

Mary Boylan, Oral History Interview –JFK#2, 5/1/1968
Administrative Information

Creator: Mary Boylan
Interviewer: John F. Stewart
Date of Interview: May 1, 1968
Location: Cambridge, Massachusetts
Length: 22 pages, 1 addendum

Biographical Note

Boylan, a secretary in the Boston and Washington Offices of Senator John F. Kennedy (JFK) and in the social office of the White House, discusses the requests for assistance from individuals and groups that would come to JFK's Senate office in Boston, hiring African Americans for JFK's Senate staff, and the members of JFK's Boston staff, among other issues.

Access

Open.

Usage Restrictions

Copyright of these materials has passed to the United States Government upon the death of the interviewee. Users of these materials are advised to determine the copyright status of any document from which they wish to publish.

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 The copyright law extends its protection to unpublished works from the moment of creation in a tangible form.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

Mary Boylan, recorded interview by John F. Stewart, May 1, 1968, (page number), John F. Kennedy Library Oral History Program.

Oral History Interview

Of

Mary Boylan

Although a legal agreement was not signed during the lifetime of Mary Boylan, upon her death, ownership of the recording and transcript of her interview for the Oral History Program passed to the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library.

The following terms and conditions apply:

1. The transcript is available for use by researchers.
2. The tape recording shall be made available to those researchers who have access to the transcript.
3. Copyright to the interview transcript and tape is assigned to the United States Government.
4. Copies of the transcript and the tape recording may be provided by the Library to researchers upon request for a fee.
5. Copies of the transcript and tape recording may be deposited in or loaned to institutions other than the John F. Kennedy Library.

Mary Boylan—JFK#2

Table of Contents

<u>Page</u>	<u>Topic</u>
26, 31, 37, 43	Requests for assistance from John F. Kennedy's (JFK) senatorial constituents
30	Forging JFK's signature
32	Cranberry controversy
32	JFK's daredevil nature
33	Requests for speaking engagements
34	Francis X. Morrissey
36	Joseph P. Kennedy, Sr.'s involvement in JFK's Senate office
40	Relationship with the staff of other members of Congress from Massachusetts
41	Hiring African Americans for JFK's Senate staff
44	Dealing with members of the press
45	Charities
47	JFK's interest in youth and education

Second of Two Oral History Interviews

with

Mary Boylan

Cambridge, Massachusetts

May 1, 1968

By John F. Stewart

For the John F. Kennedy Library

STEWART: Why don't we just start by talking a little bit in more detail about the operations of the Boston office from the time that you went to work full time, and you can check the date, '54 or '55, until you went to Washington in '58? For example, what kind of a relationship did you have with the people in Congressman McCormack's [John William McCormack] office?

BOYLAN: Well, I knew them personally because I had worked in the building. But we didn't call on them for assistance. I think if something came up that we wanted to talk with them, it was a very friendly relationship because of personal contacts. I just sensed that they had a little feeling towards Jack Kennedy [John F. Kennedy] being younger and a junior senator compared to Congressman McCormack who had been in politics for years.

STEWART: You mentioned that they would sometimes send people to you that possibly they couldn't help or didn't want to help.

BOYLAN: Well, the chronic cases, the people looking for assistance, people unemployed or people—we shouldn't say it—but that were sort of the nut cases, you know, that just made a habit of going from one office to another. They would just tell them to come down, and they would come down very hopefully

saying that Congressman McCormack or somebody on his staff had sent us down and said that Senator Kennedy would take care of us, and to see Mary Boylan. We would always take down their story and listen to them and give them just as much time. This was one of the reasons why I had to do so much of my work at home at night, because we treated each person the way I'm sure the Senator would want them to be treated.

STEWART: You would get referrals, I assume, from any number of places, from state representatives and state senators and all the rest.

BOYLAN: Judges.

STEWART: As a matter of practice, or office policy, was there any different kind of treatment depending on where the person came from or who sent him?

BOYLAN: Yes. If a person came down from a representative at the statehouse, we certainly made every effort, I did, and I sort of got my cue from Senator Kennedy, to be as helpful as possible. That was one of the reasons he wanted somebody that was receptive in the office, not one that was running out, that didn't have time, that had other business; somebody like Grace [Grace M. Burke] who had been there for years, that had built up this terrific, not prejudice, but feeling that, you know, everybody's asking for something.

If a person came in, as we would say, "off the street," just on their own with no backing at all, they got real good treatment. But naturally if they came from a representative or if an organization secretary sent them in and they were referred, I extended myself a little bit more and did it a lot quicker. Sometimes I would pick up the phone and call Washington and alert them. If it was a case involving a serviceman who was looking for some sort of a compassionate transfer or hardship discharge, and the matter of time was of prime importance, I would give them the feeling that this case should be handled at top priority or as special. They often would question just who was interested in this person. Politically, you always had to make sure that you didn't step on somebody's toes because it could be very detrimental to him. It would only be one person or two people that you would personally be affecting, but you could be affecting a great number of votes, and that was very important.

STEWART: Was there a special file kept by the person who referred people? What I'm getting at is how did, for example, Ted Reardon [Timothy J. Reardon, Jr.] know for whom they had done particular favors?

BOYLAN: I don't know if they did keep a file. Grace kept a card file on everybody.

STEWART: By people...

BOYLAN: By people's names, and then she.... Well, say the name of Tom Costin [Thomas P. Costin], who was a secretary up in the Lynn area; she would have a card for Tom Costin with a list of all the people that he had referred in, the dates they came in, and just one little line showing what had been done. As a matter of

fact, I've got a letter in my desk drawer that went to Ted Kennedy's [Edward Moore Kennedy] office, to him, and I'm going to let you see it. This is just typical. And we would get requests for assistance. They would come in—an awful lot of Post Office cases, even though McCormack was in charge of patronage, and he kept that patronage.

STEWART: For all of...

BOYLAN: For all of Massachusetts, even though Jack Kennedy was the Senator. He was known as Mr. Post Office. And personally, I knew Congressman McCormack and liked him and thought he was a fine person, but it was much more difficult for Jack Kennedy to do anything politically for a person looking for promotion. And sometimes the people weren't worthy of it. They just felt that if they got a letter from a senator or a congressman, they could jump people that were deserving. And this is something he didn't interfere in. If a person was right in line and was entitled to it and a word from him might not do any harm, then he was willing. But he never went around the civil service. He was always guided by civil service in this type of position.

STEWART: But McCormack's office kept handling all of the Post Office, for example, the temporary Christmas things and all that?

BOYLAN: Well, no. Actually, I do know that we were allowed to put on so many; we would send, refer so many names. But I had worked in the Post Office, for the Post Office Department, and a lot of times it was my contact with postmasters, top people, that they'd say, "Well, sure, send them down." But they never gave us a hard time on it. It's just that I'm sure Congressman McCormack got the majority of the employees hired for Christmas.

STEWART: Was this by arrangement, or was this because it just didn't change when...

BOYLAN: It just didn't change. You see, really a senator should have patronage. It just didn't change. And partly, I think too, because Senator Kennedy—this was quite a headache, you know. You could please one man, but you hurt twenty others that were looking for the same promotion. And it didn't reflect on him by not getting into it. He never seemed greedy anyway about things like that, you know, where somebody else would come in and demand to have patronage, take care of so many votes.

STEWART: But getting back, as far as you can recall, this card file that Grace Burke kept covered all of the people who made referrals, including state representatives, judges, and all the rest.

BOYLAN: That's right, the governor, state representatives, anybody in the Democratic State Committee, even people in government agencies like people in Internal Revenue who would have a top position. We'd refer sometimes the friend that they were trying to help because we could in turn go to them. Say it was in Internal Revenue, we could refer some case to them and get.... We did have a

wonderful reciprocal dealing between government agencies, sort of on a first-name basis, the veterans.... And because Grace and I did have the right approach, we never seemed to be given a hard time.

STEWART: Did the President, to your knowledge, was he ever concerned with exactly whom your office was doing these favors for? Did he ever, for example, go through this card file to see....

BOYLAN: I doubt it.

STEWART: Or was he aware of what was going on?

BOYLAN: He was aware in this sense, that sometimes he would come to Boston, and he would come down to the Federal Building, and he would hardly get into the office when the people would be lined up to come in to see him. And their requests were so time-consuming that he oftentimes would say, "Well, go out and give this story to Mary." And then he'd say, "Now, I want you to report to me and tell me what the outcome is on all this." And he would assure the person, but if he did this, he'd spend all his time in this type of employment, and we were not an employment agency. The civil service is, but we weren't. There were certain cases that he might have a particular interest in, and we would send a copy of what we had done to Washington. But I could truthfully say, for the most part, we were just working for him, and he knew what we were doing.

STEWART: What about state positions? Did you have any formal contacts or regular contacts, for example, with the Governor's office or with people in the state house?

BOYLAN: Yes. When Foster Furcolo was in office, many times we would have to refer a person back up to the statehouse because we couldn't handle it. We could only handle things on the federal level. It wouldn't be the Governor himself, it would be his administrative assistant. But I always felt that people in any branch of the government respected Senator Kennedy because we never met any opposition in any form at all.

STEWART: What about in addition to the immigration.... Let's go over the types of cases, and perhaps you could say a few words, maybe give some examples of the typical problems that people would come in with; for example, the immigration cases. This would be, what, people were either having problems getting their citizenship or having problems stay here, or what?

BOYLAN: Sometimes it would be to get another member of their family admitted. Sometimes it would be in the form of a business. A man who had a business, say, a factory which made sweaters or made underwear, and he would want to have a group come in from Cuba or from Italy or someplace with this special

skill, and he would seek the Senator's assistance. You know, I think if I do finish transcribing some of my notes, even though there may be copies of them elsewhere, I can give you some specific cases because it's verbatim when he would dictate.

STEWART: Yes, they must be good.

BOYLAN: You see, when he'd come to Boston, if he was going to be up here for a period of time, Evelyn [Evelyn N. Lincoln] would send up a whole batch of mail. He would pick up the whole sheaf, and he would dictate maybe only one sentence and drop the mail all over the floor. But he would answer sometimes a hundred letters. Of course, this was great. Then I would send those letters back to him for his signature. The letters that I composed up here, many times.... I hope it's all right to say this, but I...

STEWART: Look it, you can close this for fifty years if you want.

BOYLAN: I could sign them, and even when he was a senator, I know I have a copy of my signature and his signature.

STEWART: Really?

BOYLAN: And when he became President, of course, it became totally different. There were still several people autographing pictures. Dave Powers [David F. Powers] would come over with books, some very special friend would be in the President's office, and he would say, "Take these over, send them over to Mary and tell her what to say." Because he wouldn't have time to do this, you know. And the person would be overwhelmed with it. And then *Newsweek* came out, I have the clipping...

STEWART: I think I've seen it.

BOYLAN: ...that his signature had deteriorated. Well, it was not that his signature had deteriorated. I had written a little bit more legible than he had. And sometimes he was very touchy about that. In the Senate, he would come in and say, "How many of these signature pens are going?" And then, "I don't like that signature." And that might have been his own original signature, you know.

STEWART: How did you pick this up, or how did you...?

BOYLAN: I did it freehand, too. Well, I'll tell you, the first time it happened there was a dinner at the Copley Plaza—that's now the Sheraton Plaza. And there were four hundred, I think—either hundred or four thousand, perhaps it's safer to say four hundred—notable Italian people there. And he was giving a photograph to each one with a personal autograph. And I sat up until about, oh, it must have been five in the morning because the dinner was the next night, and we had no notice about this little extra treat. I can remember everyone at the dinner that got one of these personal

pictures was so thrilled. They would come up, and they'd say, "Did you see what the Senator gave me?"

And I would say, "Isn't that wonderful?"

STEWART: What were you writing on them? You were writing their names?

BOYLAN: "With very best wishes," their name, too. You see, I had this big long list from the guest list. I can remember one person in particular, Phil Cadarro [Philip Cadarro]—he had all these ethnic groups and Phil Cadarro was sort of the leader for the Italian group; he and his wife, Jeannie Cadarro. When he would come to town, these people, like, there would be a leader for the Portuguese over here in Cambridge, Joe DeGuglielmo [Joseph A. DeGuglielmo]... All these different—the French; he would have a leader for the French group. They would speak for the whole group, and he himself very confidentially showed me what the Senator had given him. This was remarkable that it looked so much like his own handwriting. I was so tired that night because I had worked so hard.

STEWART: But this was the first time you did this?

BOYLAN: The first time I remember doing it wholesale. I think I often signed his letters. And he didn't want it drawn or anything. Now Grace found it very difficult to do it. But I practiced it so that I got it freehand. I almost felt I could write a check for him and it would go through.

STEWART: But who else did this, just to follow it up, down in Washington?

BOYLAN: Well, Evelyn often signed. I think Pam Turnure [Pamela Turnure] might have done a little signing. I know Fiddle and Faddle [Priscilla Wear and Jill Cowan], those girls that were at the White House, you know, the file clerk girls out in Evelyn Lincoln's office, they autographed. Helen Lempart, she did it. Whoever was handiest at the moment that had this. And, of course, it was all highly confidential. Most people that would ask for an autographed picture.... If he stopped to autograph everything they asked, he would never have done any work in the Senate. And, unfortunately, I never thought of getting a real autograph for myself. He did send me his autographed book. I have that, which I cherish. He sent my mother [Mrs. Boylan] an autographed picture one time. He would always invite her to come along down to the Cape. But I always thought, "Well, someday, you know, when I leave the White House, I'll go in and ask the President for his autographed picture." But I never did.

STEWART: He'd say, "Do it yourself." [Laughter]

BOYLAN: He probably would. That's what I was afraid of.

STEWART: Okay, in addition to the immigration cases, probably the bulk of your cases were employment, people looking for federal jobs.

BOYLAN: Yes, federal jobs and people wanting him to speak, and people wanting him to do something about, well, not the Charles River, but projects like that, or maybe there was a dam, a polluted dam in western Massachusetts or about the noise, airplanes flying too low, simple things like this where he would contact the Corps of Engineers. And lots of times there were cases where people were involved in....

I do remember one case where somebody who had gone to Harvard was involved in a conflict of interest type of thing. Of course, he never would get into that regardless of his affiliation with Harvard. But he would lend assistance at a hearing. He might ask me to go to the hearing and take dictation, and then report back to him. He was aware of the case, but he couldn't get into it. And during the cranberry—what was the word for it when they.... They weren't on strike. It was when they....

STEWART: Where was a scare about the relationship between cancer—they thought there was something in the cranberries that....

BOYLAN: They thought the spray that was used.... The Food and Drug Administration stopped all cranberries from being marketed. He called me into his office down in Room 362, Senate Office Building, and asked me if I would go down to the Willard for a few days. Senator Saltonstall [Leverett Saltonstall] was sending his secretary and his son down there, Bill Saltonstall [William Saltonstall], and do whatever those cranberry growers needed to be done for them while they were in Washington; take all their dictation, make any contacts or calls you could, and let them know that Jack Kennedy had a deep personal interest because of his living down on the Cape and because he was from Massachusetts. And this meant an awful lot to them because they felt that the two United States senators were right there within reach. And most of them had not been in Washington and didn't know the ways of the government. I thoroughly enjoyed that.

STEWART: You worked there for a few days?

BOYLAN: Yes, I was sent right from the Senate down. Of course, I didn't stay there at night. You know, it was handy enough to Capitol Hill to go home, but I was detailed down there. I know they had cranberry juice cocktails that nobody would even take because they.... I myself believed this spray was harmful.

STEWART: Did he eat cranberries during that period?

BOYLAN: I'm sure it wouldn't bother him at all. He was enough of a daredevil. Perhaps I should tell you a little about when he'd be down at the Cape and when he'd have to fly someplace. He never had any fear about anything. The commercial lines wouldn't be flying, and he would, say, call George Pomontier, who had his own private plane down there. And many times George'd say, "Well, those hailstones will puncture the wings, Mary. This is my business." And I would say, "Well, won't you do it for Senator Kennedy?" Sometimes he would refuse.

STEWART: Really?

BOYLAN: It would be just, he said, “It would be sheer lunacy to try to take a plane up in a storm like this.” And it would be a small two-engine plane. His father [Joseph P. Kennedy, Sr.] had often warned me never to make arrangements on anything but a four-engine.

STEWART: Oh, really?

BOYLAN: Oh, yes. Because he said if one engine conks out, you’re flying on one engine; and if that goes, it’s not worth the gamble. So he had warned me never to make arrangements for him to fly on anything but a four-engine.

STEWART: But he did?

BOYLAN: Oh, yes.

STEWART: Frequently?

BOYLAN: Invariably. If he wasn’t successful through my calling him, he might have sent Dave Dagnon, his chauffeur, right over to Pomontier and told him he had to go someplace.

STEWART: You mentioned people trying to get him to speak at different things. Would all of these requests automatically go to Washington?

BOYLAN: No, many of them came to Boston. One time he had come in from Canada, and Kenny O’Donnell [Kenneth P. O’Donnell] had met somebody who was—I don’t know whether he was the head of the Garment Workers. I can’t be too sure of the facts of the case. I just remember that I didn’t know he was coming to Boston. And he had a very, very bad cold. He’d been traveling, and he was feeling very poorly. I got a call about 7:30 at the Federal Building—I very seldom left there before 7:30 anyway; because of the number of constituents, we didn’t close the office until six—and he asked if I could hop up to the Ritz-Carlton with my book. He had a lot of dictation.

There was one of his aides there who had bumped into somebody in the Boston district and assured them that the Senator would speak at their meeting that night. What his purpose was in doing it that way I don’t know, and whether or not they had been bugging him I don’t know. But anyway, Kenny O’Donnell, who didn’t know the Senator was coming, found out where he was, and he informed him that he was due to speak there. Then he asked who made these arrangements for him, and when he found out, he really went to town on the aide. I had never seen him angry in my life, but...

STEWART: I was going to ask you about that.

BOYLAN: Bob Morey [Robert F. Morey] and I were there, and we just turned and

looked out the window because it was quite embarrassing. But he was sick, he was sick in bed. And he asked the aide, “Did you....”

STEWART: Who was this?

BOYLAN: You can imagine.

STEWART: Go ahead, say it.

BOYLAN: You can imagine who it was; it was Frank Morrissey [Francis X. Morrissey]. “Frank, did you tell so-and-so” (let’s say George Burtelano or somebody, I don’t even know the name) “that I would speak tonight?” And he said, “Oh, no, Senator, no,” he said, “are you going to speak there tonight?” And he said, “Frank Morrissey, don’t you ever lie to me. Kenny O’Donnell just met the person that you told I’d be there.” “Oh, no.” So then he, well, he admitted, yes, he had. “But after all, Jack, you know how it is.” You know how he goes through this little “What could I do?” He said, “You didn’t need to lie, you could have just gone out and told him I couldn’t do it.” He was steaming. And Frank always had a feeling towards both Bob Morey and myself because we were in the room, afterwards. I mean there was a real coolness there. I’m sure he—it didn’t seem to bother him. I think I would have died, but it didn’t seem to bother him too much.

But there was one thing. If he made a commitment, he rarely broke it. If commitments were made like, “Well, maybe, when he’s in town, maybe,” and then he couldn’t for some reason, it wasn’t too bad. But to make a definite and have a group expecting, an important group like the Garment Workers or the Bakers or whatever the union group was.

STEWART: But normally appointments like this naturally would have to go down.

BOYLAN: Normally, they’d have to clear. See, we’d get a copy of his schedule so that we knew, and say there was a period of three days, and we didn’t see anything committed on the schedule, we could say, if he was going to be in Boston, to Evelyn, “Could this be added?” She would check with him, and he’d say, “Yes.” And many times when he’d receive invitations to something, I would go just as a representative from this office, if it was a testimonial to somebody, you know, becoming a school principal, something of that nature. It made them feel that Senator Kennedy—and he would send a telegram which I would have typed that, unfortunately, he was in Washington and couldn’t be here tonight, but he wanted me to bring his greetings and congratulations to the person.

STEWART: What exactly was the relationship of Judge Morrissey to President Kennedy, and what was his role in the Boston office?

BOYLAN: Well, when I came on the scene, he wasn’t in the office during the day. Of course, he was supposed to be, at that time, an attorney, I guess.

STEWART: He wasn't actually appointed a judge until later.

BOYLAN: No, he wasn't appointed a judge, a municipal judge, until Jack—until around '58. Foster Furcolo appointed him. My impression was that he kept the father informed of all the children's activities, but also kept the father posted concerning the political temperature here in Boston. And he described himself as an advisor, you know, one who would counsel Senator Jack Kennedy or the other two boys as to people who had been in politics to steer clear of and the others to welcome into the fold, more or less. And I have lots of records on him because he would send a letter to Jack practically every night, two or three-page letter, keeping him posted about everything concerning the state and the Democratic State Committee.

STEWART: And that correspondence was in the regular files of the Senate office?

BOYLAN: In the Boston office, yes. But also the original letter would be down there. Now, whether Jack kept it—Ted Reardon said many times he'd pick it up and it would be the same, "Your gracious," all this flowery bit, you know. And he'd just—it would go in the basket, you know. In other words, he didn't have the time for that trivia. He just wanted straight facts, nothing embellished. I think Frank tended to paint the picture as rosy as possible or as horrible as possible, depending on whether he liked the person or didn't like the person.

STEWART: Well, then he wasn't.... One of the things I'm getting at is that, again, in some of the books it's stated that Morrissey was in charge of the Boston office.

BOYLAN: Yes.

STEWART: But this wasn't really the case.

BOYLAN: Well....

STEWART: He was and he wasn't.

BOYLAN: He was and he wasn't. I'm sure he convinced everybody he was in charge of the office. But there were times, I guess Grace probably told you, when Jack wanted to close his office.

STEWART: No, I didn't know that.

BOYLAN: And the father.... Grace was there, you see—and this is where the rub came—Grace was there and Morrissey really worked more for the father than he did for Jack. Most of his correspondence went to the father, and most of his dealings were things for the father. And he used the Boston office as a headquarters.

STEWART: But there was talk of closing it at one time?

BOYLAN: Well, you see, Jack didn't come into Boston too often, and there were so many headaches, just about the time he left being a congressman and became a senator. Politically, you know what the situation was up here. It was so hard to change anything that he thought maybe he'd just leave Grace, close the office up, and just have her send the mail down to Washington. And Frank was actually off the payroll, according to Grace, at that time. And then he went to the father. This was before I came. He went to the father, and apparently the father urged Jack to take him back and let him use the office for the purpose of keeping him informed on things. He really needed somebody who was in touch with state politics as well. He made a lot of arrangements for him to speak different places, places he thought it would benefit him politically.

STEWART: To what extent did Ambassador Kennedy get involved in things that were coming to the office, or did he to any great degree?

BOYLAN: No. I only saw him in the office once.

STEWART: Really?

BOYLAN: In the three years that I was in the Boston office. He came in with a real twinkle in his eye; he was a fine-looking person, you know, a very tall man. And he said, "Where's the hardest-working man in Boston, Mary?" I had talked with him several times on the phone. And I just smiled, and I said, "Well, he's around someplace." He just grinned, you know, as if he knew that Frank told him how hard he worked. And this was a little satire on his part.

I think that the reason he wanted to know things was that if Jack did discuss anything with him, he was tuned in on the situation. As far as running the office, he didn't have any hand in it. But I know when I was appointed, Jack said that "whenever my father is in town and needs a secretary, or Bobby [Robert F. Kennedy], or Teddy, or any of the family, will you help each one of them, as well as work for me?" And I said I would. So I became acquainted with all of them, you know, at various times—Teddy, and Teddy was in law school or going to law school, Bobby was in the Rackets Committee, and I remember he got an award up here once; and the girls often stopped in the office for me to get train or airline tickets for them.

STEWART: Well, then there was just you and Grace and....

BOYLAN: And Morrissey would come in. He'd come in after his.... He had a little bit of an office up on Pemberton Place, a little hole in the wall in one of those office buildings up there. And he would come down at the end of the day. And that's when most of these constituents would be waiting around and waiting around. He would sometimes listen to their stories and give them the gentle push, you know, or show

them that everything that could be done was going to be done; and dictate and dictate and dictate to me, letters to the father and to the Archbishop and to Jack and to different leaders around town, and people in insurance offices. I can look up those notes which will give you—and the names. I kept both of my telephone books with all the private names, and looking over the names will bring back incidents.

STEWART: And there was no one else? You mentioned the fellow who used to come in.

BOYLAN: Oh, Dick Conway used to come in in the afternoon. And when I first went there, I can remember Dave Powers and Kenny O'Donnell coming in looking for Jack. They weren't working for him, and he was just the United States Senator. Dave had a temporary job at the state housing, and Kenny, I believe, was working for Schenley Liquor as a salesman. And I didn't know who they were. I had no political connection and no background for any of this. It wasn't until 1956 that they became real prominent. They were working in that campaign. Mr. Ford [John J. Ford] many times would come down. Of course, he was treasurer up there, for the father, of the Maine-New Hampshire affairs. But a lot of the group organization leaders would come in there, and they'd bring cases of people in their towns they were trying to help. Lots of times it wasn't just a job in the statehouse or a government agency; it might be somebody who wanted to be appointed to the state police department. Let's see, what were some of the other things that...

STEWART: Income tax cases.

BOYLAN: Yes, we had a few of those. And we had somebody in the Internal Revenue that we could refer them to. And we always got.... You see, this was the beauty of having the personal friends. Instead of going through a routine, and this is what Jack Kennedy didn't want, for the people to have to wait months and get discouraged. He said, "Right while they're there, pick up the phone, and if you can handle the case over the telephone, do it immediately." Sometimes you couldn't. They have to have facts and figures. A lot of poverty cases came in there, I think strictly because they read about his wealth.

STEWART: I was going to ask you about that.

BOYLAN: And I remember one boy came in about five o'clock one afternoon. He was in an Air Force uniform, a colored boy. I can't think of his last name, but I'll never forget his first name was Leroy. And I know I have his last name in dictation someplace. He was trying to get a dishonorable discharge changed to a general discharge, which isn't quite as bad. I took down all the information, and I believed his whole story. This may have been a terrible drawback—not for the people, and it might have been in Jack's favor—but to me, when a person came in and told you something like that, I could never dream that they were embroidering it.

This boy had such an appealing case that I said that Senator Kennedy certainly would try to do everything possible. And when we contacted the Washington office to see if we

couldn't go right at the top down there, they had all the facts from the Air Force. And the fellow wasn't quite as innocent and lily white as he wanted you to think. However, in spite of that, we still tried to help him.

We called a real estate agency and asked them if they would let him move into an apartment with his wife and baby without paying the rent in advance. And they did this strictly because the call came from Senator Kennedy's office. They informed us afterwards that they boy, of course, didn't pay and had no intention of paying. In fact, they had to put him out. He had been in a housing development, and the manager, who was colored himself, would not allow him back there because they had these wild parties, and they broke up the property, you know, and broke the windows. So we even made arrangements with some furniture company. We tried to make the fellow.... He said if he only could get a job. He couldn't get a job because of his discharge. If we could get that straightened out, if we could help him get a job, he could get.... And this is the type of thing that we did try to help. He was a colored boy who could vouch for our sincerity. However, after about three months, I even—one night he came in after it was too late to go to the Red Feather Service or any of those agencies that are prepared to investigate. And he had this darling little baby, his own child, with him, beautifully dressed, but he said he had no money to buy milk. And of course we didn't have a fund, but out of my own pocket I gave him money, thinking this was a terrible thing, you know. When I told Grace about it, she informed me how much she had, through the years, given out like that, only part of the time to get rid of them because she thought once you gave them something.... She would often tell them to go out and get a good beef stew and not to spend it on liquor.

So then we found out that this boy, the Air Force and all the different agencies zeroed in on us after a while, you know, it all was coming to a head. And they said that he was a professional at this, that anybody could go out and wash cars or do any kind of work if they wanted to work, but he made a point of going around and hitting just as many people of Jack Kennedy's stature that he could, and making out pretty well.

STEWART: But a lot of people did come looking for money?

BOYLAN: Yes, and there were a lot of people who felt that.... Well, there were people that would think that the communists were after them. And I can remember very distinctly one woman who, very confidentially, told me that the Chinese communists had a telescope on her apartment. And it wasn't until she said, "And I haven't been able to take a bath for two years because that telescope...." that I realized that there was something way out. Then she informed me that her husband had had her committed different times, and she was out, and her two sons were in the service, and this was bothering her. She wanted Senator Kennedy to help get them discharged because if they were home, she'd be all right.

Another woman said that in the apartment building she was living in, the communists had some sort of electronic devices, and they were recording everything that went on. And I asked if she lived alone. And I said, "Well, how could they record anything? You don't talk to anybody, do you?" There were people listening, you know.

And some of them were real sad cases. You know, people who had perhaps had breakdowns. And at night sometimes, you'd look up and in his reception room there'd be

three or four well-dressed people, elderly, talking to each other; didn't even know the person beside them wasn't a member of the office. And Dick Conway also would sit in the Senator's office and listen to them for, oh, an hour at a time, and assure them that the Senator... They would very often go out very content, and appear maybe two weeks later with another problem. But they were no trouble. Some of them were. Some of them would write letters and be very nasty if they hadn't had any response to their request. In fact, when I got down to Washington, many of the cases that I had handled in Boston were being duplicated down there. They were writing to him in both places, and I could spot them and steer the girls clear of them down there.

STEWART: Did you get people coming in wanting to get the Senator involved in some business deal or some business arrangement that they were trying to finance or looking for capital?

BOYLAN: There was one, and I can't quite remember. There was one concerning a person who wanted to bring meat in from Argentina that could not meet government inspection. And that was the kind of deal they wanted to get him in on.

There were many people who, of course, would write and invite him to their homes, say they had been in love with him for years, and that sort of thing. Well, Grace Burke had known the Senator since he was a young boy, and she would just discard those letters. He never saw them either in Washington or Boston. She felt that they were sort of crackpot—the type of letter that in the White House would go through PRS [Protective Research Service] and never reach....

But there were many times when a mother would have a son in the service and would come and seek his assistance, either because of the treatment the boy was getting or because the boy's father was ill and they wanted him home. He genuinely helped in every one of these cases. He had a girl in Washington who worked very closely with me. If I told her that the case was a legitimate, worthwhile case, she went right to the top to do what she could.

STEWART: What about—well, I think you've indicated that there were a number of people that obviously you referred to the welfare department....

BOYLAN: Yes, to the Red Feather Service. You see, because those agencies had social workers and investigators, and they were equipped to look into these cases to see if they were genuine. Whereas we could only take a person's word, and we had no way of investigating it to find out.

STEWART: What other kinds of matters might there be?

BOYLAN: It's funny how you think you're never going to forget these.

STEWART: Oh, government contracts. For example, mail contracts that the Post Office Department puts out for people with trucks and this type of thing.

BOYLAN: The bids?

STEWART: The bids. Would there be many inquiries on that type of thing?

BOYLAN: At Christmastime people that had trucks, say somebody from New Bedford with a truck, would seek his assistance to have their truck used for delivery of parcel post. And that would be handled by the Post Office, but it would come through Senator Kennedy's office. Many times these people were helpful to the organization secretary, the Kennedy organization secretary, and would have been referred to us by the secretary. It certainly was in order to do this because you would do it for any constituent who asked for this type of favor.

STEWART: Did practically all of the contacts, as far as the organization secretaries were concerned, come through the Boston office, or did many of them go directly to Ted Reardon or someone else in Washington?

BOYLAN: I know an awful lot of them came through Boston because we were here locally and Washington was quite—they didn't know people in the Washington office. The secretaries, some of them knew Ted Reardon, but not all of them. More of them knew Morrissey. And more of them knew Grace Burke and myself because they could come into the Boston office. So that I couldn't tell you how many Ted Reardon got. But lots of times we would refer something down to Ted if it had to be handled out of Washington. I had a wonderful working relationship. I didn't know any of them until I got down to Washington, but on the phone we had a marvelous relationship. I did know Evelyn because she had been up to Boston.

STEWART: You mentioned the.... What was I going to ask you? All of a sudden it slipped. Oh, your relationship with Senator Saltonstall's office and with O'Neill [Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill] and with Torby Macdonald's [Torbert H. Macdonald] office?

BOYLAN: Well, lots of times somebody from their district would come into our offices, and I would walk upstairs and walk downstairs and discuss it with Torby or Tip O'Neill or Saltonstall's secretary. The case would be handled on sort of a friendly basis. And we could give the reply, but they actually would have done the work on the case because it was in their district. We would many times send a copy of our letter to them so that they could know how we took care of one of their constituents that had come to us. For instance, a boy wanting a discharge from the service from Torby's office would feel that if he went to a senator, it would have more weight. We would work with the Congressman's office as to how much we would push on the case, how far we would go on it. And if they knew the family and said, "Now this is a genuine, authentic hardship and we'd be glad if you could help them," then we did everything we could.

STEWART: And the same with Saltonstall's office? It was always quite smooth?

BOYLAN: Very smooth relationship. His secretary sometimes would bring a handwritten note from Salty and say, "Would you give this to your boss when you go up to the apartment?" And I would hand carry it up there to him. And he would dictate something or pick up the phone and tell him what he wanted to know. Wonderful relationship. I always felt they respected him, and I was always proud that I worked for him because I knew that sometimes people didn't think as highly of some of these other people as they did of Senator Kennedy. They all seemed to respect him.

STEWART: During the time that you were there, were there any real changes as far as the instructions or the general policies that you followed in handling all of these cases? Did you ever go through a period of being overly generous with the amount of assistance you gave people or, correspondingly, cut it down a little bit?

BOYLAN: No. Actually, I didn't have any orientation at all. All of a sudden I was sitting at the desk, and I was doing this. In fact, I had done this type of work in the government, and I sort of knew what to say and how much to say. But, no, I can say that we handled all the work that came in about the same way. It was a case, and we worked on it. If we couldn't handle it through the Boston office, then we did turn it over to Washington. Or if it was one case that we were familiar with that we knew they had prior correspondence with, we'd call them and check.

STEWART: So you never received any real guidance from Ted Reardon or anyone else?

BOYLAN: No. If you did something, perhaps, that.... I was just trying to think of anything that they might have said. No, I can truthfully say that they didn't give us any.... In fact, that was one of the reasons why he wanted me to go down to Washington, because he felt that instead of all the mail from Boston that was being handled down there by people that didn't know the state—they were girls from Ohio and other places—he said, "You know where the Charles River is. Some of these girls never even heard of Concord. And they can't answer all that mail nor can they work out a schedule. They have me going from Winchendon, Massachusetts, to Plymouth and then back to Springfield." And then, you know, instead of coming down from Winchendon to Springfield that way, he said, "They just don't seem to have any conception about the size of the state."

STEWART: Did anyone replace you in Boston when you moved down there?

BOYLAN: No. There was a girl.... During the time I was there, the colored leaders were pressing him to appoint somebody, some colored person. And he had two. There was a fellow—I can't think of his name, but I have I have it at home someplace—who worked for him sort of on his own. But he fired him because he had put in a bill for three hundred dollars for services. And when he came to Boston, he asked him to come into his office; he wanted to know just what did he do to earn three hundred dollars. All he could really dredge up was that he had placed a few phone calls, and he had placed a few ads in *Jet Magazine* and....

STEWART: When was this?

BOYLAN: This was back in about '57. I know his name as well as my own, but it just slipped me for the moment. And then Virginia Battle was hired. Harold Vaughn, who was the colored leader, recommended her, and she was brought in to clip, sort of like a clipping service. But she didn't seem to—she was a married girl and she had a lot of things on her mind, her father and her mother. And of course the job was fairly boring. Grace didn't give her any work, and I had my own job. She acted sort of as a receptionist. She sat near the door where people could see her, you know, and she answered the phone. She wanted to go to Washington at the time that he insisted on my going down. But he didn't take her down there. She had been down there—she was sort of used for publicity. They had pictures showing her going to the Library of Congress with the Senator. And of course she didn't really work in the Washington office.

But the girls said that she was quite noisy, and that's one of—this is sort of confidential, but he said, "You know, the girls like you, Mary, and they'd be very happy to have you down there, but they don't want Ginny." And he said, "Of course, you're senior, and when those leaders who are pushing me...." They really wanted somebody right in there. He said, "I have a real good reason for taking you: that you can take my dictation, and that you've been with me a longer time, and you are senior. But," he said, "if you just don't want to come down, I can't do this." And the girl never did get to work in his office. But she did go to, when he became president, she went to work at one of the government agencies down there. I lost track of her because...

STEWART: Gee, the name rings a bell, and I....

BOYLAN: Yes, Ginny Battle.

STEWART: Well, never mind. I'll....

BOYLAN: She, there was publicity on her. In fact, I have some publicity at home. They played it up quite a bit. But there were a lot of colored leaders.... The thing that bothered Jack was that he asked her one time to get a group of colored people together, just then, it was just like this, the colored situation. They hadn't quite made their minds up. They were moving in a little bit. And she couldn't get—I don't think there were forty people. He felt that she should have been able to contact key people who could bring their group. He wanted at least two hundred people. And some of the colored people resented her a bit because they thought that she thought she was better than they were, and that sort of thing. So that the purpose he had her there for just fizzled out.

STEWART: So, in fact, no one replaced you up here?

BOYLAN: Nobody replaced me. The work that I was doing here I continued to do down there. The work, some of it would be sent right down to me, down there, as it came into the Boston office. His point was that he was going to

spend less and less time in Boston, and he needed to concentrate all his help in Washington. He wanted to stay away from Boston as much as possible, and he also felt that the people, you know, as he referred to them, those “unfortunate cases” that would come in, they were.... You weren’t accomplishing anything by it, you know. But Grace was there to help them. And also, you see, he had his mind set on the White House at that time.

STEWART: Yes. Well, this was in ‘58 when you went down there.

BOYLAN: ‘58, yes. And those next two years he was really campaigning.

STEWART: Because I think, even right along, that was an unusually small local office for a senator.

BOYLAN: Very small. In fact....

STEWART: Look at the office Senator Robert Kennedy has in New York, and....

BOYLAN: That’s right. In fact, people used to say that, you know, when I left they’d get no.... I’d get letters in Washington from people I didn’t know. But I could see Grace’s point of view. She felt that Jack didn’t need this type of help. And they were sort of just a drag around his neck, as far as she was concerned. And she also felt burdened with working still at the office. I got there at nine, but she didn’t open the office until ten. She closed it at two. That’s when Dick Conway would come in, and if anybody straggled in, he would take care of them. It was a relatively small office for such a big job as he had.

STEWART: Can you remember, you mentioned before that he would frequently go through a lot of his mail and tell you the reply he wanted sent. Can you remember any incidents that would reflect his attitude about the handling of these cases? For example, did he ever show any real irritation about people spelling out their problems in great detail and not appearing to know that he wasn’t the one who could solve them? That someone else could solve them better? Or did he ever joke about this?

BOYLAN: Yes. When he’d come to a case like that, he’d say, “Here’s a good one for Frank Morrissey.” Or if it was an Italian case, sometimes he’d say, “Why don’t you give this to Grace to handle?” And I knew that he was laughing underneath, that this was just another one of these cases. Sometimes we’d get a request from somebody that was not friendly toward him, and it would annoy him, figuring that had he not picked up this particular piece of mail, they would have perhaps gotten super service through one of the staff members, and this person didn’t deserve it because maybe they weren’t with him on a certain deal—I don’t mean deal, but a certain project, locally speaking, you know.

STEWART: Did he ever express, did he always joke about local political people and their requests?

BOYLAN: He seemed to like to know what was going on in Boston because when I'd be down at the Cape, sometimes he would have guests who were not connected with him in a work relationship, but who knew him through the campaign. And he would seem to sit back and relax and get a big kick out of them describing what went on at the Copley Plaza, or who was friendly with whom, or who was not friendly with whom. But he never got involved in any of these petty politics. He steered clear of them.

STEWART: Did he really understand how these things were handled as far as the different agencies were concerned? For example, what really happened when you would send over to the Civil Service Commission or talk to someone at the Civil Service Commission about referring someone, or talking with someone at Immigration? Did he understand the processes?

BOYLAN: Yes, because one time up at the Ritz Carlton I was up there taking his dictation, and a relative who was trying to get a promotion just hadn't got it. We had handled it in the routine fashion, you know, in the legitimate routine fashion. But they were pressing, and said the agency head wouldn't honor a letter that they figured the secretary had written in just a routine fashion. But if he would make a personal call, which would put the Senator then under obligation to the head of this agency, who may in turn looking for a higher promotion himself....

And I remember how annoyed and how upset he was that this relative had put him to this test, you know. However, he did it, and the relative did get the promotion. Now I think he, himself, didn't approve of this sort of thing. It was an isolated case.

STEWART: As far as you were concerned, you never suggested that he call different people or....

BOYLAN: No. Oh, no, I would never—no. I would never make a suggestion to him on that score.

[BEGIN SIDE 2, TAPE 2]

STEWART: Did you ever have problems with reporters, newspaper people trying to get information from you as to what the Senator was planning to do or what he was doing?

BOYLAN: Yes. Oh, frequently.... More often they would go to Frank Morrissey because they'd see him on the street. He was out all the time. But if they would call the office during the day, I had adopted a policy that I knew nothing, and I didn't mind being called a very stupid secretary because it was the safest role to play. And you never got in trouble. You never spoke to a newspaper reporter or had anything to do with them. I learned that every early.

STEWART: Was this specifically told to you, or did you just assume?

BOYLAN: No. It was specifically told to me because of an incident that happened with the Senator when he was a congressman—maybe he was a senator, but I think it was when he was a congressman—in the western part of Massachusetts. He was in a room with an eager beaver reporter, newspaper reporter, on a newspaper that was friendly toward him. And he naturally had certain questions that he asked, and you think when you're in a friendly group you can speak freely. And he did, even though he had been told not to say anything in front of this fellow. He said, "Well, he's my friend. We're all friends. This is a different type of gathering." And, of course, it made headlines the next day, and he, of course, was highly shocked to think somebody would do something like that. And I had heard about that, and I felt they told me that as a warning.

Many times I would have to run down to the *Globe* with the press copy and deliver the copies to all the different newspapers because you couldn't get a Western Union messenger at the time—sometimes it would be ten o'clock at night, you know, by the time he flew in, dictated his speech, typed it up, and it was proofed and everything—to make the deadline. Nobody had any idea who I was, and I was just an unknown with no political connection, so I got away with a lot as far as just not knowing anything, just being a girl in Kennedy's office. And even if they would approach me and ask me something, I just didn't know anything. And it was the wisest way to be because Jack Kennedy remarked one time that if there ever was a leak out of the Boston office, he knew one person that would never leak anything. And that made me feel good because it could get you into a lot of trouble.

STEWART: There was something about some groups—oh, the charities. You have charities down here; was that...?

BOYLAN: He received several requests from different charitable groups. And I believe that he turned the proceeds of the royalties from the book, I think it was *Profiles in Courage*, over to a Negro group. It all went to that group. I can check this out, though. I want to check a lot of these things for the facts.

STEWART: Okay.

BOYLAN: Of course, while I was there, his father gave a half million at a time to different charity groups in the local area. And I have all that information, which I always felt was kind of confidential, but it certainly didn't do any harm politically, and it was a wonderful thing on the part of the Ambassador to do because they were all very worthwhile causes. Lots of his charity went over an extended period of time; it was long-range type of thing. So that he was committed, say, for ten or twenty years in advance to some of these projects. And I would sometimes take the dictation between the Ambassador and, say, the Cardinal. The Cardinal would say, "Now, who's on the other end of this line?" They'd always have to be very circumspect about who, and Mr. Kennedy would say, "This is Jack's secretary. She can be trusted with this information." I'd forget most of this stuff as soon as I'd heard it because I didn't have any purpose in telling it to anybody, and I always felt it was too confidential. I always felt that a confidential secretary should be confidential.

STEWART: Were there many requests from, oh, for example, local churches or local groups that were trying to build a boys' club or something?

BOYLAN: Yes, there were.

STEWART: Were all of these automatic? Did you handle them, or were they all sent to the Washington office?

BOYLAN: No. He himself personally designated which groups should, though Frank Morrissey. If it was the Boys' Club of Charlestown, Frank would inform him who the leader was, who the person was to talk with. Not all of them were honored, but I didn't make any decisions of that nature.

STEWART: I should think there would have been many, many of these, groups that...

BOYLAN: Oh, there were hundreds of letters for money, not just from groups, but from individuals; individuals that might want to save a business or.... Then we could refer those people to the Small Business Administration for a loan.

STEWART: Would these automatically or...?

BOYLAN: No, depending on who they came from. If a person had a.... You know, he believed in that. If a person wanted to start up a business, he believed this was good for the country. That if they were having difficulties, they should get help, and the government was set up to give them help. That he personally couldn't handle because he had so many hundreds of requests that it would be an impossibility to know all of them. And if you did it for one, you'd have to do it, and you leave yourself wide open to criticism.

STEWART: Did you ever get involved, or the office, or did he get involved in financing or helping people financially?

BOYLAN: Not to my knowledge. I never saw any of that.

STEWART: It seems to me I heard a story about a woman and a television set. Did you tell me that?

BOYLAN: Oh, yes. No. You see, at Christmastime Congressman McCormack had what was known as the Twelfth Congressional Christmas Basket Fund, where people who had received promotions and things like that were contacted, and at Christmastime they wrote a check to this Twelfth Congressional Christmas Basket Fund. And Congressman McCormack in turn would send what they called "Christmas baskets." In the early days they were baskets of fruits and maybe a turkey but in later years it was a check for \$7.50. Because he did this...

STEWART: How did they arrive at \$7.50? [Laughter]

BOYLAN: I don't know, but because he did this on a small scale, Senator Kennedy would get requests. He did try to honor them with sort of assistance, but one woman wrote and asked for a television set. I think that was in one of Evelyn's books, too. That was a famous story.

STEWART: Oh, really? And then it wasn't the model she wanted?

BOYLAN: No. She wanted a much better one than they had delivered. I know sometimes they said when they went to deliver a Christmas basket or some sort of Christmas gift, they would find to people so well established and equipped that they would turn around and walk out. They felt that there was no need of charity, but these people just thought that this was the thing to do.

STEWART: Were all the people who were aided ever put on any kind of mailing list or receive any kind of...?

BOYLAN: Oh, yes. There was a record kept of everybody. It was known as a case file. There was a case file of every person that had ever written in. Any many times their file cards were so thick there might have been six or eight cards. It was only a brief notation like the date they asked for something and the action that was taken. These people would just—if they got one favor, no matter what happened, they would write in for another one. And a lot of times we got requests from people who wanted their boys to be sent to the Naval Academy or West Point.

STEWART: Yes, he was interested in that, wasn't he? He wrote an article in *The Saturday Evening Post* on revising the system, I think.

BOYLAN: He was very, very much interested in this sort of thing. He was interested in youth, period. I remember one time my brother, who is a professor at Boston State Teachers' College, was the campus liaison officer for the Peace Corps. It was just one of those added duties that he had. And the editor and co-editor of the college paper were planning to join the Pace Corps, and they were giving it quite a buildup. They asked for an appointment, and because I worked for him, I was able to secure an appointment down in Washington. I did write this up. Perhaps I could read a little bit. It might come out a little bit better. My brother, Paul J. Boylan, was campus liaison officer of the Peace Corps group at Boston State Teachers' College. He and the editor and the co-editor, students, were invited to meet with President Kennedy. Do you think I'm going too fast?

STEWART: Well, look it. There's really no point in reading it if it's all prepared, and we can just mention that this should be inserted in the transcript right here. And then we can take it along. Okay?

BOYLAN: All right, all right. If you will allow me to do a little bit better job on the typing and, you know, maybe triple space it.

STEWART: Well, that's all right. I'm sure they can read it.

BOYLAN: I think maybe I can do quite a bit more of this and then send it down to you. Would that be all right?

STEWART: Sure.

BOYLAN: And I have several little—now this is what I did this morning, this is just....

[END OF INTERVIEW #2]

Mary Boylan Oral History Transcript – JFK #2
Name Index

B

Battle, Virginia, 42
Boylan, Mrs., 31
Boylan, Paul J., 47
Burke, Grace M., 27, 28, 29, 31, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40,
42, 43
Burtelano, George, 34

C

Cadarro, Jeannie, 31
Cadarro, Philip, 31
Conway, Richard, 37, 39, 43
Costin, Thomas P., 27
Cowan, Jill, 31

D

Dagnon, Dave, 33
DeGuglielmo, Joseph A., 31

F

Ford, John J., 37
Furcolo, Foster, 29, 35

K

Kennedy, Edward Moore, 28, 36
Kennedy, John F., 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33,
34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44,
45, 47
Kennedy, Joseph P., Sr., 33, 35, 36, 37, 45
Kennedy, Robert F., 36, 43

L

Lempart, Helen, 31
Leroy, 37
Lincoln, Evelyn N., 30, 31, 34, 40, 47

M

Macdonald, Torbert H., 40
McCormack, John William, 26, 27, 28, 46
Morey, Robert F., 33, 34
Morrisey, Francis X., 34, 35, 36, 40, 43, 44, 46

O

O'Donnell, Kenneth P., 33, 34, 37
O'Neill, Thomas P. "Tip", Jr., 40

P

Pomontier, George, 32, 33
Powers, David F., 30, 37

R

Reardon, Timothy J., Jr., 27, 35, 40, 41

S

Saltonstall, Leverett, 32, 40, 41
Saltonstall, William, 32

T

Turnure, Pamela, 31

V

Vaughn, Harold, 42

W

Wear, Piscilla, 31

WHEN I STEPPED UP ON THIS PLATFORM TO RECEIVE MY DIPLOMA SEVERAL YEARS AGO, LITTLE DID I REALIZE WHAT THE FUTURE HAD IN STORE FOR ME. THE MOST EXCITING THING I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU TODAY IS THE "FUN" OF HAVING A VARIETY OF INTERESTING JOBS. IN ORDER TO GET INTO THE VARIETY OF JOBS THAT MAKE THINGS INTERESTING AND CHALLENGING, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAVE THE BASIC AND FUNDAMENTAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION WHICH PROVIDES YOU WITH A SOLID BACKGROUND. THIS -- I DID REALIZE!

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF JOBS YOU COULD FIND IF YOU ARE PROPERLY PREPARED. AS A GRADUATE OF BOSTON BUSINESS SCHOOL, YOU WILL MAINTAIN THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE THAT IS THE KEY TO OPEN MANY DOORS TO EXCITING, INTERESTING AND CHALLENGING POSITIONS IN THE WORLD TODAY.

PERHAPS YOU WOULD LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT SOME OF

THE POSITIONS I'VE HELD -- NONE OF WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE, I'M SURE, WERE IT NOT FOR THE EXCELLENT TRAINING AND PREPARATION FOR THE BUSINESS WORLD THAT WAS EXTENDED TO ALL STUDENTS BY THE FINE TEACHERS BOSTON BUSINESS SCHOOL HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO ATTRACT.

MY FIRST POSITION AFTER GRADUATION WAS IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY. AS SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT OF A LEATHER FIRM I HAD A CHANCE TO USE MANY OF THE SKILLS I HAD BEEN TAUGHT HERE. ONE OF THE THINGS I REMEMBER MOST ABOUT THIS FIRST JOB WAS THE ABSOLUTE HIGH REGARD THE COMPANY HAD FOR GRADUATES OF THIS SCHOOL. IT WAS ALMOST AS IF YOU COULD DO NO WRONG -- BUT I REMEMBER HOW HARD IT WAS TO ATTAIN THAT 90% PASSING MARK -- AND WITH 11% OFF FOR ONE ERROR IN SOME SUBJECTS -- YOU COULDN'T AFFORD TO BE WRONG!

AS A RESULT OF COMPETING IN A CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION I RECEIVED AN OFFER OF APPOINTMENT IN THE

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION REGIONAL OFFICE IN
BOSTON. THE ATTRACTIVE SALARY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
OFFERED AS WELL AS THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK IN THE
EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT WAS THE SECOND
STEPPING STONE TO THE EXCITING POSITIONS I LATER HELD. I
WOULD LIKE TO URGE ALL OF YOU TO LOOK INTO THE VARIETY OF
JOBS OPEN IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE AT HOME, IN
WASHINGTON AND OVERSEAS.

SHORTHAND HAPPENED TO BE THE KEY THAT OPENED
SEVERAL DOORS FOR ME -- ONE TIME WHEN PRESIDENT KENNEDY,
THEN A UNITED STATES SENATOR, WAS IN BOSTON TO DELIVER
A COMMENCEMENT SPEECH WHICH HE DID NOT HAVE TIME TO
PREPARE IN WASHINGTON, HE INQUIRED IF THERE WAS ANYONE
IN THE AREA WHO COULD TAKE RAPID-FIRE DICTATION. AS A
GRADUATE OF BOSTON BUSINESS SCHOOL MY NAME WAS SUGGESTED
TO HIM. ALTHOUGH I HAD NEVER MET HIM BEFORE, I REMEMBER

WHAT "FUN" IT WAS TAKING THIS "FIRST SPEECH". AFTER THAT, IT SEEMED EVERY TIME THE SENATOR CAME TO BOSTON THERE WAS MORE AND MORE WORK TO BE DONE TAKING SPEECHES AND WRITING LETTERS. OUT OF THE BLUE ONE DAY, HE OFFERED ME A POSITION IN HIS BOSTON OFFICE. NEEDLESS TO SAY, I ACCEPTED THIS OFFER WITHOUT ANY HESITATION. HERE WAS A BOSS WHO DICTATED FASTER THAN ANYONE I KNEW -- EVEN TAKING DICTATION DOWN FROM A RADIO COMMENTATOR OR A NEWS BROADCASTER COULDN'T EXCEED THE RAPID RATE AT WHICH SENATOR KENNEDY SPOKE.

LITTLE DID MY SHORTHAND TEACHERS HERE KNOW HOW MUCH A PART THEY PLAYED IN ALL THE JOBS I WAS FORTUNATE TO OBTAIN BUT ESPECIALLY WITH PRESIDENT KENNEDY. ONCE HE REMARKED TO AN AIDE THAT NO MATTER HOW LITTLE TIME HE HAD IN WHICH TO DICTATE OR HOW FAST HE SPOKE, MARY WAS ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH HIM. I OFTEN THOUGHT OF THE TECHNIQUE

TAUGHT TO US BY ONE OF OUR SHORTHAND TEACHERS -- TO FOLD OUR HOMEWORK PAPER OR DIVIDE OUR NOTEBOOK INTO FOUR COLUMNS -- TO MAKE ONLY A FEW SHORTHAND NOTES ON EACH LINE -- TO SAVE TIME AND WASTED MOTION BY MOVING YOUR HAND BACK AND FORTH -- AND SIMPLY TO MAKE ONE MOVE TO THE TOP OF THE NEXT COLUMN WHEN YOU REACHED THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE. ANOTHER TECHNIQUE THAT HELPED ME IMMEASURABLY WHEN TAKING RAPID-FIRE DICTATION IS KEEPING YOUR MIDDLE FINGER UNDERNEATH THE PAGE ON WHICH YOU ARE TAKING NOTES AND INCHING THE PAGE TOWARD THE TOP OF YOUR NOTEBOOK MAKING IT EASY TO FLIP OVER TO THE NEXT PAGE WITHOUT LOSING TIME.

LITTLE SHORTCUTS LIKE THESE WERE MIGHTY USEFUL. I RECALL ONE TIME WHEN SENATOR AND MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY WERE INVITED TO WELCOME A DISTINGUISHED ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TO OUR STATE. THEY ARRIVED AT A BOSTON HOTEL AFTER I HAD

LEFT THE OFFICE FOR HOME. A CALL AROUND SIX-THIRTY
BROUGHT ME BACK TO THE HOTEL WHERE THE KENNEDYS WERE
STAYING. FORTUNATELY, I ALWAYS CARRIED MY NOTEBOOK AND
A SUPPLY OF SHARPENED PENCILS WITH ME. NO SOONER DID I
APPEAR AT THEIR DOOR WHEN THE SENATOR STARTED DICTATING
THE SPEECH THAT HE INTENDED TO DELIVER IN ABOUT AN HOUR
AT THE DINNER. HE HAD NO TIME TO PREPARE HIS SPEECH IN
WASHINGTON BEFORE FLYING TO BOSTON. ACTUALLY, HE HAD
VERY LITTLE TIME TO DICTATE THE SPEECH IN BOSTON -- LET
ALONE HAVE ME TYPE IT. THE DICTATION WAS SORT OF A DRESS
REHEARSAL FOR HIM. RARELY DID HE DELIVER A SPEECH
EXACTLY AS HE DICTATED IT -- OFTEN HE CHANGED THE TYPED-
UP NOTES AT THE BANQUET TABLE ADDING A FEW REMARKS HE
MIGHT NOT HAVE THOUGHT OF EARLIER -- SELDOM DID HE LOOK
AT HIS NOTES BUT THEY WERE IN FRONT OF HIM IN THE EVENT HE
WANTED TO REFER TO THEM. MOST OF YOU HAVE WATCHED
PRESIDENT KENNEDY ON TELEVISION AND ENJOYED HIS PRESS

CONFERENCES. YOU CAN UNDERSTAND HOW QUICKLY HE THOUGHT --
HOW RAPIDLY HE SPOKE AND HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS TO MAKE
PERFECT NOTES IN TAKING HIS DICTATION. THERE NEVER WOULD
BE TIME TO ASK A MAN AS BUSY AS HE TO REPEAT EVEN A
SENTENCE -- HERE AGAIN IS WHERE MY EARLY TRAINING AT
BOSTON BUSINESS SCHOOL WAS INVALUABLE. MY TEACHERS ALWAYS
EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING PERFECT OUTLINES.
MANY TIMES AS I WOULD FINISH TAKING ONE PAGE OF DICTATION,
I WOULD HAVE TO HAND MY NOTES TO SOMEONE ELSE TO TRANS-
CRIBE THEM IN ORDER TO HAVE THE SPEECH COMPLETED BEFORE
THE SENATOR LEFT FOR THE AIRPORT.

ENROUTE TO A FUNCTION, I REMEMBER TAKING DICTATION
AS THE PRESIDENT, MRS. KENNEDY AND I STEPPED INTO AN
ELEVATOR -- CONTINUE TAKING THE SPEECH IN A MOVING CAR --
WALKING ALONG IN AFTER HIM WHILE HE WOULD BE GREETING
GUESTS -- EVERY CHANCE HE GOT HE WOULD TURN ASIDE AND

DICTATE ANOTHER SENTENCE. THE TYPED-UP SPEECH WOULD HAVE TO BE TURNED OUT IN A MATTER OF MINUTES USUALLY IN THE HOTEL WHERE HE WOULD BE GUEST SPEAKER. THAT IS WHY I ALWAYS BROUGHT AN ENVELOPE WITH PLAIN WHITE STATIONERY AND CARBON PAPER WITH ME AS WELL AS THE NOTEBOOK AND SHARPENED PENCILS. VERY SELDOM DID I FIND MYSELF AT MY DESK IN THE OFFICE WITH A WELL ORGANIZED PLACE IN WHICH TO WORK. OFTEN I WOULD FIND MYSELF DASHING TO THE AIRPORT TO LOCATE AN ENVELOPE THAT HE LEFT BEHIND IN A PLANE THAT MAY HAVE BEEN IN THE HANGAR -- OR TO HOP A PLANE TO NEW YORK OR WASHINGTON WITH A SPEECH THAT MAY HAVE BEEN OVERLOOKED. SOMEHOW OR OTHER I THRIVED ON THE FUN AND EXCITEMENT THAT THIS PARTICULAR JOB HELD. FAR FROM BEING DULL AND ROUTINE, EVERY DAY BROUGHT A NEW CHALLENGE AND A VARIETY OF WORK.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE WORKING FOR THE PRESIDENT WAS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT OPERATION FROM THE DAYS IN

THE SENATE. KEY ASSISTANTS CHANNELED THE WORK TO THE SECRETARIAL STAFF AND ALL OF US BECAME A PART OF A UNITED TEAM HELPING IN WHATEVER WAY WE WERE ASSIGNED TO DO AN IMPORTANT JOB AND TO DO IT WELL. MY POSITION WAS THAT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT IN THE "SOCIAL OFFICE". ONE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THIS OFFICE WAS TO HANDLE ALL ARRANGEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF A FOREIGN DIGNITARY AND HIS PARTY. ALL INVITATIONS TO A RECEPTION AND STATE DINNER WERE WRITTEN BY HAND. A STATE DINNER AT THE WHITE HOUSE IS AN UNFORGETTABLE AFFAIR. ONE TIME WHEN CHANCELLOR ADENAUER WAS THE HONORED GUEST, THE STATE DINNER WAS HELD OUT DOORS IN THE PRESIDENT'S ROSE GARDEN. FORTUNATELY, THE RAIN THAT WAS THREATENING ALL THAT DAY HELD OFF AND THE DINNER WAS A HUGE SUCCESS. AS MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL STAFF, WE WOULD HAVE TO BE OUT ON THE SOUTH LAWN AS THE HELICOPTER LANDED BRINGING THE FOREIGN DIGNITARY TO THE

WHITE HOUSE. THE POMP AND CEREMONY THAT ACCOMPANIED THESE VISITS, THE WELCOME SPEECH MADE BY THE PRESIDENT, THE ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE AND MARINE BANDS PLAYING "HAIL TO THE CHIEF" AND THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF THE COUNTRY WHOSE PRESIDENT OR PRIME MINISTER WAS VISITING THE UNITED STATES, HELPED TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE ROUTINE JOB AND CERTAINLY PROVIDED THE "VARIETY" EXCITEMENT AND INTEREST WHICH I TOLD YOU EARLIER CAN BE FOUND IN JOBS IN THE GOVERNMENT TODAY.

IT WAS FUN TO LOOK OUT OF THE OFFICE WINDOW AND SEE CAROLINE AND JOHN-JOHN PLAYING WITH THE OTHER SCHOOL CHILDREN. SOMETIMES WE WOULD SEE MRS. KENNEDY GIVING SLEIGH RIDES ON THE SOUTH LAWN TO THE YOUNGSTERS EVEN IF THERE WAS ONLY AN INCH OF SNOW COVERING THE GROUND.

WHEN ASTRONAUT JOHN GLENN VISITED THE WHITE HOUSE TO RECEIVE HIS "MEDAL OF HONOR" THE PRESIDENT INVITED

MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF INTO HIS OFFICE BEFORE THE CEREMONY
IN THE ROSE GARDEN AND INTRODUCED EACH ONE OF US TO THE
ASTRONAUT.

ANOTHER TIME WHEN PRIME MINISTER NEHRU WAS
VISITING THE UNITED STATES, THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. KENNEDY
INVITED THE SECRETARIAL STAFF IN THE SOCIAL OFFICE TO ATTEND
THE MOVIE BEING SHOWN IN THE WHITE HOUSE THEATRE TO THE
PRIME MINISTER AND HIS PARTY.

A JOB SUCH AS THE ONE I HELD IN THE WHITE HOUSE
UNDER PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND PRESIDENT JOHNSON PROVIDED
A CONSTANT ELEMENT OF "FUN, EXCITEMENT AND CHALLENGE".
THIS JOB WAS PART OF "HISTORY IN THE MAKING" AND THESE AND
MANY MORE INTERESTING THINGS DID HAPPEN TO ME -- AND THEY
COULD HAPPEN TO YOU IF YOU ARE PROPERLY PREPARED TO MEET
THE CHALLENGE. IF YOU ARE WILLING TO WORK HARD WHILE YOU
ARE A STUDENT AT BOSTON BUSINESS SCHOOL AND ATTAIN THE

STANDARDS SET FORTH, YOU, TOO, COULD HAVE A SIMILAR OPPORTUNITY. I MIGHT ADD THAT ALTHOUGH I FEEL FORTUNATE TO HAVE WORKED FOR PRESIDENT KENNEDY WHEN HE WAS A SENATOR BOTH IN HIS BOSTON AND WASHINGTON OFFICES BEFORE GOING TO THE WHITE HOUSE WITH HIM, THERE ARE FUTURE PRESIDENTS YOU MAY BE FORTUNATE TO WORK FOR ALSO. IF YOU ARE, I HOPE TO BE INVITED TO THE ASSEMBLY AT WHICH YOU MAY BE ASKED AS A "GRADUATE OF BOSTON BUSINESS SCHOOL" TO TELL OTHER STUDENTS AND THE FACULTY ABOUT THE INTERESTING AND CHALLENGING POSITIONS YOU HAVE HELD. THE TYPE OF FUN AND STIMULATION YOUR JOB MAY HOLD IS NOT LIMITED TO WORKING FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND ONE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT ALONE.

ABOUT A YEAR AGO, I APPLIED FOR TRANSFER TO A POSITION AT N A S A IN CAMBRIDGE. AFTER AN INTERVIEW BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE SPACE CENTER HERE, HE

SELECTED ME TO BE HIS SECRETARY. I NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF THE PROJECTS THAT WAS OF KEEN INTEREST TO PRESIDENT KENNEDY -- THAT IS CARRYING OUT THE OBJECTIVES WHICH HE SET FORTH AS PART OF OUR NATIONAL SPACE EFFORT. RIGHT HERE IN BOSTON, FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE MANY ACTIVITIES THAT RELATE OR CONTRIBUTE DIRECTLY TO THE LONG-TERM MEASURES OF THE SPACE PROGRAM. THE RESULTS OF MAN'S EFFORTS IN SPACE WILL HAVE A TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF ALL OF US IN THE IMMEDIATE YEARS AHEAD -- THE EXPLORATION OF SPACE.

THERE ARE MANY JOBS OPEN IN THE ELECTRONICS RESEARCH CENTER N A S A IN CAMBRIDGE HAS FOR PEOPLE WITH A BUSINESS SCHOOL BACKGROUND. THESE POSITIONS ARE FILLED BY QUALIFIED APPLICANTS WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY PASSED A FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION FOR STENOGRAPHERS, TYPISTS, ACCOUNTANTS, BOOKKEEPERS, AND OFFICE CLERICAL WORKERS. SEVERAL BOSTON BUSINESS SCHOOL GRADUATES ARE

ALREADY EMPLOYED IN KEY SECRETARIAL POSITIONS IN THE
DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF N A S A.

MY POSITION AS SECRETARY TO DR. VAN ATTA IS AS
EXCITING AND CHALLENGING AS THOSE I FORMERLY HELD. MY
BOSS -- UNLIKE HIS SECRETARY -- IS A MAGNETIC SPEAKER, AND
IN DEMAND CONSTANTLY TO ADDRESS AUDIENCES IN MANY
DIFFERENT UNIVERSITIES AND AT SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS ALL OVER
THE UNITED STATES AND IN EUROPE. LAST SEPTEMBER, DR. VAN
ATTA AND HIS WIFE LEFT FOR ROME WHERE HE WAS TO GIVE A
TALK AT AN INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC MEETING.
I HAD NOT ANTICIPATED THE DIFFICULTY THAT I LATER ENCOUN-
TERED IN TRYING TO SECURE HOTEL RESERVATIONS. AS HIS
SECRETARY, I HAD TO MAKE SURE THAT DR. AND MRS. VAN ATTA
WOULD HAVE ACCOMMODATIONS WHEN THEY ARRIVED IN ROME.
AFTER CALLS TO FRIENDS I HAD MADE WHILE WORKING IN
WASHINGTON, IT WAS POSSIBLE TO CONTACT THE EMBASSY AND

MAKE CERTAIN THAT RESERVATIONS WOULD BE AVAILABLE. THIS
JOB -- LIKE THOSE IN THE PAST -- IS AS CHALLENGING AND
INTERESTING AS I COULD WANT. FAR FROM BEING DULL AND
ROUTINE, EACH DAY IS DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE BEFORE AND
IF THE SPACE OFFICIALS EVER DECIDE TO SEND A WOMAN TO THE
MOON, WHO KNOWS, I MIGHT EVEN APPLY FOR THIS JOB!

I KNOW HOW ANXIOUS ALL OF YOU ARE TO RETURN TO
THE CLASSROOM, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE YOU WITH A STORY
ABOUT A DEAR LITTLE OLD LADY WHO MET ME IN CAMBRIDGE
THE OTHER DAY. SHE ASKED WHERE I WAS WORKING, AND WHEN
I TOLD HER AT THE SPACE CENTER N A S A HAS IN CAMBRIDGE, I
ALSO TOLD HER ABOUT THE PLANS FOR EXPLORATION OF OUTER
SPACE -- ABOUT SOME OF THE EXCITING PROJECTS THAT ARE
UNDERTAKEN HERE AT N A S A. AS I EXPLAINED THESE THINGS TO
HER, ALTHOUGH SHE WAS IMPRESSED, SHE WONDERED WHY WE
ARE SO CONCERNED ABOUT GETTING OUT INTO SPACE. SHE

THOUGHT EVERYONE SHOULD BE AT HOME WATCHING TELEVISION
AS THE GOOD LORD INTENDED.

WELL, WHETHER OR NOT WE SHOULD WATCH TELEVISION
OR WORK HARD TO BE PRE-EMINENT IN SPACE, THERE IS ONE
THING I AM CERTAIN YOU SHOULD DO. STUDY HARD! THE DAYS
YOU SPEND HERE WILL GUIDE YOU INTO UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITIES
WHEN YOU GRADUATE. I WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE ALL OF YOU
TO CONSIDER TAKING THE FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION --
THE JOBS IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE HERE AND ABROAD CAN
MAKE THE TIME AND EFFORT YOU GIVE AT BOSTON BUSINESS SCHOOL
THE KEY TO YOUR FUTURE!

E N D