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Interview with Eleanor Daley, Session Five  
5 February 2003

Location: Home of Eleanor Daley, 35th St. & Lowe, Chicago, IL. Present: Eleanor Daley, Michael Daley, and Dr. Robert V. Remini

[The Interview has already begun.

RVR shows newspaper photograph of Richard J. Daley]

Dr. Robert V. Remini: He's comparing the budget of New York. That's the size of the New York budget. And this is the size of the Chicago budget.

Eleanor Daley: That's quite a comparison.

RVR: They that it made no sense for a city the size of Chicago to be that much smaller than New York, even. New York, of course, is larger, but not by much. But he's a young man there. At first I didn't recognize him.

ED: He was born in 1902. That was 1955.

RVR: 1955?

ED: Yes. So he'd be fifty-three years of age.

RVR: Yes, that's right. He was a handsome devil, still [ED and RVR laugh].

ED: Yes. He was a very kind man.

RVR: I'm here with Mrs. Daley. Now this is Time Magazine comparing the mayors of all of those cities.

ED: Oh, I haven't seen this one.

RVR: It's very favorable to your husband. The other state cities were going bankrupt, but not Chicago.

ED: There's Bob Wagner.

RVR: It has the story.

ED: Well, they did a big picture. He had the front page of the Time one time.

RVR: Yes they did.

ED: And it was a very good article. I have it.

RVR: You have that?

ED: Yes.

RVR: We're looking for all kinds of articles on him.

ED: Yes I have it. And that's a good article.

RVR: Yes, it has pictures.

ED: I'll get that for you. I'll have it out. They were all favorable to him.

RVR: He was very popular.

ED: He was very knowledgeable about finances. He was the Comptroller of Cook County before.

RVR: Yes of course, and he learned it.

ED: Then he was Director of Revenue for the State of Illinois, under Adlai Stevenson.

RVR: And that's how he gained the knowledge?

ED: Yes. I remember that he called in all of the bankers, or many of them rather. Then he explained the finances of the city. They questioned him on the finances. They were just amazed at his knowledge of the finances.

RVR: I know. I'm amazed, as I'm amazed at your memory of all of these things [laughs].

Michael Daley: Do you want sugar or cream, doctor?

RVR: Yes, please. That was a very favorable article in Time Magazine.

ED: We have the one that was a full page. It was very favorable to him.

RVR: They compared him to mayors of other cities that were all going bankrupt [laughs]. So, if you'd like to keep it, that would be fine.

ED: Well, he kept his eye on the city finances.

RVR : Here, I'm going to give you the transcripts from last time.

ED: Oh, thank you.

RVR: Here is the tape of that interview.

ED: That was when he first became mayor, in 1955.

MD: Is this a copy for mom?

RVR: She can have that, yes.

ED: I have one, I think.

RVR: And here's the tape.

ED: He's collecting those.

RVR: Well, we're finally organized [MD and RVR laugh]. We're back here at Mrs. Daley's house, with her son Michael, on February 5, 2003. I would like to begin, Mrs. Daley, with a story that you were telling me last time after we had turned off the computer and I was on my way out. It was about the time you met the Pope. He came to this city.

ED: Yes he did.

RVR: Could you tell me that story again?

ED: Well, he came. And it was the first Polish pope. I think we have the largest settlement of Polish people in the City of Chicago than any other place in the country. That's right in this area, too. They're all fine people. So the Pope celebrated his first mass just about two miles from here at....

ED and MD: It was Five Holy Martyrs church.

MD: It's south of here.

RVR: And this is John Paul II you're talking about?

ED: It was John Paul II.

MD: I remember that they had the mass in the parking lot. I was with her [laughs].

RVR: Oh, you were there, too?

ED: Yes, it was Michael, Rich, Eleanor, and Mary. The pastor over there called and wanted to know if we'd come over there when he was celebrating the mass.

MD: That was Bishop [inaudible]. He was the pastor there for many years.

RVR: I remember him.

ED: So I said yes. It was nice for me to go. They were having the big celebration, the mass, at Soldier Field that evening. But it would be so crowded. So I thought it was best that I go right over here. It was right in the neighborhood. So I went over there. And the boys and girls came with me. When it came time for Holy Communion, a young priest came over. He said to me, "Instead of going back to your seat, stand right here at the entrance. The Pope would like to meet you in the rectory." So then he escorted me back there. He was a very friendly man. He remembered the last time he spoke to the mayor, which was the first part of November. They had the dedication of Resurrection Hospital. They had a Polish order of

nuns that were in charge of the hospital. They invited him. So he came for the dedication at the new hospital they had built.

MD: He was still the cardinal.

RVR: Oh, he was still the cardinal? He wasn't the Pope yet?

MD: No. The dedication...

ED: Oh no, he was the Pope.

MD: He was when you saw him at Five Holy Martyrs. But when he came for that hospital, he was a cardinal.

ED: Oh, that was when he came to Chicago, for the dedication?

RVR: Oh, he came before this?

MD: Yes.

ED: Yes. He came just about a month before. He celebrated mass over there. Dick went over to meet him. Dick said to him, "The Pope should travel more and get out to meet the people." He said, "I agree with you. I'll tell him to travel a little bit more." The next time I met him in the rectory. He said, "Little did I know that I was going to be the cardinal. I'm going to travel and meet the people of the world.

RVR: He took your husband's advice.

MD: Yes.

ED: And he did.

RVR: Did he ever!

ED: He certainly did travel a lot during his term of office. He was a very friendly man. He was very kind. He gave me a beautiful rosary. There were two young firemen there from Chicago. So I introduced them. He gave each of them a rosary. There was a beautiful picture taken of this young man. A short time later, he died. I gave his mother the picture of him with the pope. She was thrilled.

RVR: I can imagine. Now, your husband was still alive at this time?

MD: No, he died.

ED: No, he died right before the pope came here.

MD: The picture is my dad and the Cardinal Pope.

RVR: He was alive when the future Pope came as Cardinal?

ED and MD: Yes.

RVR: I see. I thought I'd ask you about your reminiscences of other notable people. How about Cardinal Stritch, did you know him much?

ED: He was a very kind man. He was an elderly man. He was way up in years. Everyone loved him. He was sort of grandfather image. He was a very kind man. He traveled a lot as a younger man. Even when he got up in years, I think he traveled a little.

RVR: Did your husband have much to do with him?

ED: No, not much. He said that wasn't his place [laughs]. He used to meet with occasionally, though. He would be invited to the rectory. They'd sit for a couple of hours and talk, probably stuff about the city. He was on very good terms with all of them.

RVR: Yes. Did your husband ever ask him for any help on any project that he felt the Cardinal's influence would be?

ED: Yes, I think he was in touch with him. There was the time when the federal, state, county, and city governments were building the Dan Ryan and the Kennedy Expressways. So he had to meet with them because they had to move quite a few churches because they were in the way.

RVR: Oh yes. They had to tear them down.

ED: He came against opposition with a few of them, though. You know, they didn't want to move the churches.

RVR: No, I can imagine.

ED: They were there for years, but they were old. They were very cooperative. He was always on friendly terms with the Cardinal.

RVR: How about with housing, when they wanted to build houses for the poor? Your husband wanted to get rid of the ghetto as much as possible. Public housing, then, became a big issue.

ED: Yes. Well, they were all in favor of that, I think. In fact, the very first housing project built by the federal government was built right here in the neighborhood. It's at Thirty-ninth and Halsted. It's no comparison to the ones that are built today.

ED and RVR: The high rises.

RVR: These were low rise.

ED: Yes, they were low rise. Then the second one they built over here at Thirty-first Street. Miss Woods was in charge of the housing projects. Martin Kennelly was the mayor at the time when they built the first housing projects.

MD: The issue that my dad had, he went to Washington all of the time, was that the U.S. Congress was controlled by southerners, the chairman of all the committees. The difficulty for northern cities was that they gave such a low dollar land clearance under the subsidies from the federal government. Then, in an urban area, you couldn't clear large tracts of land like they could afford to in the south. If you go in the south, all of their housing projects or public housing are very land rich. They're low rise with big lawns in between. Well, the land money given to purchase or clear the land was based on southern values of land. That's why all in the north, you had high rises go up. And he fought against it for years with Everett Dirksen, Johnson, and other leaders to get it changed. But at that time, there was a great migration to the north. And the southern elected officials were very much in favor of that migration to reduce the voter population in the south. Remember, we used to take the train? It was the Capital B & O Limited to Washington, D.C. overnight with him. He would testify, trying to get the subsidy for land clearance and land purchase. It's different in the north and the south because our land is so much more expensive.

RVR: Of course. I don't think I've seen that written anyplace. They've always accused your father of building the high rises in order to concentrate the black votes in an area.

MD: You could never build a number of units if you built low-rise units because you couldn't get the land.

ED: We didn't have the land.

MD: It was the land clearance.

ED: We don't have the space at all.

MD: There are a lot of different books that have been written about the housing issue. The reality is that all of the sociologists and university people said, "This is better than what was there." My dad always envisioned public housing as a transition step, never of a permanent nature. It was just to help someone in hard time to move onto something better. He always felt that the bureaucrats created the permanency of it to stay alive.

RVR: Really? Would you explain that for me?

MD: Well, he just felt that they created a situation where they tolerated things that should have been stopped right away. And if they were punished for what they did, then it would have made for better housing and it would stay transitional. But it became permanent. You've got third and fourth generation now in permanent housing. It's always the negative of housing. But for every person, there's probably fifty others that went through public housing and it helped them in that transition period. They've made a better life. They're out there working, paying taxes, and raising families. No one has ever written about the majority of people that left public housing, not the superstar. We've got the lowest number of public housing units than we've ever had. Where did all of the other people go? They were helped by it. Public housing has had such a negative opinion. But it's sure helped a lot of people that would have died in back alley fires and all wooden buildings.

RVR: I think that this is very important to say it and to get it on the record.

MD: My dad wasn't ashamed of public housing. But he felt that it should be what it is, which is transitional. It wasn't to create a permanence residence concept for public housing.

RVR: Do you really feel that he cared a great deal for African Americans, people that were really poor, and had no education?

ED: Oh yes, he was very good to them. He helped them. If there were any positions open, he would always say to some man, "Now this is a great step forward for you. This is a good job. This is a step up the ladder for you. Take good care of it. But keep in mind, first things first. Make sure you take your children and educate them. That should be first in your mind, the education of your children. That's so they can better themselves." Those were the last words he would say to them, or the first words.

RVR: And it's still true.

ED: It's true.

MD: What he used to say is, "An education is the only thing someone can't steal from you [laughs]."

RVR: Is that what he said?

MD: They can't steal it from you. Right? Or did Mike say that, Big Mike?

ED: Big Mike said that.

MD: It was Big Mike. The only thing someone can't steal from you is your education.

RVR: And that's a theme in the Daley Family.

ED: He would emphasize that to the man he was giving a job to. "I'm giving it to you. Make sure you educate every one of your children."

RVR: No wonder he said that the University of Illinois at Chicago was his greatest contribution to Chicago.

ED: He was very emphatic on education. He went to school for seven years at night. He went to three years of college.

MD: He went to four years of college and three years to law school.

RVR: Let me stir your memories about other great men and women.

ED: Yes.

RVR: John F. Kennedy, when did you first meet him? What did you think of him?

ED: I thought he was the most likeable young man you could meet. He was so friendly.



You'd think you knew him all of your life the first time you'd meet him. He was quick at making your acquaintance. He was very down-to-earth. He'd be like another member of the family. He was very much at home no matter where you would meet him. I think he was a very wonderful and a very smart young man.

RVR: When did you...?

ED: We met him... [pauses a moment to think]

RVR: Was it before 1960, when he was elected?

ED: Oh yes. I met him in 1956 when he ran for vice president. He was at the convention here at the stockyards.

RVR: Did you go to the convention?

ED: Yes. I attended all of the meetings.

RVR: You did?

ED: Yes, I did.

MD: [Laughs] She used to take us.

ED: I did. Dick took the boys when they were old enough. If there were any good speakers or any interesting people coming to the city, he would take them.

RVR: It was part of their education.

ED: They'd sit down and listen to him. He'd instruct them all about who they were and what they'd accomplished.

MD: But we had to go for the debates, not the speeches. We had to be there all day. We had to listen to all of the speakers on the minority report and the majority report. He always insisted, "You're not coming for the show [MD and RVR laugh]." We used to go when each delegation caucused to decide if they were going to endorse, at different hotels. We used to go with her. My dad didn't go. We would go to the different caucuses, those that were public. Some of them were closed. But in 1960, we were racing from hotel to hotel. We were all out at the convention. What was the first convention you went to, mom?

ED: 1956 was the first one I went to.

MD: Did you go to any before with dad?

ED: No. He was a younger man. I remember that he was at 1948. I think Truman was there too, and Roosevelt.

MD: That was Philadelphia.

ED: And Roosevelt was up here in the Amphitheater.

RVR: Right. Did you ever meet Truman.

ED: Yes, I did meet Truman. I didn't meet Roosevelt.

RVR: No, of course not, but you did meet Truman.

ED: I met Truman. He came to the city one afternoon for some reason. Dick invited him to the yacht club for dinner. They had the big guns out for twenty-two.

MD: Oh, it was a twenty-one gun salute?

ED: Yes, it was a twenty-one gun salute [RVR laughs]. I can remember it.

RVR: Well, what did you think of Mr. Truman?

ED: I thought he was a very interesting man. He'd go into details when he'd be talking to Dick on every subject. He'd go so far back into details and explain things to him about what took place at the different meetings, wherever he was. But I thought that he was a great man.

RVR: Did you meet his wife?

ED: No, I didn't meet his wife. I met President Eisenhower and Mamie Eisenhower. I met Henry Ford and his wife.

RVR: I want to ask you about all of these men [laughs] !

MD: Mom, dad really knew President Kennedy's father. Isn't that who he knew?

ED: Well, when dad was running for office, he got in touch with Dick and talked to him. Yes, he met him, I think.

MD: Dad actually knew the ambassador.

RVR: Right, that was Joseph, the father.

ED: Dick said that he'd do everything that he possibly could.

RVR: Did he like Joseph Kennedy?

ED: Oh, he liked President Kennedy.

RVR: No, not President Kennedy, I mean his father Joseph.

ED: Oh, his father.

RVR: He was very controversial, too. What did he think of him?

ED: Well, Dick met him when he came up to Chicago to the Merchandise Mart, before the convention. And Eunice lived here, you know.

RVR: Yes, she lived here with her husband, Shriver.

ED: It was Shriver. She married him while she was living here. She came here. They had a daughter that was a little slow, I think. It was one of the older girls.

RVR: I don't know who she was.

MD: Her sister was in the hospital, Kathy.

RVR: Oh yes, Rosemary was her name.

MD: It was Rosemary, the older one. That's why Eunice was there, to keep an eye on her.

RVR: I see.

ED: I don't know what order of nuns was at the home up there. So they brought her here.

RVR: They operated on her. It was a lobotomy.

ED: Oh did they?

RVR: They made it worse. They were trying to do the right thing.

MD: Eunice used to go up there all of the time to see her. Then she came here and stayed at Eunice's house.

ED: That's when she lived in Chicago. It was right at the time when they formed the committee. He was thinking of running for president. So Eunice came here with her sister. They were closer in age, I think. Eunice lived downtown, right near the Drake, down that street. She used to visit her sister all of the time. Then Shriver came and worked for Merchandise Mart. They eventually married.

RVR: Was your husband involved with this committee that was forming to elect John Kennedy?

ED: No, but he was invited to many of their events, if they had someone interesting coming. He would meet with them.

RVR: He favored his nomination and election.

ED: They were all capable by then. He had them around him.

RVR: We talked a little bit before how Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt tried to get your husband to

switch from Kennedy to Adlai Stevenson and how your husband refused. It was because Adlai Stevenson had told him previously that....

ED: Well, Adlai Stevenson, at the time, couldn't make up his mind whether he was going to run or not [RVR laughs]. That was why, at the night of the convention, Dick kept asking him if he was going to be a candidate. They would endorse him. He was from Illinois. He wouldn't give a definite answer. Mrs. Roosevelt was up in the balcony. So she introduced him as a candidate. But with all of the Illinois, Dick made them all get in line and they marched all around. It was at the Amphitheater.

MD: But long before mom, when dad went up to the farm, Stevenson told dad that after 1952 and 1956, he'd never go through it again, never. He'd never put his family through it again. So then dad worked for Kennedy. But dad felt, that with Mrs. Roosevelt, they were going to nominate Stevenson. But he led all of the hype and everything and that would slow down Kennedy. They tried to negotiate someone else. Stevenson would never take it. Dad said that was a stop on the Kennedy movement. It wasn't, and dad felt that. He felt that he was being used. He wouldn't turn on and walk away from Mrs. Roosevelt.

RVR: Right. But don't you think that he always preferred to have Kennedy as the candidate? If Adlai had said "Yes, I'm going to be a candidate." Would that have ended it with you father?

MD: I think he would have felt that Adlai's time had passed. Adlai had tried twice.

RVR: He had.

MD: When Kennedy was the president, a lot of things that Stevenson predicted in 1952 and 1956 took place. He was just ahead of his time.

ED: He was a very smart man.

RVR: Oh yes, he was very articulate.

MD: It was more a stop movement. But dad was, "If you want to argue it up front, let's do it. But don't play the game of stopping me." And they had no other candidate. There was no other candidate. Humphrey [laughs]?

RVR: After Kennedy's nomination, what did your husband do to help him win Illinois? Was there anything that you can remember specifically in the campaign?

ED: No. There was just getting up at the big political meetings and asking the voters to vote for this young man. Everyone loved him, though. I don't think that there was anyone against him, especially the younger people. They all voted.

RVR: Now, the night of the election...

MD: Let me just ask one question. Mom, when Kennedy was running, a lot of people wanted dad to run for governor, didn't they?

ED: Yes.

RVR: Oh, tell us about that.

MD: Didn't he say, "You couldn't do that with Kennedy running?"

ED: No, you couldn't.

MD: He decided not to run. But he was thinking of it.

RVR: Why couldn't he have?

MD: It was because there would be a Catholic governor and a Catholic president. And he was concerned about that issue in a state like Illinois. He was concerned about it.

RVR: So you think that he might have run?

MD: Do you think he would have run?

ED: I think at that time, he was the mayor for a couple of terms.

RVR: Yes, he had been.

ED: So if he wanted to step out and step ahead, it was time for him to do it.

RVR: I always felt that Chicago was his great ambition. He achieved it. He really was not ambitious for higher office. Is that wrong?

MD: But I think he knew the powers that the governor had over the cities and the state. And he knew how hard he had to fight for things for Chicago. And some other mayors didn't have that fight in them.

ED: I think he loved the city so much, and it had such a terrible name, that he was determined that he was going to clean up that name. And by God, it all erased. At the last convention, Rich and all of the boys worked hard. They knew the way that Dick loved the city. He wanted to clean up the city and get honest people. There were a lot of good honest people working for the city at the time.

RVR: On the night of the election, it is said that your husband withheld the vote count in Chicago.

ED: He what?

RVR: He withheld giving the numbers.

ED: Oh no. I don't think he ever withheld anything.

RVR: You don't think so?

ED: We used to go down on election night. We'd go into a private room up there and we'd have dinner. I'd bring down all of the kids.

RVR: This was at the Bismarck?

MD: Well, it was the Bismarck. First, it was the Morris Hotel, then the LaSalle Hotel, then the Sherman, then the Bismarck.

RVR: Oh, I see [MD and RVR laugh]. It was one of those.

MD: They used to say that the Democratic Party was a bad tenant. They tore down the Morris. They tore down the Sherman. They tore down the LaSalle [MD and RVR laugh]. Remember when he moved? Arthur Ward said, "You're not a good tenant [MD and RVR laugh]." That's a bad sign! They tore every hotel down.

ED: They needed to be torn down.

RVR: They needed to be, right [laughs].

MD: Do you remember the torchlight parade? We have the original videotape.

RVR: Oh you do? And you're going to give it to the university?

MD: We're getting everything together. Progress is coming [RVR laughs], slowly but surely. We're now designating things [laughs].

ED: At the last convention, there was a reporter or an executive, I don't recall his name. They were looking for it. But they never kept copies of the parade or the convention, NBC. Dick said "Oh, my mother has a copy of it." And the fellow said, "Do you think she'd let me have it and borrow it for a while?" He said, "I think so. I promise I'll get it back to her." And then he made of a tape of it for me. So I have the tape.

MD: She's got the tape and the original.

RVR: Were you with your husband at the hotel on election night?

ED: Yes. But I never stayed until the end.

RVR: You didn't stay all night long.

ED: Yes. I never did it.

MD: You went home [laughs].

ED: I came home. I came with the little ones.

RVR: How about the boys?

MD: We stayed.

RVR: You stayed?

ED: They were older, yes.

MD: I have it from when it came over the teletype-"Kennedy won." I ripped it off and saved it. It has the time on it and when they declared Kennedy the victor. I stayed mostly all night. But the last precincts reported were all down state.

RVR: They were?

MD: You go back to the analysis of the election. I'll have to find it. Dad had a committee appointed that wrote a paper on the 1960 election. The number one thing was all of the screaming and the accusations. Dad offered and challenged to do a statewide count. Do you remember mom? It would be a statewide count where the Democratic Party would pay half of the cost and the Republican Party would pay the other half. And the Republicans refused. They wanted to count only in Chicago, not in suburban Chicago, and not downstate. He challenged them and that stood. Nixon vetoed it. He wouldn't do it.

RVR: I know. Nixon refused.

MD: He refused to do it. He knew that if they did it in Illinois, they'd have to do it in other states. But dad had no worries about that. Do you remember, mom? They challenged them.

RVR: There were some that said Nixon really won Illinois and won the election. But that's not true.

MD: Not if you go through the numbers.

ED: Not according to the vote.

RVR: And as far as you know, he withheld no votes at all?

MD: The reporting of the votes goes to the county election board and then to the city. They would call him and tell him. But you can see that it comes in. And then it's disclosed downtown. The press said it right there. I never understood how that argument held water. At an election, you have to be holding one hundred thousand to two hundred thousand votes [laughs].

RVR: You see, now you're correcting the record. And that needs to be done. So he won. And did your husband call him when they knew of his election?

MD: The president called dad.

ED: The president called.

RVR: And what did he say?

ED: Well, they were keeping in touch.

MD: All night.

RVR: They were in touch all night?

ED: Whenever the votes would go up or down, they would let one another know. I have no doubt that....

MD: Dad was sort of like coordinating with Governor Lawrence. There were certain states that he coordinated. And he was sort of letting the president know. Was his name Smith, the brother-in-law? He was the numbers guy.

ED: Yes.

MD: That's who he talked to most of the time.

ED: It was Smith.

MD: It was him and the president.

ED: It was the youngest one, Gene Smith.

MD: He sort of had the mayors in certain states. That's what he did. He had big city states and union states.

ED: But I don't think that there was any doubt in anyone's mind. I mean, all day long it was...

RVR: Oh, I remember it. I was driving to school. I was teaching at Fordham then. And we didn't know who was the president the next day. Then I finally got there and they announced it [laughs]. It was exciting!

MD: It was an exciting day.

RVR: It was very exciting.

ED: They were positive. There was no cheating at all. Everything was out in the open.

RVR: I presume the president called to thank your husband for all of his efforts.

ED: Oh, he did. He called him and said that he was very grateful.

RVR: Did he, at that time, ask your husband, if there was anything that he could do to show his appreciation?

ED: Oh yes, he wanted to give Dick a big job in Washington.

RVR: Oh did he?



ED: He offered him.

RVR: What did he offer him?

MD: Was it Secretary of Labor?

ED: I don't know. Lawrence was the governor and he offered him some job. But Dick said no. He hadn't finished his work in Chicago. He wanted to stay in Chicago and make it a beautiful city.

MD: Who took the job? It was the guy from Ohio, Disalle? Do you remember?

ED: DiSalle?

MD: DiSalle? He took the candidate position. He never liked it, remember?

ED: No, and so did Lawrence.

MD: He didn't like it.

ED: I could see why not, because they were the heads of their city. And they're the men in charge. When go to Washington to get a job, they're sitting behind a desk and they don't know what they'll be doing.

RVR: Do you remember what your husband did ask the president?

ED: I can remember him saying no, he didn't want it, because he had been in Springfield when the children were young. And he said that they need him more now.

RVR: Right. It's said that the only thing your husband asked was a tour of the White House for his family.

ED: What?

RVR: He wanted to see the White House and bring his family.

MD: Dad had been to the White House before that.

RVR: We had gone to Washington taking tours and taking tours of the White House, but not with the president [laughs].

ED: I used to go. I went several times.

RVR: But didn't you stay overnight at the White House?

ED: Yes.

RVR: That was before this?

MD: No.

ED: No, once he became president

RVR: And that's what they said, that he asked him.

MD: We didn't stay. Mom and dad stayed.

ED: No, he didn't say that, because we didn't know that we were going to stay. We didn't know that we were going to have that picture taken with the president until the night of the inauguration. In one of the pictures, Kennedy is in his seat with Mrs. Kennedy, his mother. His dad wasn't well. He left there. He went like this and he waved to Dick. He got up and came over. He invited Dick then, the night of the inauguration.

ED and MD: The ball.

ED: It was for him to come at nine o'clock in the morning. He wanted a family to visit him at the White House. So he said, "I wonder if you and your family would come?" So Dick said, "We'd be honored to." So then we all got up early and went right over. As we were waiting, President Truman was coming out. That was the first time he was back in the White House since he left office. He'd never gone back to visit.

RVR: Even in the eight years of Eisenhower?

ED: It was a big headline, remember? They asked Truman why. He said, "I was never invited [ED, MD, and RVR laugh]. It was a simple answer, "I was never invited [MD laughs]." But that was like mom said, because we were all at the inaugural ball. Dad said, "We're all going." So it was a surprise.

RVR: You went to the inaugural ball?

MD: Yes, we all went to the inaugural ball. They sat in the box.

RVR: Right. And you were in the gallery, so to speak?

ED: And then we found a spot.

MD: We were all further [MD and RVR laugh]!

ED: But they were there.

MD: We went to 1960, 1964, and 1972.

ED: They went to Atlantic City.

MD: Oh yes. We went to Kennedy's, Johnson's, Carter's, and Clinton's. There was someone else in there.

RVR: Not Reagan?

ED and MD: No.

MD: That was maybe it.

ED: Mrs. Reagan was from Chicago.

RVR: Yes, that's right!

ED: She went to school here. Her mother married a famous doctor.

RVR: Did you know her?

ED: No. Dick knew her. She was very friendly with Dick. She was a Republican. She would come in and praise the city.

MD: Mrs. Davis, Davis was her name? Was it Davies or Davis?

ED: Yes, Nancy Davis was her stage name when she was in the movies.

MD: That was her stepfather's name.

ED: That was her stepfather, right.

MD: It was Dr. Davis. He was a famous doctor.

ED: He was a neurosurgeon at Michael Reese Hospital.

MD: Is that where it was?

ED: Yes.

MD: Why don't you take a break, mom? Do you want to turn that off? You got hoarse last time.

[There is a short break in the interview]

ED: In the morning she'd run into mass with Dick. Then they'd go to the bakery. I said, "You're such a good customer that the baker was having trouble with his legs and had to retire." Mary was in college at the time. He wanted Mary to buy the bakery.

RVR: Your husband did?

ED: He said, "I'll give you a very good price, Mary." She said, "Oh no. I have to go back to school." She was in second or third year of college at St. Mary's.

RVR: Your husband went out early in the morning to get some. I turned it back on again because she kept reminiscing [laughs] about what your father did about going out to get pastries.

ED: We have that picture of the two of you carrying the rolls home. But he dropped them off at all of their homes.

MD: Coffee?

RVR: No, I'm fine. Thank you. Well, you must tell me of the night that you spent in the White House overnight.

ED: We went to the White House late in the afternoon. Dick had a nice visit with him. They would have the Lincoln Bedroom. It was right up at the top of the steps. They were huge beds and they were so high. They had little steps to them. I needed a ladder, I think [MD laughs].

RVR: Which bedroom did you stay in?

ED: It was the Lincoln.

RVR: You did stay in the Lincoln Bedroom?

ED: Yes.

RVR: It was one of many.

ED: Yes.

RVR: What did you think of Mrs. Kennedy?

ED: She was a lovely person.

RVR: Was she?

ED: Yes, she was a beautiful young girl and very gracious.

RVR: You have no reminiscences of her?

ED: Well, I didn't have much of a visit because Dick and the president were having a nice visit. We went to a dinner with them and then came home. We came back to the White House. They sat and talked. We went to bed. Then they got up early in the morning. Dick had breakfast. I think that somebody else was there and had breakfast with them at the White House.

RVR: In the dining room?

ED: Yes. They had their own quarters. He came up the steps to the elevator. Then they had the private quarters. It was very beautiful. But the White House is old. I think that they should build a new one.

RVR: I don't think that's going to happen [MD and RVR laugh]. Well, Truman gutted the

place and rebuilt it on the inside.

ED: Well, they need to rebuild it now.

RVR: Yes, they do.

ED: I was there last summer.

RVR: You were?

ED: It was the summer before, not last summer.

RVR: What was the occasion?

MD: It was when Billy left as Commerce Secretary. President Clinton hosted a party at the White House in the state dining room.

ED: It was for all of the people that were close to Bill.

MD: It was for all of the Washington people, when he took over the Gore Campaign, actually. That's when it was.

ED: He had a nice big reception for him. But we were all there and I came along. It was such a long walk that they got a wheel chair for me. So I came back.

RVR: Now it's practically two blocks away. You can't get anywhere near it.

ED: I think that it's a really old house. It needs repair.

RVR: It was built in 1800, in several years.

[End of side one]

MD: With Mrs. Kennedy mom, you went to a dinner and then came back?

ED: We went to the dinner and came back. Off of each bedroom would be a sitting room, about half of the size of this. They had a little couch and a couple of chairs. Then they'd sit and talk. He and Dick had a nice little visit there. But he was very, very friendly. And she was a lovely lady.

RVR: And you visited with Mrs. Kennedy?

ED: Yes.

RVR: You don't remember anything she said to you?

ED: We'll have to show you the little notes.

RVR: Yes. Did you go back many times while Kennedy was president, to the White House?

ED: I went back another time with him. But then, I didn't go back. Dick went back several times.

RVR: Do you remember what President Clinton said to you two summers ago? Did he speak to you?

ED: Oh, praised Billy. I said, "Oh, I knew that years ago [Ed and RVR laugh]." He told me how wonderful he was.

MD: Remember, Katherine Graham was there?

ED: Oh yes, Katherine Graham.

MD: Mom knew Katherine. They had a reunion over on the side [laughs].

RVR: You knew Katherine Graham?

ED: Oh yes. She was the head of the Washington Post.

MD: They knew each other from years ago.

ED: She praised Bill because he was such a fine young man. She said, "You raised good boys, to meet nice young men, no drinking or anything."

MD: I remember that he used to go to her house for dinner all of the time [laughs].

RVR: Who did?

ED and MD: Billy did.

MD: Oh yes. He knew her well. It was because of mom and dad's connection. They had a friendship.

RVR: Can you tell me something more about Mrs. Graham, that would be good for me for the record?

ED: Well, I thought that she was one of the nicest ladies I'd ever met in Washington. She was so intelligent. She spoke about all of the different people that she'd met and how interesting they were. But that was Bill 's night that night [MD laughs]. She praised him.

MD: Here's a cute story. Alan Greenspan came. He didn't go to many things.

ED: Who?

MD: Alan Greenspan. Remember, he was from the Federal Reserve? When he was there, the president was speaking and acknowledged people. He acknowledged Alan Greenspan and said that he hoped that this was an indication of his preference, meaning about Gore [RVR laughs]. I don't know if you've ever heard him speak, but he has a very billing voice.

Without a bat, a second going by, he said, "Excuse me Mr. President. My presence is an endorsement of the gentleman standing to your right." And that was Billy [ED, MD, and RVR laugh]! It was cute the way he did it. But with Billy spending a lot of time in Washington with the NAFTA issue and the Mondale election, he was there. It was a very impressive crowd. People took time out from government and all of the cabinets. There was Janet Reno. The whole cabinet was there. It was a great tribute

ED: It was a Saturday afternoon or a Sunday afternoon, I think.

MD: That was the last time we were there.

ED: I think so. But they had the highest praise for Bill.

RVR: So you've been right up with national politics for many years.

ED: Yes. I went to the White House. We had been to a dinner. I went back and stayed overnight and had a visit with President and Mrs. Carter. He was a real down to earth fellow. He dressed very casually at home. He wore a nice sport shirt and jeans.

RVR: He was not in a suit?

ED: No. The rest of them all did. Johnson was a lovely man.

RVR: Was he really?

ED: There was a home. He had two daughters. When they moved in on the third floor, he took over one big wing of it. He made it like a big ice cream parlor for the young girls. He had the big counter around and the ice cream stand and everything. He said he never realized how much ice cream they all had. Every night they'd have a big soda. He said that during the day they'd all be walking around with the ice cream cones [RVR laughs]. These were young girls. One girl was in grade school and I think that the other girl was in high school. They'd have their friends to come back. He wanted it to be a place to bring all of their young friends. They'd bring the girls. They'd have their little gatherings up there.

RVR: You went up to see it, too? You saw it yourself?

ED: Oh yes.

RVR: He wanted to show it to you.

ED: It was nice to see. He said, "It's a family home." It really was.

MD: Mom, it was actually on the roof. It was a glass room. We got a chance to go up and see it. You can go out. Remember, it had those doors that go out on the roof. They had a little barbecue up on the roof with some chairs. It was not on the balcony, but up on the roof. So you had privacy.

RVR: Oh yes, nobody can see you.

MD: No one could see you. Now, I don't know if they let you. We went out on the roof one time walking [laughs].

RVR: You did go, too?

MD: Yes.

ED: The kids stayed there one night.

MD: We stayed there with the Johnson's.

ED: Was that under Johnson?

MD: Yes, that was under Johnson. There was Ellie, Rich, John, Bill, and myself.

RVR: And you stayed overnight?

ED and MD: Yes.

RVR: Oh, so the children did!

MD: We stayed in the third floor guest bedrooms, where they have the other state bedrooms. But we went out and walked all the way around on the roof of the White House. There was no security up there in those days. Today there is.

RVR: There is today, sharp shooters.

MD: You probably can't go out there. But when we got downstairs and we were leaving, outside the security guard turned to us and said, "Did you like your walk [laughs]?" They were watching.

ED: I thought that Mrs. Johnson was a lovely lady and very gracious.

MD: They were more of your age. Weren't they, mom?

ED: Yes she was.

RVR: Boy, she had a hard life, living with Lyndon. I can imagine. But you liked her?

ED: I liked her very much. I think that with all of the ladies, it's a challenge for them. But they're natural. And she enjoyed it. She stayed at the White House a lot because of the two girls. They went to school right there in Washington. They could go back and forth. As I say, it was more of a home under Johnson than any others.

RVR: It was more than any others that you saw?

ED: Well, the Kennedy's had their little children. They used to play out in the yard once in a while.



RVR: They lived on the second floor with the family. Well, they were very small.

ED: Yes. They were young.

RVR: The Johnson girls were young.

ED: But the other girls would bring their little friends in. He was always around. Johnson would always be natural with the young girls. He knew them all by name. He'd call them by name. They all loved him very much. So I think it was a good family home at the time.

MD: It was a hard time after the assassination. It was very hard because the security all changed. The girls couldn't go out. They couldn't leave. There was a period of time where, not only just with bodyguards, they couldn't go out.

RVR: Really?

MD: No, it was very hard.

RVR: Sure. You never knew. There were crazies.

MD: Well, they didn't know if it was foreign. They had all of this investigation. It was really hard for them after that.

ED: I think it was hard for the children when the Ford family lived there. They were young men and women. It was hard to confine them. They wanted to go out all of the time. But I think that one of the girls married a secret serviceman. So did Johnson's daughter. She married...

MD and RVR: [inaudible]

ED: It was Rob.

MD and RVR: He was a senator.

ED: He became a senator.

MD: We want to take a break mom, to let you just rest [RVR laughs]. So you've got to stop it for a minute.

RVR: Okay, I'll stop it.

MD: Rest your throat.

[There is a pause in the interview]

RVR: Now we can continue. That was a wonderful tool. I'm glad that we have those pictures.

ED: Those are terrible pictures. You can't see the best of them.

RVR: That's what we deal with in archives, the mess [laughs].

MD: They love messes.

RVR: The people leave. You find all kinds of wonderful things that you don't remember that you had. The number of pictures and frames, that's extraordinary, and not only the ones on the wall. And there's those that are stacked up on the table as well. And you have pictures here, of course.

MD: I'll show you this. This is my father and grandfather.

RVR: Oh, that's your father and grandfather, yes.

ED: He cut his arm.

RVR: What was that, 1925 or so?

MD: Look at the hat on Big Mike. Big Mike was my grandfather.

RVR: Yes.

ED: He was a little bit of a man.

RVR: He looked little [laughs]. That was Big Mike.

ED: He said that he couldn't wait until he had the grandchildren. So to distinguish between the two, he'd say Big Mike and Little Mike.

RVR: This is from grade school?

MD: That was in grade school.

RVR: He looks serious [laughs].

MD: That would be grade school mom, because he has the flags. It looks like grade school.

ED: That's grade school.

MD: There's the button up shoes.

RVR: That would be about 1914, 1916, 1918, or so.

ED: It would have to be because he was born in World War II.

MD: I mean, a lot has changed since dad passed away, in terms of making of the office.

RVR: Sure.

MD: I think that John has the leather chairs too, mom. They used to be downstairs.

RVR: Is that where the leather chairs were?

MD: That was my dad's office downstairs.

RVR: And your brother Rich has...

MD and RVR: He has the desk.

ED: Maybe Rich has the chair down there.

MD: Yes he does. You gave Rich the chair when he became State's Attorney, the green chair. Rich has that. Billy has that rocker. Do you remember it?

ED: Oh yes, it's the John Kennedy rocker.

RVR: That was Kennedy's rocker?

ED: No. They called it a John Kennedy.

MD: He had it in his office downstairs. That's with Billy. He has it somewhere, mom.

RVR: Locate these things [MD and RVR laugh].

ED: I doubt that he ever gets the chance. He never sets things up.

RVR: Does your daughter Patricia have anything of your father's?

MD: No. She throws everything out [laughs].

ED: Does she what?

MD: Pat throws everything out. She was like Ellie. She doesn't save stuff.

ED: Ellie wouldn't save it.

RVR: How about Mary?

ED and MD: Mary's a saver.

RVR: Does she have anything?

MD: No, I don't think Mary has anything. Well, they're all going to look.

ED: She came down yesterday.

MD: Everyone has agreed to look and then decide what they want to do. What they decide is their decision, whether they give it or don't give it. But it'd be nice to have a copy of it.

The university said they'd make a copy of it and then give it back, just so it's part of the collection. That's what I've asked them to do.

RVR: I've told your grandchildren that if they want any digital replicas of any document, we can do that. We'll give them the original back and we'll keep a copy, or vice versa.

ED: Oh that's great.

MD: I feel, and you feel, you told me this a long time ago mom. You said that you were more inclined that the originals should go to the library. If everyone wants copies, they can...

ED: Yes well, I think so.

RVR: I do too.

MD: You felt that it'd be better taken care of or preserved there.

ED: It's for the future.

RVR: But these are the originals and therefore are not tampered with in anyway.

MD: Yes.

RVR: Do you have any memorabilia?

MD: Oh yes [laughs].

RVR: What do you have?

MD: I found something. Remember, you gave it? Richard Nixon wrote a two-page letter when dad died. Remember when I brought it out? Then you said, "They addressed it to you. Keep it." And I found it. It was in my cufflink box [MD and RVR laugh]. I'm sorry. It's not well preserved [laughs]. But it is a beautiful letter.

RVR: No, that's naughty!

MD: That belongs here. Maybe I should send it over now and have them treat or something. I don't know. Then, we all have stuff signed by Kennedy, Johnson, and President Truman. We used to meet him at things with dad. There's also Clinton, Carter, and Johnson. You have more. Mom found a file with a lot of the condolence letters from different people.

RVR: That's helpful. Historians throw nothing out. You should see my attic.

MD: Mom has been pushing the kids. She supervised last Saturday downstairs.

ED: They all helped.

MD: They have a schedule now. Every Saturday, there's two of them coming, for four

hours. Every Saturday, they work on a particular volume. We have guidelines. They use the gloves.

ED: It's surprising how it accumulates. So I got the gloves for them.

RVR: Anything will destroy that kind of paper. We don't have good paper anymore.

ED: No, the quality...

RVR: The quality isn't good. When do you think that they might start sending it?

MD: [Laughs] Well, that's what we're trying to figure out right now. The kids are organizing it. Now, we have to look at it. No one has looked at it. We haven't looked at it. Mom hasn't looked at it, or I. One of the family has to look at it.

RVR: One of the children as well?

MD: One of the six has to look at it or mom, well, one of us with mom.

ED: Maybe we could get someone from the university. Some of them are very helpful.

MD: I think that what the university has told us mom is anything and everything. Then they will decide, more than likely, to keep everything. But we have to identify what you want copies of. See, there's a lot of the legislative stuff. I've talked to everybody as well. If you want to do something with it, you can go over to the library. You'll have full access to it.

RVR: We still want what you have, as part of the Richard J. Daley Collection.

ED and MD: Yes.

MD: The professor has said that Heather Bilandic has given Mike's papers to the library. So, you have another mayor at the library. Bill has, and we hope Rich will. We also want to contact some of the other mayors. I don't know. Mayor Kennelly had no family.

ED: He had no family. He was single.

RVR: And he told me that we should contact Nick Bilandic and Eleanor.

ED: They were Mike's sister and brother.

RVR: That's for interviews.

MD: They'd be great interviews. They might also have things at their house from the time he was an alderman. See, he wasn't married until he was mayor.

RVR: And you're going to be sending out the letter to all of the members?

MD: I drafted it up. Because of the size of that card, we had to do a different format.

RVR: Well, if you want to send it....

MD: No.

ED: Can we send those out any time now?

MD: Yes.

ED: I know of a great one to interview. And his memory is good, John Stroger.

RVR: Oh yes, John Stroger.

ED: He was with Cook County. He was a good friend. Danny helped him as a young man.

RVR: I remember him sitting in the front row at the birthday celebration last May.

ED: He's an old timer.

MD: He is now [laughs]. He was pretty young then.

ED: Yes. But what was that other black man's name?

MD: It was Cecil Partee.

ED: No.

MD: There was that black Congressman Dawson.

RVR: Was it Dawson?

ED: No. He was another man from the east side.

MD: Was it Claude Holman?

ED: No. They were aldermen. I don't know what he was officially. But he was very helpful to the blacks and very helpful to Dick. He was the one when Dick would always emphasize education. He was well educated himself.

MD: You know, what I'll try to get mom is a list of all of the aldermen, by every four years. I don't remember those names. A lot of those names I don't know.

RVR: And there's the statue. You were going to get in touch with the man who owns the statue.

MD: Oh, I called Jerry Butler but he's been on vacation. He's going to make arrangements and I told him to call your office, not anyone else. And then you can arrange it. Whatever you arrange is what you arrange.

ED: What is that?

MD: It's for the bust. You know, we talked about it the last time. That was the sample that they used for the rotunda, the statue on the State of Illinois building.

ED: I think that's beautiful.

MD: That's beautiful. They can put it right in the library.

RVR: At the entrance would be nice. If there was a full statue, that would be even better.

MD: Well, they have one.

RVR: There's one down in Springfield.

MD: Yes.

RVR: It's full-length statue.

ED: Yes.

MD: But I think that they had a....

RVR: A bust, it's the one we're talking about.

MD: It's not a bust. They had a statue this big, a sample. There's another statue that exists. This is different. This is at De LaSalle.

ED: I have a bust, but they didn't think it was so good.

RVR: That's all right. We have lots of busts of people that look like them. But that's what they did at the time.

MD: Mom, where's the one from De LaSalle of dad?

ED: Here's a picture of it, right here.

RVR: It's of the De LaSalle?

ED: It's the De LaSalle.

RVR: Is it a bust?

MD: No, it's a full one.

ED: But I have a bust downstairs.

MD: This is one.

RVR: Oh yes, that's great!

MD: That's a full size statue.

RVR: That even looks like him, too.

MD: That's at De LaSalle. That's where he went to high school.

RVR: Yes, I know.

MD: I don't think that any buildings are left though, to tell you the truth. If you want to go over there, Brother Michael Crook is there if you need anything. And then, Nativity is the same way.

RVR: That's fine, even if all we do is copy what they have.

MD: I don't know what they have at all. I have no idea.

RVR: You wonder if they have the record of his grades.

MD: I would think so. I don't know. I don't know about Nativity. Dad was christened at Nativity, wasn't he?

ED: Yes.

MD: Was it here on Thirty-seventh or was it up at Thirty-ninth?

ED: I think it was Thirty-seventh Street.

MD: Okay.

RVR: That would be in the record, too.

MD: It should be in the parish records.

ED: Yes. They should have the baptismal record.

ED and RVR: And they would have when he was confirmed.

RVR: And they'd have when he made his first Holy Communion.

ED: He wasn't married when he made Communion.

MD: Did they make confirmation in Grammar School then?

ED: Oh yes. It was before you graduated from eighth grade.

MD: Mine was high school days. I didn't mean to interrupt you.

RVR: No. This is all wonderful information.



MD: But you feel mom, that those things that are originals....

ED: They should be with the university.

MD: Then if we want copies...

ED: Yes, we could always do that.

RVR: And that is your will?

MD: That's your wish?

RVR: That's your intention?

ED: Yes. I think so.

RVR: You can tell you mother's sisters and the children that you have vetoed whatever they had in mind [laughs].

MD: Well, they have possession. So, it's a wish [laughs]. Isn't that right mom?

ED: Yes, I'm sure.

RVR: Well, they would want to honor you and their father.

MD: If we can go back to the Kennedy era, did dad go to Washington? He used to go there a lot.

ED: Quite frequently, Kennedy would call and talk to him. Then he'd have him go there. He offered Dick a position in Washington, right away. But Dick said no, he'd rather stay in Chicago. When the children were younger, he was in Springfield. He was away quite a bit. But what he used to do was that he'd come home on Thursday or Friday. On Saturday mornings when Richard and Mike were young, maybe two or three. He took them to the office. There was a Chicago office for the Director of Revenue. They were a little older then. He would take them down every Saturday morning to his office here in Chicago. He wasn't like the other fathers, coming home at five o'clock and be home for the weekends. So he'd take them down and let them know what he was doing. He would do that when they were young.

MD: We'd go to the office and then we'd go to Henrici's for lunch [laughs]. It was an old restaurant, on Randolph Street. That was our treat [laughs].

RVR: You said he went to Washington quite often. Would you say it was once a month, once every other month, or every other week?

ED: Well, I'd say it was once a month. Maybe it was just to have a nice visit with him.

RVR: How long would he stay in Washington?

ED: It was just overnight.

RVR: It was just overnight? And he would fly in and fly back out?

MD: It was mostly the train. He liked the train.

RVR: He did? That's a long ride.

MD: Well, he'd get on the train at four o'clock. And if he had people going with him, which he often had staff people, he'd meet with them. They'd get there at eight o'clock in the morning. Then they'd go right from the train up to the hill.

ED: Was it the Broadway Special?

MD: It was the Baltimore and Ohio, the Capital Limited. That was it. We'd go with him. We never went to bed. We'd sit up in the dome car [MD and RVR laugh].

RVR: What a life you guys had!

MD: [Laughs] We were the aides.

RVR: You were the aides?

ED: Mom, there were two stories I remember about the inauguration that dad would always tell. It was the Kennedy Inauguration. Dad recommended Senator Dirksen to be the grand marshal of the parade on the inauguration. It was unusual for a Republican.

RVR: Right.

ED: He was a great senator.

MD: Remember when we were in the car? Walking down the street in a high hat was Adlai. It was snowing. He didn't have a car [MD and RVR laugh]. We picked him up [MD and RVR laugh]. He was trying to get to the ball. It was the Inaugural Ball. The snow was terrible.

RVR: I know, but they cleared the streets.

MD: But for the parade, they didn't.

ED: They left the cars there, stepped out of the cars there, and went on to the party.

MD: It was a mess. His car got stuck. We picked him up and somebody else. Who was the other guy? There was someone else that we picked up that night. We were all going.

RVR: You were going to the Inaugural Ball.

ED: He was a little short fellow. He was the Speaker of the House.

MD: Was it Rayburn or Cole?

ED: It was Rayburn.

MD: Yes, that's who it was. He was from Texas. We gave him a ride home [RVR laughs]. The cars got stuck. And if you got stuck, you just had to get out and walk.

ED: They'd just step out of the car and go to the party.

MD: I've got to tell this story. It was so cold. Mom and dad had two tickets on the reviewing stand at the White House. It was so cold that mom was freezing that Pat and I took their two tickets. We got in [MD and RVR laugh]. And we were sitting next to President and Mrs. Truman. No one could figure out who we were [ED, MD, and RVR laugh]. Finally, someone came over and asked us. They said, "Oh okay, your mom and dad gave you the tickets [ED, MD, and RVR laugh]." Now today, they'd never let you do that.

RVR: It's all enclosed today.

MD: Then it was all open.

ED: In the cars, it was all open.

MD: Mrs. Truman was cold. She left early. He stayed for a while.

ED: I was too cold.

MD: They were staying at the Blair House.

RVR: That's right across the street.

MD: That was exciting for us. We stayed until the last. Pat and I never left [laughs]. They went for a little bit and then left. She was freezing in that bitter wind.

ED: You could sit and watch it on television.

RVR: But you're from Chicago. You should have been used to it [RVR laughs].

ED: I was used to it. But I was cold.

MD: I remember that it was a fun time.

ED: It was fun for all of us to go to the different things. They'd go. I think Rich was only about four years old.

MD: I was in high school. I graduated in 1961.

ED and RVR: You were in high school.

ED: Eleanor was in high school, too.

MD: I have my speech that I made. We had a mock convention. In those days, every high school had a mock convention. You had delegates, state delegations, you voted, and you debated. I had my speech signed by Kennedy. I nominated him and I brought it with me. He wrote on it, "The best speech of the campaign." I still have it.

RVR: Is that right? That's wonderful!

MD: I know it's somewhere. I put it away. What do you think was Kennedy's greatest legacy? What do you think accomplished for the country? What was the most important contribution Kennedy did?

ED: I would say that he brought religions out into the front during the campaign time. He got up in Texas and spoke to all of the ministers. He explained the Catholic religion and all, not explain the religion and all. But they were saying that he'd have all of the bishops in the White House. Then Nixon came, and he had Billy Graham there all of the time. And not one word was said about that.

RVR: I think that the Catholic question ended with that.

ED: Religion ended in politics. You can look through Al Smith's period when he ran.

RVR: They held it against him, of course. You never met Al Smith?

ED: No [MD and RVR laugh].

RVR: We're going to take you back [MD and RVR laugh].

ED: No I didn't.

RVR: Do you think that we've gone on too long?

MD: Mom, when President died, where were you?

RVR: That's what I was going to ask next.

ED: We went to the hotel to change and all.

MD: You were in Chicago, you and dad, when he was killed. Right?

ED: Yes, we were here.

RVR: Where were you when you heard that President Kennedy was dead?

ED: I was home.

RVR: You were here in the house?

ED: They were laying new carpeting for me at the time. I heard it on the news. Then my phone started to ring. My sisters were all calling to tell me Kennedy. Irene was all excited. Then we were all glued to the television to watch everything.

RVR: Where was your husband?

ED: He was downtown. Then he called too, immediately. Oh, I was devastated. He was a smart young man. He was a credit. I think he was a credit to the religion because he didn't show his hatred or his feelings towards the religion. I think he brought that to an end, the hatred that they had for one another.

RVR: There was the fear that they had as to what he might do as a Catholic president.

MD: Then you went to the funeral, mom?

ED: Yes. We stayed at the motel and then we went over to the White House.

MD: They were on the wake list.

ED: We met the girls and all. Then we went in and visited at the casket alone.

RVR: Were the children with you?

ED: No.

RVR: It was just you and your husband?

ED: It was just the two of us. We got in with the families. And you couldn't bring all of the little kids. It really was something to see.

RVR: Did you go up to the Capital when he was in the rotunda, in the White House?

ED: Yes, I was up in the rotunda where he was waked. But we went there first. We were alone with all of them. Then Dick met with Teddy and Bobby. The father was sick, so Dick wouldn't go out there.

MD: Then you went to the church?

ED: No. Then we went for dinner and went back. The next morning we got up and then we went right into to church. I always remember sitting in the pew. And of course, there were all of the presidents from all of the countries. Was it DeGaulle? One time we were in France and went out to visit him at his home.

RVR: [Laughs] Here's another story, okay [laughs].

MD: I remember that you used to say that when he came down the aisle, he was so tall.

ED: He was a big, tall man. I was sitting right at the end. He came and put his hand right on the pew. He had a hand about this size [MD laughs]. It was the biggest hand I ever saw. Oh,

he was a big man!

MD: Did you go out to the cemetery after the church?

ED: Yes. And from there, we got into the line at the procession. Then we went out to the cemetery. Yes, we were right there for the burial.

RVR: And you saw the casket lowered into the ground?

ED: Yes, I saw it go right into the ground. We stayed there until the end. Then the family stayed there alone for a while. It was sad, though. It was sad to see the little children at the time. And we were on the steps there, right where little Jack saluted the father [laughs].

RVR: That's a sad story.

ED: He was only about two. I think what's her name told him that it was time for him. He must have planned to salute the father. But he stood right there and saluted him as proud as anyone.

RVR: And then you went back to your hotel?

ED: Then we went back to our hotel. They invited Dick and myself back to the White House. But we had a nice visit with them before.

RVR: So you didn't go.

ED: Dick said no. He wanted to let them have as much time as they could together. But they had a few just come in from out of town. She was a brave lady. She stood there and greeted them all. And it was hard, awfully hard.

MD: Okay. That's it.

RVR: I have one last question. Is that gold band on your finger your wedding ring?

ED: Yes, but it's not my original one.

RVR: Oh no? You don't have to take it off [MD laughs]. I'm sorry.

ED: That's all right.

RVR: No, don't take it off. Michael Daley, you must forgive me.

MD: You're a historian [MD and RVR laugh].

ED: It's from my fortieth wedding anniversary.

MD: She didn't eat a thing.

ED: I had a big breakfast.

MD: You don't have your wedding ring?

ED: I have it on.

MD: You still have your wedding ring, don't you mom?

ED: It's a very thin one. On my fortieth wedding anniversary, it was worn very thin. Back then they had the platinum and the gold, white gold. It was very thin. I had it for forty years. But anyway, Dick had two little red ruby bands made. They were little guards.

RVR: He didn't wear a wedding ring?

ED: No he didn't.

MD: That was their last anniversary before dad died. We all went to mass. This is Nativity, where the chapel was. That as your anniversary.

ED: That was forty years, yes.

RVR: And that's when he gave you that ring?

ED: Yes, he gave me this ring. But on my other ring, he had the two little guards made. And then with my engagement ring, they were all put together and connected. So they had a little band in the back here that held them together. It had a little ruby. The ruby was for the fortieth anniversary. It was kind of pointed out that way. Well, each time I put on a sweater, it would get caught. And I lost it. It was all right when Dick was alive. But after he died, I couldn't replace it [MD laughs].

MD: But he could pay for it [laughs].

RVR: Right.

ED: So I just kept and I don't wear it too much, unless I put on the dog.

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