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Interview with Michael Daley
Date: 21 July 2006

Location: Office of the UIC Historian, 815 W. Van Buren, Chicago, IL.
Present: Michael Daley, Dr. Robert V. Remini, and Dr. David W. Veenstra

Before tape starts: Michael Daley mentioned that he had been looking through his father's papers and found copies of legislation then State Representative Richard J. Daley proposed in 1939 calling for the University of Illinois to build a campus in Chicago.

Tape starts:

Robert V. Remini: It's July 21, 2006, and we're here with Michael Daley, the son, the fifth child, I believe…

Michael Daley: Yes.

RVR: He's the fifth child of Richard J. and Eleanor "Sis" Daley. As a general question, what is it like to be a Daley, the most famous family in Chicago, undoubtedly?

MD: Other than seeing your name in the paper and in the media, I don't think it's any different because we lived a very normal life. It was a different era of politics. It was a different era of the media. It was a different era of campaigns. It was Dad's campaign. It was Dad's election. My mother wasn't a person out there. We were raised and went to school. We didn't have security at our house. We didn't have security with us. My mother didn't. My father had a civilian driver. It was a whole different world. Those things have changed, creating a different atmosphere where spouses and children are all expected to participate in a campaign. We would go on election night and to one or two events, but beyond that, not too much. We went to school like anybody else and came home [laughs]. It was quite a different era.

RVR: So you knew the difference then.

MD: Well, I can see the difference with my brothers' families and spouses, how they're much more involved in campaigns, how much more involved they are in events in the office and with public issues. You know, no one interviewed my mother. Sometimes they said that she was a recluse. She wasn't. They just weren't interested. It wasn't a media thing to interview the spouse.

RVR: You're probably much more like your mother than any of your brothers. Wouldn't you say?

MD: I couldn't judge that [laughs]. Are you going to take a vote of the family [laughs]?

RVR: You used the word recluse. And you're accused of being a recluse, which you're not, obviously.

MD: No. My mother…

RVR: And she wasn't.

MD: No.

RVR: But there's the fact that you were perceived as such, the way she was.

MD: I think the best example of Mom with that was that she never had a driver's license until 1959, when our grandfather died. He used to drive us everywhere. When we had obtained our driver's licenses, we drove him around.

RVR: That was big Mike?

MD: That was big Mike. I was little Mike. He was big Mike. So we always thought that was odd. It was odd…maybe Mom was afraid of driving? Well, a week or two after my

grandfather died in June of 1959, Mom went out, got her license, and drove us. We finally asked her, She said: "Well, with seven kids and living here, I'd never be home [MD and RVR laugh]. We thought, "That's pretty smart." [MD, RVR, and David W. Veenstra laugh]. So it wasn't that she was afraid or hesitant. And also, Mom refrained from having a major social life, going out, and dinners, with Dad. She said, "No, you ran, you go. You ran for office. I didn't. I'll stay home and raise our family." And that was a very strong decision that they made, and it gave us a very normal life. So it wasn't like Mom, well, she would express her opinion at home. And most of it was in confidence with Dad. But I would say that she was very outgoing, very friendly, very informed, very well read, and very current with the times. Even after my dad died, she was active in many things. But she did it privately.

RVR: Yes. When do you think it changed from what it was?

MD: It changed in the 1960 campaign.

RVR: It was 1960.

MD: It was when you had the era of the elders moving out from national politics to Kennedy coming in, Bobby Kennedy and the younger people. Washington was the old man's club and the old family's club. Nineteen sixty turned that over and it changed a lot with the governors and mayors across the country. Old people had been in politics. I think the Kennedy era also brought the media into families' lives, history, and outside the immediate candidate and his family. It now went to the extended family. In my opinion, that was the real turning point, the media involvement in the campaign.

RVR: Right. Here's another general question. All of your brothers are in public service. You're not. You're much more private.

MD: Well yes, I've never run for public office. I've been involved in issues.

RVR: I'm not asking that.

MD: No. I never ran for public office.

RVR: When you're in a family that's quite committed to public affairs, publicly….

MD: Well, I have three sisters that didn't run for public office [MD and RVR laugh]. And my mother never ran for public office. So why should I have to [laughs]?

RVR: You don't have to. I was just wondering why you didn't.

MD: That's because I didn't want to [laughs].

RVR: Did you ever think about the reason?

MD: Oh, I thought about it at times. It's a very demanding life.

RVR: That's not what you wanted?

MD: No. Everyone defines what they want. You do what you want. I've always believed in that.

RVR: That's fair enough.

MD: Thank you [laughs].

RVR: But your three other brothers are all in…I don't like to say public service as though you're not interested in politics.

MD: Well, they've been involved in government and politics. Today, when you use the word politics, people think it's a dirty name.

RVR: Yes. That's too bad.

MD: Dad had a good phrase: "Good government is good politics and good politics is good government." And they're synonymous. One can't operate without the other. And they've enjoyed it. There have been times when Rich has been retired from public office by the voters [MD and RVR laugh]. And the same thing with Billy. Billy, between his cabinet position and other positions that he's held like the NAFTA issue, he's had periods of time where he wasn't in government.

RVR: Has John ever had those periods?

MD: Yes. He's had those periods of time. He served in the legislature, John did. Before that, he worked with the committeemen and the ward. And he's been the County Commissioner since then.

RVR: Now, you're the fifth child?

MD: Yes. I have three older sisters and one older brother, Rich, then myself. Then there are two that are younger, John and Bill.

RVR: I figure that you were born in 1943.

MD: It was April 18, 1943.

RVR: It was 1943?

MD: Yes.

RVR: Well, when did you ever become conscious that your father was a public figure, let me say? Can you remember back?

MD: I would say 1955, when he ran for mayor.

RVR: It was when he ran for mayor.

MD: Yes. Even though we only went to a few events, there was a lot more excitement than when he was in the legislature and as county clerk. We only knew him as a lawyer. And we didn't follow things as much. I think one of the big gifts that Mom and Dad gave us was that Dad never held meetings at the house, contrary to the thousands of people that have said they had dinner there. Or that they were in our family den downstairs. They maintained our house as a private home. And he would go to his office and have meetings. He would go up to the ward office or downtown to the Democratic Headquarters. But it really wasn't until 1955.

RVR: When he went down to Springfield, as a legislator, the family did not go down with him?

MD: No. We stayed here in Chicago. We were all in school here. And Mom wasn't inclined to relocate, even when he became revenue director, in 1948, I think it was, or in 1946, with Stevenson. I don't remember exactly which year it was. We stayed up in Chicago. Our grandfather lived with us. My mother's parents were deceased before my parents were married. Her father was killed in an automobile hit and run when she was sixteen. And then her mother died before they were married. They had delayed their marriage a couple of times. So we never knew those grandparents. Then, my dad's mother Lil died when I was three year old. She died in 1946. My older sisters remember her. So the only grandparent we really knew was big Mike.

RVR: What was big Mike like?

MD: He was a sheet metal worker. He was a member of the union in 1902, a succession of unions. His brothers were all union boilermakers, sheet metal workers, and iron workers. They were all in unions. And they were union men. He was a very quiet man.

RVR: Really?

MD: He retired right after my dad became mayor. Dad didn't want him to work anymore.

RVR: Your father didn't want him to?

MD: Yes. I think that he might have actually retired before 1955. He had worked very hard all of his life. He was a great fisherman. He loved to fish. That's where we all got our love for fishing. He loved muskie fishing.

RVR: He would take you fishing?

MD: Oh yes. We'd go fishing up in Lake Geneva. We'd go up to Lac du Flambeau, way up north. We were the rowers [MD and RVR laugh]. We didn't get to throw the bait for him. We'd row the boat for him [MD and RVR laugh]. We were the laborers.

RVR: Did the girls go, too?

MD: No. The girls didn't like fishing. My mother didn't like fishing [MD and RVR laugh]. She couldn't understand why you'd sit out there all day.

RVR: They had to cook it?

MD: No. They wouldn't cook it, either [MD, RVR, and DWV laugh]. We'd cook it.

RVR: Oh yes?

MD: They couldn't understand why you'd spend the whole day waiting on a line in the water. They couldn't understand that. So we went fishing a lot with him. He was a handyman. My dad wasn't handy. So he fixed everything. He was very quiet.

RVR: Boy, that's great to have in the house.

MD: There were seven grandchildren, Mom and Dad, and there was an aunt, Aunt Mayme Ballenger, who lived with us off and on. There were dogs, parakeets, and everything else. My greatest compliment to him was that no one in our family ever heard him raise his voice. He never got mad. He never raised his voice. He would get his fishing poles out. He would show us how to tie the line. And we'd drop it on his toe or something [RVR laughs]. But he never, ever raised his temper and never raised his voice. He was a very, very calm, very calm person. He loved to do projects around the house. We were his laborers [laughs].

RVR: It must have been great for your mother to know that another adult was there, trying to be a part of the family, and helping the family in any way that he could.

MD: Well, Mom always said, next to Dad, big Mike was her best friend. That's because he was there and she never needed a baby sitter. He was a home person. He didn't go out, unless he went on fishing trips. He owned some apartment buildings he used to go to. He and his brothers would fix them up and rent them out. But he was sort of a second father to her because her father died when she was so young. And they were very, very close, especially when Dad was out of town. Big Mike was always there. She was very attached to him and very close to him. She knew him as well as my dad.

RVR: When did he die?

MD: He died in 1959. Actually, it was his fiftieth year – he was to receive a pin from his union as a fifty-year member of the union in 1959.

RVR: How old was he?

MD: He was seventy-nine at that time.

RVR: What did he die of?

MD: We had put a new roof up on the house in the country and he was there supervising it. He was making sure that the contractor had put the roof on right. And I was designated to go and pick him up and drive him home for dinner that night. I was in high school. So, when I went and picked him up there, he got in the car. He always smoked White Owl Panatelas, five-packs only [RVR and DWV laugh]. He'd never buy a box. They'd get stale [MD, RVR, and DWV laugh]. He'd always sit back in the car, light up his cigar, and relax. That trip in from the country, he sat on the edge of the seat. He was real antsy and nervous. I never saw him that way. So when we came in the house in Chicago, 3536, I said "Mom, something is wrong with big Mike." She said, "What do you mean?" He went right into his bedroom. He said, "I'm going to lay down." So she went in and ask him if everything was okay. And he said, "No, I don't feel well." That night, Dad was coming home to pick up Mom. They were going to this big banquet. Among other people at the dinner, big Mike was getting his fifty-year pin. So my mom called my dad. She said, "This is the first time in all of the years that we've been together that he said he didn't feel good. Come home." So then the doctor came and they took him to the hospital. He lived for a week or so. Then, the day before he was to come home, they told him he'd be very restricted with his heart. When my dad came home from the hospital that night, he said that he didn't think Mike would live long because it would just take his life away – his independence and everything else. He actually died the next morning in the hospital. When Mom and Dad went to pick him up, he had another heart attack. He was a very quiet person. He didn't say too much.

RVR: But you knew his strength was there.

MD: Yes. And you would listen when he talked.

RVR: Did you call him big Mike all of the time?

MD: Oh yes.

RVR: It was never grandpa or granddad?

MD: No. It was big Mike. Mom always said this. My dad never referred to his parents as Mom and Dad. It was Lil and Mike [laughs]. She always told that story. So he was big Mike and I was little Mike [RVR laughs]. And even when he died, I was still little Mike [laughs].

RVR: And you were named after him?

MD: Yes. I was named after Mike. And Rich was named after my dad. Pat was born on St. Patrick's Day. Mary was born on December 20, at Christmas time, so Mary Carol.

RVR: I didn't know that.

MD: And Ellie was actually named after my mother, Eleanor. My mom's name was really Nora. That was her real name. Then John was named after my mother's dad, John Henry. Then Billy was named after a very good friend of my dad's, Bill Lynch, a very, very close friend. He was my dad's law partner. Bill had two sisters. But he was the only boy in the family. And he and my dad were very close. They were lawyers together. He was a state senator and went on to the federal court.

RVR: Right. Where did you go to school?

MD: I went to the Nativity of our Lord, to the parish school. I graduated from there.

RVR: You had nuns?

MD: There were nuns, the Sisters of St. Joseph, all of those years. My mother was very active in the establishment of the Valentine's Boys Club. So we had a big sports facility at 34th and Emerald. She was very active in the parish, the school, and everything else. Then, I went to De La Salle, which was my dad's alma mater. I attended De La Salle for 4 years.

RVR: Did you like the brothers there?

MD: Yes I did, some, but not all [RVR laughs].

RVR: My brother hated it.

MD: Some were the old rough and tough, but it was a good education. It was a college-prep program. And that's what they were very well known for, their college-prep program. Then I went onto Loyola and went onto law school at DePaul.

RVR: Were you a good student?

MD: I worked hard. I don't know what a good student is. We worked hard. Academics, and academic performance, not to get an award *per se*, was very important in Mom and Dad's life. It was a real example. Mom was not hesitant. We took speed-reading programs. We used to go on Saturdays and half-a-day math tutors, or something. If we needed help, they were not hesitant to admit it. Some people don't want to admit that, that we aren't perfect or something. But she was not hesitant on that. She would drive us. Or we would take the Wallace-Racine bus downtown. It was on Lake Street, at Loop College, between Michigan and Wabash. And I.I.T. had a Saturday program that we also went to. She always supplemented education. Dad would always say, "What's your homework? Let's go look at it. What is it?" We'd talk about it. He'd never sit there and correct you.

RVR: Oh no?

MD: No. He'd talk about it and make you aware that you ought to reconsider that [MD and RVR laugh]. He'd convince you, but he wouldn't correct you.

RVR: But he would sit down with each one of you?

MD: Oh yes. He'd take time, but not every night. My sisters were older. So he'd take time and rotate it with each one of us. Lots of times he'd be going out at night. He'd say, "Ride with me." He'd talk in the car, turn the light on, let you do your homework, and look at it with you. Then he'd get out, go into a banquet, a wake, or something, or visit someone that was sick, and make his stop. Then he'd come back out and say, "Well, what'd you do while I was working?" [laughs] Then he'd want to see your work. Math things he'd correct. My grandfather was a very good mathematician.

RVR: He was, too?

MD: Yes. Mike went to a public school that was right off of Halsted Street. He learned German in grammar school. And they taught German. It was a German neighborhood. He took German. He was very good in math, sheet metal, and heating and air conditioning. Math was very important. He was a very good mathematician. He spent a lot of time with us doing our homework, big Mike would.

RVR: Big Mike?

MD: Yes.

RVR: Did your mother?

MD: Yes. My mother would, especially if she got the results back [MD and RVR laugh].

RVR: She could be a tough one [laughs].

MD: She wasn't tough. The rule was the rule. If you respected her for the job she did in her part of our lives, then we could reciprocate by performing to the abilities and capabilities that we had. If we didn't, it was disappointing. She wasn't a crack-the-whip type of person or that. But it was very clear. It wasn't a holiday [laughs].

RVR: And your sisters, they all became teachers?

MD: Yes, they all did. Pat was in the convent for many years. She went into the convent right after high school. So she was more inclined to go into education. And Mary and Ellie taught. They taught first at Wilmette, then Ellie in Chicago Public Schools.

RVR: Did they help you, or your brothers, in your work at all?

MD: No, not too much [MD and RVR laugh]. In some ways they did. If you had a problem, they would help you. They'd go to the library with you and help with the research. They'd check out things and help you in that sense. But it wasn't a collaborative effort. Your grades were your grades…don't piggy-back on somebody else. It was your responsibility. We had quiet time in the house. Before dinner and after dinner, there was no TV, no radio, and no phones.

RVR: Really?

MD: That was the whole house. Everyone honored that because everyone studied. So you weren't roaming around the house. You had to go to your room and study. Or you had to study in the den or in the kitchen. And we all expected that. You had to be in at a certain time because we ate dinner regularly. It was very scheduled. Mom was a very precise scheduler, but not crazy.

RVR: What time did you have dinner?

MD: We would usually have dinner by 5:00, 5:30. And then Dad would come home and he would get ready. So he would usually have dessert with us, except for the weekends. He would get home to change and then go back downtown to a banquet, a dinner, or an appearance. So he would have dessert with us. And then we would study. Then at 8:30 or 9:00 we would finish studying. If someone else was still studying, you had to respect that they were still studying. You couldn't make a lot of noise. Usually, we'd go downstairs in the den. But it was very structured.

RVR: Yes. Were you allowed TV after a certain hour?

MD: Yes. But that was not every TV program. There was my grandfather and my mother. My father wasn't a big TV person. There were the seven of us and one TV [laughs]. My grandfather and my mother used to prevail.

RVR: It was what they wanted.

MD: My grandfather loved to watch the fights on TV.

RVR: Oh he did?

MD: There was Pabst Blue Ribbon Friday Night, Land of the Sky Blue Water Fights [MD and RVR laugh]. That was his big thing.

RVR: What did your mother love to watch?

MD: She loved to watch music programs, the quiz programs, and Liberace. Everything in the house went silent for Liberace. You couldn't talk [MD, RVR, and DWV laugh]. We didn't watch him too much. The guys didn't, but my sisters and mother did. She loved George Burns, Jackie Gleason, and those type of guys, the comedy things. But my dad wasn't much for the TV.

RVR: You mean not even the news, to watch the news?

MD: No. Not really. But he did watch the Sunday news programs, the news talk shows, those he would watch. Other than that, it was sporting events.

RVR: Was the TV down in the basement or was it up in the living room?

MD: There was one TV. It was in the living room. Then later, it was taken out of the living room and taken downstairs, when the TVs got larger. The first one was very small [laughs]. I don't know how all of us saw it [MD and RVR laugh].

RVR: Last week, I had lunch with Dan Rostenkowski. And one of the things he said was that whenever he went to your father with a question of constitutional law or whatever, your father would say, "Take it to Michael." Somebody else said to me, I'm not sure, that your father said if anything happened to him, you were the one to see of the seven.

MD: Yes. Well, they did call me the day he died.

RVR: Why was that, would you say?

MD: I was the first one to be a lawyer. Rich was involved in legislative matters. He was in Springfield a lot. When I started practicing law, I went with the law firm that my dad left in 1955. That's the firm that I have now, under a new name, Daley and George. Rich has been in that firm. Bill has been in that firm. I worked with Dad on a lot of matters, the Democratic Party matters, and legislative matters that affected the election code. I worked with him on the delegate issues to the national conventions, among other lawyers. There were other lawyers.

RVR: We'll get to those.

MD: There were a lot of lawyers that Dad worked with and I don't know…but I wasn't the only one that advised him. There were a lot of lawyers that worked on those things.

RVR: I have a theory that in every family parents have to know that there is someone that they can rely on, that there is someone that will do what has to be done, do it properly, and do it efficiently.

MD: I think that's true. But each one does different things.

RVR: I have one in my family.

MD: Each one does different things. My sister Pat was called on. Mary was called on for different things. Ellie was called on. Rich was called on. Bill and John were called on. If it was a legal issue or something, then I'd get the call. My office was right across the street from Dad. I didn't do everything. I wasn't the only one. All of my brothers and sisters did different things. Rich would be aware of Springfield much more than I would. Bill was more on the national scene and would be much more aware and work on that. John was involved on local issues. Mary, Pat, and Ellie did their own parts with Mom on other issues. So, it depended on the occasion and it depended on the matter.

RVR: I hope you don't mind me going into your family. It gives me a wonderful sense of what the Daley family was like.

MD: Well, that's unusual because we've never talked about it [laughs].

RVR: I know.

MD: So it'll be interesting to see what my sisters and brothers think of this [laughs]. It will be. And I'm really asking all of them to do this. The grandchildren were young.

RVR: It's only fair to your father that we understand what kind of a father and husband he was.

MD: I think that people often say today, "Well, they were so private." Or, we had guard dogs at our house and we didn't go out. We all lived a very normal life. It was a different world.

RVR: Yes. And it was normal.

MD: It was normal. They went out to dinner with their friends. My dad would drive. They didn't have bodyguards. They didn't have guards at the house. We didn't have security systems at our house and up in Michigan. We didn't have a car in front and a car behind our home. My father didn't have a bodyguard. We rode on the bus to school. We rode the "L" to school. My sisters went to 51st and Cottage Grove. They'd take 35th to Cottage Grove and Cottage Grove south on the bus. This was grammar school and high school. It was a different world. When people hear that today, they think that we were a bunch of recluses [MD and RVR laugh], like we hid in the basement or something. It was a different time. My parents went out to plays with their friends. It was a different world.

RVR: It's a pity that changed.

MD: Yes. I'm trying to think. Dad was the mayor in 1955. Nineteen fifty-nine was the first City of Chicago event we went to, as children. We never went to anything. That was for Queen Elizabeth. That was really her first visit here and everything. And we didn't go to another event until 1960. It wasn't part of the image or the persona. You didn't have to have your pictures and things like that.

RVR: You probably didn't want it.

MD: So, when people say or imply, or the innuendo, "You've never done this," number one, no one asked us to [laughs]. And number two, we lived our lives. I rode the "L" to

Loyola. Rich rode the "L" to DePaul downtown. We had very normal lives. And that was a gift. That was a real gift from our parents. We realize it more and more today. Even with my own children, it's just a different world, whether you're in government or not, it doesn't make any difference.

RVR: You never felt that somebody said, "Oh, there's one of the Daley boys."

MD: No. We never experienced that. No. Your pictures were in the paper at election time. The rest of the year, you weren't in it. I dare say that if you went back, there are more pictures of Dad and Mom's grandchildren in the papers than ever existed of us. You know, it was like when we got married, and stuff like that. But we were never trailed by the mini cameras and things like that.

RVR: Let's start then with the first election.

MD: If I'm being too long on my answers, tell me [MD and RVR laugh]. I feel like I'm having a dialog with you.

RVR: Well, I would like it to be that because you can go off on tangents or recall different events. That would be perfect. You'll always have the right to delete it or add to it when you get the transcript.

MD: Okay.

RVR: I realize that I'm speaking to a lawyer [MD and RVR laugh]. You said that the first time you became aware of your father as political public figure was when he ran for mayor.

MD: That's what I can remember.

RVR: That's what you can remember. Right. Can you tell me about that, what you can remember?

MD: Well, my mother had a big sign on her car. And there were more things that were happening at that time, I mean, you could feel the excitement, the pressure, and everything else. Then we went to a couple of the torch light parades and marched, which we had never done before. We had our picture taken as a family for Dad's campaigns. But we had never really went out to anything. And you'd see the people all along the road on Halsted Street. They had a rally afterwards. Those are my first memories of going to something political.

RVR: And you were not approached by any reporters?

MD: No. That's because all of the reporters were either still photographers or they were reporters that wanted to interview the candidate. They didn't want to interview my mother or us. And we weren't involved. My dad never talked government or politics at home until we were older. It probably wouldn't have sold [MD and RVR laugh]. I mean, Rich experienced it when he was elected. The first day, the next morning, he got a call from the principal at the school where his daughter was. I think she was in kindergarten or first grade.

[MD stops to answer a call on his cell phone].

Interview paused.

RVR: All of your daughters have been successful.

MD: Yes, they're happy [laughs].

MD and RVR: They're doing what they want to do.

RVR: They have families. They have careers.

MD: Yes they do. They've worked very hard to obtain what they've obtained. I'm very proud for them.

RVR: You must have been a damned good parent too.

MD: I don't know [laughs]. Everyone tries. You do the best you can under the circumstances that you're dealt. I love this great phrase: “If you lead with your heart, no one can hold it against you.” If you meant well, you meant well, no matter what the circumstances are, or how it turns out, you lead with your heart.

RVR: Would you say that what your parents taught you is what you tried to teach you children?

MD: Yes, I would say so. My mom and dad had a great respect for work ethic. They had an enormous respect for education. It took Dad years to complete his education. And Mom always wished that she went to college. She always wanted to be a lawyer.

RVR: She did?

MD: Yes. She would have made a great lawyer. She worked for Martin Seymour Paint Company. She was a legal secretary for lawyers that worked for that company. She and Dad really respected education, working, and the work ethic. They really respected that you got up on time, were sincere, were properly attired, and did your best. You do your best. As long as you know you've done your best, then you've done your best. That was the thing. You were to judge that. My mother and dad wouldn't judge if you did your best or not. It was you. They'd always say that it was your decision, your call, as to whether or not you really did your best on this paper, this exam, or whatever it might be. Do your best and you judge it. That has been a big part of all of our lives, I think. It was the way they lived their lives. They loved plays. They loved the opera. But they did it privately.

It's because they genuinely enjoyed it themselves. And they usually went themselves. Sometimes they went with some friends. But they truly went because they liked it.

RVR: They liked baseball.

MD: Oh, they loved baseball and football. The Cardinals used to be at Comiskey Park. Dad never forgave them for leaving [MD, RVR, and DWV laugh]. It took us a while to go and see the Bears at Wrigley Field. But we eventually did [laughs]. It was south side, north side. But Mom and Dad weren't big preachers. They wouldn't tell you. It was more of their example what you saw. And we saw it in our grandparent, big Mike. And we saw it in their friends that were successful in their careers, whatever that career was. If they reached, obtained, and were successful with happiness in that career, they respected that as much as A to Z careers. They never judged those careers.

RVR: As my wife says, "You can write books, at least [laughs]. You've got to be able to do something."

MD: On Sundays, my grandfather was a union man and never worked. He would put his white shirt on, smoke his cigars, and read his paper. My father would be running around doing a project because that was his day off [RVR laughs]. He would say, "Dick, just leave it. I'll fix it on Monday. Leave it, and I'll fix it on Monday." [MD and DWV laugh] With my father, on everything he did, he'd break it most of the time. And it would have to be fixed on Monday [DWV laughs]. But no matter how many times my dad would ask him, "No way. I don't work on Sunday. I'll get it fixed on Monday. I'll put it together."

RVR: I do that too. On Sunday, I go to church. And then, I read the *New York Times* and the *Chicago Tribune*.

MD: My grandfather didn't care what it was. Something could be burning down or the water could be running through the house, and if it was Sunday, he would stop it, but that

was it. That was the union man's day off. That was his day [RVR laughs]. We laugh about that.

RVR: That's great. Getting back to the first election, do you remember how it ended, what you were doing, and how you felt?

MD: We went downtown on election night.

RVR: Oh you did?

MD: Yes.

RVR: Where to?

MD: I think it was the Democratic headquarters. I think, at that time, it would have been at the Morrison Hotel, I believe. I'm not too sure. I remember friends of my dad's were there, Mr. Gill and Mr. Horan. Then there was Bill Lynch, several labor friends, Mr. McFetrich, and Mr. Lee. There was quite a crowd. It was very exciting because the election results came in. That was an exciting time. We didn't stay as late as we thought we should stay. Mom sent us home [laughs] because we had to go to school the next day [laughs]. She would always insist. We never had an excuse not to go to school. We had to go to school. No matter what occasion it was, she always planned that you'd be home to get your night's rest. If you wanted to come to something, you had to get your homework completed beforehand. And she would check to see if it was all done. If you didn't have it done, you didn't go that night.

RVR: But you knew the results of the election before you left?

MD: Yes. We were excited. We congratulated him. I don't think we really appreciated where it was going.

RVR: But it wasn't official?

MD: No. It wasn't official.

RVR: Did your mother go home with you? Or were you sent home?

MD: More than likely, she went home. That's because there was no one else there to put us to sleep [laughs].

RVR: And the next day when you went to school, nothing was said by the teachers that you father was now the mayor?

MD: I think there was excitement for him, but not so much for us. That's because so many of them knew him. He was so active and Mom was active in the neighborhood. The neighbors were excited for him. I think he went to church and stopped by to see us at school because he was going downtown. People applauded him in the school. There was quite a bit of excitement. The neighbors came out as he was walking along. They wished him well and congratulated him. So I think there was that type of excitement.

RVR: Did you perceive any change in any way in the way he behaved or in what happened?

MD: He had a car and a driver [MD and RVR laugh]. He had a big, old Cadillac.

RVR: That came with the job?

MD: Yes. It was a civilian driver. They didn't have bodyguards. That was about it. For a kid, that was a big deal. His schedule was a lot busier. But he was local, rather than going down state. He was home more. And he was very busy. We remember that. It was a real change. Then, it started to change more when they had to have someone at the house, a security guard in the front or the back. That really was a big dramatic change for us,

trying to grow up and having someone in the front of the house and someone in the back of the house.

RVR: When I interviewed your mother, was there somebody in the back? I never saw anyone in the back. I only saw the one in front.

MD: Oh yes, there was someone there, all the years my dad was alive. Then after my dad died, my mother insisted that they take one of those men off. There was always security in the back, in the alley side, and in the front side. They had light sensitive things on the side of the house, lights and a security system. A lot of things changed during the Vietnam War period during the 1960's and the 1968 convention. It sort of made the extremes of politics more vocal.

RVR: Yes. We'll get to that.

MD: Dad was home. Mom went to a few things. She didn't go to a lot. For the first time they traveled a little bit. Mom would go with him to the mayors' meetings or some things like that. Sometimes, we were able to go, depending on our schooling. If we couldn't go, one of my mother's sisters, my Aunt Irene or my Aunt Mayme would come, and their husbands. They were my mother's older sisters. So they would come and stay with us. We never had a babysitter.

RVR: You never had a babysitter?

MD: No.

RVR: You didn’t need one.

MD: No.

RVR: It's because, as your mother said, he never knew what hit him, being an only child.

MD: Oh yes [RVR laughs].

MD: She came from a large family. She had a lot of brother and sisters and nieces and nephews.

RVR: He inherited them all.

MD: Yes. But Dad was very good. With the grandchildren, he was good. He loved to sit around and read. That was his great passion. He'd watch football games, baseball games and sports events. But his real passion was reading books, history books particularly, and biographies. We lived a very normal life. I say normal. By today's standards, when you say normal, kids think it's limited [MD and RVR laugh]. You've limited yourself. Or, if you say you're content, you've limited your horizons, like you should be always knocking the door off the hinges. But it wasn't that way.

RVR: Did he ever talk politics with you? Did he ever talk about issues or what he would like to do, with you, as children?

MD: He would always ask opinions. We would always have a topic to talk about around the table.

RVR: You did?

MD: Yes. But it was never on why he thought his position was right. We'd just have a discussion. "What do you think about this? What do you think? Do you understand?" Then, he'd ask everyone around the table. Or, we had a book that we had to read. And he would quiz you about the book.

RVR: Was this done at dinner, while you were eating?

MD: Normally, it was dinner or breakfast. We were never there at lunch. But on the weekends, it would be done. Or it would be done in the car, riding with him, one or two of us. He would never sit there, pick up the paper, and just leave you alone [laughs]. He would always want to talk about something, national issues, local issues, social issues, religious issues, what was going on at school, and different things. He was very conversational.

RVR: Mentioning and bringing up UIC for example, his great desire was to see a major university located here in Chicago. Did you ever talk about that with him?

MD: Oh yes. He'd drive past when it was first under construction. I think it was based on his experience, how long it took to get his college degree, how long it took to get his law degree, and the expense of it. He was fortunate. He was an only child. His father worked. I think he saw the hardships that it brought on a lot of other students. He felt that the city and the state should put a major campus here in the city. And it had to be located somewhere where there was the best sources of public transportation. That was always his issue. Building it in the boondocks, where you had to have a car, would exclude so many kids. It had to have good access to public transportation.

RVR: That's the first time I've heard that.

MD: He was very insistent on that.

RVR: It was not just Chicago.

MD: Oh no.

RVR: It had to be Chicago and…

MD: You could put it out at the south end or the west end of the city, or the northwest end of the city, and half of the students wouldn't get to it, because it would take you too

long on the bus. But that's why it wound up where it was. There were other locations that were looked at. But he was insistent of the access of the subways and the immediacy of the trains downtown, so that you could hop [the “L”] or walk to it or ride a bike. It had to be where public transportation was. And that's why it wound up where it was. During the construction stage, he'd drive by, take a walk through it, and see how it was going. He was excited. I would say, probably out of all the projects, he felt more personally accomplishing a goal than he had in most of his life, to do something like this.

RVR: He said it was his greatest contribution.

MD: He was genuinely and sincerely proud. With the demonstrators, it was very difficult, with the geographical location. The residents of the area were long-time supporters of Dad, politically. And many of them were friends with my dad and mom. It was hard to relocate. But where else could you pick a location, my dad would say, that offered the access from the western, the northern, the southern, and the southeast side? That was the best site for public transportation. And that's why he went through that. We had the demonstrators at the house. There was all of that hooting and hollering downtown. And the signs. Some of those people that hooted and hollered the most [later] came back and said, "our business is doing good" [laughs]. So I guess it was an admission on their part that it was the right decision. And Dad never backed away from that decision. It was very controversial. It was very controversial with state people because they were concerned.

RVR: Did he actually pick this spot?

MD: No. As I understand, there was a committee that came up with multiple sites. And the big fight in the committee, or argument or discussion I should say, I always understood from Dad was that it was over the site requirements. What were the criteria for some location to become a site for the university? And Dad's big thing was transportation, transportation, and transportation. And the second one was always expansion ability. And Dad wanted to see the university expand into the medical complex, to let it grow west.

RVR: He said that?

MD: And it was to add jobs into this neighborhood and to add residential improvement and housing. They weren't going to clear out public housing. Public housing stayed here. It's still here in this area. But it was to integrate it into a community. And those were his criteria. I always understood from Dad that criteria issues for a possible site was the real battleground and the eventual process. That was the most difficult. That's because there were a lot of people that wanted to relocate it further north, west of Lincoln Park. I guess that was a great debate. Then there was a lot of resentment among the medical community. But it was a long process. It was something that Dad really worked for.

RVR: It was not just from the residents?

End of video tape one.

[During the taping pause, MD continued: No. There was opposition from Northwestern University, Rush Medical College, the University of Chicago. They didn't want this to turn into a top medical school.]

MD: He worked very, very hard on the location, the selection, and accelerating it. Everything was dragging. They'd decide this later and they'd decide that later.

RVR: Do you think he would be happy with how we've turned out, would you say?

MD: I think he'd be happiest if he were teaching here. I think he would have been very much involved in the university, the establishment of more governmental discussions and politics. Don't hide away from it, but bring it out in the open. He would be very proud of it now, especially with the expansion and the ability of having housing here….

RVR: Yes, dormitories.

MD: But I think he'd also be concerned that you not turn it into a residential college, where you had to live here, or the housing was so plentiful that it not be a commuter college anymore – [he wanted] a happy balance.

RVR: He wanted it to be….

MD: He wanted it overwhelmingly to be a commuter college and for it to be offered to the whole metropolitan area.

RVR: There would be a lot of opposition to that, that kids would come and sleep in class.

MD: Yes. Well, I went to a commuter college. I went to Loyola and Rich went to DePaul. Then we went to DePaul Law School. I commuted. My sister Eleanor and brother John commuted on the "L." Billy went to Providence for a while. Then he came home and finished up here. Rich went to Providence for a while and then came home. Pat got her education when she was in the convent college and in post graduate work. So we were all commuters [laughs]. He didn't say what college you would go to or how far you wanted to go on the "L." But that would be his biggest thing. He would be so happy over the expansion of the facilities and that you created a neighborhood here. But he'd be very concerned that the commuters not be pushed out. That would be his big concern.

RVR: No, see a lot of people feel that a student should get away from home and be in a totally different environment than they're used to, as part of their development as an adult, and also be thrown into a situation where there's a continual learning process.

MD: But not everyone can afford that. And it doesn't work for everybody. I lived at home until I got married. I didn't have any urgency to rush out the door. And today, if you tell people that, people look at you like you're crazy. "You mean…?"

RVR: Yes. Right.

MD: You mean you didn't…?

RVR: You didn't want to get out?

MD: No.

RVR: You were happy there.

MD: It didn't bother me. So I think that residency on a college campus isn't for everybody. I know friends that went away and came home. They didn't like it. You look at the alumni of your university here and your graduates that were all commuters, on a much more difficult plane than you have today, they did pretty well. They're some of the most significant graduates [MD and RVR laugh] of the whole university system.

RVR: Your father wasn't always treated with the respect that he deserved when he came on to this campus. There were a lot of people who were angry with him.

MD: Well, Dad made decisions. And he had controversial positions. He'd always say, "You have to make it for someone and against someone."

RVR: I know.

MD: But in academia, Dad always had a good rapport with the University of Chicago, Loyola, DePaul, and with the U of I here.

RVR: With the U of I?

MD: With this university. It was when he was in the legislature – you'll see in his papers his correspondence with the different chancellors and presidents of the university concerning legislation for new buildings in Champaign and new U of I campuses around

the State of Illinois. And that was on committee issues before him. It was on how he could be supportive, how he would get Republican support for it and downstate support for it. So he was very, very friendly. Like everything, there were fringe people, like fringe academics and fringe people. They'd be against the Lord [MD and DWV laugh].

RVR: Oh sure!

MD: So, that never bothered him. That never bothered us. In fact, we used to chuckle. He didn't get mad about it. He'd get a little debate going [RVR laughs]. “Did they do their homework? Do they know what they're talking about?” He wouldn't back down. He'd walk right over to them and say, "Come on up to the microphone." They weren't pulling people out of the crowd. He'd say, "Come on up here and let's talk."

RVR: I have two theses that I'd like to try on you and see what you think. One is this: Your father was determined to have a university here, and a good university. And he wanted it to be part of the University of Illinois. That gave it stature. That's one of the reasons that we were able to bring people here. This isn't just another teacher's college or what have you. The president of the university, David Dodds Henry, was a fairly strong individual. He was concerned about outside political pressure trying to force the university to do something that it might or might not want to do. But he recognized that here was a very powerful figure that he could not challenge. But his concern was always that a university campus in Chicago would one day become the premier institution in the State of Illinois, not Urbana. And so, he dragged his feet as much as he could. And it was your father's doing that had to pull the whole thing into existence. Do you buy that?

MD: Oh, it's the truth. It is the truth.

RVR: It is?

MD: The university downstate and the downstate legislative members were very concerned that with a campus up here, they would lose professors. They would lose

research. You're networking into other universities between Northwestern University, the University of Chicago, Loyola, and DePaul. There was just too much up here. There were the medical schools we have up here. There were the law schools we have up here. They were afraid, as Dad explained, that there would be a student drain. There would be an academic drain. And all of a sudden, Urbana would not be number one. And we have to remember, at that time, there was Northwestern, the University of Chicago, DePaul, and Loyola. But for the average person, the University of Illinois at Urbana was like God. That was like going to Harvard. It was the largest academic school, law school, medical school, everything. But they were afraid.

RVR: Sure.

MD: But Dad was very aware of that because of his legislative days, how he dealt with the university, what they would build, and what they would do. And it was very downstate-controlled, at that time, with the regents for the university and the board of trustees. And they were not very favorable to upstate Illinois [laughs]. That usually started at the county line [laughs].

RVR: That's why Henry called it Chicago Circle.

MD: Yes.

RVR: He named the university after a traffic pattern, as though to show his contempt. Do you know of any thing your father actually did in order to overcome this resistance, these problems from downstate?

MD: He directly worked with the legislature. He directly worked with the governor. He worked with the board of trustees. I believe, at that time, they were still elected… the board of trustees were directly elected. So he had a great influence in the nomination and the election of the board of trustees [laughs].

RVR: That's a very good point.

MD: Most people don't ever remember voting for a trustee of the University of Illinois. But they were directly elected. And he was very sensitive to the ability of the board to deal with the president, the regents, or the other officials. And I would say his influence through the board and the legislature was probably the most significant. He went and met with Dr. Henry and other people with the university. And he also sought out the help of the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, Father Maguire at Loyola University, and Father Comerford J. O'Malley, who I think was still at DePaul University. He did that to join him in welcoming the campus, that we weren't enemies, and that we were making a cooperative effort to improve the academic availability to the whole city. They weren't opponents. So why should downstate be an opponent, if the immediate universities here weren't opponents? And he worked very hard on that. He worked very hard on everything. But with this, he really had his heart into it. He really did. Even after it was built and was operating, he would drive by and say, "You know, I'd love to teach there. I'd love to be there someday." He just loved it.

RVR: That I didn't know.

MD: He used to go and lecture at the colleges. He really enjoyed it. We'd go with him. And he really enjoyed it. But there was no media. We'd go just to meet with him, or have dinner with him.

RVR: Let me try my second thesis. A number of us came here. It was a new university. It was an opportunity to make a great university as part of the University of Illinois and it would draw on students who would not have had an opportunity to receive a higher education, except that this place would exist. So we came. We thought that we could make the place a UCLA in twenty years. I think we would have, except that we were dealing with an administration that was determined to hold us back. Notice the chancellors that we've had. My thesis is, had we been willing to work with your father more directly, he might have been able to do more in hurrying the university to that status

of becoming another UCLA in twenty years. It's now what, fifty years coming up? We have come a long, long way. It is a major school. I'm not denying that. But my thinking is, it could have been done faster and sooner. Do you buy that?

MD: Well, I think there was great opposition to the establishment of the graduate schools here. There was great opposition to establishment of a law school, medical school, all of those premier elements.

RVR: Sure. He wanted a law school.

MD: But Dad knew he got the college here. And now the challenge was up, not to academia, but to the students to perform. And their performance would demand that the other elements come in. And they have been gradual and they have been slow. But the university for many, many years, was an island here. They weren't involved in the community. There was no housing here. Until you started to get residential areas around here, whether it was associated with the university or not, there was no one here at night. You wouldn't walk through the campus at night. You'd buzz in and buzz out. So when it started to develop and people could live around here, then the university had to start to give up their battle. But when it first started, it was upstate versus downstate, “They're not going to destroy our system of UI with this one campus.” There was great, great resistance.

RVR: See, my own feeling is that when he came on campus, instead of our embracing the man who made us, the man who could do so much for us, they booed him!

MD: They alleged all of the time that he was trying to create another patronage army here in academia. And they made those accusations against him to the board of trustees. It was like, "Okay fine, he did this. Now he wants to fill the janitor's job. But he's going want to fill academia. And if someone disagrees with him, he'll say 'Fire them.'" He had no involvement with anything here.

RVR: No. That I knew.

MD: He had no involvement. Other people tried to and he stopped them. But he had no involvement at all. No. This was the prodigal child. You had to leave it alone [laughs]. Let it develop itself and do its own thing. It'll shake out in the end. And he knew also that the board of trustees was really forced into the decision. And if you went for too much too fast, they'd kill the whole thing. At one time, it was thought, "Well, let's sell it off and sell it to DePaul." Or, "Let's sell it off to Loyola. Let's get out of there." So they would have made an attempt. If you went too far right away, to get all of the graduate schools and everything, they would kill this campus and kill the university by saying that it was a failure, and sell it off to somebody else. They had a lot of vacant land, too, at that time [laughs]. It was getting better. So Dad knew that it would be done in little steps. It wasn't going to be done overnight. Fifty years is a short time in academia [laughs].

RVR: Yes [laughs].

MD: And also, Dad was very sensitive to the fact that you couldn't take it out of the system of the board of trustees and state control. It would always remain a state university. They wanted a city college here and turn it over to city colleges. Create that and let the city handle it. It would never reach the level that it's reached today in terms of prestige and graduate schools.

RVR: It is amazing the wisdom that he showed in handling what was a very difficult and sensitive situation that could have run out of control.

MD: And he kept involved. When it was built, he didn't walk away. He had scheduled meetings with people from the university and with people from the medical community over here. Now, they all attend a dedication and we won't talk for another two years. Oh no! He had to keep the lines of communication open. We had to meet. We had to talk and have lunch. We had to know each other. And he was very strong and insistent on that. And oftentimes, he would host. After Dr. Henry left, I'm trying to think of the other

president after Dr. Henry. John Corbally, he and Dad and Mom were very good friends. They used to socialize.

RVR: Did they?

MD: Yes. But he stayed involved. It was better to be little steps of progress than big steps.

RVR: You see, when we came, it was not only David Dodds Henry, but there was a provost. We couldn't hire anybody without getting the provost's approval. We wanted approval here. We wanted to just go to the chancellor and say, "I want to hire this historian." "Fine, do it. This is the salary," etc. No, it had to go down to Urbana. And that continued for several years.

MD: Oh yes. That's because they were looking for some indication that this was an attempt to take this away from the university. And if you did that, they'd win. That's because then downstate would say they were going to close all of the other campuses otherwise they would suffer a brain drain. And it would kill the campus here. It would kill the university. Dad used to say, "You don't argue with a religious person. You don't argue with a man's wife [RVR laughs]. And you don't argue with an academic, because you'll never win. They will survive you." [MD, RVR, and DWV laugh] But he saw the long-run. We used to tease him. We'd be discussing point one or two, and he'd be on six or seven [laughs], in our thinking about it. He was a very good planner. He really laid out courses. He stuck to them. But he always re-evaluated them. And there were changes made. There were times when he had great relations with the board of trustees, the governor, and the legislature. And as you know, that's very important to the university.

RVR: Absolutely.

MD: And also, with federal money. During the administration of Kennedy, the Johnson periods, and other administrations, there was a great need for research money in the

medical community over here. It was with the hospitals – science research and grants. And with his congressional rapport and senate rapport – he was involved with them – I dare say that if you added up the dollars over the years, he got more for the university than anyone [laughs]…that was his type of staying involved. You just didn't build it, then walk away and give it to somebody else. That's because there was great resentment initially with doing any type of housing around it, particularly for the professors.

RVR: Yes. And I think it's great that his papers are here. The library is known as the Richard J. Daley Library.

MD: Yes. He'd be very proud of that. That's why my mother made the papers and the memorabilia available for that.

RVR: And they did, finally, get a good archive to contain the papers.

MD: Yes. It's just taken us longer than we expected [laughs] to complete the job. We've been pushing, pushing, and pushing.

RVR: Look at what you've had to do.

MD: It's been a lot.

RVR: And we hope that all of the members of the family will want to add their papers. There's you, your brothers, and your sisters. I'm sure that they'll be properly taken care of, once you see to it.

MD: Bill has all of his papers here, all of his papers from being Secretary [of Commerce].

RVR: And hopefully, so will Richard M.

MD and RVR: And also John.

MD: Committeeman, state's attorney, legislative senator, and the house – there's a lot of history there. I would hope they would do it.

RVR: I would hope that you would, too.

MD: Well, my papers are more legal papers that are privileged to clients. I don't really have control over those papers.

RVR: Oh, if those are privileged, we don't want that. But as a member of the family, it seems to me that the working member of the family, as family….

MD: Oh, don't say that now. I get sensitive when people say that. My brothers and sisters have worked as hard as I have worked. And they continue to work as hard.

RVR: But don't they rely on you to take care of…?

MD: Well, we rely on Bob Vanecko and my daughter for a doctor. We rely on Pat for this. We rely on Rich for that. And Mary Carol, and John, and Bill, we all do our share. I think that was Mom and Dad's example. It's a team. It's work together, help each other, and stick together. It's no one person. And I really resent it when people say, "Well, Mike always does it." Or, "Mike always does this or the other thing."

RVR: I did that to say…

MD: No. But really, it's very sensitive to me.

RVR: And that's why the papers of the entire family need to be in the library.

MD: Yes. We've always helped each other. We've been very sensitive. I went through a very difficult period in my life when my sisters and brothers helped me. There was Mary

and my sister-in-law Loretta. There was my mother, my sister Eleanor, Pat, my brothers, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, and nieces. There were things that I couldn't do that they could do. So it's helping each other. I'll use the phrase, "Go with your heart. No one can judge you." [laughs].

RVR: Sure.

MD: And that's the way we work. I don't look at anyone as being the point person.

RVR: I needed to [ask].

MD: I'm sorry I barked off about it.

RVR: No. I wanted you to. I did that deliberately.

MD: I get sensitive to it.

RVR: I knew what you were going to say [MD and RVR laugh]. I thought that it should be part of the record. I want to go back and talk about your father's career. We can do that next time.

MD: Sure.

RVR: Are you up for lunch?

Interview paused

RVR: Well, we can continue. But no, I apologize.

MD: No. I'm very sensitive. There was an article…But there always is. They say, this one's the brightest, or this one's the richest, or the most powerful…

RVR: You're all quite different, too.

MD: Yes. We are.

RVR: You're a unique family.

MD: We had unique and great parents.

RVR: Who would ever think of Richard J. Daley as being a great parent? They think of him as a lot of other things.

MD: Yes.

RVR: But they don't know that side.

MD: No. And he was a great grandfather and a great father-in-law.

RVR: Was he a great grandfather?

MD: Oh yes. He loved the kids. He'd take them fruit and corn picking and fishing up in the country. He'd play games with them, down in the toolroom downstairs. He'd take them down to the beach.

RVR: Before he died, how many grandchildren did he have, would you say? There were your four.

MD: No. There was Bobby, Mark, R.J., Courtney, Peter, Patrick, Billy, Nora, and Beth knew him. See, he died in 1976. There would be the older ones. They were very young, though they remember him. He'd cook breakfast for them, hard-boiled eggs or oat meal. That was all he'd ever cook, hard-boiled eggs or oat meal [Laughs].

RVR: I remember your mother telling me about when you went up to Michigan at your place there. On Sundays, he'd go into the bakery and…

MD: Oh yes. He loved to go to the hardware store and the bakery.

RVR: And then he would leave it.

MD: He would leave it at the different houses. It was always coffee cake or rolls.

RVR: He was just like your mother. She always had Danish.

MD: Yes. You never knew who would…

RVR: This was when I came.

MD: You had to welcome someone. You'd have a roll, coffee, or a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. That was when they sat down. They loved to sit around and talk. They weren't cocktail people. They weren't much for that.

RVR: Or gossip.

MD: No. They really loved people. My mother's sisters would come over. Then their husbands would come after work and have dinner. Then they'd go home. I mean, it wasn't a turnstile, but they always welcomed people.

RVR: Yes.

MD: It was mostly their own immediate family. And they did a lot of things like that.

RVR: Did your mother do most of the cooking?

MD: Yes. She did a lot of the cooking. But she was prepared ahead. Then, in later years, she had someone help her. She usually had someone come in to help her do the laundry once a week. That lady would help her, but just to do the laundry. But my mother liked her house. She didn't want someone coming in and taking over her house. Even with the kitchen, that was her kitchen [MD and RVR laugh]. If she wanted the pepper here, it went here. If she wanted the salt there it went there.

RVR: She was a woman of her own mind.

MD: Yes. She was very strong about that.

RVR: I had the greatest admiration for her when she told me that John Quincy Adams was the sixth president of the United States. I almost fell to the floor. I said, "How did you know that?" She said, "I learned it in school."

MD: Oh, she was a big history buff. She quizzed the kids.

RVR: How many Americans would know that, even historians?

MD: Yes. Or if you asked what president was Lincoln. She'd always tell you how the streets were named downtown, Adams, Monroe, and the rest. And she'd say, "Now remember, this is your practice." This was when we'd take rides. And even the grandkids would take rides with her. She'd say, "We'll do the states now. Pick out the first letter that it starts with." Then you'd have to pick out the letter from the signs. She had those little scribble boards [RVR laughs]. She always loved those things. She loved to do those things with the kids. And she would always say, "Did you get registered? Are you voting? I've never missed an election all of my life. I've never missed a primary. I've never missed a general election." We'd call her the precinct captain of college. She'd call them all at the college or graduate school, wherever they were, if they were living out of town. She'd call them and say, "Did you register?" "Well, no." "Did you register where

you're living now? Get registered. If you're going to live there, register there. You're going to have to vote, in the primary." Then she'd call them and say, "Did you apply for your absentee ballot? Did you get it [RVR laughs]? I'm going to check on it." Did they turn in their ballot? She was like a precinct captain [laughs]. She thought that that was part of their civic responsibility. She thought it was a disgrace if you didn't vote, if you didn't go to the committee meeting. And if you didn't study or prepare for it, you had no right to stand up and complain.

RVR: It's true.

MD: You had no right to stand up and complain.

RVR: And so many people don't vote. They say, "Oh, I'm not going to vote. They're all crooks."

MD: Yes. Well, if you don't get involved, you can't complain. She was very, very close to all of us. She was a big part of our lives.

RVR: I was going to say, it must have been quite a blow to lose her.

MD: Yes.

MD: Dad was a shock.

RVR: And Ellie, I remember you telling me that.

MD: Yes. Eleanor was the biggest shock, other than losing Barbara, Kevin, and Richie. My grandfather was older. He was seventy-nine. There was an age gap. But Eleanor was shocking because Eleanor was always there. She was always with Mom. Mom was always with her. But also, Eleanor independently was always a part of all of our kids' lives because she was such a dedicated teacher. The kids would tell her, "Oh, I'm working

on something." The next thing you know, Eleanor would mail them a book about it. Or, they'd tell her about the first constitutional convention. Then, she'd get a book and send it, even to the grand nieces and nephews. She'd go to the library and she'd find something. She was just so happy that you were studying and working on a project. She'd find things for you and just send it to you or just drop it off at your house in an envelope – for the grandkids, or my girls, when they were working on some paper in grammar school or that. She'd say, "Oh, I have something. I have a book on that." There was that involvement. Mom was a big part of their lives. She was never "old" to them. She was fun.

RVR: Was your father still alive when Ellie died?

MD: No. Dad had been dead many years when Eleanor died.

RVR: I think your mother said that it's harder to bury a child.

MD: Yes. She often said that to other people too. Maggie and Rich did. Loretta and Bill did. They buried a son.

RVR: I've always remembered that too. It's a heartbreak.

MD: Yes it is. How do you deal with it the rest of your life? And you do. Someone said, "The only thing you do is get used to it." [laughs] You get used to it. There are no answers.

RVR: Well, you've had tragedy in your life.

MD: Everyone has, in some way or form. There are different degrees and you don't judge the degrees.

RVR: I don't mean to get so personal with you, if you don't mind.

MD: No. I don't.

[The camera is shut off briefly while MD, RVR, and DWV eat lunch]

RVR: The times when you and I have talked privately, when you've mentioned the campaign of 1960 or 1964, I think that there may be some insights that you have of your father.

MD: We remember when Dad became mayor that the conventions were here. He would always go and speak and welcome them to the city. We'd always get to go and see, whether it was a Republican or Democratic convention. I remember standing out on Union Avenue as President Eisenhower went by in this big, bubble limousine. He was a hero. He was a general. Everyone admired him. This was through bastions of Democratic wards and Democratic voters. And everyone was out with their American flags. But the first one that we went to was when we went in 1956. It was Kennedy's attempt to be the vice presidential nominee. Dad was very involved in that. But the first one that we really got involved in was with Kennedy in 1960. We all went out to L.A. We had met Senator Kennedy, who was a senator at that time. We'd met his dad a couple of times because he came into town and Dad knew him. They were very friendly. And we all took the train out to California, the Santa Fe Super Chief [laughs]. It took us two and a half days. It was a great ride and my mother enjoyed it because she didn't fly. I don't think my father enjoyed it that much [laughs]. It was a long, boring time for him. But we had a nice time. It was a real family trip, where it was just us. And we were out at the convention. There was a lot of resentment that Kennedy was so popular and was Catholic. I believe that Mr. Butler was the chairman of the Democratic Party. He was from South Bend. South Bend was not a Kennedy state – Indiana wasn't. South Bend particularly wasn't. There was a lot of contention. So they put us up in a dump of a hotel. It was really one of the worst hotels that they had in L.A. I mean, it was just open caged elevators. It was absolutely like they cleaned out an old dump of a house or hotel and put us in there. And it was sort of retaliation because Dad was really pushing Governor Lawrence and other people, and

Mayor Wagner, and other Democrats to line up behind Kennedy. This was our chance. Butler was with Mrs. Roosevelt and they wanted Stevenson. Although Stevenson had told Dad, and he was very emphatic, that he would never be the nominee again, and that he would never accept the nomination, nor would he be a stop candidate against Kennedy. So Dad took him at his word. Governor Stevenson and Mom and Dad were very, very good friends. And Mom and Dad were very good friends of his for all of the years. Dad went over with his sons to bring his body back from Europe when he died.

MD: Butler, I think, had a little retaliation against Dad. So Dad had made plans because he got wind of this and knew a little bit about it. He reserved another hotel and blocked it out [RVR laughs]. So we all marched out of the hotel. We didn't stay one night [laughs]. We all checked in. That way, the national party, I guess, was stuck with the bill, and they had to pay for the hotel [laughs]. Then we all left and went to another hotel. It was an extremely exciting convention. My mother had a tally sheet of the vote for Kennedy. That night at the convention, we were on the convention floor, Illinois was one of the largest delegations. But it was way back in the corner against the exit [laughs].

RVR: How old were you at the time?

MD: I was in high school. So I mean, it was really exciting for us. My sisters were excited because of Kennedy. We all were out there. These really were exciting days. We got to see Truman and hear him speak. We got to see Johnson, all of the national leaders, and all of the political leaders. One of the highlights was when Dad took us over to meet Mrs. Roosevelt. She wanted to talk to Dad. Dad was pushing Kennedy. There was a little fire going on for Stevenson. Dad said, "Fine. We'll come over." We all went over and we got to meet her. She was a big, tall lady. Really, I don't think I've ever seen a lady that tall. She had a little hat on [RVR laughs]. But she was very, very big person. So she went in and Dad met with her and everything else. We waited outside in the hallway. It was the only time I remember my dad, I don't mean being flippant or that….She said, "You know, Mr. Mayor, you sound like my sons." [laughs] He turned around, looked her right in the eye, and he said, "Maybe you should listen to your sons." [MD, RVR, and DWV laugh]

Oh, she straightened up. She didn't slam the door. But it wasn't open too long [MD, RVR, and DWV laugh]. But she was using Stevenson as a stop vote. The Roosevelts were not going to be outdone by the Kennedys and all of this stuff. Dad just went ahead and supported Kennedy. Mrs. Roosevelt came into the convention and got a standing ovation. It was very respectful, but it was quite obviously planned. Butler was chairing it and he was anti-Kennedy. He was the national chairman of the Democratic Party at that time. And there was a real split in the Democratic Party, not only the religious issue of Catholic, but also the North versus the South. The rules were changing. And the South – Kennedy being even with their seniority – didn't have the continued control in the Congress. They were losing their grip. They were losing it politically, too. There was the population shift from rural to urban, from north to south, and what not. So she came in and got a big ovation. But the band and the fanfare were all planned. Then Stevenson came in. He came over to the Illinois delegation. And they were trying to stampede the convention. We were right there. He said to Dad, "Dick, I'd like you to take the banner. Here, you carry it [MD laughs]. And he gave it to him [MD and RVR laugh]. Well, he wasn't too athletic. So he was looking for someone else to carry it. And they marched around with the Illinois banner and everything else. Dad was not going to make a big difference in it or a big flap over it, out of respect for Mrs. Roosevelt. Then Stevenson left the convention. He didn't stay. He did that only for Mrs. Roosevelt, sort of flexing your power or flexing your muscle. Then Kennedy went ahead and won the nomination. Then we all went to the big coliseum there, where they had the acceptance speech. It was the first time the acceptance speech happened outside the convention. It was the first time the media consultants to the candidates really planned everything. Kennedy came that night and he thanked the convention. But he didn't make a speech. Dad was insistent that he come and thank the delegates and those that worked for him on the convention floor. They did the media thing later, the big thing at the coliseum. So he did come to the convention floor that night. And he just thanked everybody, but he didn't make a speech. Eunice was with him. Then they left and went back to the hotel. The next day, they got to the big media event. That's where he spoke and made one of his best speeches, I think, at the coliseum. There were probably 50,000 people there. A lot of the "political people" thought that it was terrible. They all had their seats on the convention floor [laughs] and

they knew where they were going to be [RVR laughs]. They had their convention seats up in the balcony and they knew where they were going to be. They didn't like being reshuffled. Then Butler disappeared as the national chairman of the Democratic Party right after that [MD and RVR laugh]. It was a great time. We then took the train up from L.A. to San Francisco. We had never been out west. We took the train from San Francisco to Yellowstone Park and the Grand Canyon. Then we took the train back through Denver to Chicago. It was one of the longest trips we had as a family. But it was fun.

RVR: And you were all there, every member of the family?

MD: Yes. It was the longest trip we ever took together. Usually someone couldn't come or someone would miss it with their schedule, school events or what not. Those were the days. It sounds like I'm that old [RVR laughs]. But those days of the convention, that type, that era, every delegation caucused, and all of the candidates had to go to every delegation and speak. Under the rules, you had to accept them. You couldn't exclude them. They had to come and talk. So we got to see all of the presidential and vice presidential candidates. So at the 1960 convention, it was exciting and fun. It was a great time to grow up. And also, it was an era of change with the new, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." I mean, that was the philosophy. People were young. They were involved in government. They were proud of being in public service, like the Peace Corps and all of the other things that occurred. With the press conferences of Kennedy, we have some tapes and movies of him. They were art pieces, media performance, not only in appearance, intellect, and quality, but the fact that a president would hold a press conference and open it up for questions. Eisenhower would have his list of questions. Johnson was in 1960. Johnson was running in 1960.

RVR: It was 1964.

MD: No. It was against Kennedy in 1960, though at the convention. Oh yes, he was very much. He was the lead candidate against Kennedy, Johnson was. And that's what was so surprising after Kennedy defeated him. Kennedy made him his vice presidential candidate, because if he didn't have the South, he wouldn't have won, if the South didn't come in.

RVR: It was very close.

MD: It was a very close race. But it wasn't a landslide in the South. But it neutralized it in the South. And Chicago…

RVR: Reagan did the same thing when he chose George Herbert Walker Bush to be his vice president. And he was his leading opponent in the campaign, calling his ideas on taxes voodoo economics [MD and RVR laugh], if you remember that. But I can remember to this day where I was when Kennedy was elected. And we were waiting on Illinois. They blamed your father. Not blame, but they credited your father with seeing to it that Chicago came up with sufficient votes.

MD: Well, the accusations were that Illinois stole the election and that my father was stealing the election. The actual fact, if you go back and check the history of the election, was that the downstate returns were what came in late. The city was in. The county was in. It was downstate. When they came in, Dad challenged the statewide Republican Party on behalf of the Democratic Party to do a state-wide recount. He then wrote a letter to Nixon, not as president, but Nixon as the candidate – to his campaign – and asked if he would agree to a state-wide recount. If the Republican Party couldn't do it, or couldn't afford it, the Democrats would pay for it. "Could we have a recount?" Well, the state party told Nixon not to do that, that they didn't want a recount downstate. Well, they all backed off, in their interest. Let me tell you, if they could have won the election, they would have had the recount [RVR and DWV laugh]. They had more money. The Republican Party had more than the Democratic Party [RVR laughs]. They would have taken it. But they were very concerned about downstate. Dad had been informed of that

by some of the Democratic leadership downstate that there was some wholesale misvoting down there, inappropriate voting downstate. It was a big thing for Dad to do, to challenge and say, "I will pay. We will pay half the cost of a statewide." In those days, it would probably be $100,000. That would be a couple of million dollars today. So he always resented that, when they said that we stole the election. But Dad's friendship with Kennedy goes back to his father, and the friendship and the association that they had, Dad had with Ambassador Kennedy. It was how they communicated in the 1950's about the vice presidential nomination. Then, from that point on, they were all geared to the presidency. And it wasn't a religious thing for Dad. Dad just had great respect for his ability. He saw it as a new generation coming into politics, a new addition to politics. Some people try to portray it as if it were simply a Catholic issue to Dad, because he was very, very strong in his faith. But that really wasn't it.

MD: After the convention was over with, I think the only city that welcomed Lady Bird and Lyndon Johnson was Chicago. There was a parade and a big reception for the vice presidential candidate. Because of the civil rights history, a lot of people wouldn't have them as a guest or have a big political rally. Dad and Johnson really knew each other through Senator Dirksen. Dad used to go down to Washington and testify on behalf of legislation all of the time. He was never hesitant to do it. So he really got to know the members of the House and the Senate. So when 1960 came, Dad knew Johnson and respected him and Lady Bird. But he was for Kennedy, way out front. He made it known to everybody. I think one of the best things was with George McGovern, after Dad died. He said that he was the most honest person he ever visited when he was a candidate because he said that when he went in to see him he said, "I want you to know up front, I'm against you. And I'll do everything I can to defeat you." [MD and RVR laugh] But he said, "If you win, I'll support you."

RVR: That's fair enough.

MD: When he won the nomination, McGovern said this – it's in a book of quotes, I guess, about Dad – it's that it's the only city that McGovern won, Chicago.

RVR: Oh, is that right?

MD: Yes.

End of videotape 2

MD: Well, he expressed his opinion. He always expressed his opinion to them. He always communicated with them [RVR laughs]. He was a leader.

RVR: Right. He was the Democratic chairman.

MD: He was the city chairman. He was the county chairman. And his national prominence was as the President of the Mayor's Association and different groups. He was never hesitant. He didn't think there was anything wrong. Did he threaten anyone? Did he do something inappropriate, improper, or that? He was lobbying on behalf of what he believed in. And he was very strong on it. He didn't believe that if you were elected as a Democrat, supported by the Democratic Party who paid for your candidacy, and then you changed your positions and started voting the other way, he felt that if you were any type of a human being with self-respect, you should resign. And he often said that to them: "Well, if you feel that way, resign. You're no longer what we thought we elected." You know, they weren't anointed [laughs]. They were elected. They were elected with an agenda. The platform was the Democratic Party. The agenda was the Democratic Party. Now, if they're turning on it, they should resign. Let us nominate someone that supports what you were elected for. He didn't think that there was anything wrong with that. Some people think that there was [MD and RVR laugh]. I don't know.

RVR: And he was the head of the Democratic organization.

MD: Yes. And people forget that in the 1950's and the 1960's, all of the power was in Washington. We didn't have revenue sharing with the states. We didn't have a lot of the

funding going through the states. Everything was down in Congress, the Senate and the House. And if you didn't have an in down there, it would never go. That's because it would go directly to the cities. It didn't go through the states, all of these programs, the state's rights, and all of these others issues. At that time, everything was the federal government. And if they decided yes or no, that was the end of the line. There were no other appeals and no other dance floor [laughs]. But he wasn't hesitant. He'd lobby them or tell them what he thought. He'd tell them what he thought they should vote on. And if they didn't vote that way, he'd be opposing them.

RVR: You said earlier that you never heard your grandfather, big Mike, raise his voice.

MD: Yes. That's true.

RVR: Did you ever hear your father raise his voice?

MD: Yes I did, on TV [laughs]. But not at home.

RVR: He never did at home?

MD: No, he never did. And he never did on the phone or something. He really didn't conduct any business at home.

RVR: He could blow his cool, couldn't he?

MD: He would. But I never saw him do that at home. He never hollered at us or would blow-up like that. He had his rules in the house, too [laughs], like the rest of us. Mom wouldn't allow that. She didn't allow cursing, swearing, excessive drinking, or any of that stuff in her house.

RVR: Yes. Do you know what she said to him when he blew-up on TV?

MD: No. We didn't listen to those things. Normally, with Mom and Dad, I wouldn't say that they weren't open in front of us, but they had their discussions as husband and wife to themselves.

RVR: I'm just asking.

MD: It was not intentionally. I think that it was just that era. There wasn't that openness where you discuss everything with your three-year-old [laughs]. They talked as parents.

RVR: It's not as though when he walked in, she said, "Boy did you blow it honey!" [laughs]

MD: Oh yes. She said that a couple of times. That was always in jest. "I'm glad your blood pressure is down." Or, "did your hat catch on fire?" or something like that. But it seems like you see the same repetition of the same speech of the same event. There weren't many occasions where he really blew up. It wasn't every day. He didn't have a hot temper or a short fuse.

MD: There were times where he'd be more frustrated with the process rather than the system. It was phony. It was nothing. It wasn't sincere if someone was making a speech and knew something that he didn't disclose. And he'd always check everyone's credentials. They were just playing a media game for publicity. And they never showed up at committee meetings. And they never worked sincerely on the issues. He didn't have much taste for that. Those were the occasions when he really got mad [laughs]. But sometimes the media portrayed it like it was, every day, every day. It was very rare. During his time as mayor and in his public life, he held more press conferences than any other mayor. He was accessible every day. I mean, it was unbelievable. People said how he would be hiding out and things like that. He was more accessible to the press. But it was the written press and then TV with the big cameras. They couldn't move those in five minutes. They didn't have the mini cameras. You had to go. And it would take them a day to set it all up. He created the first pressroom there, in his office. And he was very, very

accessible to the press. Later in life, I think the press changed. I think it became, not regular coverage people, but more hit-and-run people. Independent contractors would sell their articles. They'd get paid by the paper. The paper would edit it and publish it. And oftentimes, they'd have to make it more sensational – play with it, or bend the truth a little bit. But then it was too late. The damage was done. I think that later in years, he lost his respect for the media, not individuals. He never got personal about anything. It's just that it was becoming more advertising. The paper was more concerned about selling ads than about their writers and the quality of their articles. And then he sort of said, "I'm not going to be a Hollywood star [laughs] at my age. Why should I bother?"

RVR: "I don't need this."

MD: No, it wasn't arrogance that "I don't need it" – it wasn't going to have any effect. "I'm not going to be their entertainment. I could be their whipping boy. So why should I be out there making myself available, because they're not going to write anything decent or fair about it." They were so prejudiced against it. But that was that era too.

RVR: Do you think at the end it bothered him that they were doing these things?

MD: No.

RVR: Not particularly?

MD: No. He could wash it off. That was one of the amazing assets he had. It would not bother him. There was a good phrase. My mother used to use it all of the time. "Don't let it bother you unless you respect the source. If you don't respect the source, why let it bother you? Why be bothered by that opinion?"

RVR: That's another good one.

MD: If you don't respect that entity, that newspaper, that writer, or source, why get upset? It's like someone crazy running down the street talking about you. You're going to run after them to correct them, when it doesn't mean anything? Everyone else thinks he's crazy [laughs]. I think that was more his attitude than anything else. Dad read the papers, watched the media news and what not. My mother was really a big paper reader, a lot of different papers, upstate and downstate, and what not.

RVR: Oh she did?

MD: Oh yes. She read quite a few. She was a great clipper [laughs]. We have mounds of her paper clips [laughs], the articles that she cut out over the years.

RVR: Is that part of the collection?

MD: Yes it is. There's a lot more than we expected [RVR laughs]. I think it never shook them. The only time I saw them was with the security issues of the 1960's. My mother was not prone to want a bodyguard or a driver. The threat was communicated by the Secret Service, the FBI, and the Attorney General's office. That really bothered my dad. He became very concerned about his safety and my mother's safety particularly. He didn't want her to go out of the house. He put an alarm system in. He was very, very concerned, and concerned for us. They had to know where we were going, what we were doing, and who we were with, just to be careful. But particularly for my mother, he was very, very concerned. He didn't want her to be alone at all. A couple of time, I guess it happened. Some people had recognized her and started screaming in the store or something. It was that time. But it didn't bother her. It bothered my dad more than her [laughs]. And that sort of changed things.

RVR: Was there ever a time when either of them was deeply offended, by some action or some word, by somebody else, that you know of? Was there anything that really hurt them?

MD: Well, I think when they would try to portray them as prejudiced people, that Bridgeport was a prejudiced neighborhood. I think that personally offended them because they were very religious people and very open people. We never heard profanities about ethnic groups in our house. My mother would stop anyone. She'd stop them. She didn't care who it was. She'd stop them. They didn't tolerate it. They lived their lives. They didn't go out standing on a street corner preaching because they didn't think that was there position. As I think of all the things, that's probably the one thing that really, really bothered them, that Dad went about courses to segregate the city and build housing to separate this neighborhood from that.

RVR: There was the expressway.

MD: Some people thought the expressway was put there to divide it. I mean, like it was a great plot? That they found very, very offensive. And it hurt them. I think it really hurt them. That probably more than any other thing.

RVR: After your father died, these various books were written about him. Was that offensive to your mother? Did she find it…?

MD: We always knew, and Dad was very clear, that it was controversial to be a leader. You make a decision for someone and against someone. You try to walk away with the decision that both sides will respect you for [because of the] the process you've gone through. You can't agree to both, otherwise you don't have a decision. And I think that it was the processes he went through, the process of being fair to each side. It was what he thought - but not in a grandfather way - in the best interest. People forget what those areas east of the Dan Ryan were like in the 1950's and the 1960's. They were the worst slums. There was fire after fire. Kids would die. Families would die. There were wooden huts and dirt alleys. I went to De La Salle over there. And those areas were very poor, filled with migrants that came up from the South. They were fleeing the prejudices of the South and the lack of hope and future in the South. But they portray Dad as the great designer of high rise housing and that was his way. Every university sociologist said – it's

like east Lake Shore Drive, the high-rises, the running water – this was the way to go. Then, they flipped their position [laughs]. And then they blamed him. They said that he forced it. It actually came about because in the Eisenhower era, the land clearance money was based upon values from the South. And Dad could no way clear the land of an urban area. In the South, the housing projects are spread over acres and acres of land, no high-rises. That's because they could afford to buy the land cheap and spread it out. And they're all like town-houses or two-story units. In the North, you couldn't clear the land. And this was during the Eisenhower period, when the southern congressmen and senators still controlled the chairmanships and everything else. Dad went down several times to try and get more money for northern cities and they didn't want to do it. So the only way they could afford to replace the slums was to go high-rise. It was temporary housing. It was never meant to be permanent. But I think it was the prejudice thing more than anything else.

RVR: I hope you don't mind my asking.

MD: No, it doesn't bother me. It'll be interesting to see what my brothers and sisters think [laughs], if you ask them the same question. You should write out your questions for the interview [MD and RVR laugh]. You could compare us [MD and RVR laugh]. You could do an analysis of all of us [laughs].

RVR: That might be interesting.

MD: It would be a track record [laughs].

RVR: I try to make them different.

MD: I know.

RVR: A lot of the things you said I heard from Pat. That's because she could tell when she lived next door, after she was married. She had left the convent, of course, had a family, and had children.

MD: But somehow when Dad came in the house, it was a unique thing. He shut the door. He wasn't the mayor. He wasn't a political leader. He was really father and friend. And our house was always a calm house. It was never pandemonium and everything else. So it was always relaxed. I don't ever remember him ranting and raving in the house, screaming on the phone, or stuff like that. He just didn't. It wasn't an atmosphere for that. You'd see him on TV. There had been a couple of speeches where he'd get, as my mother would say, "Carried away?" [MD and RVR laugh] He'd get carried away.

RVR: It was her nice way of saying, you lost your cool.

MD: Yes [MD and RVR laugh]. That was her way to say that he got carried away. But I think it was the prejudice issue and the idea that he was a great plotter against minorities [that bothered him most]. If you go and look at his legislative record, which I'm sure you could research, this was the first city that passed an open housing ordinance. Two aldermen lost their election over that in this city.

RVR: I think they've done a survey of the mayors of the entire country, throughout our history. He is one of the top five. When you get in that position, you become a target.

MD: Yes.

RVR: Anything they find out, something that can…

MD: Knock you off the list [laughs]. I think from our perspective, people always want to focus on politics. We were always aware of his ability on budget and revenue and his reviewing it. He'd take that budget and the drafts of the budget. He'd go down to his office at home. You'd hear the pad and he'd be calculating. The work he did on managing

government and the work he did as an executive had nothing to do with politics. And the second part of that was the quality of his staff. He brought very young people into government that worked for him. He brought people that were extremely competent and creative in those areas that today, after government service, are prominent in many, many fields. I mean, he had a great staff around him. And they really did great work for the city. When you look at what the city was like when Dad became the mayor and you look at pictures of it, the city was on its way down to the bottom.

RVR: Cities were going bankrupt.

MD: All of a sudden, he created this alliance between business, labor, and government and said, "If we all don't work together…" And that permeated his career. "Let's work together, labor, union, and business leaders." Whether it was a national issue or a local issue, let's work together. All of a sudden, it created this "I will" spirit. It moved Chicago ahead – this community conscience and this balance of conscience that really was unique. He worked awfully hard at it. He used to have breakfast at the Blackstone Hotel. I think it's closed now. It was on Michigan. He would go twice a week and meet with different department heads about the budget.

RVR: Wasn't the headquarters there?

MD: No. The Blackstone was on Michigan across from the Hilton. The Morrison Hotel was where the Chase Bank is now at Madison. That's where the headquarters was. Then that closed. Then they moved over to the Sherman House, which was where the State of Illinois building is today. The Democratic headquarters was there. Then they moved from the Sherman House to the one that was at the LaSalle Hotel, at LaSalle and Madison. Avery Brundage, the Olympics leader, owned that hotel. His office was there. In fact, where the Democratic Party moved into was his office. It was a big, oval office with a big Olympic thing on the ceiling, from Avery Brundage. Then that was sold for an office building. And they moved over to the Bismarck. They're still there at the Bismarck Hotel. But I don't think it's called the Bismarck. It's something else [RVR laughs].

MD and RVR: It's 1:00 p.m.

MD: That's good for me.

RVR: This has been great. Thank you very much.

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