

Francis X. Dooley Oral History Interview – JFK#1, 03/09/1976
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Dooley, member Senator Thomas Dodd's staff; advance man in Lyndon Johnson's Vice Presidential campaign (1960); campaign worker in Lyndon Johnson's Presidential campaign (1964), discusses his experience working as an advance man for Lyndon Johnson and his time in the Kennedy administration, among other issues.

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Oral History Interview

Of

Francis X. Dooley

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Francis X. Dooley – JFK #1

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Oral History Interview

With

Francis X. Dooley

March 9, 1976
Washington, D.C.

By William J. Hartigan

For the John F. Kennedy Library

HARTIGAN: Mr. Dooley has a long career in legislative affairs in Washington and also other government activities. He originally came to Washington, D.C. with Senator Dodd [Thomas J. Dodd] from Connecticut and has worked for President Johnson [Lyndon B. Johnson] and President Kennedy [John F. Kennedy] and is currently the director of legislative activities for the American Road Builders Association [American Road & Transportation Builders Association].

DOOLEY: Well Bill, I'd have to go a long way back on this one because the first time I recall meeting President Kennedy was, I was in Boston [Boston, Massachusetts]. I was a student at Holy Cross [College of the Holy Cross] and I was in Boston for the Holy Cross-Boston College game. As the

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usual function that we have in conjunction with this game is the, there was a smoker held by the Holy Cross alumni on Friday preceding that game and it was at the Harvard Club [The Harvard Club of Boston]. That was the first night, it was right before the election, and that was the first night that President Kennedy came through the Harvard Club, I believe with some of his Harvard colleagues and some Holy Cross alumni and he went through the crowd. He was saying hello to everybody and that's the first time that I really had the chance to say hello to him.

HARTIGAN: Actually he was campaigning for the Congress at that time.

DOOLEY: I believe that's true.

HARTIGAN: Do you recall any...Can you recall any observations you'd like to make with reference to either President Kennedy or then-candidate Kennedy in the congressional fight in as much as you came across him while he was campaigning. I thought it would be...

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DOOLEY: Well, I thought he was a very attractive person and he had a chance. He stopped and said hello to everybody and he wasn't like the usual politician who just comes in and wants to move through a crowd and move out. He was dropping comments to everybody, you know, "Who are you rootin' for tomorrow?" and "Who do you think is gonna win?" and things like that. And so right away I was quite, quite impressed with him because he was a good-looking young guy and I said, "Boy this is the kind of guy we need in Congress."

HARTIGAN: Then you later on went to the Hill [Capitol Hill] with Senator Dodd and that would probably be the time that he was in the Congress, in the House of Representatives, is that right?

DOOLEY: That's right. That's a unique thing because so many things were involved in the campaign for Senator Dodd, running for the Senate that year in Connecticut. We had a tough job at the convention [Democratic National Convention]. The keynote speaker at the convention was Senator Kennedy. Governor Ribicoff [Abraham A. Ribicoff] was the head of the party in the state and John Bailey [John Moran

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Bailey] was the chairman and their candidate—sometimes they disagreed with the way I assumed they were pushing—but their candidate was Chet Bowles [Chester B. Bowles]. So we were up against a very formidable group. Senator Dodd was a little irked at Senator Kennedy because—well it wasn't Senator Dodd at the time—we were just going for the, trying to get all the support from the delegates at that convention. He was the keynote speaker, and he came there at the behest of Bailey and Ribicoff. It looked like they were lining all the horses up against Dodd and here we were the little guys trying to beat the big machine. So he was upset that Senator Kennedy came down and had good words to say about Chet Bowles. But we went on the beat the machine and we went on to win the election. And then lo and behold I joined Senator Dodd's staff and came to Washington. And we ended up in the suite next to Senator Kennedy. So I had a chance to chat with Senator Kennedy several times and got to know all the people in his office and it was quite friendly with Ted

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Reardon [Timothy J. Reardon, Jr.] on his staff who was the administrative assistant and knew most of the other people on his staff and visited back and forth. But Senator Kennedy, if you want, was walking down the corridor was never the guy that would just walk by. He'd always have something to say, a nice conversation, "How are you doing? What's going on?" and so forth and so on. So I got to know him as a senator, as a person who I really got to like and really got to admire. And then when it came time for the candidates for the presidency in 1960 you come back to another situation which we in politics always have to adhere to, no matter...sometimes your personal feelings they have to be reviewed quite thoroughly because of the situation you're in. Well at that time I was working for Senator Dodd and of course he was a very close friend of Lyndon Johnson's. And when Senator Dodd came to the Senate he had very good assignments as a result of knowing Senator Johnson who was the majority leader at the time. So there friendship went back to the NRA [National Recov-

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ery Act] days, when Senator Johnson was director of that program in the state of Texas and Senator Dodd was director of that program in the state of Connecticut. So they did have a relationship over the years. One of the things to come out of it was that Senator Johnson wanted some representation on staff from people in the New England area. I had talked to Senator Kennedy about this and I was question the fact whether I should leave Senator Dodd's staff and try to hook on with Senator Kennedy's staff. But being new to Washington, I had to stay on a payroll. So there were no openings as far as payroll openings on Senator Kennedy's staff. He was very friendly about the whole thing. He said, "Frank, why don't you stay where you are." He said, "No matter who wins you'll be able to help us in the end, so I think that you can do a job wherever you are," he says. "Because that's the way our system works." He says, "We need people doing the job all the time." We always went back to how do you elect the person to any office and we'd always say, well you need the man.

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First the candidate and the issues, and then you need the people with the money, and then you need the people with the time, and apparently I was classified as one of the people with the time. So I went back to the office and I didn't know it at the time, but Senator Johnson had come to Senator Dodd and said, "You have a guy on your staff I'd like to borrow during this campaign that we're in." All we were doing was putting together the delegate count at the time. So I got involved with Bill Brawley [H.W. Brawley] and Walter Jenkins [Walter W. Jenkins] and Jim Blundell [James H. Blundell]. We were doing the delegate count at the time so I did know the Kennedy people and the Kennedy staff and the Kennedy organization because I got to know Kenny O'Donnell [Kenneth P. O'Donnell] because Kenny O'Donnell is originally from Worcester [Worcester, Massachusetts]. His father was a former football coach at Holy Cross so we had some sort of a talked relationship anyway. We did over the

years, because Kenny did work on Capitol Hill, and we did over the years have a chance to meet and

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become friendly. That was how, that thing started to broaden how I started to get involved in the national picture.

HARTIGAN: Frank, can you recall any activities that you're familiar with that had to do with either Congressman Kennedy or Senator Kennedy during your activities on the Hill? Legislation or....

DOOLEY: Well, you know he was always a busy man and it was always, on statehood, for example, that was one of the things. When the two states, it was right around that time when the two states were, the state of Hawaii and the state of Alaska were incorporated into our constitutional operation. I remember that he was working very hard to get both of those states designated or both of those possessions, I guess you would say, designated as states. I recall that there was a couple of times on the investigations, the committee hearings, that he was very forceful in his line of questioning. It was quite different to see the Senator up there as the person who was doing the questioning and the counsel who was his brother following up the questioning. It looked like a

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very good team effort at that time. I always felt that they worked very closely together and had great respect for each other.

HARTIGAN: Was he ever involved in any legislation that Senator Dodd was active in?

DOOLEY: Well, I would say that several times that they agreed on the types of legislation that affected that section of the country. I thought that they worked very good together. I think that if there was any hard feelings or any injured feelings as a result of what happened during the state convention in Connecticut in 1968 [1958] that we were certainly resolved after Senator Dodd won and then he came to Washington. I think that Senator Kennedy appreciated the fact that Senator Dodd was a friend of Senator Johnson's and never really was mad at Senator Dodd because he come out for Senator Johnson.

HARTIGAN: So prior to the convention you were working for Senator Johnson in the 1960 campaign, is that right?

DOOLEY: That's correct.

HARTIGAN: Now, can you recall any activities while you were

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working for Johnson that may be tied into part of the Kennedy history?

DOOLEY: Well, I went to California, to Los Angeles for the convention.

HARTIGAN: You were going there for the Johnson campaign?

DOOLEY: As a Johnson state coordinator. I had the northeast states, at the time. I did, I went out to the convention. Flew out in Johnson's private plane, as a matter of fact. When we arrived in Los Angeles some of the first people I looked up were the Kennedy organization people who had been my friends. Hopefully still were as a result of it. We were kidding back and forth several times as to well, if I can't be number one you be number one and we'll be number two. Not realizing at that point that that's the way it was going to come out.

HARTIGAN: What activity did Johnson carry on during the Wisconsin campaign, are you familiar with that?

DOOLEY: No, Bill. I didn't really get involved in the outside of Washington operation. As I said, I was working the delegate count and we didn't really get involved in the outside Washington

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operation prior to going to Los Angeles.

HARTIGAN: And the same holds true for West Virginia primary?

DOOLEY: That's correct.

HARTIGAN: Getting back to the convention, do you want to pick up where you left off? After arriving there you met the Kennedy people as you stated.

DOOLEY: Yes, we met the Kennedy people as we had the head counts of the delegates. Of course, everybody keeps that pretty close to the vest but knowledgeable people in each camp seemed to communicate with each other and they says how's it look? Well it's going to be close. You know there's a couple of things that are happening and without divulging to the other party as to what was going to happen. I recall that Arizona, for example, was supposed to be up for grabs. The Senator from Arizona, Carl Hayden [Carl T. Hayden], had more or less assured Johnson that he had the delegates behind him. But the word I was getting was that Stu Udall [Stewart L.

Udall] who was a young fellow out in Arizona and I believe, was a member of the House at the time was the one who really had

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corralled all the votes. So this was a matter of checking out. So in one of my meetings with Senator Johnson I said to him, "I'm afraid we don't have Arizona. I'm afraid that the Stu Udall forces have corralled the votes in Arizona. And there's a couple of other states which were in doubt at the time. As we went through the head count, you know, it made things, you know, quite questionable as to what the final outcome was going to be. I recall that Davy Lawrence [David Leo Lawrence] was the Governor of Pennsylvania and that was one of the states I was involved with. We were trying to get a reading on that and the Governor Lawrence was a very astute politician and he wasn't committing himself early. All I remember is that every time I had to see Governor Lawrence that Bobby Kennedy [Robert F. Kennedy] was sitting right next to him. As it turned out I think that state split. I don't recall what the actual numbers were but I think there was some Johnson support in that state but at the end Governor Lawrence did go with Senator Kennedy and that's what

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turned the tide along with the Alabama and Utah and a couple of other states where four or five delegates switched. There was a lot of rumbling at that time as to what was going on but, hell, I've been through so many state conventions, local conventions, national conventions that it's just an every day happening and you shouldn't get upset when these things happen.

HARTIGAN: Frank, you've been in politics a long while and you're known as a very astute man when it comes to counting delegates. At that point did you feel that Kennedy had it and Johnson did not? Before you went to the convention?

DOOLEY: No, no. Even when they were making the roll call it was not in our minds. It was not decided at that particular time as to where the hard count was. The soft count was that there were so many questions on undecideds and of course the Stevenson [Adlai E. Stevenson] forces were trying to rally Stevenson out there. And if you recall, there was several rallies out there that they were trying to get the aroused and they were bringing in the paid professionals with the bull horns and

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the marching and the whole bit. We felt that if Stevenson dropped out that we were going to pick up several of Stevenson's supporters. I think it turned out that way. I don't have an actual count. You took me off base. I think somewhere in my old archives I do have a delegate count that we were keeping tabs of and a state count. One of the things that was funny out there at the convention was I managed to get some floor credentials and being from

Connecticut I moved over to the Connecticut delegation to visit some of my friends over there who were committed to Kennedy. But that didn't make any difference. We chatted. The one who resented it the most was Governor Ribicoff. "What's that guy doing around here?" To this day Governor Ribicoff and I have never seen eye-to-eye. He was a governor and then he was a Secretary of HEW [United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare] and then he became senator. I think one of the things he resented was the fact that somebody from Connecticut was able to come in on the national scene and move ahead without his

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sponsorship. I recall that, just to get off the track here a minute, the White House conferences, we had a series of White House conferences across the country and I was involved. I guess Dick Maguire [Richard Maquire] and George O'Gorman [George D. O'Gorman] were handling it, the presentations and the scheduling and everything but I was involved as far as the coordination on the local levels. I remember that the New York situation was a real bad situation. It was going downhill and they were supposed to have the professionals in New York. One guy they had in New York who was supposed to be a professional who always jumped to get publicity as being a great advance man and everything but when the times got tough he'd get sick. That was [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. In New York when the times were getting tough all of a sudden he turned sick. So Maguire called and he said, "Get to New York right away and see what you can do to help out." This was only about four days advance notice. Wayne Phillips was the coordinator in New York and we knew that President

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Kennedy wanted a good show in New York. Maguire and O'Donnell were the ones who said to me, "We just can't let this thing go downhill. We need somebody up there to help." So I went up and I sat with Wayne Phillips and I asked him to briefly go over everything that had happened. I was taking notes and I stayed working all that night taking notes from all the people that were participating. The guy that was supposed to be doing the job, [REDACTED], he was back at the hotel sick in bed. The thing was upsetting because we really wanted to do a job. The reason I come back to this was that Secretary Ribicoff come in and we had the assignments for Secretary Ribicoff and I was the guy that had to go tell Secretary Ribicoff what to do. We wanted him to ride a bus but he wanted a limousine. We said that, you know, there's no limousine for you. You're going to have to ride the bus because in order to carry out this program you're going to have to talk to the people. You're going to have to travel on the bus with the people. I think he made, he had a guy name Jon Newman [Jon O. Newman] with him

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now who's a federal judge in Connecticut who was always protecting him. He says, "That's below his dignity to ride in a bus." And I thought, well, it's not below Senator Kennedy or President Kennedy's dignity to ride in a bus and if President Kennedy can do it, God damn it,

a Secretary of HEW can do it. So I just pull in that story as I recalled because the name come up.

HARTIGAN: Getting back to the Los Angeles convention, that's an interesting sidelight. Getting back to the national convention, Frank, were you at the famous caucus where the confrontation between the then Senator Johnson and Senator Kennedy, at the convention? I believe it was a Texas caucus?

DOOLEY: It was a Texas caucus, yes. There was a confrontation.

HARTIGAN: Could you give us your interpretation of that affair?

DOOLEY: My God, it was so long ago. You know when you're up, you're running one two and you don't know who's running first, you try to do everything possible in front of your own delegation to win your own delegation. So President Kennedy come

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in, or Senator Kennedy come in, at that time and spoke to the Texas delegation. Apparently some of the statements which were made were questioned by Senator Johnson. Senator Kennedy, I think, recognized that this was not a friendly territory so he just said, "I have another caucus to go to." And he just left and went to the other caucus and Johnson and his cohorts stayed there and tried to rally the forces around to go out to the other states to get the delegates from the other states to back Johnson.

HARTIGAN: Let's proceed on then. The count is over and Kennedy is the nominee for the Democratic Party and the next step is nominating a vice president. Can you relate your activities during the...?

DOOLEY: I recall that when the count was over I was staying at the Sheraton-West [Sheraton-West Hotel] and I believe that the Massachusetts delegation was staying at the Sheraton-West. When the count was over and Senator Kennedy had won the nomination, well, I went back to the Sheraton-West and the Kennedy organization was having a party there. One of the first guys to come up to me

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and to shake my hand was Kenny O'Donnell. He said, "Well we won, we won." And I said, "Well, I don't know who's going to be number two but I doubt very much if Lyndon will take number two." So we went back to the, we went through that night had a few drinks together and went our own ways. Then the next day I was down at the hotel again and George Rusk and I were standing outside of Senator Johnson's room. I had come up and George said, "Senator Kennedy is in there." I said, "Oh?" I says, "Do you think that he would take number two?" And George says, "Oh no, no way he'd take number two." So

Senator Kennedy come down and he bounded up the stairs back to his own suites. So we were in a tizzy as to what was going on. However, then Senator Johnson put out the alert that hang around that he's going to go to the Texas caucus and he wants to thank all his friends at the Texas caucus and so forth and so on. We went down to the Texas caucus and so forth and so on. We went down to the Texas caucus but there was more than just the Texas delegates there. There were several delegates from other states there, all Johnson's supporters. He got up and

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he gave a speech to thank everybody for their efforts, thank everybody for making the all-out effort. So he lost but you know, they would unite and get behind and help the Democrats win the presidency. He made some other comments. I don't recall some of the comments offhand but I remember I was standing next to Walter Jenkins and I turned to Walter and I said, "Walter, do you think he's making a pitch to be the Vice President in front of this group?" And Walter just shook his head and he said, "Frank, you know..." And he never said yes and he never said no. He just shook his head. We had left then the caucuses and now were back again so we're on our way and we don't get any signals that he's going to go for Vice President. I wasn't involved with any of the meetings that were going on at the time. So I went back to the Sheraton-West. One of the reasons, it's a good sidelight because Boston history, Pinky Woods [George R. Woods] who was a graduate of Holy Cross and he was a star pitcher at Holy Cross, and then went to play for the Red Sox [Boston Red Sox] and he was a star pitcher

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for the Red Sox. He was the sales and convention manager at the Sheraton-West and he was also from my home town so I knew him way back. So I went back over to visit with him and I was having lunch with him and a couple of other people that were associated with the hotel and we had the television on. All of a sudden up pops on the television that Senator Johnson is going to take the vice presidency. And I said, "Oh my God, I better get to Convention Hall [Los Angeles Memorial Sports Area] because if I'm not there he'll raise holy hell." So I said to Pinky. [Interruption]

HARTIGAN: Frank, I want to apologize for the interruption but we had to change tapes. You were just stating that you had noticed on the TV where Johnson was going to accept the vice presidency and you decided you'd better return. Would you pick it up from there?

DOOLEY: Yes, I said to Pinky, I said, "How in the hell am I going to get out there. I need to get out there in a hurry." At that time there was a plain-clothes man from the Los Angeles Police Department

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that was having lunch so he went over and he asked him if he could arrange for transportation to Convention Hall. He said he'd be very happy to take me out. He drove me out to Convention Hall. I got out there and the first thing I did was go to the headquarters. As you recall, Bill, the, at the convention site, the Kennedy headquarters had a mobile, not a mobile home, but a home on display over on its side and the Johnson headquarters outside of the arena was also another house outside. I recall the day before, as a matter of fact, that I was standing out in the yard talking to John Connally [John B. Connally, Jr.] about the chances then, going over the head count with John Connally, as to what Johnson's chances were. Senator Dodd was in the trailer talking with Mrs. Johnson [Lady Bird Johnson]. I was talking with John there and who come out of the other house on the other side of the fence but Bobby. Bobby Kennedy came over and he says, "Hi, how are you doing?" and you know he was very amiable and so was John Connally. So they just chatted a while and then I had to go back and talk to Dodd but

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I'm sure that something happened in their convention that, you know I just don't have a grasp of what they said, but I'm sure that there was always meaningful phrases passed between those two when they met. But then when I got out there, of course Leonard Marks [Leonard H. Marks] was one of the key coordinators and I said to him, "Leonard, what's the story?" He said that the word is that he's going to take the vice presidency if he has no opposition on the first ballot. He feels that there is going to be some labor opposition. Soapy Williams [G. Mennen Williams] who is the Governor of Michigan seems to be trying to drum up the opposition he says so float on the floor and get close to that Michigan delegation and see what you can find out. I knew some people in the Michigan delegation. I happened to work with them over the last week or ten days prior to this particular function. So I was talking with them and sure enough Soapy Williams was there really blasting Johnson. There was no way he should get the vice presidency and so forth and so on. I moved

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away from there and I went to the different other state delegations and I checked with Governor Lawrence's man. I said to him, "What is the feeling on Johnson?" He said, "It looks like he has it." Then went to New York State. Ben Smith [Benjamin A. Smith, II] was one of the coordinators in New York State, as you know, and I said to Ben, "What does it look like?" And he says, "If Johnson wants it I'm sure that he's got it." I went to Connecticut knowing that the machine down there certainly resented the fact that I was doing some work for Johnson. I went down and sure enough Bailey and Ribicoff and a couple of the others were down there. John Bailey was always a good friend. He was one of the greatest guys that ever lived. I said to him, "John, what does it look like?" And he said, "Well, you didn't win but you came in second." So I went back out and I reported that to Leonard. There was a lot of confusion over there because of the things that happened was the night before, you know, the Johnson girls, Lynda [Lynda Bird Johnson] and Lucy [Luci Baines Johnson] they had their boy-

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friends but they were very cautious as to where they went because they always liked to have their own privacy and everything. So they asked me if I would take them out to get a bite to eat and so forth. So I did and so I was with them the night before and so they asked me my opinion as to what was going to happen. I just said, "Well, you know we had a good fight but we lost." So that day Lynda and her boyfriend decided to go to Disneyland. So they had all sorts of calls going out. They didn't know where they were. I said, "Hell, they went to Disneyland." So they made the call to Disneyland to get Lynda and her boyfriend back there so that if in the event that everything went and he did accept the nomination at least that she'd be back there for the family picture on the stage. So that did work out. They finally contacted her out at Disneyland but I think it held up the proceedings for about a half an hour. Finally when we figured it was going to happen then they asked me to sit with Mrs. Johnson and the girls because at that time, you know, we had no security. So we had to have a couple of guys that knew their

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way around and could handle people in a diplomatic way to make sure that they weren't crushed and weren't abused or harassed or anything. I had sat with Mrs. Johnson and the two girls the day before during the roll call and then had the same assignment that particular day. Lo and behold the thing came to pass and he came to be the vice presidential candidate and he accepted. All the turmoil that was supposed to exist on the floor suddenly died when the word was out that this was what John Kennedy wanted. That's what came about. After we had locked it up one of the, again one of the guys who could have been very bitter with me but was not was Kenny O'Donnell. He come over and he shook hands and he said, "I think we can really put this thing together." He says, "Stay in touch." I says, "Fine. We'll see you back in Washington." So we left Los Angeles and headed back to Washington.

HARTIGAN: Were there any, were you aware of any repercussions from this choice of President Kennedy's on the vice presidency?

DOOLEY: Well there was a lot of talk about Bobby had made

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several promises. He had made a promise to Scoop Jackson [Henry M. Jackson]. He had made a promise to Stuart Symington [Stuart Symington, II]. He had made a promise to Governor Lawrence. He had made a promise to maybe four or five but that was all rumors going across the, going through the convention and I had never put any faith in any of them. But I'm sure the way it turned out that I think Bobby did made some commitments. Now I don't think, Bobby was too smart a politician to make a firm commitment to say that you're the guy but I'm sure he said that your name will certainly be considered. Because as it turned out, as you know, as it turned out that Scoop

Jackson then became the chairman of the National Committee [Democratic National Committee] for the campaign.

HARTIGAN: Well now the convention's over. You return to Washington to Senator Dodd's office, is that right?

DOOLEY: No, we had some picking up to do as to where we were going to go. At that time I was working on a committee. I had been transferred from Senator Dodd's staff to a judiciary, Senate judiciary sub-committee. That was the assignment I went back to. That only

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lasted a few days. I got a call from Walter Jenkins and Jim Blundell and they said, "Come on over. Let's talk. We have to put this thing together now." They were the architects of the Johnson campaign committee. They asked me if I would become an advance man for them. I said, "Well let me see what assignments, what commitments I can make with the committee and so forth and so on." So I was able to be relieved of my obligations at that time and went as the advance man for Johnson. My first assignment, believe it or not, as an advance man, and at that time that was a new concept of politicking. And one of the guys that I talked to was Jim Rowe [James H. Rowe, Jr.] who had worked in the White House with President Truman [Harry S. Truman] and then more or less worked as an advance man for Adlai Stevenson.

HARTIGAN: Just for the record, I believe he started back with Roosevelt [Franklin D. Roosevelt], he and Cochrane [William McWhorter Cochrane].

DOOLEY: I think, yes, you're right, you're right.

HARTIGAN: One question before we proceed. You mentioned Walter Jenkins and Jim Blundell as the architects

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of the Johnson campaign, was Bill Moyers [William D. Moyers] involved at that time, do you recall?

DOOLEY: No, Bill was a young guy that, I guess he just finished, he was a Baptist minister I guess. He was on Johnson's staff. He was one of the people that was on the staff and he was a very able and competent guy and was a great writer. He was doing a lot of that and of course he was I think at that time he was only about twenty-five, twenty-six years old.

HARTIGAN: What about your activities during the 1960 campaign in terms of your advancing Johnson's trips?

DOOLEY: Well after talking to Jim Rowe and asking him what an advance man is supposed to be doing, you know, he thought I was politically wise and I was able to go in and do to particular area and talk to the different people and set up different things. So the first assignment I drew was to go to New York City and talk to Mike Prendergast [Michael H. Prendergast] who was the chairman of the Democratic Party for the state of New York and Carmine DeSapio [Carmine G. DeSapio] who was the national committeeman and I remember that

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their headquarters was at the Biltmore Hotel. I went up there and I talked to them and I said, "We're starting the campaign and one of the first things we're doing is Senator Johnson is coming up into New York. Now here's one of the things we want to do." I said, "We're really not going to try to draw the big crowds on this time. We're more or less doing it for a P.R. [public relations] operation and media operation. However we do want him to be greeted properly and so forth and so on." So this is what we did and we met with a lot of leaders in New York and Mr. Prendergast and Mr. DeSapio arranged for different meetings. Mayor Wagner [Robert Ferdinand Wagner, Jr.] was the mayor of New York. Bob Wagner was mayor of New York at that time. When Mr. Johnson come in we were able to have a full day of meetings with the different people up there and then we climbed in the mayor's car and went back to the airport. Johnson turned to me and he says, "What do you think?" Knowing that one of the old adages about politics is that you never know who you're sitting next to and be careful of who you talk in front of, I just

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pointed to the driver and I says, "I'll talk to you when we get to the airport." He says, "Dammit you'll talk to me now." And I said, "Well," I said, possibly you know, "I think it was a good day." And one of the things he questioned me about was the, and it was a comical thing in a way but in a way it wasn't. I remember Bill Moyers was traveling with him at that time. We had Bob Wagner, and oh who was the other fellow in New York that was very prominent and a very close friend of Johnson's. I don't recall the name right now but I'll think of it before we finish the tape. But he was a very well-to-do business man in New York City. And as I said he was a very close friend of Johnson. The entourage, as we were walking down the corridor, as I recall, was the candidate Mr. Johnson, Bill Moyers, Mike Prendergast, Carmine DeSapio, Mayer Wagner, and a couple of the other, a couple of other people. So Mike said, "Lyndon, I want you to step into this room and meet some of these labor leaders in there." We went in and they were colored labor leaders in New York City. The next thing I knew the guys

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were hollering for Ebony and I knew right away that was a picture. I turned around and Moyers was aghast because we hadn't planned it and they didn't tell me this was going to

happen that they were going to take pictures. They just said that we were going to a series of meetings and I thought that they were really going to blow us out of the water and circulate these pictures in areas where it could be harmful to the candidate. So I jumped up in front of the camera and said, "Wait a minute until we get everything posed." And I turned around and as I turned around I knew everything was under control because Lyndon had his arm, his right arm around Bob Wagner and his left arm over Mike Prendergast. So they could have taken any picture that they wanted at that instance which they did. I don't think they ever used them later on. Those were the things that an advance man had to be very careful about when they were on the road as to making sure that you didn't get into situations which possibly could be embarrassing. You never know at the time. You just have to use instant judgment and snap judgment. The best thing

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to do is to learn by experience. There's nobody that can tell you these things and there's no books you can read about being an advance man that can tell you these things. It's just something that has to come from your own gut reaction all the time.

HARTIGAN: This New York visit you're talking about of Lyndon Johnson's was when he was there by himself.

DOOLEY: That's correct. That's correct. And then from then, from there on we traveled right across the country. When we talk about the concept of the advance man I recall that one of the states I went in to was Nebraska. I had to meet the Kennedy people because we were told to coordinate the thing which we were trying to do. The person in Nebraska was a guy by the name of Rip Horton [Ralph H. Horton] and he was more interested in selling all the novelty items that he had out there so he could keep an office open than he was about setting meetings for anybody. As a result of it I called Washington and I said, "I don't think the person out here is very effective. I think we may as well write off this

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state now. That was after three days of campaigning in there. But again we ran into some of the novel things that you run into as an advance man. One of the things that I recall was we were down in Lincoln, Nebraska and we were going to visit the University of Nebraska. And you try to figure out how to get crowds out. There was apathy at the time because it was right at the beginning of the campaign and they hadn't been exposed to the different candidates so I just wanted to get a good crowd on campus because I felt that this was the place where we were lacking, where Mr. Johnson was lacking as far as getting the young people's support. I knew that once they were exposed to him that they would warm up to him because he was just magnificent when it came to a presentation in front of a college audience. One of the things we had to do was to try to make sure we had a good crowd there and to try to have some sort of a different approach because the media was traveling and as we all know the

media reports just one fraction of what happens in that particular rally but if it's the fraction they report is harmful to your candidate

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then it washes out the complete rally. However if that one fraction that they report is helpful to the candidate and it's something they can see then it would, it's, they write the good story. So we came up with an idea of how to get signs printed. I promised that the sorority house or fraternity house which come up with the best collections of signs I would get them a barrel of beer for the next party. I'll bet you that barrel of beer cost me about eighteen bucks but I must have had about two-thousand different signs and there were signs every place you looked as he came down and he thought it was the most magnificent thing that he ever saw and he wanted to know how I did it. When I told him it cost me a barrel of beer he said, "Well you better call Washington and see how many barrels of beer we have to buy across the country." It was a very helpful rally and lo and behold the newspaper did play up the fact that, oh, they had never seen so many signs at one particular rally on campus up to that particular point. So we made it just a regular operation when we were out campaigning. I think everybody that was fed back the

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information was able to disseminate it to the proper people. That was one of the ways we had of trying to pick up the campaign. He had a good day that day except that when we went back to Omaha then we had the problem of getting there before the crowd from the university—no it was back in Lincoln. It was at the hotel in downtown Lincoln and we had the problem of getting the crowd from the university back to the hotel before the candidate got back because he was always edgy, he was always wanted to move and there was no way we could get that back because the police come in and took him out by escort. I had planned to hold him there to let the people from the campus get back to the hotel but sometimes the local security people move in on you and if the candidate doesn't watch his advance man the local security people can really screw up all the details for the day

HARTIGAN: Frank, did you advance any trip for Lyndon Johnson where he would be meeting with John Kennedy?

DOOLEY: Oh yes, Bill. There's a couple of times where we did that and one of them was up in Iowa at the national plow contest. I think you'll remember that

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day. We went in first. I had never seen so much rain in all my life. You people were going to come in second. You people were going to come in the following day but we had to go through with it because there was a big crowd out. The field was just a field of mud if you recall. So we had to make preparations as to how to get the candidate in and how to get the

candidate out and so forth and so on. If I recall the two advance men for Mr. Kennedy were Jim McShane [James J. P. McShane] and Claude Desautels [Claude J. Desautels]. They come out with me to look at the site and they said, "Oh my god, what are we going to do?" So they disappeared and I didn't know what they were going to do and really I couldn't care what they were going to do because I had the problem right then as to what I was going to do. What we were afraid of was the cars coggling down in the mud, how does the candidate and his wife get out. I had forgot that day and I had on a brand new suit and a brand new pair of shoes and in the haste of getting things done you completely forget these things and as I step out of the car I'm riding with Mrs. Johnson

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and the candidate Mr. Johnson and Bill Moyers. I got out of the car and I'm footseying around figuring where should I walk because I don't want to put mud on my shoes and I turn around and here's Lyndon walking down shaking hands with everybody and Mrs. Johnson, that great person, walking behind him with her shoes, mud up to her ankle in her shoe and I said, "Well, if those two can do it I can do it too." So we really forgot what had to be done and take care of the candidates first so I went up and from the time I left the podium until the time I come back somebody had changed the height of the podium again. And this was one thing you always had to remember because one of the speakers that day was Senator Carl Curtis [Carl T. Curtis] and if you can, for those who know, Carl Curtis stands about five nine and Johnson stands about six three. The thing was somebody went in and set it up for Carl Curtis. Well I had to go back and set it up for Senator Johnson. So I didn't care if Carl Curtis had to stand up on a Coca-Cola box but I wanted to make sure my candidate had the mike at the right level. So what happened was we got in

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and we got out that day and as we left that day I inquired as to where Jim McShane and Claude Desautels were. And you know where they were? They were out buying overshoes. And if you recall, Bill, when Kennedy arrived next day as they come off the plane there was boxes and boxes of overshoes for everybody to wear out at the rally. Maybe you could comment on that at this time.

HARTIGAN: Well, Frank, the point I was trying to make or trying to bring out, when you advance a city where both candidates are going to show up it's a little bit different. Were there any particular problems that you ran into when you were advancing a city such as that?

DOOLEY: Oh yes. The security problem. You had two different candidates, two different types of appeal to the people. The security problem for one was much different than the security problem for the other. Senator Kennedy drew more crowds than Senator Johnson when we were up in the Mid-West. So as a result of it the precautions that you had to take with the local security forces were altogether different. You weren't as concerned about the parade routes,

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or the motorcade routes for one as you were the other. If the person was drawing crowds then you put him on the main streets where the crowds were. But if the person, if you didn't feel that the person could draw crowds at the time you were moving, then you moved him out to the fastest way to get to your destination. That's another thing with the media. If you took him down Main Street all the time, media would say, "Nobody was on the sidewalks." So you had to use a lot of good judgment there as to make sure you got him to the by-passes that take you from one end of the city to the next to get to your destination. But from there we continued to move around the country and to get back, the other time where we ended up as a coordinated effort. Again, it's a one day story that you could write a book on. The incident was the last Saturday before the election where we were going to have a coordinated effort in New York City. Prior to that, that week Johnson had the Texas media traveling with him. Halfway through the campaign I come off the road as the advance man and went in to do work with Jim Blundell doing the scheduling

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of where the candidate would be and assigning the advance men to the different areas that they would cover and giving them a briefing on it. If I just stay on this particular story in New York, we had problems about the scheduling the last week of the campaign. Where should we go? Where was the best place to go to? As you know we look at the big five states and then we look at the next seven states and we feel, we felt we had to really make an impact in New York. I tried to, I talked to Mike Prendergast and said to him, "I'd like to get into upper New York." And he said, "Get in touch with Pete Crotty [Peter J. Crotty] who is the chairman up in upper New York State out of Buffalo." So I called Pete and I said, "Pete, I'd like to put the vice presidential candidate in to Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse prior to coming down to New York City." We talked about it and there was many reasons why I thought it would be helpful. As we talked about it we put it on the schedule and all of a sudden I get the call back that the candidate didn't want to go in New York State. He wanted to go into another area. So I had talked

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to Dick Maguire and Dick O'Hara who were coordinating the advancing or the scheduling for Mr. Kennedy. I said to them, "You know, I think that we have to get Johnson into New York State and the reasons are that John Lodge [Henry Cabot Lodge] who was running for Vice President on the other ticket is going to be in Syracuse, Rochester, and Buffalo. They are going to bus all sorts of people in to fill the auditoriums in those three areas. If we don't cover our tracks then the media will only talk about John Lodge and his successful operation into New York State from that day until the Election Day. So that gave them about eight days that they'd have the media. So I felt that we just had to cover our tracks on it. Maguire and O'Hara agreed and they talked to O'Donnell and O'Donnell agreed that was a good thing to do. Johnson then called Kennedy and said, "I shouldn't go into New York State. Why should

I go into New York State?” And he said, “We really need that state and I think it would be helpful.” “Who made the decision?” He says, “Your own guy made the decision but it’s a valid decision.”

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So I get the call back, Blundell gets the call back from Johnson. “O.K. You can put me in there but you better make damn sure we don’t bomb out there.” So we went in to New York State and we had a luncheon in Buffalo. It was a very successful luncheon. Pete Crotty did a great job and he had a good crowd out and we made sure that we come in to Buffalo right at noontime when the offices would come out. We come right down that main street where there was a lot, a big crowd, a huge crowd. We had an overflow crowd at luncheon so Johnson was really pepped up about it. Then we held the timing back in Buffalo and had a meeting in Buffalo so we could get in to Rochester right at the peak hour which was four-thirty to five o’clock. One of the things is we jammed up the town and we were in the ballroom at a hotel. I didn’t want to take the coliseum or the convention center up in Rochester so we went in and we had a ballroom at one of the Rochester hotels and we overflowed that back into the streets. Then from there, that was successful, and then from there we come into Syracuse. Well another time at another place we had a real gimmick going with the students at the university. Again we used

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the treating them all to beer for one of their fraternity parties or sorority parties....

[BEGIN TAPE II]

HARTIGAN: ...for the interruption. We do continue.

DOOLEY: As I said, Bill, I moved ahead of the crowd, I mean ahead of the party and all I was doing was hopscotching. I felt that the people that were traveling with Johnson and the men that I had assigned as advance men in Buffalo and Rochester and Syracuse had everything in hand but I went to Buffalo the night before and made sure all the final arrangements were made. It looked like everything was under control there and then went to Rochester and did the same thing in Rochester. So I ended up in Syracuse. And traveling with Johnson at that particular time from the Kennedy forces was Ben Smith who was coordinator for New York State. He called and he said, “Frank, do you mind if I go over and join the entourage?” I said, “Ben, I think it would be great. The Texas media is traveling with the candidate. To have them see the Kennedy coordinator meeting Johnson will put to lie any rest

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that there’s any dissension as far as the two people are concerned. One of the problems that we had the other coordinator that they stuck in New York was another friend of Bobby’s by

the name of Paul Corbin who gave everybody fits during the campaign. I guess he was a hard worker but he was always creating problems that were not necessary to create. So I said to Ben, "Well you can go as long as you leave him back in Syracuse." Ben agreed to that but lo and behold unbeknownst to Ben the guy decided to go on his own. So he was trying to pop up in front all the time as if he was the key guy in New York State for Kennedy. But Ben knew how to handle that and as a result of it it came out very well.

HARTIGAN: Did you notice any problems between the staffs of Kennedy and Johnson when you had these, this dual visit via the people in the field now?

DOOLEY: Not with the top staff. The top staff could always understand each other. But there was the staff, the lower staff were always bickering as if, you know, you guys are along for the ride, we don't need you, and so forth and so on. But the

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top staff understood because the top staff was, well they were astute politicians and it was the volunteers down on the lower levels that we were having problems with and there was a lot of people that were assigned in the campaign that you know they were friends of one of the Kennedys or one of the Kennedy family and they just had to get them involved in the campaign and they were always as if they were the hoity-toity walking around. They never did the real hard work. It was always the guys that were close and dedicated and loyal to the candidates that were doing the work. When we finished the—I'm leading up to the New York trip—when we finished in Syracuse, we had a hell of a motorcade in Syracuse. We had two-hundred and twenty cars I recall. We followed them all the way down to the hotel. Now the key was how do I get those people into the hotel and satisfy the candidate. Well I had figured that we didn't feed the candidate all day and so now he's a little hungry. So I got the candidate into the Hotel Syracuse and got him upstairs and—or was it the Hotel Syracuse? I think, no there could have been another

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hotel there. I'm vague about the location because we traveled so many, so many cities at that particular time. I got him up the suite and served him a meal and he just relaxed with Mrs. Johnson and had a couple of friends in and so forth and so on. While this was going on we were hustling downstairs and getting all the cars parked. The police were very cooperative up there. They had reserved about four streets and all we did was pull it up like funeral procession and just pulled up on one side of the street and pulled up on the other side of the street and they just parked the cars. Then we got them to go into the ballroom. Well again we overflowed the ballroom into the mezzanine down into the lobby and out into the street. The Texas media really bragged about that. I always remember that George Reedy [George E. Reedy, Jr.] who was the press secretary grabbed me and he said—after it was all over and I figured by this was my assignment now I can relax—and he grabbed me afterwards and he

said, "The candidate wants to see you." I figured oh God, what did we do wrong today. But lo and behold I went

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in and he said, "Pour yourself a drink." And he said, "You did a hell of a job today. We really appreciate it and I think we're going to do something. I just talked to Jack and he says he's very pleased at the reception we had. Now we're going to meet him in New York and I'll see you when I get back to Washington." So we stayed there with the media for several hours and we—as a matter of fact that was when Johnson had the eye doctor come in to put together the contact lenses for him for his New York appearance because he thought he'd look better on national TV with the contact lenses than he would with the glasses. So I recall that next day it was quite frantic making sure the guy was able to do it in a hurry and so forth and so on. In the meantime I get a call from Jim Blundell who is the campaign coordinator for Johnson saying to me get your man and get down here to New York right away because we have a logistical problem and we need some help down here.

HARTIGAN: That's New York City you're talking about?

DOOLEY: That's New York City. We got down to New York City and one of the problems we had was it was a

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Saturday that we were going to get in there and I guess we got in on a Friday but it was Saturday when the candidate was going to come in and we were having a problem with the hotel space. The Kennedy people were up at the Carlyle [Carlyle Hotel] and I thought we would stay at La Guardia [La Guardia Field] because we were supposed to be in and out. So we made the reservations at LaGuardia. But the candidate said, "Well, I also want reservations in town." An old friend of mine, Tom Kane, was the manager of the Biltmore and we had stayed at the Biltmore throughout the campaign. So I called Tom and I said, "Tom, we need about forty rooms." He said, "Oh my God. This is the weekend of the Army-Syracuse game and we're overloaded." I said, "Well see what you can do." He said, "When do you need them?" I said, "They're going to come in on Saturday, on Saturday morning. We'll need them for while they're in the hotel. They're going to stay out at LaGuardia overnight and take off for Texas the next day. But we need a rallying point. And so he said, "I'll see what I can

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do." Good old Tom come through. He got the rooms. I don't know how he did it but he got the rooms. Then we met the candidate, Mr. Johnson, at La Guardia. We went to the motel which was near La Guardia and got the luggage and everything there and then we got the entourage to move in to the city. We had a couple of meetings set up with the prominent business people and friends of Johnson. That afternoon get the call and he said, "Where we

going to meet the candidate?" I said, "They're at the Carlyle Hotel and they're going to meet us here." He said, "Well, I don't want to meet us here. I'm going to go up there and meet him. We just had a hell of a week and I'm going to meet him up at the Carlyle. So lo and behold we call the Carlyle and Dave Powers [David F. Powers] was at the Carlyle and he said, "O.K. fine come on up here. We just can't get any rooms but you know we'll squeeze some out." So we went up there and we were standing around there and we were waiting for the candidate to come in with Mr. Kennedy. They were campaigning out in Long Island that day and I hadn't been aware of what the problems were out in the Island but apparently that was the day the motor-

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cade got lost and so forth and so on. I'm sure the guys that were involved in that will give you a more detailed description of it but all I can do is tell you on our side of what happened. So I'm there with Jim Blundell and it's getting close to the time where we're supposed to be meeting at the Carlyle. So we get a report that the motorcade is moving back into the city again. However we weren't aware of the fact that Mr. Kennedy had decided that they were running late so rather than go to the Carlyle they'd go to the Biltmore to meet Mr. Johnson. All of a sudden Dave gets the report that they're at the Biltmore and President Kennedy's there, or Senator Kennedy at the time. And here's Dave, he has the suit pressed out and he had the shoes and I think matching shoes for a change. He had the dinner ready to go. So you know he says, "Oh my God, oh my God!" So he couldn't take the dinner with him so he takes the suit and drapes the suit over his arm with the shoes...

HARTIGAN: And ate the dinner before.

DOOLEY: Well Dave could have done that, see. But anyway the word came that, all right now they're at the Bilt-

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more. So now there's a rush to get out. Well Dave has to get out ahead of everybody. Well we go out and don't you know that the New York police department has cordoned off the hotel and for two blocks they didn't let any traffic coming in because they got the word that the motorcade was moving in so as a result there was no taxi cab there. Dave couldn't convince one of the guys that he needed to get down there right away so Dave had to run about three blocks in order to get a cab in order to get down to the Biltmore. Well in the meantime we have to round up all the Kennedy traveling group and head for the Biltmore. Prior to that—oh let me go back—prior to that when Mr. Johnson arrived at LaGuardia there was Blundell and myself and there was two more advance men, Wilson McCarthy and Boyd Hornor [Boyd Evans Hornor] and then Leonard Marks was around and of course there was the other people traveling with the President. So when Johnson come off he was, you know he felt real good about it, then he turns to Blundell and he says, "What the hell are all these guys doing around here?" And he says,

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“Well we had a problem and I thought that I’d bring them in.” He says, “Jesus, the Kennedy advance men can handle this one without any problems. You know they have some good people there. You shouldn’t have brought them in.” So Blundell just told us to get lost until we were needed again. So out of sight you know you’re just not subject to as many complaints or as many bitches as if you’re in sight all the time. But as the hotel situation became more serious then he appreciated the fact that we were there. What happened is that now we go to the Biltmore and my friend Tom Kane is there shaking his head and he says, “I don’t believe this.” I say, “Hey Tom, we run into this all the time. When the candidate changes his mind at the last minute you know we have to react accordingly and you know we just can’t get flustered about it.” So I said, “It’ll work out.” So we go up to the Grand Central Suite in the Biltmore which was one of the finest suites in New York City. I think it’s a three or four bedroom suite. Not too many people know about this suite. It’s a very elegant suite. Mr. Kennedy had already arrived. When

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we got up there was a crowd outside. It looked like there was a wake inside. Everybody was just looking at each other so I went immediately, I went over to Kenny O’Donnell and I says, “You know I got the candidate with me and so forth and so on and he’ll be up here in two minutes.” He said, “Oh boy.” I said, “What happened?” He said, “What a day. What a day! A miserable day.” And I said, “Well where’s Senator Kennedy because Senator Johnson wants to, you know, see him?” He says, “He’s in there chewing the ass out of two of the advance men who screwed, who he blames for screwing up the whole day. I’ve never heard him like this before. He’s really giving it to them.” Just then the two advance men come out and one advance man, he was a red faced guy, Marty Friedman, he’s a lawyer in Washington. He was chalk white. The other guy was an undertaker out in Massachusetts by the name of Lenihan. He was beet red. They really got a chewing out. Anyways, Johnson comes in to the suite and the door to the bedroom opens and here’s Senator Kennedy standing in there in his

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shirt and his shorts and his tie and his socks. He hasn’t pulled his trousers on and his shirt was, he didn’t have any tie on and he says, “Come on in Lyndon. Jesus I just had the worst goddamned day of politicking in all my life.” So now, you know, that door closed and I just felt relieved, oh boy. So I said to Kenny, “All right, Kenny, what do we have to do? As far as the motorcade leaving from downstairs is concerned. It’s raining out. We have a real problem with open cars. We need closed cars. They’re available. I think they’re all in line. But I understand there’s some question about the local people trying to muscle in on the motorcade and knocking the families way back.” And Kenny said, “Well go downstairs and give them a hand on it.” So I went downstairs and sure enough the local pols were trying to get all the local commissioners and all the others up in the motorcade right up in the front. They forgot who the candidates were for a minute. So it was agreed that Senator Kennedy and his family

would ride in the first limo and Senator Johnson and his family would ride in the second limo. Mike Prendergast and his company would ride

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in the third limo. If Carmine DeSapio was with Mike that was fine and if he wasn't he'd ride in the fourth limo. They wouldn't hear of it. The local people wouldn't hear of it and they tried to I recall, they called over a policeman and tried to have me removed. I was an agitator and so forth and so on. The local cop knew who the guy was because he was the commissioner of something. So I looked out and there was a very official looking guy out in the street in a raincoat with the cat slouched over his head and he was more or less telling these guys what to do. So I went up. I says, "Hey I need your help here." He says, "Yeah, where are you from?" I says, "I'm with security out of Washington. We're trying to get this motorcade lined up because the candidates are coming down. What's your name?" He said, "I'm Commissioner Kennedy [Stephen P. Kennedy] of the New York Police Department." So I said to myself, "I have the right guy." So I said, "Commissioner, we're having problems with the motorcade. Here's the way we'd like to have it lined up." And I didn't ask him any

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questions. I just told him what we wanted. We told him Senator Kennedy and his family were in the first limousine, Senator Johnson and his family in the second limousine, Chairman Prendergast and Bob Wagner and Carmine DeSapio would follow somewhere. I said, "That's a local problem. As long as the two candidates are up in front." So he said, "No problem at all." And he started to move the cars around and there was no further problem. All of a sudden the cop who was giving me a hard time had disappeared into the crowd somewhere and that commissioner I never saw him again for the rest of the night. From there we had to go up to the coliseum up new Central Park. Johnson was a little reluctant to figure that he was going to be on national television but he was only going to be on for five minutes. So we have everything planned and we have everything going. Now the candidates are in and we have them in a holding room down below. Now we're ready to go. We have all the dignitaries up on the stage and they're ready. So we bring up Senator Johnson who is going to open the proceedings after the intro. Just as he gets up to the mike, it's the

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right height, the light is on, the mike is on, he ticks it and the mike is working, somebody behind stage was scrambling around trying to get to somewhere else and they tripped over the wires and pulled the wires out. Now we're about forty-five seconds from air time and he looks down and he said, "Marvin, we didn't travel three-thousand miles to talk into a dead mike." Well lo and behold we caught where the wire was and we plugged it in and so once they started to speak again, you know, the advance man always worries about where the cars are to make sure the cars are there. Make sure the route is there and so forth and so on. Now there's a squabble going on because Senator Kennedy had decided that when we left the coliseum he wanted to go to a reform rally up around Eighty-Second or Eighty-Ninth Street. I

forget which one it was. But one of his friends were having a rally up there and he really wanted to go to it. Well DeSapio and Prendergast didn't want him to go there and there was no reason that he had to go there and so forth and so on. So all this is going on while the speeches are being made. Now you have a real problem. So

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there was an overflow crowd at the coliseum and there was a big crowd up in that Columbus Circle area. So the idea was the have Senator Johnson go up first and then he would introduce Senator Kennedy. Because the dignitaries were really putting the squash on us by that time. The New York group was really, because they were upset about it. O.K. you guys you handle it any way you want. So when we come out Senator Johnson and his wife and two daughters and it was only a very small platform. Not too many people could get up there. I'd say maybe eight or ten at the most. Everybody of course wanted to get up there. So we limited it to just the family. So the dignitaries from New York, either Mike or Carmine, they were supposed to introduce him. They didn't come out. They were still hassling back there. So Bill Moyers grabbed the mike and he says, "Ladies and gentlemen, I introduce to you the next Vice President of the United States." You know you had to react and you had to do something right away rather than let the thing fall apart. So Johnson steps up and, you know, he's going. No back in the holding room and Jim McShane is back there as the chief advance

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man for this particular segment of it. So I ducked back to Jim and I said, "Jim where do we go?" He said, "Jesus, if everybody gets up on that platform, it's going to collapse. What do we do?" I said, "Well who do we let up there?" So he said, "Well just the candidate." O.K. I says, "Here's what we do then. I'll be in front of you about five feet and you lead him out because he'll follow you. Then have the other guys come up. As soon as he goes up we brace up at the bottom of the stairs and nobody else goes up." So this is what happened and as a result there was a lot of noses out of joint. The other people were still hassling but the underlings they wanted to get up on the platform. Jim and I were shoulder to shoulder there and we had about four other guys so nobody else could get up on the platform. Now we come down, again one of the personality things of John Kennedy as to his feelings and so forth he felt that even though it was a screwed up day that it was turning out good. He goes back and now we go back to get in to the limousines and so his limousine number one is reserved and Johnson's limousine number two is

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reserved. Now Johnson is in there with the two, with his wife and the two girls. Senator Kennedy decides he's going to climb in and ride with Lyndon. So he climbs in the jump seat to ride with Lyndon up to this reform rally. I guess Ted Sorensen [Theodore C. Sorensen] was in the front seat. So now our gang and then Ted Sorensen moved over so Bill Moyers, no Bill Moyers was in the front seat and all of a sudden when they started to move Ted Sorensen figured he'd better be with them because I guess he had the speech. That limousine is

crowded now it's only our advance men. There was three of us and we have to go to the first limousine because that's the only car available because the third limousine something happened to the third limousine. They couldn't get it started so we ran for the first limousine because we had to go up with them. We went up there and they had a rally up there and there was none of the New York dignitaries that followed up there. They were very pleased with the crowd that was up there and so forth and so on. So now coming back down we're running late. We have to go to LaGuardia. I think the best

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cutoff to get to LaGuardia from where we were was Seventy-Ninth street. Next thing we know we're by Seventy-Ninth Street but we're still going down. Senator Kennedy now is in the back seat and he says, "Let's get the hell out of here. We have to get to the airport." Johnson, you know, they're shaking their finger. Come on let's go! Here's the motorcade going all the way down. Commissioner Kennedy's in the front vehicle leading us down and there's no way that he's going to let that motorcade get out to the airport without going back through Times Square again. This is what we did. We went back through Times Square again and went out to the airport. Finally got to the airport. Well they were going to my home town of Waterbury, Connecticut. Kenny O'Donnell knew I was from there. He said, "Frank, why don't you come along with us? It's your home town." I said, "Well Kenny, you know one of the rules we made during the early part of the campaign that no advance man could go into his own state. He's always looked at as a peon in his own state. If I violate that rule then I go back on all the things that we've done for the campaign." He said, "O.K. Enjoy yourself." Well

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they went on to a great rally in Waterbury, Connecticut where the people stayed up until about three o'clock in the morning. One of the biggest crowds. There was more people in the crowd in Waterbury, Connecticut than there was in the population of the city. So now we take the candidate, we're off to LaGuardia, now we take the candidate, Mr. Johnson, back to the LaGuardia motel. He was all puffed up. The reason he was puffed up Kennedy had turned to him and he said, "Lyndon, if it wasn't for your advance men today this thing would have fallen flat on its face." So now he's very happy with us because if you recall earlier in the interview I stated when he got off the plane he wanted to know what the hell we were doing there because the Kennedy advance men could not take care of it. We went back to the motel, and he was in a good mood so we stayed up. But we hadn't eaten all day so finally we decided we'd go into the city, grab a bite to eat and then come back because he was taking off at seven-thirty in the morning. Well we went in and for the first time we were able to relax. We figured it's all over with. There won't be any problems with the luggage

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in the morning. We'll get them on the airplane and so forth and so on. So we get back to the airport just in time. We hadn't had a chance to shave or clean up or anything and we were a

little grubby looking but we knew that was the end of the trail as far as the, this campaign was concerned because Kennedy was going up to Massachusetts and Johnson was going back to Texas. We got them out to the airplane and I said to Johnson, "Well next time I see you you're going to be vice president. I look forward to seeing you when you come back." He says, "O.K. You guys did a good job. Tell all the rest of the guys they did a fine job." Jim Blundell of course was the key guy and he stayed in back and he, you know, one of the things was you never knew if you were going to get complimented or chewed out. But Johnson was always grateful for the things you did. I start back down the stairs and he hollers down to me, "Hey Frank, make sure Jake [J.J. Pickle] has a new white hat for me." Because going back to Texas he wanted to make sure that he has in fine form. The Jake that he was talking about was Jake Pickle who later because the congress-

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man from that particular district. Jake Pickle is still in the House of Representatives here. So that finished up the campaign and we were very happy about it. I know election night one of the other things was election night we had our headquarters here in Washington at the Mayflower and we had a couple of special rooms that only the high staff were involved in and of course then we were coordinating very closely with Dick Maguire and Dick O'Hara and his staff down here and Jim Blundell from the Johnson side. So we had a joint effort that night. One of the assignments that I had during the night was to handle the telephones that went directly to Hyannis Port and the one other phone went to the Driskill Hotel in Texas. There was always somebody there to give them reports as to, I'm sure that they were current and everything, but there was other telephone calls we were making.

HARTIGAN: Frank, between the election night and the inauguration night I know that you had some very delicate assignments in the planning of the inauguration. Would you care to remark on those?

DOOLEY: Yeah, during the, right after the election as I

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said we thought it was all cooled down but apparently that's when the work starts again. Dale Miller [Alfred Dale Miller] had been named as the chairman for the Johnson people. Dale asked me to help him with the logistical arrangements as far as hotel rooms were concerned, as far as tickets for the VIPs were concerned, as far as transportation for the VIPs were concerned. So I did get involved as far as planning for the inauguration and handling all the different types of arrangements that have to be handled. More or less as a reward for that, the night of the inauguration, of the Inaugural Ball, that they appointed me as the chief aide that night to the Vice President. That was quite an honor, I guess, when you look back on it. At that time, it was just another assignment. What we did, we coordinated all the activities at the armory and so forth and so on. When the candidates came they were coming from different locations but the big event

was at the armory. So we had a holding room for them up there. The Vice President and his family came in. They were talking together. And Jim

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Corcoran [James T. Corcoran] who was the chief aide to the President at the armory that night, we had our assignments that I would escort the Vice President and his wife out to the box and then Jim would escort the President and his wife [Jacqueline B. Kennedy Onassis] out to the box. So we gave them a briefing as to what was going to happen and when I look back at it and I say, "Oh my God, that was quite an event." When you think here you're talking to the President and the Vice President of the United States telling them what they should be doing the next couple of minutes. So we got the whole thing arranged and so forth and so on. We had arranged for a buffet for the people that were in the presidential box afterwards. The reason I bring that in is because again it shows you the humility and the friendship of John F. Kennedy. O.K. now we go out to the box and now I have to bring the Vice President and his wife and his daughters and their escorts. I bring them out, guide them in, tell them exactly where they have to sit. So we're fine there and now the next people that are in the box are the Ambassador Kennedy [Joseph P. Kennedy, Sr.] and Mrs. Rose Kennedy [Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy]. The rest of the family

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had been seated but now they come into the box. One of the funny things that happened there when the Ambassador was taking off his overcoat his tux coat...

[INTERRUPTION]

HARTIGAN: ...patience, Frank. Changing the tape again. You were talking about Ambassador Kennedy getting his coat sleeve caught.

DOOLEY: Yeah, his tux coat got caught in his overcoat and he took both of them off together and here's he's almost in his shirt-sleeves before he realized what was going on. So he sits down and he said, he turns over and he says, "Lyndon, where's Jack? He's going to be late again." And Lyndon says, "Oh no he's right out there. He'll be in in two minutes." And he says, "Oh you won't see him in two minutes. Don't worry about that." Well the Ambassador didn't realize that the operation that we had as far as the holding room and everything was concerned. So, fine, now I take my position up in the back. And now the President and the First Lady come in. As they start to move in—Jim Corcoran is bringing them in—typical of John Kennedy, he spots somebody up in the back about six or eight rows that he hadn't seen in a long time. So he just

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moves right up after him, just to say hello to him, shake their hand and so forth and so on. You know here's the big occasion of his life but he always remembered his friends. So here's

Mrs. Kennedy standing there alone. So I figured, oh my God, I better do something. So I said to Mrs. Kennedy, "You come this way with me." Because all the Secret Service and everybody went after him including Jim Corcoran. So now I take Mrs. Kennedy and I take her down and I bring her down to the box. One of the great treasures I have is the Life magazine happened to catch me in that pose of bringing Mrs. Kennedy into that box. It's something that I really look at at times and think of some of the pleasant memories that go along with the work that we had at that time. Now the Secret Service had gone up to get the President out of the group and bring him down. Well Jim Corcoran now was caught in the squash so he didn't know what to do. You know you just can't get close to him. So now I'm standing with the President and he says, "O.K. what do I do now?" And I said, "Mr. President, when you go down the camera, the television would like to have you seated

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directly next to the Vice President. Mrs. Kennedy is sitting there now. He said, "That's all right. She can sit there. I can talk to Lyndon over her." So, this is one of the again how he reacted and how easy he was to get along with.

HARTIGAN: Frank, there's something I'd like to get into. After the swearing in and the new administration took over you played a very important part in that... Well, first of all, when did you come into the administration, Frank?

DOOLEY: Well, after it was all over then I went back to work on the Hill. I still had a very close relationship with the people that had worked at the National Committee and national headquarters. I had a call one day from Dick Maguire that he wanted to see me. So we had lunch and he said, "We'd like to have you join our team." And I said, "Well I thought I was a member of the time all the time even though we were, we maybe had different candidates but you know..." He said, "No that isn't what I meant. I meant that we wanted you to work for us in the executive branch. There's many things that we have to do and we need somebody like you around. So I would hope that you

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would consider that." Well it didn't take me any time to say, "O.K. When do you want me?" So the papers were put forth and I ended up working with the Office of Civil Defense [Office of Civil Defense Mobilization] when Frank Ellis [Frank B. Ellis] was the director, as the congressional liaison back to Capitol Hill. In that position I was more or less flexible to do many things and be helpful in many ways. Then Frank Ellis had resigned and they reorganized the Office of Civil Defense and split up the functions and a lot of it went over to the Defense Department and they come up with the new agency by the name of Office of Emergency Planning and Ed McDermott [Edward A. McDermott] was the director of Office of Emergency Planning and we were in the Executive Office Building so we were in close contact with the people at the White House. So I was more or less functioning in that

particular area for a period of time. Anytime that, when they had the White House Conferences they were able to draw on the expertise of the people that had worked in the campaigns and were now working for government because it was a government function. The White House Conferences was a government function and they were able

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to utilize people that had worked in the campaigns to go out and more or less do the same things but to, the purpose of the White House Conference was to allow the administration to explain their programs to the people across the country. So we had about ten or twelve White House Conferences across the country. We were quite busily setting those things up and then when that was finished the Office of Emergency Planning decided that they, that was a good idea so then I had to take that job and coordinate a series of conferences as to what would happen to our natural resources in the event of a disaster. So we ran a series of conferences and of course the President was very much aware of what we were doing. In fact one of the treasures I have is a personal letter of commendation from the President, from President Kennedy, as a result of the work that we did during the White House Conferences. So we went along in that and I was at OEP for that particular time. One day I received a call that there was a real problem. One of the President's favorite programs was going down the drain. That was the first bill that was passed for President Kennedy which he had promised

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during his primary campaigns especially to the people of West Virginia. They come up with the Area Redevelopment Program [Area Redevelopment Administration]. And it was functioning along that line but then when they went back for a renewal of the program they had a problem with the House and they lost the program by five votes. So I got a call from Kenny O'Donnell and he said, "I want you to get over to the Commerce Department right away and see what you can do to salvage that program that they have over there because you know this is one of the pledges that Senator Kennedy made during his primary campaign and he wants to make sure this program goes," because it was a program that was trying to create jobs for the people in the poorer areas of our country and trying to get them back into the mainstream. So I went over there to the Commerce Department and I said, "Well, how do I handle this assignment here?" He said, "Don't worry about it. We'll take care of it. You just go over there and get over there right away." So I didn't even take anything from my desk. I went over to ARA and I just said, the White House asked me to come over to

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give you whatever assistance I could give you and see what happens. So within a week I was transferred over there and made director of congressional liaison for the Area Redevelopment Agency. So we had to go back to the drawing board. The President was very much aware of all the things that were going on. So we went back to the drawing board and we put together a program which more or less encompassed all that he was looking for and it was known as the Public Works and Economic Development Act. It had more features in it than the original

ARA bill. So President Kennedy was very excited about this and they had the Accelerated Public Works program [Public Works Acceleration Act] which was creating jobs across the country. It was shortly after that that the disaster came upon us and there was a change of leadership in the White House.

HARTIGAN: You also participated in dinner functions and planning those, that I recall correctly. Is that right?

DOOLEY: Yes, Bill. One of the things that I had some background as far as handling tickets are concerned as far as logistically arrangements at large functions and so forth and so on. So the people at the National

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Committee, Dick Maguire was the treasurer of the National Committee and John Bailey was the chairman of the National Committee. They asked me to give them some assistance so I usually go over there in the evenings. At first to pull the thing together for them. One of the things that would happen the request that would come out, and I always remembered it, the request would come out of the, of President Kennedy's office for example, for some of the functions were so minute. You know you'd get a request, is it o.k. to get four more tickets? Whereas the underlings were coming in demanding twenty or thirty tickets. So you learned to live with that. I always remembered President Kennedy, through the girls that used to work there, used to say well you know that's the most impossible job in the world as far as pleasing everybody was concerned. But as I said the requests, I remember John Bailey when I was in the ticket room one time which was complete hundred percent security and John Bailey come down and knocked on the door one day. You know he's the chair of the National Committee and he said, "Frank is it possible to get four more tickets?" Well, you know, that's the kind of guy John Bailey was. He was just

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like President Kennedy. Never exerted any demands on anybody and just wanted you to do the best job you could do and be as helpful as you could. One of the, another incident that occurred that relates a little bit to the Kennedy history because so many people were dedicated to a cause that they really didn't expect publicity or credits or anything. They just had to get the job done. So when I went over there I was very concerned that people would find out that I was doing it and really put the arm on me to get the extra tickets. So Justine O'Donnell who was Kenny's sister was one of the gals over there and there was another gal by the name of Audrey Barber who, and Ann Dolan who were very helpful as far as putting these functions on. I remember that, I guess it was the birthday celebration of President Kennedy that we had at the armory. We had something like nine-thousand people that we served dinner to and another nine-thousand people in the armory. We handled the tickets for all of that. As I said, what happened was everybody wanted to find out who the guy was handling tickets and I didn't want to become known as the guy to withstand all

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the pressure so I said to Dick Maguire, I said, he said, "Well what are we going to tell people?" I said, "Just tell them my name is Shubert." Then I said "Shubert" is coming from Connecticut I remembered a theater in New Haven by the name of Shubert Theater. So I said, "Just tell them my name is Mr. Shubert and if anybody has any questions they'll never find out who it is, see." Because we did operate under full security at the time. So lo and behold the telephone would ring and Justine or Audrey or Ann would pick it up and they'd want to talk to Mr. Shubert. They'd say, "Mr. Shubert is busy right now. Who should I say is calling?" And I had things like his nephew, his roommate from college, his next door neighborhood, his uncle, and you know they knew what we were doing so we used to have many laughs over that. I think that one of the times that Justine had told Kenny and Kenny told the President and the President got a big kick out of it.

HARTIGAN: Frank, you realize no interview is complete without asking the interviewee this question. Where were you when the President was assassinated?

DOOLEY: Well, I know exactly where I was because prior to that particular day they had been talking to me about going

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down into Texas. They were having problems with the advance men that they sent down there. They were not getting along with the people of Texas so as a result of it they were trying to find out people who had worked with the people in Texas to send them down there. I recall that I received a call and they said be ready in case we need you. I says, "Fine I'll be ready." But I didn't have to go down because the thing was working out fine after that. But that day that it happened, I'll never forget it. I was going into The Mayflower hotel for lunch and I was sitting at the booth in The Mayflower waiting for other people to join me for lunch and all of a sudden we saw the scurrying of people outside. There was a news bulletin TV board across the street. I don't know which one it was but all of a sudden the announcement was there that there was a shooting in Dallas, Texas. So immediately I called the White House and asked what had happened. They said, "We have very sketchy details right now. There has been a shooting. We don't know the extent of the injuries or we don't know if anybody's been hit or anything like that." So we stayed there at The Mayflower waiting for news to come over. One of the

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people on the White House was there so they moved the telephone in immediately. There wasn't anything we could do. We just had to say a prayer and wait. It was quite a shock when we did get the news, subsequently.

HARTIGAN: Any recapping observations you'd like to make with reference to your activities with President and his organization?

DOOLEY: Well, one of the things, as you watch all the other organizations try to function, one of the things was that in that organization, as we say, we knew who the chief was and everybody else was an Indian. Everybody did their job without fanfare and without trying to get publicity for themselves. Course there were some in every batch that tried to get off line, but they didn't stay very long after that. You look at different organizations now and they're trying to put them together and I noticed during this recent campaign there was an advance man giving a newspaper interview telling about what a great job he's doing. You know he had to get the candidate to do this and he had to get the candidate to do that. Well, you know, we had professional people. The Kennedy people had professional people

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that were working there and they avoided the publicity. Most of them avoided the publicity. I guess the weak ones that had their egos were the ones that tried to get publicity. But all in all you knew if you had a problem you knew who had to go to and you knew that you'd get the answer yes or no. I always felt that Kenny O'Donnell was the one that called the shots because he was closest to President Kennedy. I always felt that he was the one that when a decision had to be made you didn't bother him with the trivia things, but when an important thing that would affect something had to be made you could always communicate with Kenny and he'd make the decision. You knew that that was the decision from President Kennedy.

HARTIGAN: After the assassination, how long did you stay in the administration?

DOOLEY: After the assassination I continued to work at the Economic Development Administration and I stayed there through the Johnson period. Then I was invited to leave the new administration come in. The new Assistant Secretary for Economic Development Administration....

HARTIGAN: You said the new administration. You mean the Nixon

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[Richard M. Nixon] administration?

DOOLEY: The Nixon administration. When they come in in '69 when the Assistant Secretary was appointed he was a guy by the name of Bob Podesta [Robert A. Podesta] out of Chicago. As soon as he was appointed the first thing I did was to call him and tell him I wanted an appointment with him and explained to him that mine was a political job and the sooner he got a replacement for me the better off I'd feel about it and the more relaxed I'd be. He said, "Fine..." he said, "I have

a couple of guys in mind. Will you stay until I find them?" And I said, "Yes, I will." In the interim period the, apparently the Nixon people at the White House they had found out my background because I had spent some time away from the job as the campaign coordinator for Hubert Humphrey [Hubert H. Humphrey] in Chicago and I had resigned from the government for a period of four months to handle all the arrangements for the convention in Chicago in 1968. I spent the time in Chicago so at that time I had left the government but then when the convention was over I come back to the government and I think Haldeman [H.R. Haldeman] and Ehrlichman [John D. Ehrlichman] found out

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that I had come back to the government because one day they called over and left the word, "Get rid of that guy by four o'clock this afternoon." Well, Podesta, who was a very fine outstanding guy and even though of the opposite party, he said, "Wait a minute. You're not going to get rid of this guy. The first thing he said when I came on board was 'Get a replacement for me and whenever you get it I'm ready to leave on short notice.'" And he says, "I'm not going to let this guy go until I get my replacement in. I don't care what you guys over there say." And I think he might have been in trouble with Ehrlichman and Haldeman from that day on.

HARTIGAN: Well, Frank, do you think we've just about covered everything you'd like to put in the oral history department of the Kennedy Library so that young politicians coming in to do research will be taking advantage of your...

DOOLEY: Well one of the other things about President Kennedy and let me flash back on this. He was always interested in sports as you know, and when I was living in Washington, when Jimmy Piersall who was the former Boston Red Sox outfielder. Then he went

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to the Cleveland Indians, then he was traded to the Washington Senators. Well Jimmy lived with me. So I happened to say to Ted Reardon one time I said, "Do you think..." this was when he was a senator, I says, "Do you think he'd enjoy..." He said, "He'd love to meet him." He said, "I told him about it." Cause I had taken Ted's son to a couple of ball games. He said, "He'd love to say hello to him." So I said, "O.K." So I went by one day and I said, "Senator, when ever you want to I'll have Piersall come over." He says, "Hey, bring him over any time at all. I'd love to sit down and chat with him." So I told Jimmy and Jimmy was just delighted that the President, or Senator Kennedy would take the time off to sit down and talk. So I brought Jimmy over and they were kibitzing about something for about an hour and a half. So of course Jimmy to have his picture taken. So President [sic.] Kennedy said, "Well, you should have a ball in your hand." And Jimmy said, "Yeah, I'd like to." And so Senator Kennedy reaches down and he gets some white paper, rolls it up like a ball, and he says,

“Here’s a ball for you, Jimmy.” Jimmy was very delighted with that picture. And then he went back and, Jimmy

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used to live in Hyannis Port, not too far from the Kennedy compound. So he went back and he told his wife and children that he had his picture taken with Senator Kennedy and would show it to them next time down. So there was nothing that would stop Mary Piersall from then coming to Washington and again bringing them by the office so now she could have her picture taken with Jimmy and Senator Kennedy. It was strange because, as I said, they did move to Hyannis Port. One of the things that Senator Kennedy always used to do, if you recall, he used to get the cart, the golf cart, and take the kids on it and bring them down and have ice cream. Well, occasionally as time went on when he was the President some of the Piersall kids would be on that cart. This was the way President Kennedy was. You know he just always got a kick out of doing things like that and he always enjoyed himself. I recall the opening day at the baseball game when he threw out the first pitch. I remember that Dave Powers was sitting there with the glove on and I said, “If the ball comes over I don’t know what you’re going to do. You must be going to put it up in front of your face to make sure you don’t get hit in the fact.” But Jimmy got, Jimmy Piersall got the ball from the President Kennedy on opening day. I don’t know if they had talked about it before but I knew that Jimmy was going to get that ball because he got the ball and he went up and he had it autographed. One of the things about Jimmy Piersall, he always thought this guy was a great guy and any time that we had a chance to go to the White House he would love

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to go. You know at the ceremonies that they used to have I remember when the astronauts came back that the President had invited the astronauts over to the White House, the ceremony out in the Rose Garden. Well it just so happened that I was talking with people at the White House staff that day and I said, “You know, do you need, are you going to have extra people there?” And they said yeah. And I said, “Well, I’d like to bring Jimmy Piersall down.” So I bring Jimmy Piersall down. And we’re in the Rose Garden. There’s two or three hundred people there. They go through the ceremony and everything and on the way out, again to show you President Kennedy, how observant he was, on the way out he’s escorting the astronauts out and so we’re standing aside see, and all of a sudden he turns around and he looks at Piersall and he says, “What are you doing here?” You know just picking out a face like that.

HARTIGAN: He’s always alert.

DOOLEY: And one of the other things, you know, talking about sports, one of the other things that I recall I was involved in is the Boston Celtics were in town one time. So I said to Dave, I said, “Dave, what do you think? Do you think we could have a chance to meet with the President?” I said, “You know the guys would love to do that.” And he said, “Well you know how difficult that is, Frank. If it

ever gets in the newspaper then every sports team in the country will want to come in and have their picture. We just can't do that. But I'll arrange for a tour." And I figured that was enough so I let the players know that we had

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a special tour of the White House and so forth and so on. So we were about three-quarters the way through the tour and sure enough Dave shows up and he said, "Frank, bring everybody to the cabinet room" So we went into the cabinet room and we were sitting around at the tables and the guys were getting a big change out of sitting in each ones' different chairs and so forth and so on. And the President walks in. He went around and he shook hands with each one and said, "Where'd you go to school? How are you doing?" And he knew all about the last three or four games that they had played and where they were and so forth and so on. He spent maybe a half-hour, three-quarters of an hour with them. They really enjoyed it and he seemed to really enjoy it. So then he invited them all into the Oval Office and he had the picture taken of the team and himself. This picture was a great picture as far as basketball history is concerned because it appeared in every basketball program of the NBA [National Basketball Association]. It appeared in every newspaper across the country. They blew it up as a large picture in the lobby of the Boston Garden. One of the comical things about it was that here he is, here we're in the office of the President of the United States and these guys are very much aware of it. And even though they are celebrities in their own right they really appreciated this fact. So as they proceed to go out we were going to have lunch in the White House mess and as they proceed to go out he was saying good bye to each one and he's standing there. Satch Sanders is the last guy to go

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see and he turns around and he says, "See you around, baby." And the President just doubled up in laughter. And Satch did not know what he said because I said to Kenny later, I said, "Did the President hear what he said?" And he said, "Yeah. He just couldn't stop from laughing." So Satch did not know what he said so when I went down to the White House mess I said to Satch, "Do you know what your greeting was when you left the President?" He said, "What'd I say?" I said, "See you later, baby." Then all the players they picked it up and apparently it's now, it's been referred to in about three or four different books that's been written about that time. But again it shows the warmth and the feeling that this man had for his fellow man.

HARTIGAN: Frank Dooley on behalf of the Kennedy Library I'd like to thank you for the time you've given us today. I know you had to rearrange your schedule to do it. Hopefully if any names come to mind you can write them down and send them over to me or give me a call. I'll come pick them up. And finally, going through your personal archives if you find anything that you feel may be appropriate to be housed in the Kennedy Library I'm sure the Library will be very appreciative of a gift that you might give them. Going through your papers if you want them evaluated let me know

and I'll have an archivist come down and look them over and I'm sure that anything that you donate to them they'll be very appreciative. Thank you Frank Dooley.

[END OF INTERVIEW]

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