

THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTIONS

Interview #3

Wednesday, June 10, 1992

RITCHIE: We've been talking about the 1940s and '50s, but before we move too far into the '60s I wanted to go back and talk about some of those political conventions you went to. You went to the Democratic conventions in 1948, 1952, and 1956.

SCOTT: Yes.

RITCHIE: Could you start with the 1948 Democratic convention in 1948? It was a very dramatic one, and it was your first one. How was it that you went to the convention, and what were your responsibilities?

SCOTT: Mr. Johnston was appointed Secretary of the Platform Committee of the Democratic National Convention, and it was an appointment by the Democratic National Committee. He said he wanted me to come up maybe a couple of days after he got there. So he went up and the very night he got there he called up and said: "Help! [laughs] Come quickly, right away." He said it was a madhouse. "You have to hurry up and come." So I had to go several days before I expected to. I'll never forget, it was really something, they had a committee to assign rooms, and Mr. Biffle at

that time was sergeant at arms of the Democratic National Convention, also an appointment by the National Committee. They had allotted some of the rooms, and of course I arrived sooner than they expected me to, because Mr. Johnston had called up with the SOS. So they put me in a tiny, tiny little room, that was half as big as this. It was more like a closet, without a telephone, it was just horrible for one night. When I arrived I went to Mr. Biffle's office, the sergeant at arms' office at the Belvue-Stratford and everybody was out to lunch, nobody was there. I remember Henry Griffith, I think he was an AP reporter at that time, ran into me, and of course I had known a lot of the other newspaper men, and I didn't know what to do as far as checking in with anybody, because I didn't have a room yet, I didn't know just where to put my bags. So he took me to lunch, and that was my introduction to the first day. The next day I got a better room.

It was really, truly a madhouse. I wrote up—not as a member of the staff—when I went down to Miami in '72. In that article I compared a lot of the sights and sounds and feelings of the Democratic National Convention in '48, '52, and '56 with the one in '72 down in Miami Beach, because it was so different. I had a lot of descriptive material in the article. I was trying in that article—I'm skipping ahead a little—to contrast the one in Chicago in '68, where it was so awful and everybody was locked out and everything, but there is some descriptive material in that article, if you want to use that.

But we worked very, very hard. What we would do is have

national committee men and women on a platform drafting subcommittee. These were about fourteen people, and they were the ones who would interview all these different people from different organizations, witnesses that we scheduled, and get their ideas and suggestions for the platform. We would have two or three sessions a day. In Chicago, I remember we had three different sessions: morning, early afternoon, and into the evening. One time we had Eleanor Roosevelt testify. But after the drafting subcommittee would work up the wording of the actual platform that was going to be used and had to be adopted by the convention at the convention hall, we had to have a meeting of all the different committee men and women from each state to okay every word of it, before it was presented to the convention.

At that time we were meeting at another hotel and the press was very much on our trail trying to find us and find out what was going on. I'll never forget, it was Mr. Johnston, Secretary of the Platform Vommittee, W. H. McMains was assisting him, and we were working out of another hotel, and one time one of the newspapermen tried to follow them to find out which other hotel they were working at. So they went out one door and turned around and went around the block and came back in again. And there were articles in the Philadelphia paper saying that they didn't know where the drafting subcommittee was working.

We worked all hours, and then finally we had to get it all ready, because this was like a week before the convention and I think it was the third night of the convention that we had to get

everything ready and adopted and copies mimeographed and everything to go out to convention hall to present it. I remember that night Mr. and Mrs. Johnston were there, and we even got Mrs. Johnston to help put all the pages together [laughs], and another girl that I had was helping. It was really a rush. And I remember so well, I went back to my room to change, and I think I had something to eat in twenty minutes, and got out there and then we had sirens and a police escort to get us out to the convention hall in time. That was very exciting.

When we got out there, Senator Barkley was still speaking, so we got there in time to present the platform. Then when the platform was presented, it was so hot, it was terribly, terribly hot, and I remember Mr. Biffle, the sergeant at arms, had his office right there over the front of the rostrum. I was there for a while, and then Senator [Olin] Johnston of South Carolina asked me if I'd like to go out and take a ride because it was so hot in the hall. I went out and we took a ride, and we got back in time for the actual presentation of the platform, and then of course, Senator [Hubert] Humphrey, who was on our drafting subcommittee led the walkout of the Mississippi delegation because of the civil rights plank.

RITCHIE: Humphrey was in favor of the civil rights plank.

SCOTT: Yes.

RITCHIE: So he caused the walk-out.

SCOTT: He caused it, yes. He was on our drafting subcommittee, he was a member, and he was the one who caused the walk-out of the Mississippi delegation. It was all very dramatic. I guess it was the next night, when Truman came to accept the nomination, I remember they had a lot of white doves, and they let them free and they flew up to the rafters.

The whole city was convention. You'd come out the doorway of the hotel and you'd hear loud speakers all over the place. They had every word from the convention being broadcast on the radios, every place. The whole thing just permeated the atmosphere. It was convention, and that was it. They had some coverage by some of the television cameras, and we'd go from one hotel to another, back and forth, trying to keep the whole thing secret until every word was adopted. It was all very exciting, and I worked very, very hard, those crazy long hours, but it was very stimulating.

Then I remember the last day, after the convention was over, I was trying to get our trunks packed to get all our material back to Washington. Before the platform committee actually started its oral hearings, we kept getting loads and loads of letters and telegrams, because it all came to Mr. Johnston as Secretary of the Platform Committee. So there was an awful lot of work and correspondence, and all these things we had to put in the trunk and take back. I was downstairs in the hotel trying to get the trunk ready and trying to check out of the rooms and somebody came up to

me and wanted me to go and be on the radio then. They wanted to interview somebody who had been part of the convention proceedings. I would have loved to have done it, but I couldn't. I had to finish and get ready to go. So that was the Philadelphia convention.

RITCHIE: That was the first time you met Hubert Humphrey, because he was still mayor of Minneapolis.

SCOTT: Yes, and he was on the drafting committee.

RITCHIE: What did you think about Hubert Humphrey?

SCOTT: Oh, he had so much pep and everything. [laughs] Years later when he was in the Senate, and when he was Vice President, he would just kind of dance by my desk. He was always so full of life. But he was very negligent about attending fund-raising things. I went to different ones, and sometimes he wouldn't show up. I worked closely with some of the people in his office. But he was very cordial. I remember one time I was at the White House with someone else and he came over and was very friendly. He was such a nice person.

Another thing about him, this was not in connection with conventions, but when he was very ill. I think he was out in Scripps, or in Minnesota, but he was coming back after I think everyone realized his situation was terminal. We had a great big

huge party. I guess it was the Senate Staff Club that started it. They had a great big huge cardboard, about five feet wide by about four feet high, and it was a welcome back to Hubert Humphrey in the courtyard of the Old Senate Office Building, outside, to welcome him back to Washington after his physical treatment. Everybody was so excited to get to see him. I think he was very well loved by everybody, all the different staffs of Senators, and he didn't come that night. His sister came and she made a speech in his place. And it wasn't too long after that that he passed on. It was really sad.

RITCHIE: But in 1948 he wasn't that well liked.

SCOTT: No, no, before he came to the Senate.

RITCHIE: Because he was in a sense . . .

SCOTT: A rebel [laughs].

RITCHIE: Stirring up things at that meeting.

SCOTT: Stirring up was right! The whole convention in Philadelphia. And of course his wife Muriel was so nice. And you remember back down in Miami Beach in 1972, when they were so sad when he wasn't nominated down there. But he was quite a character and very loveable, and a hard, hard worker, and so sincere.

RITCHIE: Back in 1948 you were at the convention with all of this excitement going on, but did anybody think that Harry Truman had a chance?

SCOTT: No [laughs]. Oh, that was really something. Like I told you, I met him soon after I came to the Senate, and the impression I first got of him when I met him in Mr. Biffle's office, because he had been a haberdasher, I guess, his shoulders looked so nice and firm. That was the impression I got, he looked so firm, and he had a wonderful posture, he carried himself so well. I thought he was really his own man, and I admired him a lot.

RITCHIE: But at the convention, did you think, "Well, this was a lot of fun, but it really doesn't mean anything because he's not going to win."

SCOTT: Yes, I thought it was going to be [Thomas E.] Dewey. I remember Harold Beckley [superintendent of the Senate Press Gallery] was a good friend of mine and we both lived in Silver Spring, and we used to take turns driving, I had a carpool with him. That morning we drove in and I couldn't believe it, I was just so tickled and I kept laughing, and Beck kept saying to me, "What happened? What happened?" [laughs] It was really so exciting.

RITCHIE: I'm sure you must have been pleased when Alben Barkley got the Vice Presidential nomination, since you had known him as Democratic Leader.

SCOTT: Oh, yes, and you asked the other day about the title "Gold dust twins," after he came back as junior Senator from Kentucky. I checked something out in my files and he was the one who gave the name to himself and Senator George as the "gold dust twins." They would come into our office, our dining room, after a lot of the other luncheons had been held, the Policy Committee luncheons and other official luncheons. The two of them would come in like two little boys. He used to say, "Here come the gold dust twins again." He was very warm, and friendly, and lovable.

RITCHIE: When the convention was over in '48 and Truman and Barkley were the ticket, did Mr. Johnston have any role at all in the campaign?

SCOTT: Yes, he did. He was in charge of the Speakers' Bureau. I think it was a rather informal operation, but it was authorized by the Democratic National Committee. Mr. Johnston would get some of the Senators to go out and campaign. He didn't go himself and make speeches, but he worked very hard on the Speaker's Bureau.

RITCHIE: Did the Secretary for the Majority have any role in

campaign contributions in those days?

SCOTT: Let me see, I think possibly informally. We had the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, and that was the committee that raised the campaign funds. I think possibly—I don't remember too much about who the members of the campaign committee were—but I think possibly they asked Mr. Johnston's help and he possibly talked to some of the Senators informally. But I do remember the Speakers' Bureau. One of the Senators, Senator [Carl] Hayden would refuse to go out speaking. He would never fly, he would never do anything like that.

Can I mention something else about Senator Hayden, which is completely off the subject [laughs]. He was such an interesting character. Sometimes we'd have these different luncheons for different groups, that I did all the ordering for with our waiters. One time we had a luncheon for the different newspapermen. I think Mr. Johnston was very smart in having these various groups, because we worked closely with them, and it was really face-to-face. One time we had this luncheon for some of these newspapermen, and Beck was there at my desk checking people in, those guests who had been invited. All of a sudden, Senator Hayden walked in. So Beck had a lot of nerve, and yet he was well-liked by the Senators, he could talk to them, he turned around to Senator Hayden and said, "Senator, you're not a newspaperman, you can't go in there." Senator Hayden smiled his cute little smile and turned right around and went out again. [laughs]

I don't remember which Senators did a lot of the speaking, but Mr. Johnston arranged some of their trips through the Speakers' Bureau.

RITCHIE: I guess by then Congress was out of session.

SCOTT: It was in the summertime.

RITCHIE: So that would give him time to devote to the campaign.

SCOTT: I'm trying to remember. Of course, the sessions were so crazy. We'd come back in the fall and stay. But I don't remember the exact dates. But I know it was in summertime when I was in Philadelphia with Mr. Biffle and Mr. Johnston, because I remember it was so hot that night when I went out from the hall.

RITCHIE: You mentioned Biffle and Johnston and yourself were there, but did many other Senate staff go to the conventions in those days?

SCOTT: Well, Betty Darling was Mr. Biffle's top girl, and her assistant Betty Kraus, the two of them went. I think Juliette, their number three girl went too, the three of those from Mr. Biffle's office. The second time I went to Chicago, Mr. Johnston didn't take the job because his wife had this brain tumor, and

Bobby Baker went in his place. Bobby brought Margaret Tucker at that time. I did the same kind of work with Bobby as I did with Mr. Johnston on the platform committee. I think there were some volunteers. It seems to me that one of the girls from one of the senator's offices in Philadelphia, when we were rushing around putting all those sheets together, and Mrs. Johnston was helping, I can't remember her name, but I think she was one of the Senators' office staff.

ITCHIE: I was wondering if you would see aides to Senators and other people that you recognized from Capitol Hill?

SCOTT: Oh, yes, a lot of them. Skipping a little bit, I think it was the '52 election when Senator Brien McMahon was a candidate for President. He was ill, and I think they were trying to honor him in this way. He had his headquarters telephones connected with his hospital room. John Lane who was his AA ran into me when I was leaving on the train and told me that he had just passed on. There were a lot of other Senators and staff, a lot of them brought their people along, so I did see everybody. Back in Philadelphia we'd have these late dinners after the sessions, at the Pen and Pencil Club. We'd get back real late and turn around and start all over the next morning. So when you were at the convention you went on nervous energy. And then when you came home you'd be exhausted. [laughs] Usually it lasted for two weeks, because it was a week before the actual convention getting

all the different witnesses and testimony. And the mail that we kept receiving, and the telegrams, all the time it was going on.

The difference was: back at the '48 and the '52 conventions, they had the people actually come and appear. I believe in the '56 convention it was changed. They had people go around through the months ahead of the convention to the different cities. They had some of the staff of the National Committee go around, the platform people, to go to their cities, instead of having everybody come to the convention city. But back in Philadelphia at the beginning, everybody came there.

RITCHIE: To the platform committee, because they all wanted to be heard.

SCOTT: Absolutely. I'm trying to remember when Mrs. Roosevelt testified. It may have been in '52, but she was very, very lovely, and I talked to her at length. She was so active in so many things, and very nice. Of course, the whole thing was so interesting. Let's see, it was Brooks Hayes, I think it was, from the House, a couple of them would come in and dictate and broadcast from some of our rooms in our offices, where a lot of typing was going on. They would say: "I am sitting here in the platform committee room of the National Convention" and so on and so forth. So the conventions were really very exciting times.

RITCHIE: It's startling to think that Senator [Strom]

Thurmond was one of those who led the walk-out of the Democratic convention in 1948 and he's still serving in the Senate today.

SCOTT: And he's a Republican now.

RITCHIE: He was a Democrat at that stage, as governor of South Carolina.

SCOTT: And he married a girl who was a graduate of Duke University, my cousin's daughter went there and knew the girl, slightly.

RITCHIE: Well, moving up to 1952, you went to Chicago to the convention. Was that any different?

SCOTT: No, the same thing. Mr. Johnston took me with him to do the same thing. As a matter of fact, I have a couple of letters from Speaker [John] McCormack, because he was Chairman of the Platform Committee. I think it was after the '56 convention at which he was Chairman of the Platform Committee, I went with Dottie McCarty up to Boston to visit her sister-in-law and we went to Mr. McCormack's office in the same building where Senator Jack Kennedy's office was. Mr. McCormack's office was so busy, he had everybody waiting. He came out and was very cordial and brought us into his inner office. Then we went to Senator Jack Kennedy's office in the same building in Boston, and it was as dead as a

doornail! The secretary was there and nothing was going on at all. Isn't that funny? That was before he was nominated and elected President. But there was nothing going on at all in his office, and here was Mr. McCormack's and everybody was there, it was a madhouse, so much so that I thought we'd never get a chance to see him. But he came right out and he was so nice. I remember there was a picture of him in his inner office, it was taken at the convention, having his hand out. They called him the "great arbiter," the fact that he was getting everybody to compromise and get together. Speaker McComack, I admired him so much.

Incidentally, off the subject again, they had one of our Administrative Assistants meetings over in one of the rooms in the Old House Office Building, and they said they had a stereo meeting because there were two speakers, Rayburn and McCormack were both there in attendance. [laughs] But Speaker McCormack was just very appreciative. We got to know him real well through our work.

RITCHIE: So you continued with the platform committee and did pretty much the same thing in '52.

SCOTT: By then we knew more what to expect, but when he first went up there to Philadelphia I don't think he realized what he was getting into, because when he got on the phone that night he said, "Oh, Miss Scott, hurry up here!" [laughs]

RITCHIE: Was the atmosphere of the convention much different

in '52 than in '48?

SCOTT: Well, I think it was a little calmer. I shouldn't say this, because I'm from Philadelphia, but I think Chicago was a more sophisticated city. The convention hall was down at the stockyards, and every time we'd go down there you'd have to hold your nose when you went in the convention hall. [laughs] But it just didn't seem to be overall as much as Philadelphia, possibly because the stockyards were out a way and the convention hall was out of town. But it was still very exciting.

I told you about Senator Barkley walking from the train station to try to show how young he was. I remember after it was all over he made such a nice speech, out there at the convention, after he had been turned down by the labor leaders at that famous breakfast.

I think that in those days you felt that the Senators were really statesmen. And they looked like Senators. There was Senator Tom Connally from Texas, and Senator Barkley, and Senator [Clyde] Hoey, and Senator George, they were kind of older, more seasoned statesmen-type that you really felt suited the role of senator.

RITCHIE: They stood out in a crowd, in other words.

SCOTT: They stood out, yes.

RITCHIE: Were they more reserved? Maybe a little more difficult to approach?

SCOTT: I think maybe a little more dignified. I really do, I mean not that the younger Senators weren't on the ball, but somehow I think that they had been seasoned and they kind of made you feel that that was the United States Senate as you pictured it. A lot of the young Senators, for instance Senator [Joseph] Clark of Pennsylvania, when he first came in, as soon as he got here he wanted to change everything. He wanted to change all the rules and everything. And then the young Senators, he was one of them, weren't supposed to speak, they used to say, until they had been here a couple of years they weren't supposed to speak on the floor. That was an unwritten rule, not stated but practiced. But Senator Clark immediately wanted to change everything. That's what they used to say about Senator Humphrey, when he first came. He was supposed to keep quiet for a while but he didn't, he started talking right away. [laughs]

RITCHIE: I can't imagine Senator Humphrey keeping quiet.

SCOTT: No! But back in those days, that's the way they felt about Senators.

RITCHIE: Well, in 1956 you went not with Felton Johnston but with Bobby Baker.

SCOTT: Yes, with Bobby, Mr. Johnston turned it down.

RITCHIE: How different was that, working with Bobby Baker?

SCOTT: Oh, I think Bobby kind of turned things back to me, because he knew I knew the job. I remember one time, let's see, Stevenson was nominated at both those conventions, and [Estes] Kefauver was nominated for Vice President in 1956. I remember Bobby and I were in Mr. Biffle's office, which was right over the rostrum, right where everybody was, and Bobby was saying to me, "Oh, Miss Scott, if we had Senator Kennedy as Vice President we surely would win." Kefauver was going to be it, and I remember I saw him, he was trying to come up the steps at that time.

We were in Mr. Biffle's office over the rostrum in the convention hall and at one point Bobby, and I think it was Betty Kraus, and I were standing looking out at the convention. Someone inside the office called out "You're on television," so we all three turned our heads to look at the TV set inside the office. We saw our bodies with the heads turned around, on TV! Friends had told me they'd seen me on TV at some of the other conventions, in the halls and walking outside the headquarter hotels, but this was the first time I saw myself—with my head turned around.

One of the conventions, this may have been in Philadelphia, this is back-tracking, Governor G. Mennen Williams of Michigan was right in front of me on the platform, and he put his feet under the rungs of the chair and he tilted his chair and he went over

backwards. [laughs] Right in front of me. All kinds of crazy things were happening. Something was going on all the time. I wish I had kept a diary of the different conventions, because of the people, and the color, and the excitement, and everything.

RITCHIE: That's interesting that you say that Bobby Baker was for Kennedy for Vice President.

SCOTT: Yes, he was. Because I guess he realized then the feeling for him. Something else getting into Kennedy—this is another subject—but I remember when Bill Wannall was sergeant at arms, and it was the inauguration before Kennedy's. Kennedy was a senator, and he wanted to get out there in front of the ropes during the inaugural parade, and he wanted to wave to some of the governors as they were going by in the cars, and Bill Wannall made Senator Kennedy come in behind the ropes. I thought this was so funny, four years later he was the President. But inaugurations were another whole subject.

RITCHIE: Well, this introduces Jack Kennedy as a Senator. He came in 1952 and was there until 1960, and in 1956 he was a contender for the Vice Presidential nomination. What was your impression of Kennedy as a Senator?

SCOTT: Well, he was very, very quiet. He was not one of the members of the club, do you know what I mean? A lot of the

Senators would come in and out all of the time, particularly at night sessions, and you felt like you got to know them all. But he wasn't one of them. He would only come in very briefly when there were meetings, luncheon meetings. We had a head waiter and an assistant waiter, and I had to put in all the menus and orders for the luncheons, and I remember he used to have sent over from his office a hot lunch. Jackie used to prepare a hot lunch for him, and she'd put it in the kind of baby dish you'd have with the heated water underneath to keep it hot, in a basket! They used to send that over when Senator Kennedy had lunch in our office. Isn't that funny? And I remember one time I was trying to find out—Evelyn Lincoln was his secretary—and he was coming for another luncheon, and I always tried to get their preference when I put all the orders in. I remember I was asking Evelyn, and she just wouldn't even answer me about what he wanted. I don't know whether she couldn't get to him or what.

And then I remember after the 1960 conventions we had three of the nominees on the floor, that was when Nixon was Vice President, and Kennedy and Johnson were Senators. That was kind of exciting because a lot of people were lining up in the outer corridor to see the three nominees who were all going to be on the floor. At that time, we had a luncheon where we were going to have both Kennedy and Johnson, and of course every time we had the Democratic Policy Committee luncheons, or the committee chairmen luncheons or anything, Johnson was at the head of the table, because he was *it*. And everybody wondered when Kennedy came to the same luncheon as

Johnson what was going to happen [laughs], whether he was going to be bounced from his position at the head the table. You know what happened? Kennedy didn't come. [laughs] He didn't show up.

But that 1960 session after the conventions was interesting because everybody in Washington it seemed would come and line up. They'd have their lunches in paper bags, and they'd be out there in the hall waiting to go in the chamber for whatever it could be, five or ten or fifteen minutes, to watch three of the nominees in action on the Senate floor.

RITCHIE: Very dramatic. Well, back in '56, when Kennedy was running for the Vice Presidential nomination, did you think that this man ever had a chance of getting to be Vice President or President of the United States?

SCOTT: Well, no. Like I say, I didn't really know him as well. I didn't see as much of him, although I knew his staff pretty well. They said he was very, very cold. I knew through Ruth [Watt]—Ruth was the chief clerk of the Senate Investigating Subcommittee, when Bob Kennedy was chief counsel. She had to go up to Hyannisport, she and her husband Walter, for some meetings. I remember she said one time that both Bob and Jack were at breakfast, and that Jack was reading the paper, they were very rude, they were right there at the same table having breakfast but they wouldn't talk to them. On the other hand, Bob Kennedy was very, very friendly. This is getting away from conventions. But

the first time that I had met him, Ruth's subcommittee used to have Christmas parties, at which my headwaiter, Ellsworth Dozier, used to go over and serve and I was usually invited to the parties. I remember this party very well, this was the first time that I had met Bob Kennedy, when he was chief counsel, before he was elected to the Senate. He and Ethel were sitting on this table, and Dozier was serving the drinks and the potato chips. Somebody had given them a little white pig for Christmas, and it had a great big red bow, and the little pig was going around eating up the potato chips and things that were dropped on the floor. [laughs] I thought that Bob was so interesting, and Ethel was so friendly, just like a young couple, very approachable.

Bob Kennedy and his wife were very devoted and appreciative of Ruth's work, and when she was married, every year they'd send another dozen roses, they sent two dozen, three dozen, four dozen, and they kept on going, to Ruth and her husband, because they were so close to them. So as I say Jack was rather unapproachable, and people on his staff were saying that he was kind of on the cold side. On the other hand, Bobby was very friendly.

RITCHIE: Going back to that 1956 convention in Chicago again, did Bobby Baker perform the same way that Felton Johnston did, or was he out working the crowd more? What was the difference between working for Felton Johnston and working for Bobby Baker?

SCOTT: I don't think there was too much difference. We had

difficulty—Bobby had difficulty getting some of our credentials to get to the convention floor. There was a little feud there, Bobby Kennedy was working for Jack Kennedy, and Bobby's man of course was LBJ, and at the time Bobby [Baker] was having difficulties in part of his official functions, which was to get our badges and everything we had to have, and I think part of it was the fact that Bobby Kennedy knew Bobby Baker's association with LBJ and was trying to keep him away. So it was kind of hard. I don't remember Mr. Johnston having that trouble at all. I mean, they had to go to the head office and get all these things, and we had to be there at the convention. That was part of the difference.

There was also a rumor, we never talked about it afterwards because I felt it was one of those things that you don't, because it would have reflected on the Democratic party, but they said—I don't know to be sure if it really happened—they said that the telephone lines in LBJ's headquarters were cut, and they felt it was by Bobby Kennedy. I don't know, but you just felt that there was a lot of that going on.

RITCHIE: Did you go to the 1960 convention in Los Angeles?

SCOTT: No, I didn't go out there, nor the '68 convention. But I went to Atlantic City, I'm trying to remember when that was.

RITCHIE: '64, when Johnson was nominated.

SCOTT: '64, yes, that was Johnson and Humphrey. I only went as a spectator. I had my cousin and my aunt there, and we watched—I'll never forget it because it was so touching—the wave of emotion that Bobby Kennedy got about his brother's assassination. It went on for at least twenty minutes, when he spoke about his brother's assassination. Then you felt that Bobby Kennedy had really arrived as a person in the Democratic hierarchy. He spoke and he nearly cried, and it was like a wave—I can't even describe it to you, you'd have to be there—it was a wave of emotion that would go throughout the whole hall. It went on, and on, and on. That was Atlantic City in '64.

And then LBJ arrived and wouldn't tell who his Vice Presidential nominee was going to be. He waited till the very last minute, and he kind of curled his tongue around his mouth before he said the name "Hubert Humphrey." [laughs] So he was trying real hard for the dramatic suspense.

Then the next one I went to was in '72, and I didn't go as an official, but Frank asked me to write up something. So I got my credentials to be there. I did it differently, because I wasn't part of the staff of the National Convention or the Democratic National Committee, but I interviewed a lot of people, I interviewed delegates, and I wrote up this article, "Come Home America." After I brought that back, they wanted to send it down to the National Committee so the different National Committeemen and women could read it. But Frank felt that it wasn't right because ours was an office for the whole Senate, it wasn't supposed

to be partisan. And then they were saying that I could publish it anonymously. What I was trying to do was to bring the color of the '48 convention in Philadelphia, and the awful feeling of the '68 convention in Chicago, when people were locked out. In Florida in '72 they were in, they had these great big buttons: "Senior Power," and all. All the minorities were allowed in, they weren't locked out, they were there, they were in, and they were listened to. I tried to bring that out. Of course, I was there when Senator [George] McGovern made his acceptance speech at a quarter to four in the morning, and it was all so exciting. So I wrote up the article and they wanted to use it anonymously, but Frank was even afraid to have it published anonymously. He felt it was partisan, and it was, because it was all about the Democrats and how we were going to get back and be a party that was united and so different. I was trying to bring out the contrasts. It was like a color story of the people and how the delegates talked to me. I was interviewed out there by one of the reporters on TV, during the session. But I was trying to get the feel from a Democratic point of view, and from the campaign point of view.

Speaking of the convention in 1972 when Senator McGovern was nominated, I want to mention a work about Senator [Thomas] Eagleton, first chosen as his running mate. He seemed so appealing and enthusiastic, I was sorry he had to withdraw. I had occasion to go see him in his office one time. It was the smallest office I'd ever seen. There he was in his shirt sleeves, very friendly and informal.

RITCHIE: It's interesting that Leslie Biffle as Secretary of the Senate was very active in the conventions. . . .

SCOTT: As sergeant at arms.

RITCHIE: Yes, as sergeant at arms, but Frank Valeo felt that as Secretary of the Senate he shouldn't have a role in the convention.

SCOTT: I think at one point they asked him, I'm trying to remember when that was. I think they asked him one time to go to one of them and he said no. I don't remember, you'll have to check back, but he didn't go at all, no. And as I say, when I went in '72, I went on my own expense. But I wanted to do something and be a part of it. It had been so awful in '68, it was just so awful. And I got an entirely different feeling in '72 and this is what I what I wanted to portray in this article, and I wrote it and it was rather long, but I was trying to get the reader there, and have you be there like I was.

RITCHIE: What about 1960, did Mr. Johnston go to the convention?

SCOTT: No.

RITCHIE: Why not? He was Secretary of the Senate then.

SCOTT: Yes, I'm trying to think.

RITCHIE: Was it because it was going to be a battle between various Senators, and it might not be a good idea for the Secretary to play a role?

SCOTT: I really don't know, isn't that funny? I don't remember who was the platform chairman, see that had a lot to do with it. It was Senator [Francis] Myers in Philadelphia, and then McCormack both times in Chicago when I served. I think the Chairman of the Platform Committee had the right to pick the Secretary of the Platform Committee, and I don't know who it was, frankly, in '60.

RITCHIE: The 1960 election was interesting because almost everyone, it seemed, who was running for the Democratic nomination was a Senator: Symington, Humphrey, Johnson, Kennedy. The Senate was full of potential candidates.

SCOTT: Yes, and they could feel they were campaigning because the spotlight was on the Senate, and they could perform on the Senate floor. They were campaigning all that time. That's true.

RITCHIE: Did the atmosphere of the campaign permeate the Senate at that time?

SCOTT: I think so, yes.

RITCHIE: And you were a Johnson person.

SCOTT: [Laughs] I was a Johnson person. He was great. Like I say, he was in our office nearly every day, and you were working so hard and you could see things from his point of view. One of the things that I didn't elaborate on, but I want to add, was the fact that I started out working for Mr. Johnston when he was Secretary of the Majority. I wanted to know, and have information about what was going on all the time on the floor: what roll-calls votes there were, what amendments were offered; what the outcome of each roll-call vote was. I decided when I went down to the Secretary's office, I trained my girls that they would have to know. Because sometimes when I would be talking to the other girls, when Mr. Biffle was there, they kept calling me and asking me about things that were going on the floor. I thought when we were down there in the Secretary's office we were going to know, and we weren't going to be asking anybody. I got the boys actually to bring in the copies of amendments, and everyday we always had the calendar of business and the *Congressional Record* from the day before, and then we had the bills, just like they do on the Senate desks on the Senator floor. And then we'd have the results. I told my girls always to keep up, because people would call us. Ours was kind of like part of the floor action. This was what we did all the time, to see what was going on and have all the

results. Then I'd have to know, and have my girls know, whenever the Senators, and particularly the Leader, was in our office, so we could tell them what was going on the floor. I kind of went astray there from the subject!

RITCHIE: Do you think things got less partisan as they went along? It seems as if in the beginning you were a solid Democrat, and had a role in conventions, and by the end the Secretary's office was playing more of a neutral role. Would you say it became less partisan, or would you say things didn't change?

SCOTT: Well, that was part of the difference in the leadership between Johnson and Mansfield. One of the things that Johnson was having Bobby Baker do constantly was going around finding Senators who were going to vote his way and making lists and lists of who could be counted on for votes, and kind of twisting arms and all that. Whereas Senator Mansfield was letting them be more independent, and this was the reason why Frank was talking about Senator Mansfield's way of doing it. So if you say it wasn't as partisan, maybe that would be along that way. It was just a different way of the Leaders doing things.

RITCHIE: I was just trying to get a sense of the atmosphere.

SCOTT: Yes, well of course my perspective was mainly through the leadership, Senator Mansfield and Senator Johnson, and

the way they handled things, the Policy Committee. Senator Johnson was very meticulous in getting everybody to do what he wanted them to do, and he could do it. He was a "can do" man [laughs]. If anybody didn't show up for one of the Policy Committee meetings that we had in our dining room, I was trying to get everybody there. We did the same thing back when Mr. Johnston was Secretary of the Majority, as far as the full Conferences went, and the Policy Committee meetings. But LBJ wanted to have everything just so, and he would plan it from all different angles. This was part of the reason for his success as Majority Leader. He got the first civil rights bill that had been passed in sixty years, and he made a tremendous record when Kennedy passed on. Kennedy hadn't been able to get any of his programs through, and LBJ got it all through. I remember so well that speech that he made to a joint session, "Let us continue." He could handle the Senate and the Congress.

Back when Eisenhower was President, he was waffling and I think at that time—talking about the atmosphere—my feeling then was that Johnson and Rayburn were running the country and Eisenhower was just kind of sitting by looking on. There was one point, I don't know the date, but before Eisenhower's State of the Union message one time, LBJ put out his State of the Union message. [laughs] That's what everybody called it! He and Rayburn worked so closely and they filled up a little void that Eisenhower had. This was the feeling, and would show how under LBJ it maybe was more partisan, even when he was working with a Republican

President.

RITCHIE: I always think about Lyndon Johnson standing on the platform at conventions, regardless of who the candidate was, even when Stevenson was the nominee, there are pictures of him on the platform. I don't think I ever saw a picture of Senator Mansfield standing on a platform at a convention.

SCOTT: No, I don't think him campaign, exactly. But LBJ was really something. Back when he was Majority Leader and Dirksen was Minority Leader, they worked very closely together. I mentioned how he towered over Senator Dirksen and would take him by the lapel and look down on him. They both had their Leader's cars, and they each had telephones in them, and the story was one time that Dirksen from his car called Johnson in his car, and Johnson said, "Wait just a minute, my other phone is ringing." [laughs] There was also a story about the psychiatrist who died and went to Heaven and St. Peter said, "Oh, we need you. God is striding up and down. He thinks he's Lyndon Johnson!" [laughs] There were lots of stories about LBJ and his colorful leadership.

RITCHIE: Some Leaders lend themselves more to humor than do others.

SCOTT: Yes, they do. As I say, he was so approachable and he was so focused. He was very warm and I think he got the best

out of people. He made you feel that you were in there pitching. I know Mr. Johnston felt this way, and I certainly did. Senator Mansfield as I say was more withdrawn, although he was friendly and appreciative, and I have nice autographed pictures of him. He was warmer in some occasions. For instance, this is a little social thing, but I had a little birthday party for Frank one year, and I got his mother down here from New York as a surprise. I had her over at my town house, she spent the night. He had no idea she was anywhere around. I had one of our boys go over and pick her up at my house in the office car. We had told Frank that it was going to be a committee meeting, we so often had committee meetings in our dining room. So we had Senator Mansfield and his Administrative Assistant Salpee Sahagan, and Mrs. Valeo, Frank's mother, and some of the other people. So I got the girls to say it was a committee meeting. Salpee came around from Senator Mansfield's office, and she said, "Oh, I want to talk to you a minute." She said, "Let's go into the conference room." Frank said, "Oh, no, you can't go in there, that's such and such committee." So Salpee went in, and I went right up to him and kind of gave him a little push. He walked in the door and there was his mother sitting down the other end of the table! [laughs] And Senator Mansfield. He was so surprised, he wondered how in the world it happened she came down from New York. But Senator Mansfield could be very cooperative and friendly and warm at different social occasions like that. So I don't mean to say that he was cold. What I'm trying to say is he had his warm side. He was very appreciative, but he didn't have the same

charisma or the same warmth that LBJ had. They were different personalities completely.

Another thing I felt about LBJ, I think that the image that he tried to portray as a real Southern, down-home, cornpone boy was so wrong. He would make these speeches that weren't him, not as I knew him. He was more like the riverboat gambler type, you know what I mean? Much more swashbuckling. He was not the corny, home-spun type at all. I thought it was wrong that he tried that. After Kennedy was assassinated, when he made that speech to Congress, it was to me more him than anything else, because he was not trying to be real Southern. I guess it came straight from the heart, and he was trying so hard to get them to go ahead with the program. He was just more himself. That's the only time that I felt he ever made a speech that sounded like what my picture of him was.

He used to have two girls from his Texas office come over to his Leader's office and stay a few weeks, and then two more, to work closely with him. One time he was in our office to a luncheon and he went out to Rose Ann—she was my number three girl—and he had his great big sprawling legs up on her desk, and one of his girls had called him, evidently telling him somebody was around there waiting for him to come back. He said, "Oh, well just tell her to throw a little sex around." [laughs] But he was very approachable and very human.

One time when LBJ was President his personal secretary, Juanita Roberts, invited me to lunch. We had luncheon in the White

House mess, and she took me on a little tour, including the President's private room at the side of the Oval Office. One of our chauffeurs, Bertie Bowman, called for me in our office car and picked me up at the East Portico entrance. I felt very thrilled and "official" coming out of that entrance, and when I stepped into the car Bertie had the radio going. LBJ was making a speech on the radio from a meeting in New York City. That seemed exciting to me—the timing as I left the White House—to ride back to the Capitol.

Another time I took Frank's mother who was visiting from New York, on the Congressional tour of the White House, followed by breakfast on the Washington Hotel Roof. We stopped in the ladies' room before we left the White House, and I was amazed to see that it was also a men's room! I imagine that during official functions the guards would regulate its use ("one sex at a time").

Speaking of President Johnson, I heard recently that the Capitol building at Austin, Texas, is red and larger than the United States Capitol building in Washington—"Texas style." I remember when LBJ became President he installed new red carpeting in his White House office.

RITCHIE: Keeping in the political vein, when Felton Johnston became Secretary of the Senate, did he have a role in the political side of it? I know that previous Secretaries of the Senate had worked very closely with the campaign committees. Was he active on that side, or did he give that up when he became Secretary?

SCOTT: Well, the conventions and the speakers' bureau . . .

RITCHIE: He'd been doing that when he was Secretary for the Majority. I wondered about when he became Secretary of the Senate.

SCOTT: Yes, well, let me see. I'm trying to get the dates straight. He was ten years as Secretary for the Majority and ten years as Secretary of the Senate. He left in '65, so it would be '55. Well, then he didn't go to the '56 convention because of his wife's illness. I think he was still active, talking to the campaign committee, trying to help them.

RITCHIE: But you didn't get a great sense of him being part of the political picture at that time? Was he more of an administrator?

SCOTT: Well, I don't want to put him down that low. I think he was very active in doing everything that he could constantly to help the Senators. As I say, when Kennedy came in, we had this series of luncheons that Larry O'Brien organized. We did everything that we could to foster good relations. And of course when LBJ came in he was very close there. I don't want to say he was just an administrator, because I don't think he ever lost his dedication—I think that's the word—to the party. I don't want to sound like I'm trying to make a speech, but I was close to him too. They had this big dinner for him, and that kind

of showed what the Democratic Senators thought of him. Maybe it wasn't as much footwork as before.

RITCHIE: It's hard to trace when the office began to change. When Edwin Halsey was Secretary of the Senate before Biffle, he had a safe in the Secretary's office in which he kept the campaign contributions for the Democrats. He was the treasurer of the Democratic Campaign Committee. I think Biffle did that, but then by the time Bobby Baker was Secretary for the Majority, he was the one who was handing out campaign contributions.

SCOTT: I think a lot of that—of course, I wasn't in Bobby's office, but I did know Carole and everything. Bobby used to make a lot of people think that he could get them jobs and everything. When his office was moved down to the basement floor, he would have people lined up in there thinking that they could get jobs. Maybe he was able to help them, but I think an awful lot of this was a little bit different from what Mr. Biffle or Mr. Johnston did when they were in those other jobs.

One thing different, I'd say, between Mr. Biffle and Mr. Johnston as Secretary was that Mr. Biffle had a lot of different friends among the cabinet, and he seemed to be in close touch with a lot of them. Of course, he was very, very close to Truman. He had a different set of—I can't call them constituents—but I mean people whom he knew. I remember he was good friends with Secretary of the Treasury [John] Snyder, and a lot of these different people

that I knew of. Whereas Mr. Johnston was more meticulous in his dealings, and he wasn't so much a personality man, as gregarious, as Mr. Biffle was in his very quiet way, Mr. Biffle spoke very quietly, but he got around much more. Mr. Johnston was more for getting the work done. He always used to say, when I first worked for him, "I don't tissue around." I guess that's a southern phrase, I'd never heard it before. "I don't tissue around a lot," he said, "but when I like you I'm very devoted to you." I think he was that way in all his relationships with the Senators. He was more studious in that way. I think that's the difference between him and Mr. Biffle.

And I think Bobby was different when he was Secretary of the Majority. He was quite a lot of help to LBJ, and he would go around to get all the votes counted, sort of like LBJ sending him to find out "who's going to vote like this." I think that Bobby felt that his relationship with LBJ made him, not on a par with him, but enough to make people think that he could get them jobs and things like that. Part of this was what caused him to fall.

RITCHIE: But as far as you know, Mr. Johnston wasn't involved in campaign contributions?

SCOTT: No, maybe informally, but I know Mr. Biffle used to do that. And of course the Senatorial Campaign Committee. Then of course when I was in the Secretary's office we had the law passed where we had this rule where we had to have the reports put out.

We had the establishment of our Public Records Office, so every newspaperman could go over there and find out exactly what money was given to each nominee. That was all public after that.

RITCHIE: That all came about after the Bobby Baker investigation, because before that everything was much more informal.

SCOTT: It did. And there was something else, not exactly campaigns, but it was financial reports. Back when Mr. Johnston was Secretary of the Senate and Joe Duke was Sergeant at Arms, there were some offices that had people in them that didn't come to work, you know, nepotism. I think it was Vance Trimble in that little paper, the *Washington News*, he decided that he was going to bring a suit against the whole Senate on charges of nepotism, and because of Mr. Johnston's position as Secretary of the Senate and Joe Duke's position as Sergeant at Arms, he sued them, they were named on behalf of the Senate. After that, that was the establishment of that report that we used to put out of all the Senate salaries. When we first started, it was put out four times a year, and then I think twice a year. It had every senator's staff, every committee staff, what their salaries had been paid for first quarter, second quarter, and so on. That whole thing was put out after that suit. That was financial, not campaign, but it shows what came about. I think that there had been some members of the staff—I don't know if I mentioned the other day when Lola

Aiken worked for Senator Aiken, as soon as he married her he took her off the payroll. [laughs]

RITCHIE: That's one of the disadvantages of marrying the boss.

SCOTT: That's right! Something else I forgot to mention, talking about Senator Mansfield, whether he was friendly or not. He and Senator Aiken used to have breakfast every morning of the year, and Lola was usually with them. The saying was: If you want to know what Senator Mansfield is thinking, ask George Aiken. Or if you want to know what Aiken is thinking, ask Mike Mansfield. They were very close. So you see, Senator Mansfield could be warm with some of the people.

RITCHIE: It's interesting that his closest friendship was with a Republican.

SCOTT: Absolutely, yes. Oh, Senator Aiken was one in a million.

RITCHIE: Speaking about Republicans, one person we've talked about earlier that I wondered about was Mark Trice, who was Mr. Johnston's counterpart as Republican Secretary, and also became Secretary of Senate just before Mr. Johnston.

SCOTT: Right, for two years.

RITCHIE: Yes, from 1953 to 1955, and then went back to being Secretary for the Republicans. What was your impression of Mark Trice?

SCOTT: Oh, he was great. He always looked like Hal LeRoy, the tap dancer. [laughs] He had this young, college look. He looked very young, like he never was going to get old. He was rather informal, and very approachable, and very friendly. He called me "Scottie," like everybody else did. He was very nice. He had one secretary named Gloria, and he had Dorothy Burns (in between he had Jean Smith). I worked closely with them, we were right next door to them for a while in G-43. I told you how we changed the signs on the doors when the Republicans won the majority. But he was there for fifty years. I went to his party for his fiftieth anniversary. He started as a page boy. I got along fine with Mr. Trice. Coming down to personalities, during the different inaugurations there is always a joint committee on the inaugural, and they're the ones who hand out tickets that are like diamonds. We usually got a certain amount, and then Mr. Johnston would give them to his family or whatever. When there would be a Republican inauguration, Mr. Trice would be the one who would work very closely with the inaugural committee. It's a joint committee, House and Senate, but the chairman is always a Republican or a Democrat, depending on who was being inaugurated.

I used to deal with Mr. Trice, and I remember one time—Darrell and Mr. Trice didn't get along so well together [laughs]—and I had to go see Mr. Trice, Darrell had made him mad. But Mr. Trice was always very nice to me, and I felt that I could approach him. He was just great. I think he was probably partisan, but I think Mr. Johnston got along with him. They seemed to have mutual respect.

RITCHIE: This brings us to inaugurations. You start with conventions out of town, but the inauguration winds up right on the Capitol's doorstep. What kind of roles did your office have with inaugurations.

SCOTT: Well, that was rather interesting. Our office always had all the members of the Supreme Court to use our back room, our dining room, to robe. It was usually cold, and they'd put their robes on over their coats. So when they appeared on the platform they were all in their robes. The Secretary of the Senate would lead them. We had the diagrams of each group that would go out on the platform, where they would sit, and everything like that. They would put on their robes, and we would serve them coffee back in our dining room. One of the things I remember about that was Chief Justice [Warren] Burger in 1972 had been on a bike and had broken his finger. And I had had a car hit me, and I had broken my finger, so we had a lot to commiserate about. [laughs] Four years later at the Carter inauguration, I was saying "Remember about the finger, and how have you been." I was kidding him,

saying "You're the most important person in the United States today because you're going to swear in the new President, without you it wouldn't happen." We had a lot of fun.

Always before, after the inauguration, there would be a luncheon for the President and his family and certain guests. One year back in Truman's time it was in Mr. Biffle's office. At other times it was around the Senate reception room, in these formal luncheons, and everybody outside had to wait till the luncheon would be over and everybody had their seats and then the inaugural parade would begin. The President would then go down to the reviewing stand. Anyway, the time when Carter was inaugurated he changed everything. He decided not to have the luncheon in the Capitol. He decided to have a box luncheon on the way, for those who were going to be in the parade. So Chief Justice Burger told me, "You know, this is very strange, because we wanted to host a luncheon over in the Supreme Court." He and his wife wanted to have a luncheon on inauguration day. But he said, "We couldn't do it because he wanted me to be in the parade. On top of that, we found out it was going to be a box lunch." Since Mrs. Burger wasn't allowed to have any salt on her diet, he had a sandwich in his pocket under his robe. [laughs] His wife had asked him to carry her sandwich, so when they'd go down she wouldn't have to eat the box lunch, she could have her sandwich. She was going to wear a fitted coat to the inauguration and she was afraid if she carried the sandwich in an inside pocket of the coat it would look like she was pregnant. She didn't want people wondering about that. So he

said, "Here's the sandwich." And there it was under his robe. So when he swore the President in he had a sandwich in his pocket. That was just one of the little things.

Of course, another incident was back during Nixon's inauguration when Imelda Marcos came to town. Senator Mansfield and Frank were close to the Marcoses, and they went to the Philippines a lot. Governor Imaldes, who was her brother, was in our office quite a lot. He used to keep inviting me to Manila. I think her uncle was ambassador. I think her brother was connected with something about China, in connection with the Philippines. And the Marcos's two boys were page boys, and then their daughter worked for a short time for the Democratic Policy Committee, and then over on the House side. But to get back to this story, it was Nixon's inauguration, and Mrs. Marcos evidently called Senator Mansfield who called Frank. She didn't have a ticket to go to the inauguration. Here she was the wife of the head of a country, and she was in town.

This was terrible, because at the last minute these tickets were just like diamonds. We had used them all up and even had step seats. So Senator Mansfield called and we had to quick do something about getting a ticket for Imelda. We finally got a ticket from someplace, and of course inauguration day is so hectic, it's just like the conventions. So we had to get Darrell to go in the official car over to the Madison Hotel, to take a ticket over to Imelda. We were going to have Imelda and some of her ladies-in-waiting come back to the office. My girls were kind of excited,

I was too, it would be kind of interesting to see ladies-in-waiting. I had met the boys, the page boys. I don't think I ever met the daughter, but I hadn't met Imelda herself. Of course, Frank had gone down there to the Philippines on different meetings, and he had stayed at Malacanyan, the palace. He used to kid me because I liked purple so much, and he said so much of the palace was in purple. He had pictures taken.

Anyway, Darrell went down, kind of fussing and fuming, because you know the traffic was horrendous. Even to get back to the Capitol you had to have a ticket to get on the plaza, you had to have a ticket to get in the building, you had to have a ticket to get up to our floor, you had to have a ticket for our office, all this stuff, back and forth. He went to the Madison Hotel. In the meantime, Mrs. Marcos must have called the White House, and they sent a ticket for her. So Darrell came back and he was all mad because he had to go all through Washington on inauguration day and she was already taken care of. She got the ticket from the White House.

RITCHIE: So the Secretary's job was basically to make sure that everything worked smoothly in the middle of all this chaos.

SCOTT: The Secretary had to lead the Supreme Court justices out to the platform. Frequently then other Secretaries were included in the luncheon afterwards. The Kennedy inauguration was the one that was really something because the weather was so awful.

The night before, oh, my, I'll never forget that. There was a gala at Constitution Hall and other events and I had tickets, and it snowed and snowed the night before the inauguration. LBJ had had a luncheon in our office with Mrs. Johnson and his daughters. Then when the luncheon was over everybody left, and I couldn't leave and I couldn't have Vernon, my chief messenger, leave, because Robert Hinckley, who was the president of ABC, wanted to get a ticket to come to the inauguration and we had one for him. But he couldn't come the next day to the office to get a ticket—you couldn't get near the Capitol without a ticket. So he had to get it the night before. So everybody had gone, except my messenger out there before we closed the office up, and I was waiting and waiting, and it was snowing and snowing. I was thinking it was terrible that I had to stay in there so that Mr. Hinckley's chauffeur could come and get the ticket. I finally called again and said, "You'll have to send him over now, because the whole building is going to be closed tomorrow and you have to get this ticket." So he came over.

The result was, I didn't get to leave 'till around three o'clock, and everybody was getting snowbound. I had a ticket in my hot little hand for the gala, a hundred dollar ticket. I heard the next day that a lot of people had gone over to the Carroll Arms [hotel]. They slept overnight, some of them slept in their offices, so they could be back in the office the next day, or if they wanted to go to some of these events. Anyway, I started out at three o'clock and I got stuck in the snow immediately. Then I got a ride with somebody, and then we went to some gas station

for gas and got stuck again. And then I got a bus. I got home at nine o'clock, six hours later. I lived in Silver Spring with my Dad. And I couldn't even think about using the ticket to go to the gala. The next day, I had a friend who worked in the district and he came over for me and brought me down the next morning. They had hauled all the cars that got stuck in the snow off the main streets, and we found my car. That day was the Kennedy inauguration, and they had the National Guard shovel snow all night long, so that the parade route would be open for the inaugural parade. So that Kennedy inauguration I'll never forget.

I remember they said that one woman going to the gala that night at Constitution Hall was in a cab and must have gotten so upset she died, she died in the cab. All kinds of stories came out of that. And yet a lot of people just stayed, they were smarter to stay, so they could get back the next morning.

Then of course the inaugural balls were fun. I went to the different inaugural balls, Truman's, Kennedy's, Johnson's, and Carter's. But the whole inaugural was a very exciting time.

RITCHIE: I suppose especially when you knew the people who were being inaugurated.

SCOTT: Yes! [laughs] I'm trying to remember, I think I sent LBJ a little yellow rose for his button hole for that day. I remember when LBJ was elected Vice President, I was walking down the hall with him and I was saying, "We're going to miss you at the

Senate." The reason for that was the papers had come from the governor of Texas—see when he was elected Vice President he was also elected to another Senate term. He was elected Senator and Vice President the same year. So the governor from Texas had to send the papers saying that he had resigned his seat that he had been elected to, to the Senate. And the papers had to come to us, and we had to present them on the floor. So it was back there on Mr. Johnston's desk, and I ran into LBJ in the hall, and I had just been looking at that and thinking, "Oh, he's going to leave here after twelve years." And I was walking down the hall with him and I felt real bad about it.

Later on, at one of the White House receptions, Lady Bird said to me that was the happiest twelve years of their lives, when they were in the Senate.

RITCHIE: As Vice President he actually stayed around the Senate a lot more than some other Vice Presidents.

SCOTT: He did, that's the "hands-on" operation of LBJ. And I told you when he went to the Democratic Conference, which some of the Senators objected to. I know Mr. Johnston was very concerned about that, because the Vice President was not a member of the Senate, he was a member of the executive branch. He had no business being at the Democratic Conference. Because he was who he was, I think they felt he was going to try and influence them, and it was wrong. Mr. Johnston I think felt that. As I said, Mr.

Johnston was a stickler for protocol.

RITCHIE: Did Lyndon Johnson continue to come down to the Secretary's office when he was Vice President.

SCOTT: Oh, yes, and one night when he was President he came in. He actually didn't get to our office that night. The guard told me about this the next day. There was a night session, and we were there. The guard told me, "I want to tell you who was in. President Johnson was here." He came in with just one Secret Service person, and the policeman thought: well, here comes the President! [laughs] He said, "I'm going to go see Skeeter Johnston." He was going to come to our office. And he ran into Dirksen, and Dirksen waylaid him and took to his office.

One time when LBJ was Majority Leader he got stuck in the elevator late one night, nearly midnight. I don't know what he did, I guess he had to call emergency, and then he got mad, and he said that all the elevator operators had to work till midnight from then on, because he got stuck in the elevator. [laughs] He was very colorful.

RITCHIE: But when he was Vice President, did he continue to come in, during that period from '61 to '63?

SCOTT: I'm trying to think. Yes, he came to many luncheons and receptions in our office, just as often as he had as Leader.

"Dorothe G. Scott, Administrative Assistant to the Senate Democratic Secretary and to the Secretary of the Senate (1945-1977)," Oral History Interviews, Senate Historical Office, Washington, D.C.

They were close all that time. I don't think he made his presence known officially much after that business at the Democratic Conference, I think he kind of stayed away from official meetings. But I know that they were always very close.

End Interview #3