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Interview with Gene Nolan

Date: 4 September 2003

Location: UIC Historian's Office, 815 W. Van Buren St., Chicago, IL.

Present: Gene Nolan and Dr. Fred W. Beuttler, Ph.D.

Dr. Fred W. Beuttler, Ph.D.: This is September 4, 2003. We're in the Rice Building. I'm talking with Eugene Nolan. We're talking about Mayor Richard J. Daley. Why don't you describe what your position was with the mayor? We can go from there.

GN: Well, I was a police officer. I'm a retired policeman. I was assigned to his bodyguard detail, and I was with him approximately ten years. This was during the 1960's.

FWB: All right. So approximately, when did you start?

GN: Well, I actually started when I came out of the army. I went on his detail. So, I filled in temporarily, and then I was assigned there permanently. So I worked there, as I said, during the 1960's.

FWB: What about the dates? When did you start? When did you end?

GN: Well, I started in 1960 itself.

FWB: Oh, 1960 itself?

GN: Yes. I think I left there in 1969, close to 1970. So it was over nine years.

FWB: It was over nine years—almost ten years.

GN: Right.

FWB: Okay. Well, that was a good start from the beginning. So, we know the area that you were working closely with the mayor. Why don't you tell a little bit about your career that got you to that point in 1960?

GN: Well, I went on the police department in 1957.

FWB: You're a native Chicagoan?

GN: Yes. I'm a born and raised Chicagoan.

FWB: Which neighborhood?

GN: I live now in Mt. Greenwood. I'm from 79th and Damen. That's where I was born and raised—Little Flower Parish. I went to St. Rita High School. Then, as I said, I joined the police department in 1957. I went into the army. When I came out of the army in 1960, I filled in on a summer detail, working as a security guard for Mayor Daley.

FWB: How were you assigned to that position? It seems like a very sensitive position.

GN: Somebody I knew had been assigned to the detail, and I asked if they needed any extra help. So he submitted my name, and that's how I got on the mayor's detail.

FWB: This is a question sort of a little bit outside—but what was the attitude of the police force towards the mayor, at that point? There was a big police scandal that had hit just before that point.

GN: Yes. The scandal you're referring to, I think, was in 1960. But I remember that Mayor Daley was always supportive of the police department. But as far as the policemen supporting him, I'm sure that some did and some didn't. But like anything else, it's the same today. But he certainly had the support of the majority.

FWB: Okay. I'm just trying to get an idea, because it was a major shakeup in the police department.

GN: It was. That was when O.W. Wilson came in. He became the superintendent of police.

FWB: Did you have much contact with him?

GN: Well, I got to know him and see him after being on the mayor's detail. He was a Californian. He actually did the search for the new superintendent, and then he accepted the position himself, to my understanding.

FWB: It was a good search committee.

GN: Right.

FWB: So, you volunteered over the summer. You actually requested to be on the mayor's security detail.

GN: Right. I did request it.

FWB: How big is the detail?

GN: Well, at that time, there were four men each day. There were a total of eight people. What we did was that we worked every other day and every other weekend.

FWB: So there were two in the front and two in the back.

GN: That's correct.

FWB: And that was for twenty-four hours.

GN: Well, what we did was that we were on for twenty-four hours, but we would start and pull the cars up at seven o'clock in the morning. Then, the mayor would come out, and he'd start out by going to church. Then he would, a lot of times, walk from mass at that church to city hall.

FWB: He went to Nativity right around the corner.

GN: That's right. He went to Nativity, or he'd go to Old St. Mary's at 9th and Wabash. Or he'd go to St. Peter's downtown. And then he'd walk to city hall.

FWB: And then he would walk there. How would it work when he was walking? This was the mayor's habit every day, right?

GN: Well, I would walk with him. Then we had one plainclothes police officer behind us, too. As I said, I was in plain clothes also, not in uniform.

FWB: Were there plain clothes, or unmarked cars, before and after?

GN: Well, there was the limousine and then the tail car behind.

FWB: In front of it was a police car?

GN: No. We had no marked cars at all. There were no marked squad cars.

FWB: Okay. I'm just trying to get a picture of it.

GN: No. We had no marked cars. As I said, we were dressed in business suits. One would walk with him and one would walk behind him.

FWB: So only two would be walking?

GN: There would just be two. The limousine would go on ahead, and we'd have one tail car, in the event of an emergency.

FWB: Right. Now, 1960 doesn't seem like an era that would have heightened security interests. I mean, there hadn't been a political assassination for a long time.

GN and FWB: Not yet.

GN: But being that we were all conscientious at our jobs, we wanted to make sure that nothing happened. It was an ounce of prevention, more or less. Like I said, the people that we had on the mayor's detail at that time—I'm sure they're the same now—they're conscientious. They want to do a good job. And they are good policemen.

FWB: Well, tell me some of the events that took place that first year or two. I know some of it, especially, connected with the building of the university here. Now, you were on call twenty-four hours a day, every other day, right?

GN: That's right. I was. He had somebody everyday. The Daley family had people assigned to the house detail also. They were in uniform.

FWB: They were in uniform and they were always in front of the house.

GN: Yes.

FWB: And there was probably one in the alley.

GN: That's right. Well, the cars were unmarked squad cars, but the police were in uniform.

FWB: They were in uniform.

GN: Yes.

FWB: I remember hearing some of the protests around the building of this campus. And there was actually a march to the mayor's house. There was actually an image of the mayor, burned in effigy, if I remember right.

GN: That was really the only incident that happened at the house, or personally to him, to my knowledge.

FWB: Okay. You mean during that whole period?

GN: Well, that's to my knowledge. You know, there was nobody that ever made a direct approach. Verbally, maybe, I don't know, but not to my knowledge.

FWB: Where you there? Did you know and gauge the mayor's reaction? Did he talk to you about that?

GN: You mean at that time?

FWB: Yes.

GN: Well, it was just that he was concerned about it. But we handled it. We took necessary precautions that we had to do, at that time.

FWB: Yes. That's an interesting story. You know, you don't see that kind of public protest really much for the decade or so before that, especially directed to the mayor and the mayor's person. So, it's interesting on that. So he didn't talk too much about it.

GN: No. He didn't say. Again, you know, my relationship with Mayor Richard J. Daley was strictly employer and employee. He was a wonderful man to work for. But I wasn't

in on any important conversations, more or less. I was not a department head. I was just a bodyguard.

FWB: Right. So tell me about some of the changes that took place in that early 1960's period. In 1959, he was re-elected, and then in 1963. And in 1963, we know about the Kennedy assassination.

GN: That's correct.

FWB: Tell me about those years. Give me a description of those years.

GN: Well, what I recall about them is that I was with the mayor and Mrs. Daley when President Kennedy was assassinated. And he went to the funeral. It was somber and it was very impressive. Those were tumultuous years—I mean, all of the 1960's—but that was like the beginning of them. So we had always heightened our security in those days. And I'm proud to say that we never had any incident happen. But as far as President Kennedy's assassination, Mayor Daley was, I'm sure, devastated over that incident. He certainly showed it.

FWB: How, kind of specifically, did the security arrangements change after that? Or did they?

GN: Well, they didn't change any more. We didn't add any more policemen to his detail. Again, like I said, I'm proud of what we did. We never had any incident. But people loved him. I mean, Mayor Daley was loved by the majority. Again, I'm using that term—He was loved by the majority of Chicagoans. So, nobody really made an assassination attempt on him. He received, I'm sure, letters, which any public official does. But we'd back check on it and make sure that it all turned out right.

FWB: With Daley, that meant he was in the outcome.

GN: That's right, exactly.

FWB: That was a much more positive result.

GN: Sure.

FWB: Well, let's go past the Kennedy assassination. You had a period from about 1964, really, up until, let's say until 1967—that third term. Describe that intervening period you had. There was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. coming to Chicago. You had west side rioting in the summer of 1963. It was pretty strong. Then, it was quiet for quite a while thereafter, even though many of the cities surrounding Chicago, like Detroit, or Watts in Los Angeles, were erupting in flames. You had one major riot in Chicago. Then, we can talk about 1968 a little bit. But tell me about that period. What was it like working with the mayor?

GN: Well, again, we were always on alert. That was a very dangerous time to be a public official. But the times after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated, the west side, as you said, was burning, and Mayor Daley felt very bad about it. I know he was affected by it personally. We knew that he always loved the city and he loved the people that were in it. But those were the times that, again, all I can say is that we were on heightened alert. But we were always contentious and we did what we had to do.

FWB: Now, did the mayor go and visit part of the areas on the west side, during some of the rioting?

GN: Well, he didn't when I was working. Again, I was only one shift.

FWB: Yes. I remember reading stories of him actually travelling by helicopter.

GN: Right. I'm sure he did. I just wasn't with him. I was probably off that day.

FWB: Yes. Well, you were working every other day.

GN: I was working every other day. That's how we worked it. We used to work from seven o'clock in the morning when we started, and we would work, more or less until, I'd say around ten, eleven, or twelve at night. And then, the rest of the night, we were on call.

FWB: You were on call just in case.

GN: Yes.

FWB: Well, tell me about the mayor's typical day.

GN: Well, again, he'd start out and come out of the house very early. And he'd start out by going to mass and Communion. I'd go into the church with him and sit behind him. I wouldn't sit with him. After he'd come out of mass, he'd walk right to city hall. And he'd go into his office and start receiving appointments. We had an adjoining office that we used to sit in, for the bodyguards. Then, we'd have one that would sit out near the front office, so there was a uniformed policeman at the front desk. But that's what we did. We'd stay there. We'd be planning our route on where we would have to go for the rest of our day. We'd have an appointment sheet that was given to us by the secretary.

So there would be a lunch, where he would have to give a speech at. And we would go there—for instance, the Conrad Hilton Hotel. So we would send a car ahead to see if the people were on time and if the speech was on time. Then we would let him know, so then, he wouldn't have too much of a wait, being that he had a busy schedule. Then, he'd go into the Conrad Hilton to give his speech. Then he'd leave and go back to city hall for his afternoon appointments. Then, at five thirty or six at night, we would drive him home, and he'd have dinner with his wife and family.

Then, about an hour later, he'd come back out, and he'd make wakes all over the city. He was a great wake-goer, and the families appreciated that. My own father died. I thought that it was wonderful he came. He paid his respects to the people. But that's the type of man that he was. So that's what we would do. Then he'd go back home after the wakes,

maybe nine or ten at night. Then, we would stay there until maybe midnight. Then, as I said, we'd be on call the rest of the time.

FWB: So there would be a couple of evening appointments after dinner, usually?

GN: Oh yes. And then, again, if he didn't have a wake at night, he mostly came out most of the nights, because he had ward meetings that he had to go to. Or he'd have some kind of a function, whether it was downtown or in the neighborhoods. As you know, there were parades and all kinds of activities. So he was a busy man.

FWB: Yes. I can imagine.

GN: Yes he was.

FWB: And you were following all of the way, right there.

GN: Yes. We had to be with him the whole time.

FWB: You were there for a parade or right next to him as an aide.

GN: We'd either stand behind him or we'd stand below in the front, where we could observe the crowd.

FWB: Right. There was probably both, one of each.

GN: Right. Exactly. And then, the two men would stay with the car. He'd always have two men with him at all times.

FWB: Okay. There was always that need for precaution.

GN: Right. Absolutely. We needed it.

FWB: Well, let's go ahead to 1968. You talked a little bit about the rioting after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s death. Skip back a little bit.

GN: Sure.

FWB: Do you remember when Dr. King came into Chicago, in 1966, in that summer? He lived down in Lawndale.

GN: Right.

FWB: I know that he spoke with the mayor a number of times. Do you remember? I don't know if you were there on duty that time or not. How did that go?

GN: Well again, you know, if he did—if he went in and spoke with the mayor—naturally, those were private meetings. And we weren't privy to those conversations. So no, I don't really know what the content of their conversations were.

FWB: What was the security like, though?

GN: With security, again, we were always on alert. I mean, if we thought we were going to need more policemen at the time, we would call for them. And we had the use of a few more policemen, if need be.

FWB: Now, there were a couple of famous meetings where he was with Dr. King. And Dr. King had a pretty large entourage with him. And there were a couple of people with the mayor. There was no security in the room there? Or was there?

GN: Well, there were a lot of meetings that Mayor Daley had with people, such as Dr. King. But no, we were not in the meetings. We'd be outside the door. But if it was of a

controversial nature, naturally we would be inside, if we thought we had to be there. It was more or less our call.

FWB: I was just kind of wondering about. That's because at this point, city hall has got the metal detectors and everything else.

GN: Right. Well again, you're going back forty years.

FWB: Right. There was a political assassination, after Kennedy. I was just wondering how that worked. But the mayor's office was seen, in many ways, as needed to be protected.

GN: Sure.

FWB: I have a question about the mayor's office. One of the things that this project is hoping to do is to work with the state to put together a Daley museum, or a museum of Chicago politics, during the time of the mayor. One of the things that I'd like to really see, and I've been working a little bit on it, is in that museum—in many presidential libraries, for example, they will replicate the mayor's office. And I know that the mayor used two offices, right—the inner and the outer office.

GN: Right.

FWB: How big were these places? How were they designed?

GN: Well, his office, in those days, was the same as Mayor Daley's is now. I mean, it's that same office. But then again, there was a press conference room. I don't know how it's situated now, but in those days, it was quite big. It might be the same. If he had large crowds...

FWB: Yes. There was a press conference room open.

GN: Right. But he would more or less bring in a contingent of maybe five or ten people from any group. He certainly wouldn't be in his office with too many. They'd bring in five or ten.

FWB: So the office would fit about five to eight people.

GN: You mean in the press conference room?

FWB: No.

GN: You mean in his own office?

FWB: Yes.

GN: Well, that's quite a big office, too.

FWB: It's about as big as here?

GN: I'd say about the size of this office, yes.

FWB: I'm trying to get an idea.

GN: Right. It's about the size of this office. Getting back to when president was assassinated, and he went to the funeral—In 1964, I went to Ireland with him and Mrs. Daley. The mayor and Mrs. Daley were treated like a king and queen. I mean, they were that much thought of. President Kennedy was everybody in Ireland's favorite. And I think Mayor Daley actually was then—had become—what they thought of President Kennedy. So it was an interesting trip. I just wanted to mention that. He went to his ancestral hometown of Dungarvan.

FWB: How long was the trip?

GN: It was actually about a three-week trip. It was a long trip. But we went to other countries, too. He had a private audience with the pope. We went to Italy. We went to the summer residence of the pope in Gandofol, Italy. So that was the highlight of the trip.

FWB: I can imagine it was.

GN: It was.

FWB: It must have been incredible.

GN: It was. It was really something. And I was honored to go.

FWB: Oh definitely, you were entrusted.

GN: Right. I was really honored to go. But Mrs. Daley, also—she was just a wonderful person. She was just like a mother figure to everybody. I mean, everybody just considered her like their own mother. She was just a fantastic, friendly, outgoing person that was really nice.

FWB: Now, she didn't usually accompany him on evening visits or evening wakes.

GN: Well, yes she did. If there was a family that they knew, Mrs. Daley would be with him. If there was something where she thought she should be, she would be there, and quite often. But other times, if it was just a city function, Mrs. Daley, more or less, concentrated her time to her children—to her family. She was a great family person.

FWB: And he almost, every night, ate dinner at home, right?

GN: Yes, absolutely. In fact, if he would go to a dinner—to a function—he would try not to eat. He would come in for the speech, and he'd stay there for quite a while, but no, he would try not to eat there. He would eat his dinner at home.

FWB: Usually, it was from six to seven?

GN: Right. It was in that area.

FWB: Yes. It was after an event, something like that

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GN: Yes.

FWB: It was an hour to an hour and a half.

GN: That's correct.

FWB: He was always faithful.

GN: He was always faithful. He would always have dinner at home.

FWB: He would have dinner at home.

GN: He was a great family man. I kind of patterned my own life after him. He was known and loved, again, by most.

FWB: So tell me about the convention, in 1968.

GN: Well, at the convention, I was assigned to him. I was at the International Amphitheater. Again, you know, it was a rough time when the speechmaking was going on. I was kneeling in the aisle next to him and his contingent of people—next to Mayor

Daley. The newspapers the next day said that he said the bad word to—I think it was Senator Ribicoff. And I can tell you, he did not.

FWB: He didn't, because you were there. You were there right next to him.

GN: I was there. I was kneeling. The reason we were kneeling in the aisle is because seats were not available, so I was that close to him.

FWB: That was your job.

GN: I had to be as close as I could. But I can honestly tell you that I never heard him say that word in my whole time that I was with him. So that was not him. I remember reading that in the paper and thought how wrong they were.

FWB: And that was a pretty emotional time for the mayor.

GN: It was, yes.

FWB: What did he say? Do you remember the kinds of things he said? That was part of a long deal, because Ribicoff was denouncing the mayor.

GN: Well he was. He was criticizing the mayor. The mayor was saying, "Go home." I can't remember the rest of his speech, but I always remembered that. I thought how wrong the press was to be saying that.

FWB: Tell me of the mayor's actions during that week, that you were a part of. I would imagine that not only was there heightened security, but probably even extra time that you had to put in.

GN: We did. We worked a lot of hours in those days. In fact, we had double shifts, so everybody was working. We were, again, on heightened alert. He had all of his people—

the department heads and the politicians—at the amphitheater. Like I said, it was really an interesting time. But luckily, we had no incidents happen. That was my function. My function was that nobody got near him or hurt him in any way. And we were successful.

FWB: I can imagine that it was extremely difficult in the middle of the amphitheater there. I mean, it was just jammed with people.

GN: Right. It was really crowded.

FWB: They were very angry people, in some ways.

GN: Right. Some were. There was some yelling and screaming. The majority of the people that were around him were his people. And so, more or less...

FWB: There were no more problems.

GN: No. There were no problems.

FWB: Yes. That was interesting.

GN: Yes. It was an interesting time to be around.

FWB: Yes. Tell me about from that, to the end of your experience with the mayor.

GN: Well, again, like I said, I traveled with him whenever he had to go. There were numerous trips to Washington. There were numerous trips to other places that he had to go to, like business trips to New York. He went on the inaugural flight to the Scandinavian countries. That was during the 1960's. It was Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.

FWB: That was from O'Hare?

GN: That was out of O'Hare, yes. So anyhow, we went out there with his department heads. And that was interesting. There were different trips that I recall.

FWB: Would he bring his family on some of these?

GN: He did.

FWB: There was Ireland.

GN: Well, for instance, in the Scandinavian countries, it was the Mayor and Mrs. Daley.

FWB: It was just them?

GN: Yes. It was just those two, that I recall. There were a lot of other trips where he did bring his family, which were the rest of the children, at that time. So yes, he did bring them on some. And then, on business trips, more or less, he didn't. In fact, there were some times that it was just him and I, and there was maybe one of his department heads again.

FWB: He had the relevant department head for whatever the discussion was.

GN: That's correct.

FWB: Did he go down to Springfield a lot?

GN: He did. He went to Springfield a lot. Sure he did. And when we went to Springfield, though, usually we'd drive down there. I recall one time driving to New York. We did that. He wanted to drive.

FWB: Why would he want to drive to New York?

GN: Well, it was just an interesting trip. It was, more or less, a vacation.

FWB: It was a vacation combined with some work.

GN: Yes. So I remember driving then. That was a long drive. New York, as you know, is a long trip from here.

FWB: Oh yes. What about Michigan, when he went to vacation there and that kind of thing? What was that like? Would you be out there?

GN: Yes. We'd be out there. The family stayed there. We'd stay there, too. Whenever he was there, we'd be there. So again, we'd watch the premises at the time. Whenever he would leave, we would leave. Mrs. Daley never wanted any bodyguards, more or less, for herself. So we stayed with him.

FWB: There was always someone at the house.

GN: There was.

FWB: And she, most of the time, would stay at the house.

GN: Right. Well, she was a very independent woman. She used to come and go by herself. She wanted to lead a normal life.

FWB: She wanted a normal life with the kids around.

GN: Yes.

FWB: Now, I'm trying to get a sense of how he would work over the summer. It gets quite hot in Chicago and Michigan, and Michigan is much nicer. He would have the family out there for much of it, right?

GN: He did. Well, the family would come and go in those days. When they were smaller, they would all go together.

FWB: They would all go.

GN: Sure they would.

FWB: Now, he would stay there at night, then come back into the city to work, and then go back out?

GN: He did. Well, that would happen, too. We'd leave early in the morning and come back into the city. And then, we'd go right downtown.

FWB: Was that quite frequently?

GN: Well, that was occasionally. Usually, he didn't spend too much time on vacations. He was a busy man.

FWB: He did have that place. But he could get away for a lot of weekend stuff, I imagine.

GN: Right. He tried to go there whenever possible. But again, his schedule was so busy.

FWB: Was he busy that much on the weekends, too?

GN: He was busy on the weekends, also. He was. He had all kinds of things. There were all kinds of award functions, or he'd have a parade. I mean, I never saw a job in my life that's as busy as a mayor's job—especially Chicago.

FWB: Yes. I can imagine.

GN: There was always something.

FWB: And the weekends were almost as busy as during the week?

GN: They were. I mean, it's actually, as you know, a seven-day-a-week job. It really is.

FWB: Yes it is, very clearly.

GN: Right. And he always spent as much time as possible with his family. You know, whenever he wasn't working, he was with his family.

FWB: Yes. Did he go to opening day for the White Sox?

GN: He'd be there for opening day, yes. He'd go to them. He'd go to hockey games on Sunday nights. I remember that. So he'd go to the sporting events. He loved the White Sox. He was a White Sox fan. As you said, he'd be there on opening day.

FWB: And you got to go with him.

GN: Sure. We were working.

FWB: You were working. But you got to see the game.

GN: Well, you know, we had to pay attention to what our job was. I mean, I wasn't just sitting there watching the ballgame.

FWB: Yes. You had to watch around and see who's coming up to the mayor. I mean, one of the things I would imagine people would try to do was to buttonhole and talk to him, if it was a more informal occasion. Was that part of your job, in some ways, to shield him from people?

GN: No. He wouldn't want us to do that. If you could see that some guy was drunk or whatever, we would try to have him avoid him. But most of the time, the mayor would just talk to him, and that would satisfy whoever he was talking to.

FWB: So he was not really insulated, but much more outgoing, toward the people that were coming up to him?

GN: He was. I mean, I'll tell you the type of man he was also. We'd walk down the street, and he'd see a street person sitting on the curb.

FWB: You mean like a homeless guy?

GN: There'd be a homeless guy sitting on the curb, and he would say to me, "Give him this money." I'd walk over to the man—he'd be sitting down on the curb—and I'd give him the money. And he would never know where it came from. I mean, the mayor would keep walking. But he cared about that person. He always used to say to me when I got back to him, "Well, he's somebody's son," or, "He's somebody's husband." So I mean, that's the type of person he was.

FWB: Just offer him a dollar or something.

GN: Exactly.

FWB: That's interesting. I've never heard that.

GN: Yes. That's the way he was. It was just one of the things he used to do if he saw somebody in need, he certainly would be the first to give them something.

FWB: Now, he would usually walk a mile, or something like that, to his office.

GN: Right.

FWB: Was it the same route, or a different route—or always down LaSalle?

GN: No. It was different routes. But again, it would be like if he went to mass at 9th and Wabash. And then, also in those days, the Democratic headquarters was at the Morrison Hotel, and he'd walk from city hall, after work, back over to the Morrison Hotel. So he did quite a bit of walking. He was a great walker. I don't know, I was much taller than him and I had a hard time keeping up. I mean, he had a great stride. He could really walk.

FWB: And he enjoyed that walk.

GN: Oh, he loved walking.

FWB: He'd meet a large number of people.

GN: He loved walking. Yes. I mean, he was a great athlete in his time. From what I remember hearing, he was a good ball player. I remember that he always had big shoulders. He was just a regular city guy. He loved Chicago, in those days, and Chicago loved him.

FWB: So, why did you leave the detail?

GN: I went over to the Area 1 Detective Division, at that time. And I wanted to get another phase of being a policeman. But I stayed on the police department for forty-three years. I just retired three years ago. I had an interesting career, and I enjoyed it all.

FWB: Did you have as much contact with the mayor after you left?

GN: Well, I didn't as much. But he was always the type to send you a Christmas card. Then, I'd see him at wakes. In fact, my dad died, as I mentioned, and he came to the wake. So that was after I'd left him. But that's the type he was. He didn't forget. He never forgot.

FWB: Now, sort of the mix of this detail that was very close to him—what was it, age-wise, race-wise?

GN: Mostly, they were young men.

FWB: They were younger guys.

GN: Yes. They were younger men. I'd say that they were guys in their twenties and thirties. They were aggressive type of policemen that knew their job and were conscientious. And they wanted to be assigned there. Again, it was a commitment. They put in a lot of hours. At that time, I was single, so hours...

FWB: It didn't really matter.

GN: It didn't matter to me.

FWB: Yes. I was going to ask about family.

GN: Yes, I was single at the time.

FWB: That's because it would be very difficult on a family.

GN: Again, I'll tell you the type of man the mayor was, too. One of the policeman's basement flooded. He said, "Well, you send that man home. His family needs him." So that's the type he was. Family meant everything to him.

FWB: Yes. So you decided to go on a different phase in your career.

GN: I did.

FWB: You wanted to get your life back.

GN: I did go onto a day shift. I got married in 1966.

FWB: Well, that's understandable, very clearly.

GN: Sure.

FWB: You had a fascinating career.

GN: I did.

FWB: You had an inside look at the 1960's in Chicago.

GN: I did.

FWB: You were right at the right hand of the mayor.

GN: Right. And I appreciated it. I really did. I have great memories.

FWB: Yes. Is there anything else you want to add about some of those memories?

GN: No. Not that I know of, except for him and her—the Mayor and Mrs. Daley—they had a great love for each other. And I remember that. I always admired that because my own mother and father were like that. So I always admired them. I thought, "Wow. What a great example he gave to the people." He loved Chicago. He loved Chicago as much as he loved his family. So he was just a great man.

FWB: You never could see him outside of Chicago?

GN: Oh no. Someone said that he was offered a cabinet post, and I remember reading also that he said, "Well, who'd want to be in the cabinet when you can be the mayor of Chicago?" And I always admired that. He was a Chicago man.

FWB: Yes. He knew his job and that was his ambition—to be the mayor of Chicago.

GN: Right.

FWB: It's interesting to see his son.

GN: It is.

FWB: Well, if he runs for the next term, he'll be in longer than his father.

GN: Exactly.

FWB: It seemed like that ambition was to be the mayor of Chicago.

GN: I'll tell you, he had great training, because he's doing a great job like his father did. He sure is. He's to be admired also. I mean, he got great training under his father.

FWB: Yes. It's interesting to see some of his mannerisms. He's very clearly his father.

GN: Doesn't he? Yes. He's looking more like him. Well, you know, we all become our fathers (GN and FWB laugh). We do.

FWB: Oh yes. Well thanks for coming in, and for giving us some of these very interesting insights.

GN: Sure. I hope it was helpful.

FWB: Yes. There were a few stories I'd never heard before. It added quite a bit of color to the man. That's because I'm not sure that the biographies that have been out really do justice to him.

GN: You're right. I don't think so, either.

FWB: There's a whole other side that people don't see.

GN: I think this library is wonderful. It's going to be great.

FWB: Yes. There does need to be a museum area.

GN: Exactly.

FWB: From 1955 to 1976, that's really one of the most important periods of the twentieth century.

GN: And again, like I said, in those years that I was with him—the 1960's were tough years, and yet, he survived them. I don't mean physically. But he survived them politically. So that's amazing, too, that he'd gotten that far.

FWB: Yes. You know, as a historian looking back, a lot of it is quite critical. Some of the history is quite critical. But some of it is because they just look at Chicago in isolation.

And if you compare 1950 Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis, and Cleveland—the same places—industrial, working class, white, ethnic cities—twenty-five years later, Detroit is a disaster. Cleveland is a disaster. St. Louis is barely holding on. New York is bankrupt. And Chicago is not.

GN: Well, you know, I have a friend who just came in from California—We grew up together—and I can't wait to show him Chicago. I can't wait to show him. That's because I remember when he left and he had to go out to California on business to work out there. I remember him saying, "Oh, I don't want to go back downtown anymore." Well, I can't wait to show him downtown. That's because if you go downtown, you can't find a newspaper that's blowing around. It's so clean. It's so safe. Being a retired policeman, the safety of the city is just amazing. And this mayor, Richard M. Daley, has done an outstanding job. I mean, when you think of other cities, as you said, I mean, it's just amazing.

FWB: Yes. Compare Chicago to other places. There are a few things that we need to work on.

GN: Oh sure. Again, nothing is perfect. I can't wait to show this to my friend and his wife.

FWB: Yes. It's really nice. I've got relatives coming in next summer and I'm really excited to show them. There were a couple of periods, probably in the early 1980's, when it wasn't the nicest downtown. The current mayor has really turned it around. But the legacy of the first mayor, Richard J. Daley, is very strong. Chicago was well on its way, in the 1970's, to be stable, unlike Detroit. Detroit hasn't recovered from that period. And Major Daley really built it so that Chicago could take off.

GN: It sure did. He's sure done a remarkable job.

FWB: Yes. Both of the mayors have.

GN: Yes. Both of them have, exactly. It's a Mayor Daley town.

FWB: Yes. Well, it's coming up to something like forty years, of both Daleys.

GN: Right. Well, that's the way it should be (GN and FWB laugh).

FWB: Well thank you very much for coming down.

GN: Thank you, doctor.

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