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Mary Jane Roach Masters Memoir

M393.2. Masters, Mary Jane Roach #2 (1909-2002)

Memoir

52 pp.

Masters discusses her involvement with a variety of civic, political, and educational institutions in Springfield: Lincoln Library, Springfield Municipal Opera, teaching at Springfield College, the Illinois Board of Regents, Sangamon State University, and the League of Women Voters. She also discusses growing up in St. Louis, attending Washington University, teaching English, marriage and her husband, her support of Adlai Stevenson II and her art.

Interview by Eugenia Eberle, 1995

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PREFACE

This manuscript is the product of a tape-recorded interview conducted by Stephen Bean for the Oral History Office on July 1, 1975. Stephen Bean transcribed the tape and edited the transcript. Mary Jane Masters reviewed the transcript.

Mary Jane Roach Masters was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on May 13, 1909. She was raised in a very Democratic family. Mrs. Masters received her B.A. degree in 1930 and her M.A. in 1931 from Washington University. During the 1930's she became active in the League of Women Voters. In 1940 she married and moved to Springfield, Illinois.

During the early 1940's Mrs. Masters served as the president of the local chapter of the League of Women Voters. Her interest also developed in local Democratic affairs. During the period that Adlai Stevenson II served as Governor of Illinois she became a close friend of the Stevenson family. Mrs. Masters worked in the local branch of Volunteers for Stevenson in 1952. In 1956 she served as co-chairman of the Illinois Volunteers for Stevenson. When Governor Stevenson left office, he asked her to work in her party and she did. Mrs. Masters served as a precinct committeewoman during the mid-1950's. Her interests have spread out beyond politics to other activities. She founded the Townhall series in Springfield. Over the years Mrs. Masters has been very much involved with the Springfield Art Association.

Her social-political perspective gives one a wholly different insight into the political affairs in Springfield during the Stevenson era. She displays a great descriptive talent throughout the memoir.

Readers of this oral history memoir should bear in mind that it is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, narrator and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. Sangamon State University is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein; these are for the reader to judge.

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Mrs. Mary Jane Masters, July 1, 1975, Springfield, Illinois.
Stephen Bean, Interviewer.

Q. Mrs. Masters, what drew you into politics?

A. Well, I think that question really intrigues me because it takes me back; I will date myself by saying this. My father was extremely interested in politics and he was a Democrat. My uncle, Cornelius Roach, was a practicing politician and for a number of years was Secretary of State in the state of Missouri. So as a child, I was exposed to a great deal of political pressure. I remember being the only one on my block for Woodrow Wilson, (laughs) who was only a name to me at that early age. When I was a ten-year-old child in school in Chicago, I got up and cried for Cox; which was pure pressure and propaganda on the part of my father.

But then I forgot about that for a long time and I didn't really get interested in politics until two things happened: the election of 1932 where I felt that I was an independent and that the system was probably wrong and [that] I should set about changing the system, so my first vote was for Norman Thomas but the great thing about it is I think I probably handled the ballot wrong and it was not even counted. But after that I became strongly partisan for Roosevelt. And my friends who were going to college and getting out of law school were beginning to take an active interest in politics and I became, of course, terribly interested, too, although I did not work at anything but the League of Women Voters. That I was pressured into by my cousin who was the executive secretary for the League of Women Voters in St. Louis and worked with the famous Edna Gelhorn. Then my cousin Constance Roach became National Convention Secretary for the League of Women Voters. They had a national convention in St. Louis in the thirties, which was very exciting and got me involved with these matters.

I was mostly concerned with personal survival, which ended up with my marrying and coming to Springfield in about 1940. My husband is a physician. We really had no active role to play politically except to be the stalwart Democrats in a group of friends who, to a man or woman, were Republicans. We would find ourselves not at parties on election eves. Everybody else had a party. We would end up with a few people who we did not see very often who were Democrats. We sat smugly; won elections.

In 1948 we became quite stirred up by the scandals of the Green administration. This was before I met Adlai Stevenson or even known about him. Although through my mother, I had a sort of family connection that goes back a couple generations ago, I was not involved with them at all. My only acquaintance with the Bloomington family came through the League of Women Voters. Mrs. Carl Vrooman, whose husband had been secretary of agriculture under Wilson, was active in the League and was a great friend of Mrs. Joseph Bohrer, the president of the Illinois League and, of course,

she had served in our state legislature. Mrs. Vrooman was a cousin of Adlai's.

We became active in Don Funk's committee which was set up to promote Stevenson for Governor here in Springfield. Louise Pickering was a great friend of my husband's mother. She, I know, invited my husband's mother to a luncheon and I guess I was invited, too. I seem to remember that we both went. The party was given at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Ellen Stevenson was there. Buffie Ives, Adlai's sister, gave the party. We met these people for the first time. But I never met Adlai until a rally took place in Bloomington and a number of us went up. I met him at the old house in Bloomington where his sister lived and still lives.

Q. What kind of man was Governor Green?

A. He was a very agreeable person. Just a really charming man, described by some of our friends who saw much more of him than we did--although we did see something of the Greens--as a good neighbor. He was just a sweet guy. I had so much feeling... In lots of ways he was just an organization candidate who really did not know actually all that was going on. I could be wrong about that but that was my impression.

Q. What really destroyed Green's chances in 1948?

A. I am trying to remember. I think the scandals did. The scandals of the administration did, primarily. Of course, we were all stirred up over the things that George Coutrakon was working on then in Springfield. The underworld connections that he was attempting to stamp out of what was known as a wide-open town. George did do it. George Coutrakon did do it. This related to the scandals.

Q. Were most people that were Republicans in Sangamon County drawn away from Green?

A. No, they liked him. Yes, they voted for Stevenson. Many of them voted for Stevenson. They were terribly disappointed in the second administration of Green. And I think this was a great blow to the Greens and to especially Pete who was, as I said, a very pleasant person. We used to go to the Mansion to parties occasionally and we liked him as a person. We never got to know him awfully well, but we liked him.

Q. How did you get involved with the 1948 campaign, or were you?

A. Strictly through, I think, Don Funk and Louise Pickering. Then once you get into something of that kind the ball rolls up, you know, and you get busy and active. And it was fun. Then it was such a stunning success. That was the time we won. Tom and I were so amazed. We went out of town that weekend. The infighting among our friends had gotten so bitter that we left town on a little vacation and were away when Adlai won, pulling Truman with him. We were absolutely astonished.

Q. What did you do during the campaign? What were your activities?

A. We went around. I made a few talks to groups. But I think we were

mostly window-dressing.

Q. Some people have the concept that Stevenson was just a front man, [that] he was a candidate because they knew that Truman was going to lose.

A. Well, I think that had a great deal to do with it, but he wasn't just a front man, he really was an awfully good candidate. He had, of course, that special gift of oratory, which he had been polishing and honing for a good many years. He was one of the best known speakers in the Middle West, on the foreign policy circuit. He had a very good background for government and considerable ambition. So, I don't think he was just a front man. I think that the organization, the machine organization in Chicago, knew it was time to get a good man and get two good men. They got both him and Douglas. The choice you speak of in your paper, I guess, is pretty well-known—that Stevenson would have liked to have been senator, but they decided that he should be Governor.

Q. What kind of man was Paul Douglas?

A. A terribly interesting and highly intellectual, intelligent man of enormous emotional and physical drive. My impression at the time was that he had splendid academic background, a strong will and personality, and was a very honorable man. He was kind of a loner and a little hard to work with. I think the Nash machine—was it not the Kelly-Nash machine at that time—found out about that and were pretty well aware of it, found out about that in connection with his aldermanic experience in Chicago. He was a crusader, a tremendous crusader. Every now and then he would get emotional and off-base. He did not quite have Adlai's cool and poise. Adlai had enormous poise.

Q. Do you think that the ticket would have been better if they would have switched and kept with the original plan, Stevenson for senator and Douglas for Governor?

A. I think they were probably wise. It gave Stevenson some administrative experience which he badly needed. It also threw him to the wolves, of course, because he was not close to the downstate organization at all and that is such a thing[^] itself in Illinois.

Q. Stevenson ran on the campaign of "A New Look in Illinois Politics." What do you think really won the election for him?

A. The combination of a very attractive man, a high-grade man, with excellent background and a desire to throw the rascals out. Probably, the last should come first. People seem to want to throw the rascals out first.

Q. What was the press support like? I know the [Chicago] Tribune was against him. What was the local press like?

A. The local press was, I think, just what you might expect. V. Y. Dallman on the Register, the afternoon paper, was wildly pro-Democratic. Emil Smith and the Journal were down-the-line Republican. The [St. Louis]

Post-Dispatch supported Adlai always. He was their man. They do quite a coverage of central Illinois. We started taking the Post-Dispatch after the election of 1952. We found out more that went on in southern Illinois and in our part of the state than we had read in any other paper.

Q. Do you think the [Chicago] Tribune being against him hindered Stevenson any way in the campaign?

A. Well, the Tribune was a much more powerful voice then than it is now. Yes, I think it was pretty rugged. People also got pretty tired of McCormick; even Republicans got sick of his line.

Q. A while back you were talking about Stevenson's appearance. If you were going to describe him to an individual who never met him, how would you describe him?

A. Well, I am mostly aware of his head, the famous egghead, and the extremely thoughtful and almost puckish quality of his face. He was not a handsome man. He was a very attractive person, a very attractive person. I think he was rather formal. He was not an old shoe. He was decidedly witty. He was more at home with people of his own social and economic and intellectual class than he was with people generally. Although he was the same person with everybody, he did not become someone else for the crowd.

Q. Were you at the inauguration?

A. Indeed I was. Tom and I both took time off and went to the inauguration. I remember mostly how long [Carl] Sandburg carried on—the poet Sandburg who wore everybody out by a long recitation of his poems whom we were awfully tired at the end of the ceremony. I also had the pleasure of sitting, by accident, next to an old St. Louis acquaintance of mine who turned out to be a former roommate of Ellen Stevenson at some school in the East. ★

Q. Do you remember anything from his speech or anything different from the inauguration?

A. No, my memory is blank on this. It was an exciting occasion. That is about all I know. It was my first glimpse of an inauguration and of all the pomp and circumstance that surrounds it.

Q. How did the people of Sangamon County and Springfield accept Stevenson in the beginning?

A. Very well. We are used to receiving governors. There even was left over a certain amount of the ladies' calling on the governor's wife. But Ellen did not come very often. She came a few times. I saw her several times here. But largely, Mrs. Ives took over after—I suppose the divorce was impending. Mrs. Ives had a lot of friends in Springfield before she came here. People she had known, central Illinois people she had known all her life.

People generally got to know him, to like and admire him. I think he was very well-received here. He was, personally, very well-liked. The boys

★ Martha Love, well-known art patron in St. Louis

were liked. All the children of the ~~G~~overnors adored the mansion. They just love it. They like to come back to parties. Buffie Ives had at least one or maybe several parties and invited former ~~G~~overnors' children to come down for them. It was quite nice.

Q. How was social life in the mansion? Did it improve over the Green administration?

A. No, I do not think so. Mabel Green entertained very nicely. I would say that it felt the lack of Ellen Stevenson, because the Governor was not for a long time divorced. He would ask his sister to help him, but his sister really was not given the full authority of the governor's wife. I would say there were plenty of problems in terms of their social life; even relating to the help, you know. It was hard to handle, but they did it.

Q. Do you think the divorce had any bad effects with [the] community?

A. Yes, at that time, divorce was less commonplace than it is now. Look, we have a President who is a child of divorce and whose wife is a divorcee. Nobody thinks twice of it. They have survived this. But at that time I think it disturbed people very much. It was a single mark of failure in the eyes of most people.

Q. How did the community accept Elizabeth Ives?

A. I cannot answer for all the community, I can only answer for the people I knew. She had a lot of friends who enjoyed her. Her disposition was uneven. It sometimes turned off some people.

Q. But she was a great social entertainer?

A. Oh yes, she was a great deal of fun. At her best, Buffie Ives is just hilarious and very amusing. She had a lot of background for entertaining. She and her husband were in the diplomatic service for many years, and when her father was the Secretary of State—wasn't he in the state of Illinois—her mother was not well and Buffie came up as a very young girl and served as a hostess for her father. She loved it. She was also an actress and she even, I think, had a small part in a Broadway play once. She was a great ham. She liked to put on things with some flair and dash.

Q. Was the acceptance of Stevenson by the people he knew as a child here greater than by the whole community.

A. I do not know about the whole community, because I married into the people who grew up with him and knew him socially. They all liked him. They were delighted to have him. They were furious that he was a Democrat.

Q. What was his dog King Arthur—Artie—like?

A. Artie was just a hound, as I remember. I think Artie was a coach dog. Wasn't he a Dalmatian? A great source of pleasure to the Governor—he came and went in the mansion. As you know, he was a source of the few folkish things that came out in the press about him. People enjoyed Artie

and his wanderings.

Q. The most important thing most people point out about Stevenson is the staff he brought with him. Of the original staff, who do you think was the most important?

A. Right at the beginning, the ones I knew were Jim Mulroy, and Lou Kohn who came and went and was a great expediter. And then Ed Day came down from Chicago and from the law firm, and Carl McGowan. I am trying to remember these people. And toward the end I remember three people who have become since quite famous in their [own] way; Newton Minow, Dick Nelson who was an administrative aide, and Dan Walker. Dick Nelson is now president of Northern Illinois University. Dan has stepped into the governor's seat.

Q. What qualities did Stevenson have to draw such high caliber of people?

A. He was a great middlewestern gentleman in the English squire tradition. He had all the nice characteristics of that breed. They came naturally. He knew people all over the world who were interesting and involved and able. They liked him. He had [~~and~~]-there was a great warmth of feeling. They came here. All kinds of people came here. We saw a type of guest here at the mansion that I think that we've never seen since--I do not know what happened here before I came here--we never had seen this caliber before. For example, Eunice Kennedy use to come down when William McCormick Blair was Adlai's right-hand man. She came down and visited. A lot of journalists came. I remember a very interesting evening with Robert Lasch who became editor of the Post-Dispatch; When A. J. Liebling came from the New Yorker--Mrs. Ives referred him to my husband's mother--and we were among those he interviewed when he did his great story for the New Yorker. Which ended up, I must say, quite a bit on my husband's mother and Murray Haynes, the old lawyer who lived in Lincoln's law office. But it was a fascinating story about Springfield too.

That was the caliber of person he brought. Then I remember, just before he left the mansion, he came here to our house and brought Alistair Cooke who was here doing a story on him. These are just some who came and there were many others. Oh. . . Vincent Sheean and John Gunther came. All these were people he would run into and who were attracted to him and his potential.

Q. The men who worked for him--like Edward Day and Walter Schaefer--what were they like?

A. They were extremely able, very honorable men. Wally Schaefer was extraordinary, I think. Both he and Albert Jenner together chaired the Little Hoover Commission which did a study of government in Illinois, which is still referred to, Adlai's Little Hoover Commission. Wally Schaefer was just an absolutely delightful guy and a very, very fine judge. A man of impeccable integrity and charm, personal charm. We always grieved over the fact that when he came down later on the Supreme Court, we never got to know when he was here. He would come and work, and I think once or twice he called Tom as a doctor. We never got to see anything of him socially. He was just a delight, and I wish we had known him better.

Ed Day was extremely witty--interesting, nice guy--and had a very pleasant wife, Mary Louise, who was the daughter of the senior law partner. Ed married the boss's daughter. She was old shoe. In fact, when they went on to Washington in the Kennedy administration, she was very close to Mrs. Lyndon Johnson. They became excellent friends and they had something in common, a certain naturalness with everybody.

Q. Did anybody know a little old man from Chicago named Dick Daley?

A. Lots of people knew him. Helen Mulroy knew him well, Jim Mulroy's wife. But he came down here and was in the legislature. He represented a certain parochial Catholic outlook that most of the people Adlai knew socially did not have. I do not think any of us knew him at all. But he went his way very effectively. He was admired for his ability, and, of course, he was untouchable at that time.

Q. Roy Yung?

A. Roy Yung was here from Decatur and was director of agriculture. My relationship with him at that time was practically nil, but he was very helpful in 1956 in the campaign, when he was one of the farm managers for the Marine Bank. He was not like the others at all. He was a different kind of person. He was a downstate man.

Q. After Stevenson gained office, he ran into a lot of difficulty with the Illinois General Assembly. Do you think this was of his own making?

A. Wasn't the head of . . . I am trying to remember this--but wasn't his nemesis at this point a man named Thompson who was the Republican leader of the Senate. Walter B. Thompson? I can't remember the first name.¹ A very articulate, attractive, tough fighter who just did make everything as difficult as possible for him. I remember one of his good friends was Bernice VanderVries from Evanston [Winnetka] who was everyone's delight in good government. Who had started in the League of Women Voters and then had gone on and run for office, and done an excellent job of it, as a Republican.

But he had plenty of hard going. At that point, he very much needed the help, of course, of people like Paul Powell, and got it.

Q. How important were Paul Powell and William Connors in the Senate?

A. Botchy Connors, I remember this name, Botchy Connors. They were very important. They were a breed wholly unfamiliar to Adlai. Jim Mulroy was extremely helpful in this because Jim bridged this very well. He was a former Pulitzer Prize winning newspaperman who came down as Adlai's aide and left the administration under a cloud because of some race track stock that he had accepted. But he was a delightful man, very able; not very well physically. I think that this conditioned a lot of his performance. He was not well. He died before Adlai--I think before Adlai was out of office.

¹Wallace B. Thompson. [Ed.]

Q. Do you think Stevenson had problems with handling matters like the state police affair?

A. I'm sure he did. I am not a good person to ask the details of that. I suggest that you ask Margaret Munn about that. She was really much closer to it than I. I was on the periphery only of this.

Q. Being a member of the intellectual set of Springfield, you probably can answer this question better.

A. (hearty laughter)

Q. About Alger Hiss. Now, he was an intellectual man that Stevenson knew in the State Department. What was the reaction of the community of Springfield when Stevenson supported a communist type?

A. They admired him for his honesty and loyalty. They felt he had been fooled. It did not help him politically. This is a kind of an interesting subject for you to bring up because my husband's brother is an old-time friend of Alger Hiss. In fact, Alger Hiss still comes and visits him occasionally in England and he reports that he is an amazingly un-bittered man. I think it is interesting right now that they are looking into this case and he is demanding the data that really convicted him.

Q. So, locally, the press did not attack Stevenson?

A. No, I do not recall if it did, particularly. There was no serious effort to tar him with the brush of communism. I can't remember if there was. Someone else might remember this but I don't.

Q. That was just a figment of Richard Nixon's imagination?

A. No, not necessarily--in terms of the community's reaction you mean? Oh no, I think they were awfully interested in Dick Nixon. I was the only one who thought he was ghastly. I sat and listened to that Checkers speech and I was never the same again. This came out in our ad, in 1952. We thought very little of Richard Nixon.

Q. Stevenson, with the gambling houses, seemed to have a lot of trouble. Louis Ruppel with Colliers wrote an article. He was a close friend of Stevenson's but he knocked Stevenson for his inactivity. Was there any conflict in the community over his handling of gambling, especially with the way Springfield was?

A. I can't answer that question.

Q. 1951 seemed to be a problem year for Adlai Stevenson with the Cigarette Scandal, the Horsemeat Racket, and with James Mulroy. How did this affect Stevenson as a man?

A. He was just heartbroken about it. In some ways it showed his inexperience. His lack of experience as an organization headman. He had never been faced with this kind of thing personally before. Unlike Harry Truman, who always said the buck stops here, Adlai was upset and I am not

sure always handled that wisely. Honorably, but not always wisely or kindly.

Q. Many people have the complaint that Stevenson knew of problems but just didn't accept them, sort of brushed them aside.

A. Well, there are only twenty-four hours in the day. I suppose he had to accept certain priorities and fight for certain things and not others. Yes, I think certain kinds of problems he decided should be considered either outside his ken or trivial, like everybody else.

Q. If you had to name the major achievements of the Stevenson administration, what would they be?

A. This really embarrasses me. This is the kind of thing for which my memory is a sieve. It seems to me he did a great deal in welfare with Jane Dick's help. I cannot even remember what my interests were at this time. I can remember my emotions, but not my interests. When Mrs. Waldmire interviewed me on the League of Women Voters last year, I could remember all my organization's problems when I was president of the local League, but I could not remember our program. (laughs)

Q. The areas of mental health?

A. Yes. Mental health and . . . and the public welfare rolls.

Q. In 1952, what was the feeling around when Time magazine came out and ran the cover story of Adlai Stevenson being a possible candidate for the Presidency?

A. Well, it was kind of a bomb. Adlai had written an article for some magazine like Harper's or The Atlantic and it appeared in January or February. When I read it, this was the first time that it ever occurred to me that he might be a presidential candidate. It was like a light. The old eureka thing. I thought, "By gosh, he probably will be." Then, people were terribly excited and distressed about it because they felt that this was going to be an Ike year. My Republican friends felt that they would have to vote for Ike because they wanted more than anything in the world to get the Democrats out of Washington.

Q. So personal friendship went below party politics?

A. I would say so. This distressed me deeply. There was a complete shunning of Stevenson during the time he was running for the Presidency. Only one or two of his local friends made any effort to help him entertain and receive the terribly interesting news coverage that he got here.

Q. Did people have any idea that Stevenson was trying to double-talk when he was saying, "I'm only a candidate for governor?"

A. Nobody thought he was double-talking because his record, I think, his record was so honorable. I think there was a feeling that he might be indecisive, as a person. That feeling persisted, as you know, in many circles and many in Washington felt it and still feel that he was . . . as an

administrator.

Q. Was there a split?

A. One of the things that did command tremendous respect was that handling of the prison riots--wasn't it at Menard? He went down and faced those men himself and he showed enormous physical and moral courage. This really impressed a lot of people, most favorably.

Q. Was Walter Johnson ever a guest at the mansion?

A. Yes, but I never met him, at that time. I met him later. We were never invited for any particular occasion that he did come. I know Helen Mulroy saw a great deal of him. Knew him well in Chicago and saw him. Although Helen tells me that she never entertained the press, that she and Jim had no money, no funds to entertain the press, that the press were always entertained by Adlai.

Q. Do you believe Walter Johnson took on the idea of the draft by himself, or do you think Stevenson actually had any connection with it?

A. I don't know. I really don't know. Walter Johnson and Lou Kohn are given credit for launching the Stevenson candidacy. This came out of that highly fertile, intellectual environment, the University of Chicago.

Q. So what was the feeling in Springfield when Stevenson went to the convention and made the opening remarks?

A. They were thrilled! Everybody was proud of that speech. It was so beautifully done. Everybody was terribly intrigued. Many of the people who had listened to Ike make such bumbling speeches were biting their nails.

We had an interesting and curious experience. We went to the Democratic convention, my husband and I, with Everett Becker.² Everett Becker, who was a great Republican, took a group of us up to the Democratic convention. He was the president of the Franklin Life and, I am sure, gave to both parties. We had never been to a national convention and we had a marvelous time. It was a great deal of fun. We came home knowing, of course, that we were going to support Stevenson and the Beckers came home kind of glum, because they liked Stevenson very much and admired him very much. They did not want him to run for the Presidency and of course they were going to vote for Ike.

Q. Can you tell us about some of your experiences at the national convention?

A. No, they were mostly social and not of any significance to you. It was a wonderful brawling scene to watch. The final acceptance speech was very exciting, very exciting. It was a pageant, in a sense. You wandered around and really you could learn more of what was going on on TV, at both conventions, than you could when you were there. It was great fun seeing the

²Charles Everett Becker. [Ed.]

delegations come and go. I remember seeing the whole Kennedy clan in a box just below me and I remember seeing also Averell Harriman.

But my memories of the convention are also spliced with the one in 1956, which I did go to alone. I am a little fuzzy about what happened at which convention. I remember all the Kefauver business, of course, very well in 1956. It was held in the same place up there in Chicago and hot as the dickens, both occasions. My memories are a little confused about what happened at which convention.

Q. Do you remember the day that Stevenson returned to Springfield after the acceptance?

A. Yes, yes. It was a great day. This was one of the ways in which V. Y. Dallman was just invaluable. Of course, he could whip up a sort of enthusiasm and excitement. All of his political friends were there. He had many political friends who were not necessarily the social friends I knew . . . here.

Q. Was the crowd great?

A. Yes. Good crowds. Adlai was always well-liked in Sangamon County. Very, very well-liked and admired. They came to do honor to him whether they were going to vote for him or not. Of course, a good candidate can always get a crowd. I can remember taking a whole bunch of neighborhood children each time that Eisenhower came, to see Eisenhower. So, it's a little hard to know how much is curiosity and interest, and how much is support.

Q. Were there any experiences at that day that stick out in your mind?

A. No, I do not remember any. I was so much more involved and responsible in the second campaign. The one when I was the downstate Co-chairman for the Volunteers for Stevenson. I remember in the first—where I was really a tyro and, of course, mostly terribly disturbed that we were doing so badly and had so little to work with, such wretched quarters. I felt cut off from my friends. I've never been the same since then. I decided to strike out on my own in certain ways, as a result of that. That I am most grateful for. I should have done it long before.

Q. What was the feeling of the community when Stevenson announced that the national headquarters was going to be in Springfield?

A. We were just astounded and very excited. We were intrigued as much as anything else, because this was happening to us. I think most people were concerned because they felt that Adlai must disassociate himself from Truman. You see, Truman was so unpopular at that time. That whatever he did, he must do on his own and he was not Truman's kind of person. Indeed he was not, he was another kind of person altogether. I remember being awfully interested in a remark made by Mrs. Ives when the family came back from Washington after they had gone and seen the Trumans. She said, "You know, the Trumans are the most reassuring thing in Washington. They are the most completely natural, comfortable, real people you ever saw." So, there was no lack of personal affection there. But

they just operated on such different levels. There was nothing of the give-'em-hell-Harry about Adlai.

Q. Did you ever meet Harry Truman?

A. Once. After the election of 1952, some months later, there was a large political organization rally. I went up to Chicago because when Adlai left he asked me to work in my party. I did become a precinct committeeman for a number of years and worked in the Democratic party here. I went up with Sally Horney and, I think, Hazel Keely, who later became Hazel McClain. We met the Trumans there. We met Bess and Harry and Margaret, who had come to build morale. I was simply astonished that they were all so petite. The two people whose stature has astonished me have been Harry Truman and the labor leader, John L. Lewis, who was also tiny, tiny and had the complexion of a girl. His pictures were always so fierce and terrifying when they appeared in the paper with the beetling eyebrows. Truman was very tiny, physically tiny.

Q. Was there any widespread community involvement in the Stevenson campaign, once he announced?

A. Well, the regulars worked, as I remember, locally under Mr. Peter Rossiter who also was not exactly Adlai's type. He was never, I think, awfully fond of Adlai, but absolutely loyal to the party--absolutely loyal to the party. He was the kind of old boss, old pro, who once he decided he would support a candidate just gave it his all. He would whip them out into line, and he did both times.

Q. Did many people get involved in Volunteers for Stevenson, or the national headquarters work?

A. No . . . not really. There were a few of us who worked in the local Volunteers for Stevenson. Sally Robinson Horney is really the only person I know who got in on the professional level of it. Emily Lyons, who is no longer living, also got involved in this campaign, but among the people I knew, that was it. Oliver Keller. Oliver Keller was enormously important to the Volunteers for Stevenson. He was the head of WTAX and an old newspaperman from Pittsburgh who came of a fine Pennsylvania family, all Republican. But he became one of Adlai's greatest admirers and closest friends. It was he who was so helpful to us in writing the advertisement that we spent our seven hundred dollars on. All we collected, practically, we put into that advertisement, which you have a copy of.

Q. You mean it was hard raising funds in Sangamon County?

A. Hard raising funds for Adlai, you bet it was!

Q. You mean there was no support?

A. I would say there was no financial support at all in Sangamon County for him, only organizational support.

Q. Could you tell something about the different organizations that were in Springfield, like at the Leland Hotel, the Elks Club, the national

headquarters, and the Volunteers for Stevenson?

A. The Leland Hotel housed the transients, of course, who came and went, and the newspapermen, and it was also a great rendezvous at dinner time, at cocktail time, and at luncheon time. It had an excellent dining room. Someone like Jim Mulroy used it actually as a club when he was here with Adlai. It was that kind of place. The man who ran it—oh, what's the matter with me? I'll think of it in a minute—was for years the head of the Leland, was a ~~man~~ host, a genial ~~man~~ host, who drew a lot of people here.³ MINE MINE

The Elks Club housed a lot of the speech writers. The national headquarters was right across the street from the—where the telephone company is now—and was in an old late-Victorian wooden house owned by George Kreider. I remember it mostly for the number of air conditioners that it had in it.

So many interesting people came, like Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., Ken Galbraith, David L. Cohn, and the man who was the editor of the Greenville, Mississippi, paper, among others, were here. We never got to see them. I was really charmed by the letter that Schlesinger wrote you giving his impressions of Springfield. He never knew he was being snubbed. He was so busy. Not that he would have cared. Again I am smiling. (laughs)

Q. So you mean the Republican community just brushed everything that took part here?

A. No, they withdrew with anguish. They withdrew with anguish. The one person I know who made an effort to entertain them was Louise Lanphier, Chick Lanphier's first wife, who was an Alabamian and had some background in "Democracy," in quotes. Her husband, who was an ardent Republican, allowed her to have this party and I remember it was a beautiful party, cocktail party. I remember talking a great deal to Edward P. Morgan, and [James] Scotty Reston was there. She really rounded up a lot of interesting people. That was the only occasion I know of and she—and a lot of Adlai's Republican friends came to that and enjoyed it. But she was the only one who really had the courage to do it. I remember certain people would come and go and would be sent to our house, which is a very modest one. We had Robert Ardrey, the writer, the playwright, and Johnny-come-lately anthropologist, the Territorial Imperative man. We had F. Scott Fitzgerald's daughter, who was Scotty Lanahan at that time, and now is Scotty Smith. We had Judy Baumgarten⁴ and several journalists—a woman journalist who did a story for one of the magazines, Colliers, perhaps—whom we entertained. We were in it and out of it, in it and out of it, in strange ways, cut off from it. We all got terribly emotional. Those of us who were working for him like—women like Clara Forsyth and me, we got much too much involved emotionally.

Q. Were the Republicans active or did they just sit behind the scenes?

A. Sat behind the scenes. Sat behind the scenes.

³His name was Ed Perry. [M.J.M.]

⁴Wife of Dr. Walter Baumgarten, she was Adlai's cousin. [M.J.M.]

** my husband says that this house was of red brick - with white trim!*

END OF SIDE ONE

Q. Mrs. Masters, what kind of man was Wilson Wyatt?

A. An engaging, lively, out-going fellow who was looked upon as . . . no pro at all in this kind of situation, but he was also nonorganization. He was, therefore, considered to be purer than he might have been. But I think that he was—Sally Robinson Horney can tell you a great deal about Wilson Wyatt. I think he was a little flighty, that was the impression that I got.

Incidentally, Springfield was a very different city, then, from the city you see. We still had quite a lot of our elms, although they were going fast. The downtown streets were lined with very lovely old decaying Victorian houses, which had a considerable charm for many of the correspondents. I remember that Reston did a piece for the New York Times. Incidentally, that was the only time in the history of Springfield when we could get the New York Times every day on the stands. He described Springfield as a lovely old town. A lovely, elegant old town with its houses that were like old-fashioned, charming dowagers. Of course, Reston had a special feeling for Illinois because he had gone to the University of Illinois.

Q. How was he, as far as a correspondent, in treating Stevenson?

A. Very sympathetically. I remember a rally when Stevenson came and I was standing listening to the speech. I was talking to Edward P. Morgan and up came George Hall of the Post-Dispatch, who was a classmate of mine at Washington University and married one of my friends. I hadn't seen him for a long time. He said, "You're working for Stevenson?" I said, "Yes." He said, "This is pretty pitiful." Said, "You know Eisenhower is going to be elected by a landslide." We were quite distressed. But he said, "I have been sent by the Post-Dispatch to cover Stevenson and I have covered Eisenhower, too. I am sent alternately to them. The crowds that Stevenson gets are just pathetic in comparison to the crowds that Eisenhower gets."

But Stevenson was a good enough speaker and a fresh enough personality always to get some press notice. He could make news. He did get that.

Q. Do you think the press was fair with him during the campaign?

A. Oh, I think very sympathetic, really. Now, there were some things that went on, that I heard about later, that really made me sick. Matthews, who was editor of Time, wanted to give him a column—I mean a special issue—and a fine picture and whatnot, and Luce would have none of it and Matthews did it anyway. From then on, Matthews was retired upstairs, went back to England.

Q. What were the local correspondents like that covered him for the Journal and the Register?

A. Well, lively. Malden Jones, it seems to me, covered him for the Register. I think that is what he covered him for. He gave him quite a

lot of coverage, and of course, V. Y. Dallman gave him enormous coverage. I would say the local press gave him plenty of coverage.

Q. What was the feeling of the community on the attacks of Johnson Kanadey and the Chicago Tribune?

A. Oh, I think the Republicans were delighted to have that old line used for them, but nobody—I didn't know many people who were sympathetic to the things said, even Republicans in my acquaintance.

Q. What was the reaction of the community to Dirksen's remarks on Stevenson being the worst Governor in the history of Illinois?

A. That question interests me very much. Of course, we were outraged because we thought he had been a great Governor. I am not sure he was. I think he was a great man. I am not sure he was a great Governor. But Springfield is very calloused, you know. We've been through many campaigns. We seen governors come and go, and campaigns take over, and awful things said. I don't think it was taken very hard for very long.

Q. What was the reaction to Reverend Graebel's remarks?

A. Well, many of my friends belonged to his church and they were quite upset. They were very sympathetic to him, because they liked him and they liked the fact they had a crusading minister. There was a good deal of criticism of his doing it in the pulpit. For some reason or another the church was not supposed—at that time—to be activist in these matters. Politics was a dirty business that the church merely points a finger at.

Q. How would you describe the relationship between the Reverend and Adlai Stevenson?

A. Very affectionate. They liked each other very much and enjoyed each other very much. I'd say Dick was—who had a Republican background, Dick Graebel—was quite dazzled. I think that his warmth, and his affection, and his approval were very helpful to Adlai Stevenson as a person.

Q. How did the community feel about Stevenson using the Lincoln image?

A. (pause) I heard very little about it, certainly nothing cynical. I didn't hear that, "Oh boy! The old gambit." I didn't hear any of that. Cause he was . . . I think most people felt that he was sincerely awed by the possibility of the undertaking.

Q. There was no adverse effect about going to the home and mentioning Lincoln in his speeches?

A. No, I heard none, I heard none. There may have been some. I heard none.

Q. Why do you believe that Eisenhower really won the election here?

A. Why, I think he was an absolute pushover. He had been a great general,

the big smile, the many who knew him liked him very much as a person. He had a rather unsoldierly, in the pejorative sense, image. He was the soldier who was a man of peace and the Korean thing, you see, was very, very helpful. This was Taft territory. When they started organizing for Eisenhower here, there was very little support. But they were going to vote for any Republican, so Eisenhower immediately caught on.

Q. What were the reactions to the visits of Eisenhower to the community?

A. People went down in great droves and were delighted to see him. "Wasn't he sweet—that wonderful smile!" No one said he was a good speaker—and he wasn't a good speaker, as we all know.

Q. What was the reaction to Richard Nixon coming to the community?

A. He was just that fellow from California, an outsider.

Q. He was a political unknown in Springfield?

A. Yes, a political unknown in Springfield, except for that horrible Checkers speech.

Q. In relation to that—some scandals of Stevenson—was there much inter-relationship, or did people just brush off the scandals? These matters, really did it make any difference in this election?

A. I don't think it made much difference in the election.

Q. What about your own activity, as far as writing the newspaper article?⁵

A. Well, we raised, as you know, very little money. We were most anxious to have one sock at our community before the campaign was over. So the weekend before, which was probably bad timing, we bought an ad. Ollie Keller and Tom, my husband, and I worked very hard on that and tried to say how we felt about Stevenson in our midst. It was an enormously sincere effort. I read it with interest the other day and I am still proud of it.

Q. What do you think was the most important statement in the article, or the most important theme?

A. I think maturity, growing maturity, was the thing that seemed important to us, his growth . . . and his dedication to good government.

Q. What was the reaction of the community to the article?

A. I haven't the faintest idea. No one ever spoke to me about it. I don't think my friends were literate. (laughs) I don't think they even read it.

Q. Going through all the Journal-Registers it seemed that there was little or none other Stevenson advertisement outside of that. Was it just because

⁵Collateral material, copy of the advertisement. [M.J.M.]

of the lack of funds?

A. No money!

Q. Do you think that if there was more money, there would have been more advertising?

A. Oh sure. Oh yes. My goodness yes, but the lack of money reflected the lack of support.

Q. Where was the Volunteers[for Stevenson] headquarters located?

A. On the corner of Seventh and Adams in what was then known as the Johnson-Hatcher Building, there had once been a furniture store there by that name. It was up, we climbed a wretched staircase and had a little room, which somebody had let us have. I don't know. Louise Pickering managed this, managed to get some headquarters, anyway. It was terribly hot up there. We didn't have an air conditioner. We had just a fan. Louise worked very hard, herself, trying to organize something up there, but it was a really pitiful effort and it broke my heart every time I set foot in the place.

Q. Do you know any background for why the National Volunteers for Stevenson organization wasn't in Springfield?

A. (pause) They wanted to have a big meeting here . . . was this 1956 or 1952 . . . and there were not sufficient hotel and motel accommodations to sustain them, as I recall.

Q. What kind of person was Mrs. [Edison] Dick who ran the national organization?

A. A charming person. Very elegant North Shore, very unassuming, and very, very keen on Adlai and Adlai as a candidate. She gave a great deal of time and effort to it. She came down during his administration and worked on the welfare rolls. She did a great deal of coverage on that for him for free, you know. Just a woman who had time and means, and could do this. She was no great speaker, but she trained herself to be a better speaker as time went by. She became a real pro in 1956, a real pro.

Q. So it was an amateur experience in 1952?

A. Yes, it was terrifically amateurish. Everything was amateurish beyond belief.

Q. Did you discourage the professional members of the campaign?

A. Oh no, they just thought we were funny. No indeed, we were just off on cloud nine somewhere as far as they were concerned.

Q. What were the last few days of the 1952 campaign like?

A. Oh, kind of heartbroken, I think—full of tension, full of tension. The more we—those of us who worked for Adlai—heard of Eisenhower, the

more depressed we were by him as a prospect for the country. He seemed terribly lackluster, always to us. The great smile wore very thin. He had very little to say as far as we were concerned and we were awfully tense about it. Then, of course, there was the great—the party the night of the election. That was the real "nozze triste." It was a terribly painful experience. All sorts of people came. When I read your paper, I noticed you mentioned the Bogarts coming, Humphrey Bogart and Baby [Lauren Bacall, his wife]. He came down with a terrific virus and had a high fever and went home as sick as he could be. He went back to the mansion that night. Lots of people who saw him on TV thought he was drunk and he wasn't. He was just terribly sick. In fact, my husband took care of him, went to see him the next day at the mansion. They were strong Stevenson supporters. Baby was so pretty, I can't tell you how pretty she was—fresh and young and charming. It was pretty harrowing.

Q. Who attended the last night at the Leland? Election night.

A. All kinds of people came and went. The newspaper people were there. The organization people, the volunteers, and then just the populace, came and went. We came home exhausted before Adlai gave his speech of concession. We heard it on the radio and our hearts were so downcast.

Q. What was the feeling of the people when Illinois was lost?

A. (pause) Well, my feeling was that I felt less badly than a lot of people, I think, because to me Illinois was always normally a Republican state, that Adlai had been a freak in 1948.

Q. Was there any bad feelings about [Sherwood] Dixon losing, as far as carrying on the Stevenson programs?

A. No, because most of us did not know Dixon, although he was a good man. Of course, Don Forsyth can tell you all about that.

Q. Do you mean Dixon spent four years in Springfield as lieutenant governor and he wasn't well-known by the community?

A. He wasn't even here much, as far as we were concerned. He may have been. The lieutenant governor didn't really have much to do, you know. He just came up for an occasional party.

Q. There was a party at the governor's mansion the next night. What was it like?

A. I was not there. That was for the people who had worked in the press. Sally was there and my friend, Emily Lyons, was there. It was a thank you party for them, but the volunteers were not asked.

Q. When was the last time you saw Stevenson as governor?

A. Shortly before he went away on that great trip. He first visited the Ronald Trees . . . down in the Bahamas—or Barbados—and then he went to China. We saw him just a day or two before he left. He came out and that was the time he brought Alistair Cooke with him. We had

a fascinating conversation and he was just delightful. That was the last time I saw him in Springfield, as governor.

Q. Did Stevenson return to Springfield much before 1956?

A. He was away a good deal.

Q. What was the feelings in Springfield?

A. I am trying to remember when he came to the Abraham Lincoln Association meeting, that must have been later. Oh, I think people, all his friends here missed him very much, very much.

Q. Was there any anxiety or being ashamed at—they had turned away a friend?

A. Yes, I think they suffered quite a bit over that. They are decent people. Yes, they suffered about it.

Q. When did the momentum work up in Springfield for 1956 . . . or did people think that Adlai was going to run again?

A. People thought Adlai was going to run again. The momentum didn't pick up in Springfield at all until there were some appearances here, I think, at Fair time. I know I was nearly going crazy trying to get down-state organized and having plenty of trouble getting money. I remember having John Rourke, Don Forsyth, and Harold Pogue from Decatur, and an architect from Peoria, and a man named Francis Connors from East St. Louis, up for a luncheon. I nearly went crazy. I knocked myself out fixing them a grand meal because it seemed to me that was about all that I was able to do at that point. But then we did get our headquarters started, in August, and opened. After that the national campaigning picked up.

You know, the tragic thing about all this is that, when we finished the campaign of 1956, John Rourke said, "There is only one favor I ask. I don't want anything out of this except to have all of the papers for my archives." I said, "Fine, I am delighted. I have no place to keep them myself. They ought to be kept somewhere." "Well," he said, "I've got an office over in the First National Bank building and I'll keep them all there." So he moved them all and kept them for ages. Finally, when he gave up that office, he took them home with him and Mary, his wife, allowed them to stay in the garage or something; but when he left Springfield, she had had it and destroyed them, all our papers. It is a house-wifely thing to do, but she must have done this about a month before Sylvia Sutherland came down from Canada doing a thesis, and Walter Johnson, and a whole lot of people. It was one of those things that should never have happened. She should, I think, have said something to me about it. I know I would have sought some sort of refuge for them, but she just had had it and this can happen to any housewife who is faced with the horrors of moving.

Q. When did you start your involvement in the 1956 campaign?

A. I was asked . . . in the spring. Jane Dick called and asked me if I would do it in the spring. That was a very interesting experience. I became much more of a pro in that. I learned a good deal. We had,

of course, as our downstate secretary for Stevenson, none other than Vic DeGrazia, who was in his late twenties at that time. A very young, very bright young man, and he did an excellent job for us.

Q. Did you have any experiences with Victor?

A. Yes, I remember he once caught something going on that I will not go into detail about—a group of people trying to use us for some tourist device. And I really didn't catch it, I was busy thinking about something else. I just plumb didn't catch it. He cracked down and said, "Mary Jane, what are you allowing? You shouldn't allow this." He was right. Vic is a very gifted man, just as smart as he can be. Very ambitious, and this was his first step in the direction of getting a winner and that is what he is working on now, thinks and hopes in Walker.

Q. Who else was well-known in that campaign?

A. In our group or generally?

(Tape turned off and on again; telephone.)

A. My co-chairman in Chicago was Carl Meyer, Doctor Carl Meyer, who was an old pro in politics and really had his feet on the ground. He was awfully busy and didn't have as much time as to give it as he would have liked, but he had lots of sources for money. We were constantly trying to coordinate their efforts up there with our efforts down here. They had a friend of Vic's, a woman named Mary Kay Laughlin, I think, from the University of Chicago district, who worked up there, awfully nice woman. I remember going up to a couple of organizational meetings. One on finance that I was certainly naive about. I was really just dumb. Half the people who were supposed to be fat cats, I'd never heard of. Another occasion, which revolved around Mrs. Roosevelt and a speech that she gave. I was attached to her as her companion and guide for the day. That was a very interesting experience—to spend a whole day with Mrs. Roosevelt, who was a great pro and saw everything. She was a most amazing woman.

Q. What was the Springfield operation like? The Volunteers for Stevenson?

A. Edie Graham. Mrs. Hugh Graham was in charge of that. She is just a delight to work with. She is full of steam and humor, and we did quite well, considering all the problems, we did quite well. I give a great deal of the credit to Edie, and John Rourke, and Don Forsyth.

Q. Was the office you had better than 1952?

A. Oh yes! We even had an air conditioner (laughs) in the back room. We had what are now the Gillespie offices. It was an old—just an old building, then, an old store building, and it was since made over into a very handsome building for their purposes. Louie Gillespie and Frank Young owned that building and they let us have it. Frank was a Democrat and Louie was a Republican. Louis was a great admirer of Adlai's.

Q. Was money easier to come by in 1956?

A. Oh sure. Oh yes. We were better organized to get it then. We didn't make a lot, but we were solvent. We ended up paying our bills and being much more effective. Well, we were statewide; and downstate, we took in money from all over downstate. We didn't just have to squeeze it out of Springfield as we did in 1952. We did better and we had a terribly interesting time of it. My two closest friends were co-chairman for Eisenhower and we used to get together occasionally and compare notes. Everything was certainly in reverse. When it was all over, they were very frank to say they thought I'd had a better time. (laughs)

Q. Could you tell the story about what you and Don Forsyth did with some extra campaign money?

A. Well, we had to settle our affairs. In the first place I was told, by John Rourke, to put five hundred dollars—these are inflationary times, five hundred meant more than it means now—to put five hundred dollars in one of the banks and never touch it. Never even let on to myself that it was there, because John Rourke had been through the campaign for Douglas and had come out short when he wound up his office. He said, "You are going to need that to close out the office." But when we finished our campaign, we did have some money left over, a couple of thousand dollars, and Don Forsyth and John Rourke and I decided that we should give some of it, most of it, to the organization, the Democratic organization, Mr. Rossiter's organization, which had gone down the line for us and made a great number of things easy for us. Especially, when we had big flotillas of people coming in to town, like the Kefauver rally, all the newsmen, and so forth. We gave one big party, as I remember, for the newsmen, a cocktail party. And then Don Forsyth said, "Now, Mary Jane, I know this is all new to you. I am an organization person. I am going to show you how it is possible to buy a ward. We will take a little of this money and I will mark out the streets and the blocks." They were along Jefferson, this was before urban rehabilitation and these were flop houses practically. And he said, "You watch how the vote comes in that night in that precinct on that street." I said, "Fine, let's try it." Well, he did and everything went just exactly as he had said. We got quite a little vote in there. You can ask him about that if he hasn't forgotten. (laughs)

Q. What was the major campaign experience in Springfield that year?

A. For me, you mean?

Q. Yes.

A. Oh, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of getting to know downstate Illinois. I did an awful lot of barnstorming, going here and going there, and trying to set some sort of liaison with our organization. I really got—I felt I really got to know my state and also I felt that I was serving my cause much more effectively. I had fewer frustrations, although we were pretty sure we might lose the election and did. I wasn't as emotionally disturbed as I had been.

Q. What was the major event of the campaign in Springfield itself?

A. The huge rally at the armory. We had a great big rally and it was jam-packed. Every Democrat in downstate Illinois was dredged up and

brought up here, (laughs) and it was quite something. We also had a very nice woman's luncheon and Mrs. Kefauver spoke. No. No. Mrs. Gore, Mrs. Gore, Senator [Albert] Gore's wife spoke, and she was delightful, just delightful, and that brought a good response. Peter Mack's little wife was there with her three-weeks old baby. He won, you remember, in that election.

Q. How was it that Peter Mack survived the two Stevenson landslides?

A. I think he did not have effective opposition. He also had a good base down there, his Carlinville base was very personal. He really kept in touch with it. This last campaign [1974] that he got into, which was a great surprise to a lot of us as Democrats, showed the fact that he had been living elsewhere, rather than here. But he is a natural little pro. He knows his way around and--friendly little guy and he served his constituency and served it quite well.

Q. How big of a shock was it that Stevenson lost in 1956?

A. Not a great shock at all.

Q. Did you expect to do better in Springfield?

A. We hoped we would. (pause) We hoped we would. We did better, I think. You have the statistics on this. I do not. I think he . . .

Q. I think it was worse. (laughs)

A. Was it worse? Yes. I think that was just part of--the people were perfectly content with the Republican administration.

Q. Do you remember any other trips Adlai Stevenson made into Springfield after the 1956 lost?

A. He came to the Abraham Lincoln Association dinner as a speaker once, when Ollie Keller was president. I can't remember the date of that, it was in the late fifties some time.

Q. What was the feeling, of Stevenson running for President in 1960, in the community?

A. Oh, for God's sake, let's not let it happen! That included me, I was terribly disturbed about this. Because I was approached by a member of the family about that and I just felt awful about it. I just didn't want this to happen to him or to us again.

Q. Do you think the man changed with defeat?

A. I think he grew. I think he was a typical Stevenson and he grew all his life. I think he went on. In the Kennedy administration, I think he would have loved to have been Secretary of State. But he always--

⁶The exact date was 1964. [Ed.]

he did admire Dean Rusk very much, at that time. I think he was given quite a raw deal by Kennedy. I think he was, really, never informed properly about that Bay of Pigs incident. I think it has been pretty obvious since that that's true. I think he recovered with what poise he had. I think he handled that with a great deal of sophistication and ability. And it was a tough assignment, a very tough assignment because I don't think he ever felt that, although he was suppose to have cabinet status, that Kennedy was really much behind him.

Q. Did you meet Stevenson during his ambassadorship?

A. Oh yes, we went to New York. Twice. I went to the Waldorf and I had a drink with him, once with Sue Bartholf and once with Mary Robinson. And that was great fun for us, the little girls from the country. And we went to a big party at the Mission and all sorts of people came up to us and were terribly attentive until they discovered that we were not important at all. (laughs) We learned something about that business then.

Q. Do you believe the Stevenson image has grown in Springfield with his death?

A. Yes. And I think the young were greatly turned on by his special eloquence and, of course, they grew older and remembered.

Q. What was the reaction of the community at the time of his death?

A. Grief. A great deal of grief. The community realized that it had touched greatness and that this might be as close as any of us in our lifetime would get to greatness. Even the old friends felt this, too . . . who had not voted for him.

Q. Were you at any of the special party gatherings on the night of the lying-in-state in Springfield? Were you at any of these meetings?

A. No. We were invited into the Governor's office the day of the funeral and had luncheon with the family. We put up some out-of-town guests for the funeral, but I was not involved in any meetings. That was Kerner's administration, you know, and Otto Kerner was very much in charge of all that.

Q. If history was to write just a single paragraph about Adlai Stevenson, what would you like the historian to write?

A. Well, someone else has said, and I cannot remember who said it but I think that he spoke for the heart and the conscience of the American people in a way that the President was never able to. He [the President] didn't have that kind of eloquence.

Q. Thank you.

END OF TAPE