

Orren Beaty, Jr., Oral History Interview – JFK#11, 1/16/1970
Administrative Information

Creator: Orren Beaty, Jr.
Interviewer: William W. Moss
Date of Interview: January 16, 1970
Place of Interview: Washington, D.C.
Length: 16 pages

Biographical Note

Beaty was administrative assistant to Congressman Stewart L. Udall during the late 1950s and assistant to Secretary of Interior Udall from 1961 to 1967. In this interview, he discusses interactions between the State Department and the Fish and Wildlife Service over international treaties, and Udall's international trips during his time as Secretary of Interior, among other issues.

Access

Open.

Usage Restrictions

According to the deed of gift signed July 23, 1979, copyright of these materials has been assigned to the United States Government.

Copyright

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be "used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship, or research." If a user makes a request for, or later uses, a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excesses of "fair use," that user may be liable for copyright infringement. This institution reserves the right to refuse to accept a copying order if, in its judgment, fulfillment of the order would involve violation of copyright law. The copyright law extends its protection to unpublished works from the moment of creation in a tangible form. Direct your questions concerning copyright to the reference staff.

Transcript of Oral History Interview

These electronic documents were created from transcripts available in the research room of the John F. Kennedy Library. The transcripts were scanned using optical character recognition and the resulting text files were proofread against the original transcripts. Some formatting changes were made. Page numbers are noted where they would have occurred at the bottoms of the pages of the original transcripts. If researchers have any concerns about accuracy, they are encouraged to visit the Library and consult the transcripts and the interview recordings.

Suggested Citation

Orren Beaty, Jr., recorded interview by William W. Moss, January 16, 1970, (page number), John F. Kennedy Library Oral History Program.

JUL 22 1970

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE

Gift of Personal Statement

of Orren Beaty

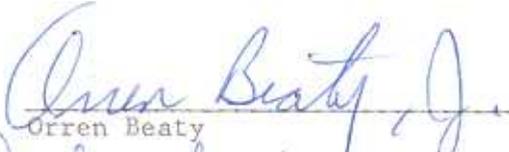
JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY

I, Orren Beaty of Washington, D. C., do hereby give to the John F. Kennedy Library, for use and administration therein, all my rights, title and interest, except as hereinafter provided, to the tape recording and the transcript of the interviews conducted at Washington, D. C. on October 10, 1969, October 24, 1969, October 31, 1969, November 7, 1969, November 14, 1969, November 21, 1969, December 5, 1969, December 12, 1969, December 19, 1969, January 9, 1970, January 16, 1970, February 13, 1970, February 20, 1970 and February 27, 1970 for the John F. Kennedy Library.

I hereby donate all literary rights in the transcript of the aforesaid interview to the John F. Kennedy Library.

The tape and transcript may be opened to researchers at the discretion of the Director of the John F. Kennedy Library; his decision to be based on such considerations as potential embarrassment to living persons or their immediate successors, the interests of national security, or potential prejudice to the friendly relations between the United States and foreign nations.

This agreement may be revised by mutual consent of the parties undersigned.


Orren Beaty
July 4, 1979
Month Day Year


Archivist of the United States
July 23, 1979
Month Day Year

Orren Beaty, Jr. – JFK#11

Table of Contents

<u>Page</u>	<u>Topic</u>
249	Passamaquoddy tidal power project
252	International treaties and the Fish and Wildlife Service
254	National Aquarium Act of 1962
255	Run-in with Congressman Henry S. Reuss over national parks
257	Stewart L. Udall's international trips
264	John F. Kennedy assassination

Eleventh of Fourteen Oral History Interviews

with

Orren Beaty, Jr.

January 16, 1970
Washington, D.C.

By William W. Moss

For the John F. Kennedy Library

MOSS: Okay, a couple of things to start off with right off the bat, we were talking about last time and I want to pick up on them, one is the Passamaquoddy tidal power project. We went into some detail last time, but I've had some indication since that the White House was sort of backed into a corner on this one--at least the White House staff was, that there was no coordination to the appropriate people beforehand, and that somehow Udall [Stewart L. Udall] got President Kennedy [John F. Kennedy] to commit himself before seeing Larry O'Brien [Lawrence F. O'Brien] and the Budget Bureau people, the Council of Economic Advisers, and really had a look at the thing.

BEATY: I think that's probably true.

MOSS: Do you know anything more about it?

BEATY: No, I don't. It's just one of those things I'm going to have to really scan my own records on and see if I can't come up with something that will be helpful. But Udall had a way of hanging back at the end of a cabinet meeting or something and broaching an idea that he'd been working on or that he'd been talking to somebody in Congress about. It didn't go through normal channels, like through White House staff and Budget Bureau and all these things. It wasn't his thought that he was putting forth, you know, a final

proposal, but "Here's something that's been studied in the past and I think it's got some merits." I don't doubt at all that he--that one had an opportunity to talk to the President. Very likely he had already talked to Ed Muskie [Edmund S. Muskie] and some of these people.

I think I mentioned this last time. Our power people knew how out of line the New England power rates are with the rest of the country's, and here was an opportunity to get some public power on the line and help bring the whole thing down. New England complains about loss of industry. Well, it's possible that our restrictions on the import of fuel oil is one reason that power costs are high, but another is that there is no competition. These small towns that have public-owned utilities have to pay a tremendous price to get it from the bigger producers or else they've got these small inefficient plants. There's a great need for more power that doesn't cost two or three times what it does someplace else.

I think the West.... What if they sell power from the Bureau of Reclamation dams for six mils a--I suppose the unit is a kilowatt-hour. I've forgotten now; I think that's what it is. And New England--it seems to me that some places it's twenty-two mils. While six mils is cheap, but so is the other out of line in the other direction. But I can't tell you a thing right now that will substantiate one thing or the other.

It's just that this was something that really stirred some interest in the President. It was a chance for some cooperation with Canada, and it was in his part of the country. It was something that had whole New Deal support. You know, it had a lot going for it if it could be proved feasible now where it had been dropped in the past. Our studies showed it was feasible, maybe not overwhelmingly so in the cost-benefit ratio, but when you tied it in with the dam on the Saint John River [Maine] or one of its tributaries, it combined the power output of a steadier supply and something that economically was feasible.

MOSS: I get a similar kind of impression on the Land and Water Conservation Fund thing, that this sort of issued from the Interior Department full-blown before anybody else had a crack at it.

BEATY: Yes, I'm sure of that. And I'm sure there was some discomfiture at Budget Bureau with Udall pushing ideas and getting them publicized, boxing them in a little bit.

MOSS: Yes, well, that's the next question now. Was this a deliberate tactic on his part, do you think?

BEATY: I think so.

MOSS: I've heard, for instance, that it probably never would have had a chance if all the budget types had really sat down on it early in the game.

BEATY: Well, the very first thing--and you've talked about this, and I wish I had been busier over there and remembered more. But in revising the budget circular on the recreational benefits, I sat through a number of meetings with Elmer Staats, [Elmer B. Staats], and for a guy as sharp as Elmer Staats is he could be awfully dense. He'd make you explain the whole thing each time, you know, like "Why, I don't quite understand this." So the hell he didn't. He understood very well what we were trying to do and it was legitimate, but it wasn't what they wanted us to do.

So you just work it over and over and over, and I think Udall just got fed up with it. He quit going to these meetings. Holum [Kenneth Holum], Henry Caulfield [Henry P. Caulfield, Jr.] probably a lawyer, I can't remember now who all was involved, and I went along as the Secretary's representative, not that I was an expert on it. I wasn't. But it was very clear that anything we wanted to do, if it's going to cost money, Budget's going to be against it. The only way they'd be for it is if the President said, "Go ahead."

So Udall just, I think, very cautiously.... We didn't talk about it; you know, I didn't say, "Well, now, why are you doing it this way?" and he didn't say, "Well, those guys in Budget won't let us do anything," but these were undoubtedly our thoughts.

MOSS: Did you ever hear him express exasperation?

BEATY: Oh, sure, Yeah, yeah. I don't remember anything on these specific things, but I know that on many things--probably later, maybe not during this period, but later--he would talk to Sam Hughes [Philip Samuel Hughes] at Budget and go over some of them. And if Budget knew that the President was interested, then we'd get some constructive help. In the latter stages of the Johnson [Lyndon Baines Johnson] administration, maybe Sam.... He comes from the Northwest, and he was interested in the Northern Cascades park and Udall worked with him arranging adjustments of boundaries and compromises between Interior and [Department of] Agriculture. But the President here all along was determined to get this done and was telling Budget to do it. So I think that towards the end Udall worked with Budget better than he did before. But back at that period, I think he very likely decided to get this all worked up and go ahead with it if the President was interested.

It was easy on the land-water conservation thing because we had the

[-251-]

Rockefeller [Laurance S. Rockefeller] report, the ORRRC [Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission] report, and there had been a lot of agitation on it. President Kennedy had been in the Senate when this thing was set up and as the people were appointed and as work was done. You know, it wasn't a secret; when Laurence Rockefeller's onto something the *New York Times* will publicize it. So it wasn't like a lot of things at Interior that the average eastern congressman or senator never hears about until they get down to the final vote on the appropriations bill or something like that. This was well known, and I think very likely there was enough publicity, enough editorializing on it, on the report, that the President was eager to see what we would come up with.

MOSS: Let me ask you a couple of things in another area. This is over in Briggs's [Frank P. Briggs] area in Fish and Wildlife. There doesn't seem to be much there really happening, sort of a caretaking operation. Is that more or less correct? They got into the recreation business a little bit.

BEATY: Well, we kind of fell into a very constructive bit of legislation the first year we were in. This was the wetlands preservation bill. It authorized expenditure of a whole lot of money, maybe a hundred million dollars. I may be exaggerating this thing, but it was over a long period of time to save several hundred thousand acres of land in the Dakotas and Minnesota, the pothole country, the wet country where the ducks live in the summer and breed and bring back their young in the fall.

The conservation organizations, I suppose Ducks Unlimited and National Wildlife Federation and Audubon Society, all of them had been working on this. It was one of the few things we got through Congress the first year; I think it's the first year. Certainly it was the first Congress that Kennedy was president. It was the Briggs area in our department that was working on it. I think it would have happened almost without their help, but we gave it very active support once we found out it was moving. You know, Commercial Fisheries Bureau has an awful lot to do in international relations in advising State, in working with the State Department on the treaties, North Atlantic, North Pacific.

MOSS: Do they get into the seal business?

BEATY: Yes, yes. This was one of the things. It was during this period too, I guess, that the Foulke Fur [Co.] contract problem came up, and this was something that occupied a lot of our attention. I imagine George Meany said to President Kennedy, "You can't let that lousy bunch of bandits move away from St. Louis and set up their fur processing thing in South Carolina in a non-union area and still get all these government furs to process."

[-252-]

It's the seal business, the Pribilof Island seals, and the Foulke Fur Company has been doing this exclusively for fifty years or so. They're really experts at it. They do a beautiful job with it. They had some kind of a union hassle in St. Louis and just moved out. And the union people, naturally, working with it must have known the processes and so they got together with people to organize a rival company and put in a bid for the business. We tried to take it away from Foulke, struggled along for a long time. I'm not sure if it got into court or not. It probably did.

In the end Foulke prevailed, and business is still being conducted by them in South Carolina, and the employees of long standing in St. Louis are doing other jobs now. But our interest in that, making a change there, came out of the White House.

MOSS: Who handled the State Department end of the international treaty thing?

BEATY: There were occasional meetings involving Udall and an assistant secretary,

general counsel, or whatever his title was over there. I'm sure there were times Udall and Rusk [Dean Rusk] discussed it on the phone when there was something that required top-level decisions. But normally Clarence Pautzke [Clarence F. Pautzke], who was the commissioner of Fish and Wildlife, this is kind of a number two job in the.... There is Assistant Secretary Briggs and then the commissioner of Fish and Wildlife, and both of them are presidential appointments requiring Senate confirmation. Pautzke was the United States government's representative on all those treaty...

MOSS: Commissions.

BEATY: ...commissions, and attended conferences in Canada and Japan and Russia. Briggs, I'm sure, was kept informed, but he wasn't the one who took the lead in it.

MOSS: Any particular interest from the White House on this?

BEATY: Oh, yes. There was constant communication on this. This is something that obviously affected foreign affairs, and the President did show interest. There were people.... Bundy's [McGeorge Bundy's] office--I went to one meeting in his office. But it was somebody else; it wasn't Bundy himself who was working with Pautzke and with our people and somebody from State Department.

MOSS: Carl Kaysen or Komer [Robert William Komer]?

[-253-]

BEATY: I can't remember, no.

MOSS: Forrestal [Michael V. Forrestal]?

BEATY: No, I know him. I mean I knew him, and he wasn't the one. We met with him occasionally on some of these Trust Territories and Samoa and that sort of thing. I can't remember who it was, but there was always somebody from the State Department too, and too, and I can't think of his name. He wasn't an assistant secretary, but he was a high-ranking career man who worked on these fish matters. You know, they also were involved every time one of our tuna boats or something got picked up by Ecuador or Peru and dragged into port. Don McKernan [Donald L. McKernan] was the head of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries; he is now at State Department as a principal adviser. In fact, I think he took the place of the man whose name I'm trying to think of who retired.

MOSS: Did [Department of] Commerce get into the act at all?

BEATY: We didn't meet with them regularly. I'm sure they were involved in it, but I don't recall any meetings that I knew about or that I participated in when there was somebody from Commerce there.

MOSS: How about flak from the Hill on this kind of thing--probably somebody like Bob Wilson [Robert Carlton Wilson] in San Diego?

BEATY: Yeah, they screamed occasionally. Magnuson [Warren G. Magnuson] was always involved with this, particularly this Alaskan area, the fisheries there where the Japanese would move in or would no longer honor the old treaty requirements that they not fish east of the 103rd, or whatever it was, meridian. The members of Congress, I think without exception, took the part of their local fishermen and didn't give a damn about international repercussions. Just like in Alaska. The Alaskan governor sent out a gunboat or something to capture a Japanese trawler or a Russian.... Their senators would back them up on this even though they were obviously interfering in foreign relations and causing problems. They're representing the local fishermen and that's all. There wasn't too much of this. Right now Magnuson and Wilson are the two that I can think of that sounded off the most.

MOSS: Another subject in that general area, did you get involved in the National Aquarium Act [of 1962] thing?

BEATY: Oh, sure.

MOSS: That was quite a laughingstock for a while, and then it got serious, wasn't it, because the...

BEATY: Well, you just can't help but be serious when the guy that's in favor of it controls your money. It was Mike Kirwan's [Michael J. Kirwan] idea. Well, you know, it's logical that the

[-254-]

nation's capital ought to have a first-rate aquarium, but when you think of all the other needs around here the idea of putting fifty million dollars or something like that into an aquarium seems kind of ludicrous. I was never much interested in it personally, and I don't know that anybody else was. But Mike Kirwan's enthusiasm was such that eventually I think maybe Jim Carr [James K. Carr] and Stewart Udall both got to think it was a pretty good idea. I know that they talked a good game, and I'm not going to go up and say, "Are you sincere?" But I personally enjoyed all the editorials and columns that blasted the idea because it was just irritating that one congressman could brow beat Budget Bureau and the President and the Department of Interior and everybody else into doing something that he wanted done.

MOSS: Then it was simply from his power over the purse that it was...

BEATY: Absolutely, totally. I don't know whether it was just a hobby with him, whether he was really interested in it, or whether he had some angle. I just

don't know. There are people who thought he had some angle, but I don't see how he could. I mean, I know of nothing--that he owns stock in some aquarium company that would supply the stuff. I don't think so. I think it was just something that he wanted to leave as a memorial to Mike Kirwan in the District of Columbia. We just couldn't do anything but go along with it.

MOSS: On another congressman's pet thing. I understand, I guess it was in the May '62 conservation message or something of that sort where you are listing the new parks and new monuments and so on, somehow the Ice Age National [Scientific Reserve] monument in Wisconsin got left out. Henry Reuss [Henry S. Reuss] screamed. Do you remember this?

BEATY: Oh, sure. Yeah. It got left out on purpose, I think.

MOSS: By whom and why?

BEATY: Maybe it was an oversight, but I think the [National] Park Service wasn't totally convinced that this was an area that merited full-scale national park treatment, classification. We were interested in it. There aren't too many park areas that have these glacial characteristics--I can't think of the names, moraines and so forth --and here's an area that does, and it ought to be preserved. But we didn't regard it, I don't think, as one of their topflight areas to be included. As I say, maybe it was left out accidentally. I know that was the story that...

[-255-]

MOSS: The story that I got was that Reuss got an advance copy of the thing and saw that it was left out and called Interior. Interior said White House cut it out. And White House said, no, Interior cut it out. How did this happen...

BEATY: Well, it was...

MOSS: ...this loss of signals here?

BEATY: No, I don't think it was any loss of signals. I think it was buck-passing. If Interior had played the game right, we would have told Henry Reuss, "Sorry, we overlooked it." You don't pass the buck on to the White House.

MOSS: Well, this is what I wondered. The department usually gets the blame.

BEATY: That's right.

MOSS: Not the White House.

BEATY: That's right. We should have. I suppose Henry got somebody that didn't know

what the score was and so it's easier to say, "Well, it was in our.... Well, maybe...." But it wasn't our first drafts. It seems to me they dropped several, and that was just one of them that--you know, you can't just list everything. That's only one small part of the message, and they knocked out some to cut, to reduce it. But I do know that Reuss handled the whole thing extremely ineptly. We almost....

MOSS: I understand he was furious.

BEATY: We almost had to keep him off the floor of the House when the thing was up for consideration in order to get it approved because he was making enemies instead of friends in trying to get the bill passed. Oh, he was furious. There was no question about it at that point. Well, what we wound up with was a federally assisted state--you know, it's a joint federal-state thing...

MOSS: Rather like the Allagash [River] business.

BEATY: Yeah. And it's not a national park. It's the Ice Age--I don't know what it is.

MOSS: Monument.

BEATY: Yeah. But it's partly state owned and partly state supported and partly federal, I think. I couldn't tell you the exact...

[-256-]

MOSS: Well, this can be checked out by somebody else.

BEATY: But Udall went up there with Reuss and they walked through it and they got in boats and I don't know what all they did. But this had been done, I think, before this incident, so we knew about it and liked the area, but it didn't have top priority in our thinking, I don't think. I think it was one of those things we thought would fall to us because nobody's against it particularly. It wasn't like Indiana Dunes or something like that where you've got some real economic conflicts.

MOSS: I'd like to shift to an entirely different subject, and that's Udall's overseas trips. Did you accompany him on any of these?

BEATY: Yes, but normally I didn't. I went to, let's see.... I didn't go any place with him the first year. I forget what year he made the first Japanese trip; probably the second year, 1962, but I'm not sure. He didn't take staff people with him on these trips. Normally he'd take--counting his immediate staff, he never took a secretary along or staff assistant like Bill Pozen [Walter I. Pozen] or me, but he would take a professional expert out of one of the bureaus.

For example, he took somebody from Park Service and somebody from Fish and Wildlife area or the science adviser's office to Argentina when the western hemisphere game

preservation conference, or whatever this was called, wildlife conference was held, and nobody out of his immediate office went on that. When he went to Saudi Arabia and Jordan and Israel--maybe he didn't go to Israel, but it was an Arab trip--he took people from the Office of Saline Water and Park Service and that sort of thing.

MOSS: There was something about an Israeli plant...

BEATY: Saline water plant.

MOSS: ...right, that you mentioned by the by.

BEATY: This was the first year we were there, and Frank Barry [Frank J. Barry, Jr.] went over and represented him at this, whatever event it was, ground breaking or something in recognition of the fact that it was going to be built. The trips I took with Udall, overseas trips, were both in 1962. Oh, I went to Canada with him.

MOSS: Fly up there in the morning; come back that evening.

BEATY: He went to Columbia to represent the President at the inauguration of the new president of Columbia. And about two days before the trip.... He had a presidential plane.

[-257-]

MOSS: Archibald MacLeish went with him.

BEATY: That's right. And, oh, some guy from Puerto Rico, who's rather high in the Latin American--who's--gee, I can't think of anybody's names.

MOSS: Not the Governor Muñoz Luis Alberto Muñoz Marin]?

BEATY: No. On the way back from there we stopped at the Ramey Air [Force] Base at the western end of Puerto Rico and had lunch at the officers' club with Governor Muñoz Marin. Well, he was the principal one who had driven over from San Juan for this occasion. But he was one of the top guys in AID [Agency for International Development] or the Alliance for Progress thing. We had the man who was to become head of the Food for Peace program as George McGovern [George S. McGovern] was quitting to run for the Senate.

But anyway, about two or three days before Udall was supposed to go, Udall found out that there was all this space on the plane, and I'd been working hard for a year and a half without going any place, and his heart--he thought we could take our wives and it would make a nice trip. The White House decreed that there would be no wives except his. So here's this big plane with eighty seats and we're occupying about three rows of them, you know.

We flew into Bogotá direct but coming out from that high elevation we had to take on less fuel and that's the reason we had to make a refueling stop in Puerto Rico, and that's the reason all this other thing was arranged.

MOSS: How did Udall conduct himself on that occasion?

BEATY: I think it was superb. I think that Tony Freeman [Fulton Freeman], who was the ambassador there, must have given him good marks on it. They had one affair with the Bogotá businessmen and--I'm not a seasoned world observer, but I marveled at the way he got along and talked, not Spanish, but their language as far as their relations with this country and their business and reform needs and all these things.

Another guy who made the trip was a friend of Senator Anderson's [Clinton P. Anderson] from New Mexico. He was appointed special ambassador. You know how they send along three or four people. Archibald MacLeish was one of them, and this Spanish-American guy from New Mexico who's always been an active politician there. I can't think of his name right now; it makes no difference. He was very handy to have along because he spoke Spanish and he had the reform

[-258-]

instincts. Jim Officer [James E. Officer] went. Jim speaks Spanish. He's the one who took my place as a Udall assistant at the end of this administration. Jim worked for the State Department for a number of years and spent some time in several South American countries and he knows the differences in the language as it's spoken in Venezuela and Chile and that sort of thing, and between--I'm trying to say Leo Valdes, that isn't the name--the man from New Mexico and Jim Officer and the State Department people, there was good communication. The whole thing went off very well.

MOSS: Any special briefing by the State Department beforehand?

BEATY: Yes, there had been briefings. They always took place before I knew I was going to go so I didn't get in on the briefings.

MOSS: What about the Africa trip? There was some flak about parks in Africa at the time, wasn't there? There was question as to whether Udall had committed us to financial development of parks in Tanganyika or something of that sort.

BEATY: Yes. This trip was in 1963; it was while Kennedy was still president. Then after Kennedy's death Udall went back into the same area representing the new President as Kenya became independent or some such thing. And I think they felt because he'd just been there and had made some good contacts with all these officials that he would be a good choice.

The first trip though was, I think, the world--again I don't know--the world's council of wildlife or some such thing. It meets every five years, and this particular meeting was down there. He had been meeting with a British civil servant who had become principal

adviser to the people there in East Africa on that game preservation, I think probably had helped in operating the Serengeti [National Park] game preserve or whatever its correct title is. He was quite concerned that as African nations became independent they would regard wildlife, lions and tigers and elephants and things like this, as symbols of their colonial period and that they'd encourage--get rid of them and replace them with livestock in the traditional western manner, go in for ranching and get rid of the wildlife. He was quite interested in preserving this.

He visited at different times. Udall got together with a group of experts from Parks and Fish and Wildlife and carried on, I'm sure, a good correspondence and explored various ways of being of some help to them in maintaining this resource of unusual wild animals, wildlife.

MOSS: Did he discuss this with Governor Williams [G. Mennen William]?

[-259-]

BEATY: Yeah, I think he did. I'm rather sure and confident he did; and Bill Brubeck [William H. Brubeck], who for a while was Rusk's head of the secretariat over there in the State Department. He was an old friend, and he and Governor Harriman [William Averell Harriman] made a trip into that area on other matters, but when Stewart talked to him about it--and for all I know, we may have talked to Harriman too--but it was with Williams, I think, the principal contact.

So his trip there.... What I'm trying to say is it wasn't just a last-minute decision to go to this deal. He had planned it for quite some time. He'd done a lot of briefing himself ahead of time on the problems and the possibilities. And I don't know, I guess Bill Pozen and I just flipped a coin to see who'd go, and Bill won. I remember we flipped a coin on some previous trip and I won, so this was his turn. I didn't ever think about going or plan to go. It was a relaxing period while they were gone. We had been at a real heavy pace and all of a sudden we kind of caught up with ourselves around the office.

But I don't think this--maybe somebody else would tell you differently. I don't think he made any commitments that hadn't been talked about before, but the idea was we had provided them some--we would send some people over there, experts in game management and in developing parks. Perhaps it grew so it looked like a much bigger project. After he'd been there and seen it and he may have--spirit of camaraderie and so forth--promised more than Budget Bureau or anybody else would be willing to support. Not that we actually sent people, I'm not sure. It isn't something I followed through on.

MOSS: Do you recall any reaction back here in Washington to his statement in London after this trip in which he said he felt after his trip that the race problem in the United States was not harming our image in Africa?

BEATY: I don't recall any.

MOSS: Okay. Okay, what about the trip to the Soviet Union?

BEATY: Well, this is it. I got those two trips in 1962. Again, it was a last-minute deal. Everybody had gotten their shots and their passports and everything else before it suddenly appeared that they could take one more. My wife and kids and I were set to go to Cape Hatteras for a week, first vacation we had tried in two years we'd been in Interior. About the day before we were to leave, he suddenly announced he had room for one more and would I want to go, and so I got my shots that afternoon and elected somebody else to get my passport fixed up and went on down.

[-260-]

I had sat in on a lot of briefings on this particular thing because as a staff operation, I'd been working with people in the Bureau of Reclamation who maintained the consul liaison with the State Department on the exchange trips and this sort of thing. And I worked with Jim Carr, who was kind of ramrodding the whole thing. There was some criticism, I think, of Udall and Carr both going on a trip like this and leaving the Department with no real operating head.

MOSS: Who did act as a...

BEATY: Ken Holum was the acting secretary who's the, I believe.... No, I guess John Carver [John A. Carver, Jr.] was. John was the senior--he was the first assistant secretary sworn in. That's the way it worked. Ken was later, after John moved out. I think he served as acting secretary more than anybody else when there was no under secretary or something like this. But this was minor. It was just; in a few places--you know, an editorial in the major papers had blasted them for taking off.

Robert Frost trip. I think Udall undoubtedly had a part in arranging that. He knew it was going to happen sooner or later and they arranged it so that we left together. It looked like one party leaving Friendship [International] Airport, but it was really two. When we got to Moscow we split up, and we didn't see Frost again until right near the end, and he and Udall came out of Moscow together.

We stopped in London and transferred to a different airline, I guess, and it was really a direct.... We didn't stop. We were in London two or three hours, but from the time we left here late one afternoon until we got to Moscow there was no chance to go to bed or anything. I think the embassy people in London fixed up quarters out at the airport for Robert Frost to stretch out and take a three-hour nap while the rest of us did some sightseeing.

But in Russia, Khrushchev [Nikita Sergeevich Khrushchev] was not in Moscow. He was down on the Black Sea [Sochi], and Udall was quite interested in talking to him and the head of the power ministry or whatever that's--it's probably the assistant commissioner, assistant chairman for construction [Soviet Ministry of Power Station Construction], some title that doesn't really tell you what it is, but the man who was in charge of power development was down there also.

We spent most of our time with probably the number two man in that setup. We got briefings, I think, perhaps two days in Moscow, ceremonies and luncheons and that sort of thing before we went out on the actual inspections we went to Irkutsk, near the Bratsk Dam site which was--the dam was partly finished and they were already operating three or four of

the turbines. So we got a chance to see some of it in operation, some of it under construction. We had electrical

[-261-]

people and construction people along. Swidler [Joseph C. Swidler] was along. Number two man in the Corps of Engineers was along. Udall had put together a team of people that represented public power, private power. We had the TVA [Tennessee Valley Authority] representative. We had somebody from the rural co-ops and one of Jim Carr's old associates from Sacramento, the municipal-type power company there. I'm not sure whether we had private industry represented or not. But there were people who knew what they were looking for, they knew what they wanted to see. And we wanted to look at extra-high voltage transmission facilities.

The Russians were experimenting in direct current, extra-high voltage direct current transmission, which is supposed to lose less of the power in the transmission than alternating current. We did get to look at some of this, but the Russians were apparently behind what they had promised, and they were very reluctant to let us really get a good look at what they were doing. There are valves that you use in direct current transmission, and these are apparently a key feature in a direct current transmission system, and...

MOSS: So you don't get any backflow.

BEATY: I don't know what. Whatever it was, our experts really wanted to see what their valves looked like and we never got to look at them. We got to look at the places where they would be fitted and that sort of thing. But mainly we went to Bratsk and we went to Volgograd, which was formerly Stalingrad, and the dam there, which is one of the many on the Volga, another dam upstream--can't think of the name of the town now, it's the Dam Named For The Twenty-Second Party Congress, or some such thing. And they always say the full name.

But throughout all this Udall was still working with the State Department people and others trying to get a meeting with Khrushchev. I'm not sure when we got the word; I think it was probably on our flight back to Moscow from Volgograd, after we'd made our tour out through the countryside and Siberia and so forth. Either on the way into Moscow or just after we got there, the word came through that he would indeed get to go down to the Black Sea resort area and visit with Khrushchev.

Well, the next day, a day and a half were scheduled for electrical institute trips¹ to look at their experimental things in electricity and their training and so forth in and around Moscow, and that's what the rest of us did while Udall went down. He and I got up real early

[-262-]

¹ Interviewee's note: I think electric generation transmission R&D manufacture, etc. may have been co-ordinated by something called the "Electrical Institute."

that morning and a couple of people from the Russian Soviet group picked us up in a limousine and went out to the airport. And he went off by himself except for the interpreter, our interpreter and not the State Department's. I guess it was a State Department's guy, but it was one that was picked to work with us and not with them.

MOSS: Was this insisted upon, or was it...

BEATY: It was Udall who wanted him, and he was a very sharp guy. He'd been over there during our trade fair exhibit or something like that, and so he knew something about the country as well as the language. Also he'd gone to school in Arizona, and although Udall didn't know him there, it was a chance to give a little local color.

MOSS: Any opposition from the State Department on Udall making his own choice?

BEATY: No. There may have been a little resistance, but the guy performed so well that.... In fact, the Russians were using him to interpret at times instead of their own man. He's also good in some other language, Spanish, I guess. In more recent years he's been working in South America. I can't think of his name, but it's a Slavic name, seems to me, but he went to high school in Tombstone, Arizona, or part of the time, went to school in Tombstone and Tucson, was a member of the Tucson Boys Choir, chorus, whatever they call it. He was the only one in our group who could keep up with the Russians in singing in the evenings.

Anyway, Udall went down there and spent the day and the night and maybe two days, I forget. He got back early one morning after having been wined and dined and apparently had a great time. There was no hint at all, I don't think, of the impending Cuban missile crisis. It was a period of great friendship and talking about the construction: "People don't want wars because they want to build things and not destroy things," and "We don't want our dams destroyed" and that sort of thing. I don't know what he and Khrushchev talked about.

MOSS: Do you know if Udall had any special instructions from President Kennedy or anything of this sort?

BEATY: No, I don't. There were State Department things, instructions and things he should say and shouldn't say. I just don't know. Maybe I did know then; I don't know now. He conducted a press conference in the U.S. embassy open to members of the Iron Curtain Country press as well as our western press. State Department very much didn't want him to do that. The people in the Moscow embassy didn't want him to do it.

MOSS: Did they give any reason?

[-263-]

BEATY: Well, it was just, "You're not...." I think what they were trying to say was,

“You're not experienced in this sort of thing. You'll say something that will get us in trouble,” or something like that. They all stood around the walls and watched, harried expressions on their faces. But I thought it was a good press conference. He may have overstressed the friendship factor, but he defended our positions rather well. I've forgotten what all was said. I'm sure it was taken down and the State Department has it written down.

MOSS: Oh yes, I'm sure they gave a record of it. Any other trips other than the final one, of course, in which he was on his way to...

BEATY: Japan.

MOSS: ...Japan when the President was assassinated? Anything else in between that's of any significance in the way of overseas trips?

BEATY: No, I think.... It seems to me that the Venezuela trip was after Johnson.... He represented the President at Venezuela, the swearing in of a new president in Venezuela. I think this was undoubtedly after the change of presidents. I can't.... Now on this trip, this African trip, Udall stopped in Italy. What's the United Nation's organization on food--FAO...

MOSS: FAO, Food and Agricultural Organization.

BEATY: Yeah, he stopped there and they discussed some things that he had done some preparation on that. Partly, I think it was working on the fish protein proposal. But there were no other major trips that I can think of. He had the one Japanese trip while the President was alive, and then was on his way to the second one there. The Japanese meantime had met over here in the intervening year.

Al Josephy [Alvin M. Josephy, Jr.], who is one of the editors or publishers of *American Heritage*, was working for Udall on a consultant basis at this period, kind of a resident-writer type thing. Al was along on that plane, and I think that if you could get him, his description of what was happening as the word came in about the President's death, it would be well worth setting down.

MOSS: Josephy?

BEATY: Right.

[-264-]

MOSS: J-O...

BEATY: J-O-S-E-P-H-Y.

MOSS: ...P-H-Y. *American Heritage*.

BEATY: He lives in Connecticut. He's participated in Connecticut politics a little bit. He dislikes the hell out of John Bailey [John Moran Bailey]. But in spite of that, in spite of Bailey and Bailey's support of Kennedy, he thought Kennedy was a great guy, too. Al's a very articulate person and a good observer, and I wish I'd been taking notes as he was telling me about this. When the plane got back in that night, Jim Carr and I were out there to meet them and to see that Udall and his wife [Ermalee Udall] got back into town properly. We sent them on their way, and Al rode in with Jim Carr and Bill Pozen. Bill showed up out there too. We all rode back into town together. Then Bill and I went to Al's apartment. It was already late. I don't know what time it was. It must have been 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning before we quit talking. Under the circumstances it's a little hard to remember all the details. I could repeat some of it, but I think it'd be a whole lot better if you got it from him.

MOSS: Okay, I'll try to get to him.

BEATY: It has nothing to do with the administration, but it's part of the final footnote.

MOSS: Yeah, yeah. Let's see, we're getting on towards 10:30 now and this is almost the end of this tape. I think I'll cut this since it's a breaking point and next time go into some of the people in the White House staff that you had relations with.

BEATY: Okay, fine.

MOSS: Okay?

BEATY: Yes.

[END OF INTERVIEW #11]

[-265-]

Orren Beaty, Jr. Oral History Transcript – JFK #11
Name Index

A

Anderson, Clinton P., 258

B

Bailey, John Moran, 265
Barry, Frank J., Jr., 257
Briggs, Frank P., 252, 253
Brubeck, William H., 260
Bundy, McGeorge, 253

C

Carr, James K., 255, 261, 262, 265
Carver, John A., Jr., 261
Caulfield, Henry P., Jr., 251

F

Forrestal, Michael V., 254
Freeman, Fulton “Tony”, 258
Frost, Robert, 261

H

Harriman, William Averell, 260
Holum, Kenneth, 251, 261
Hughes, Philip Samuel Hughes, 251

J

Johnson, Lyndon Baines, 251, 259, 264
Josephy, Alvin M., Jr., 264, 265

K

Kennedy, John F., 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 255,
257, 259, 263, 264, 265
Khrushchev, Nikita Sergeevich, 261, 262, 263
Kirwan, Michael J., 254, 255
Komer, Robert William, 253

M

MacLeish, Archibald, 258
Magnuson, Warren G., 254
McGovern, George S., 258
McKernan, Donald L., 254
Meany, George, 252
Muñoz Marin, Luis Alberto, 258
Muskie, Edmund S., 250

O

O’Brien, Lawrence F., 249
Officer, James E., 259

P

Pautzke, Clarence F., 253
Pozen, Walter I., “Bill”, 257, 260, 265

R

Reuss, Henry S., 255, 256, 257
Rockefeller, Laurance S., 252
Rusk, Dean, 253, 260

S

Staats, Elmer B., 251
Swidler, Joseph C., 262

U

Udall, Ermalee, 265
Udall, Stewart L., 249, 250, 251, 253, 255, 257,
258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265

W

Williams, G. Mennen, 259
Wilson, Robert Carlton, 254