

## **FIRST YEARS IN THE SENATE**

### **Interview #1**

**Wednesday, June 3, 1992**

**RITCHIE:** What is your home town?

**SCOTT:** I was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. My mother and dad were divorced, and my mother had remarried just about five months before she passed on. My mother's death, at forty-two, was very sudden. After she passed on I came down to Washington to live with my father, who had established a home here. He was a salesman for the National Cash Register Company. [\*see note on page 70]

**RITCHIE:** How old were you then?

**SCOTT:** I was fourteen. It was the day after my fourteenth birthday that she passed on. So I came down to live with my father, and went to school here, Paul Junior High School, and graduated from Montgomery Blair High School. Then I went to the Washington School for Secretaries and graduated as an honor student there. That was just about at the beginning of the Second World War, and I took the Civil Service exam, which I remember very well. They had a great big room with about seventy-five typewriters when you took the typing test, and they had about the same number when you took the shorthand test. I received my first official appointment, because that was the way I got on the Civil Service

Register. I don't know if you want me to go into much detail on that part, that's so early.

**RITCHIE:** Yes, I would. But before that I was interested in what your first reaction to Washington, D.C. was, after growing up in Philadelphia.

**SCOTT:** Oh, I was so excited. I had been here with my mother and step-father on a trip one time. I remember so well when we were driving around the Capitol grounds and we got lost! [laughs] Then we were going around and around, being unfamiliar with it. I remember we stayed at the Carlton, and I thought it was so exciting. Since I was that age I got one of the little banks that they had in the shape of the White House and another in the shape of the Capitol, never realizing that I'd spend thirty-one years working at the Senate.

Anyway, after I passed the Civil Service exams, I got my first appointment, which of all things was night work. It was for the Civil Service Commission's examining division. That was night work, but of course I was all thrilled to be a government employee. I worked from four o'clock to eleven thirty. Those were awful hours, because all I could do was go home and sleep and get ready for the next day. I only did that for a month and a half, and then I was transferred from that register to the Department of Agriculture. After that, I was there for a while and then I received my first permanent appointment for the War Department. I

spent nearly five years there. I worked for the Caribbean Division of the Army Corps of Engineers, and the whole office moved from Washington to New York City, so I lived up in Douglaston, Long Island. My dad in the meantime had been transferred up there, which was fortunate, so we rented our house here.

**RITCHIE:** I guess they were moving out the non-military . . .

**SCOTT:** Field offices, yes. And we were in charge of building bases. I was up there at the time of Pearl Harbor, which was very memorable. The day after Pearl Harbor, all the different officers who had all had civilian clothes on until that time all came in in uniform. All of a sudden I realized I was in the War Department.

I remember very well going for a walk with my father from our home in Douglaston, Long Island the day Sir Winston Churchill made his famous Dunkirk speech. We had taken along a small portable radio and paused to sit on some rocks and listen to him, while looking down at the skyline of New York City. I realized I was a War Department employee and felt a wave of patriotism, hoping my efforts would help our war effort.

About two days after Pearl Harbor, we had a fake air raid warning in New York. I had gone out to lunch, and policemen rushed all the people walking along into doorways of buildings. There had been a report that both New York City and Los Angeles would be bombed simultaneously. It only lasted a few minutes but made me

late getting back to my office. We were located on the 17th floor of the Westinghouse Building, at 150 Broadway. A couple of days later we heard a series of sharp firings right in our office. My boss, Mr. Merrick, was Assistant Chief of the Engineering Division, Caribbean Division, Corps of Engineers. He said, "Are they going to bomb us right in the middle of dictation?" It turned out the shots were from some anti-aircraft guns on one of the ships in the harbor. The next day there were pictures in the newspapers of a building near ours which had a cornice shot off.

On New Year's Eve after Pearl Harbor, Mayor LaGuardia of New York had requested that people refrain from coming to the annual New Year's Eve celebration at Times Square and Broadway. My father's sister and brother-in-law from Philadelphia came up to see us and we went several places and of course ended up at midnight right there, with thousands of others. It was kind of scary, though, because we didn't know what would happen. They had ambulances parked there and of course the "brown out" was in effect. All the traffic lights were only lighted with a cross. After that, New York had a "black out" with buildings and homes darkened.

We worked long hours in those days—many times through Saturdays and Sundays, with no breaks. Every time my boss would bring me a bag of candy when he returned from lunch, I knew that was a bad sign. We'd be in late. I had one assistant at that time.

Soon after our office was established in New York an order came through that we had to have identification cards with our photographs on them. We had a new security officer and he strictly enforced the order. I had been part of the office staff before we moved from Washington to New York before anything like that was required. One day soon after its issuance, I came to work without my badge, all the way from Douglaston, Long Island, to lower Broadway. I had to take the train back to Douglaston and get my badge. I had lunch while I was at home, and went back to the office a second time! When I arrived my boss said, "I didn't think you'd come back again—I thought you'd go and play golf or something!" Needless to say I felt dizzy going back and forth, and was exhausted after I made trip number 4 home that night. (I was reminded of that experience several years later when I made three airplane trips from Washington to Mount Vernon, New York and back in one day, to get Frank's mother and bring her back to visit him here.)

I used to initiate a lot of correspondence myself and one day I received a letter with four blueprints, for an air tower at own of our bases. I blithely sent one of each blueprint to our four field offices, at Bermuda, Trinidad, Jamaica and Puerto Rico. It turned out the four blueprints were all for *one* air tower, so each office received a blueprint for a different part of the tower! It was quite a mistake and I confessed it to my boss, trembling I'm sure. He thought it was hilarious and we sent follow-up letters correcting it all with one word "inadvertently" (sent out).

Then I transferred back, still in the War Department, to the Price Adjustment Division of the office of the Chief of Engineers, so that was back here. I worked there, and my boss was Harry Loving, who was the head of the renegotiations section, which they called the price adjustment section. That was real interesting because we got back lots and lots of money that had been paid to contractors in the war effort, because people were so afraid we had to get going on the war effort and they were giving these great big salaries. Finally there was a Renegotiation Act, which Congress had passed, that allowed us to get back excessive profits. We were able to do that, and my boss was in charge of the division which included all the branch offices of the Engineer Corps throughout the United States. It was quite an assignment. We did get back quite a lot of money for the continuation of the war effort, and my boss received an exceptional civilian service citation from the assistant chief of engineers. He had been given an offer of a colonelcy, but he didn't want it. He wanted to be just a civilian so he could leave when he wanted to. That was Harry Loving, and I worked for him until he left. Then Colonel Seiple took over his position.

At that point, the war was just about winding down, and I wanted to get into private industry. I thought that would be better. I was offered a position as administrative assistant to the board of directors of the Aerodynamic Research Corporation, which was supposed to be a coming thing. I felt it had a great future. It was an air wing from which airplanes would be launched.

It was really going to be quite something. I received this offer, but I couldn't get out of the War Department! They had a freeze going at that time. I tried for three months to get out of the War Department. I had to go to the personnel division of the Corps of Engineers. Then I had to go to the head War Department personnel division, then the War Manpower Commission—if you can imagine this!—trying to get out. The only way they would let an employee go would be for illness or death, or if a person had to follow her spouse to a new job in a new city, or the third thing was utilization of abilities, and that was what I based my request for release on, with the assistance and guidance of one of the lawyers in the new Aerodynamic Research Corporation. I tried so hard to get out all that time, it was just terrible.

In the meantime, I was offered a position with General Farrell, who had been brought back from the European Theater of Operations to assist General Leslie R. Groves, the head of the atomic bomb project. We called that the Manhattan District, it was right down the hall from my office. Of course, it was a big secret. General Farrell would have been his assistant, and I was supposed to be General Farrell's secretary, so I would have been working on the bomb without knowing it. When that happened, I remember so well that General Groves' secretary told me about it, that she had known all the time but he hadn't even told his wife.

I tried all that time to get out of the War Department, and I finally was able to get out and went to this Aerodynamic Research Corporation. I was there for a while and then right after that

Betty Euler, her name was then, she's now Betty Rowell—she was Mr. [Leslie] Biffle's secretary—said that Mr. Biffle had been elected Secretary of the Senate and his former job, Secretary for the Majority, was open and there was going to be an election for it, and the person who took that job would need a secretary. She had known me, and a little bit about my experience in the past, and she was a sorority sister. So it was through Betty that I was brought to be interviewed by Mr. [Felton] Johnston.

After Mr. Johnston interviewed me he sent me down to Mr. Biffle's office so he could see me, too. It was a charming way to be interviewed. Mr. Biffle had as his guest for coffee in the conference room Senator Carl Hatch of New Mexico. So he asked Betty to come in, too, and we all had coffee. I told them it reminded me of a currently popular Washington radio program with Eddie Galaher, at that time, called "Coffee with Congress."

Mr. Johnston had just run against six other people; that was a real election then for Secretary of the Majority. I don't think that's happened since. When I came into that job, the Democratic Conference minutes were written by hand in a book with purple ink—I'd love to know where that is now.

**RITCHIE:** I don't know about the handwritten copy, but there is a typed copy.

**SCOTT:** After that they did start typing it. After we started working on it I started typing it. But the original book

was in purple ink. Anyway, Mr. Johnston was elected Secretary for the Majority and he had been with the State Department, and he had interviewed other people (some from the State Department), but I was fortunate that he picked me. So that's how I came to the Capitol in 1945.

**RITCHIE:** What was Washington like during World War II?

**SCOTT:** Oh, it was really something. I remember it very well. I was at the War Department at 21st and Virginia Avenue, and you'd have lines for everything. You'd have lines for the buses, you'd have lines when you went to lunch, you'd have lines to buy anything. And of course, at that time hose were hard to get—nylon stockings—and that was one of the things we had to worry about. But it was a long haul. Of course it was exciting and stimulating, and being with the War Department we were right there in the war effort. Then when I was in New York, that was interesting too, since that was right after Pearl Harbor. When I came back, everything was all charged up.

**RITCHIE:** A lot of people coming in and crowding everything up, I gather.

**SCOTT:** Yes. At the War Department at 21st and Virginia we had some interesting people come. We really felt we had our finger on the pulse of the war effort, and the fact that we were able to

get so much money back through the renegotiations. And of course we had all our people from our branch offices whom we trained. At that time I met some people—Mr. Loving had been secretary of the North and South Carolinas' branch of the Associated General Contractors, and that's why he was chosen for that job, because he knew construction and he knew people who had the expertise. This is why, of course, they had gotten the big contracts. In some cases, some of the sons of the owners were put on salary from the payroll, and this is how they cut off some of this, so that they were able to get more money back. At that time Del Webb—you've heard of Del Webb, of course—who I think has passed on now, but he was one of the people whom we renegotiated with so much, because he had so many contracts. He was practically like a staff member of our organization; he was in there so much we got to be real good friends with him. He has opened different Sun Cities and different hotels, leisure worlds, motels, etc. all out west. There's a new leisure world development just coming to Palm Springs now; there are signs that they're just starting one out there. Of course, I think he's passed on now, but he was one of the regular contractors. We met a lot of the big contractors that way. So that was my early War Department experience. I'm complimented that you want to hear about my experiences before the Senate!

**RITCHIE:** Oh, yes. I'm curious about people's backgrounds before they came to work up here, what shaped them along the way.

You had a chance to see the government at work very closely at that point.

**SCOTT:** Yes, I did, at the War Department. I like to say, had I stayed in the War Department it would have been interesting to have worked with General Farrell and General Groves, but I had no idea—we knew it was the Manhattan District, that was the secret word for it down the hall. But when I received this opportunity to come to the Capitol, I thought that would be very exciting. It turned out to be a long haul [laughs], which I enjoyed.

**RITCHIE:** Can you tell me a little about Felton Johnston?

**SCOTT:** Yes, he graduated from Old Miss University in Mississippi. Senator Pat Harrison at that time evidently would spot some of the outstanding graduates, and Mr. Johnston was among them. He brought him to Washington to work in his office. After that he worked for the Senate Finance Committee, he became the Chief Clerk of the Senate Finance Committee, then he went down to the State Department where he was special assistant to Dean Acheson, when Dean Acheson was Under Secretary of State. That was when Jimmy Byrnes was Secretary of State. After that, he worked for the State Department on Congressional liaison with the Hill.

He had a brief military career. I believe he was stationed in Monmouth, New Jersey, in charge of—of all things—a contingent of WAACS. Years later, when he retired, Senator Milton Young paid a

tribute to him in the *Congressional Record*, and commended him for joining the army during the war and serving his country "with a full measure of devotion." Then when Mr. Biffle was elected Secretary of the Senate, the opening occurred in the office of Secretary for the Majority and he ran against these other people. That was his background.

He was there from '45 to '65, and he retired in '65. A little while before his retirement there was a lovely reception for him, where there were over seven hundred people, I remember that very well. They had a special committee to work it out. Senator [Scott] Lucas who had been Majority Leader was prominent in that. It was a wonderful evening. Bob Brenkworth was one of the members of the committee, and Senator [Earle] Clements, and President [Lyndon] Johnson came with Lady Bird. I have a lot pictures out in California that I don't have here.

A little highlight of my service with Mr. Johnston when he was Secretary for the Majority was when Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip came to the Capitol. Betty Euler in Mr. Biffle's office had called me and suggested that I go over to the Senate gallery. She escorted them onto the Senate floor. The Queen walked first, very petite and slim in a lovely dress with matching coat, and Philip walked behind with his hands held behind his back.

**RITCHIE:** What type of a person was Johnson to work for?

**SCOTT:** Mr. Johnston, with a "t"--Skeeter. Well, he was very interesting. I felt like I really got to know him very well. He used to say I knew him better than anyone in the world except his wife. I think very few people got to know him well, because he would keep you at arms length. Walter Watt, who was a good friend of mine, used to call him "Laughing Boy," because he would look mad all the time. [laughs] He really did. He was very serious, and he worked very, very hard. He wasn't relaxed, I think. He was a very hard worker and very, very conservative, and very thorough, he really, truly was. Very conscientious. But he wasn't real easy and friendly and relaxed, do you know what I mean? He finally would be relaxed when you knew him well, and I knew him and his family very well. But he was a little hard to know and a little distant. One person who was devoted to him was LBJ, he thought the world of him. And he was in our office practically every day. I think that he felt very, very close to Mr. Johnston. When LBJ had a serious heart attack, Mr. Johnston was there just immediately. Then I remember so well another little incident when Mr. Johnston's wife, Wanda, had a brain tumor operation. So many of the Senators wrote letters to Mr. Johnston during the hours that the operation was going on—it was a long, long operation, and very serious. They would send their letters to me and I'd have them delivered to the hospital. A lot of the Senators felt very close to him.

One other little thing, on his fiftieth birthday he had a luncheon himself. We used to have the luncheons in our dining room—the Policy Committee, and a lot of the Senators and so on.

Mr. Johnston had his birthday luncheon there. I had gotten together a book, "This Is Your Life," which I made into a great big scrapbook. I went down to the office on Saturday afternoons and Sundays to work on it so he couldn't see it. I had obtained his baby pictures; I had gotten their wedding picture from Mrs. Johnston, together with his letters to Santa Claus, and a lot of the letters which the Senators sent during the time when Mrs. Johnston had the operation, and a lot of other different things. So I asked LBJ if he would give it to him, if he would do the actual presentation to him at the luncheon. He said he would, and he seemed very interested. Before he presented it, he took a long time reading through the book. One thing I didn't do, I was going to have one of the photographers—maybe George Tames or somebody—come and take pictures of Senator Johnson presenting him with the book. But Mr. Johnston was kind of humble in a way, he never was pushy, and I was afraid it might embarrass him. To have LBJ present it was nice, but to have a picture of it—I thought, "Uh-oh, he won't like this," because he was so conservative. So I didn't do it. After the luncheon was over I remember he said he liked the book, (we were talking about it), and he said how nice it was to have LBJ present it, and I said I was going to have a picture made but I was afraid he'd get embarrassed. And he said, "Oh, it would have been nice." [laughs] So I was real sorry. But the large reception I mentioned earlier was a lovely tribute and very gratifying to him (and to me). (Incidentally, I made another scrapbook, with photographs and copies of the speeches, etc. for

him to mark that occasion, too.) Pretty soon after that he retired.

I knew his family very well. There were two other little occasions. One of them was when his son was in the air force out in Texas. Mr. and Mrs. Johnston had an anniversary. I think it was a thirtieth anniversary, and had a great big party at the Metropolitan Club. His son came back for it, and that was an outstanding affair and Mrs. Johnston was so thrilled to have their son attend. They had another one, which was a twenty-fifth anniversary, and they had a lot of lovely gifts from the Senators. Then there was one time they had a dinner party at the time of the Kennedy-Nixon debates. This also I remember because it was so unusual. Everybody there, of course, was interested in the debates, and they had a private room plus a little reception room for cocktails first. Well, after the cocktails were over and we went into the dining room, (it was a formal dinner), of all things Mr. Johnston had them bring in a television set to watch the debates! [laughs] Mrs. Johnston was incensed, because it spoiled any table conversation during the dinner, and yet of course he was trying to accommodate everybody. He knew the Senators there and everybody would be interested in the debates, and they would be so upset if they missed them by coming to the dinner. So this kind of tells you a little bit about how he was so thorough and so thoughtful.

One time we had a visit from Under Secretary of State Dean Acheson, with whom Mr. Johnston had worked in the State Department.

I thought he was very distinguished looking and charming. He had the air of an Englishman. His visit to our office was like that of a visiting celebrity. Mr. Johnston entertained him and his son (who looked just like him) at his home one time and I enjoyed talking with both of them.

I'll tell you one other thing about Mr. Johnston. The roll-call votes at that time were so important, and every time we had a roll-call vote we had to make an announcement for the Majority Leader to present to the Senate, as to the absences of the Democratic Senators, why they weren't there, and if possible their positions, how they would vote. Then of course we had pairs and "live pairs." That's a little parliamentary arrangement where the person with a general pair would always let his name be announced if he was on the other side of the vote. Then the live pairs would be used if the senator who gave the live pair would withhold his vote and let the other senator go ahead and vote. We had to do that for every single roll-call vote. Of course, sometimes there were many, many of those, and lots of times at night, after a long session, it would just be hours after the bell's rang, after the session was over, that Mr. Johnston and I would still be there working. We wanted to get the positions of the Senators from their offices, if they were away, in order to protect them for their voting records, which of course were important for their reelection. Like I say, he was very meticulous about that, and worked so hard on the roll-call votes, sometimes hours afterwards to get every senator's position announced.

**RITCHIE:** What were your responsibilities in his office?

**SCOTT:** When he was Secretary of the Majority?

**RITCHIE:** Yes.

**SCOTT:** The primary function of our office was to serve all Democratic Senators. We carried out all requests and answered all inquiries of the Democratic Senators and their staffs—which required knowledge of the status of pending legislation, scheduling of the agenda of the Senate each day, parliamentary procedures followed on the Senate floor, and sources of information (in directing the staffs of newly-elected Senators).

We also prepared floor charts in connection with each change in the seating arrangement of Democratic Senators' desks on the Senate floor, after consulting with each of them. These were the printed seating diagrams of the Senate.

We compiled material for the confidential directories of Senators' residences in Washington.

We notified all Senate committees of scheduled calendar calls, as well as the offices of those Democratic Senators personally interested in particular bills on the calendar.

We prepared voting records of both Democratic and Republican Senators for current sessions, or for the entire service of the Senator involved, in some cases going back for many years. The compilation of these records was considered confidential, and was

done at the request of a particular Senator or the National Democratic Committee, for use in campaign work. We made them up for all those Senators running for reelection.

We took care of notices and telephone reminders in connection with Democratic Conferences, Democratic Policy Committee Meetings, and Democratic Steering Committee meetings. Mr. Johnston dictated minutes of these meetings to me.

I tried to handle all inquiries about pending legislation and the Senate program personally, without referral to Mr. Johnston. In this connection I tried to keep up with all action on the floor. (I carried this procedure on to the office of the Secretary of the Senate when Mr. Johnston was elected to that office, training my assistants to do the same. We were furnished copies of bills, amendments and roll-call votes as they occurred.)

I also assisted Mr. Johnston when he served at two Democratic National Conventions as Secretary of the Committee on Platform and Resolutions. This consisted in scheduling witnesses for the hearings, and all secretarial and reception work in the actual drafting of the Democratic Platform—before, during, and after the convention. I also assisted Mr. Johnston during the period when he served on the Speakers Bureau of the Democratic National Committee in connection with the campaign.

I performed the same duties for Bobby Baker at the National Convention in Chicago in 1956 when Mr. Johnston declined appointment as for the Platform Committee, and Bobby served in his place. (I might add that during these days when we had night

sessions the Senators would nap all over. One day Mr. Johnston called and told me not to come to the office as Senator Vandenberg was sleeping there. I had to call him at the cloakroom when I got to work.)

The roll-call votes, which I mentioned, were filed in file cabinets down on the Senate floor, next to his roll-top desk. You remember, there's one roll-top desk on each side of the chamber, and then there were files down there. For the individual voting records we had great big long legal-sized sheets with the listing of each vote, how it turned out, the date, and the result, and what it was on, what it would do. Then I had a column on the side which would give that particular senator's answer, "yea" or "nay," on every one of these votes. So when you stop and think of it there were hundreds of votes.

Then at that time too, when Mr. Biffle was Secretary of the Senate, sometimes during night sessions his staff would leave, and then I had to stay anyway, because we had to do all these announcements for every roll-call vote. So they would have me come down to Mr. Biffle's office and stay there when their girls would leave. So I did reception work in Mr. Biffle's office as Secretary of the Senate while Mr. Johnston was Secretary of the Majority. That's how I kind of got my training, a little bit, in the Secretary's office, because I'd be there at night, and I had to stay anyway.

One other thing I could mention about Mr. Johnston that tells a little bit about his character: Back when Bobby Baker had the

opening of the Carousel Motel down in Ocean City, Mr. Johnston was invited, and my two assistants and I were invited, Rose Ann Cosgrove—she was then—and Christine Johnson, and other friends of mine. We were all friends of Bobby's. I had known Bobby from the time he was a page. We went, but Mr. Johnston refused to go. He wouldn't go. I think it was a little bit worrisome to him, and I think he was right because I think that was the beginning of Bobby's financial troubles. That gets into Bobby Baker a little, I don't know whether you want to go into that?

**RITCHIE:** Sure, and we'll come back to him again later.

**SCOTT:** We were taken down on separate buses. It was really done beautifully. On each bus there was a bar and they had refreshments all the way down. We stopped halfway for lunch. I remember Perle Mesta was there in a private limousine. I think she was with Bess Abell, who was Senator Clement's daughter, who later worked for Lady Bird. We stopped for lunch and then we got back on the buses again and went on down, and then everybody could either go to a little cocktail party reception that was going on or to the beach. Some friends and I put our bathing suits on and went down to the beach. Then they had a fashion show going on on the beach. This went on all day long. LBJ came and Lady Bird came. I remember we ran into Lady Bird back in the ladies' room, when some of the girls were changing into their bathing suits, and how cordial she was. Donald Dawson was there with his wife Ilona

Massey. Senator [Howard] Cannon was one of the Senators who was there. But Mr. Johnston had stayed away from that. I think he just didn't feel it was quite right to be associated with it.

This kind of shows, I think, that maybe he was more perceptive about Bobby, because he had trained Bobby. He had appointed Bobby. Mr. Walker Totty had been Assistant Secretary for the Majority. He was appointed by Senator [Kenneth] McKellar of Tennessee. Bobby was the head of the Democratic page boys, and Bobby I think did a real good job, more so than Mr. Totty, who was slowing down. So when Mr. Totty left, when he retired, Mr. Johnston appointed Bobby as Assistant Secretary for the Majority, and he taught Bobby quite a lot of things about the running of the floor, and he was very good. But I think that Mr. Johnston realized that Bobby was getting in too deep in some of these financial arrangements, particularly about the Carousel. So that part is just a little bit about Mr. Johnston and his relationship with Bobby. But he did train him.

I don't know whether you read Bobby's book, *Wheeling and Dealing on Capitol Hill*. He didn't mention much about Mr. Johnston at all, which I felt kind of sorry about, because he trained him. As a matter of fact, when Mr. Johnston was elected Secretary of the Senate, and Bobby was elected Secretary for the Majority, LBJ, who was then the Senate Leader and close to Mr. Johnston, told Mr. Johnston to kind of keep an eye on Bobby's work, and really actually to kind of watch him, to be sure he was doing a good job, and oversee his whole job. So LBJ realized that Mr. Johnston had

trained Bobby. So Mr. Johnston was doing a job and a half at that point. He was Secretary of the Senate, plus he was watching Bobby's work on the floor, and seeing that he was doing the same kind of job that he had done when he was Secretary for the Majority, which had been for about ten years.

**RITCHIE:** You mentioned earlier Leslie Biffle. Could you tell me a little bit about him.

**SCOTT:** Yes, he was just a very unusual person. I knew him through my association with Betty Euler, and Betty Kraus, and Juliette Tucker. I was very close to their office because Mr. Johnston was not exactly his protege, but they were very close too, Mr. Johnston and Mr. Biffle. The day that I came down after I was hired, it was a holiday, Armistice Day, and I came to Mr. Biffle's office at Mr. Johnston's request, and Senator Alben Barkley, who was then Senate Majority Leader, was there. Mr. Biffle was very nice and cordial and everything like that, and I met him then. I think he worked very hard.

He had an interesting way of speaking so softly with his hand cupped over his mouth to the Senators as he would walk around the floor, and nobody else even knew he had said a word. But he was keeping a tab on everything. He had very close relations with [Harry] Truman, and that gets into the story about Truman the day that President [Franklin] Roosevelt died. So I'm wandering all over the place! [laughs]

**RITCHIE:** That's okay.

**SCOTT:** Vice President Truman was very close to Mr. Biffle. He had been to lunch in Mr. Biffle's office the day that Roosevelt died. He had left to go over to House Speaker Sam Rayburn's office, in what they called the "Board of Education," which was an office where they would have some of the congressmen, particularly the young congressmen, in for drinks and to kind of train them and help them get their political educations. Vice President Truman went from Mr. Biffle's office over there, and then Betty Euler got the call from the White House. I used to have a White House phone too, right next to my desk. She got the call on the White House phone that President Roosevelt had died, so she quickly called over to Speaker Rayburn's office and said to be sure and tell Vice President Truman. He came back, and he ran up the steps, I understand, you know those marble steps and how they're kind of worn away. Betty said that when he got to the office he was all out of breath, he had come back so quickly and had run up the steps. So he came back to their office and then Mr. Biffle sent him down to the White House in the Secretary's car.

Then the next day, he was back again to Mr. Biffle's office, and by then he was President. He had taken his oath, and Betty Euler received his first autographed picture as President. He gave it to her when he came back for the luncheon. I thought that was rather interesting.

But Mr. Biffle, as I say, was very gregarious in a subdued way. He was so popular that he was elected without any trouble at all. I think all the Senators felt very close to him. He at one time took off when [Thomas E.] Dewey was running against Truman, dressed as a chicken farmer—you remember that story? He went all over the country getting political-position answers from different people, and he kept calling for the election of Truman. Of course, everybody was flabbergasted. I remember that morning very well too. I used to have a carpool with Harold Beckley, he lived in Silver Spring, the head of the Senate Press Gallery. That morning, nobody could believe that Truman had been elected. It was really exciting, particularly to me, because we had known about Mr. Biffle's trip, and of course we were for Truman, and were so happy about that. Beck kept saying, "What happened?!"

**RITCHIE:** And the Senate went Democratic too.

**SCOTT:** Yes. And one time I met Truman—now I'm going on to Truman. I'm going from one person to another! I met Truman about a week, or maybe not even a week after I started. Betty Euler called me up and she said "Go around to the gallery real quickly." So I got a page to come and answer my phones and I went to the gallery, and all of a sudden President Truman came in from the back door of the Senate chamber. He had been to lunch in Mr. Biffle's office, and nobody even knew he was in the building. He walked in the back door of the Senate chamber and the Senators had no idea.

Here came the President walking in on the floor. I watched from the gallery and one by one they turned around, they were so surprised to see the President! [laughs] Then they recessed the Senate so that they could shake hands with him and everything. That was kind of nice. It was a little informal reception, a surprise visit by Truman right on the Senate floor. (Following this visit the Senate passed a resolution which we sent to all former Presidents extending to them the privilege of the Senate floor. I have an acknowledgment from President Eisenhower.) Then he went back to Mr. Biffle's office, and Betty had said, "Now be sure and come down to the office when you leave the gallery." Of course then I knew what it was all about, so I went down and she introduced me to him. So I met Truman less than a week after I started working for Mr. Johnston.

I saw him after that at different times. One time, LBJ used to come to our office quite frequently for lunches there, most every day for meetings, and Policy Committee meetings. One time he brought Truman in. I think it was when Governor [Adlai] Stevenson was running. I think we had him in and we brought Truman in to see him. LBJ was so nice, as he came by he turned his shoulder around to be sure that he met me. I thought that was kind.

But Mr. Biffle was an original. Even though he was gregarious, he also was quiet. There is another story about Mr. Biffle, but that gets into the filibuster about Senator [Theodore] Bilbo. That's in Senator [Robert C.] Byrd's book, [*The Senate, 1789-1989: Addresses on the History of the United States Senate*].

Washington: Government Printing Office, 1989-1991.]. It's a picture of Mr. Biffle presiding over the Senate, and I think that was the first time it ever happened that the Secretary of the Senate presided over the Senate. Well, in Senator Byrd's book it doesn't tell why, but I was there. It was back in 1947 and it was the beginning of the session and we didn't have a Vice President, Truman was President. Senator McKellar from Tennessee was President Pro Tem and he hadn't been sworn in yet because it was alphabetical, the swearing in. When they got to the B's for Senator Bilbo of Mississippi, they didn't want to seat him, and there was a filibuster about seating Senator Bilbo, and we had no Vice President and we had no President Pro Tem, so this is why Mr. Biffle presided over the Senate as Secretary of the Senate. After that, they never did seat Senator Bilbo. He had been elected but they never seated him. He went back to Mississippi and he died a few months later. But that was the reason that Mr. Biffle presided over the Senate, and I think it was at least three days. So that's another little Biffleism [laughs].

**RITCHIE:** How well did Johnston and Biffle work together?

**SCOTT:** Oh, they were very, very close. Yes. I think they really were great as far as their personalities because Mr. Biffle was very low-key, and very relaxed, and had a great sense of humor. And Mr. Johnston was rather formal, and not exactly nervous but he wasn't as relaxed as Mr. Biffle, and very, very conscientious, very

studious, everything had to be just so. We would double check and double check all the voting records or anything we were doing. They were a good team in a way because they were entirely different.

**RITCHIE:** Where was your office then, were you up on the third floor of the Capitol?

**SCOTT:** G-43, Gallery floor.

**RITCHIE:** Just above where the Secretary's office was.

**SCOTT:** That's right. It was in the corner. Of course, Mr. Johnston was Secretary for the Majority and then we lost the Senate for one term, so he was Secretary for the Minority. Mark Trice then was Secretary for the Majority, and they had the office right next to us. All we did was change the sign over the door: "Secretary of the Majority," "Secretary of the Minority." And we had new letterhead paper printed up, and that's all we changed. Of course, we still worked for the Democratic side of the Senate, but we were the minority. And of course the Democratic Policy Committee didn't carry out the agenda like the Policy Committee does now. The majority party Policy Committee was the one that did. I knew Mr. Trice real well, and he was very interesting. He was at the Senate for fifty years. I went to his fiftieth anniversary party. Back in those days we had two other people who

were here for fifty years. One was Charlie Watkins, the Senate parliamentarian. The other was Vernon Talbert, he was our chief messenger. I have a little write-up—we had a fiftieth anniversary celebration for Vernon which was just lovely. Very touching.

Along that line—as I say, I'm wandering from one thing to another—when I went to the Capitol last year, I had a friend here from Palm Springs, and I saw on the outside of our suite of offices, which was S-221, the Secretary's office, that said "Robert C. Byrd Offices," and I was so surprised because Mr. Watkins had been in there for fifty years as Senate parliamentarian. Vernon Talbert had been the chief messenger and he had been there for fifty years. And I had been there for twenty-one out of my thirty-one years. Senator Byrd had changed it to the Leader's office and he had been there four years. And yet they made it the "Robert C. Byrd Offices." I was so surprised! I think he was only there four years when he made it the Majority Leader's office. Of course now it's Senator [George] Mitchell's office. I brought my friend from Palm Springs, and then we went around to see Joe Stewart [Secretary of the Senate]. I had known Joe from the time he was a page boy too.

**RITCHIE:** Did the Democratic Senators use your office as a place to drop in? Did they keep the "well" open in those days?

**SCOTT:** Yes. First in the Secretary of the Majority's office when we were back in G-43. I remember so well Senator

Barkley and Senator [Walter] George were so cute. They would come up to our office, G-43, and they would always say, "Now, Dorothy, why aren't you married yet?" They were enjoying teasing me, and I would say, "Both of you just spoil me, you're so interesting I'd never meet anybody as interesting as you two." They stayed friends a long time, even after Barkley was Vice President, then he was a junior Senator from Kentucky. We used to call them the "gold dust twins." They used to come into our office so much together. Even if we had other luncheons, Majority Leader luncheons or Policy Committee luncheons, or any other groups of Senators, anything, Senator George and Senator Barkley would come in for the second session of lunch back in our conference room. So they had lunch nearly every day, together, in our dining room.

Then the day that Barkley died, you remember he was making a speech down there [at Washington and Lee University], and he said, "I'd rather be a servant in the House of Lord than sit in the seats of the mighty." And he died very suddenly. Of course, our hearts went out to Senator George. We went to the funeral, Mr. Johnston, and my girls Christine and Rose Ann and I, and then we came back and when we got back to the office Senator George came in all by himself, to come and have lunch, after Senator Barkley's funeral. I'm telling you, even to think about it now makes me feel bad. And Christine got up—she was right there at the corner of our outer office—and she hugged him, and then Rose Ann and then I, and I brought him into the inner office. And Mr. Johnston I'm sure felt the same way, he was sentimental underneath. So you know what he

did? He called up Senator Johnson, the Majority Leader, and he told him that Senator George just came in for lunch and he prevailed upon Senator Johnson to come back and have lunch with him. I thought that was nice, because LBJ stopped—he was Majority Leader and very busy—whatever he was doing he just stopped, he came right around and had lunch with Senator George. He did that for several days until Senator George would kind of get over missing Senator Barkley at lunch. That's one of the things people don't know about LBJ, that was one of the nice things he would do, no matter how busy he was, that he would come around and be with Senator George and literally hold his hand.

**RITCHIE:** What was that expression, the "gold dust twins?"

**SCOTT:** Senator Barkley himself gave them that title, and we used to kid about that because they were always together. Just my girls and I used to kid about them. That I say had started back when Mr. Johnston was Secretary of the Majority in G-43, because they were about the same age and everything. Then when Barkley was the junior Senator from Kentucky they were very, very close. A lot of the other Senators came in.

There's another story about Senator Barkley at one of the conventions, I think it was '52 in Chicago. Mr. Johnston had been Secretary of the Platform Committee at two of the conventions, '48 and '52, and in '56 he didn't go because his wife had that brain tumor, and Bobby Baker went. So I went to three of them. In '52

Senator Barkley was trying for the nomination. I think there was a question about his age, and he walked all the way from the railroad station in Chicago to the Stevens Hotel, to show the labor leaders how well he was, and how strong he was. That was kind of news at that time. I remember they had a breakfast of labor leaders and they didn't vote for him to be on the ticket. But he had done this to try to show them. There are other stories about Senator Barkley, too.

**RITCHIE:** When you started, Barkley was the Majority Leader and he must have been working pretty closely with Johnston.

**SCOTT:** That's right, and when I first met him, as I said it was a holiday and Mr. Johnston took me to Mr. Biffle's office, and I met Senator Barkley. He said, "My wife's name is Dorothy, too." And I thought that was nice. He said, "Well you never have worked in Congress." And I said, "No, I worked in the War Department." He said, "That's good because you don't have any bad habits that you're going to have to change." [laughs] I thought that was kind of Senator Barkley. Of course we knew him all those years, and then there was his wedding to Jane Hadley. When Mr. Johnston was Secretary of the Senate, we had an arched doorway—you know it's now Senator Mitchell's office—and Barkley would stand there and sing "Beautiful Girls," very cute and very friendly. He was kidding the girls all the time. There was another story about him, I've forgotten who the girl was but she was a newspaper woman, and

she had written an article about him flirting with the girls. So he found her one day and she was just about to get in a phone booth to call in a story. He went in the phone booth and kissed her! [laughs]

And then when he was going with Jane Hadley, Bill Vaughn was in his office, and Vice President Barkley used to write love letters to Jane Hadley when he was sitting there at the rostrum, presiding over the Senate. Bill Vaughn would take them over to the Senate post office. One day Bill was telling me that he had one of the letters, and he noticed that some of the reporters up in the press gallery were looking down and watching what was going on. So they had decided to follow him over to the post office. He said that he went a different route so that they wouldn't know who the letter was for.

Bill was the one who delivered the car which Barkley gave as a wedding gift to Jane out in St. Louis. Bill wanted to write his book, and then Jane beat him to it. She wrote her book, *I Married the Veep*, remember? And then I think she worked at the Georgetown University for the dean there, and then she died soon after that. I don't mean to be getting to so many different people! [laughs]

**RITCHIE:** Barkley was an interesting character.

**SCOTT:** Senator Barkley had a reputation for breaking tension in any gathering, committee meeting, etc., by leaning back and saying, "That reminds me of a story." He wrote a book under

that title, *That Reminds Me*. At one time he resigned as Majority Leader in objection to a tax bill, and was immediately reelected, illustrating the high regard in which he was held. He was formally escorted back to the chamber, and there was quite an emotional impact at this occurrence.

One time he came to our office after he had returned to Kentucky during adjournment, sporting a mustache, joking that he wanted "something different to be added."

He made a wonderful, moving speech at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, in 1952, after having been ruled out as the nominee at the sad breakfast meeting of the labor leaders. When, after having been "the Veep," he returned to the Senate as a junior Senator, he constantly joked about his role. He wore fancy striped and checkered vests and got a kick out of it when the girls would comment on them. One time Governor Adlai Stevenson called his office when he was a junior Senator, and the girl answered, "the Vice President's Office" by mistake. The Governor reached him in our office later, and they were photographed at luncheon in the Senators' Dining Room later—an "Alben and Adlai" meeting.

Senator Barkley was gallant—the old-fashioned Southern gentleman, prone to kissing the girls' hands. I'll never forget one time when I was in Mr. Johnston's inner office and Rose Ann was standing, facing Mr. Johnston's desk. Senator Barkley came in and started patting Rose Anne's arm, from her hand up to her wrist and gradually up the length of her arm. Her eyes got bigger and bigger as he progressed, and Mr. Johnston burst out laughing!

I understand that on the day of Senator Barkley's death, during a ride in the sunshine, he had commented that it was the "happiest day of his life." Oh, yes, he was really something. He was just great. He was loved by all.

**RITCHIE:** What kind of meetings would they have? Would Barkley come to Johnston, or would Johnston go to Barkley's office? How would you see these people on an average day?

**SCOTT:** They'd come to our office mostly. They'd all come to our office.

**RITCHIE:** Was that where the Policy Meetings would be?

**SCOTT:** Yes, well of course up in G-43 they weren't Policy Committee meetings then. But back down in the Secretary's office we always had the Democratic Policy Committee luncheons in our dining room. And in addition to that we'd have luncheons of committee chairmen, and then we'd have other Senators' luncheons, and then when President Kennedy was elected they had a series of luncheons that Larry O'Brien arranged, because they wanted to have close relationships and work with the Senate, which was very close and very good, you know the liaison work. Larry O'Brien would have different luncheons that we would do all the arrangements for, there in our office.

The Policy Committee luncheons were always chaired by Senator Johnson. One of the things I remember is that he was always so accessible. I always felt very close to him. I don't mean to be sounding self-important, but he was the kind of person, for instance, whenever he was in our office at the Policy Committee luncheons, or committee chairmen, or any other group that he was in, since he was there all the time, there would be roll-call votes, and there would be things going on on the floor that he needed to know about as Majority Leader. I had to go and interrupt him to tell him what was going on, in case he had to leave and come back. If I didn't tell him I'd feel I wasn't doing my job. So I would go in, and he would be presiding over the luncheon, and he would turn completely around like you are, like nobody else was in the room, and he'd give me his full attention. I think this was part of his success. Not just for a little person like me, but I think he did it with the other Senators, and everybody else. This was part of his power of persuasion.

The story on him was he used to get a hold of Ev Dirksen's lapels, and he towered over him, and with his hands on his lapels he'd say, "Now Ev," when he was Minority Leader and LBJ was Majority Leader. This was part of the reason for his success, that he would put the spotlight right on you, and you would feel so important. I think he appreciated what I had to say, because he always listened and he always wanted to know the information I was giving him. And I felt very close to him. I've got a whole book of letters from him out in Palm Springs.

I remember—this is very personal, is this all right? [laughs]—the first book about him, I think, was by Booth Mooney, who was on his staff. I got a copy of it, and I asked Mr. Johnston one night session when LBJ would come in if he'd ask him to autograph it for me. And so he did, he wrote a lovely autograph, just beautiful, about understanding my work and in appreciation, etc., etc. I was very touched. So when he came out, I said, "Senator, thank you so much for the autograph, I certainly will cherish it, I appreciate it very, very much." He turned right around in the middle of the room and he said, "Well, I appreciate you." [laughs] That's one of those little things that makes you feel good!

LBJ was in our office practically every day. He worked very hard. After his heart attack he'd have to come sometimes and rest in our conference room, to kind of get away from all the rush and everything like that. What he would do, he would start in the outer office, where we have the big archway, and he would walk in his great big strides, like an antelope, and by the time that he would get from my outer office into the inner office he would have said about seven things he wanted me to do. [laughs] So we worked very closely with him.

Late one afternoon, after work, I was rushing around the hallway of the Capitol Building on the first floor, just outside of the Senate Restaurant. Someone was waiting for me. As I turned the corner into the hallway leading to the revolving door, all of a sudden I heard a loud crash. Then I realized it was me—I had

fallen! One shoe went one way, the other flew the other way, and my handbag landed in the middle. Who should come to my rescue and pick me up, but LBJ. So I said after that, "I fell for LBJ!" Mr. Johnston asked me the next day if he recognized me and I said of course he did!

**RITCHIE:** When you first came to work for the Senate, the Congress would work about half the year and then take long recesses. What did your office do during the recesses?

**SCOTT:** They weren't that long, some of the recesses. Some of the times we went all the way through. I remember one year we went through New Year's Eve and the next session started the next day. Sometimes when we did have recesses, we had short hours, but an awful lot of the time we were doing voting records and things like that. Then, of course, it was just Mr. Johnston and I. I worked every Saturday, except Easter. In G-43 I was really the only staff. Then I remember when Bobby Baker had Jay McDonnell as assistant to him, sometimes he would come and help me a little bit with the voting records. Then when we were down in the Secretary of the Senate's office I had two assistants, plus our nine messengers. We would take turns then on the long night sessions, and in the summertime, the recess time—I don't think it was always in the summertime, we'd go pretty long—then we'd have two people on duty and one off. If things were real quiet we'd have one person on duty and two off. The hours then were supposed to be

ten to three, but sometimes we'd have to stay after that. Lots of times on Saturdays, even when we'd get out early, we were supposed to be out at one o'clock, LBJ would come in for a luncheon with Senator Russell [laughs] and so then I'd stay, and Vernon would stay.

I remember one time I had some people waiting for me. I was going down to the cottage I had down on the Bay, and he came late for luncheon with Senator Russell. Finally I told him I had somebody waiting and he said I could go. But Saturdays were the same thing, and we worked long, long hours. I had a town house down here in Capitol Hill on Eighth Street, that was when Frank [Valeo] was Secretary, and I had been robbed. So Frank used to have the office car follow me home after those long night sessions to be sure I got home all right. After that, I moved out to Silver Spring, but then nobody followed me home to Silver Spring. [laughs] I think the latest I stayed was three o'clock in the morning. I got home about a quarter of four and then I was back again at nine. Sometimes the night sessions of the Senate were "the best show in town." Those were kind of like the hours we kept at the conventions too. It seems to me I'm wandering too far afield!

**RITCHIE:** I'm just trying to get a general sense of what it was like to work in the Senate, especially in the beginning when you first came to work here, and the types of people you were dealing with. You kept the minutes then for Democratic Policy Committee meeting? Was that one of your jobs?

**SCOTT:** Yes. When Mr. Johnston was Secretary for the Majority we kept the minutes of the Conference, which was all the Democratic Senators, and the Policy Committee. That was the election for it. Then at the Policy Committee luncheons that we had back in the Secretary of the Senate's office, the minutes were taken by the Secretary of the Majority.

We had lots of different groups, you want to know about the people who came—this is about the use of the conference room. Frank had different groups, for instance he belonged to I House, which is International House in New York City. They had a meeting, kind of like a convention, here in Washington at one time. It was kind of like a junior United Nations, because they had students from different countries at this meeting from I House. We had a reception and luncheon meeting in there. Frank would have me attend those frequently in his place. One time we had Congresswoman Pat Schroeder as our guest to speak one time, and they were talking to her and some of them were giving her a hard time about being a woman in Congress, and not taking care of her family. I remember her saying that she could hire servants to take care of washing her children's socks and preparing meals, whereas she felt that she could make more of a contribution to her country by being a member of the House. Of course she has kept on that way.

We had other meetings there of different groups and Frank would have me stay. I remember there was one where they would have people from the State Department and people from different Senate committees, and they were going into a lot of details, and a couple

of times I was able to correct them a little bit about committee assignments and things like that, which goes back to LBJ again. Did you want to hear about that?

**RITCHIE:** Mmmm-hmmmm.

**SCOTT:** A lot of little things go back to LBJ. That's one of the things that he did when he first came. I don't know if that's mentioned in Senator Byrd's book about committee assignments. When Johnson first came as Majority Leader he wanted to change the committee assignment set-up because a new senator never got very good committee assignments. He felt that Senators could be better utilized if they would have their experience utilized. So he gave each new senator one good committee and one just so-so committee, until he got more seniority. The Democratic Leader of course was the chairman of the Steering Committee on Committees, so this is partly what Senator Johnson did. I think it was good because it let the Senators have their experiences count for something and have good committees.

So anyway these different groups would meet in our office and sometimes I was there with them. I had a program of lectures that I did for the Congressional seminars that was run by a group under the Civil Service Commission. I did that for several years before I left. These downtown government people would come up to the Hill, and different Members of Congress and staff members would speak to them. I did it first with a fellow who was assistant to

the Clerk of the House, like I was assistant to the Secretary of the Senate. He and I did it together, he for the House side, and then me for the Senate. Then he wanted to do it separately, he didn't want to be there with me. [laughs] So I did it separately myself.

I understand they had a waiting list in this Executive Department downtown, of people who wanted to attend these seminars. Frank used to say I was performing a "service for the Senate" in giving these talks. I included a question-and-answer session at the end of each lecture and brought along samples of the different publications issued. Many times my "students" would come to my office after the meetings to obtain copies of our booklets. My girls would kid me by saying, "Here come your students." I was not paid for these addresses while I was an employee; but after I retired I was.

I did that for several years, also for American University and a couple of other organizations. One time, we had a meeting of the state legislature officers, the secretaries of the senate and the clerks of the house of the state legislatures. So Frank came and spoke to them briefly, and I was going to address them with one of my speeches that I used to give for the Congressional seminars, and I remember Frank said, "Well, this is Dorothy Scott, she's really the Secretary of the Senate." [laughs] But there were all different kinds of groups of people like that.

**RITCHIE:** Constant delegations coming in.

**SCOTT:** Yes, and our dining room was used, such as Larry O'Brien using it for Kennedy, and different Senators would give luncheons for the other Senators, particularly the Leader, Senator Johnson was there. He and Senator Russell lots of times on Saturdays would come for the luncheons and they worked very closely. I remember at one of the Stevenson conventions, I met Senator Johnson—of course, I wanted him to be nominated [laughs]—so I had run into George Reedy the night before, George Reedy was on his staff. I think it was like two o'clock in the morning, and I was saying, "Oh you have to write a speech to nominate Senator Johnson," and he said, "I'd like to write that speech." And I said, "And I'd like to give it!" Well, anyway, Senator Johnson was nominated by John Connally, and I remember I ran into him at the Stockyards Convention Hall there in Chicago, in between sessions, and I said to him, "Oh, Senator I'm sorry that you didn't get further." He said, "Well I don't think I had enough self-confidence." And he said, "I felt that had this started maybe twenty-four hours sooner that maybe something would have built up." Emery Frazier, who was then Chief Clerk under Mr. Johnston, used to say to me when Johnson was Democratic Leader, that "He's going to be kingmaker and never a king, because he was from the wrong state, he was from Texas. And then, of course, when he did become President, and was elected by such a large majority after that it was very gratifying. I had sent him a little memento before the convention, a gold charm. It was a western hat with a ring around

it—"throw your hat in the ring" [laughs]. There were a lot of little personal things I used to enjoy with Senator Johnson.

**RITCHIE:** You worked with several different Majority Leaders. You started out with Alben Barkley. Then Scott Lucas came along, and then Ernest McFarland, very briefly.

**SCOTT:** That's right.

**RITCHIE:** Can you tell me a little bit about Lucas and McFarland?

**SCOTT:** Oh, yes. Senator Lucas was very nice and very appreciative and everything. I went to a reception after his leg had been amputated and I felt so bad. And Senator Lucas died en route on the train going down South. Mr. Johnston was on the same train. They had this group, maybe you've heard about it, called the "Ex S.O.B's," mostly retired top aides to Senators. They used to have luncheons and trips. Mr. Johnston was a member of it, and I think Frank was invited to it one time, too. There was a trip going down South. Senator Lucas was on the train. Mr. Johnston was on the train with this whole group. Senator Lucas had some kind of attack, and they had to stop the train and put him off. And he died right after that. This was some years after he had his leg amputated.

Margaret McMahon, who was his administrative assistant, worked very closely with us. When Senator Lucas died, she placed flowers on his desk in the chamber. I remember many long nights when we were there late, working on the votes. Senator Lucas was Majority Leader, and he had an ulcer, and was out in Bethesda Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland. Mr. Biffle was Secretary of the Senate, and he had bursitis, and he was in the same hospital. Mr. Johnston had had a nervous breakdown, and *he* was sick. So the three key people were out. Senator [Earle] Clements was whip, and so Senator Clements was carrying on. Bobby Baker was Secretary for the Majority, and Bobby would call me up from the floor. We'd have long, long sessions, and Bobby would call me up and dictate the roll-call vote announcements on the phone. So there were three of the top leadership posts vacant at that time. There were Senator Lucas, and Mr. Biffle, and Mr. Johnston. And so it was Senator Clements and Bobby Baker. That was during Senator Lucas' time.

I have a very dear girl friend who worked with Senator Lucas. She described the night that he was defeated by Senator Dirksen. They had a big election party in the office, and they kept getting the election returns, and they kept getting worse and worse and worse. She'd say she'd never go to another election party in her life! It was kind of sad in a way at that time. Senator Lucas was here, and we were having long sessions throughout most of the year. He wasn't able to get out to Illinois to campaign, and Senator Dirksen had had an eye problem when he was a member of the House. And he had gone home to Illinois for two years. Of course, he got

to campaign around so the people could see him and everything. And he came and ran against Senator Lucas, and he defeated Senator Lucas. We all felt that Senator Lucas as Majority Leader had to stay so close to Washington that he couldn't go home to campaign. So that's my feelings about Senator Lucas.

**RITCHIE:** Did the style of leadership change much between Barkley and Lucas, or did things pretty well continue on?

**SCOTT:** I think things pretty well continued then. I think everything was kind of cut and dried. LBJ was the one who changed things around. He was the one, as I say, who started this committee business, which was very important, because it gave each new senator an opportunity to get somewhere and to make his career more fruitful. Whereas before they held the Senators down to just the District Committee and other committees that weren't that important.

Maybe it's because I knew Senator Johnson more, and, as I say, Mr. Biffle and Barkley were very, very close. And then Mr. Johnston when he was Secretary of the Majority with the two of them—with Mr. Biffle and with Senator Barkley. I had some contact with Barkley, but not that much. Then with Senator Lucas I had more contact with him and his staff. And then with Senator Johnson a great deal more. Not very much with Ernest McFarland. But we did work closely, of course, when Senator Johnson was ill and Senator Clements was whip. We worked closely with him.

**RITCHIE:** What about the role of the whip in all this? Did you see much of the whips? Did they come and use your office?

**SCOTT:** Not as much as the Leader. We had one of our girls, Christine Johnson—she was Keen Johnson's sister. He was governor of Kentucky, and he ran one time against Senator [John Sherman] Cooper for the Senate. She had been with Senator Clements. Then he was elected whip. And at that time Mr. Johnston only had me, and we had to get some more people on our staff. So Senator Clements prevailed upon Mr. Johnston to take Christine. Christine came to our office and, of course, I hadn't had a lot of contact with Senator Clements before she came from Senator Clements' office. We didn't see as much of the whip, actually. No, I wouldn't say that because my memory is that Johnson was never whip himself, and he's the one we're closest to. And Senator Barkley and Lucas were the Leaders.

**RITCHIE:** In many ways, it seems to me the Majority Secretary, like Felton Johnston, really was a whip. Did he spend all that time on the floor?

**SCOTT:** Oh, yes. And that's the funny thing. I must tell you about this. I was really surprised. The very first day when I went to work for him—well, the first day was the holiday, and we met in Mr. Biffle's office—and the next day when I came on duty, he went down to the Senate floor. He didn't tell me where he was

going! He took his little folder with him, and I had done some of the work that he had to have for the Leader to make the announcements and so on. And he walked out [laughs]. I guess it was about quarter to twelve, and I was thinking, "Well, where is he going?" He never said a word to me. He never told me where he was going. And then the bells rang, and I thought, "That's where he was going! Down to the Senate floor." Now, he was down there constantly. He was back very, very seldom in the office during the day. But we talked by phone. A lot of this was by phone. And then, as I say, at night after the sessions were over we worked on all these roll-call announcements.

And, of course, we worked together when we were out of session or when the session would be over, or in the mornings. He was there all the time, and then when the Senators would come in later. One of the Senators—talking about people who would come in our office, G-43— was Senator [Brien] McMahan of Connecticut. He would come in. We had a little room which had only a little mirror and little basin to wash your hands. It wasn't as big as a closet. It was a tiny, little room. So Senator McMahan would go in there, and he'd stay. And I'd say, "What's he doing in there?" There wasn't room to move around. And at the time he was wearing a toupee, and I didn't know it until I found out about that.

Senator McMahan—you had different feelings about some of them—John Lane was his administrative assistant, and Bill Fey, who is now a judge was his personal secretary. I knew them both real well. I ran into John Lane, by the way, last summer. I was out

here at the Congressional Country Club. He said "I haven't seen you in about forty years." Anyway, Senator McMahon was going to run for President one time. He had headquarters out in Chicago, but he was very ill. It was probably '52. He had a headquarters out there and yet he was in the hospital. I think they were trying to do this just as a gesture. It was so sad because his headquarters phones were hooked up to the hospital. It was very sentimental. We all knew about it. And, just at the end of convention, the day that I came back, I remember so well, I ran into John Lane at the train station before I boarded the train. He said Senator McMahon had just passed on. You felt you knew about his running, you knew about the convention. It was so sentimental. Last summer when I was here John and I were talking about that.

**RITCHIE:** When you mentioned that Skeeter Johnston would be on the floor, would he sit at that roll-top desk, or sit in the cloakroom, or wander around?

**SCOTT:** No, he was at the desk most of the time. The Secretary of the Majority's work is 90 percent on the floor to see what's going on, who's going to get the floor, what's going to be introduced, and what amendments, and what roll-call votes, and really keeping up with everything going on on the floor. I think that is the main duty of the Secretary of the Majority.

For instance, at one time, I don't know whether it was when Mr. Johnston was ill or why he wasn't there. But Senator [Daniel]

Brewster of Maryland was presiding, and it was one night around seven. Mr. Johnston wasn't there because I feel if he had been there he would have seen that this was taken care of. But Senator Brewster had to leave, he had to go to some dinner. He had asked one of the boys in the cloakroom to get somebody to come and preside. So often when they would have a junior Senator they would have them preside at night, that's when junior Senators would get that duty. Anyway, the person who was supposed to do that didn't get anybody to take his place to preside. And Senator [Wayne] Morse—"five o'clock shadow," they used to call him—was making a speech. He'd start speeches at five o'clock. Senator Morse of Oregon was the one that turned from a Republican to be a Democrat. And Senator Brewster, presiding, walked off! He banged the gavel, and Senator Morse was still speaking. The bells rang. It was terrible, because Senator Morse was left standing there with his mouth open!

There had been a recess or adjournment order which had been agreed to earlier. And all Senator Brewster said was, "Under the previous order, I declare the Senate adjourned."—with Senator Morse standing there with his mouth open! And that was *terrible* for Senator Brewster to do that! Like I say, the Secretary for the Majority, or whoever was the assistant, should have seen that Senator Brewster got somebody to replace him so he could leave, so that this wouldn't happen.

So the next day, I remember Mr. Johnston told Senator Brewster that he'd better go over and see Senator Morse and apologize,

because this just wasn't done. So he did, he went over to his office and apologized. But it was in the *Congressional Record*—that Senator Brewster adjourned the Senate when Senator Morse still had the floor. That's just an illustration of one of the things that the Secretary to the Majority was supposed to do on the Senate floor.

**RITCHIE:** Did you ever go down to the Senate floor?

**SCOTT:** Oh, yes. Yes. I'll tell you about that. I had to go to put these roll-call votes in the files next to the Secretary's desk. I was there frequently doing that. I wouldn't go when they were in session, but I would go in the morning sometimes and take these down because he had to have them right there at his desk. And sometimes some of the guides would come in and I would hear them talking.

I remember Frances Dustin who worked for Senator [Owen] Brewster of Maine. That's another Brewster. She was the first woman staff member to go on the Senate floor when the Senate was in session. And there was a *big* rhubarb about that because no other woman staff member had ever come in when they were in session like that. Senator Brewster had called her to the floor, so she went on the floor. And this is not done. That was Frances Dustin.

But I never went on the floor when they were in session until one time—let me see—I think I did for Senator Johnson several years later. He wanted me to come in for something. At that time

I think it was more appropriate and wasn't condemned so badly. I remember his personal secretary, Mary Margaret Wiley, used to go on the floor sometimes for him. But he insisted. I've forgotten how I got the message or what, but I had to go in on the floor for Senator Johnson.

**RITCHIE:** Were there any other male-only preserves, or was it just on the floor?

**SCOTT:** Well, there was the swimming pool, I think. [Laughs]

**RITCHIE:** That was a member-only preserve, too, right.

**SCOTT:** Yes. And the interesting part about that was that when Senator [Maureen] Neuberger, Mrs. Neuberger, came and took her husband's seat. She went over to the swimming pool when the Senators were there. And they didn't like a woman coming, I understood. She was interesting when she came, because she would come in with the male Senators to our office during night sessions and have some refreshments. And I don't think the Senators were at all comfortable with that.

I remember the day that Mrs. Neuberger was sworn in. Senator Margaret Chase Smith walked her up to the rostrum. So it was kind of interesting—two women Senators walking up.

**RITCHIE:** Did you see much of Margaret Chase Smith in those days? She wouldn't have come to the Democratic office.

**SCOTT:** She didn't come to our office very much, but I saw her. And, yes, I admired her. By the way she's still living, and I had an invitation from Lola Aiken, Senator Aiken's widow, to come up to Montpelier, and she wants to go see Margaret Chase Smith. She wants me to do that while I'm back here East this summer.

A bunch of us used to go over to Mike Palm's after work at night. We'd stop in there and have a drink before we'd go home. I remember one spring evening—isn't it funny, all these reminiscences? [laughs]—we were sitting in Mike Palm's, and they had the door open. We all knew Senator Margaret Chase Smith, and she was walking by, and we happened to look out and we saw her go by. And she waved at us. You could practically read her mind. I think she wanted to come in, because we used to see her in the Senate restaurant, and she was friendly with the girls. And I think, it was twilight time, and she was lonesome and wanted to come in and join us, and yet, because she was a Senator she felt she couldn't.

Her record, remember—she never missed a roll-call vote. She was there night after night after night. And I remember Senator [George] Aiken nominated her for President one time at one of the Republican conventions. She finally had a hip operation, and I think she missed her first roll-call vote in all those years; and Senator Aiken made a speech about it. After that, before she

left, she used to come around on a little electric scooter. She couldn't walk very well. Senator [Richard] Russell did that, too before he left. I remember one time we were down on the first floor, and I saw her with her little scooter, and she wanted to know if I would steer her into the ladies' room. I did.

Remember, too, her "Declaration of Conscience" against Senator McCarthy. I thought that was really something. I have some of my notes about Senator [Joseph] McCarthy.

I went to one of the dinner parties—Frank used to have a lot of dinner parties with Senators. He used to say that the Valeo condo was the best restaurant in Washington, because he had a lot of different, foreign recipes. This was his hobby. When he would go on these foreign trips with Senator Mansfield and some of the others he would collect recipes. He had this Spanish housekeeper, Sixta. She would prepare the different recipes, and he had these dinner parties for the Senators. After he and his wife were divorced, I was his hostess at a lot of these dinners.

One night he had Margaret Chase Smith and a fellow who worked for her. He was the one who helped her write her book.

**RITCHIE:** Oh, Bill Lewis.

**SCOTT:** Bill Lewis. That's right. I couldn't remember his name. They were there, and they were just writing the book then. I remember at that dinner party they were telling about it. Of course, it was *Declaration of Conscience*. She lived out in Silver

Spring. I was just trying to remember anything more about her. As I say, Lola keeps asking me to come up to Montpelier when I'm back here, and I haven't done it yet. And Lola, of course, used to come down here.

**RITCHIE:** I saw Mrs. Aiken last fall. There was a conference about Senator Aiken at the University of Vermont. And she attended every session.

**SCOTT:** Oh she did. At the University of Vermont there is one dormitory wing named after Lola Aiken. She sent me the program of the dedication, etc. about that. That was interesting when they were going together. They were the "sweethearts of the Senate." His wife had died some years before, and he used to have lunch with us all the time. We used to call it our "family" because it was Ruth Watt and Walter Watt—we used to call them "mother and father." And there were Lola and a lot of the others, we were all the "daughters," all the "sisters." It was our family, and Senator Aiken used to be with us. We had another friend who had a pool. We used to go over there to parties, and Senator Aiken used to have a lot of breakfasts and serve his [maple] syrup from Vermont. At one of the breakfasts one of the guests, Grace Genzberger, did not use any syrup on her hot cakes. Infuriated, Senator Aiken got up from his seat at the head of the table, went around to her place, and poured the syrup on the hotcakes! We used to see a lot of them socially.

The day that they were married, I remember Frank was on the phone, and I got the call. I'm trying to think if it was Dottie McCarty or who it was who said Lola and the Senator had just been married. I think it was out at Fort Myer. So I went flying into Frank. Of course, he was a good friend, too. As a matter of fact, I gave their first wedding luncheon after they were married, in our dining room. I got Frank off the phone, I think he was talking to Senator Mansfield's office—Salpee Sahagan. I said "Senator Aiken and Lola were just married." He got all excited and told Salpe. Then after that when I had their first wedding luncheon in our dining room, Frank insisted that I sit at the head of the table because it was a luncheon for them. I got a wedding cake and all the trimmings. The guests included a lot of real, close friends, whom he had been associated with. It was our "family" celebration. After that I understand some of the Senators and their wives entertained for them.

**ITCHIE:** Lola Aiken was Senator Aiken's secretary for many years. Did you basically have connections with all the secretaries around in the Senate?

**SCOTT:** A lot of the top girls, yes. Lola was with him back when he was governor. She had been with him for twenty-six years, I think. She came here with him. She worked for him back there in Montpelier, and she was practically his hostess for all the

different social things. Cherry blossom festivals and everything. She was his right hand.

I was up to their place one time. A girl friend had a seminar she had to attend in Montpelier. She worked for NIH and we went up there. Lola said to come to her house there. When I was there my girlfriend was in her classes, this seminar she was doing, so I went over to the Capitol building. And there in the lower part of it there were pictures of Senator Aiken when he was Governor, when he was running for Governor and everything like that. I felt very, very close to him; and it was interesting to see his background. They had a house up there.

Bill Ridgely and his wife and I were up there a couple of years back up at Lola's, so we keep in contact. But Senator Aiken was *marvelous*. I always felt that, party notwithstanding, he should have gotten much farther. I really, truly do. He was right there. He could spot everything with very few words. He could get right to the point. We used to have these different parties, and I would *love* to talk to him because I would love to get his feeling about legislation and what was going on. He was very succinct, and I would feel like I got really straight answers.

He was a close adviser to all the Presidents, and yet he never got to be President. He was very independent. I've forgotten what the bill was, I think it was something about a raise. He voted first. And then he left. He had to go up to Vermont. He voted no. And I think it carried nearly unanimously, and yet he was very, very independent. The story was he and Lola would campaign,

and they were a great team because he was real down-to-earth and she was very politically savvy and a little more sophisticated. They were just a great team, so I enjoyed them very much.

Senator Mansfield, Senator Aiken, and Lola would have breakfast very early every morning in the Senators' dining room. There was a saying, "If you want to know what Mike Mansfield is thinking, ask George Aiken;" and "if you want to know what George Aiken is thinking, ask Mike Mansfield."

**RITCHIE:** Was the network of secretaries a good place to get information as to what was going on?

**SCOTT:** Well, yes. Of course I belonged to the Administrative Assistants and Personal Secretaries Association. In fact I was secretary of that at one time. That was, of course, more social. We had all kinds of different events, and you'd get to see everybody there. Then, of course, there was the Congressional Secretaries Club, and I belonged to that. Another little thing along that line—this is something else I hadn't thought about for a long time—we had a special table in the Senate Restaurant at which the group that called ourselves the "family" gathered. Sometimes Dr. [Floyd] Riddick [the Senate parliamentarian] would join us. Little Mr. Holcomb who worked there on one of the committees would come, and Carl Fogle who worked at the Architect's office. A lot of the group we felt were close.

We would have lunch there. It could possibly be that somebody would talk about legislation among ourselves. There was a fellow who worked for Jack Anderson who used to come and try to sit at our table just with what you had in mind. I think this was it. First it was Drew Pearson, and then when he passed on, it was Jack Anderson. I think he would like to come and listen to see if he could pick up something. They kind of kept this table for us. So much so that one time, I don't know whether it was Jack Anderson, somebody came, and Dr. Riddick wrote a memo to the head of the Rules Committee, which many of us signed. We petitioned the Rules Committee to keep this table for us. We didn't want other people coming to our particular table.

**RITCHIE:** I've just done interviews with Scott Peek and . . .

**SCOTT:** Yes. I remember him, with Senator [George] Smathers.

**RITCHIE:** And Rein Vander Zee, and they were very active in getting the Administrative Assistants Association going. I guess that there was a real social network, that the Senate staff was smaller in those days, and it was easier to know many of the people and have more, perhaps, personal relationships than now.

**SCOTT:** Than now. Exactly.

**RITCHIE:** Now that it's such a huge staff.

**SCOTT:** Yes. I remember Scotty Peek. He worked for Senator Smathers. I remember in Chicago one time at one of the conventions we went out on a boat trip together. The Administrative Assistants group was smaller because it was just the administrative assistants and personal secretaries to each Senator. We felt that they were the top advisers to the Senators. Of course, my membership in this association was a little different because I was administrative assistant to the Secretary of the Senate. But they were the top advisers to the Senators who handled a lot of the legislation; prepared a lot of legislation, and followed it through. So they were like assistant Senators, you might say. Administrative assistants threw a lot of weight around as far as being important to the Senate. So that was a very interesting group because they were up on legislation and they really knew what was going on.

One evening I attended an Administrative Assistants party with both Mr. Johnston and Frank. I felt very official with a Secretary of the Senate on each arm!

**RITCHIE:** Did you ever go down to the Quorum Club? I guess that is where the administrative assistants club sort of started.

**SCOTT:** No. They were completely separate. The Administrative Assistants Association was an older organization. Mr. Johnston was a member and frequently some of the Senators would

attend the functions. The "Quorum Club" was a name given loosely to some people who used to frequent the Carroll Arms Hotel. I really never knew much about it. That was back in the days of Bobby Baker. The Administrative Assistants used to have our different meetings and luncheons and things at different places. For instance, we would have them over there at the Reserve Officers Building. They used to have them over there sometimes. And when I was Secretary, I was going around trying to get different places for us to have them. And then when the Madison Hotel was first built I got that for one of our meetings. And River House out there in Arlington, the Belle Haven Country Club, and a lot of places like that. We had a lot of very special things for the Administrative Assistants.

The first function I arranged as Secretary was an "Easter Bonnet" contest. I had Senator Frear of Delaware and Senator Lausche of Ohio as judges together with Ingrid Rundvold, the fashion editor of the *Washington Post*. We had prizes for prettiest, funniest, and most unusual chapeaux—at the activities' dinner that evening.

**RITCHIE:** It was primarily social?

**SCOTT:** It was social, yes. But it was interesting to catch up with things. That's the way that Frank used to be about embassy parties. He used to be attending a lot of those, and I went with him different times. He used to say to me, "That's where you find

out what is going on. That's where you find out what can be done at the different embassies." You were saying about the difference between the three Secretaries of the Senate for whom I worked. You want me to elaborate on that?

**RITCHIE:** Sure.

**SCOTT:** Well, Mr. Johnston was the one who was very conservative and very meticulous; not exactly quiet but very, very respectful. Whereas, Mr. Biffle, I didn't work for him, but he was more on a social level with a lot of the Senators and with a lot of cabinet people. Mr. Johnston considered himself more of their servant. I think that was the basic difference there. The next one was Emery Frazier. He had been Chief Clerk for thirty-six years. I called him "Emery." He was a friend of mine, and all of a sudden he was my boss [laughs]. Mr. Johnston had retired, and Emery took over for I think it was nine months until Frank took over. He had been a member of the state legislature in Kentucky, and he knew Senator Clements real well, and he knew Christine who worked for Senator Clements who was one of my assistants. He had known her when she was a little girl. [laughs] And she was part of my staff, so all of a sudden he was her boss, and she had known him since the time she was a little girl. Emery was like an old shoe. He was very easy with the Senators, and he was down to earth. Not that he wasn't polished, but he was more wholesome; not as sophisticated, for instance, as Frank.

At the beginning he wasn't too interested in anything. And then just before the end of his term—he sat down at my desk one time and he said, "Well, Scottie, this job is getting to be a job." He didn't realize until he got in there with both feet what he was going to be doing. But he did a lot of things, like those Senate service plaques like yours up there. That was Emery's idea. He was the one who designed that. That was first done when Hubert Humphrey was Vice President, and he and Emery signed it. And then the day Emery left was kind of sad. He sat there at my desk and he said, "Well, Scottie, it just seems like a dream." He was there such a short time.

Incidentally, to back up a bit—when Mr. Johnston and I said goodbyes in our inner office our chief messenger, Ellsworth Dozier, was with us. He told me afterward that he thought he'd have to get a mop to mop up the tears. Emery had not come in to work that day and wisely waited until late in the afternoon to call me.

One time Darrell St. Claire decided to be real cute. Darrell had a dinner party for all three of them, for Mr. Johnston, for Emery Frazier, and for Frank, all three Secretaries of the Senate. Had been, Was, and Going-to-be! [laughs] It was real funny. But as I said, Emery was like an old shoe. He was there as Chief Clerk during a historical happening, when the astronauts came and everything like that. Mr. Johnston, of course, was there for the first one, for [Alan] Shepherd. But after that, I remember one time Emery was at my desk, and they were talking about the voice

from outer space. And of course, Emery was there at conventions, and I got to see a lot of him then, before he was my boss.

And then Frank came in. And Frank was a little different again, because Frank was, as I say, a little more sophisticated. Frank had a lot more interest in foreign affairs because of Senator Mansfield's influence, I'm sure. And he was a writer. He had started out as a writer for the Library of Congress. Then he had been on Senator Mansfield's staff. He was in contact with the foreign embassies. I think that the personalities of all three were so different. Frank was younger, and I felt that Frank and I were real, good friends, socially and officially. He came down to my cottage with his little boy and my dad. And I knew his mother. She used to call me her daughter [laughs]. I felt like that was a little bit closer, even though I was close to Mr. Johnston in a little bit different way. But Frank was entirely different as far as his interests.

He had visitors from the different embassies, and he spoke five languages. One time he was talking to somebody in Spanish. And then somebody called from the French Embassy. I said, "Now you have to shift gears and change to French." [laughs] That was the very next call, and he shifted right away into French.

One time he had somebody coming from one of the embassies who was a Negro. (I used to kid him about looking like the various foreigners.) When he came in I told Frank that "this one is just a little bit different color than the other ones coming in to see you. I don't think you can resemble him." It made it interesting.

Frank had more of an international thrust as far as the work under Senator Mansfield was concerned.

When the Chinese Liaison Office was established, we were instrumental in assisting them with arrangements for dinners and receptions for Members of Congress.

On D.C. Election Day I took representatives from the Chinese Liaison Office to three voting precincts in Washington. This I did in Frank's place as he could not go. I made arrangements beforehand with the precinct officials, answered questions, showed them sample ballots, observed people voting, etc. Afterward they invited me back to the Liaison Office for tea, but I had an engagement and had to decline. I had been there to dinner with Frank previously. It was interesting, trying to explain voting—and Democracy—to them.

**RITCHIE:** The job is sort of what the individual wants to make it.

**SCOTT:** To make of it. Exactly. One of the things I could say—I don't think that Frank would mind my saying this—was that he was very, very close to Senator Mansfield, and necessarily, because of his background experience. But when you are Secretary of the Senate, you work for the *whole* Senate, not just the Democratic side, not just the Leader, even though you are that close. I remember Frank said, "Is there anything you have to suggest," because I had been there before, "Just give me any

ideas." So I said I thought he should get to know the other Senators just as well as Senator Mansfield, get to know them more and be available for them too. But I just felt that would be a smart thing to do and not be so exclusively for Senator Mansfield. Then, of course, he was defeated, and I always felt that this was behind it. He was the only one I know of who was defeated in office like that. When Stan Kimmitt ran against him.

**RITCHIE:** After a long stretch of being Secretary.

**SCOTT:** Well, he was Secretary from '66 to '77. So it was a long time. Stan Kimmitt was always very friendly to me. I liked him a lot. I had no *idea* he was going to run for Secretary of the Senate. Until, let me see, IBM had a seminar and Marilyn Courtot who worked with us wanted some people to go it out in Germantown. We went out there, and I remember Gail Martin, who was Stan Kimmitt's secretary, was there. Marilyn Courtot was in our outer office, and she was getting computers into Senators' offices. Frankly, I'll never forget when she brought the order in for a computer for every senator's office. I said, "Marilyn do you really think they are going to use them?" As it was, a lot of them never even used them. They didn't have anyone to operate them in those days. They just sat there and gathered dust. But we got them anyway.

But this was a little seminar that some of us attended. A lot of people felt it was a waste of time. I remember Dwight Galt from

the Daily Digest went with us, and Dr. Riddick, and a lot of people like that who felt all this business about computers had nothing to do with their work at all! And yet we had to go. Dwight Galt said our attendance had "nothing to do with the price of potatoes in Peoria." So it was Marilyn Courtot and the girl who was in charge of it out at IBM, and Gail and I, when we had lunch before the afternoon session. We were talking about the coming session—isn't it funny these things that you remember—Gail said something that struck me as kind of funny. I thought it was strange that she hesitated when asked about what Stan would be for the next session. It was one of those things.

**RITCHIE:** Gave you a premonition.

**SCOTT:** Gave me a premonition because ordinarily she would have said right away, "Oh, well, he'll still be Secretary of the Majority." You'd say that. "Oh, yes he'll continue if he's elected, and I guess he will be." It would be a thing that you'd answer just ordinarily very routinely. I remember she kind of stopped. And I wondered, it was kind of strange. I had a funny little feeling.

I had no idea that Stan was going to run, that he'd even be interested. Frank, as I say, had been closely associated with the Leader, and he made, I think it was three trips to China. Frank studied Chinese, becoming proficient enough to participate in dinner conversations in China. On the second trip he made two

speeches in Chinese. One of the trips to China was made when the Senate went out of session, and Frank wasn't there. And this was the last one when Senator Mansfield was going to leave anyway so you might say he was a lame duck. I didn't feel it was very smart for Frank to go off with Senator Mansfield when the Senate was going to be adjourning in his absence. I felt kind of bad about that. I don't remember if Darrell was there. I guess Darrell may have been there. Frank had made Darrell, rather than Chief Clerk, he had made him Assistant Secretary of the Senate at one point. I remember he had a party with a resolution framed to give him. So Darrell was Assistant Secretary of the Senate, and he could be there to close. It's a technical thing. But you know how it is. You know how the Senators are. I felt that that may have had something to do with it.

We didn't hear about the fact that Stan was even running until the day before the Democratic Conference at which they have the vote. Frank called me in, and he said, "Don't say anything to Darrell or Flossie"—Florence Wynn was my principal assistant then—but he said, "I understand that Stan Kimmitt is thinking of running for Secretary of the Senate." Of course, I was flabbergasted. And so I stayed in his inner office. There was very little time to campaign. This was the night before, or late in the afternoon. We made a lot of calls from the inner office to some of the Senators to tell them. Some of them were *amazed*. They had no idea that Stan was going to be running. One of them said he had known it. The Senator is still there now so I won't give his

name. But I felt very bad about this because he told Frank that Stan had said to him that Frank was not interested in being elected. I didn't think that that was very nice. I felt bad because that was giving a false impression.

I had nothing against Stan. He had always been very nice to me. But after the whole thing happened, an awful lot of people came up to me—even people who weren't on the Hill—and had things to say against Stan, the fact that he had done this. Unsolicited, people came to me, a lot of different people. I was *amazed* that people would know that much about it, would *feel* that much about it. They came to me, and they were telling me. It was very, very sad.

I remember the day he went to the Conference, and he was defeated. He came back and gave me the report on the vote. I don't know for sure, I think it was 40 to 21. It was a *big* loss. At that time, and this is kind of sentimental, too, he always went in to open the Senate. Of course, the Vice President, the Chaplain and the Secretary of the Senate always went in to open the Senate. Once in a while if he couldn't be there, if he was at a meeting or something, he would get Darrell to go in. So this day, after he came back and told me the result of the Conference, he went out to Darrell, and he said, "Well, Darrell, will you go and open?"—and then he changed his mind. I admired him very much for that. He said, "No I'll go in." And I thought, "Good for him!" I think it would have been hard if I were he to go in just when they had slapped him in the face. He walked right in there. I told him I

admired that very, very much, that he went right in there, and he did his job even though he had just been defeated!

As I say, from the time that I started I never heard of anybody being in office and being defeated like that.

**RITCHIE:** Well, you started in a sense with an election and an election contest of Felton Johnston, and you ended with an election contest.

**SCOTT:** Well, that was a real election with six people, when Mr. Johnston won. I'm trying to remember who the other candidates were. I think one of them may have worked for Senator [Claude] Pepper. I can't remember the names on that. But that would be in those minutes wherever they are. But that was true with Frank. That was a sad day.

In the meantime I had bought this place out in Palm Springs. My cousin and her husband had moved out there. I had gone out and bought this place near them and rented it. Because of my service with the War Department I had thirty-six years of government service, and I had the age—fifty-five—so I could retire to the place out in Palm Springs. Frank said that he wanted to establish some kind of a firm afterwards. He asked me if I would work with him. It would be a consulting firm. He said to think about it. He said—which I thought was quite complimentary—when I was out in Palm Springs in the wintertime that he could run it here. And then when I come back in the summertime like I do now that I could run

it. [laughs] He said it wouldn't be working for him, it would be working with him—like a partnership with these different clients—to follow legislation, more or less, not as a lobbyist but similar to that, consulting. I think that he did this for awhile and went to his different offices. But some of my friends said, "If you want to do that you could just do that on your own. You have your apartment here, and you could have the calls." I certainly had the contacts with the people all those years. It would be the same kind of thing but I wouldn't have to be in Frank's firm. I could do as I want to. Frank said, "Well think about it. If you get bored when you come back here, not having enough to do if you would like to do that." But I didn't, because whenever I come back I get busy with other things.

### **End of Interview #1**

\* My mother lighted up every room she entered, and everyone loved her. My father was a sensitive and sentimental man of Irish descent, who loved to play the piano (by ear) for hours on end. He also had a flair for the dramatic and enjoyed entertaining with his recitations such as "The Face on the Barroom Floor," "Casey at the Bat," and "The Census Taker."