Silvio Conte Oral History Interview—10/18/1977

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Biographical Note

Conte, a Representative from Massachusetts (1959-1991), discusses his collaboration with John F. Kennedy (JFK) as a fellow Massachusetts politician, passage of the foreign aid bill, and changes to the Secret Service following JFK's assassination, among other issues.

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Oral History Interview

with

Silvio Conte

October 18, 1977 Washington, DC

By William J. Hartigan

For the John F. Kennedy Library

HARTIGAN: ...in the office of Congressman Silvio Conte from the First Congressional District of Massachusetts, and the purpose of my visit is to interview the Congressman on behalf of the Oral History Department of the John F. Kennedy Library. Congressman, I suppose the obvious question would be to ask you when and where you first met the late President Kennedy [John F. Kennedy].

CONTE: Oh, I think I first met him when he was either, he was in Congress and he was starting to tour Massachusetts and he came to Pittsfield to speak, I believe at St. Mary's Church at a communion breakfast. A fellow by the name of John Mehana, who used to work for the *Berkshire Eagle*, brought him up there just to have him meet people. I think it was about the first time anybody in Berkshire County ever heard of John Kennedy, and it was one early Sunday morning he came up.

HARTIGAN: Was that while he was campaigning in the '52 campaign?

CONTE: It might, yes, well, no. It must have been before that, before he ran for the

United States Senate.

HARTIGAN: While he was a congressman.

CONTE: While he was a congressman and, yes, it was long before, I would say,

before the '52 campaign.

HARTIGAN: The President was, you were in the State Senate when the President was in

the United States Senate. Do you recall any situations where you had a, in

your capacity as a state senator had to call on him for his assistance in his

capacity as the United States senator?

CONTE: Well, I remember I was chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the 50s. I

was there in the Senate between '50 and '58. Oh, it could have been around

1955, and I got a call from a Mr. Morrissey [Francis X. Morrissey], who worked for the Senator, and there was a bill up at the time. It seemed to be a very innocuous bill, but I was opposed to it because I couldn't see any rhyme or reason for the enactment of the bill. It came out of my committee, which would have changed the nature of the Massachusetts ballot. It would have placed the name of the candidates for the United States Senate up on the left-hand side of the ballot machine, and I imagine also pertaining to the paper ballots, along where the President of the United States' name is on the ballot in Massachusetts. It would take it away from the line where you have the governor and lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, the treasurer, et cetera, and Morrissey asked me why I opposed the bill, and I told him that I didn't feel, I felt at the time that there was no necessity to make this change, and he said that the Senator would have felt that it was a personal favor to him if I could support the bill, if we could get it through. And I didn't.... That bill wasn't that important, of importance to me, so I did support the bill. We took it to the floor of the State Senate, and I spoke in favor of the bill. It passed it and in time, I did get a call from the Senator who was very grateful for what I had done. I believe that I'd seen him other times, when I was in the State Senate, but I believe that was about the only contact I had with him in regards to any legislation.

HARTIGAN: Then you, in 1958, you were elected to the Congress and that put you in a

different ballpark. Probably more, let's call it the New England delegation

of the Massachusetts congressional delegation. Do you have any

observations to make with reference to his activities in that capacity?

CONTE: Well, I want to go back one step if I can, because it was something I never

forgot and shall never forget as long as I live. When I ran in '58, I ran

against James MacGregor Burns, a professor at Williams College, a really

talented person, a Pulitzer prize winner. And it was a very heavily contested year. It was also, as a result, it became a very strong Democratic year. I was one of the few Republicans elected to the United States Congress. The seat was wide open. It was a very hot, intense

campaign. Professor Burns brought people in from all over the country. Eleanor Roosevelt [Eleanor R. Roosevelt] came up, Helen Gehagan Douglas came from California. Actors, Anne Baxter came up, I recall. He had just an array of people coming up into the district and speaking in his behalf. And I remember the last Sunday, I believe it was,

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before the election, there was a gigantic Democratic rally in Pittsfield, my hometown. I believe it was the last Sunday. It could have been the second Sunday before the election at Bousquet ski resort, and then Senator Kennedy was the main speaker. And he endorsed the entire Democratic ticket by name, individually, and did not mention my opponent. And then the caravan drove to the city of Holyoke, which is a very strong Democratic city, a very difficult city at that time for myself. We figured at that time if we could come out losing Holyoke by 5,000 votes we stood a chance of winning that election. And I understand from people who were there that Professor Burns was quite disturbed with the fact that the Senator had not mentioned him by name at Bousquet's in Pittsfield. And I understand that the Senator in speaking for the Democratic ticket that time endorsed the Democratic ticket as a whole and not by name and by individuals. I always felt that he was very grateful and had a tremendous memory of what I had done for him back in the State Senate days and that bill that I mentioned.

I did have some contacts with him here and a lot of contacts, of course, we would meet together to sign joint letters. I remember I was strongly opposed to President Eisenhower's [Dwight D. Eisenhower] proclamation in 1959 when he had a mandatory quota on the amount of oil that could come into the United States. And I was forever giving speeches on the floor of the House against that order. And I would have a lot of letters signed by my colleagues from Massachusetts and the two United States senators, Senator Kennedy and Senator Saltonstall [Leverett Saltonstall]. I remember Senator Saltonstall at first refused to sign some of those letters because he felt it was embarrassing to President Eisenhower. But we were right on that subject. We were proved right. It took too many years, though, to prove our point.

When he obtained the nomination for president, the Democratic nomination for president, he came back, and we were winding up our work here in the House and in the Senate. He had three or four pieces of legislation that were *must* pieces of legislation, which he had promised the country at the Convention. One of them was a minimum wage bill. I had a very small bill. We were going to have an international parachute contest in Orange, Massachusetts, and in order to make it official we had to get a resolution through the House and through the Senate. I got it through the House and it got bogged down in the Senate, and I went up to see Senator Kennedy at that time. And I really was somewhat embarrassed to approach him because I knew how busy he was and how he wanted to get those bills through. And here he had just been nominated to run as president of the Untied States, and here I had this little small bill, but a bill that was very important to me. I saw him off the floor of the House, explained the situation to him. He said that there's three or four people in the Senate that we're going to have to get the approval from before we get the bill through. And he took

me down and we met with Senator Dirksen [Everett M. Dirksen]. I remember he kidded and chatted with Dirksen. He said, "You know you shouldn't object to this. This is one of your own Republican members over there in the House." And I was, you know his sense of humor, and Dirkson with his gravelly voice agreed, and then he took me to Lyndon Johnson [Lyndon B. Johnson], who was the floor leader, the majority leader, and that was very simple and easy. He said, "Well, if you want it, Jack, that's all right with me." I guess at that time....

HARTIGAN: Was that after the nomination?

CONTE: That was after the nomination, right. [Laughter] That was after the

nomination,

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right. And, of course, I don't think Johnson even knew I was there. [Laughter] He did later on though. And we had one more tough one to crack and that was Lausche [Frank J. Lausche] of Ohio. And he said, "Is this going to cost any money?" And I said, "Well, it should. We're inviting these people." He said, "Well, Lausche will ask you that question surer than heck and if you say yes, we won't get his approval." So, sure enough, when he took me up to Lausche and introduced me, and he asked Lausche if he had any objections to the bill, Lausche turned to me and in his tough voice said, you know, "Is there any money involved in this bill?" and I said, "No, not a cent," which was a mistake, and so we got the bill through. Never had a hearing. Never went to committee. Just whipped it right through. And I really got a big kick out of that. I wrote him a letter. I thanked him then. But I wrote him a letter later on telling him how much I appreciated, with all he had on his mind and all, to be able to think of that little bill and to help me. It really meant a lot to me. He penned me a little note at that time. He said he was glad to do it. He said, "You're a great guy." He says, "I suppose I'll see you on the campaign trail with that Republican truth squad." You know a funny thing is they asked me to go on that truth squad, and just because of that I turned it down. [Laughter]

HARTIGAN: You probably keep wondering whether he could have got that bill through

for you if he didn't get the nomination. [Laughter]

CONTE: Yes, that's true, that's true. There's a lot of truth to that. [Laughter] Boy, he

could have got anything through that day. He was always great for also....

You recall after he got elected he had a Democratic Congress. Rayburn

[Sam Rayburn] was speaker. But he had a tough Rules Committee run by a congressman from Virginia. The name escapes me right now. But he was as tough as nails, and he had pretty well control of the Rules Committee. And the President, in his early days, was sending up a lot of legislation. And it was getting all bogged down in the Rules Committee, getting locked up in the Rules Committee. So Rayburn moved to change the rules and increase the Rules Committee. There were a lot of howls at that time by the Republicans, comparing that

to Roosevelt [Franklin D. Roosevelt] when he tried to pack the Supreme Court, and it became a very, very political issue, a very partisan issue, between the Republicans and the Democrats together with the Southern Democrats. In those days, the old, the Southern Democrats, were moss-backed conservatives. A lot different from the new breed of Southern Democrats that have come in recent years. And I was one of the Republicans that bolted the Party at that time and we passed that. I wish I could remember, Bill, but it was a squeaker. We passed that amendment to the rules enlarging the Rules Committee in order so that he could have a better flow of his legislation going from committees to the Rules Committee and then to the floor of the House. He was very, very pleased, and he was very, very grateful. It was one of his first victories. Really, it was not a substantive bill or anything else, but it set the format, and I think it would have proved, had he lived, to have been a very, very important step in getting his legislative program through the Congress in due time. And when he'd see me, I had occasion to go down to the White House for a social function or the signing of legislation, I remember he had us all down when he sent up a message on the Passamaquoddy project, and we all took a picture on the steps. He reminded me of that vote and how pleased he was and how much he appreciated it, and he knew it was a very difficult vote for me. And it was a difficult vote. I was in the doghouse on the

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Republican side for a good many years as a result of that. They felt that I had left the church on that one. [Laughter] But, as you look back in retrospect and over the years, it's like water rolling off a duck. Those things happen and you get over them.

HARTIGAN: I think they pretty much recognize that you call things pretty much the way

you feel about them in the long haul.

CONTE: Oh, there's no doubt about that, and that's what's made life interesting up

here. I had some great shots taken against me as a result right after he was

assassinated. The last bill that was up before the House.... We were all in

pretty bad shape after he was assassinated. I remember I was duck hunting on the Eastern Shore when we got the news. It was a terrible shock. But, anyway, we came back and the only bill that was left was the foreign aid bill. That foreign aid bill, man, that just had no constituency whatsoever. It's a kettle of worms and it's one that's got me in more mischief just battling for it. Was it.... Cannon [Clarence Cannon] was the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and he had passed away also. We had a new chairman, George Meehan [George E. Meehan]. And George came to see me Saturday morning and said that the President was very, very interested and wanted to see that foreign aid bill get through the subcommittee and the full committee and through the House. And at that time on the subcommittee was Jerry Ford [Gerald R. Ford] and the ranking Republican, Mel Laird [Melvin R. Laird] and Johnny Rhodes [John J. Rhodes], and I was fourth. And then they had again real moss-backed Democrats on the other side. Passman [Otto Ernest Passman] was the chairman. And I agreed I'd go along with them, and you know we passed that foreign aid bill

in the subcommittee by one vote. We passed that in full committee, at that time there were fifty members on Appropriations Committee, by one vote, and I voted for it, the only Republican. And then we took it to the floor of the House, and we passed it maybe by one or two votes. I remember that they had to send Air Force One down to Puerto Rico to pick up Manny Celler [Emanuel Celler], who was on vacation and bring him back. And then they went down, and they tried to pick up Dick Bolling [Richard W. Bolling], who was on his honeymoon, to come back. That's how close the vote was. Dick Bolling refused to come back. I always say that that was one of the reasons that maybe Dick Bolling never became the leader of the House. He said the hell with them. He didn't want to come back. But, on the Republican side, John Lindsay [John V. Lindsay] and I and Brad Morse [Frank Bradford Morse], I believe, Mac Mathias [Charles M. Mathias], Peter Frelinghuysen [Peter H. Frelinghuysen, Jr.] all voted for that bill. It was tied up with a very controversial issue, an export-import bank loan to Russia. They were going to set up a Fiat factory or something. The congressman, Paul Fino [Paul Albert Fino] of New York, was fighting that. It was enmeshed with that, which made it even much more controversial, plus the Republican leadership trying to defeat Johnson on his first move. And before it was over with it was on December 23, before Christmas, Frelinghuysen, Brad Morse, and Mac Mathias, all cast a live pair. That nullified their vote. And the Republican leadership pressed them, if you can't vote with us give us a live pair. They also put a lot of pressure on myself and John Lindsay to do likewise, and we didn't. We hung in there. And we finally got that bill through. But I merely mention that when you mention that there's been a lot of tough ones. We've gotten by them.

I'd like to mention one other thing about President Kennedy was that he never lost personal touch. I remember going down to the White House for something or other, and we were

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having a big thaw in the Berkshires at that time, spring thaw and rain, and a lot of our areas being flooded very badly, unmercifully. He was talking about some issue. It was a very important issue he had us down there on, discussing the issue. And as I was about to leave he stopped me and he said, "Silvio, how's everything up home? I understand you've got a bad flood situation. How's it going?" And I responded and told him what the conditions were that morning. But I never.... I was so amazed, really so amazed, that here was a president, so much on his mind, so many heavy responsibilities on his back but never lost that personal touch and kept in close contact with his state, with his people, knew what was going on back home.

HARTIGAN: Do you feel as though that he was a regional, good regional representative, forget the Democrat-Republican aspect? Do you think it was really the regional concern that he had for the area? You were both in different parties, but you were both still and are concerned about Massachusetts and the New England region. In that respect, how do you evaluate him?

CONTE: Oh, I think that you're talking about when he was a United States senator.

HARTIGAN: Yeah, when he was in the Senate.

CONTE: Oh, definitely when he was in the Senate. No doubt about it. You never....

You know he wasn't in long enough as president to really have a feel for it.

But he would get involved on issues that affected our particular part of the

country. And he'd join us in meetings and discussions and letters to the President and all. He was very, very interested and very deeply involved in regional matters as to how they would affect the economy up there.

HARTIGAN: Were you serving when the St. Lawrence Seaway....

CONTE: No.

HARTIGAN: 'Cause he was involved in that, too.

CONTE: He certainly was.

HARTIGAN: But you were involved in state politics at that time.

CONTE: I was in the State Senate.

HARTIGAN: What was the feedback you were getting in the ears of a state senator?

CONTE: In regards to what?

HARTIGAN: The passage of that St. Lawrence Seaway bill. He was having problems with

many

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of his colleagues. Many people in New England were worrying if they were going to sell New England down the tube to Chicago.

CONTE: Right, right, I recall that. Whether the Boston Port Authority was going to

go down the drain as a result of that.

HARTIGAN: And that the father [Joseph P. Kennedy, Sr.] owned the Merchandise Mart

was behind it all. Now you were in the State Senate at that time. Do you

recall any incidents?

CONTE: Bill, very hazily. I do recall some of the points that you're making now, but

I don't remember anything specific on it. But that he proved to be right on it. No doubt about that. No, I was not involved in that.

HARTIGAN: Must have been more the Port Authority.

CONTE: Yeah, well, see I came from the western part of Massachusetts. It wasn't till

I came down here that I started getting involved in becoming co-chairman of the New England caucus. Of course, he was gone then. I was working with

Ted [Edward M. Kennedy] and the rest of them. Then I started getting involved in things that affected Boston much more than they had ever affected the Berkshires, like the Seaway and the Port Authority and Logan Airport and transportation. It seems like that 50% of my time now is generally, the caucus is always taken up with something affecting the eastern part of Massachusetts.

HARTIGAN: That's good. [Laughter] Congressman, those certainly were very interesting

and important points you brought up. Do you recall any others with

reference to his congressional years either when you were there or before

you got there?

CONTE: No, I don't, I'm sorry to say. It's hard to remember a lot of things that

happen. I remember his love for the Navy and a love for the Coast Guard. I remember when we had the Coast Guard cutter come in here. The clipper

ship, the name escapes me now, from the New Haven, from the Academy. And she tied up here and we had a party on it. And how proud he was that day to come down and break bread with the boys, as we say, and have a drink, and "Oh, yeah, a party," and how pleased that he was and you could see he was radiant all over. That was a great day for him, you know. So proud of the Coast Guard.

I just remembered something, yes that happened. Another great personal touch. He went up to Amherst, which was in my district, to dedicate the Robert Frost Library. Of course, that was one of his favorites. One of his favorite persons, Robert Frost. And I drove up from Pittsfield and I was going to have the weekend off. So I drove up to Pittsfield alone and drove my car into a parking spot there at Amherst College and parked it. And before the dedication ceremony we all met in President Plimpton's [Calvin H. Plimpton] house, and we had a cocktail. The President had a scotch and soda, I think it was. I had a bourbon and water. And we met in the hallway there, and we're talking. And he says, "Hey Sil, what the hell are you doing here?" [Laughter] And I, you know, I was just stunned. I was just stunned, you know. And I said, "It's my district, Mr. President." He

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said, "I thought it was Eddie Boland's [Edward P. Boland] district." And I said, "It sure was Eddie Boland's district, but if that darn Democratic Congress hadn't redistricted me," I says, "and now I have Amherst." "Well," he said, "darn it all, I wish I had known that, you could

have flown up with me," he said. "But I'll tell you what, you're going to fly back with me." And, man, I was really caught because there was my car in a little parking lot, and I had no driver with me. I mean I was all alone. And I said, "Mr. President, I really appreciate that, but I'm not going back. I have a cottage up in Pittsfield on a little lake, and," I said, "I'm enlarging the cottage right now and doing all the carpentry work myself and, secondly, even if I wanted to go back with you, my car is parked right in the middle of that parking lot, and," I said, "I don't know who would ever pick it up and take it home for me." "Oh, God," he says, "I understand, you go home and enjoy yourself. I'll see you back in Washington." Which I thought was really great, you know, terrific. Had he known that I had represented the district, and it just had happened maybe a year before that they changed the districts. Eddie Boland did represent Amherst in that particular area and they gave it to me.

HARTIGAN: But he did that to everybody. I shouldn't say everybody. People that he

liked. It's amazing the recall he had for little things, yet people expect a

president to only recall the very important things. This, probably,

remembering the little things, may have been his greatest strength.

CONTE: Yup.

HARTIGAN: I mean, I'm too close to it to, not to be partial, but what you're saying here

now just seems to bear that out.

CONTE: You're absolutely right. You know, I was worried about him that day. I was

on the committee handling, as you know, for a good many years the Post Office and Treasury and the White House. And we had Secret Service. So I

became very interested in the Secret Service and their functions and what they were doing. And I was very worried that day. At that time the President didn't have the coverage that he has today, nowhere near it. And they had put up a snow fence, remember those old picket snow fences, from the crowd to where he was going to speak. And I'll never forget, as we moved in there to go to where he was going to speak he went right to the people, leaned over that picket fence to shake hands with them. Of course, you know those snow fences, they just don't hold up for nothing. And it just started coming in, that whole thing, a mass of people and the whole fence just started coming in, and finally somebody moved him out of there. But it worried me no end. The fact that anything could have happened at that close proximity, you know, the rush of the people. He could have been hurt physically, not intentionally, but he could have been hurt physically, his ribs, or he could have hurt his leg or his arm. But he wanted to be near people. And I gathered that he really loved people. He

HARTIGAN: Congressman, backing up just a bit on the, in the state, back in the state in

the 50s, you were very active in the.... I remember when I was in the eastern

part of the

loved contact with people.

state, I remember hearing of your activities. In those days there were, you could represent both parties in the elections, right?

CONTE: Uh-huh.

HARTIGAN: So you had a pretty good insight to both sides of, most men holding office in

those days did, because you could cross over and run for both tickets. What

was the status of the Party in that time? Do you recall?

CONTE: The Republican....

HARTIGAN: For both.

CONTE: Well, a....

HARTIGAN: Now he was in, he was in, moving up. There were some conflicts he had

with the old pro Democrats. I'm sure that that was no big secret.

CONTE: No big secret at all.

HARTIGAN: Do you recall any, would you care to comment on some of that?

CONTE: Well, I.... [brief interruption by an official of the House] Well, I got the

feeling, and certainly going back to that Morrissey call, that was the reason,

I felt that he wanted to get away from the ticket and sort of remove himself

from some of the machine politicians that you had in Massachusetts in those days, because he was head and shoulders above all of them. And a lot of them wanted to ride his coattails. And a lot of them, I'm sure, though he was a true Democrat, he just didn't want to be

associated with

HARTIGAN: That's true. But you suffered, well, you've enjoyed or experienced the same

situation as a young man going into the Congress yourself, the control of the

party as you just mentioned by virtue of the fact that there were certain

things you just couldn't.... But I was really building up to the challenge for the State Committee at that time. You were still in the State at the time when Burke [William H. Burke, Indones, Indones,

Burke, Jr.] was....

CONTE: Oh, Onions Burke was....

HARTIGAN: Onions Burke and Pat Lynch [John M. Lynch] and he were all running. We

were all newly elected State Committee members and decided to take away

from.... Now the western part of the state was very important at that time.

CONTE: Exactly right, and Onions Burke came from the western part of the state.

[Laughter] Well, even though I did get both nominations on many

occasions, I

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don't remember that infighting as well as I should. I, now that you mention it, I have some vague recollections how Onions Burke prevailed in that fight, didn't he?

HARTIGAN: No, we beat him.

CONTE: You beat him.

HARTIGAN: Yeah.

CONTE: But I don't recall that.

HARTIGAN: Well, he beat Burke and then we passed a resolution that you had to be a

member of the Committee now to get it and he ran anyway, but....

CONTE: That's right, that's right. Yeah, I'm a little fuzzy on that. You know, a great

guy you ought to talk to up there is Abe Michelson, the political writer,

because he was covering me at the State House, and we used to drive back

and forth to Pittsfield, and Abe is a political student and would have a heck of a lot on that. I remember he and I talking about it, but it didn't affect me one way or the other so that I just can't remember that fight. I remember it was a very heated one and there was a lot of pulling and shoving.

HARTIGAN: Could you make some observations, Congressman, on the impact of JFK as

viewed by the Republican Party after he was elected?

CONTE: After President.

HARTIGAN: Yeah. [Buzzer rings]

CONTE: Well, I think originally a lot of the Republicans felt that, you know, he was a

young left-winger who would have been disastrous for this country. I think

after the, his decision after the Bay of Pigs where he really showed real

firmness with the Soviet Union, that the opinion among Republicans changed considerably. Figured this was a man not to be pushed around and that he was his own man, and he was not a man that was elected simply because of the name or because of his money or his wealth.

And I could sense, of course, it's early, it was early, you know, and I think more of this would have rubbed off over the years, but that's the feeling that I got that there was a feeling of confidence in the man and confidence in his ability to lead the nation.

HARTIGAN: He earned his stripes at that point.

CONTE: I think he did. I think that was one of the turning points, and I think if he

had run again he would have won the election against anyone, anyone,

hands down. It would have been a lopsided election because he was growing

in strength day by

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day. And he was growing in strength not only with Democrats, but he was growing in strength with Republicans and Independents.

HARTIGAN: You touched on one point you could probably give me a quick comment on.

You, on your committee, the Secret Service was under your...

CONTE: Jurisdiction.

HARTIGAN: ...Post Office and Civil Service Committee. Did you folks really

immediately tackle that problem of coverage of the President? At the

assassination there was a great deal of confusion at the time, I know, but

what was the reaction of the members of the Committee that were responsible for the Secret Service?

CONTE: Well, we always felt, right from the beginning even before it happened, that

the President of the United States should have full coverage, around-the-

clock, but I don't think Chief Rowley [James J. Rowley], myself or anyone

else in the Secret Service or on our Committee had any idea, at that time, how much more, let's put it this way, how much more we should have done, and have done since that time, in protecting the President of the United States. No matter what you do, as I said one time before President Kennedy's assassination, it's still part of the record, if you have a whole army or marine corps or navy or air force protecting the President, some guy on a rooftop with a high-powered rifle and a telescope, I did say this about three months before it happened, could assassinate a president, could shoot a president. But, even so, I think we fell far short of the mark in this country in providing the necessary protection for the President of the United States. And I think we've learned a lot. We went to town after that. A computer system found out where every nut was in this country. All came funneled into the one computer system so that when the President was making a visit you'd know who was in that town that had ever written a letter or was a nut or was a suspect or had ever made a threat. We'd had none of that prior to assassination of a president. We started an academy, a Secret

Service Academy. I pushed like the dickens to get the money for the funding of that academy. We've come a long way, maybe we should have come a long way before that, but who knew.

HARTIGAN: Congressman, any final observations you'd like to make before you leave. I

know you have....

CONTE: Maybe we'll have another meeting, Bill. Unfortunately, I've got to go.

HARTIGAN: No, that's fine. We can pick up again, but I do appreciate the time that

you've given to me today.

CONTE: Wonderful

HARTIGAN: Good to see you. Thank you very much.

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CONTE: Good to reminisce.

HARTIGAN: Bye now.

[END OF INTERVIEW]

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