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Interview with Eleanor "Sis" Daley, Session Two
9 October 2002

Location: Home of Eleanor "Sis" Daley, 35111 St. & Lowe, Chicago, IL. Present: Eleanor "Sis" Daley, Michael Daley, and Dr. Robert V. Remini

[Interview is already in process, regarding a university campus in Chicago]

Eleanor "Sis" Daley: He went around visiting all of the branches.

Dr. Robert V. Remini: Did he?

ED: He went with other senators that were on the committee. He was asked the question, "Why isn't there a branch library in Chicago?" I think he said, "70% of the taxes are coming from Chicago."

RVR: This was the library, and not the university?

ED: No, it was the university.

RVR: Oh, it was the university. I see.

ED: They said, "We'll have to introduce a bill." It was defeated.

RVR: We're trying to find that early legislation, resolutions, or whatever it was. We haven't been too successful.

Michael Daley: Jasmine's been working with Madigan's office.

RVR: Your son John said that he would be working with speaker Madigan. Where are you going to sit?

MD: I'm going to sit here. Mom will sit there.

RVR: Right. This lady began the interview even before I got set up [laughs].

ED: Do you have any children?

RVR: I have three children and three grandchildren.

ED: Oh, that's wonderful!

RVR: That's all I'm going to get, I'm told [laughs]. You have twenty...

ED: And there's another one on the way. Rich's girl is going to have one around April.

RVR: Is that Nora?

ED: Nora, yes.

RVR: Oh she is? I met Nora. I didn't realize that. As I told my wife, you are really old school [MD and RVR laugh]. It's a beautiful set up of coffee, tea, and Danish as we used to call it, in New York.

ED: Yes. That would be because she's from the old school, too.

RVR: Yes, she is. Well, we've been married fifty-three years.

ED: Today?

RVR: We go back today.

ED: Oh my gosh!

MD: Where were you married?

RVR: It was in Astoria, Long Island, New York, at the Immaculate Conception Church. It was performed by a classmate who was a priest. I came late [MD laughs]. The bride came and she walked down the aisle. They forgot to send the chauffeur to pick me up.

MD: They forgot to send the car for you?

RVR: Yes, it was to pick me up! I was standing there waiting and waiting [MD and RVR laugh]! Finally, when an uncle realized what had happened, he got into his car, rushed to the house, and picked me up. I came running into the church and I could hear people saying, "The cab! They left that poor guy [ED, MD, and RVR]." My wife looked up at the priest. He just looked to one side. He didn't know what was going on [ED and MD laugh]. Let me give you the transcripts of our first interview.

ED: Oh, that's good.

RVR: That's for you.

MD: Yes.

RVR: I'm returning the Guilfoyle Family Tree. I have reproduced that.

ED: That's good.

RVR: That belongs with the Daley papers.

MD: All of the members of the family have it.

ED: I forgot to tell you. There was one picture of my mother here. She has a baby in her arms. I'm the baby [MD laughs].

RVR: My wife said to me, to show you how old school she is, "Don't spill anything [ED,

MD, and RVR laugh]" What a beautiful room you have.

ED: Rather than put the entrance in the front, we had them close it and put the entrance on the side to give us much more room in the living room. And the kids used to sit there. We have a lot of pictures of them at the window, looking out.

RVR: It was self-presiding looking over. It's a nice portrait.

MD: That's my sister Ellie that passed away. That was Billy's unveiling of the portrait of the commerce department, my brother Bill. That's the portrait that they did of him.

RVR: I see. That's a very handsome portrait.

MD: Yes, it was very nicely done.

RVR: You have so much in the way of memories. The pictures alone...

ED: Oh, I have wonderful memories, happy ones.

RVR: I'm glad that they are all happy.

MD: We haven't found the Daley one, mom. I called the Curry's, Dick Georgie Curry. He was going to look for it. They have the Daley Family Bible. Remember, Ellie did a genealogy chart one time? Eleanor did it with Aunt Ann, of the Daley Family.

ED: They're very reluctant. I don't know.

RVR: Might it be downstairs?

ED: This is the next generation after.

MD: I doubt it, no. Those are my dad's stuff.

ED: What I think they're afraid to do is pass it on, because they'll never get it back.

MD: We just ask them to duplicate it.

ED: That's all.

MD: Georgie was going to try and get it from Dick, his brother, and then copy it for me.

ED: Give his telephone number to me. I'll call him and see what I can do.

MD: These are the actual tapes of the conversations?

RVR: Yes. That is the tape of our conversation.

MD: Are there two copies?

RVR: No.

MD: Oh, it goes two tapes?

RVR: Yes.

MD: Oh my gosh. This is the tape of your interview, the last interview, mom. And this is the transcript...

RVR: That you can listen to.

MD: I'll set up your machine so you can listen to the interview. You'll see how great you sound [laughs].

ED: I suppose. During my spare moments I'll listen to it.

MD: You didn't want to do the video, though. Do you want to do the video someday, mom, a video of it?

ED: What do you think?

RVR: It would be nice for your grandchildren.

ED: Yes. They would find out. The ones that are born this year, they wouldn't know it.

RVR: They would know their grandmother and what she looked like.

ED: Grandma Sis.

RVR: Great grandmother, you're a great grandmother!

ED: What do we have, twelve grandchildren. There's an even dozen. Mike's little one is the twelfth. We were past the fifty mark on the number in the immediate family. I think it's fifty-two. Unless I wait a day or two, we may hear of another one [ED and RVR laugh].

RVR: Good! Have the grandchildren started the work?

ED: Well, two of them are right here, down the street. Three of them and two little ones are over on the next block. Then, right near the university, there's four more.

RVR: Right. Now have they been down in the basement working on the papers yet? They said that they were going to go through them.

ED: Patrick and Nora, the two of them, will be here Saturday.

RVR: They're going to be coming.

ED: Yes. They'll be here Saturday. But he went to Ireland and then to Russia.

MD: We can't keep track of the kids [laughs]!

ED: I think they're all gypsies.

MD: You know the airfares today, to Europe, Nancy was telling me that you can go to Ireland round trip for under two hundred dollars now.

RVR: That's unbelievable!

MD: You can go to London on American Airlines, round trip, no restrictions, for four hundred dollars. That's round trip.

RVR: Wow!

MD: That's round trip to London. Paris is round trip, two hundred and nineteen dollars. The tourism is down.

ED: Two hundred and nineteen?

MD: Round trip. I'm going to Florida. Well, three weeks ago I had to run to Washington just for the day. I went out to the airport. I was on Southwest. That same day, it was eleven hundred dollars, same flight.

RVR: Wow, same day!

MD: I didn't have any notice and even flying into Baltimore. I had to buy it late, late, late. So that's why all of these kids are going to Europe. Adults don't want to. They're a little afraid.

ED: If they're over there and any trouble starts, they'll be caught over there and they won't be able to get home. I was going to mention that to my daughter Pat. She and her husband are...

RVR: Yes, in Italy, I understand.

ED: He's Italian.

RVR: Martino.

ED: Oh, she loves to travel, Pat does. They all do. We did too, but we had the children [ED and RVR laugh].

RVR: But it's wonderful now that you can do it. I'm glad for you. I'm trying to get people to come.

ED: I always think of Mike's youngest girl. Oh, she's a gypsy if there ever was one.

MD: Carolyn.

ED: She was at Georgetown. And John's boy was at John Carroll in Ohio. She called one day. She said, "John, would you like to go to Paris?" I think it was ninety-nine dollars, so help me.

MD: Yes. It was one of those college things. She's a red eye baby. She said, "We're really smart. We'll get there in the morning." He said, "Well, I'll have to call home to see if I can go [RVR laughs]." So he called Mary Lou. Mary Lou was undecided. Everybody said, "Oh let him go." They all traveled. So away they went. It was real cheap, she said.

RVR: My granddaughter, who goes to Georgetown, is spending her junior year in London at the University of London.

ED: That's wonderful, the advantages.

MD: Is that next year?

RVR: No. That's this year. She's there now.

MD: Oh she is? I'll give you my daughter's number. I have a daughter that has lived in London for three years now.

RVR: Oh really? She's there?

MD: She's at Lloyd's of London. She lives in London.

RVR: That would be wonderful if you could.

MD: They have a Georgetown Alumni Club there. It's together.

ED: She's a graduate of Georgetown.

RVR: She is?

MD: All four of my daughters went to Georgetown.

RVR: That's right. You told me that. She's studying International Relations.

MD: Is it the School of Foreign Service?

RVR: Well, she's not in the School of Foreign Service.

MD: My oldest daughter went to the School of Foreign Service. She went on to Kellogg, here. My second daughter went to Georgetown. Then she went to the Divinity School at the University of Chicago. Now she's in medical school at Northwestern. She'll go to school forever [laughs]. She loves school.

RVR: That's wonderful [laughs]!

MD: When she goes to school, she loves it [RVR laughs]. She loves being a student. The

third one lives in London. The fourth one just graduated last May.

RVR: That's wonderful!

MD: She's trying to decide what she's going to do with the rest of her life. This decision is here [RVR laughs]. I said, "Get a job. Pay your own bills [ED, MD, and RVR laugh]!" I'll give you, or I'll have her call. Other kids that have been there from Georgetown, she's gotten them together with the other Georgetown's. Sometimes they're from the same area or they know someone. Then they have a thing. They get together every third Sunday for the Georgetown Sunday dinner. They just go someplace to be together. It's really nice.

RVR: That's wonderful! My granddaughter has had trouble. There was nobody there.

MD: The English are not openly friendly. They're very nice, but they're not openly friendly people. This girl went to school in Galway, the University of Galway.

RVR: Oh, if you could give me that information, I'd really appreciate it very much. I have e-mail. I e-mail her all the time.

MD: She would love to hear from her.

ED: She would. Katie would love to meet her.

RVR: But what a family, that has lawyers, doctors, whatever!

ED: We have twenty grandchildren.

MD: There was twenty-two. Two passed away.

ED: Two little boys died. But the seventeenth grandchild graduated from Georgetown, John Carroll. Where did the other one go? Oh DePaul, one is going there. Patrick is going to Illinois.

MD: Patrick went to a few schools. He moved around for a little bit [laughs]!

RVR: Is this Patrick, Pat's son?

ED and MD: No.

MD: He went to St. Mary's up in Winnetka. But Rich's son, he went to school in California and then Illinois.

ED: Oh, he wanted to go to, was it the Air Force?

MD: It was the Air Force Academy or something. No, he went to the Naval Academy! He was accepted. He was there and he hurt his leg.

RVR: Is he a heavyset man?

MD: No that's Peter, Patrick's son. That's Pat Thompson, son of my sister. Patrick Daley is Rich and Maggie's son. He's a big, tall kid. He's a Corbin.

RVR: I only met Nora, then.

MD: He's too tall to be a Daley [MD and RVR laugh]. He's a Corbin from Pittsburgh, right? He's a Corbin.

ED: They're all going down to see Pittsburgh play Notre Dame.

ED and MD: It's this Saturday.

ED: They're all going.

ED and MD: Maggie's from Pittsburgh.

MD: She's Rich's wife.

RVR: That's right. Oh, she's a wonderful woman. I hope she's doing well.

ED: She's feeling good.

RVR: Is she?

ED: There's not been much of a change. She has six brothers. She's the seventh child. Her mother died. They gave Rich a hard time, I think, when he went out there to see the father [laughs].

RVR: Do you know what amazes me? With all that has been written about your husband, there is not a word about this life. This is so unique, his family, and what kind of a man he was, as husband and father. That's not in the documentation.

MD: I think we lived a very private life, Doctor. That's why it's very unusual for us to do this. My mother and dad protected our privacy.

RVR: Right. But your father deserves that kind of recognition.

MD: Oh no, I know that. That's why we're doing this [laughs].

RVR: He was such a great man as an individual.

ED: Oh, he was. He was a kind and very considerate man. He was the kindest man.

RVR: And you don't find that among politicians very often.

ED: No. He never used profanity. Not even "Hell" would he say.

RVR: I know. Well, we can then begin our interview [laughs]. It's October 9, 2002, in the morning. I'm in the home again of Mrs. Eleanor "Sis" Daley. I thank you once more, with

her son Michael. I'm Robert Remini. We want to continue then, your reminiscences of your husband, and the life and times you led with him, and with your children as well. So, I think we sort of left off...

ED: Where were we?

RVR: We were just beginning to talk about his political career. We talked about your early life with him. A few times we did push it.

ED: We had a private life. But we didn't look for publicity. Let me say it that way.

MD: We left it off right at about the sheriff's campaign. When dad ran for sheriff mom, that's where we left off at the interview.

RVR: Do you know what I'm going to bring you the next time? It's the campaign song for your husband to run for sheriff.

ED: Well, he ran for sheriff and lost. But his mother was ill at the time. She said, "I didn't want to raise a son to be a sheriff [RVR laughs]. She didn't like it at all.

MD: It wasn't too honorable.

RVR: Was he really disappointed in losing? Did he feel badly about losing?

ED: No. I think was just as happy, because he wasn't of that nature.

RVR: Why did he run for the office?

ED: Well, he was a young fellow. And when the opening comes to run for office, you don't say no, I guess. If there's an opening, then you run for the office. You might be lucky. But I think he was just as well pleased that he didn't because it led for better elections and better roads.

RVR: It's like Kennedy, when he lost the vice presidency nomination.

ED: Well, then he went into the legislature right away. He was fortunate. Dave Shanahan was the representative from this district and he was a Republican. He was Speaker of the House seven times. In the state legislature. He died suddenly. There was an opening for Dick. So they picked Dick, the Democratic Organization, to run for office. Well, he just had to run in this district. He was born and raised here. His mother and father were.

RVR: Right. Everybody knew him.

ED: So everyone knew him. There was a write-in campaign.

RVR: Oh, it was a write-in campaign?

ED: It was a write-in campaign. One was Democrat and one was Republican. But I think the advantages later on were much better. He was a representative. I think two years later

the Democratic senator from this district died. They were all elderly men. I shouldn't say that [laughs]. I'm a woman. I'm a ways past them. So then he took... I'm thinking, Mike.

MD: Did someone die, mom? Who died?

ED: Dave Shanahan died. He was a representative. Then, two years later, the state senator from the district, Waltz was his name, died.

MD: But Shanahan was the fellow that dad replaced?

ED: Well usually, the representative usually follows the senator, and then runs for office. Dick did, and he won. It was just this one district. So then we had to look for a house here, in this district, over at Thirty-fifth Street. It was just across the street. There were two lots here. This is interesting. There were two empty lots here that no one had built on. The lots were vacant for years. So Dick looked up the deed to the property and found out about the Rothschild family from New York City. They were a large family. They had all boys. One of the boys, the youngest fellow, didn't want to be a banker. Well, that was unheard of in their family. He wanted to be a cattleman. So he came here to Chicago and was a cattleman. I forget what they call them. Anyway, he worked up at the Stock Yards. Then he decided to make his home here in Chicago and live here the rest of his life. He wrote a letter to his brother saying that this property was the first check that he got. He bought these two lots and it was the first thing he ever bought himself.

RVR: Your husband?

ED and MD: The Rothschild.

RVR: Oh, the Rothschild. Excuse me.

MD: The prior owners.

ED: He was the youngest one. He wasn't a banker. They were all just appointed, I guess. But he was happy. So then, Dick wrote to one of the Rothschild's who handled the estate and told him we wanted to build our home here. He wrote a lovely letter back telling him that he'd be pleased and happy to sell it to him. It'd be interesting. I should inquire how much. But anyway, we bought the two lots then and built the home in the center. We had the space on both sides.

RVR: So this is really two lots?

ED: Two fifty lots. The majority of the lots around here used to be twenty-five or thirty feet wide. That's why the homes are all so old.

RVR: And this was the first property you owned?

ED: Yes, it was. It was about four years after we were married, I think His mother and father lived with us. His mother wasn't well when we first got married. So they both lived with us. We were very happy. They were a lovely couple. They were married very young and had one boy. They never had any other children.

RVR: He was an only son.

ED: An only son.

RVR: But he was lucky that he married you because then he really married into a large family [laughs].

ED: Yes, a large family.

RVR: He didn't know what happened to him [laughs]. But he was very happy, apparently.

ED: He was very happy. He'd always say, "You didn't know what it was like to be lonesome, when you're an only child." I said, "You won't be able to hear yourself talk [laughs]."

RVR: My wife is an only child.

ED: Is she?

RVR: When her mother and father died, there wasn't anyone else in the family that could help her or comfort her.

ED: If he could only see them now, over fifty.

RVR: Right, that wonderful. You can't beat it. And he's in the legislature now?

ED: Yes. Then he went up to the senate.

RVR: This was two years later.

ED: He was the minority leader in the House of Representatives. Then, when Senator Waltz died, he was elected senator for the district.

RVR: That's quite extraordinary that he should be the minority leader when he was so young.

ED: Well, he was a young lawyer when he went into the legislature. Then they put him on the education committee. Immediately, he questioned why there wasn't a branch of the university in Chicago. 70% of the taxes went down south to pay for education. And every year, he'd introduce it. But it was defeated. There were so many Republicans [RVR laughs].

RVR: But he was determined! Now, my question is, for a man so young and having been in the legislature -

ED: He was always a leader.

RVR: Yes, to be elected minority leader- that's quite an honor- because of his leadership ability.

ED: I think so. Then he went up to the Senate, but he wasn't the leader there. There were older men entered, and that was traditional for him to keep it. And then after he was Senator, Adlai Stevenson was governor. And Adlai asked him to come with him and become the Director of Revenue. He said yes. It was a step up. So he became a member of Adlai Stevenson's administration.

RVR: Do you know why Adlai Stevenson chose him?

ED: Well, I supposed because of his leadership.

RVR: Yes, but in that position to be the Director of Revenue?

ED: For one, he was an honest man.

RVR: [laughs] You don't find many in politics. Was he very knowledgeable with revenue?

ED: He was very knowledgeable about it. Earlier, he was in the City Comptroller's or Colleague Comptroller's Office. He worked as a young fellow. I think, at the time, he was going to school. He went nights to school and then he worked during the day.

RVR: Yes, that's true. He was the Deputy Comptroller. He later became the Comptroller, though, didn't he?

ED: I think he did become it. That was before me. He was the Comptroller, but his knowledge of city government and the finances of both the city and the county, which was wonderful. After, when he ran for mayor in the election, none of the papers were with him.

MD: Well, when he was in the legislature, mom, as state representative, the first position that he held, I always remembered dad talking about serving on some prison committee, too. He worked on the budget before. He always liked doing that.

ED: He was always willing to work on the budget committees.

MD: Wasn't he on some prison committee where they had to go all around the city?

ED: Well, that's what they do when you're first elected to the office. They bring you around if you're going to be on that committee, then they'd visit the prisons. He was on the school committee, so he was a young guy, so he visited all the schools and universities down in Southern Illinois. So that's how we got acquainted with all the officials of the University of Illinois. He knew them all. He was very friendly with them.

RVR: And he was on the budget committee, so he learned about the state.

ED: And he was County Comptroller for a while there.

MD: That was after the budget committee.

ED: He was always on the budget committee because I know after he became mayor, he

called in the heads of the different banks in the Loop and had them come in. He introduced himself and said, "This is your city, as well as mine, and I'll serve it with all my heart. But I want your advice and your help because you're going to be working with the city." And they questioned him. Bob Abboud always said he questioned him on the finances of the city and the county and said his [Daley's] knowledge was better than some of the bankers that were right there.

RVR: [laughs] Who were doing all the business in the city. Yes, and he kept the city from going bankrupt unlike some of the other cities.

ED: He says his knowledge of financing was surprising. He was very surprised.

RVR: So there's a long history of his working with budgets and appropriations and that sort of thing.

ED: Budgets all the time. If not the city would have to hand in their budget before December every year. And he would work all summer. He'd have all the heads of the departments start working 7:30 in the morning because, he said, between 7:30 and 9:00 he could accomplish more than later when the phone wasn't ringing or anyone around. They would present their budgets this summer he would work with them. Then the budget would go through and he'd present it. But he knew every page of that budget.

RVR: That's amazing. Did he have an unusual memory like you?

ED: Oh, better than that. Yes, mine gets so good. Old and unusual he'd always say. Friends and neighbors would say when he went on the elevator downtown, and different committees call him by first name. And one fellow he hadn't seen in twenty-five years. And he called the man by first name and the fellow said, "You're amazing! I haven't seen in you twenty-five years and you call me by my first name." But he did have a terrific memory.

RVR: See, those are the stories we love to have about him. But going back to his legislative career, do you remember talking to him about any of the issues that came up at that time?

ED: Oh, sure. He'd always talk to me. We'd always sit down if my kids would be in bed early and he'd always sit down and tell me all the things, all the finances and all. He'd talk them over with me.

RVR: Do you feel that you had any input that helped him?

ED: [Laughs] I think he'd have his mind set before!

RVR: [Laughs] And you'd be there to say, "That's great!"

ED: But he'd have so much he'd have to tell because, I'd always say, the higher up you go, the fewer people you can trust in talking to.

RVR: True. And you were always there.

ED: So he could talk to me and I could never repeat it. I knew everything that was going on.

I miss those talks because he'd always tell me everything.

RVR: And it was always interesting.

ED: Very interesting! I loved it. He knew everything that was going on in the office.

RVR: Do you remember him saying anything about any of the individuals that he admired and why? For example, Governor Stevenson or Jake Arvey.

ED: He admired Stevenson. Very much he admired him. He was a very interesting man and a very smart man. But he was very long in making his decisions on everything, like running for office.

RVR: He was always wavering? That's not the word.

ED: I don't know. But he didn't know. Dick was very close to him. He liked and admired him. He wanted us to move down to Springfield, but we couldn't because I had children here in grade school and high school. My Pat was just going to enter college. I didn't want them scattered all over. And then they wanted to get that home downtown to have it like a residence for the mayor, but I didn't think that would be so good. That's all right with one child or two.

MD: Was dad involved a lot in Governor Stevenson's campaign, mom? Running the campaign?

ED: Oh, very much so. Yes, he was very much involved with that campaign for governor. At the times, Adlai wanted to run for senator, but Paul Douglas, who was the senator, he was the alderman near or around University of Chicago. That was his district. He was an alderman out there, but that was until he could hold over until he could run for United States Senator. He wanted to run. And he was injured in the war. He had a short arm and had trouble with it. His wife was very active. She was Douglas -that big statue out at Washington Park- I think that was her family, the Douglas's.

MD: That was another branch. It wasn't the same family.

RVR: Of Steven A. Douglas.

MD: Douglas was then nominated and Stevenson then ran for governor, is that what happened?

ED: Oh, yes. So Adlai realized that he was a war veteran.

RVR: Did your husband help to talk Stevenson out of running for the Senate?

ED: He went all around with him. He went to most of the big meetings with him. They had campaigned so many times. And Adlai was a wonderful man. His sister lived with him at the house.

RVR: And your opinion of Adlai Stevenson is? What did you think of him?

ED: I thought he was a very, very fine man. He's a very kind and gentle man. He was very, very kind and very conscious of everybody around him that he would be kind to them and make sure they were welcome, especially in the mansion at Springfield.

RVR: Were you ever a guest in his home?

ED: Yes, many times.

RVR: So you got to know him pretty well, too.

ED: Yes, I knew him very well. He wanted us to go down there, but when I explained to him the kids were in school, he said, "I'd never change them. I never walked to school in my life" And our kids walked to school every morning. He said, "I never walked to school in my life. I was sent to school in a limousine. I didn't have many friends as a kid."

RVR: Wasn't his mother a Borden of the medical board?

ED: No, no. His wife was a Borden girl.

RVR: Oh, okay. I see. I used to work for them when I was in college.

MD: I believe his mother was a part of the Dickens family. They own newspapers all over the state of Illinois.

ED: Dickens. He was from downstate, down in Bloomington.

RVR: I've met his son, Adlai Stevenson, and especially his wife, Nancy because we were on the Illinois Humanities Committee.

ED: Oh yes, very lovely girl, very lovely. She was very active in Adlai's campaigns.

MD: He interacted a lot with dad when he decided to run.

ED: Yes, he did. Daddy advised him a lot.

RVR: Right. Do you remember any advice that he gave Adlai? Or any incident that occurred?

ED: No, that was kind of touchy. He was such a brilliant man.

RVR: He was, yes.

ED: He was very kind, but he was lonesome, I think. He had four boys, didn't he?

MD: I think there was three.

ED: Three, yes.

RVR: And his wife had left him by that time?

ED: No, she did not.

MD: Did she come to the first inauguration?

ED: Yes, she was at the first inauguration, but she didn't live down there. She'd sometimes go down for a special occasion.

RVR: Right. What's your opinion of Paul Douglas.

ED: Oh, I thought he was a wonderful senator. I thought he was a brilliant man, but low key. You'd never know until he got started talking. He was very friendly with everyone. Adlai was wonderful, but it would take him a little while to get acquainted with everybody. But I think everybody admired Adlai Stevenson.

RVR: You think Adlai was shy?

ED: I think so. I do. I would say he was shy because he didn't have a... well, his life was lonely. He had a sister. She came and stayed at the mansion there to be with him, to be the lady of the house, entertain the guest, or greet them, rather. But he was a very lonely man, I thought. And Nancy and young Adlai were nice people.

RVR: Paul Douglas- would you say he was shy? No?

ED: Well, he was just as I thought. Once he got in and talked to you and all, he was just as friendly as could be.

RVR: They were both intellectuals, won't you say?

ED: Both of them were. She was very much so, but he was a little more down to earth. Paul Douglas was a brilliant man I thought.

RVR: Would you say your husband was shy of people?

ED: My husband was very shy. And some of my children are very shy. Richard, I think, is a little on the shy side. Although, since he's been mayor he's opened up a little bit. But, yes, Dick was very shy.

RVR: Do you think your husband opened up a little bit when he became mayor because he had to?

ED: Oh, yes. He met so many people that he wasn't shy in meeting people. But there was a certain bit of shyness there, I think.

RVR: I thought there might be a trace of it, but when you're a public figure and you have to meet so many people, you have to get over that.

ED: Oh, yes. Dick got over it.

MD: We used to the baseball games with Adlai Stevenson. He was a great baseball fan.

RVR: Oh! Is that right?

MD: Yes. We used to go as kids all the time with my father. My mother didn't go much. Day games, weekend games...

ED: Yes, Dick loved the game. Win or lose. He would always say, "Do you want to come to a game?" And I'd say [ED laughs], "Not today, Dick. Only when they win do you go."

RVR: But I understand you're a great baseball fan!

ED: Who?

RVR: You!

MD: She likes to listen to them.

ED: Oh, I watch it all the time.

RVR: But you must have loved the game.

ED: I love the game. I could go. Well, Richard just made a date with me for next summer, in June...the latter part of June, the all-star game is going to be played here.

RVR: It's right down the block. You're going to go?

ED: I have a date with Richard.

RVR: They should honor you. They should have a big celebration. [MD laughs]

MD: But mom didn't go to a lot of things. If Jan and Bill were younger, we would go and they were too little. So she didn't leave us. That's the one thing- we never had babysitters. We never had a babysitter, a nanny, or anybody.

RVR: But you had big Mike!

ED: I had a built in one! [ED & RVR laugh]

MD: But Mike didn't baby sit a lot, mom. You never left us with Mike.

ED: No, I didn't.

MD: I mean, he was with my mom all the time.

ED: But I did have someone here that'd be here to give them meals and all.

MD: Well, mom, when we grew up we never had babysitters.

ED: No.

MD: Aunt Mayme would come. Irene would come.

ED: I had older sisters and if we were going to take a short trip or anything, they would come. I had one that her family was raised and they always had a cottage. I always had a nice little cottage. And then they sold it after their boys were older and got a nice apartment. But he missed that little home. Whenever I'd say we were going to take him, "All right we'll be down." He'd come down with his little bag and he'd stay out in that backyard. [RVR laughs]

MD: That was Uncle Jim, wasn't it?

ED: Yes. He'd say, "Oh, it's so good to be out in the yard, walking around. You can't do that in apartment buildings. You're cooped up in there."

MD: But my mother stayed home when we went to the baseball game. She'd listen to the baseball game and know more about it when we came home! [laughs]

RVR: Of course! My wife says you can see a lot better and know what's going on a lot better.

MD: Oh, yes, the replays.

ED: Dick's mother was a great baseball fan. The day she died, she was here. She wasn't well. We had Philco radio. And when the radio first came out they'd sell it in a cabinet that high, in a china cabinet. It would be that high and you'd sit in the living room and listen to the radio.

RVR: I remember that. Sure! I go back that far. Do you go to the games at all anymore?

ED: I went to the opening game, but not too many. I couldn't with all the kids.

RVR: No, I mean today.

ED: Yes, I go. I love baseball. I had brothers that played baseball. I went to the games and everything.

RVR: Do you know a lot about it?

ED: Yes.

RVR: Of course, you'd have to!

ED: I sat up last night watching. [RVR & MD laugh]

MD: You don't call here when the games are on, especially when the Yankees are playing! [Laughs] They won't answer!

ED: I love the Yankees.

RVR: See, being an old New Yorker.

ED: Whenever they came here I always went over. Rich and Mike, they were all baseball fans.

MD: When you were young, you used to go with your brothers to the games after school, didn't you?

ED: I used to go to St. Bridgett's School, which is on Archer Avenue near Ashland.

Now that's a good three miles, wouldn't you say? And I had a brother older than me who loved baseball and never missed a game. Friday was Ladies Day and you'd get in free and he'd say to me, "I'll take you Friday, but you come right of school. Now, don't delay." We'd start running and we'd run all the way over. I'd be exhausted when I'd get there. [RVR laughs]

MD: Did Lilly go to the baseball games? Dad's mom, Lilly? Did she ever go to the park?

ED: Occasionally she'd go.

MD: Ladies' Day was a big day in those days, though. It was full. The ladies went.

ED: On Friday it was jammed. It was packed.

RVR: Do any of the Sox players or the managers or the people who are officials ever come to you and ask your advice or come to a particular game?

ED: No, they don't do that to me.

RVR: I bet you can give them some good advice.

ED: What's his name? Jerry Reinsdorf, he's a really nice fellow. He gave me a nice Sox cap with a light on the top. And he always comes over and talks to me. He's a very nice man.

RVR: Did your husband have any relationship with the management of the Sox at all?

ED: No, but he knew them all to talk to. He used to go to a lot of games. The whole family used to go to the games.

MD: I see Chuck at the games now, too.

ED: Yes, he and his children and grandchildren, I think.

MD: And he comes around once and awhile with his wife, Chuck does.

ED: Does he? But they were all fans of baseball.

RVR: I wonder if they ever asked your husband for any advice

ED : He did.

RVR: Especially for financial problems they might have or I don't know.

ED: Oh them? I don't know. I don't think they talk to many people.

RVR: [Laughing] That's why they haven't won the series.

ED: He can tell, it'd fill the park.

RVR: See, I bet he could. You, too.

MD: How has baseball changed from then until today in your mind, mom?

ED: Well, I think the baseball players loved the game more than they do now. Maybe I shouldn't say that. I think they love the game of baseball more than they are here. Even if you go to New York, as they walk into the stadium, don't they pass that statue of Babe Ruth?

RVR: That's right. And rub their nose on it.

ED: The nose is almost flat! [RVR laughs] They do. As they pass, they all just touch it.

RVR: It's like St. Peters in Rome where his toe is almost worn away!

MD: You saw Babe Ruth, didn't you?

RVR: Did you?

ED: I was at the game in 1933. I just met Dick about a week before or so. But anyway, he told me he had tickets. The Cubs were playing the Yankees in the World Series, 1933, and Dick was in his last year of law school then. He said, "Would you like to go to the ballgame? The World Series?" I said, "I'd love to!" He said he was going to take his mom and dad because they both loved baseball. So I went with the three of them. And Babe Ruth put up the finger for the pitcher for just one more. We used to go to the World Series, Dick and I, with other couples that we knew that loved baseball. It would be a good weekend for all of us. We went to Seattle and went up to Minnesota. When they played in the World Series, when would that be, 1969?

MD: I don't know. Your memory's better than mine [laughs]!

RVR: It's unbelievable.

MD: I'd have to get a book out.

ED: No, it'd be earlier than that because when we went, he was a young mayor and the

mayor in St. Paul, Minnesota was a new one, and Bob Wagner from New York was the newly-elected mayor. So he came and the six of us went to the game. We brought John Abel with us, but they couldn't sit with us. They sat down at the end and every few minutes they'd have to say, "Down on the other end, kids [laughs]!"

RVR: Did you have season tickets for the games?

ED: For here. Dick always bought them. He bought a box when it was the same price as the seats, I guess. So he's always had it. And after Dick died the boys could afford to buy it.

MD: We still have it.

RVR: You still have it? Oh, that's grand. And they didn't give you the tickets?

MD: We've never accepted them.

ED: No, no, no. In fact, after Dick died, the next year on the opening day, my daughters, Pat and Mary, no. Mary didn't like baseball. She likes football. Pat and Eleanor, and then the boys, and Pat's two boys used to go. So they all went over the opening day and when they did, there was somebody in the seats. The kid, everybody thought he got them free. But he didn't. He bought those when he was a young fellow. And he'd buy them every year. He'd send his check in before Christmas.

MD: His own check, personal check. He was very careful.

RVR: Yes, your husband was known for that, with absolute honesty never accept anything. They think the saying was "Give them your calling card, don't take anything from them." And so many politicians have fallen because they get involved in that. Look at [New Jersey Senator] Torricelli.

ED: The temptation was great.

RVR: Did they offer it to him and he refused?

ED: Oh, I don't know, but I do know that he always paid for those tickets. But you hear every now and then, Maggie went to a dinner and she was sitting next to this man. And this man was talking about there was some big official coming to Chicago. He was going to be in Washington. When Eisenhower was in office, he was extended the courtesy of the king and queens and high officials to come to America and just stay for a few days. They'd go to Washington to meet the President and that was his way of saying "thank you" to the high officials of these foreign countries. They were so good to him and the American boys during the war that he said, "A little thing like that would make them feel good and show off our city." So then the queen came in 1959, but they came before that. He had all of the kings and queens. So they'd go to Washington, then to Chicago, then to New York. Then they'd leave from New York and sail back. That was a great time in the history of Chicago.

MD: Mom, when dad was in the legislature in the state house and in the senate, did he like Springfield?

ED: He liked Springfield, but he didn't want to live there. He came home. He'd only stay three days. He was the minority leader. So he had to stay that extra day, because he had to review all of, not the cases...

MD: The bills?

ED: He had to review all of the bills for the following week or so. He had to be up on all of that before. So he'd be prepared.

RVR: Those were the years when the legislature met every other year. Isn't that right?

ED: Yes, it was every other January, from January to June. I think the first part of June they recessed.

RVR: Right. But you never went up. You stayed here.

ED: No. I went a couple of times when he was sworn in and all of that. We had a lot of babies. Rich and Mike were young.

RVR: And the girls.

ED: But I did. If it was something special, I always went. I never missed any of the affairs for Dick. I always went. I had older sisters who would move right in and stay for a week. It was family, you know.

RVR: That's nice [laughs].

ED: So that was good.

RVR: Were you aware of his ambition for higher office when he was in the state legislature?

ED: Well, I knew that he would go far because of his knowledge. When he would walk into a group of men, he'd get full attention. You know how that happens sometimes. They were just as bright as him. Some of them were big officials and all. But when he did speeches, they'd listen. Just like that Bob Abboud, he knew more about the city and about the finances of the city than any of the men in that room. But it was his knowledge of the finances of the city and everything.

RVR: But that quality of leadership, right at the very beginning....

ED: The leadership was there, from the very beginning.

RVR: Why was that? Why did people naturally...?

ED: I don't know. I think it was as a youngster, too. There was a neighborhood group of young men. Then, as they got older, they stepped down. It was an athletic club. They played baseball and football. There were all of the young boys and young men in the neighborhood. Dick became the president of that, too.

RVR: We call that, if you know the word, charisma.

ED: Charisma?

RVR: Yes. That's a quality...

ED: Well, he certainly had that. He had charisma. Wouldn't you say, Mike?

MD: Yes.

ED: He was a leader. He was a born leader because he was very knowledgeable.

MD: In all of his ability to discuss things with people, the positives and negatives, the plusses and minuses, he'd discuss all of the points of view. He respected all of those points of view. But then you had to make a decision [laughs].

RVR: Right.

MD: You could discuss it forever. But he would always walk through the process, even when we talked to him about issues.

ED: I could always remember him saying... Well, he'd be criticized so severely sometimes with his decisions, whether he was going to make it or not, yes or no. But anyway, he'd make the decision and say, "Well, someone has to make the decision. And I happen to be the mayor. So I'll have to make the decision. And if it's not right, we can always change it. You can be positive as well as negative."

RVR: You know, Mayor Giuliani, the former mayor of New York City, has a new book out called "Leadership." And one of the principles is that you look at an issue, both sides, positive and negative. But then you make up your mind and you come to a decision. That's what makes a leader.

ED: That's what makes a leader, yes.

RVR: Did you find that these other people always wanted to know what your husband thought about a particular issue?

ED: Oh yes, they'd ask what his opinion was. They would always ask lots of questions of Dick.

RVR: When he hadn't made up his mind yet, what would he say to them, do you think? Or do you know?

ED: "Well, we have time. We'll give it a little time for us to make our decision. And I'll talk to people." He talked to many people. He talked to everyone at the beginning.

RVR: "And I'll get back to you then."

ED: And then he'd get back to them, yes. He was very fair with them. They respected him. When he ran for office the first time, the papers were not. But the second time, they had a non-partisan committee and it was all of the newspaper people. And that was unheard of. But they were all for it. They respected Dick very much.

RVR: Getting back to my question, were you aware of his ambition for higher office? You said that you always knew that he was going to go places.

ED: I always knew because I could see that leadership in him. It was surprising because when someone would ask something, they'd go away with being satisfied with the answer that he gave them. That was a quality...

RVR: In particular, did he tell you that someday he was going to be mayor of the city of Chicago?

ED: Oh no, he never mentioned it.

RVR: He never said that?

ED: No. He never mentioned it.

RVR: Do you think that was inside him, though, that that's what he really wanted?

ED: Well, I thought he was always going up. He was never satisfied to just sit back and be a lawyer. He was in a law office before, Mike. But I don't think he liked just sitting back.

RVR: Right. No, that was not his style.

ED: That wasn't his nature.

RVR: And he didn't much care for Springfield.

ED: No, he didn't.

RVR: So, do you think he wanted to come back to Chicago?

ED: He wanted to come back because he had a family. He didn't stay down there long. He'd go down on Monday, during the last year when he was minority leader. But when he first went down they made him minority leader.

RVR: That shows, you see, that charisma. When other people regard him as the man who can speak for the...

ED: They trusted him.

MD: How long was he revenue director, mom?

ED: Well, he was the revenue director, I think, maybe a year and a half. Adlai Stevenson wanted him to go down to Springfield. The big office was there. And then they had a big

office here. I said to Adlai, "We can't move." I think I was expecting Billy or so. I don't know, whomever. I said, "My children are in three different schools. Dick can't be travelling back and forth like that." But if there was a week that he had a lot of work to do, he'd stay down there. He wouldn't hesitate. Like when Adlai was running, he would help Adlai a lot. He'd travel around with him.

RVR: Did he have important contacts in Chicago while he was down in the legislature?

ED: Yes.

RVR: Who were they? What contacts did he have up here?

ED: Well I think he dealt with on the politics...

RVR: I mean politics, yes.

ED: It would be the men in the Democratic Organization. And he would always discuss it with them.

RVR: Right. Did he know Mayor Cermak?

ED: No. That was before him.

RVR: That was before his time?

ED: That was before him. Otto Kerner was the next one.

RVR: The governor.

ED: The governor, yes.

MD: Was Mayor Kelly the mayor at that time, mom?

RVR: Mayor Kennelly?

MD: Kelly.

RVR: Kelly, okay.

ED: No. That was the end of his term. Then he died in office. He was still the mayor. It was almost the end of his term. Then he'd have to run again. So that's when they put Mayor Kennelly in.

RVR: Kennelly, yes.

ED: He was a fine man.

RVR: Did you know Mayor Kennelly?

ED: I met him several times. He was a very kind man. He was a very nice man.

RVR: You didn't think he was corrupt?

ED: No. I don't think so.

RVR: Did he and your husband get along very well?

ED: He was an Irish fellow like Kennelly [RVR laughs].

MD: Kelly.

ED: Or Kelly, rather, and Nash. There was a senator, a couple of the Nash's there.

MD: Was Scott Lucas then?

ED: Scott Lucas was...

RVR: Oh yes, he was a powerful man.

ED: Yes, I remember Scott Lucas. Then, that was around the time that Dick was picked to run.

RVR: For what office? He was picked to run for mayor?

ED: Wasn't that for mayor?

MD: Not when Scott Lucas ran, mom.

ED: Not with Scott Lucas?

MD: That was for... That was in 1948.

ED: Oh no, no, no. He didn't run for mayor, then. That was in 1955.

RVR: Right, that was 1955.

ED: In 1948, it was something for county. Dick was running for county...

RVR: County clerk?

ED: It was county clerk.

RVR: Yes.

ED: He was running for county clerk. I remember that it was about a week or two before the election. Who died, one of the candidates?

MD: Mayor Kelly?

ED: Probably Kelly was running for mayor then.

RVR: Was it McDonough?

ED: Oh no. But then they picked Dick to...

MD: Fill the vacancy.

ED: Oh, Mike Flynn died. Dick ran for...

RVR: Mike Flynn, okay.

ED: He was the county clerk. Dick ran for the county clerk. But all of those older men, they all admired Dick, trusted him, and helped him. But Kelly was out of office. Then he dropped dead right around that time before he ran again. Then they picked Kennelly.

RVR: Do you think husband did anything special to win their loyalty and allegiance, these other men? Or was it...?

ED: No. Well, they could see that he was young and ambitious. He was admired because he was a young fellow that was going to school nights. Then he went an hour in the morning and took some special class.

RVR: Oh, I didn't know about that.

ED: Yes, he did.

RVR: I knew about the night classes.

ED: I think it was his last year, the last two semesters. He went for one hour in the morning. It was some special course that he needed.

RVR: That must have been hard on you. Here's a man who's going to work during the day and going to school at night!

ED: Well, I wasn't married then.

RVR: Oh, that's right. He did finish his law school before you were married.

ED: I wasn't married then. I didn't marry until after he graduated.

RVR: I forgot. I'm sorry. He was working and going to school.

ED: And he was in Springfield. He was busy all of the time. He was ambitious because he'd be down in Springfield and come back on Wednesday Night. He'd go down on Sunday afternoon. He'd have to stay all day Wednesday and Wednesday night to prepare himself for the session. He was always leading.

MD: Did dad work with Mayor Kelly on the Truman presidential campaign?

ED: Well, I don't think then Mike, because Dick was young.

MD: Didn't he go to Philadelphia or wherever they had it? He used to talk about it with Mr. Perillo, the music man.

ED: Yes, all of those older fellows, they knew they were going to be passing on [RVR laughs]. But they would go out of their way to help the young fellows, to help them as they went up the ladder. Now, Joe Gill was a very fine, honorable young man. He was the county treasurer. He was in politics all of his life. Dick worked then while he was going to school, in the treasurer's office. He made him assistant treasurer. But they could always depend on Dick. He was always there.

RVR: Right. So as far as you remember, your husband didn't really have an active part in Truman's election in 1948, as far as you can recall?

ED: No, he wasn't out going campaigning and all of that. But he was very active....

RVR: In promoting the Democratic ticket.

ED: Yes. And if the Democratic ticket would win here big, that would be big for Truman and would be a Democratic election.

RVR: The Democratic Party always had a big parade.

ED: It was for the election.

ED and RVR: It was the Torchlight Parade.

ED: It was the day before the election.

RVR: Did you husband start that or was that a long tradition?

ED: No, he started that, with Adlai. Wasn't it, or John Kennedy?

MD: Well, John Kennedy was the first national one. That was in 1960.

ED: When Adlai ran for governor, they had a big parade.

MD: That was when Stevenson ran.

ED: From Grant Park, people would walk all the way west, to the stadium over there.

MD: It was a rally.

ED: It was a big rally.

MD: Then they used to go to Medinah, didn't they mom, Medinah on Ohio Street there? It

was the temple?

ED: I think that would be the big rally before the election. I think they'd always have one big one. But not the parade like they had later, for Kennedy.

RVR: He'd have to turn out the people to come to the parade, right? That was since he was a leader of this district.

ED: Yes.

RVR: What did he do? Did he go around and knock on doors?

ED: No, no, no. He'd talk to the aldermen.

RVR: He'd talk to the aldermen.

ED: Well, he'd see them downtown every day. They'd be at the office. It was for their benefit too, you know.

RVR: I'm talking about the period before he became mayor. This was where he was a man in a position where he didn't have to do any of that local stuff.

ED: He was very active. He had his finger on everything.

RVR: He always did, yes.

MD: He was very good friends with Mayor Kelly. Wasn't he, mom?

RVR: He was very good friends. But he was young. Kelly was so much older than him, Mike.

MD: Yes. But he worked on a lot of things for Kelly.

ED: Oh yes.

MD: He used to talk about it. It was through Mr. Gill. Mr. Gill was a close friend of Mayor Kelly, wasn't he?

ED: Well, he worked for Gill as a young man, when he was going to school.

MD: Was Mr. Gill the same age as Mayor Kelly?

ED: He was not quite as old, a little bit younger. But they were all fine, very good living men, in that era. There was Mayor Kelly. Then there was Joe Gill and all of them. But if they really wanted something done, they would call.

RVR: Without necessarily mentioning names if you don't want to, were there any corrupt politicians out there that your husband knew that were doing things he didn't approve of?

ED: No. But there's corruption in all walks of life.

RVR: Certainly.

ED: But no, he would never mention any.

RVR: He didn't?

ED: No.

RVR: Did you know of any?

ED: No, other than what you read in the papers, there'd be the ones. I didn't know them.

RVR: Your husband never mentioned any of these men to you?

ED: No, he never did. No, he wouldn't discuss those things, about them being corrupt. But you'd know it by...

RVR: Reading the newspaper.

ED: They had to go and serve time.

RVR: [Laughs] That's one way of finding out!

ED: But Dick never mentioned names like that. But you'd read it in the papers. You'd know what was going on. They knew right from wrong, just like I do.

RVR: And he never showed it? Let's say you went to a dinner. Say one of these corrupt politicians came up to him. Was there any indication that you would catch that this was someone your husband didn't think very highly of?

ED: Well, you could tell by his actions.

RVR: What kind of actions?

ED: Well, I mean when you go to those dinners, you wouldn't be with them all evening long.

RVR: But suppose they came up to you?

ED: He was very careful in whom he associated with.

RVR: Okay. Chicago had its fair share of men who were betraying their trust. That's one thing your husband brought to this city. That was an honest and clean government. Nobody could say a word about that.

ED: We heard a compliment not too long ago about some big official coming to Chicago. It was not only to Chicago, but it was to some big city. It would have to be on the up and up.

Everything had to be just so. You couldn't have any, like some of them are. And they'd pick Chicago. It was a sad thing. There were so few good ones [RVR laughs]. He didn't say it, but somebody else did. Every day there was a message from one of the kids.

RVR: You know, it's really remarkable that your husband didn't want you or his family in any way to be disturbed by some of this that he knew was going on.

ED: No, he didn't want it.

RVR: He wanted the privacy of his family, the separateness of it.

MD: The biggest thing was, and you always said it, when he came in the door he was never mayor. He was never senator. He was never representative. He was our father.

ED: When he shut that door, he was a father. He'd take his coat off and go down in the basement with the kids, if they wanted to.

MD: We'd discuss a lot of issues. But it wasn't issues that he would say. We'd discuss anything we wanted, history, baseball, politics, or government. He didn't dictate to us and say, "This is the issue I'm working on in city or county," or whatever it was.

RVR: So it was more discussion at home, rather than, "Well, what did you do today? Tell me."

ED: Oh yes, there was none of that.

MD: He loved debates, discussion and debates. He'd say, "You get on this side of the table. You take this side." He loved it. He loved that interaction. You didn't agree or disagree. You debated the issues.

RVR: Is that an Irish thing?

MD: To love to talk?

RVR: Or debate?

ED: Do you think so? I think it is. I know that I came from a big family. Debates went on all the time [laughs]. Over there, there'd be my father talking to a couple.

RVR: You know, Joseph Kennedy, father of John F. Kennedy, that's what he did in his home. And he wanted his children to be...

ED: Oh yes. I didn't leave my children at home. When they were old enough to walk and behave themselves, I would just explain to them where we were going. "Now, we're going to go to a dinner," if they were old enough then. Billy was just five, or going to be five, when Dick became mayor. And my elder was in eighth grade. Kennedy would be giving a speech. And all the big officials would be coming in. And the kids, I'd say, "That's an education for them to come with me." With all of the four boys, I'd get them all dressed up if it was formal. I'd put the little bow tie on.

RVR: [Laughs] Oh yes?

ED: With their little blue suits.

RVR: Their first Holy Communion suits?

ED: Yes. They'd all be dressed up. Eleanor, even before, she'd say, "I don't know how these kids are going to grow up." Billy wasn't five years of age and we'd take him to the dinner. She'd sit at the table with him. And there'd be other people at this big table. She'd say, "They'd know what fork to use and what knife. I never had to tell them. Mom would tell them before we left."

RVR: [Laughs] Oh, I see!

ED: If we were going to go somewhere, I'd always explain who the people were that were speaking. We'd have a history of what they'd accomplished and all. And I'd have them read it. So they knew where they were going. They knew the world enough.

MD: She said, "I never have to tell them what spoon or fork to use."

RVR: So you're of the old school?

ED: But the kids today... She said, "Today, fast food, they don't know what to use [RVR laughs]." Remember her? Oh, she'd burn up. They'd all eat fast food and they don't know what knife or fork to use.

RVR: Did your husband expect your children to be up on the important issues of the day, so to speak, do you think? You discussed them.

ED: We discussed everything. If the youngest was sitting here and we were talking, he would get into the conversation and discuss it or ask questions. They were all great for asking questions.

RVR: Were these serious issues, that had social importance? Let's say something like civil rights or race.

ED: Well, it was during the sixties that Mike grew up.

RVR: I want to get into that later.

ED: We had them picketing the house for two summers. You couldn't go in or out...

RVR: Without knowing what's going on, yes.

ED: It wasn't a normal way to live. John and Bill would walk off with all these people around and didn't know who they were. They'd sit on the porch with the neighbors.

RVR: [Laughs] And watch them! Did you have a lot of newspapers in the house?

ED: We always got the newspapers, yes.

RVR: Both morning and evening?

ED: Yes, both for and against him, Dick. But I let them read everything.

RVR: You did?

ED: I did.

RVR: Did your children read the newspapers?

ED: Well, I mean when they got old enough. They knew that the reason it didn't bother them was when he came in that door, he wasn't the mayor anymore. He was their dad. And he was a natural father then. He'd come up with two in his arms, up three stairs. I remember one time when Richard was little. I bought him an airplane. It was one that you glue together.

RVR: Oh sure, I did that.

ED: You probably did that.

RVR: It was balsa wood.

ED: So Dick had started it with Rich. He had to go to the doctor. He had a little lump on his forehead. He was going to have it taken off.

RVR: This was your husband?

ED: Yes. So he said, "I'll be right back in about an hour." So back he came. Richard was standing with a plate [RVR laughs]. He was as sick as a dog, I think.

RVR: Oh really? What was the lump? Was it pre-cancerous?

ED: It was more of a rash or something. I think it was just one of those little...

RVR: [inaudible] cells?

ED: It was just a little thing. They take it off.

RVR: They burn them off today. Do you remember the date of that?

ED: But he said, "I'll be right with you, Rich [ED and RVR laugh]." RVR: How old was Rich at that time, would you say?

ED: He was probably about six.

RVR: Okay. So we can date this?

ED: By God, if he didn't go right over to the table and sit down and finish that [RVR laughs]. I said, "You promised [laughs]!" Don't ever promise!

RVR: Not within your earshot!

ED: [Laughs] Oh no!

RVR: And I love the story that they're sitting across the way watching these picketers [ED and RVR laugh]! That's a good one.

ED: Yes, the kids would watch them.

RVR: I'm afraid my tape has almost run out. Is it... ?

MD: It's 12:00, mom. You didn't want to go on beyond two hours.

RVR: I think that's enough.

ED: You can come anytime.

MD: Mom, maybe you want to do it every Wednesday?

RVR: Okay.

MD: Just have it set for Wednesday for the next couple of weeks.

RVR: Right, unless you call and cancel.

MD: Unless I cancel, because you're going to run into the holidays mom, pretty soon. There's Christmas.

ED: That's fine. I'll be glad to.

RVR: Oh, that's wonderful.

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