Grandfather Kennedy. I never come in contact with him at all, but I came in contact many, many times with John F. Fitzgerald -- first in my capacity as Speaker of the House in Massachusetts, later as Governor, and before his death to a lesser extent as United States Senator. Grandfather Fitzgerald as you know was very active in the Port of Boston affairs. He took a great deal of interest

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in the Port and was on various committees connected with it after he left the office of Mayor of Boston. My relations with him were mainly in connection with the Port affairs. Of course I also came in contact with him at various political and social gatherings. I shall always remember when he, I and a lawyer named Rowen debated before a Men's Club in a synagogue in Newton towards the end of the political campaign in 1932. I represented the Republican Party, Mr. Fitzgerald represented the Democratic Party, and Rowen the Socialist. I gave a lawyer's one-two-three argument as to why President Hoover should be re-elected. Mr. Fitzgerald in his turn told various stories concerning Boston when he was Mayor of the City, but practically never mentioned the issues of the '32 campaign. He ended his turn on the debate by singing "Sweet Adeline." The members of the club who were present voted that Mr. Fitzgerald had won the debate. After it was over, we went to the house of Commissioner Goldberg and had a cup of coffee. It was raining hard. Mrs. Fitzgerald was with the Mayor and Mrs. Saltonstall was with me. In a short time, we went home. Now, mind you, that was about the last of October just before the election in November of '32. Governor Ely was then Governor of Massachusetts. I was Speaker of the House. On the closing day of the legislative session in June 1933 -- eight months later -- at about one or two o'clock in the morning the Governor sent for me. As I went into his office, Mayor Fitzgerald came out. (He just loved politics and could not go to bed when the Legislature was getting ready to prorogue.) As he came out of the office, he shook hands with me and said, "Say, Saltonstall," (he always called me Saltonstall,) "my wife keeps asking me, did you go off with her umbrella that night we were out at Commissioner Goldberg's

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after the debate in the Newton synagogue?" I said I was awfully sorry but we had not gone off with her umbrella. I have always remembered this little incident because it was an example of the long memory that Fitzgerald had -- nine months after our debate, and early in the morning of the closing session of the Legislature with all of its excitement.

I told that story of his grandfather to Senator Kennedy on the Senate floor one day and we laughed together about it. Incidentally, of course, I always met his grandfather at Clover Club banquets here in Boston and on many other occasions. He was generally called on for a few remarks and always closed by singing "Sweet Adeline." He always spoke in a humorous vein and was full of reminiscences concerning political affairs in the City.

Now, you asked me concerning Joe Kennedy, the President's father. He was always warm and helpful to me. I recall in 1938 when I was Chairman of the Community Fund campaign here in Boston that I went to his office in New York and asked him to be the principal speaker at our opening meeting in Mechanics Hall. I told him we would have an audience of about two thousand. We did, and he made an excellent, stimulating address. He was then our Ambassador to England and it worried me when I had him and Governor Hurley to dinner as to the protocol on who should sit on Mrs. Saltonstall's right. I learned

then and have never forgotten that a United States Ambassador is the President's representative in the country to which he is assigned, but is just an ordinary citizen at home.

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Later, when I ran for Governor, Joe Kennedy invited me to his suite at the Ritz Hotel where we had a pleasant, helpful talk. While he never openly supported me, I knew from various incidents that he helped me in a quiet way. Of course at a later time I saw him at the President's wedding and at the Inaugural ceremonies in Washington. I do not recall ever seeing him at the White House, but I did see and had several brief talks with Mrs. Kennedy, the President's mother, during his term of office.

LYNCH: Before we leave Grandfather Fitzgerald, I am reminded that your own grandfather, Leverett Saltonstall, was a Democrat and Collector of the Port of Boston, I think during Grover Cleveland's first administration. Did he as a Democrat have anything to do with the Fitzgeralds or the Kennedys?

SALTONSTALL: Yes, he did. I learned this from John F. himself. There is nothing in my grandfather's records to confirm what he told me. My grandfather was the Collector of the Port -- I think in Cleveland's second administration, not the first -- and John F. himself told me not once but three times that the first job given to him in a government position was given to him by my grandfather when he made John F. Fitzgerald, then a young man, a Collector of Customs in the Port of Boston.

LYNCH: Now, in getting back to the late President Kennedy. When did you first come in contact with him?

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SALTONSTALL: My first contact with him, Dan, as far as I can remember, was when he and I were members of the Harvard War Memorial Committee after World War II. I was then an Overseer of Harvard and was asked to head a committee to determine the form of the war memorial for World War II veterans. There was great difference of opinion and many suggestions. The late President and I were two of about a dozen members of that Committee. President Kennedy came to several of our meetings and he and I discussed the question together once or twice. The committee finally agreed upon putting a new plaque in the Memorial Chapel at Harvard to commemorate the veterans of World War II. So this Chapel became a memorial not only to the veterans of World War I but also World War II. The late President firmly supported the final determination to put the plaque in the Chapel even though there was considerable pressure by various graduates for other proposals. So far as I can remember, this was the first active contact I had with him. He was then a Congressman, I believe. I never did serve on the Board of Overseers with him as his election to the Board came after my term had expired.

LYNCH: After the was elected to the Board of Overseers, knowing that you had been a three-term member of the Board, did he ever consult with you on questions concerning the work of the Harvard Overseers?

SALTONSTALL: No, I can't remember that he did. I saw him of course several times at Commencement and we joked with each other there about the uniform of silk hats and cut-aways that the Overseers had to wear. I listened to him when he made his speech after receiving an honorary degree, but

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I don't recall ever discussing any questions with him concerning the University. In fact, he never could be a very active member of the Board of Overseers because during much of that period he was running for President and later became President.

LYNCH: After three terms as Congressman, he was elected United States Senator in 1952. Did your association with him become closer, or what was your relationship from then on?

SALTONSTALL: The relationship was very pleasant and became a helpful one I think to both of us. The first thing that I can recall was when the then Senator Kennedy came to my office one day and said he thought it would be helpful if all the New England Senators of both parties could get together periodically and discuss problems concerning New England. This was something that we had never done in a consistent way, yet we knew that southern Senators did so advantageously and also there were meetings of eastern and midwestern Senators. Those groups were particularly active in the interests of their sections of the country. We agreed that I, Senator Bridges and Senator Greene, as senior Senators, would invite the other members to a luncheon. Kennedy and I agreed that we would split the costs of the luncheon. We did meet. Greene and Bridges presided and it was understood that we would meet periodically in different Senators' offices on Thursday mornings. At first our meetings were very regular -- every other week. More lately we have met less often because our problems concerning New England became less a question of legislation and rather one of administration. But our meetings have continued. We have often written unanimous letters to the President or to Department heads on the question of tariffs and quotas on textiles and shoes, etc. We have

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also had meetings with the Secretary of State and the President. President Kennedy really stimulated the original of these New England Senators meetings. We even signed unanimous letters to him as President. While he understood our problems in New England as well, of course he had to adopt a more national point of view as President. Still we always felt we had a friend in him and one that would help us whenever he could. Examples of his assistance:

The establishment of the Cape Cod National Seashore, and bringing to Boston the research laboratory of NASA.

LYNCH: Isn't there a tradition when a new Senator comes into the Congress? How do you handle that? What is the swearing-in process?

SALTONSTALL: When a new Senator comes to be sworn in, his colleague takes his arm and escorts him down the aisle, introduces him to the Vice President, and stands behind him when he is sworn. I accompanied Senator Kennedy both times that he was sworn in as a Senator. After the swearing-in process was over, we went into Vice President Barkley's office and had a picture taken with the Vice President. He and the Vice President autographed that picture for me and I prize it in my album. Later on, and I say this with a smile, when his younger brother Ted became a Senator, I also escorted him down the aisle and as I did so I said to him, "How many more Kennedys am I going to take down this aisle to be sworn in as United States Senators?" He laughed and asked me how long I expected to be there.

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LYNCH: The year that Kennedy was elected to the United States Senate, President Eisenhower was also elected, which meant as we know eight years of Republican rule. You were the Republican senior Senator and I assume therefore had something to say about appointments and so-called patronage in Massachusetts. How did this work out in your relationship with Senator Kennedy?

SALTONSTALL: It worked out very pleasantly. To my knowledge, in the eight years that John Kennedy served as a Senator with me, he never objected to a single recommendation that I made for postmasters, with one exception, or the other offices, from Judge Bailey Aldrich to the Circuit Court of Appeals, down the line. He never objected. He was very cooperative in this way. During the latter two years, when he was actively a candidate for President, he was not in the Senate so much and it was harder to reach him. By that time, his assistants were very careful about agreeing to anything in his name without getting his personal approval. But he never objected. The one exception was in the confirmation of one postmaster where John Kennedy told me himself that he did not personally object, but the two Democratic Congressmen did so he had to join them in their objection. Ultimately the case was fully discussed and the man I wanted was appointed.

I have never yet objected to appointments made by Senator Ben Smith, his successor, or by his brother Ted, after John became President.

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LYNCH: As I understand it, as Chairman of the Republican Conference in the Senate, you were invited to breakfast or to the Cabinet Room usually

weekly when you had a Republican President -- President Eisenhower -- and even under President Kennedy and President Johnson when there is a bipartisan matter. Would you give us any observation on how these matters are conducted?

SALTONSTALL: Yes, under President Eisenhower, only twice I think did we have breakfasts and those were with us Republicans. We did have under President Eisenhower a number of bipartisan meetings with our Democratic colleagues -- Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson and the leadership in the House: Sam Rayburn, John McCormack, and the various Chairmen and leaders in the House and Senate. Generally at those meetings the President would have the proper official describe what the Administration was doing, usually on questions of foreign affairs. Mr. Dulles, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Defense and the Director of the CIA were present. We were all free to ask questions. The meetings always ended by Speaker Sam Rayburn saying formally, "Thank you, Mr. President." We would then agree on what if anything we would say to the Press after we left the White House.

Now, during President Kennedy's Administration and later in President Johnson's Administration, of course, the shoe has been on the other foot. The Democrats meet with the President regularly, and we are only called in for discussions on vital issues of the moment. I recall especially the meeting on the Bay of Pigs when the invaders were still at large and the issue had not been settled. That was our first meeting, as I

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recall, with President Kennedy. The Secretary of Defense, Mr. McNamara, CIA Director John McCone, and several others were present. He told us what had happened and what was going on and that the defeat of the Cuban invaders was probably. He was obviously worried; his fact was very serious. He told us what the situation was at the moment and as I recall he said that there was no particular action that our government could take or was going to take.

I shall always remember the difference in this attitude at that time and at the meeting we had when Khrushchev and the missiles issue in Cuba was hot. At the latter meeting he was a completely different man. He had every confidence in himself and the decision he had made. He informed us very clearly of the alternatives and the decision to stop any Russian ships going to Cuba and to declare an economic blockade. The difference between those two meetings and President Kennedy's looks and attitude shall always be clear in my memory. Of course, as I have said, there were several other meetings on various questions mainly connected with defense and with foreign aid, though not many.

Before his last State of the Union message, he did call us together and pointed out various questions and issues that he was going to raise. I remember particularly the issue of civil rights. The principal discussion came on the question of whether to include the public accommodations section and how to work out the question on employment in industry, particularly as it concerned the State and local governments. It was clear that the President was determined to raise these issues in his message, and he did, but Senator Dirksen brought out some of the difficulties involved.

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LYNCH: Did you make any attempt to bring the Republican Leaders and the Democratic leaders together on civil rights?

SALTONSTALL: My one suggestion during the meeting was that the President could always go forward and get more Federal participation in the civil rights legislation where it was needed, but once he had included an issue in his message he could not draw back. I suggested that if there were going to be a great difference of opinion and Congress might fail to act, particularly because of the public accommodations section, it might be better to leave that out in his original message. He could always add it at a later time. I can't remember his comment if any during the meeting, but as we were going back to our automobiles after the meeting, the President was walking with Senator Dirksen, the most outspoken against including the public accommodations section in the bill. The President said to me with a smile as we walked along, "Saltonstall was as usual trying to get us all together." That as I recall it was about the last conversation I had with him.

I shall remember too the luncheon he gave in the small dining room in the White House for General Douglas MacArthur. There were about eight or nine of us present. It was in his early days in the White House, but he handled the meeting like a veteran to bring out MacArthur's points of view and permit us to ask him questions. We also had many pictures taken, one or two of which I have in my album.

I shall always recall the luncheon after his Inaugural address in the Old Supreme Court Room in the Capitol. Mrs. Saltonstall and I were invited as his former Massachusetts colleagues. At the luncheon I approached the head table as I came in with Mrs. Saltonstall. We shook hands with former President Truman and then President Kennedy saw us. He stood up and with a smile of true welcome greeted us. It was the type of greeting that gave people such confidence in him as a man.

Another time when he was honoring I believe the Astronauts at a ceremony on the White House lawn he invited me to come up on the platform as a Senator and stand at his side while he presented the medals to the various honored recipients. Then we were invited to shake hands with them and have our picture taken with the Astronaut with whom we had a particular association. In this ceremony the President again displayed the confidence which brought to his office the respect of everyone who came in personal contact with him.

At several times I was called by him to visit with him upstairs in his library in connection with foreign aid appropriations mostly. At these meetings, I tried to tell the President what I felt was the position

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in the Senate and what was best in the way of appropriations for foreign aid. I supported this generally and always have been in favor of assistance for foreign aid.

LYNCH: I recall that you represented the Republican Party, or may I say the

U.S. Government, as a United States Senator at the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty signing in Moscow. It is known that the President was anxious to have a bipartisan representation in Moscow. Could you tell us how that came about that you were a representative?

SALTONSTALL: Well, yes, so far as I know that was done entirely through Secretary of State Rusk. He personally came to my office in the Capitol and asked me to go. He wanted a bipartisan group. Senator Aiken, as I recall it, was the other Republican. I said I would like to go but that before I accepted I wanted to talk with the Minority Leader, Mr. Dirksen, and with the senior member of the Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. Hickenlooper. I did talk with both of them, and while I think they personally questioned the wisdom of Republicans going, they said if I wanted to go they certainly would have no objections. I went and I was very glad that I did go because it was, I suppose, one of the most important meetings that I have had in my lifetime. I assume that that came about with President Kennedy's assent, although I did not talk personally with him about it.

LYNCH: Getting back to the time when you and the President served together in the Senate, I recall that there were a number of bills that came out bearing both your names, especially regarding matters that Massachusetts was vitally concerned in. How did you work out these arrangements?

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SALTONSTALL: Generally, when the President was first a Senator, we talked things over and said that we would do together whatever concerned Massachusetts. Outside of Massachusetts, on national issues, of course, we did not try to get together. Occasionally we did discuss national issues, though not too often. On questions concerning Massachusetts, we would often talk over the telephone and if he had a bill to file he would discuss it with me, or his assistant Ted Sorensen would do so. We would then agree either to file or not to do it. Certainly on all resolutions from the Massachusetts Legislature that were sent to the Senate, we agreed that he would file a resolution in both our names, and then I would file one in both our names, and so on. We would alternate and carried out that method pretty faithfully.

During the time he was ill, I discussed questions always with Ted Sorensen who often came to my office for that purpose. We never had any real differences of opinion regarding Massachusetts questions, and I found Sorensen very helpful. I did have one disagreement with him where I felt I was trying to carry out what might be called a Republican burden because Eisenhower was President and it was a Republican Administration. Sorensen felt that Kennedy should have been in on it also. It concerned something about certain employees of the Port of Boston. That was the only time I had a real disagreement with Sorensen. When I saw Senator Kennedy after he returned, I said that I was happy about our mutual relationship while he was sick and he added with a smile, "Oh, you dealt with Senator Sorensen." I said, "Well, I dealt with Ted Sorensen."

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LYNCH: I recall a special article that you wrote for the Boston Globe on the day of the President's assassination in which you touched on some personal aspects in your relationship to him. Would you repeat some of those, Senator?

SALTONSTALL: Well, Dan, I think I would like to include that statement here. I certainly meant everything I said in it and said it sincerely because of our friendship over the years, even though our ages were quite disparate. **[See Addendum]**

LYNCH: Senator, you have indicated how you worked with Senator Kennedy on Massachusetts matters. How about domestic matters affecting the country as a whole and also foreign affairs?

SALTONSTALL: Well, on foreign affairs, Dan, as far as I can remember, Senator Kennedy and I voted the same way. When he was President, he called me to the White House and several times on the telephone particularly with relation to foreign aid, and I supported him. On domestic matters, especially with relation to Massachusetts, we always voted together. On other domestic questions, such as agricultural problems and some of the national questions regarding employment and health, education, and welfare where greater Federal participation and control at the expense of the State administration was involved, we differed. At first, before he became an active candidate for the Presidency, I think we agreed even on many of these items.

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LYNCH: Getting back to a little touch of Massachusetts politics, I recall back in 1954 when you were running for reelection as U.S. Senator, Kennedy had then been a Senator for two years and the Democratic nominee was the then State Treasurer Foster Furcolo, and there was considerable publicity about the failure of Senator Kennedy either to criticize you or endorse your opponent. What is your recollection of that campaign?

SALTONSTALL: Well, Dan, I certainly appreciated his attitude at that time. While we did not meet as it was in the middle of the political campaign, word came to me -- and it certainly was open gossip -- that my colleague Senator Kennedy was not opposing me as strenuously as he might. And certainly on several occasions men in my office, and I think your good self, if I may say so, talked with representatives in his office regarding certain things that we could do. I was very appreciative of all this. I cannot remember whether I actively thanked him for what he and his office did, but I certainly indicated to him that he had not hurt me. He congratulated me upon my reelection and we continued to work together to assist Massachusetts.

LYNCH: Senator, I recall that in the Republican National Convention of 1960 which followed the Democratic Convention and John F. Kennedy was already the nominee, you were telling me how you disliked some of the parties you attended because everyone was feeling sorry for you. You were up for reelection that year and with the Democratic nominee for President being from Massachusetts, your State, your chance of reelection was going to be pretty slim. What was your reaction to all that?

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SALTONSTALL: Well, my reaction was one of not too great worry. I might say, Dan, that the form of the ballot here in Massachusetts is helpful for crossing party lines. The ballot was changed in the early 1950's so that the President's name was in one column and underneath it was the candidate for Senator and Congressman. Then on the second fold at the top was the candidate for Governor, followed by the candidates on the State ticket. On the third column were the county officers and on the fourth were referenda. Now, the ballot was changed in this way because the vote for U.S. Senator came formerly at the end of the State ticket. People would vote for Governor and gradually would cease voting for individual candidates, and even left blank the vote for U.S. Senator. So I felt strongly that the Federal candidates should be put on the same folder as the President. Senator Kennedy agreed with me and together we supported in the State Legislature that changed our ballot. That of course helped me greatly in 1960. Until the recent election in 1964, the number of people who crossed party lines to give me a majority of 300,000 and to President Kennedy a majority of 500,000, or an 800,000 total, was a record which made me feel proud, but that record of course was beaten in 1964 by President Johnson and Ted Kennedy as opposed to Attorney General Brooke where the number of people who split their tickets was nearly 1.7 million.

LYNCH: One piece of legislation which particularly appealed to the people of Massachusetts was the so-called Cape Cod National Seashore. As I understand it, that was a joint effort between you and Senator Kennedy also.

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SALTONSTALL: Dan, it was completely that. So far as I remember, we never disagreed. One of Kennedy's assistants and Dave Martin of my office really wrote the terms of that bill. It was modified in various ways when interests were involved, but Senator Kennedy and I never differed and worked forward just as emphatically as we could to make that a reality. I remember long conversations and correspondence that I had with the late Attorney General Biddle. We had one meeting in Eastham which I attended -- Senator Kennedy was not there at that time -- but we never had any disagreement and those two men in our two offices really did a great deal toward

advising the committee that wrote the bill. Congressman Hastings Keith met with us a number of times and in the final analysis, Senator Kennedy and I agreed that we were going to go forward with certain terms that we had worked out. We had a meeting with Congressman Keith in my office and he agreed to go along, and we stuck together. Of course President Kennedy deserves a lot of credit because he stimulated Congress about conservation and maintained his interest in the Cape Cod Park after he became President. He finally signed the bill with many of us present.

LYNCH: Another piece of legislation that I believe you worked on together was to obtain a new Federal judgeship in Federal Court in Massachusetts because of the increased business in that Court. My memory is that the legislation setting up a new judgeship passed the Congress some years ago and the vacancy has never been filled. Have you any observation on that, Senator?

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SALTONSTALL: Well, we did work together to point out the need for a new Federal District Court judge here in Massachusetts. At that time, several of the judges here were fairly well along in years and one of them wasn't in good health, so that the work had piled up. The work as I understand it is still fairly well piled up and I do not know whether or not a new judge will be appointed. Certainly President Kennedy held off appointing any judge while he was President. Just why he held off I do not know. I suspect it may have been because of the great difference of opinion as to who should be his appointee. I took no part in any discussion of that with him.

LYNCH: Before closing this interview, Senator, my memory is that you and Mrs. Saltonstall were guests at the wedding of Senator and Mrs. Kennedy which took place the first year he was Senator down at Newport, Rhode Island. Have you any recollections of that?

SENATOR: Yes, I shall certainly always remember that wedding. We went down to Newport from our home in Dover and the streets near the church were so crowded that it was very difficult to get to the church. We finally did and were assigned two seats in one of the six or seven front pews behind the family so that we had a fine opportunity to view the ceremony and watch the young Senator and his lovely bride take their vows under the Catholic Church ceremonies. We then went to the reception at the Auchincloss home. Why, I do not know, but we arrived among the very first guests and before the reception line was formed, so I had an opportunity to talk with Senator's father, Joe Kennedy. We paced up and down the large parlor together waiting for the line to be formed

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and had a very friendly discussion on subjects of no particular importance, as I recall. Joe Kennedy was a bit nervous and very anxious to have things get underway. While we were together, we discussed the roominess of the Auchincloss house, the grounds around it, and the old horse, which was apparently a retired riding horse, down in the pasture -- and then the line formed. Mrs. Saltonstall and I went through the line, stayed for a little while and then came home. The Senator expressed his thanks to us for coming and seemed to be very pleased that we were there.

LYNCH: Senator, as I understand it, there is a tradition, probably respected since our first President, that no matter what intimacy people have had with the President prior to his ascension to that office, after he is President he no longer is a first name, or a mister, but he is addressed always as "Mr. President."

SALTONSTALL: That is true, Dan, to the best of my knowledge and belief. It first came home to me when I went as a boy of eleven or twelve with my sister and my father to see President Theodore Roosevelt. At that time, the President came out of his office every day at twelve o'clock and greeted the people who were in the waiting room to see him, and as far as I know anybody who wanted could come there to visit him. Well, when the President's aides found out that my father was a classmate and a longtime friend, they put us at the head of the line. I was very surprised that the President should call my father "Dick" and be glad to see him, and my father very formally said he was glad, Mr. President, to be there. I said to my father afterwards, "Why didn't you call him Teddy when he called you Dick?" "Oh," my father said, "when a man is President he

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is always Mr. President. He wouldn't have liked it if I had called him Teddy." I always remembered that. Senator Kennedy had always been "John" to me. To most people he was Jack; I don't know why I always called him John. He was always very courteous to me, maybe because of the difference in our ages. He always called me Senator. But when he became President, I called him very carefully and always "Mr. President." Certainly I did so with his predecessors and shall always do it out of respect to the office. I am confident that he expected it. He always carried out his duties at social functions with dignity as befitted his high office and bore himself accordingly. He had a great understanding of the office of the President.

LYNCH: Thank you, Senator Saltonstall, for the time you have given to this interview.

SALTONSTALL: Well, Dan, it is always a privilege to talk with you over these thirty-five years, particularly on a subject like John Kennedy, a person regarding whom we both have had many discussions and a lot of mutual contacts, even though the President and I did not see each other as often as we talked on the telephone and worked out through our assistants mutually cooperative programs.

[END OF INTERVIEW]

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**[ADDENDUM]**

SALTONSTALL: I quote here from the article which I wrote for the Boston Globe on the 24th of November, 1963:

“It is now six o’clock on the evening of November 24, 1963, the evening of a day that those of us who were colleagues and associates of President John F. Kennedy will never forget.

It is a tragic day the like of which we will not want to experience again. What tragic news began to come over the radio Friday afternoon. Unbelievable that our President, in our country, could be assassinated.

The Senate was in session. It recessed with a prayer by the Chaplain. We were all too shocked. The President never more could carry out planned meetings or join his family.

On Saturday we filed by his casket in the East Room of the White House. Today we stood silently and sadly within the Rotunda of the Capitol as the casket of our late President was reverently placed in the center.

Words were spoken by Congressional leaders and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Flowers were laid by the casket by President Johnson.

Mrs. Kennedy, with her little girl by her side, stepped forward and knelt.

But we who had worked with him and liked him and respected his firmness, his knowledge of our country’s problems in these difficult times, had moments in which to think of what he meant to us.

John F. Kennedy and I became colleagues when he became a Senator in 1953. I walked up the aisle with him on my arm and presented him to Vice President Barkley, who gave him the oath of office. Afterward we had our pictures taken with the Vice President.

Mrs. Saltonstall took Mrs. Kennedy to a meeting of the ladies of the Senate Red Cross. Mrs. Kennedy, putting on her white Red Cross veil,

whispered to Mrs. Saltonstall: 'I must go up and show John this veil.' She did, and then returned to making bandages.

Senator Kennedy was 'Jack' to most everyone, but he was always 'John' or 'Johnnie' to me until he became Mr. President. We early agreed to work together on questions that affected our Commonwealth. We knew we would not always agree on national questions, although we often discussed them prior to a vote.

On international questions such as foreign aid, NATO and other understandings, our feelings were generally the same. We filed bills jointly to help improve the fishing industry and the wool, cotton and shoe businesses.

Often we talked over the telephone regarding these and other Massachusetts problems.

Occasionally we met at each other's offices with delegations. We supplemented each other in debate. Always we kept our relations happy, and thus helped Massachusetts, we hoped.

I knew John Kennedy as an attractive person, never flustered, quick to understand the pros and cons of a problem, well advised and a good administrator of his office.

No one I have ever met in public life could size up the public reaction to a proposed legislative problem more quickly and more accurately than could he.

One of his greatest traits was to meet a person and disarm him by quick repartee into doing what he wanted to have done. We had much give-and-take together. He was always straightforward and could be counted on to do what he said he would.

Our ages were different, but we became friends. During his illness, I tried hard to see that his name was included in all that affected our State. This, I think, he appreciated because in my political campaigns I found his friends were openly friendly to me or were noncommittal.

On this day of November 24, 1963, we recall our mutual experiences with our late President, our respect for his intellectual and personal character and sense of humor, but above all, his patriotism, so clearly evidenced in his military and governmental actions, his firmness of decision and his

understanding of the tremendous responsibilities of the office of President of the United States.

We who knew him will miss him. His fellow citizens will miss him, and the leaders of the free world and even those behind the Iron Curtain will miss him. But his spirit and what he stood for will live with us.”