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Special Collections & University Archives
Richard J. Daley Library
University of Illinois at Chicago
801 S. Morgan St.
Chicago, IL 60607
3rd Floor
(312) 996-2742

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Interview with Eleanor "Sis" Daley, Session Four
17 January 2003

Location: Home of Eleanor "Sis" Daley, 35111 St. & Lowe, Chicago, IL. Present: Eleanor "Sis" Daley, Michael Daley, and Dr. Robert V. Remini

(The Interview has already begun)

Dr. Robert V. Remini: I'm delighted to be back and see you, Mrs. Daley. I thank you for having me in your home.

Eleanor "Sis" Daley: Well, it's good seeing you. I'm very sorry. I wasn't well on a couple of days.

RVR: (Laughs) Yes, you mustn't do that.

ED: But I'm fine.

RVR: You're fine now. That's good. Today is January 17, 2003.

ED: 2003?

RVR: Yes, right.

ED: Time flies, doesn't it?

RVR: Before we start, I wanted to bring you...

Michael Daley: Do you want to stop the tape? Or do you want this on the tape?

RVR: It doesn't matter. It's okay. This is from the library. These are the cards that you could send out to people who worked with your husband. This is in case they have papers or would wish to give us their remembrances of him. There's a letter here from the librarian that explains it. This is the fact sheet below.

MD: As we've said mom, it'd be nice to have an oral history from all of the people that worked, like Neil Hartigan, Ray Simon, Jerry Butler, Dick Curry. I'm talking about all of the cabinet people.

ED: Yes, the cabinet people.

MD: We should also have people that actually worked in government with dad. We could ask them, in your name, to respond to interviews with Dr. Remini and his staff. Then it becomes an oral history, rather than just a lot of newspaper history. So, everyone feels that if we took these and we put your name on it with a nice little note, it would have a lot more impact than anyone else (laughs)!

RVR: Right, it'd be coming from you.

MD: (Laughs) I'm being truthful!

ED: Do you think so? I don't know.

RVR: They can't say no.

ED: I hope so.

MD: This is the picture of the library, mom. I can get your glasses. It shows the sign, "The Richard J. Daley Library." It's a very pretty picture to be able to send out.

ED: It's very nice. That's interesting. I think that would be very good. I'll be happy to send it.

MD: I'll just read you this note. It says, "Mrs. Daley can stuff each card with a fact sheet and address the envelopes or she can return the fact sheet to the library. Either way, the library will affix the postage." We'll take this up there.

ED: These are all of the names?

MD: Yes. And this is the list of the names that we can send it to. Really, it comes off the invitation list of the people that were invited to the swearing in. You know, the one person I forgot was Kate Quinlan. I forgot her. She was the last person in line that worked in my dad's office as a secretary. I totally forgot her. And I see her. She lives right near me. I see her all the time.

RVR: You see, that's what happens. She's the closest to you (laughs).

MD: I was so embarrassed. I'm still embarrassed by it. But I'll take this mom, and we'll draft up a little letter for you.

ED: I have a little file out there that we'll keep all of the material in.

MD: My mother is a good filer (laughs).

RVR: Oh yes?

MD: She's always very organized (laughs).

ED: I used to be.

RVR: You used to be (ED and RVR laugh)?

ED: I was with the children when Dick was mayor. I had to be, because you never knew when he'd call. They'd want to do different things for the kids to come down, although they didn't give them too much publicity. We were fortunate. They didn't dwell on the kids as some of them do. They all behaved themselves, which is good when they're growing up.

RVR: (Laughs) Well, I guess that they knew.

ED: I think one time Richard got a ticket for not stopping for a stop sign.

RVR: Oh, you did?

MD: Oh no (laughs). Don't bring that up (laughs).

ED: I said, "Just imagine what you get if you were hit in an accident."

MD: It was "Allegedly went through the stop sign (laughs)."

ED: What is it?

MD: It was "Allegedly went through the stop sign." I don't know if he did.

ED: Well, he said that he wasn't sure. He didn't think that he did. Oh yes he did. But he followed him for a couple of blocks. He must have recognized the car or the number.

RVR: Yes. How old was he?

ED: It was a lesson in disguise, maybe. I don't think any one of them seen a ticket, ever.

RVR: Or a citation, no, ever?

ED: Not afterwards, no.

RVR: Do you want sugar or cream?

ED: Both.

RVR: Well, I thought today we'd start with your husband's term as mayor, when he was elected, in 1955.

ED: It was 1955.

RVR: Right. Do you remember that campaign, at all?

ED: Yes I do. When he came home, he said that he was going to be the candidate (MD and RVR laugh). But I wished him well. I knew that he could do it.

RVR: This was when he was nominated?

ED: Yes, he was nominated. The he ran for office in November. Was it? The primary was in February. Then, the following November he ran.

RVR: He beat Adamowski in the primary.

ED: There was Adamowski. There was Kennelly. There was another one or two. Who was

the other one, Mike?

MD: Bob Merriam was in the general election.

RVR: Right.

ED: Yes, he was a candidate.

MD: Adamowski and...

ED: Merriam.

MD: No, Adamowski and Kennelly were in the primary then.

ED: They were in the primary.

MD: Those were the only two.

RVR: Those two I have down.

MD: There was someone that was going to run, but they never ran.

RVR: Was it Bill Dawson? He was a congressman. Well, it doesn't matter. About the campaign itself, Robert Merriam was the Republican.

ED: Oh, he campaigned from one end of the city to the other, every day and every night.

RVR: Your husband did?

ED: Yes.

RVR: What do you remember about the primary mom, against Kennelly and against Adamowski? It was pretty tough, wasn't it?

ED: Oh, it was very tough. I think it was tough until the time that Kennelly said Dick would turn the city over to the hoodlums and everything. That must have offended the people, because he was born and raised in the city. And they knew his background and the kind of young man that he was, a good living young man. So it just turned the primary, right then and there. The people all came out against Kennelly. I don't know who was advising him, because he wasn't that type of man.

MD: Who helped dad get nominated, politically? I know that Joe Gill was a big supporter of dad.

ED: There was Joe Gill.

MD: He was chairman of the party at that time.

ED: He was the chairman of the Democratic Party at that time.

MD: Was Mr. Arvey supportive of dad?

ED: No, he was for Kennelly.

MD: He was?

ED: But I think in the election he was for him.

MD: That was after he had won the primary? Who else in the primary helped dad though, besides Gill?

ED: Well, I think all of them did in the Democratic Party.

MD: Was it split between people supporting Kennelly and those supporting dad?

ED: No. He was never really a...

MD: Kennelly wasn't?

ED: He was a different type of man. He never got into stuff like helping people in the neighborhoods much. He was born here, just about five or six blocks away, at Thirty- first and Popular.

RVR: Yes. But he never went around talking to people the way your husband did.

MD: No.

RVR: How about Adamowski?

MD: Adamowski was more of a friendly man that went around. He was quite bitter, though. They all lost. Dick defeated all of them. But that was the turning point, I think. Kennelly made the statement that the city would change and all of the hoodlums would take over. Dick wasn't a hoodlum.

RVR: No (ED and RVR laugh).

ED: And they came out in droves. That was the turning point, I think. But I think the whole Democratic Party was for Dick.

MD: Yes, that was in the primary. But some of them supported Kennelly though, in the primary. They endorsed dad. But some of them were supporters of Kennelly.

ED: Yes, some of them did.

MD: How do you think dad could get nominated by the party against Kennelly, who was the sitting mayor?

ED: Well, I think it was because he was such a good living young man and they knew his

background. He had worked for Adlai Stevenson as a...

MD: Was it the Revenue Director?

ED: It was the Director of Revenue. He had been the minority leader in the senate. He handled all of the bills for Adlai Stevenson in the senate, while he was governor. He helped him that way. His background was very good. He was well liked as a good honest young man.

MD: But in the primary, all of the papers opposed him except one. Isn't that right? One paper endorsed him.

ED: No they didn't.

MD: They didn't?

ED: All of the papers opposed him.

RVR: That's amazing. He won against that kind of opposition.

ED: The people came out. The people voted.

RVR: Were you part of it in any way? Did you help him stuff envelopes or deliver anything?

ED: I went to all of the ladies parties with him. If the ladies were there, I would talk to the ladies and all of that. But as far as going out at night, I didn't go to those. He went to those with all of the men. It was usually men back in those days. But I didn't have to go to all of those. I couldn't. I had all of the kids.

RVR: One of the books that I read said that it was by hard work and luck that Richard J. Daley won the primary and won the election.

ED: It was hard work. He attended all of the meetings in every neighborhood and met the people.

RVR: Right. Do you think it was because the people felt that he would clean up the corruption that existed at city hall?

ED: Oh yes.

RVR: He was considered a reformer?

ED: He was a reformer. Everyone knew his background from being born in the neighborhood. The people that all moved down south were people that had lived in this neighborhood, just south of us. Then they all moved out to Beverly, where the new homes were all built. That was a new area. So they all went out that way. Not all, but many of them.

RVR: How about in the general election, when he ran against Robert Merriam? What was that campaign like? Was that a dirty campaign? Was that hard fought?

ED: No, it wasn't hard. But he was well known. He wasn't as well-known as his father. His father Bill, had known him. Wasn't he?

MD: I think so.

ED: Merriam's father?

ED and MD: He was an alderman.

ED: But the father was well known at the University of Chicago.

MD: Right. They were very prominent aldermen.

RVR: And he was known as a reformer.

ED: But Senator Douglas, who was the senator from that district, was for Dick. He was a personal friend. He was an alderman, too.

ED and MD: That was before.

RVR: They had been friends for a long time, then?

ED: Yes.

RVR: I see.

ED: But he had been a good friend of Dick's. He knew Dick personally. He knew what type of man he was. So he talked.

MD: But with Bob Marion, did he run a higher-class campaign than Kennelly and Adamowski? They were pretty rough in the primary.

ED: Well , he was just as rough.

MD: Was he?

RVR: Yes.

MD: It was a tough election.

ED: Oh yes.

RVR: He was accused. He had two wives.

MD: Who was that?

RVR: That was Merriam. He had been divorced. He had a second wife. Some of the literature talked about how Richard J. Daley was a very good, homebody and a decent man.

ED: They always say that he was a good husband and father. Well, they all knew him personally.

MD: But that wasn't publicized in the paper.

ED: Oh yes it was.

MD: You're talking about his second marriage?

ED: Oh yes. He was very, very rough.

RVR: He had it in his campaign.

MD: Oh did he?

ED: He was very rough.

RVR: Chicago politics can get very rough (laughs). And he was part of it.

ED: But Dick was strong enough to stand up to them. He made them correct anything that they said was wrong. They'd have to correct it.

MD: Did Mayor Kennelly and Adamowski support dad after the primary? Did they support him?

RVR: In the election?

MD: In the general election, did Adamowski support him, after losing?

ED: Adamowski didn't, no. He was very rough and very disappointed.

RVR: He bolted the party. He became a Republican.

ED: Yes.

MD: He was state's attorney.

ED: But when Richard ran, he was never bitter after a campaign. He'd always be friendly to the man that he defeated. But he met Adamowski and told him. He was just a young lawyer. Dick met him and told him that if he ever needed any help in any way, he said, "I'll be happy to help you." And he had a young son that was a lawyer.

MD: Dad had a tradition after every election that he'd go to lunch with his opponents.

RVR: Did he really?

MD: Publicly, he'd go to the Empire Room or to the Bismarck. This was to let everybody see that he was with them and that he didn't consider them an enemy.

ED: He was never bitter during a campaign, ever.

RVR: I think the people want to hear that, that there's not two forces fighting against each other and creating havoc in the city.

ED: You know, there was one thing with Dick. He would never mention his opponent's name in his campaign.

RVR: He never did?

MD: No, he never did.

ED: No. He would never say anything. I know that during one of the campaigns there was something, a scandal...

RVR: Yes, we'll get to that police scandal.

ED: They had all of the information that they wanted him to use.

RVR: Now Merriam claimed that he was the reform candidate.

ED: He was, but he wasn't a reformer (ED and RVR laugh).

RVR: And Richard J. Daley was connected with a corrupt machine.

ED: Yes, that's what they were saying.

MD: Can you hold on for a second, doctor? Can you just test the tape to make sure? Do you remember that one time it wasn't working (laughs)?

RVR: Oh gee, let me see.

(There is a brief pause in the tape)

MD: I just wanted to make sure. I'm sorry.

ED: They were trying to picture Dick as a different man than he really was. He was a good living man and a very kind man. They were just trying to picture him as a corrupt politician, as they called it. And he was just the complete opposite.

MD: That was on election night, the night was elected.

ED: All of the people that knew him all came out forcefully.

RVR: That's a great picture.

ED: Yes, isn't it?

MD: That was the general election or the primary, mom? Which one was it?

ED: I think it was the general election.

RVR: Yes. And that's Big Mike?

ED and MD: Yes.

MD: He was dad's father. I was Little Mike (ED, MD and RVR laugh), all of my life!

RVR: Yes, I know!

ED: Mike was a small man.

RVR: Right. What did you do the night of the victory, when you found out that your husband was now mayor of the City of Chicago? What did he do? What did he say to you?

ED: Oh, he was thrilled that the people all came out forcefully for him. This was because he was quite disappointed at the things that they were saying and trying to picture him as a different character, which he wasn't.

RVR: This remains true.

ED: On election night, I'd go down probably at five o'clock. We'd have dinner with Dick down at his office. They'd have it catered. I think that it was at the LaSalle Hotel, wasn't it?

MD: The first time?

ED and MD: It was at the Morrison Hotel.

ED: They'd bring the dinner up to us.

MD: It was where the First National Bank is now.

ED: It was with all of the kids. We'd stay there for a few hours. Someone would take John and Bill home. The boys would go home because they had to go to school the next day.

MD: She never gave us the day off (laughs).

ED: I didn't?

MD: You never gave us the day off (laughs).

ED: No, I didn't. I remember the next day when the reporters came out to the house. There were seven of them. John and Bill were in Kindergarten, I think. They were getting ready to go to school. So they were in and out. One fellow said, "Don't you even get the next day off?" He was quite surprised that they were going to school.

RVR: When you left dinner, where did you go to watch the returns?

ED: We watched the returns there while we were sitting.

RVR: Oh, they had them right there?

ED: They always had a television. Then afterwards, I'd stay and the kids would come home, unless the older ones would stay.

MD: When we got older, we could stay.

ED: When they got older, they could stay. But when they were younger, they'd all come home.

MD: Do you want some more coffee?

RVR: Thank you, yes. Was he pretty certain he would win? Or did he think that...?

ED: Yes. With the returns, you could tell.

RVR: You could tell?

ED: Oh yes, we knew early that he would.

RVR: The wards were coming in?

ED: In the city, all of the neighborhoods were coming in. They were coming in very forcefully, in Dick's favor.

MD: The license that dad had, seven oh eight, two two two, was that from the primary or the general?

ED: That was from the first election.

MD: It was the general election. It was seven oh eight, two...

ED: I forget the number.

MD: I think Rich has the number.

ED: Rich has the number.

RVR: He has it now?

ED: Yes, he has the license plate.

MD: That was the vote he received in the election. He had the license plate on his car, the limo, for many years. It was seven oh eight, two two two, I think. Or it was seven oh eight,

or seven hundred and some thousand. That was the vote, whatever it was. It was the only vanity plate he ever had (MD and RVR laugh).

RVR: Well, that makes sense!

MD: Oh no, he never forgot it (laughs)!

ED: It was a great victory, larger than anyone expected. But he was well liked in the city. All through this was his first neighborhood. And the parents and grandparents originated from this neighborhood. Then they moved east of it. Not all, but I mean many of them did.

MD: Mom, there's one thing that I remember, and I don't remember a lot. But it was a big torchlight parade. Then they all went to the opera house for a big rally. Was that the primary or the general election?

ED: No, that was a big rally for Kennedy.

MD: No, I know they had it for Kennedy. I remember going to the opera house and they had a torchlight parade for dad. It was like the end of the campaign. It was a big rally. Maybe it was the auditorium on Michigan Avenue. I don't know.

RVR: That became tradition, wasn't it? The night before, they had a big parade, the Democrats.

MD: They used to have it on Halsted Street here.

ED: We had it down in the neighborhood here.

MD : Yes, it was neighborhood for him.

ED: Yes, it was in the neighborhood, up and down all of the streets.

MD: I remember that.

ED: Everyone came out, all of the neighbors did.

MD: There was a torchlight parade down Halsted, too.

ED: It was a great tribute to him. It really was.

RVR: You're right, it was.

ED: Then out south they had it at some of the neighborhoods. The people were all out on the streets cheering for him. It was a great victory for all.

RVR: Did he then go around thanking people, the next day?

ED: Oh yes, the very next morning, he would go over to the "L" station. He'd stand there for several hours to meet the people going to work. He'd thank them for voting for him.

RVR: Did he do that at every election?

ED: Yes, he did at every election. Richard does it, too.

RVR: Does he, your son?

ED: Yes, my son does.

RVR: I was talking to a woman yesterday who has lived in Chicago all of her life. She told me that before Mayor Daley became mayor, this city was dirty. It wasn't an attractive place. And he changed it. The first four years were a remarkable demonstration of converting a city. Can you remember all of what happened, what he wanted to do, what he said, what he discussed with you, and what he achieved in his first term?

ED: Well, he wanted to do the best he could for the people and cleaning up the neighborhoods. That was his first priority, I think. But he visited all of the neighborhoods, during all of his terms of office. If they had a festival of any kind, he was a great one for visiting, and visiting with the people. He made sure that he went back to all of these neighborhoods to thank the people for voting for him.

RVR: I have a list here of some of the things that he did.

MD: Do you want to take a break mom and have a little coffee or roll?

RVR: Yes that's right. She hasn't had any.

ED: No. I had a glass of water. I had coffee before.

MD: Did you have it before?

ED: Yes.

RVR: He launched a building campaign in this city and changed its look.

ED: Do you mean for homes?

RVR: Yes. There were also businesses, skyscrapers, and expressways.

ED: I think that in the first campaign, all of the papers were against him. That was in the primary. Then in the election, all of the papers came out for him. He had a non-partisan group...

ED and RVR: Planning committee.

ED: They were for him in the election. They all came out in full force, all downtown, all of the businessmen. Previously, it was terrible.

RVR: One of his first problems was to deal with the city council. The city council had a bad

reputation for acting like...

ED: It was corruption.

RVR: Right. How did he control them? And he did, very quickly.

ED: Oh yes, he was smart in everything. He knew what was going on. He was kept informed as to what was going on, too.

MD: Do you think it was because of so many years in politics? How did he influence the aldermen to change and to do things differently?

ED: I think by being honest himself, he encouraged them to be just as honest. And he made sure that they worked in their wards and improved their wards. The cleanliness would start right at home, right where they all worked, every one of them. They were glad too, because it helped them get re-elected. People in their wards would discover how good they were working for the people.

RVR: They soon learned that he was not going to allow them to do business as in the past.

ED: No.

MD: Who would you say were his main supporters in the council, what aldermen?

ED: Well, he encouraged all, Mike. He didn't have one or two men that would make any deal for him. He talked to men himself.

RVR: He didn't have floor managers?

ED: No.

RVR: You know, the guys that would introduce what he wanted?

ED: No. He would talk to men himself. He'd talk to the aldermen himself. There was no inner man. There was no man that would talk for him. Oh no, he did the talking himself.

RVR: Oh yes, and he could.

ED: And he knew everything that was going on.

RVR: One of the most important things that he did was that he would not allow disruption. They had to be civil to one another.

ED: Oh yes.

RVR: They had to listen when other people were talking. They couldn't be moving around.

ED: In his first term, several of the aldermen had served time for the things that they'd done wrong. But he wasn't part of it. So there was no inner connection between them, for them to

operate. If they were going to operate or anything, they'd do it on their own.

RVR: He was the chairman of the...

ED: It was the Democratic Organization.

RVR: In the past, all of the mayors who had been chairman, resigned as chairman when they became mayor. Your husband said that he was going to do it, but he didn't. Did he discuss that with you?

ED: No, I don't think he ever said it. Yes, he was undecided. But in order to control the council, he'd have to be the chairman, he felt. But he had very good advisors. Joe Gill was a very good, honest man. There were other fine men in office.

RVR: Did he appoint his friends to office, a lot of them? Do you remember?

ED: No, he didn't with high positions in office. He would get the best qualified man, no matter where he was from, from the universities and all. He asked for their help. He was friendly with all of them, even the universities. He talked to all of them for help and advice. After he was elected, the following week or two, he called in the heads of all the different corporations and had a meeting with them. Then he said, "I'm the mayor of the city. You people are heads of all the corporations. It should mean as much to you to have a good city, a clean city, and an honest city, as it is to me. But I can't work alone. I need your help." Now Bob Abboud was the president of First National.

MD: It wasn't then, mom. Mr. Livingston was.

ED: Yes, it was Mr. Livingston.

MD: Homer.

ED: It was Homer Livingston. It was the first time they had ever sat down with a mayor or talked to him like that. Then he told them the different things that he wanted to do for the city. But he said, "I can't work alone. I need your help. I wonder if you'd give it to me. If you need to ask me anything, just pick up the phone and call me. I'll be happy to talk to you."

RVR: Do you remember the names of any of the others that were there at that meeting, besides the bank president?

ED: No. There were the heads of most of the corporations. Then he had the heads of the universities. He took them in to meet them and talk. He said, "The city isn't owned by the aldermen and the mayor. It's owned by the people and you people represent all of the people of the working force." He was very emphatic on that. I remember him telling that.

RVR: He appointed very good people.

ED: He appointed the best that he could get.

RVR: Then he gave them the authority to run their operation without any interference, unless they messed up.

ED: Yes. He checked on them all. He knew what was going on. He had great confidence in the men that he appointed.

RVR: So very quickly, he was in control then, of the important operations of the city.

ED: Yes.

RVR: He was going to see to it.

ED: Yes, he would know everything that was going on. I can remember that there were little things he would check. He was very much against the men retiring young. He'd say, "You're a young man. Don't retire." But he had a lot of retired heads of corporations and things. He said, "You're so valuable to the city. There must be something we can do. Some man said, "If it's just sitting and doing something." So they built that skyway. They were trying to determine how many trucks and how many personal cars would use that skyway. There was different things that they wanted to know about who was travelling that skyway. So he had a whole group of retired men that went out there. They sat along the highway, before they went up the highway. They checked on all of these different things that they were interested in.

MD: How did dad draw talent to him? How did he get people of such qualifications? Why would they work for him? They could have been in private industry.

ED: Well, I think they could understand that he was a smart fellow. I know that when he had the meetings with all of the bankers, they turned around and questioned him on the finances of the city. He answered it right then. They were very much impressed with him.

RVR: He was a genius when it came to finance.

ED: Financially, he could top them all.

RVR: Other cities were going bankrupt.

MD: Mom, a lot of young people worked for him. They weren't old people.

ED: Yes, he had a group of young, smart men too, working for him. But he would find the best of men and qualified people to work for him.

MD: Do you think that was because he had been revenue director or state senator? Was it because the people knew him and his qualities?

ED: It was what he knew. He related to them. They knew that they were talking to a man that knew what he was interested in. He was interested in improving the city, making it a better place, and asking for their help. That was the very first time in all the years they'd been in office that they were ever asked for help from the city, but not financially. Now there was one little incident along Michigan Avenue. He loved to beautify the city. He was

into the beautification of the city with flowers. He had the flowers going down the center of the streets. Do you remember those flower boxes?

RVR: Right, they had those huge boxes.

ED: Well, one man that had a big business on Michigan Avenue came to him and suggested that he'd like to donate money to the city for the beautification and did. So Dick turned to him and he said, "No, the city has the money. I'll tell you what you can do. We have the flower boxes. The city will donate those to the merchants for the streets. During the four seasons of the year, you businessmen can donate the flowers. That'd be a project for you people." And they were greatly impressed with that. He didn't just want the money to do it. He wanted to let them do it. They felt that they were part of the operation.

MD: I think maybe you should take a break. Your voice is getting hoarse, mom. Mom, just take a sip. Maybe you want to turn that off. We'll just sit for a few minutes.

(There is a short pause in the interview)

ED: But he always wanted the best.

RVR: You know, I think that one of the first things that he did was that he hired twenty-five hundred more police, eight hundred firemen, and five hundred additional sanitation workers. He was really going to put out a force of people who could beautify the city and take care of it. One of the things that people want is their garbage collected. One of the things everybody wants is protection. And they don't want corrupt police.

ED: No they didn't. And he would follow through on the appointments that he made.

RVR: (Laughs) We didn't give your mother a chance to rest at all. We have to.

MD: Why don't you shut it off for a few minutes. Just rest your throat. Let us talk, mom.

(There is a short pause in the interview)

ED: I don't think there was a night that we sat down for dinner that he didn't have some little tidbit or...

ED and MD: A little joke.

ED: He would tell it for the kids to laugh. Billy would always say, "Dad, we heard that the other day (ED, MD, and RVR laugh)."

RVR: He would repeat himself?

ED: You were going to hear it again (ED, MD, and RVR laugh)!

MD: My dad would laugh harder than anybody. Even if he told it again, he'd laugh.

ED: He would tell a joke and then he'd laugh. And he'd laugh!

MD: He loved jokes.

ED: You could hear him. We have a couple of them recorded. We'd have the big Christmas party and the recording. He'd be telling some story. He'd be laughing and you could hear his voice in the background. We have great memories of all of them.

RVR: All of your children are so successful. They've gone to college, graduate school, and law school.

ED: I never said, "You have to go."

RVR: You never did?

ED: No. Now we have two more. The third youngest granddaughter is at Notre Dame now, Rich's little girl.

RVR: Yes I know. My friend's granddaughter is a classmate of your....

MD: That's Lally.

ED: Oh Lally, she's a nice girl.

RVR: Is that her name, Lally?

MD: It's Lally, L-a-l-l-y.

ED and MD: That's Maggie's mother's maiden name.

ED: Years ago, the Irish named a son or daughter after the family name. I had a brother, Lloyd. My mother's maiden name was Lloyd.

RVR: Yes. Southerners do that a great deal. They take the mother's maiden name and give that as a first name.

ED: Mike's daughter married a...

MD: It's Scott. They named all of them with the middle name of the little girl. That's his mother's maiden name.

RVR: This is your daughter?

MD: It's the granddaughters.

ED: Well, how about Kelly?

ED and MD: Kelly Ryan.

ED: His last name is Ryan but his grandparents were Kelly. His mother's maiden name was

Kelly.

MD: Then my daughter Beth, a Guilfoyle, that's one. Patterson is another. It's a tradition to do that. Mom, getting back to dad's campaign, from the primary to the general election, he was pretty busy for the first, say, hundred days? I know that he was busy all of the time. But in his first term, what do you think was the most significant or important things that he did?

ED: Well, I think it was cleaning up the city, making changes in all of the offices, and in the whole building. And then there were the changes in the procedures of his office and all of his new appointments. He was making sure that he got the smartest and the most honest man to fulfill that job.

RVR: What did he do, when he found somebody from the old days, who was incompetent and a threat to his own administration? How did he get rid of them, or did he?

ED: Oh yes, he did.

RVR: He fired them?

ED: He made changes. He fired them, or gave them a chance at a lower position or something. He made great changes. He never had any trouble with them afterwards.

RVR: Suppose they were civil service appointees. You can't just fire them unless you bring charges of malfeasance against them. Do you remember that he had to do things like that to get rid of people?

ED: Well, I don't know. I don't remember specifically.

RVR: Do you know what he did do? He kept Kennelly's cabinet, pretty much, when he became mayor.

ED: That was only for a short while.

RVR: That was only for a short while?

ED: Oh no. They were all against Dick.

RVR: They were? But they said that they were competent. So he kept them for a while because of their competence.

ED: Well, anyone that was very competent and doing a fine job in a position, he'd never fire them. He'd keep them.

RVR: He didn't fire the man who was the commissioner of police?

(END OF SIDE ONE)

ED: He did his job well.

RVR: The police, they thought, were corrupt. There were a lot of petty things.

ED: Well, I think that in all walks of life, there's always someone that tries to disrupt the good.

RVR: Did your husband know that some of this went on, like policemen that wanted to give a citation?

ED: Yes, they were out. Oh yes. He wasn't afraid. He made terrific changes, all throughout the city, in all departments. And that's what the businessmen liked about him because he knew what was going on. They could see the changes that he was going to make, that were needed. He made them right away.

RVR: He had a great deal of power.

ED: That was in every position that he held.

RVR: Right. How did he get that power? Some of the previous mayors were very weak. You know, they were pushed around.

ED: They were all part of the system, I suppose. Not all, but there were some honest men.

RVR: He controlled the patronage.

ED: He wasn't controlling it for himself. You see, that was the difference. He didn't have his friends or a group of friends around him. They would be corrupt or something like that. He didn't do that. He had good honest men around him. And everybody knew that then. That was because when they'd make deals with the city, make any kind of changes, or have things done in the city, changes were made. And they noticed that. So they had confidence in him.

RVR: In his first term, there were no scandals. I mean, there was that petty thing going on. But it wasn't going to stay that way for long.

ED: He wasn't afraid of going directly to the man that wrote that story to check with him and set him straight on the truth.

MD: Mom, do you think dad, from his years in politics, sort of felt that he wasn't going to be like Kennelly, who was in government but had nothing to do with the committeemen? He was going to be a political and governmental leader, so no one could turn someone against him.

ED: No. In order to make changes in government, in the rules and all, you have to be the head of the city. You can't have someone else who's not the head of the city that's making deals with someone else under you. But you're being blamed for it. He wasn't going to have that.

MD: In some of the wards, the ward committeeman was more powerful than the alderman was, or more important, in that time and era. So, by being the head of both, no one could

work against him.

ED: No one could get in between them. He was strong.

MD: That, I think, was his strongest decision that he made.

ED: But he didn't fail to dismiss people if they did something wrong. And he'd call them in and tell them why, face to face. He was very, very up on all of that.

RVR: Right. He was never ever personally involved in anything like that.

ED: No. He was an honest man, all of his life.

RVR: He was trying to tell everybody else to be honest.

ED: Yes, he was trying to change them. And he did make lots of changes. They were all good, loving people. But if they saw him doing something that was good and honest, maybe he'd get a few to change (laughs).

RVR: There's a story that he once said to somebody. "Don't take money! Just give them your business card." Do you think that's true?

ED: Oh no.

RVR: No? That's not true? Okay.

MD: A lot of people quote him. Most of the people that say those things, number one, never met him. Number two, they never knew him or ever worked with him. See, there's very few people today that knew my dad. People say, "Oh, we were over..." No one ever came to this house. Mom, I remember that dad never held a meeting here.

ED: He never held a meeting here. No.

MD: Mom, this was our home. They say that they were down in the basement and they were down in his office. No one was down there.

ED: No one was. He never brought people over.

MD: There were my aunts and uncles for family parties, my mother's family.

ED: We had all of my friends.

MD: There were the neighbors and friends. But he never had a government meeting or a political meeting. He would get in the car and go downtown to the office, always. Or he'd go to the Democratic Headquarters, always. He never had them here. I hear people say that today. And we all know that it's a joke.

RVR: Well that's what we want to get on tape. These things are false.

MD: It bothers us that people say that.

RVR: And they'll repeat it again and again. Let me ask you, since you were involved in a way. He got very angry once when someone said he was appointing his sons to positions. I don't know what it was.

MD: No. I think that was Alderman Keane's son that he had appointed to some board. That was Tom Keane's son. That's who it was. That's when he said that, about helping your son or something.

ED: No. I thought when that other one...

MD: That was in the city council, when they were confirming Tom Keen's son.

ED: Oh. I thought it was Richard or one of the boys.

MD: No, it wasn't Rich. I recall it being some board, a zoning board, or something. He appointed him. He had worked for Rubloff, the big real estate guy. He was a very prominent real estate person. Some of the aldermen attacked it on a personal thing. Dad got mad about that. I thought that's when he said it. I don't know. You can check it, though. It's in the records.

RVR: That's one of the stories that they repeat about him, because he couldn't lose his temper, or never at home, I gather.

ED: He never did at home.

MD: I would say his patience (MD and RVR laugh).

ED: He what?

MD: He'd lose his patience (laughs).

ED: But no, he never raised his voice at home. He never was cranky. He'd never even say no to the kids. I said to him one day, "You know Dick, the kids are never going to forget me." He said, "Why would they?" I said, "I always have to say no to them. You never say no. You always say, 'What did your mother say?'" (ED and RVR laugh) I remember when Mary was going to St. Mary's. She wanted to go to Florida at Easter time. She came down with a pad. She had it down to the penny of what it would cost. So I listened and listened. I knew what was coming. I waited and waited. I said, "I don't think so, Mary. I don't think you can go." She said, "Why not?" I said, "It's because Eleanor has to go to school next year. She's going to go to St. Mary's. The next year Richard will go. And the next year Michael will go. That'll be four in college." Oh, the phone started ringing then. She told the kids that she couldn't go. All of their mothers were calling. Was something going to happen in Florida, in Ft. Lauderdale? Well, I wasn't going to let her go because of the way they act. It's disgraceful. I didn't want to tell her that. I said to this mother, "No. You only have two children. I have five after Mary that are going to go to college and graduate. We can't afford it." Mary was a little upset. But she didn't carry on or anything. She said to me, "Do you mind if I talk to dad?" I said, "No. He'll be home in a little while." Well, she heard the door

(RVR laughs). She told him and he said, "Well, what did your mother say?" I heard about it (laughs). Mary said, "She said no." He said, "Well then, it's no Mary. She must have her reasons." Afterwards he said to me, "How much would it cost?" I said, "It's not much. She has it down to the penny." (RVR laughs) He said, "Why don't you let he go with all of the kids?" We had rented a house for the summer up in Grand Beach. I said, "We've rented a house now. We're all going to go to the beach." Well anyway, I said to her, "You can bring a couple of nuns and some of the girls for a day. We'll stay all day, they can have lunch, then go down to the beach and everything." She said, "All right." Anyway, Dick stayed home that day. Her barbecued for them and all (ED and RVR laugh) So they were all going home. The nuns had to go home at four o'clock. I said, "Thank God, they all cleared out." She brought about twenty kids.

MD: Do you want to go on any further with your list?

RVR: We can end it here.

MD: Do you want to go on for a little bit, mom? Or do you want to quit now and then continue?

ED: No. I'll go on.

MD: For about a half hour, it's eleven o'clock now. We'll do it until eleven thirty.

ED: He said to me, "It's cheap. It isn't so expensive." I said to him, "Next year Eleanor will want to go. Then every year, they'll all want to (RVR laughs). I don't want her down there with all of that." But he said to me, "Listen Sis, it would have been cheaper to let her go to Florida than to be buying hamburgers and everything for them (MD and RVR laugh)." But they had a good day in the country, which was better for them.

RVR: Were there any of his aids or associates that you particularly liked, that you felt helped your husband say, more than any of them?

ED: If I what?

RVR: Were there any that you liked out of his associates, his aids, or his political allies? Were there any that you thought that were especially helpful to him in achieving his goals?

ED: Yes. I think Joe Gill was. All of the Democratic men were all up in years. They were very happy to have a good, smart, young man come into the Democratic Party and take over. Joe Gill was very helpful. He was the county treasurer at the time. Dick had worked in the treasurer's office. He would watch Dick.

MD: He was head of the Democratic Party at the time.

ED: He was chairman of the Democratic Party. He said that there would be no hesitation in having this young man take over. He said, "He'll do a fine job."

RVR: Were there any others?

ED: He had personal friends. Bill Lynch was a lawyer friend of his. They were close friends.

RVR: Did he have any position in the city government?

ED: No. He had his own office.

RVR: He was just a friend?

MD: He was my dad's law partner.

RVR: Oh, he was a law partner. I see.

MD: They grew up together. He lived on the next block.

ED: He was a good young man.

RVR: How about Ira Bach?

ED: Who?

RVR: Ira Bach.

ED: He was very helpful.

RVR: He was the head of city planning.

MD: You have to understand, doctor. I think my mom will confirm this. They didn't socialize with the people that worked with my dad. Mom and dad would go to dinners. But they didn't socialize with them. They worked for my father. And he always made that point to us.

RVR: But I thought maybe if he talked to you...

ED: He said that he appointed a very capable young man in Ira Bach, and all of his appointments.

MD: He was in planning, wasn't he?

ED: He was in planning. He did a good job when he was there. He was very familiar with the men at the university and the president. He'd always sit down and talk. He'd discuss problems, I don't know, or some things he knew that they could help them in. He never hesitated in asking people like that for help.

RVR: There were people, like the head of Goldblatt's. Do you remember him?

ED: Who?

RVR: Goldblatt's, remember the old...

MD: It was Morris B. Sachs.

RVR: Is that his name?

MD: That's Sachs.

RVR: I'm trying to find their names.

MD: That's Morris B. Sachs. Remember, he ran with dad?

RVR: That's right. He did.

MD: He ran with Kennelly in the primary and lost. Then he ran with my dad in the general election (laughs).

RVR: Oh, was he the one?

MD: Yes! It was Morris B. Sachs. He owned Sachs Brothers, the clothes store. It's downtown. It wasn't a Goldblatt's.

ED: No.

RVR: He was elected city treasurer.

ED and MD: He ran with Kennelly and lost.

ED: Then, he stayed on and ran for the same office.

MD: My dad had him run with him.

ED: And he won with Dick.

MD: It was because the treasurer that was running had problems. And that threw him off.

ED: He was only in one term. He had to take of his business. He couldn't stay two terms.

MD: Yes.

RVR: And you know what they say when he fired this guy that threw him off? What was his name?

MD: Remember the fellow that was running with dad? The treasurer had a problem and dad had him step down. It was Passion.

RVR: Yes, it was Herbert Passion.

ED: Yes. Anybody that had problems...

MD: He kicked them off.

RVR: Right. He came to your husband and said, "What's happened? Why are you doing this?" And your husband looked him right in the eye and said, "What do you expect?" It was because he was involved in a scandal.

ED: With any of them he knew, because he checked thoroughly. He wasn't one of those holier-than-thou fellows, that he wore it on the shirt sleeve.

MD: It's probably the most classic picture. Everyone always laughed about it. You should try to find this picture. It was the night of the Kennelly loss. Morris B. Sachs is leaning on him. And they always said he was crying because he saw the label inside his suit (ED, MD, and RVR laugh)! That was always the joke!

RVR: I remember the crying!

MD: He was like, crying! They said it was because he saw the label and it wasn't Sachs (ED, MD, and RVR laugh)! That was always the joke for me. That's the one picture I remember. They said he saw the label and it said, "Marshall Fields."

ED: Oh, he was a great businessman. He had the women's store. He had a radio show, a television show, and everything.

RVR: One of the things that your husband had a reputation for was that he made decisions, and he made them very quickly.

ED: Yes, he did them very quickly. But he studied thoroughly on the candidate or whoever he was going to appoint. He knew everything. He checked on everything. And he checked on things.

RVR: In 1960, Adlai Stevenson told your husband he wasn't going to be a candidate for the presidency. Your husband wanted Kennedy. Then, Adlai Stevenson wanted to change his mind at the convention. He came to your husband and your husband said no to him.

ED: No, Adlai Stevenson couldn't make up his mind. He was very indecisive on his bid. He wouldn't tell anybody. Dick went to him and said, "Are you going to be a candidate?"

MD: He went up to the farm. I remember it.

ED: He asked, "Are you going to be a candidate?"

MD: And he told him that he'd never do it again. Remember? He said, "I ran twice. I'd never go through it again. Then dad supported Kennedy, only after that. I remember that.

ED: He was very close to Mrs. Roosevelt. If they needed help, they wouldn't ask for it (MD laughs) But Dick was as every bit as honest as they were.

RVR: And where Adlai was indecisive, your husband was very decisive.

ED: It was yes or no, immediately.

MD: My dad used to say, "Adlai would study the problem forever until the problem went away." But he loved him.

ED: But they went on to Washington. And Adlai did not say that he was his candidate. But he was working with Mrs. Roosevelt. She was his tutor.

MD: Mrs. Roosevelt was the main one. I'll tell you a cute story. I remember when we went to the 1960 convention.

RVR: Oh you did?

MD: That was with all of my brothers and sisters. Pat was still in the convent. When we were out there, Mrs. Roosevelt called my father. She wanted to see him because they said that he wouldn't give the banner of Illinois for Stevenson's demonstration. Do you remember this, mom?

ED: Yes.

MD: So we went over. My dad took us with him to see Mrs. Roosevelt. He said, "Well, he's from Illinois. He can carry the banner. He's the former governor." They wanted Illinois to name Stevenson as the favorite son. That was like, going to create a stampede.

ED: But he would not say he was the candidate.

MD: He wouldn't announce publicly. He wanted to be drafted. And dad would say, "If you don't want it, why are we going to force you? So, you go for it." But I remember the story. And it was typical of dad's openness and what his opinion was. He went in with Mrs. Roosevelt. He introduced us when she went in. He had his long meeting. And when he came out, we were standing there. She said to him, "Mr. mayor, your opinions remind me a lot of my sons." And my father turned around and said, "Maybe you should listen to your sons (MD, ED, and RVR laugh)." She didn't like him saying that (laughs)! And the sons were supporting Kennedy. She was trying to stop them. She wanted a stampede. Maybe she didn't like the Kennedy's (laughs). I don't know.

ED: Oh no. It was the thing that they didn't want any part of politicians, or any man elected to an office of politics. Whether he wants it or not, he's a politician.

RVR: Absolutely. And you husband always said that good politics...

MD: Good government is good politics.

RVR: Right. And it's true.

MD: And good politics is good government. That was his motto for most of his campaign.

ED: But that's true, though. Every man elected is a politician.

RVR: But to stand up to Eleanor Roosevelt, who has this presence, and she is...

ED: But the whole delegation from Illinois, when Adlai, she nominated him. Didn't she?

MD: No, they didn't nominate him in 1960. He backed off. She wanted a draft.

ED: Well, he marched around.

MD: I don't think that he would've ran, mom. He thought that they were trying to negotiate to stop Kennedy, to nominate Johnson or somebody else. So they wanted this vote for Adlai because they knew that dad was working with Governor Lawrence of Pennsylvania and DiSalle of Ohio. All of the Midwestern people and the eastern people, other than the shore line, dad had worked with. He probably wouldn't have ran, dad said.

ED: I don't know. But I do know that when they got up and marched around, everybody from the whole delegation marched.

MD: We were on the floor. It was great.

ED: Dick got up and marched with them.

MD: I remember that Stevenson came in and he walked through the floor of the convention hall. And that's when the demonstration was there. That's when Mrs. Roosevelt got up to speak to the convention. She got up to speak and he started coming in. She stopped her speech. It was trying to create a stampede. Remember? That's when that demonstration took place. Then he came and sat in the Illinois delegation. We were in the back part. We had passes to get in.

RVR: But your husband could look Eleanor right in the eye and say, "No. I won't support him." Well, what he said was, "He told me that he is not a candidate. So I've gone ahead and supported...."

ED: That was not only once but several times.

MD: There was one thing you never did with dad. You never went back on your word, never. If you gave your word, you lived up to it. Dad was a great friend of Adlai's. We used to go to the baseball games a lot with him. We'd go to the hockey games.

RVR: You did?

MD: Oh yes, with the governor. They were good friends. Mom, you were good friends with him.

ED: He took them when he was governor. He was running for governor. Dick took them to the Sox show, which was a national event, before Thanksgiving every year. The 4-H Clubs and all of them would come here. And everyone would go. We never missed it. We went every year.

MD: But didn't dad fly with the Stevenson boys to pick up his body in Europe and bring it

back? He went over with the boys. The president sent a plane. Dad flew over with Adlai, Borden, and the family. They flew over to bring the body back. You and dad bumped into him in Europe. You were in Rome or someplace. That was the last time you saw him. I remember you telling us. He was in the airport. He was the U.N. Delegate at that time. Were you coming home from Rome?

ED: I think we were coming home and he was just coming in. But he stopped for a few minutes.

RVR: But you said that you never lied to Richard J. Daley? How about his children? Surely his children must have lied to him at times. What did he do when he caught them in a lie? Maybe I should ask him (laughs).

ED: (Laughs) Ask him.

MD: We used to say that we never lied. We stretched the truth (laughs).

ED: I think that they were very truthful, maybe sometimes, I don't know. But they were very truthful.

RVR: If he caught politicians in a lie, that was the end of them, as far as he was concerned.

MD: He'd be hurt and disappointed.

ED: He'd feel as though he couldn't trust them.

MD: Well, I think he'd trust you because you were young, maybe. Or you were in grammar school or high school. If you were an adult and did that, you were never trusted. He was so strong on his word and his commitment to his word. And he didn't give his word out frivolously without studying and doing his homework. But once you did, that was it. That was important to him.

RVR: Do you know what it sounds like? He had, I don't want to say psychological insights into people. But, I guess that's what I am saying. He could size people up pretty well and know what he had.

ED: Yes I think he did.

MD: You're right (laughs), in five minutes.

RVR: Is that right? There are some people like that.

MD: Okay mom, I think we should quit and do this next week. We have to pick a day next week.

ED: I can go a little longer.

MD: I think that your voice is going to get hurt mom, or hoarse. It's two hours.

(There is a short break in the interview)

MD: You dealt with all of departments. When he was in Springfield, it gave him his greatest experience, he said.

ED: Well he had a lot of experience. When he came back after the revenue....,

MD: But it was how government worked in Springfield. He always said that. He said that it was the best training ground, the legislature. This was because you had the whole broad spectrum of government, statewide.

ED: Yes, you had the whole state, and then the county. Then he came and he was Comptroller of Cook County. So he had great financial experience there.

RVR: And that was another thing. He always maintained control of the finances of this city. He had his eye on that and on the patronage as well. Those were two of the most important powers that he had.

ED: To men and women, he would always say to them, "Now do a good honest job." But he would always inquire, as the years went by, as to how they were doing.

ED and RVR: He'd check up on them.

ED: He always checked up on everybody to find out what was going on. And he'd hear from different people.

MD: And this was a great asset of dad's. He was always proud to help them move on, whether it was a federal job or a state job. He didn't try to stop people or limit people. If they had an opportunity, he would help them, whether it was private business or government. Then the next generation would come up. So as a result, he had a lot of young people that worked for him.

RVR: Did he have people that reported to him as to what was going on, so that he'd know if there was anything wrong that was taking place?

MD: I think that he'd hear things.

RVR: But he didn't have people placed strategically to inform him?

ED and MD: No.

MD: There were people that were loyal to him and friends of his. They made sure that he was going to succeed. They knew that he was honest and working hard. You can't control everybody.

RVR: No.

MD: Dad had a great story. I'll say this and this will be the end. Remember how he used to say when someone would attack him. He'd always say, "Well, the Lord picked twelve. One

sold him and one denied him. And if he couldn't pick them, who could?" (ED, MD, and RVR laugh) That was one of his classic jokes. Right? Remember that mom? I think we should stop.

RVR: Right, we're done.

*****END OF INTERVIEW*****