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## **Interview with Father Gilbert Graham**

Date: 17 November 2003

Location: Home of Father Gilbert Graham, Chicago, IL.

Present: Father Gilbert Graham, Dr. Robert V. Remini, and Dr. Fred W. Beuttler

[Note: Father Graham is a Roman Catholic Priest, and close friend of the Daley family].

[Tape begins after the interview has already started]

Dr. Robert V. Remini: Michael Daley sends his best regards. He said to be sure that we got in touch with you right away.

Father Gilbert Graham: You know, Michael is most like his father, of all the Daley kids.

RVR: Is that so?

GG: And you know, his mother used to say that to me. She said, "Michael is just like his father." He is so thoughtful and kind. And with anything that happens in that family, Michael is the center.

RVR: In fact, somebody told me that the Mayor himself said, "If anything happens to me, call Michael."

GG: The day he died, he had a doctor's appointment in the afternoon, around noontime. He was out dedicating a gymnasium on the south side somewhere. They wanted to take him to lunch. He said, "No. I have to go. I have an appointment with the doctor. At the gymnasium, he got a basketball. He couldn't do it again in fifty years. He threw it and the thing went right through the hoop [GG and RVR laugh]. It went right through the hoop. When he got to the doctor's office, it was a routine appointment. The doctor examined him and said, "You have to go to the hospital." He said, "No, I can't. This is Christmas. I can't." "No, no. You have to." He said, "Call my son Michael." And he called Michael.

Michael was out to lunch. The doctor went out to make arrangements. When he came back, the Mayor had slipped off the chair and he was gone. The day before, they had their Christmas party, the family. He always had it a little before Christmas because he didn't want them to have to move their kids on Christmas Day. And then he and Mrs. Daley would go to each one's house on Christmas Day. But this was for the giving of the presents and all of this. And I had Mass in the house. And a couple of the grandchildren were saying "Well, who's going to do the readings?" I said, "You know, your grandfather is going to do the readings." He did the readings at the Mass. He set up the altar and everything.

RVR: Which room did you use?

GG: I used downstairs, in the basement. All of the families were there. They had tables for each family. I sat with him, Mrs. Daley, and Eleanor, who was not married. He got up after dinner and proposed a toast. He said, "I'd like to propose a toast to my wife. I've put up with her for forty two years [RVR laughs]." And he proposed a toast. Then he said, "I want to propose a toast to my children." And he broke down. Three times he said, "You stay together. You stay together. You stay together." Then he said, "I want to propose a toast to Father Graham. He's part of this family. He's always to be part of this family." But he cooled off. And when I left that evening, he said to me "You know, I've got to go to the doctor tomorrow. Ed Kelly went to the doctor"--his predecessor. He said, "He got a clean bill of health. He walked out of the doctor's office and he dropped dead [GG and RVR laugh]!" My God, the same thing happened to him.

RVR: Right. Well, let's start at the beginning, then. When did you first meet him and under what circumstances?

GG: We had the Shrine of St. Jude here. Mrs. Daley and the girls would come for the novenas. They were two parishes over at Nativity. We used to help out over there if they had a funeral or this or that. We'd send somebody over. And the boys were altar boys at that time. They were little kids. But that's when I got to know them, but not well.

RVR: This was back in the 1930s?

GG: No. It was the 1940s. Well actually, I came here in 1950. So it was about 1950.

RVR: But they got to know you by coming to the novenas?

GG: Yes. It was by coming to the novenas.

RVR: You were giving the novena?

GG: Well, I was the pastor here, too.

RVR: Oh, you were the pastor?

GG: But not at that time. I was an assistant. Later on I was the pastor. Then another time, we had a carnival. We invited the Mayor to come to the carnival. That afternoon I got a phone call, threatening his life. And I called city hall. I said, "Please don't come! Don't come!" He said to me, "Father, that's when you have to come. That's when you have to come. Go." Over in the schoolyard, he got up on the fire escape. He gave a talk for all of the people there. And I was on pins and needles. Then Cardinal Cody was made a cardinal in 1967. At that time, I was major superior of the Dominicans and I was the president of the major superiors of the religious orders. We had our meeting in Vermont. I went up there for the meeting and Bishop O'Donnell was with me. Did you know Cletus O'Donnell?

RVR: No.

GG: He was the bishop here. He was a wonderful man.

RVR: Yes. I came from New York.

GG: Father White was provincial to the Passionists. And his nephew was the Mayor of Boston, Kevin White. Father Patrick White was a wonderful man. Well, from Vermont we drove up to Montreal and we caught Alitalia to go to Rome for the Cardinal's thing. Who was on the plane but Mayor Daley, Mrs. Daley, and an entourage of people. There was the fire commissioner, this one, and that one [RVR laughs]. And they were guests of the Italian government. Of course, we were in the coach. So a fellow came back and he said to the bishop, "We have a place for you in first class." And off he went. Then he came back and said, "You two are invited up for half an hour." They had a lounge. He said, "But don't stay longer [RVR laughs]. Have a drink." Once I got up there I thought, "I'm here for the night [RVR laughs]. I'm not going back to coach."

When we got into Rome, the Mayor must have had twenty people with him. So then we were included in the group. And every night, this guy, the government man would say, "Where will you have dinner? How many people will you have?" And you'd say, "I have twenty." "I have thirty" or whatever you had. I said to him "Gee, this is something else." He said "Father, they haven't paid a landing fee in Chicago for twenty years [RVR laughs]. They owe us [GG and RVR laugh]. That's exactly what he said. So we spent that whole week together. We came back on the same plane. The Pope had traveled on that plane. I went around and said to people, "You're sitting in the same seat that the Pope sat in." I didn't have any idea where the Pope sat [RVR laughs].

RVR: [Laughs] What a devil you are!

GG: We got into Montreal again. The fellow said, "You guys have to go back to coach." The Mayor said, "No. If they go back to coach, we all go back to coach." So we stayed right up front. But that week was when I really got to know them well.

RVR: Right. Did you become their unofficial chaplain, so to speak, or their spiritual advisor?

GG: I think so. Oh yes.

RVR: There was no other priest that had the same position?

GG: No. One time I went there on Holy Saturday or something. And he wasn't home. It was four o'clock and he was supposed to be there any minute. He came in at about five and said, "How long have you been here?" I said, "I've been here an hour." He said, "Hell! I've been standing in line at St. Peter's Church to go to confession for the last hour! I could have came here [GG and RVR laugh]!"

RVR: That's true?

GG: Yes. But you know, he was a daily communicant from the time he was a child.

RVR: I didn't know that.

GG: And that had nothing to do with politics or anything, I mean, until the day he died! One time he told me, "You know, whatever the problems are during the day, I never have any trouble sleeping. I've got my rosary." I start saying my rosary and I'm gone."

RVR: He said his rosary before going to bed?

GG: Yes.

RVR: How would you account for his religious commitment that was so deep?

GG: Well, he was an only child. There was one story that Mrs. Daley told me. She said, "Don't ever tell him." She was sitting on the porch with her mother, her grandmother, and some other women. Here they came, the Mayor, his mother, and his father down the street. He was an only child. One lady said "Hmmm, here they come now, the father, the son, and the Holy Ghost [GG and RVR laugh]." He said, "But don't tell him that." He was the only kid in the neighborhood who had pajamas.

RVR: Oh, is that right [laughs]?

GG: Yes. He was an only child. His mother, I didn't know her, but was a strong woman. Her name was Lil. But she was a strong woman. His father was a sheet metal worker. His parents lived with them from the day the two of them got married. And I said to Mrs. Daley, "I cannot understand you and her being in the same house [putting his fists together]." She said "Father, I never had a problem with her. I never had a problem." Of course, she came from a family of eleven children. I mean, she could roll with the punches.

RVR: Sure [laughs].

GG: She said, "I never had a problem with her." But it was interesting that the parents lived with them. And he was an only child. Of course, they had seven children. He never once chastised any of his kids. She had to do that. I mean, he just wouldn't. I remember one time. John was about thirty, maybe. He wasn't feeling well and he was sitting at the table. Mrs. Daley said to him, "Your child doesn't feel well." He said, "What's the matter, dear?" That just stuck with me.

RVR: He called him dear.

GG: Yes.

RVR: That's how dear they were to him.

GG: He was so wonderful to his kids. And there are a couple of other things. Kup [Irv Kupcinet, a Chicago journalist] just died. Richie gave a nice talk at Kup's funeral. But the Mayor told me, "I loved to see Kup. I'd pretend I didn't remember his name. Oh, he didn't like that [RVR laughs]." But he had a lot of devil in him [RVR laughs].

RVR: And he had a sense of humor!

GG: Sure [RVR laughs].

RVR: You don't usually hear that.

GG: I had a wonderful relationship with him. Probably the best story is when I came back from Rome. I was assigned to Rome for six years. I came back from Rome and I went there for dinner one night. I spent a nice pleasant evening and went home. He called you early in the morning. He was very abrupt on the phone. You never had a conversation with him on the phone. He said "Father, I want to see you in my office at noon." "Okay. I'll be there." There was one Sunday morning. It was about six, six thirty, seven o'clock. Of course, he was up at about five every morning, from the stockyard days.

And he called me. It was a Sunday morning. I had a phone. I lived across the hall. Of course, he knew that I was in bed [RVR laughs]. He said, "Excuse me Father for bothering you on Sunday when I know you're so busy [GG and RVR laugh]." You know, he'd give you that treatment. The next morning, he called me. He said, "I want to see you in my office at noon." I went down there. There were about ten people waiting. The secretary said "Father, he's waiting for you. Go in." So I went in. He hemmed and hawed and sat down. I knew that something was up. He said "Father, after you left last night, ma and I were talking."

RVR: He called her "ma"?

GG: Oh yes! He used to call her twenty times a day. He never made a move without it. He said, "Ma and I were talking. Father, I talk to you like my own kids. You look like a bum [RVR laughs], your clothes. You look terrible. Give me forty minutes to get rid of these people and we'll go." So I went out and he finished up with those people. We got in the elevator and we went down from the fifth floor and into the big car, the tail car. In those days, things were difficult. We went up Michigan Avenue and we got to Turner Brothers. We got out and we started into Turner Brothers. And two black guys were



coming out. One guy said to the other, "We shopped where Mayor Daley shops [GG and RVR laugh]."

We went in and it was like your mother taking you to get an Easter suit. He sat there and he quarterbacked a hat, a coat, shoes, and this, and that. And it was absolutely like your mother doing it. Then he said to me, "I called the boys. They're going to meet us at the Palmer House for lunch." And we all went to the Palmer House for lunch. But he could have given you a check. He could have said, "Tell Turner Brothers and get what you want. Tell Turner Brothers." No. He took you, as busy as he was. That's the kind of thing that I remember the most about him.

RVR: Well, you must have been very special to him.

GG: I was.

RVR: Were you his confessor?

GG: No.

RVR: You never heard his confession?

GG: No. Not that I know of [GG and RVR laugh]. You never know.

RVR: He never discussed personal things and spiritual things?

GG: There were a lot of personal things. Oh yes. I was very close and he confided in me on things. And you know, it's funny. If you didn't come from Chicago, he didn't want any part of you. He was completely Chicago. I'm a Bostonian. And somehow or other, I got in. You couldn't complain like you'd say, "What a lousy day." "What's the matter with it? It's a wonderful day." Everything was wonderful in Chicago [RVR laughs]. I mean, you couldn't complain about anything, even the weather.

RVR: In Chicago, yes.

GG: And I don't think he had any ambition, other than being mayor of Chicago.

RVR: That's my thinking, too.

GG: I mean, he could have done a lot of things. And young Billy, Billy was the youngest of the boys. Billy always had a desire to go to Washington, even when he was young. The Mayor used to tell him "Don't go to Washington. Everybody I know went to Washington and came back with nothing! You stay here! This is where you belong! This is where your career is," and so forth. But Billy did wonderful in Washington.

RVR: Oh yes, indeed.

GG: He was wonderful as the Secretary of Commerce. I got an invitation to go for the unveiling of his portrait in the department.

RVR: Right. In the department, they do that.

GG: It was Ash Wednesday and I went. Billy, at that time, was in San Antonio for Southwestern Bell.

RVR: Yes, right. That's where he is presently.

GG: He called me and said, "I'll pick you up at Love Field" or whatever it was in Dallas. "We'll go to Chicago and pick up some people and then go to Washington on the corporate plane." Sure enough, he picked me up and we went. The next morning, we got to the ceremony and everybody was there, Gore and all of these people. I mean, it was a big thing. It was Ash Wednesday. The portrait was veiled. Some lady was running things. She said, "There will be no introduction. When the secretary, Mr. Daley, and another man come out, you get up and say your prayer. Then later, the new secretary will acknowledge

your presence." So that's what I did. They sat down and I got to fishing in my pocket. Governor Ryan was there. I didn't know him at all. And I said, "Today is Ash Wednesday. I brought ashes to put on the portrait [GG and RVR laugh]. I can't get at it [GG and RVR laugh]!" Well, the governor laughed.

RVR: I can imagine that he broke up [laughs].

GG: He was very impressed.

RVR: Did you ever officiate at any of the inaugurations or at any official occasion?

GG: Yes.

RVR: You did? He called on you to do it?

GG: Well, no. But I always sat with the family at the inaugurations. You know Colonel Reilly? He had a patch over one eye. He was the public relations man for the Mayor. He tried to put me down in the thing. Mrs. Daley said, "Oh no. You stand right here where you belong." No, I was always....

RVR: You were part of the family.

GG: Yes, I was. At the St. Patrick's Day Parade, she said, "You walk next to the Mayor." Well, I didn't. I never did. I went back. I didn't want to be public. But she was always pushing me. She was a great lady.

RVR: I know. I met her.

GG: Oh, she was a wonderful lady. She was smart. I mean, she ran things. He worshipped her. I really mean it. He waited on her hand and foot. I mean, in that house, she was the queen. And it was a wonderful thing to see. When he died, I was driving

down the Eisenhower when I heard that he was stricken. And I rushed over to that building where Jock's Restaurant was. It's where Bloomingdale's, I think, is now. I got there just about the time that the family got there. Bishop Line came from the cathedral. He had the oils and the anointing.

Well, we were in another room saying the rosary. And Mrs. Daley was leading the rosary, not me. The doctor came out and said, "I'm sorry. He's gone." She stood up. Now this is not in the book. The book says the wrong thing, *American Pharaoh*. That's a good book, by the way, I think. The Daleys don't like it but I think it's a good book. It's very fair, too. But anyway, she stood up and turned to me. All of her kids were there. She said "Father, in forty two years of married life, I can never remember a day that Dick didn't tell me that he loved me." That was her. Now, the book says that she got up and said, "Let us thank God for having this wonderful man" or something, which was not true. I wanted to correct that, but I never did, in the book. I think the other thing is the real thing.

RVR: Right. And she loved him just as much as he loved her. It was mutual. It's incredible, how lucky they were.

GG: Yes. We had a priest who had been in World War II. He was an older man when he came into the order. He was teaching at Xavier University, that college out there. And he came to me. I was the permission. He said, "I'm leaving the priesthood. I'm leaving the order." And it was about three weeks before the end of the semester. I figured "Well, let it go. In three weeks we can do this quietly without anybody making any fanfare about it." So he said, "I'd be glad to finish the semester."

Well, about a week later I got a call from Mrs. Daley. I used this at her funeral. She said, "What's the matter with you? Are you crazy [RVR laughs]? You've got that priest over there. He's leaving the priesthood and undermining the faith of those girls. And you allow him to be teaching there!" So forth and so on. Oh my! I hadn't had that experience before. Well, I got him out of there the next day. And I learned my lesson. Anytime anybody came and said, "I'm quitting," you quit today. You don't fool around. But boy, she really told me off [RVR laughs].

RVR: And you took it from her?

GG: Absolutely.

RVR: It was just as her children did.

GG: Absolutely.

RVR: Did you officiate at her funeral?

GG: Yes, I did. I had his funeral. When he died, they said, "The Cardinal will do this and this." Mrs. Daley said, "Oh no. Dick would want Father Graham. You'll do everything," which I did. I had the Mass. I gave a priestly eulogy. The night before, they were so upset. This was such a sudden thing. Michael said, "We don't want any eulogy." You had Vice President Rockefeller. You had Carter, who was already elected president. He wasn't inaugurated yet. You had the Kennedy's. You all of these people. You had George McGovern. I mean, you had to say something.

I slept in the rectory over there that night. And it was close to Christmas. It was the twentieth, or the twenty second, of December. There was Christmas wrapping paper in the room that I was sleeping in. At about three o'clock in the morning, I took that Christmas wrapping paper. "You've got to say something, you can't just say nothing." I wrote my thing. And I took my Christmas wrapping paper into the pulpit with me [RVR laughs]. I think it was just right, too. It wasn't long. But you couldn't just say nothing.

RVR: Yes. Do you have a copy of that?

GG: I do. I'll give it to you.

RVR: Could we have a copy of it?

GG: Sure.

RVR: Or any documentation you have. Did he ever write to you? Oh, you brought some materials.

GG: I've got all kinds of stuff.

RVR: Wonderful.

GG: [GG begins to show his photo collection to RVR]. These pictures are of them. Now that's Michael and his bride. I married them.

RVR: Oh you did?

GG: Plus, she's been dead fourteen years, or more than that.

RVR: I know.

GG: This was his wedding anniversary, forty second, in front of the house. She was wearing that dress on the holy card after her funeral. This is the statue down at the....

RVR: Oh, it's of the Mayor.

GG: Yes. It's down at the statehouse. I gave the talk there, too.

RVR: You did?

GG: Yes.

RVR: Yes. You were the official unofficial chaplain of the Daley family.

GG: Yes. This is the Mayor and the Pope [John Paul II] when he was a Cardinal.

RVR: This is when he visited Chicago.

GG: Isn't that a nice picture?

RVR: Yes. It is a beautiful picture.

GG: It's a nice picture.

RVR: It's very nice indeed.

GG: And this is a family picture.

RVR: Gee. This is in Michigan?

GG: I guess so. This is on the Black Hawk, Arthur Wirtz's boat. That's Mr. and Mrs. Wirtz with the Mayor and his wife. And I was on the boat. The Mayor said to Arthur, "Arthur, you've got Father Graham here. He's like the camel and the tent. The camel puts his nose under the tent. Then pretty soon, he's in and the other guy is outside the tent [RVR laughs]. He's going to be owning and running this boat if you don't get rid of him [RVR laughs]." That's a nice picture, too. I don't know where that came from.

RVR: Oh yes. You were a handsome devil.

GG: Well yes. This is another family picture.

RVR: Notice I said you were [laughs]. When I do that with my wife, she gets really angry.

GG: Now, this is when I went to Rome. When I went to Rome, he had a dinner for me at the Hilton Hotel and there were twelve hundred people.

RVR: Wow! In Rome?

GG: It was a hundred bucks a plate. He got up at the dinner and he gave me a check for a hundred thousand dollars that night. I grabbed it before he changed his mind [GG and RVR laugh]. He said, "We have lost a lot of priests, brothers, and sisters. Sometimes I felt that it was our fault that we didn't let them know we appreciated them and how important they were. Father Graham has been here. He's going to Rome. And just as a token, and not for him alone, to show that we do appreciate him, I'm giving him this check for a hundred thousand dollars for his work in the Dominican Order."

Also that night, I knew that I was going to get the check. But without him, I'd have had nothing. But I also got an honorary degree from Providence College, a doctorate in something. Bishop O'Donnell gave the talk. He used *The Man From La Mancha*, dream the impossible dream. When I got up to respond, I said "Well, the bishop is right. I have dreamed impossible dreams. But I'll tell you this. In my wildest dreams, I never thought I'd become rich and educated in one night [GG and RVR laugh]."

RVR: He probably liked you because of your sense of humor.

GG: Well, it was true, I think. I think the thing that really was most important was my background. When I was a freshman in college at Catholic University, I was there less than a month. Let me show you how stupid I was. There were only three people in the university that were taking Greek and I was one of them [RVR laughs]. They talked me into this damn Greek, which I had interest in. I was studying the Greek and a fellow from next door came in. He said, "They're having a play over here at the music hall. They're having tryouts for the play. Let's go over." I said, "I'm not interested in the play. I got my Greek I've got to get to." He said, "There will be girls from Trinity and Dunbar." I said, "I'll get my hat. I'll be right there [RVR laughs]." So we went. I was a freshman. Well, they were doing the life of George M. Cohan and it was written by Walter Kerr.

RVR: I remember Walter Kerr. Yes.



GG: He was a drama critic.

RVR: He was with *The New York Times*.

GG: He was a young professor there, with another fellow. I tried out for the thing. I really wasn't interested. I got the leading role in the play. It turned out to be *Yankee Doodle Dandy* in the movie, with Cagney. It was very successful. We had four pages in *Life Magazine*. We were in *Time Magazine* and I mean it was a big thing. That was in December. And we did it again in May. Then George M. Cohan came for the play. Even before, he trained me. Then he arranged it that I went to Hollywood to Warner Brothers to test for the movie.

RVR: Not the lead part?

GG: Not the lead part, but he wanted me in the movie. I stayed there two months. Father Harte was in charge of Catholic University's theater. There was a girl you might remember. He wouldn't remember her. But you might remember a movie star named Arlene Judge.

RVR: Of course.

GG: All right. Arlene Judge was the most beautiful girl that you could imagine. She lived with her mother and her two children. She was divorced. And her claim to fame at that time, we're talking 1941, she had nine husbands when nobody had nine husbands [RVR laughs]. She had nine and never married in the church. And also, she was a Catholic bigot. She didn't like Protestants [GG and RVR laugh]. But she was never married in the church. I took care of her two little kids. One kid was Wesley Ruggles, Charlie Ruggles' brother's son. The other kid was Dan Toppings' son. And they were little kids. They had a house in Malibu and they had another place in west suburban. But I stayed there a couple of months. Everybody who was anybody was in and out of that house. And I have never

met such superficial, nothing, and uninteresting people in my life. And these were all of the successful people.

RVR: Yes. They were celebrities.

GG: And I had a big fight with Errol Flynn's wife. Lily Demita was her name. I remember that she had a beautiful body. I don't remember anything else about her [GG and RVR laugh]. But that's the truth. I don't know what the fight was about. I was an idealist in those days. But after two months I figured, "This is not for me." If these are the successes, what the hell are the failures like? So that's when I decided that I was going to get out of that and become a priest, which I did.

RVR: Did you marry the other Daley children? Did you officiate?

GG: I married four of them, I think. I married Michael. I married Pat. I married John. I guess that's three. Maggie's brother is a priest in Pittsburgh, but I con-celebrated with him for that wedding. But her brother married them in Pittsburgh. I had a funny experience there. I didn't have my wallet. I had no money. I went to the Mayor. I said "Mayor, I'm broke. I don't have any money." He gave me a hundred dollar bill and I took it to the desk at the hotel. They said, "It's a counterfeit [GG and RVR laugh]." Well, I wasn't going back to him to tell him! Oh, God no! But it wasn't a counterfeit. They never saw a hundred dollar bill in this hotel. So they finally got it straightened out. But I was not about to go back there and say, "You gave me a counterfeit hundred dollar bill [RVR laughs]." But that's a funny story.

RVR: Did you ever ask him for any political favors?

GG: Yes I did, once. We had a fellow from Fenwick High School. And it was a nice young man. I thought that we were going to make a Dominican out of him. He didn't. He became a lawyer. His name was Louie Garripo. And he was the judge that sentenced Gacy to the death penalty. He called me and asked me. He wanted to be slated. I went to

the Mayor when I was there for dinner. I said "You know, I'd like to talk to you about Louie Garripo. His father is a precinct captain. He's a fine young man and he wants to be a judge," and this and that. I gave him a big bill. That was the only time. Do you know what the Mayor said? He said nothing. He didn't say, "Hi. Yes. No." And it didn't happen.

But the next time he was slated. After he was slated, he called me. He said, "This is the third call. I called my father and my wife. And I'm calling you to thank you because I know that you had a part in this." After he sentenced Gacy to death, I met him at a thing. I said "Oh, I was proud of you." He said, "Don't talk to me about that. When you know that you have the power over life or death, that's a terrible thing. I never want to be part of anything like that again. And don't congratulate me about it. I'm not happy about it at all," Which I was kind of proud of him for taking that attitude. Of course, later he had a number of kids and he left the bench. He went into private practice because he had to put his kids through school. But he's still around. He's a very nice fellow. That's the only time.

I had another experience when I was a very young priest. And they were all Jewish people. A classmate of mine, who was Jewish, came to visit his cousin and I was invited, too. They had dinner. I got to know these people. Well the next thing I knew, they sent me a guy who was a middle aged man who was going to commit suicide. I was a kid. I put my arm around him and said "Oh, everything will be fine," and this and that. I didn't know what to say to him. Then I got call from him that he wanted to be a judge. And he wanted me to write a letter to the Democrats. They wouldn't know me from Adam. I was ordained about a year.

So I wrote a letter saying, "This guy was very good in third grade arithmetic. He was kind to his mother." I signed my name and that was it [RVR laughs]. But he was made a judge. Well, thirty years later, he committed suicide. It was thirty years later, imagine. But before that, I went to lunch with somebody. I was introduced. This fellow said, "This is Father Graham." He said, "You're the saint! You're the saint!" It was in a bar in Kenzie [RVR laughs]. They were all looking at me. He said, "You stopped so and so from committing suicide thirty years ago."

After the lunch, he said, "I want you to come back to my office." He was at 55 East Washington. He had the drug stores there. He was Jewish. He got into his desk. He

said, "I want my brother to be your judge. You had this guy made a judge." I didn't. I had nothing to do with it. So he said, "Are you going to see the Mayor?" I said, "Yes." In fact, I was going to Rome the next day. I said, "Yes. I'm going to have dinner with him tonight. Don't worry about it. We'll take care of it. Everything will be fine." Well, I had mentioned that to the Mayor.

The next morning he called and said, "Did you see the Mayor? Did you?" I said, "Yes, I did. Don't worry. Everything will be fine." And I got on the plane to go back to Rome and forgot about all of this. A week later I got a cable saying, "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" His brother was made a judge [RVR laughs], which I had nothing to do with. Then his son-in-law had a big meat packing thing. And he was sending me steaks, lamb chops, and all of this stuff to Rome. He sent me the Torah and all kinds of things. I was getting all kinds of stuff. And he was telling everybody that I had his brother made a judge [RVR laughs]. So when I came home, I said to the Mayor, "Mayor, he's telling everybody that I had his brother made a judge. And he's sending me all of this stuff." He said "Father, keep it going. And the next time I see him I'm going to tell him that you had his brother made a judge [GG and RVR laugh]!" I thought that was a good story.

RVR: [Laughs] Yes, it is. All of your stories are good ones.

GG: And his brother was a very good judge, too. He's still living. He was a very good judge.

RVR: Did the Mayor ever ask you for favors?

GG: No.

RVR: Did he ask you to do anything special?

GG: No. He never did.

RVR: But you were with the family so often?

GG: Yes. That's true.

RVR: You had dinner with them practically every week?

GG: No, but it was a lot.

RVR: It was quite often?

GG: Yes. It was quite often.

RVR: The Mayor would invite you, or Mrs. Daley, or one or the other?

GG: Yes, I think both of them. But I could always go by on my own. I never had to call up and say, "I'm coming." I'd just go.

RVR: You did go sometimes, unannounced?

GG: Sure.

RVR: And they would ask you?

GG: Sure.

RVR: Did you ever stay in the house overnight?

GG: Many times.

RVR: You did?

GG: Yes I did, many times.

RVR: That's really remarkable. There were very few people outside of the family.

GG: I know. I'll tell you another thing that's important. I never once saw a politician in that house, ever. Anything was downtown. It was never in the home. No matter who it was, I never saw another politician in that house, socially. That was holy of holies. That was family. And people used to say, "This little bungalow." It was a wonderful house. It was no little bungalow. He had a lot of things put on that house. The basement and all of that was beautifully done.

RVR: Did you ever go out to the Michigan house?

GG: I did many times. Yes.

RVR: You'd stay there overnight?

GG: Yes, I did.

RVR: So you knew that house, too?

GG: Oh yes. He loved that place. And he used to love to take care of the garden, plant tomatoes, and this and that. He was very interested in that kind of thing, up in the country.

RVR: When you relaxed with him, what did you talk about?

GG: Everything, I guess. I don't remember. But I was always very comfortable with him. Like with some people you'd meet, there was this thing. You'd be stiff. I remember one time up in the country, after he was sick, and the phone rang. One of the boys answered

the phone and said, "George Wallace is on the phone." And the Mayor got on the phone. They talked for about half an hour. He had all kinds of connections all over.

RVR: Did you ever talk about issues? Like, would he say, "I've got a problem with the teachers?"

GG: Yes. The ones that bothered him were the high rise public housing. He said "Father, we had this problem and we went to the experts to ask what to do. And they told us to build these high rise things. It was the biggest mistake I ever made. We would just pile a slum on a slum. And they were just terrible." But that bothered him tremendously. But he said, "We didn't know any better." And most of them are gone now. There's one right down the street, which is wonderful. It's just down here a little ways. And it's still beautiful. It's all old, black people. They're old people. And it's kept very well. I mean, there's no problem. That's the only one I know of that I would count. But all of these other things that they would put up were just terrible. But I remembered that very well, that that bothered him tremendously. And then the Crosstown, he wanted to put that....

RVR: You mean the Crosstown Expressway?

GG: Yes. And he didn't get it. That bothered him a lot.

RVR: Why didn't he get it?

GG: I don't know. I think it was politics, apparently. Last night, when I went to Barrington to visit some friends, it took us an hour and a half. The traffic was so heavy. I don't remember now where the Crosstown was supposed to be. But I wonder if that wouldn't have made a difference today.

RVR: I think so. Yes, it would have.

GG: I've noticed this since I've been back from Texas. The traffic in Chicago is awful, I mean unbelievable. I had to go to the Drake Hotel the other night. And I called a taxi, because I don't drive anymore. The taxi never came. Well, one of the priests drove me down. And we went on Ohio Street. We should have gone under Wacker Drive or something. And I tell you, it took me forty five minutes to get from here to the Drake, just on that. Every time I've gotten in the car since I've been home, the traffic is so heavy. I never realized that until I came back.

RVR: Did he ever talk about individuals with you that he liked or disliked, either in Chicago or nationally?

GG: Oh yes.

RVR: What were his opinions about national figures or local figures? Did he ever talk to you about Dick Simpson or Leon Despres?

GG: No. But I'll tell you this. Everybody that ran against him, after it was over he was good to them. I mean, he wasn't vindictive. They weren't enemies. There was a young fellow that ran. I forget his name now. He ran for mayor against him.

Dr. Fred W. Beuttler: Was it Bill Singer?

GG: No. But close, I think it was after Bill Singer. But the Mayor was nice to him. And the Mayor was nice to Bill Singer, too. I mean, he was very good to those people. Ben Adamowski was another one. But I don't think that the Mayor was vindictive.

RVR: Did you ever see him get angry and explode?

GG: Oh yes.

RVR: In person?



GG: Yes. But it was not to me. One time I was up in the country. And he had been in Springfield. He came back and said to me "Oh, thank God you're here." He put the news on. And he spoke at the legislature down in Springfield. He blew his top. The governor was a Republican. I forget who it was now.

FWB: It was probably Ogilvie.

GG: Yes. Yes, that's who it was, Dick Ogilvie. And the Mayor told these people, "You need to be more brazen, you people!" He exploded, terrible! The news was on. He's watching himself on the television and he's really gone! He's sitting there looking at himself laughing, because he was scared of her. She would get after him. But I remember that so well [RVR laughs]. And he was so mad. He couldn't even talk! And it was all on television.

RVR: Yes. But he had gotten over it?

GG: Oh listen, he was laughing and making a big joke, trying to keep his wife from getting on his case [laughs].

RVR: He didn't carry grudges then?

GG: I don't think so, no. I never heard him. After he got sick, he did a lot of reading, especially up in the country. And he liked Herbert Hoover.

RVR: He did?

GG: Yes.

RVR: Why?

GG: I don't know.

RVR: That's interesting.

GG: Yes. He told me that. He said, "I admire him very much."

RVR: Yes. That's interesting.

GG: Yes it was.

RVR: Tell me, what did he call you?

GG: Father. That was always.

RVR: It was always Father?

GG: Yes. Always.

RVR: And what did you call him?

GG: Mayor.

RVR: Mr. Mayor?

GG: Yes.

RVR: It's because I guess he had that respect for your office.

GG: Sure.

RVR: As you did for his.

GG: Exactly.

RVR: As close as you were....

GG: Sure.

RVR: It never became Dick and...?

GG: No. I wouldn't.

RVR: He never asked you to call him something else?

GG: No. I tell you, he was so good to me honestly, when I think about it. He was operated on at Rush for those carotid arteries. That's the first time I'd ever heard of that. I'd never heard of that before. Now you hear it all of the time. And they did it on a Saturday morning. The specialist was just for him. He was the only one for that day. And at that point, whatever the process was, they had about twenty minutes to do this thing. Otherwise, your brain would...I had come back from Rome and I went to see him in the hospital. He said to me "You know, the first thing I remembered when I came out of that operation, I saw your beautiful face. And I knew I was okay [RVR laughs]." I never forgot that. He said, "I saw your beautiful face and I knew that I was okay."

RVR: Yes. You never gave him last rites?

GG: No.

RVR: But you gave him communion very often.

GG: Oh yes. Yes, I had Mass there. And during the last campaign, I didn't realize this. I was stationed in River Forest at that time. And I was not home for dinner for sixty nights during that campaign. I was always invited and I rode with him in the car. We'd have Mass on Sunday and eat. Then we'd go to these rallies that were all over the city. Again, I never saw a politician in the car. It was either his sons or me. Mrs. Daley was very strict on that. And I never understood it. The doctors had told her that he could go like this [clicking his fingers] any time. And she wanted me there. I didn't realize it at the time until after he died. But that was the thing.

RVR: Yes. She was a remarkable woman.

GG: Yes.

RVR: And in all of his elections you were involved in the campaigns?

GG: During the 1960s, yes, if I was home. When I was in Rome, of course, I wasn't. But yes, I would be involved.

RVR: Were you the provincial at that time?

GG: Yes, I was.

RVR: I see. And so you would be called to them very often?

GG: Yes.

RVR: But when you were here, were you involved in the campaigns in any way?

GG: Sure.

RVR: What did you do?

GG: I'd ride with him. Of course, I'd always stay in the background. We'd go to different halls, with the electricians, and this and that. You know, he'd give a little talk.

RVR: If you don't mind my saying it, it sounds as if you were almost a sidekick. He'd like to have you around to talk to and to be with.

GG: I think so.

RVR: Was there anybody else to play that part when you weren't there, do you think?

GG: Well no, not that I know of.

RVR: And there was no other priest that he was close to?

GG: No, not that I know of. Well, he knew a lot of priests.

RVR: In his parish church?

GG: Yes.

RVR: How about those priests? They were not close to him?

GG: No. That's a sad story, too. They appointed a priest pastor there. And a priest showed up with a Cubs hat.

RVR: Oh no [laughs]!

GG: Honest to God. The Mayor said, "I wanted to knock his block off!" And he was wearing a Cubs hat [RVR laughs]. And with that priest, I was there. One of the

grandchildren was making first communion or something. I was there for that. And the parish priest was not there. He was on a cruise. Well when you've got first communion and you're on a cruise, there's something wrong. And this fellow left the priesthood and got married. I don't think he was married a year when he died. But the Mayor was very good to that parish. He was very wonderful to that parish. I mean, there was the tuck pointing, there was this and that. He put up all kinds of things. Well, that's where he was born and raised.

RVR: And there was only one priest there?

GG: No. There were a couple. But this was the pastor.

RVR: Right. He gave you, you said at one point, a hundred thousand dollars for your order?

GG: Yes, he did.

RVR: Did he ever give you any other money for the order?

GG: No.

RVR: That was the one and only?

GG: Yes.

RVR: And you hadn't asked him for it?

GG: No. This was from the dinner. Oh, it was presently publicly. And of course, the dinner would have been nothing. And he even assisted it. He made them all come out to that [laughs].

RVR: Your superiors never asked you to ask him?

GG: No. The only time I asked him was for Louie Garripo. Then another time, there was a priest who was one of ours that left. And he needed a job. I said to the Mayor "Mayor, I'd like to help this fellow." He was in his late fifties. I said, "I want to see if we can find a job for him. He's a good man. I'd like you to talk to him." He said, "Yes! You bring him in! I'll kick his ass and get him back in the priesthood where he belongs [GG and RVR laugh]!" I said, "No! No! I don't want that!" He sent me down to Dr. Shabbat at City Colleges. And he said, "You take him down there and you see the head of this thing. And you make the deal. But you go and do it."

So I went to Dr. Shabbat or whatever his name was. And he said, "I've been here twenty years. This is the first time the Mayor asked me to put anybody in here. Am I going to do it? Of course I'm going to do it. We have a budget problem" and this and that. So he and I had to dicker about how much money this guy was going to make. So anyway, he hired him. I'd say six months later, I was sitting at the table at the Mayor's house. And he looked up and said, "Your friend isn't doing too well!" I said, "What friend?" He said, "You know what friend [RVR laughs]! You told me he was going to do this and that!" And I got mad and said "Well, I'll tell you this. At least he shows up every day, which is more than half of these people that's worked for the city [GG and RVR laugh]!" But he was on that thing. He wanted a day's work for a day's pay.

\*\*\*\*\*End of Video Tape One\*\*\*\*\*

GG: The Mayor told me this story. This fellow came into city hall and came into his office. He said, "I've been here for thirty years or forty years" or whatever it was. "And I know that you depend on me and I know that you need me. I am now at the end of the rope and I hate to do this. I'm going to retire. I know I'm letting you down, but I just can't." The Mayor said, "Well Charlie, I hate to lose you. By the way Charlie, what did you do here?" Charlie said "Well, I come in the morning. I make the coffee and then I give everybody coffee. Then I go home [GG and RVR laugh]." The Mayor said "Charlie,

thank you [GG and RVR laugh]." The Mayor said, "He was the most honest man I ever met at city hall [RVR laughs]." He enjoyed that story, too.

RVR: You said something about kicking somebody's ass.

GG: By the priest. Yes.

RVR: It's been said that somebody criticized him for helping his children.

GG: Yes.

RVR: He said that, "If they didn't like it they can kiss my ass." Do you think that's something he said?

GG: No. He didn't say that. He said to use, what's that stuff you put at Christmas?

FVB: It's mistletoe.

GG: Yes. It was, "Kiss my mistletoe" or something.

RVR: Yes?

GG: Yes. Mistletoe was it. No, he said this. "If you can't put your arm around your own kids, there's something wrong with you, if you don't take care of your own kids."

RVR: He didn't use language that was...?

GG: No. Very seldom did he. There was one of the things that he said to me in the last campaign, which I didn't believe him. He said, "You know, the only reason I'm running again is because I really haven't done anything for my kids. I want to do something for my kids." It was John and Bill especially. Michael, at that point, had the law firm.



Richard was in the legislature. He said, "I want to take care of my kids and set them up before I go." But I didn't believe him. This man could not have lived without being the Mayor of Chicago. I mean, that was his life. He loved every minute of it. And that's all he ever wanted to be.

RVR: How would you evaluate what he's done for Chicago? What would you say were his greatest contributions?

GG: Well, as he said himself, the best thing he ever did for Chicago was the University of Illinois campus. And I think that meant a tremendous amount. He started thinking about that when he was in the legislature as a young man. And he thought that everything was downstate and there was nothing for kids up here. He always had that thing and he finally accomplished it.

RVR: Yes. Did he talk to you about that at all?

GG: No. But I remember him saying that. I went the day that they had the papers. I didn't give any prayer but I did at the luncheon. They had a luncheon afterwards. Maybe you were there. But at the ceremony itself, no. And it was interesting. Mrs. Daley didn't come to the ceremony.

RVR: No?

GG: The problem was that her blood pressure was two hundred. Now it was his birthday. And it was Mary Carol's birthday, too. She and her father had the same birthday.

RVR: Oh, I didn't know that.

GG: So we had a Mass at her house at five o'clock that night. And who shows up but Mrs. Daley. I said "Gee, it's too bad that you weren't at the ceremony," with her blood pressure two hundred. She said, "No. I was at the cemetery [laughs]." I never met people

that went to the cemetery more than they did. Every time you turned around, you'd have to go to the cemetery [RVR laughs], honest to God. I'm not a cemetery person.

RVR: No [laughs]! But they were.

GG: Oh yes!

RVR: That's because she had a lot of family.

GG: Yes. But they were big on the cemetery. Imagine that day, and her blood pressure was high. But she went to the cemetery.

RVR: Are you still close to the family?

GG: Oh yes.

RVR: Do you perform marriages, baptisms, and such?

GG: Oh yes. Well, since I was in Texas, I haven't been that close. When I came up here, the third of September I left Dallas. The morning paper down there did an interview the day before I left. During this interview with this lady who is not Catholic, Michael Daley called me and this lady was in the room. He said, "We know what flight you're coming in on. You're coming into Midway [Airport]. Richard is sending the police to pick you up, bring you to St. Pius" and so forth. He called twice and she put that in the paper. Well, when I got here, the police met me and ushered me through the airport. They brought me here. Then they picked me up again at six o'clock and took me downtown. Richard, Maggie, all of the Daley kids, and their husbands and wives were there. They had a nice welcome home dinner at the yacht club, which I thought was very nice.

RVR: That was gracious of them.

GG: I said "Richard, I know you mean well. But don't you ever do that to me again. Those police brought me through the airport in handcuffs [GG and RVR]." Which of course they didn't. I said, "Everyone was looking at me like I was a criminal [GG and RVR laugh]." Mrs. Daley always had a driver assigned to her. There was always a policeman in front of that house, too. Anytime that I went in, she always sent the driver out because she didn't use the car. She used it once a week to go to the beauty parlor. God, even in the last days, she was running to the beauty parlor.

RVR: I know. It was Elizabeth Arden.

GG: Yes.

RVR: I noticed that you have a box of materials.

GG: I do.

RVR: Are those related to it?

GG: Yes. All of them are, I think.

RVR: Really?

GG: Yes.

RVR: Could we...?

GG: Certainly. That's why I put it there.

RVR: We can give them back to you.

GG: Yes. Whatever is in there, you're welcome to.

RVR: If you'd like to go through them.

GG: Sure [GG, RVR, and FWB begin to go through the contents of the box].

RVR: Do you have letters?

GG: Let me put my glasses on. John sent me this. This is Mrs. Daley's card.

RVR: Oh yes. I received one, too.

GG: John sent me a lot of those. Here's a picture. This is all of the grandchildren. This was my fiftieth at River Forest. This is a nice picture, too. It's Richard and Maggie.

RVR: She's a lovely person.

GG: Oh, she's as smart as she can be! Here's a wonderful picture of Richard that goes way back. Oh, this picture was taken of the Mayor, I think, two nights before he died at St. Ignatius. They had some kind of thing.

RVR: Yes. We'd like to borrow them.

GG: You take anything you want.

RVR: We'll go through them, make copies, and return them to you.

GG: I don't know what those letters are. I don't remember getting any letters from him.

RVR: He'd rather call you up.

GG: This was when I got up here from Dallas. We went to the yacht club. Michael gave me the Chicago umbrella. Then they had this guy doing Yankee Doodle Dandy. And there are the balloons. That was just in September.

RVR: That was last September?

GG: Yes. There's a nice picture of Mrs. Daley and me.

RVR: She was a very attractive person.

GG: She was, and sharp as she could be, too.

RVR: That was taken in the basement.

GG: Yes.

RVR: I recognized the fish.

GG: You're entitled to any of this stuff that you want.

RVR: Mrs. Daley allowed me to interview her. And I must have interviewed her six different times in her house.

GG: Is that so?

RVR: I was told it was a very special privilege to be invited there.

GG: I'm sure it was.

RVR: She enjoyed it.

GG: I'm sure she did.

RVR: She died before we finished it. Michael did not want her to go down the basement because he was afraid she'd fall.

GG: You know, if I'd go there and stay, she'd always do my laundry.

RVR: Really?

GG: Oh yes! You couldn't get your clothes off fast enough. She'd have it in the washing machine [RVR laughs]. And she was a great cook.

RVR: Was he?

GG: She was a wonderful cook.

RVR: What were the Mayor's favorite dishes? Do you remember?

GG: Well, I'll tell you. She had a recipe for corned beef and it was this. It was three hours in the oven and three cups of water at three hundred degrees. Then she let it alone. During the last forty-five minutes, she'd put in the cabbage, the potatoes, and stuff. And it always turned out terrific. I mean, I used to do that in Texas. That's the only thing that I could cook [RVR laughs]. It's the only recipe I had.

RVR: You mean just corned beef and cabbage?

GG: Yes [RVR laughs].

RVR: I must remember that.

GG: It's three hours, three hundred, and three cups of water in the oven.

RVR: That's in the oven and not on top of the...?

GG: No. That's in the oven.

RVR: Do you have any questions for Father Graham?

FWB: I have maybe a couple of date questions. You first met him back in the 1950s. But you really started to get close to the family in about 1967 or so?

GG: Yes.

FWB: Ok. Then you stayed here in Chicago, here in River Forest I would assume. Right?

GG: Yes.

FWB: Were you mostly based in River Forest, or down here?

GG: Well no. I was here for nineteen years before that.

RVR: You mean in this parish?

GG: Yes. I was ordained in that church.

RVR: Oh were you? Did you live in this neighborhood?

GG: Oh no. But my first assignment was here. I was telling somebody last night when I first came here in 1950, the smell from the stockyards was awful, honest to God. And I would say to myself, "All of these people that own that stuff are living in the suburbs. And we're living here and smelling their art!" Oh I was furious about that [RVR laughs]. But I got used to it.

RVR: You did?

GG: Then of course, the stockyards went under.

FWB: Did the Mayor talk much about the stockyards pulling out, along with some of the steel mills?

GG: He used to work in the stockyards.

FWB: Right. I know. Did he talk about when it was closed?

GG: No. I don't remember him being....They kind of moved all that stuff to Omaha, I think. But you know, when he went to law school at DePaul, he went nights. Then he'd go to work at five o'clock in the morning. He'd fall asleep in the school at night. And he got thrown out for falling asleep. In those days, they wouldn't take you back. Well, the rest of the class said, "He works at five o'clock in the morning and this and that." And they took him back."

RVR: Oh they did? I didn't know that.

GG: He was very proud to be a lawyer. He never practiced law. But he was proud. And he said to those boys, "You're lawyers! I mean, this is something!"

RVR: They're all lawyers.

GG: Well, John wasn't. But Billy, Richard, and Michael were. But John wasn't.

RVR: John wasn't. And the girls were all teachers.

GG: Yes.



RVR: That's interesting.

GG: They're a nice family. The kids and the grandchildren are fine. They're wonderful grandchildren. I'm very close to the grandchildren, too.

RVR: You are?

GG: Yes. And I have been for years.

RVR: Well, Michael said, "You have to speak to Father Graham." And I said, "The first thing I'll do when I get back to the office is call him."

GG: That's nice.

RVR: I thank you very much Father, for spending this time with us.

GG: Oh, I've enjoyed it.

RVR: If we think of any more questions, I hope you won't mind if we come back.

GG: Not at all. What time is it?

RVR: It's twenty to twelve.

GG: Well, you're welcome for lunch. We have lunch at twelve o'clock. You're very welcome.

RVR: Really?

GG: Oh yes.

RVR: Ok.

GG: We are hospitable [RVR laughs].

RVR: You're not like the Jesuits [laughs]!

GG: No! The provisional said, "My office is open. I'll leave it open. You'll probably want your guests in there, rather than one of the rooms."

RVR: Oh, this is grand. I hope you didn't mind our closing the blinds because of the light coming in behind you.

GG: No, not at all.

RVR: I have gotten to know Michael very well. He's sort of the....

GG: Of course, he is.

RVR: Yes. And he's the liaison between the family and the university in the transmission of the papers, which he wants to be sure are properly cared for.

GG: You know, when his wife died, Barbara, she left him four girls. This guy, for fourteen years, never had a date, never had any social life, nothing. He took care of those four girls.

RVR: Did he?

GG: There was really no one. Finally, at his mother's birthday party, he showed up with this lady. And when I met her, I threw my arms around her. I said, "I've been waiting for

you for fourteen years. Don't let him get away [RVR laughs]!" Well, they're married. And she is such a wonderful girl, his wife.

RVR: Is she? I met her very briefly.

GG: Yes. Her father was the football coach at Neal High School. She was a school teacher. She was never married before.

RVR: Did you marry him the second time?

GG: No. I was at the wedding. They were married at the Cathedral. Father McLaughlin did the ceremony. But I concelebrated with him. I was in Dallas at the time but I came up for the wedding. I'm so happy for him because she is such a nice person. And his girls have turned out well. He's got a daughter in medical school. She's going to be a doctor. That's Annie. I baptized her on the night before Thanksgiving in a terrible snowstorm. And afterwards, in the big limo with the Mayor, we went up to the country. It took us three hours and it was snowing terribly. It was just awful. I don't know how the heck we ever got up there, but we did. But we had the baptism at some church on the north side. Then we started out for the country. But I certainly enjoyed my relationship with them very much.

RVR: You're a very lucky man.

GG: Yes.

RVR: I kind of suspect that they needed somebody like you.

GG: I have been very fortunate. Another man that I was close to was John McCormick, who was the Speaker of the House. He lived next door to my grandfather. He was my grandfather's lawyer. He was my father's lawyer. My grandfather put him in the legislature. He had an eighth grade education. He was a lawyer but he never went to law

school. He read the law in those days. He was married for forty five years. And he was in the leadership of Congress all during World War II. He never once had dinner apart from his wife. They had no children, just the two of them. He was so devoted to his wife.

She got senile. He put her in Providence Hospital in Washington. He resigned as Speaker of the House and gave up his seat in Congress, which they didn't want him to do. He moved into the room next to her in that hospital. For two years, the only time that guy came out of that hospital was to get a haircut or to go to Mass. Otherwise, he was there all of the time. And when she died, I went up to Boston. I closed the coffin. I rode with him in the car after the Mass. I concelebrated with him. But he was a wonderful man. Mayor Daley was the same kind. Every one of these men who were great men in my book were men who had tremendous devotion to their wives.

RVR: Yes. That's interesting, and family.

GG: Absolutely. John McCormick and her lived in a hotel in Washington. He came home at night and he'd say "Harriet, I've waited, my sweetheart. I've waited all day to come home to you [RVR laughs]." And he meant it!

RVR: And here he was, the Speaker of the House.

GG: At her funeral, two ladies were in our neighborhood. The two ladies were talking and one said, "You were our lawyer." He said, "Just a minute. Get Father Graham and Speaker O'Neil." He said, "All right, ladies." They said, "You were our lawyer and we thought you charged too much [RVR laughs]." He said, "What did I charge?" They said, "Fourteen dollars." He said, "Did I win the case?" They said, "Yes." He said, "Did I ever get paid?" They said, "No [GG and RVR laugh]!" He loved that! He was another guy that loved to be a lawyer. He was really proud to be a lawyer.

RVR: Right. Did you know Tip O'Neil?

GG: Very well.

RVR: You did?

GG: Yes, very well.

RVR: You've known a great many Irish politicians.

GG: I have. Tip O'Neil has got troubles in purgatory.

RVR: Sister Agatha was his high school principal. She was a consistent, beautiful nun. She was the best I ever knew. She was class and ended up as the president of the college. Well anyway, it was her fiftieth anniversary. And Tip and his wife both went to the same high school. She was the one that insisted that Tip go to school there. He started working for the post office. She said, "You get to school, never mind! You get an education."

Well anyway, it was her fiftieth and they took her to lunch. So they were at the lunch. Tip said to her "You know, this is your fiftieth anniversary. Have a drink." She said, "Oh no, I don't." He said "Oh, come on, this is a big celebration." She said, "I wouldn't know what to have." He said "Well, you could have a Rob Roy. You could have a Martini." She said "Well, what's a Martini?" Well, he explained it [RVR laughs]. He's got this in his book [RVR laughs]! So the waiter came and he said, "We'll have two Old Fashions and a Martini." And the sister said, "Have them put the Martini in a tea cup [GG and RVR laugh]." So the guy went to the bartender and said, "Two Old Fashions and a Martini. And put the Martini in a tea cup." He said, "Is that nun back there again [GG and RVR laugh]?" Well of course, it was apocryphal, I mean she never [RVR laughs]! But he had that in his book and I saw him afterwards. I said "Boy, when she gets you up in Heaven, she's going to fix you, using her for your purposes [RVR laughs]!" He was a nice man. And you couldn't call him Tip in front of John McCormick. His name was Thomas. It was Thomas. You didn't call him Tip.

RVR: He was a great speaker.

GG: Yes. He was. He was a very nice man.

RVR: Rostenkowski talks about him a bit.

GG: Yes.

RVR: I met Tip O'Neil's daughter in Washington last week.

GG: Is that so?

RVR: They were having a program on the speakers, Tip O'Neil to Gingrich.

GG: That was too bad about Dan Rostenkowski. He had such a wonderful thing going for him. And it was a stupid thing.

RVR: That's the only way to explain it. Do you know him well?

GG: Yes, pretty well. He's a very nice man. Well, are we getting to twelve o'clock?

FWB: We can pack this up. And then about that time, we'll be ready for lunch.

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