

University of Houston
Oral History of Houston Project
Nancy Beck Young with Governor Bill Hobby

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Interviewer: Dr. Nancy Beck Young

Interviewee: Governor Bill Hobby

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Abstract:

Nancy Beck Young interviews former governor Bill Hobby. Governor Hobby focuses on recalling his family history, their involvement in Texas politics, his father, Will Hobby, and his tenure as the governor of Texas, and his personal decision to run for office in the state of Texas. Former Governor Hobby also elaborates on the time he spent serving as the Lieutenant Governor of Texas. He recalls stories regarding the Houston Post, the assassination of Kennedy in Dallas, his involvement in the Navy, and the presidency of Lyndon B. Johnson.

NBY: Okay, this is Nancy Beck Young again with Governor Bill Hobby to do Day 2 of our interview. It is Monday, August 15, and so we'll get started. We're going to take a slightly different approach this week from last week, and focusing more on your family's history than your time as Lt. Gov. although there are a few questions as you can see from the question sheet we worked up that do get into your time in public office. I'd like to start out by getting you to talk some about your father, Will Hobby, and how he became, the circumstances that caused him to become governor of Texas.

BH: Okay, he was elected Lt. Gov. the same time that Governor Jim Ferguson was elected governor. Ferguson was a corrupt governor. He was selling pardons. He was selling cows. If you wanted a pardon, you bought a cow from Farmer Jim. He was under indictment for financial irregularities of some sort, and those two things, of course, were the articles of impeachment, the basis on which he was impeached. The real reason he was impeached was that he vetoed the University of Texas appropriation. He was impeached by the House. He was convicted and removed from office by the Senate, and my father was Lt. Gov., so he became governor. Now, this was the first time that had happened, the first time a Lt. Gov. had become governor because of vacancy in that office. My father didn't really know if he was acting governor or really governor or what. There was no tradition or laws for it was the first time it had happened. He and his then wife, Miss Willie Chapman, didn't move into the mansion. He didn't take the oath until he was elected in his own right in 1918. Now here is an interesting picture related to that fact which has always fascinated me. This is a picture book of family history that I did in 2013, and this is probably interests nobody except me. Here is a picture of my father. He is signing a document. He is at the Senate rostrum. Here's the date, and this is after he'd been elected in

1918, sworn in in 1919. He is governor at this time clearly, but he is doing his signing at the Senate rostrum, where you'd have governors live. What he is signing is...legislature had passed a memorial resolution, memorializing the US Senate to ratify the 19th amendment, which is the women's suffrage amendment. Seated with him at the rostrum are various people who had been big advocates of women's suffrage. This picture was given to me years ago by some women's group that I spoke to in Austin, and it's in the file of the Austin History Center at the public library in Austin. Anyway, I just found it interesting, because although he could have signed in the governor's reception room, he was obviously more comfortable on the Senate rostrum, so that's where he signed it. In any case, Ferguson has now been impeached by the House, removed from office by the Senate, because he vetoes the University of Texas appropriation, which was only a million three at the time. I guess that was before UT started playing football. My father, he called a special session, and they oh! Ferguson vetoed the money. Now here's one of the more remarkable stories. Two of the regents, Littlefield and Brackenridge, wealthy people, their names are all over the UT campus there in Austin. Brackenridge Park in San Antonio, and so forth. Although they disliked each other, they were both regents. They disliked each other personally. They'd served on opposite sides in the Civil War, but they, for once, probably the only time, got together and pledged their personal fortunes to guarantee the UT appropriation. Then father called a special session, and the legislature appropriated the money. You know my father signed that bill. He didn't veto it at all, but anyway, I think that's one of the more interesting stories. I've never heard of two regents personally guaranteeing an appropriation.

NBY: No, I don't recall reading anything about that other than that story. I don't recall reading.

BH: And this story was originally, when our great Governor Perry, Aggie cheerleader, began his war against the University of Texas, the original draft of that story that's in here was an odd fit piece I wrote for The Chronicle. The Chronicle ran it under a headline saying, "Have a Care, Governor".

NBY: Do you recall why Ferguson wanted to defund the University of Texas? What was his beef with the Longhorns?

BH: Okay. He was having a feud with the regents, who had been appointed by his predecessor as governor, because they wouldn't fire the president, who wouldn't fire some faculty members that Ferguson wanted fired.

NBY: Did Ferguson think that he would gain political advantage with the voters of the state by going to war with the university?

BH: Well, you'll have to ask Ferguson that. I don't know.

NBY: Some have suggested that Ferguson efforts to appeal to rural and poor Texans, who then didn't the opportunity for a university education, played a role as well.

BH: Could be. I don't know.

NBY: Your father's race against Ferguson in 1918. Do you recall any stories about that? Because Ferguson didn't quite take being impeached as a finality.

BH: Well, there's an interesting kind of quirk to that. When the House impeaches somebody, and the Senate convicts, votes to remove, and I have presided over an impeachment trial, so I know this well. If the Senate removes this public official from office, there is a subsequent vote

saying, “Shall this person be barred from public office for life?” The Senate voted on that and voted to bar Ferguson for life. Nevertheless, Ferguson ran against my father in 1918. Although he’d be been barred for life, but my father never raised that issue, because he said he wanted the voters to decide. Of course, they did.

NBY: They did, resoundingly.

BH: Yes.

NBY: Yes, and your father also was governor during the United States participation in the first World War and had to deal with war time and post war issues – prohibition, you’ve already talked about women’s suffrage, there was concern as well for labor and during the post war period there was the right to work legislation was signed into law, I believe, during the end of your father’s administration.

BH: I am sorry. Which legislation?

NBY: Right to Work.

BH: Oh, Right to Work.

NBY: Yes, making it more difficult for joining a labor union.

BH: I think Right to Work came later, did it not?

NBY: No, it was late teens.

BH: Okay. Well, good for him.

NBY: Okay. Let's move on to another aspect of your father's career and that's his work in journalism. Can you talk about how he got started in journalism?

BH: Yes. His father, my grandfather, former Senator and District Judge in East Texas, Polk County, when he was, after several terms as District Judge, he was defeated for reelection. He moved to Houston, became John Henry Kirby's lawyer. John Henry Kirby was a big land developer in Houston. I now live on Kirby Drive. Okay, he moved to Houston as a very young man and took a job as a circulation clerk on the Houston Post and worked his way up to managing editor. Then an opportunity came to buy the radio, Beaumont Enterprise, which he did. Of course, he moved to Beaumont. After several years in Beaumont, former Governor Ross Sterling bought the Houston Post, became the publisher, and he asked my father to become general manager. My father moved back to Houston from Beaumont and became general manager. I am not sure exactly the chain of ownership here, but after several years, Jesse Jones, who, of course, already owned the Houston Chronicle, bought the Houston Post. Then about 1931 or '32, my parents bought the Houston Post from Jesse Jones with money borrowed from Jesse Jones. Well, after a year or so, but that loan agreement provided that they couldn't draw a salary until the loan was paid off. Well, they needed to draw a salary, so my father went to Dallas to see Fred Florence, the president of the Republic National Bank in Dallas and asked Fred Florence to lend him the money to refinance the note from Jesse Jones. And Mr. Florence said, "Well, you're publishing a newspaper in Houston. You really ought to do your banking with all those country bankers in Houston, but tell you what I'll do." So he reached over and got his personal notepad, you know, credit forms, President of Republic National Bank, and Mr. Florence wrote out the terms of the loan that he would make, the length of time, the amount, the

interest, and so forth and signed that Fred Florence, gave that piece of paper to my father. He said, "Now, Will, when you start your negotiations with the country bankers in Houston, here's where they start." And so he did, and a consortium of Houston bankers did refinance the loan, so my parents could draw a salary, which was nice. Jesse Jones rose from the grave, as the Post is no more, and the Chronicle is there big time. Mr. Jones' bank, what was then the National Bank of Commerce. It's the biggest bank and so forth.

NBY: What was your parents' relationship like with Jesse Jones beyond this deal to buy the Chronicle? <error, 0:17:05, the Post>

BH: Well, Mr. Jones and my father were good friends. My mother hated him or disliked him strongly, whatever word you want to use. So much so, that when my sister, who is five years younger than I, she was born in 1937, her birth certificate reads, "Jesse Oveta Hobby", because that's what my father named her, but when Jessica was five or seven years old, my mother had to say she didn't like Jesse Jones, so she just <inaudible, 0:17:58> saying, "Her name is Jessica." She became Jessica when she was seven or eight years old.

NBY: That's a lovely story. That says quite a bit. We haven't talked about your father's marriage to your mother. You've made reference to your mother, Oveta Culp Hobby, but I think we need to move in that direction. Do you recall stories of how your parents came to marry and your mother's background?

BH: Well, mother was born in Killeen, Bell County. Her father, my grandfather, I.W. Culp, was in the legislature for several non-consecutive terms in the early '20s. I am looking for those here. He was in the...well, here's a picture of Willie Chapman Cooper, my father's first, when

she was First Lady. This was in the mansion, but I.W. Culp, my mother's father, was in the legislature for several. And this is kind of off, he was in the legislature several non-consecutive terms in the 1920's. Two of those terms in the early '20s, he served with LBJ's father. Sam Ealy Johnson was in the legislature at the same time. One story that I came across about Miss Willie here - she had a maid, a black woman, and Miss Willie arranged for her maid Savannah Pearl to marry General Jackson, a porter in the Texas Senate in 1921. Undoubtedly, the first black wedding to take place in the Governor's Mansion.

NBY: That's a good story. I had not heard that story before.

BH: It's all written in the book.

NBY: I am going to get a copy of that book. Can you talk about your mother? What sort of person she was? She strikes me as a-typical of women of her age in the things that she accomplished.

BH: Indeed, she was.

NBY: And maybe for most any person. I don't want to just...

BH: Well, her father **Didge <unverified spelling, 0:21:54>** Culp as he was known, he was the legislature several terms, and he would always take her with him to Austin for the sessions. She became committee clerk and that kind of thing. Then, of course, parliamentarian of the Houston, and so forth. My parents married in '31, I think, which means if I have already said this, please stop me. I was born in January 1932, so I was conceived in April of 1931 while the legislature

was in session and my mother was parliamentarian of the House, so I attended my first session in utero. Now as to precisely how they met, that I don't know.

NBY: Okay. You're mother moved pretty quickly from the state's scene to the national scene.

BH: If I can go back for one minute.

NBY: Sure.

BH: One of my favorite stories about, as you said Mother was the first woman to do all kinds of things, at one point, this is during the Depression, the late 1920s, she was a clerk in the banking commissioner's office. Of course, banks were failing all over Texas, all over the country. The banking commissioner, he was fresh out of bank examiners. He said, "Miss Culp, I want you to go to Temple and examine the Such and Such bank." And she said, "Well, Commissioner, I am not a bank examiner." He said, "You are now." Battlefield promotion.

NBY: Such was the need for bank examiners.

BH: Yeah. Exactly.

NBY: Sure.

BH: I don't know why I get a kick out of that story, but I do.

NBY: No, it's another really great story. It speaks to the level of crisis caused by bank failures. It puts a human spin on it, different from those we're more familiar with. Can you talk about how your mother came to be in Washington, D.C. and came to first become the head of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps and then the Woman's Army Corps, as it went through name changes.

BH: Congress passed the Selective Service Act, the draft, in 1940, a year before, very foresighted, because, of course, we didn't go to war until December '41. Pearl Harbor. When Congress started the draft, the War Department created a women's interest section, which is supposed to take care of the needs of the mothers, wives, girlfriends, so forth, of the draftees. Here's another created department. My mother was asked to head it up. She turned it down, but my father told her, "This is a request from the President of the United States. You can't turn it down." So she took it, and that was the position she held when Representative Edith Nourse Rogers from Massachusetts passed the bill creating the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. Now that's law. That's created. General Marshall was Chief of Staff. He appointed Mother the first Colonel Commandant of the WAAC. She told me an interesting story about General Marshall one time. They were having a drill of some sort at the Pentagon. They were evacuating, I guess, just the top brass from the Pentagon to some secret place Northern Virginia there, and she was riding with General Marshall, who was Chief of Staff, in his car. They came to some fork in the road, and General Marshall, who apparently was quite a military historian, pointed down to some road they'd just passed and said, "If Lee had taken that road, he would have won the war." Anyway, that is kind of an interesting story, but while she was in the Army and of course, I said, General Marshall had appointed her to her position there. While she was in the Army, she was Mrs. Roosevelt's, Eleanor Roosevelt's traveling companion on a couple trips, one to Africa and one to Europe. Europe, of course, meant England basically. She was aware that there was something big going on. She didn't know just what, but it turned out that something big was D-Day, which was June 4, 1944. In this book, there's a picture of Mother riding a camel in front of the pyramids in Egypt. She got to know General Eisenhower during the war. He was commander

of the European theater, and then he came back from war. He was President of Columbia University. Then, in order to get away from the faculty politics at Columbia, he ran for the Republican nomination for President. His Republican opponent was Senator Taft from Ohio. Taft was the conservative, and Eisenhower was the liberal. Mother was his Texas campaign manager. When he became President, Congress, at President Eisenhower's request, consolidated a bunch of different federal agencies into the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and Mother was first secretary there. One interesting story from that period in her life – President Eisenhower, who was a well-known Socialist, obviously, asked Mother to draft a bill giving all citizens the same rights to medical care and benefits as a member of the Armed Forces, which she did. She sat in the House gallery while the House was debating the bill, and the Republican leader, the majority leader of the House, was Charles Halleck from Indiana. She sat there watching as Halleck lurks drunkenly around the Republican side of the House floor, pulling votes off Eisenhower's and her bill about medical benefits. The bill was defeated. She was obviously disappointed there. Let's see. What else?

NBY: She was Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare during the polio vaccine episode.

BH: And that took a terrible toll on her. What happened there, the original polio vaccine was the salt vaccine. Cutter Labs made a fatal batch of this stuff, killed a bunch of people. Obviously, they suspended the salt vaccine. Then the Sabin vaccine came along, and that replaced the salt vaccine. One little side story there is, I used to teach statistics in the summer in Ann Arbor at the University of Michigan there at an institution known as ICPSR, International Consortium for Political and Social Research. It is a very good institution.

NBY: It is.

BH: Are you familiar with it?

NBY: I am.

BH: Have you been there?

NBY: I have not been there, but I've used their data sets.

BH: Well, they have the best collection of data sets, as you know. I taught statistics there in the summer for several years. One summer I went, they had a July 4th faculty party out there on the lake somewhere. I am introducing myself around, and the dean of the medical school looks at my name tag says, "Hobby. As in Oveta Culp?" I said, "Yes. She is my mother." And he tells the following interesting story. At some point during that polio vaccine process, she named a committee of doctors to evaluate the vaccine. One of whom was the dean of the medical school at Michigan. "Well," he said, "when that happened, I was just a gopher. I arranged the press conference where the deans announced that they had approved the vaccine." I just thought was interesting that I just happened to run into this guy years later.

NBY: Let's go back a bit. We got into the Eisenhower presidency and your mother's role in it. You mentioned that she was Eisenhower's campaign manager in Texas. Can you talk a bit more about the 1952 campaign and the 1956 campaign? Texans do something in '52 that they'd only done once before since the Civil War, and that's vote for a Republican for the presidency.

BH: Well, let's see, in 1952, I was 22 years old, and the voting age at that time was 21, instead of 18, so that was my first Presidential ballot. Of course, I voted for Eisenhower since

Mother was his campaign manager. The main contest in the Republican convention was against Senator Taft from Ohio. He, of course, won handily and became President, beat Governor Stevenson from Illinois twice. I don't know what else to say.

NBY: Okay. It just strikes me as a rather remarkable accomplishment to manage his campaign and play a role in turning the state.

BH: Indeed, it was.

NBY: Yes. Can you talk a little bit more just about your mother's relationship with President Eisenhower?

BH: Obviously, they were friends. She obviously had great respect for him, and he for her since he appointed her to HEW.

NBY: I know from a project that I'm working on. I'm working on the 1964 Presidential election right now. I am going back and looking at the status of the Republican party leading up to '64, and so I have a background chapter that looks at the Republican party in the 1950s. Eisenhower had as his mission to consolidate the Republican party, so that it would support the agenda that he had run on as a liberal Republican party. He was forever in his diary making notations of who might be good candidates to run to succeed him. I had a conversation with Jim Granato last week, and he cited an occasion when Eisenhower had suggested that your mother run for the Presidency.

BH: For Vice Presidency.

NBY: Well, I'm looking into that further.

BH: That's my impression.

NBY: So my best source on Eisenhower, secondary source, is the Stephen Ambrose biography.

BH: I've read that years ago.

NBY: I pulled it off the shelf, and sure enough, and in 1960 Eisenhower was trying to get Robert Anderson another Texan to run for the Presidency. Anderson would have nothing to do with it, and he was trying to get your mother to persuade Anderson to run.

BH: If you've done this research, you're more up to date than I am, but my impression is that he talked to mother about the Vice Presidency.

NBY: That I think is true. Ambrose is not as clear as I would like for him to be, and it's very tantalizing. I have emailed the Eisenhower library, and they have responded to me. They are going to find the letter that Ambrose cited for this particular paragraph. As soon as I get a copy of that letter, I'll make sure that you get a copy of the letter, too.

BH: Thank you. I'd love to see that.

NBY: I thought you might, so I took the liberty of doing that last week. Also, I am going to go back through Eisenhower's diary. I started that process. Eisenhower's diary isn't as well indexed as I would like for it to be. There were multiple times where he recorded these long lists of people he thought would make good Republican...

BH: Secretaries of this, and cabinet members.

NBY: And Vice Presidents, and Presidents, and what not. I think your mother is in one of those lists.

BH: Could well be.

NBY: I think it's going to involve...

BH: Lots of work.

NBY: A thorough going back through. I've started the process, but I haven't hit pay dirt yet. If I do, I will make sure you get a copy of that reference as well, because it's just quite fascinating, at least to me. I find anything happened in politics in the 20th century to be fascinating. It doesn't take a lot, but this is a lot.

BH: You know the country was never in better shape than when it was run by three Texans. Eisenhower, of course, was born in Texas, as you know since you're a scholar. LBJ was twice President. Excuse me. John Nance Garner was Vice President.

NBY: Sam Rayburn.

BH: Sam Rayburn was Speaker of the House. You had three Texans running the country, which did pretty well.

NBY: We have, on occasion, sent some pretty folks to Washington, D.C. from this state, some pretty powerful folks. They've certainly kept me busy for twenty years, and I think they can keep me busy for another twenty plus years. Can you talk a bit? We haven't mentioned the 8F crowd. We've mentioned individuals in the 8F crowd, but we haven't mentioned 8F. Can you talk about

8F? I just think it's fascinating that your mother was an equal, or at least it seems from the outside.

BH: There's a, I forget whether it's a full chapter or not, but there's reference and brief description of that in this book that Saralee and I wrote. 8F was a suite in the Lamar hotel, which was owned by Jesse Jones. It was set aside by Jesse Jones for a weekend meeting of the 8F group, which consisted - well, you're a scholar. You have more details on this than I do, but - of about ten, twelve people that they decided who the mayor was going to be, and so forth, and did a pretty good job of it, as a matter of fact. Both my parents were in that group. George and Herman Brown, I can't remember who all, and of course, Jesse Jones obviously. I can't remember who the others were now.

NBY: Okay. Another episode in Houston that was linked to national issues, the Minute Women. The Minute Women being a group of conservative, politically active women who were unhappy with various aspects.

BH: The term you're searching for is nutcases.

NBY: I was trying to be polite.

BH: The Minute Women were determined to root out the Communists in the Houston school system, and they must have done a good job of it. As far I know, there's no Communists now, but they destroyed a lot of careers in the process. Mother, when she and my father were running the Post, much to her credit, she assigned Ralph O'Leary to do a series on the Minute Women. Obviously, I don't remember it well. That series, it destroyed the Minute Women. They had

some connections with the police force and so forth. Don Carleton, who is now head of the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, wrote a book called Red Scare.

NBY: I've read it.

BH: Which was his doctoral thesis at the Univeristy of...

NBY: Here!

BH: Yes, exactly. Excellent book. It mentions the Minute Women series prominently. At that time, I don't think I had met Don. We're good friends now. I don't even think I had even met him when I read the book. I sent him an email, saying how much I admired the book. I said, "Look, I lived through all that, and I agree with 80% of what you said." He emailed back and said, "Hell, any historian will take 80%." Don and I have since become great friends. Incidentally, Don is writing a book. It may be two volumes on the Hobby family and Texas history. You may have talked to him about that. I don't know.

NBY: He has mentioned that, yes. He wants me to write a biography of John Nance Garner.

BH: Oh, okay.

NBY: Which is going to involve some digging, because Garner burned his papers.

BH: Did he really?

NBY: Yes, he did.

BH: Wait a minute. When I first Don, wasn't he librarian of the John Nance Garner Library in...

NBY: Don has been at UT for a long time. I did my Ph.D. work there, and I finished in 1995. I took a class from him when I first started, which would have been in the late 80s at some point in time. I think he had been there for a while before I took that class. The unit that he oversees, the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, is gone through a series of name changes. When I was a student there, it was the Eugene C. Barker Center for Texas History. I think before I left it became the Center for American History, because he had collected much wider than Texas topics. It needed a name that encompassed the totality of his holdings. At some point, I think in the early 21st century, the then Center for American History took responsibility for oversight and ownership of both the Garner Museum and the Sam Rayburn Museum up in Bonham.

BH: Alright, when I first met Don, he was director of the Rayburn Museum. That's it, okay.

NBY: Yes. They're all part of his empire. Winedale is also part of the...

BH: I didn't know that.

NBY: Yeah, Don is good at what he does.

BH: Yes, he is.

NBY: Very good at what he does. Okay. Shifting to another aspect of your parents' career, can you talk about their move into other types of journalism? Radio and television with KPRC.

BH: Well, they bought the first VHF television station in Houston, was KLEE. LEE was the name of Albert Lee, who was the first owner of it. When television stations came along, they basically put evening newspapers out of business. The television evening news basically put an end evening newspapers. It took a few years, but that's what happened. Television stations were

a lot more profitable than newspapers, so a lot of publishers became broadcasters. My parents did. At one time, we had three newspapers - the Houston Post, Galveston News, Texas City Sun. We had television stations in Houston, San Antonio, Des Moines, Jackson, Mississippi and Nashville, and Orlando, Florida. In other words, they moved into television as many publishers did.

NBY: It was a good business move.

BH: Yeah, exactly.

NBY: You worked for a while at the Houston Post. You were there by the early 1960s. Can I get you to talk about a very memorable day in your career at the Post? And that's also a very unfortunate day. The day of the...

BH: Yeah. Here's me at the Houston Post.

NBY: Okay.

BH: Yes, the Kennedy Assassination. Yeah, you sure can. That was a defining day in my life, as of course it was for many other people's lives. I was managing editor at the time. Specifically, I was a 31 year old kid and managing editor. I was having a meeting in my office. My secretary comes in with – the technology at the time was teletype machine – she comes in with just a piece of teletype just ripped off the machine. I have that. It's framed in my office. It's a historic document.

NBY: Of course.

BH: It's the Associated Press A-wire. The A-wires are transcontinental wire. Only, I think, six or eight of the largest cities in the country could transmit directly onto the A-wire. Here's the first things I recall that was 205th story to move on the A-wire that day. D in Dallas – BULLETIN – DALLAS – PRESIDENT SHOT. I remember Atlanta transmitting something or other. Bob Johnson, who I knew, was the AP Bureau Chief in Dallas. The BULLETIN – DALLAS – PRESIDENT SHOT. He breaks in on Atlanta, from their transmitting whatever they were transmitting, so then in a few minutes, Dallas starts up again. Whoever was editing the wire in New York, I think this guy deserves a Pulitzer for it. He broke in on Atlanta. BUREAU'S <inaudible, 0:53:38> THE REST OF YOU GUY'S SHUT UP. DALLAS IT'S YOURS. So Johnson took over the wire. The first add, the first follow-up said that AP photographer John Altgens, he witnessed the shooting. He was on the grassy knoll there in Dallas. This was, of course, before the days of cell phones. The grassy knoll there is, I don't know, maybe a mile from the Dallas News Building where the AP Bureau was. He describes the events. He's run that mile. He's collapsing over Johnson's desk there, tells him what happened. Johnson just turned around. The teletype machine was right there, and he BULLETIN – DALLAS – BULLETIN – PRESIDENT SHOT. About a year later, Bob arranged a luncheon for several of us who played a part in the coverage, and Jack Krueger was ME of the Dallas News. He'd gone extra, too. Anyway, so I am here in the wire room, hovering over the A-wire. By this time, the wire room is starting to fill up, because word has gotten around the building. The managing editor is supposed to be the guy that knows what to do, right? Only I didn't know what to do. I was sitting there thinking. I even had sense enough at the time to think, "Now, Hobby, this is the biggest news story you will ever have in your life." I remember J.D. Hancock <unverified spelling, 0:55:51>

was the city circulation manager, and he was standing beside me, just to my left. J.D. said, “Bill, you’re going to go extra, aren’t you?” “Yes! That’s exactly what I am going to do.”

NBY: Do you mind just briefly explaining what the term “extra” means? I’d imagine most of the students who listen to this won’t know.

BH: Yeah. Good point. Newspapers used to put out extra editions for some big, breaking news event. The last one the Post had published was the Texas City disaster, which killed hundreds of people, as you recall. So I told – Ted Wilty <unverified spelling, 0:56:49> was news editor – I told him, “We’re going extra.” I called Gene Butrell <unverified spelling, 0:56:54>, the production manager, so he could call the unions and get printers and pressmen, engravers and so forth. Interestingly enough, printers and pressmen from all over town, they started coming in as soon as they heard the bulletins, because they knew there would be an extra. I think I got out, probably, the earliest extra of many Central time zone... And here’s the extra that I put out. This is probably more detailed than you are interested in. This is about noon specifically, 12:35, Central time. And then at noon, there are not many people floating around a morning paper’s news room. Reporters are still out on their beats and rewriting. Most, they hadn’t come in yet. I asked my secretary, “You charter a plane. We’re going to Dallas.” There weren’t many people in the news room. “You, you, you and you.” Of course, who’s going to turn down an assignment like that. Instantly, Bob Johnson, the AP Bureau Chief, told me the first thing he did. I said, “Bob, when your photographer came in gasping, and he told you the story. Did your whole life flash in front of you? Because if you put that on the wire, and it’s false, you’re a dead man. On the other hand, if it’s true, and you don’t put it on the wire, you’re a dead man.” He said, “No, I’d hired Altgens, and I believed him. I BULLETIN – DALLAS – PRESIDENT SHOT.”

Krueger had gone extra with the Dallas News, too. Of course, he didn't put out as good an extra as I did. One thing, there was nobody else around the news room to do this. I asked my secretary to look up, I think, it's the 20th amendment. Okay, Kennedy is dead, so LBJ is Vice President. He is now President. Could he run for one term or two terms? Turns out, he could run for two. Of course, he ran successfully the first time, and unsuccessfully the second time. Anyway, I had that story in that extra edition. My secretary became a reporter real quick.

NBY: Promotion. Battlefield promotion.

BH: Yeah, battlefield promotion. Kennedy was assassinated on a Friday. The next Sunday, like a lot of people who don't go to church very often, Diana and I went to church. We came out of church, this was Sunday morning, and there are newsboys on the street calling, "Extra! Extra!" Well, let me back up a minute. Jack Valenti was then a columnist on the Houston Post, and of course, he knew LBJ very well. Jack and I were going out to the airport to meet President Kennedy, who of course, flew in from Washington. Vice President Johnson flew in from San Antonio, arriving at what's now Hobby Airport at the same time. Jack and I were going out to meet LBJ. Just as we were leaving, my secretary said, "Can I go with you?" "Sure." She didn't care about JFK or LBJ. She wanted to see Jackie Kennedy, which she did. So all of that is over with, and it's time to go back to the office. "Where's Valenti? Anybody seen Valenti?" And somebody said, "Oh, he went into town. Rode into with LBJ." Okay. We went back to the office. I passed the law then, and I understand that many other newspapers did that same, that when the President was in town, at least an assistant editing manager had to be on duty. I've been told that other newspapers did the same thing. Somebody told me, in Boston, when the Pope was in town, they had to have somebody on duty. That's the day Friday before Kennedy was assassinated.

Valenti and I and my secretary went out to the airport. Of course, we couldn't find Valenti. Now, here's a remarkable story. The following Sunday, Diana and I go to church. Just before we leave Mary Margaret Wiley Valenti, she had a difficult childbirth with Courtenay, their daughter. She was just back from the hospital, and Diana said, "Let's go buy the Valentis." She had bought a little silver spoon or something as a birth present for Courtenay, so we go get the silver spoon. The Valentis lived at that time just across San Felipe, a couple blocks to the west. Okay, after church, we come out and the newsboys are saying, "Extra! Oswald Shot Kennedy!"

LB: Ruby?

BH: Ruby, right. On the way out to the airport, my secretary, her sister was then going to SMU, and her sister had been visiting on the weekend before. She said, "You know my sister was just telling me that there's a new nightclub in Dallas, very popular with all the kids. It's owned by a gangster named Jack Ruby." So I heard Ruby's name for the first time on the way out to the airport. Ruby was shot. Incidentally, going back to that day one more time, you all know, or knew, or knew of, famous CBS newsman...

LB: Cronkite? Walter Cronkite?

BH: No.

LB: Dan Rather?

BH: No, it wasn't Rather. I've got more about Rather later, but anyway, this guy...we'll all know his name when I think of it.

NBY: Edward R. Murrow?

BH: No.

NBY: Oh, sorry.

BH: Anyway, he was a young police reporter on the Star Telegram at the time. Of course, all the phones were ringing off the hook. He's alone, because all the other staff, they've gone to Dallas. He's a young police reporter, and he's the only one left there. He picks up the phone. This woman says, "I've got to get to Dallas. Can you take me to Dallas?" Bob Schieffer is his brother.

NBY: The reporter?

BH: Yeah. He says, "I'm sorry, ma'am. This is the Star Telegram. It isn't the Yellow Cab Company." She says, "Well, my name is Marina Oswald, and I think my son <possible error, Marina Oswald was Lee Harvey Oswald's wife, not his mother, 1:08:08> just shot President Kennedy." Which of course, was true. Schieffer said, "Well, when can I pick you up?" So he took her to Dallas, which is a good thing to do, and he took her to the police station in Dallas. The cops there thought that Schieffer was a Ft. Worth cop, so he got to sit in on a lot of the interviews and that kind of thing. Anyway, that's a good assassination story.

NBY: It is. It didn't hurt his career.

BH: No, it sure didn't.

NBY: Didn't make that mistake. I've got a couple more questions about journalism more generally. Can you talk about selling the Post in 1983?

BH: We sold the Post to the Toronto News in Canada. The Chronicle had basically run us out of business when they moved into the morning field. The Toronto folks, the Canadians sold it to the former publisher of the Dallas Times Herald, former publisher of the Rocky Mountain News. He bought it from them, and then he sold it to the Chronicle and shut down the Post.

NBY: A last question about journalism and the media. Can you talk about where we are in terms of getting our news in the early 21st century? How the industry has changed and...

BH: Well, it's like a whole lot of other industries. The internet, of course, has changed it. A whole lot of change. Retailing...it certainly changed the news business a lot. I don't know what else to say about it. That's the way it is.

NBY: Are we better informed?

BH: Oh, yes, we certainly are.

NBY: Okay. Then changing gears completely. You have mentioned your wife, Diana Hobby, can you talk more about her? How you met her?

BH: Sure. We first met. I graduated from Rice in '53. Then I joined the Navy and went to Officers Candidate School in New Port, Rhode Island. I arrived in New Port. This is in the fall of '53 on a momentous day. It was the day John Kennedy married Jackie Bouvier in New Port, so it was pretty crowded. I went to Officers Candidate School and to Naval Intelligence School. In the intelligence school, one of my shipmates was Donald Morris, who was Diana's first brother-in-law. We were locking up one night, and Donald says, "What are you doing for dinner tonight?"

“Nothing.” He said, “Well, come on and have dinner. Sylvia’s sister Diana is in town. She is staying with us, and Sylvia said to bring home a tall one.” So that’s how we met.

NBY: Can you talk about what your wife was like? Her interests, her...

BH: She, like our daughter, Laura Beckworth, who is here today - they were Phi Beta Kappa, which I wasn’t exactly. Well, obviously, she was highly literate, professional editor. She was a Yates scholar – William Butler Yates, the Irish poet. We had a very happy marriage, four children. She died about three years ago?

LB: Two years ago, July 4th.

BH: Two years ago. She was a beautiful woman. I don’t know what else to say in this short of time.

NBY: Okay, fair enough. I want to go back and talk a little bit about your time in the Navy.

There are a couple of stories I’d like to get you to tell – one about getting John Foster Dulles. Jim Granato asked me to ask you that question.

BH: That was the weekend that I saved the country.

NBY: Kind of important.

LB: Good weekend.

BH: Yes. Good weekend. What happened was...what year was that exactly – ’54? Anyway, I was in the Austin Naval Intelligence in the early ‘50s, I guess, from ’51 to ’55, or something like that. It would have been ’53 to ’55, ’56. I am in the Office of Naval Intelligence. This is the same

weekend the Hungarian Revolution, where the Hungarians threw the Communists out. The Six Day War, the Brits and the French invaded Suez. We wouldn't go along, because Eisenhower had more sense than that. Hungarian Revolution, the war in the Mediterranean, the same weekend things are hitting the fan, as you might well imagine. I am the weekend duty officer, and incidentally, if you are ever going to start a World War, start it on a weekend. I guarantee you that the weekend duty officers in the Armed Services all over the world will be the most junior officers available. Who wants to work on a weekend? So it's the most junior officers available are the weekend duty officers. Okay, phone rings. "Lt. J.G. Hobby, ONI Duty Officer, how may I help you, Sir?" Well, the guy calling is the State Department weekend duty officer. He says, "Can you get my secretary back?" I said, "Well, I don't know. What did you do to her?" He said, "No, I am talking about the Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles." Well, the State Department asking the Navy Department to get the Secretary. Obviously, the answer is yes. "Well, where is he?" "Well, he is in an island on a big lake up there in Canada. He is up there fishing." No staff with him. Whatever communication they thought they had, they didn't. I said, "Where is it?" "Well, it's in a big lake up there somewhere." "Call me back with coordinates." Okay, we're going to pick up the Secretary of State in Canada, so you need a sea plane. I knew that 6th Naval District in Chicago, which is on Lake Michigan, had a sea plane. I called out to 6 ND and got the duty officer out there. I said, "How long will it take you to get that sea plane in the air?" "No time at all. I was just having coffee with the duty pilot." So I explained the situation, and I said, "You wander around there." Mind you, this is weekend, so everybody on duty is the most junior officer available, or if you're an enlisted man either. I said, "Whoever you find there with the most stripes on their sleeve, they're the escort officer for the Secretary of

State. Your sea plane is going to pick him up.” And about that time, the State Department calls back with the coordinates. I give this guy the coordinates. Well, about this time, I’m a J.G., and I figure, “Hobby, you’re a little above your pay grade here.” I called the Chief of Naval Operations duty officer, who is the guy that the State Department ought to have been talking to in the first place. I explained the situation and that I am going to send the sea plane from Chicago out to get him. The Op Nav duty officer says, “That’s fine, Kid. You’re doing great. You just keep on keeping on.” He is going to have someone else to blame if something went wrong. I got the Secretary of State back from Canada, so I saved the nation.

NBY: You did, indeed. Another question about the Navy, if you can talk a little bit about Bobby Inman and his memory of passing on intelligence...

BH: Well, I first, I am not sure that I met Admiral Inman when I was an ONI. I certainly knew who he was. I had great respect for him - probably the only admiral to graduate from Texarkana Junior College. Here’s how we met. This is after I am in the Navy. This is twenty years later. I am in Austin, and I read in the paper where Admiral Inman is speaking to some group at lunch there. Of course, I had never met him, but I certainly...Bob Inman was the founding director of the National Security Agency, NSA. Back in the days when it was so secret that NSA stood for “No Such Agency.” I knew his reputation, so I went to this luncheon. Huge luncheon, some big group in the convention center there in Austin. After the luncheon – now here’s the thing that makes the memorable, for me at least – “You’re Bill Hobby.” Well, I need to back up a little bit there. I was in ONI, Officer Naval Intelligence, from ’54 to ’57. One of my jobs was keeping track of the activities of our Naval personnel in the United States. “Keeping track of” meant all of these guys, they were surveilled 24/7 by the Bureau. What I mean by “keeping track of” you

read these surveillance reports, and you didn't have to cross-reference the names, but you cross-referenced mainly by target areas, areas of interest. If there was anything really unusual that the Director of Naval Intelligence needed to know about, I saw to it that he did. Anyway, I go to this luncheon. I was keeping track of our naval personnel, and by far the most interesting part of the job was that 10:00 every morning, I walked over to the D-ring of the Pentagon to go to the reading panel. Well, that was the greatest part of the job, because the reading panel, you got to read the entire take of the U.S. intelligence community the day before secret and below. We knew a lot about what was going on. We all had, of course, our assigned times to go to the reading panel, so I'd go over there at 10:00 every day. After a while, some guy showed up at the same time and told me he was from Op 922Y1Z. Op 920 was the Office of Naval Intelligence. 921 was the security section, counterintelligence section that I was in. This guy said he was from Y1Z. Well, when I looked that up, Y1Z, so after a while I figured out that this guy was from NSA. One of my foreign Naval personnel, a German Naval attaché, he had a regular routine, that on the first Monday of the month, he would go to the patent office and buy copies. He'd go through all the patents that had been filed in the last week and get copies of those that were of interest to him. Then he'd go to the Radio Shack or nearby electronics store and buy technology that interested him. Of course, he was surveilled. As soon as he would leave the patent office and the Radio Shack, the agent would go in and the sales clerk would hand him a sales slip, so we knew what he had bought in each case. One morning, one Monday or whatever day it was, he goes to the Radio Shack, and he buys, as I recall, a half a dozen transistors. And the transistors are named "X21YZX!" blah, blah, blah, blah. There was very unusual plain text. Hmm. Well, why did Ivan? I said he was German. No, he was a Russian attaché. Hmm. Why did Ivan go out

of his regular routine and go on Tuesday instead of Monday? Hmm. That's odd. I was thinking about that while I was going over to the reading panel one day after I'd first noticed this. Hmm. Well, he went out of his regular routine, because he got orders by radio from Moscow the night before. Okay. That means that NSA is trying to break that message. This very unusual plain text is going to be very useful to somebody trying to break a code, so I said to this guy, who I'd figured out was from NSA. I said, "Hey, did you guys get the message from the girl about Ivan Scavitzsky <unverified spelling, 1:28:03>?" He said, "No." I said, "Well, you better have a look at it." And I told him why I thought NSA would be interested. Now in so doing, I violated the, sort of, the third agency rule. The third agency rule is if you're an analyst (and this happened several times on my watch) at CIA and you want to know what Navy knows about XYZ, the CIA liaison officer contacts the ONI liaison officer. They figure out that I am the analyst that covers that area, so I have an appointment with you, the CIA guy at 2:00 next Tuesday, and I know what you want to talk about. I pull the files from that subject, and we meet at our Bureau. Everything in those files that's over Naval origin, I have files that I am going to give you copies of that, but anything from a third agency, Army, State Department, Commerce, whatever, I cannot disclose to you. I had violated the third agency rule, sort of, kind of around the edges. I got my butt chewed by the Director of Naval Intelligence. I didn't even try, "But Admiral, I thought he was with Op922Y1Z!" I thought he'd thought, "Boy, if you're that dumb, we don't need you around here." I survived. After I heard Admiral Inman's speech, I went up to him and introduced myself. "Bill Hobby...that was very useful what you did 20 years ago," meaning telling them about that message. Obviously, it was useful to them breaking the code.

NBY: Everything worked out in the end.

BH: Yes.

NBY: That's good.

BH: As far as I know.

NBY: I am going to move forward in time. You were elected Lt. Gov. for the first time in 1972. Among other people, you invited Lyndon Johnson to attend your inauguration ceremony. Can you talk a little bit about that phone conversation?

BH: Yes. Dolph Briscoe and I were inaugurated on the second Tuesday after the first...ahh, just Constitutional language. The day before I called former President Johnson, as he was then, and said, "Mr. President, I know you've received an invitation, but I just wanted to tell you how much it would mean to Mother, Diana and me if you'd come to the inauguration." He said, "Well, when is it?" "Tomorrow, Mr. President." "I know it's tomorrow. What time is it?" "Noon, Mr. President." "Noon? That's why I take my nap. You're just trying to kill a sick old man." Which is about what I expected. Later that day, Bill Jenkins was working for me. He was making the arrangements for the inauguration, meaning working with Briscoe's staff. I still don't know exactly what happened here, but Jenkins came in and says, "Governor, where do you want President and Mrs. Johnson to sit?" I said, "Well, Jenkins, I want them to sit next Diana and me on the platform. Where did you think I wanted them to sit?" He said, "Well, Briscoe's people says there's not room for them on the platform on the rostrum." "Jenkins, I assume there are two places for Diana and me on the platform. If there is no room, the President and Mrs. Johnson can sit there. I'll stand out in the crowd somewhere. When the time comes, I'll raise my right hand and swear to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of this state and the United States and

to the best of my ability to execute the duties of the office for which I have been elected, so help me God.” Jenkins said, “I knew that’s exactly what you were going to say. I figured it would be more effective if I left the meeting and then come back I just talked to you and that’s what you said.” Well, needless to say, somehow they found room for the President and Mrs. Johnson on the platform, but he was quite right. I interrupted his noon nap and one week later he was dead.

NBY: I suspect he would have passed anyway.

BH: I suspect he would have.

NBY: I would not assume the guilt for that.

BH: No, I don’t.

NBY: I think years of dietary indiscretion...

BH: No, he was...as a matter of fact, while he was at the inauguration, he was clearly a very sick man.

NBY: Right. That’s true. One more question about his style. I understand you tell a great story about an incident involving Estes Kefauver and Richard Russell and Johnson’s style, forgetting his way.

BH: Okay. When President Johnson was in Congress and of course majority leader in the Senate, Vice President, in the summer, Mrs. Johnson and Lyndon, they would drive back to Texas in the summer and spend the summer at the ranch. LBJ, he just had a thing about not being left alone. He wanted everyone to be along. He called my cousin, Posh Oltorf. LBJ, he would move in, and he would take a suite in the Mayflower Hotel and stayed there while his family was

in Texas for the summer. He called my cousin, Posh, who was Brown and Root's lobbyist then, and he was living at the Hay Adams just down the street and asked Posh to come over and spend the weekend with him. On one of these weekends, one Sunday, Posh woke up and LBJ was already up, and he'd already read the Sunday papers. He was waiting anxiously for 8:00, because he didn't think he ought to call anybody before 8:00 on Sunday morning. So, 8:00, first phone call, so Posh can only hear LBJ's part of the conversation. "Morning, Dick. This is Lyndon." Dick was Dick Russell, he was the Dean of the Senate, and really one of LBJ's mentors. "Dick, you know we've got this vacancy on the foreign relations committee, and I just want to find out who you're for, so we can all get behind the same fellow and so forth." Senator Russell mentions whoever he mentions. Posh can't hear that. LBJ says, "Well, Dick, that's just the man that I was thinking of, but I'll tell you, Dick. I've been talking to a bunch of them, and a lot of them want Estes for that job." Estes Kefauver, hell, everybody hated Estes. He was an ass. "Well, I know, Dick, but there's a lot of them for Estes. Tell you what, I think if we both get behind Hubert, we can beat Estes." So that's Hubert Humphrey got on the foreign relations committee and ultimately became Vice President and so forth. That's a pretty typical LBJ story.

NBY: And Johnson was one of the one's who hated Estes Kefauver, called him Cow Fever.

BH: Oh yeah, I didn't know that, but I'm not surprised certainly.

NBY: I am sure he called him other things, too.

BH: I expect he did.

NBY: Given that we're talking about Lyndon Johnson here. We are running out of time, but we've got a little bit more time left. Can I get you to talk about your "Just vote no" philosophy of government? I love the <inaudible, 1:38:48>.

BH: That is probably the best chapter in this book that Saralee and I wrote. That is to say I wrote this chapter. Saralee wrote the bad chapters. I wrote the good chapters. I have done this. This is the most popular chapter in the book, and I've been asked about it several times before. It's just two pages long, Can I read the chapter?

NBY: Sure.

BH: Just before each biennial session of the Texas legislature, I feel compelled to offer legislators some advice. Actually, this is pretty timely thing to read. Dear Legislator, Congratulations on your recent election. The easy part is over. Between now and the end of May, you will set the priorities, the state's priorities for the next two years. You will consider thousands and pass hundreds of bills. The only bill that really counts is the general appropriations bill. In this one bill, you will decide how well Texas will be educated, regulated, imprisoned and medicated for the next two years. Spend every nickel you can on education. Every nickel you don't spend will cost dollars in the future for welfare and prisons. Then go home. Please don't pass any more laws. Specifically, anybody who wants to amend the penal code by adding a new section to read as follows. Probably thinks they are getting tough on crime by creating another law. What they are really doing is getting tough on taxpayers. It is cheaper to send a person to college for a year than to lock that person up for a year. People have been passing laws for about 5000 years now since the Code of Hammurabi. If we could eliminate or

even reduce crime by passing laws, we wouldn't have built new prisons in years. New laws and the penal code create new crime and new criminals. We have enough criminals already, so just vote no. Don't try to tell people what it is that you don't want people to do, to put in their minds or bodies. People won't appreciate your advice or even pay attention, so just vote no. When somebody wants to reform something, hold onto your purse or wallet tightly. What they want to do is transfer money or power from some other group to their own group. Well, maybe that's alright in fact. That's why legislators meet every year, to change power and money relationships, to fit the political realities of the day, but when somebody tells you he wants to reform something, they're saying, "Trust me." Just don't think the world is going to be a better place after it is reformed. There is more in that vein, but that's what it is all about.

NBY: Just vote no. What do you think are the chances that the legislature that will sit in January will listen?

BH: None.

NBY: Because they need to get that bill for prison reform or whatever.

BH: Exactly.

NBY: Yeah. Can you talk about your role in and the efforts to get Charles Schnabel removed as Secretary of the Senate?

BH: Yes. When I was elected in '73, Charlie Schnabel was Secretary of the Senate. To put it mildly, I didn't like Schnabel very much, and I wanted to get rid of him as Secretary of the

Senate. Easier said than done. The Secretary of the Senate is not an employee of the Lt. Gov. He is an officer of the Senate, elected by the Senate, so the Senate has to un-elect him.

NBY: Why was Schnabel a problem? I guess people who aren't familiar with the story will want to know why he was a problem.

BH: Well, Charlie started making it easier for me to get rid of him. First, by he was taking money for doing private print jobs in the Senate print shop, and then he was stealing Senate cameras and engraving them with his own social security number. That's how smart he was. Steve Oaks was my first campaign manager and Chief of Staff. Steve was a big wheel in some cultural organization. He invited the Senate to meeting at Robert Tobin's farm, Oakwell, which was then on the north side of San Antonio. It's probably in the middle of San Antonio by now. I don't know. It was well understood by the members of the Senate that this would be Charlie Schnabel's trial. All the Senators, except Senator Akin, came. I appointed Don Adams as prosecutor. Don is one of my oldest and closest friends now. The defense counsel was Senator, a worthless Senator, named Bill Meier, from Ft. Worth. So the trial took a couple, maybe three hours, and the next day Meier told Charlie that it was time to go. Anyway, that's how Don and I got rid of Schnabel. Don was then, and this was my first session, maybe second. Don was chairman of the Administration committee. It was his job to interview people or over hearings or do whatever you want to do. It was his job to recommend to the Senate a new Secretary of the Senate. After Schnabel resigned, the first thing Don did, he asked me, "Do you have a candidate?" I lied and said, "No, but I want to veto. I don't want you guys electing another Schnabel." About a week later, he came back and said, "Governor, I have a candidate, but I can't get her to apply." Well, when he said "her", I knew that he meant Betty King, who was in fact

my candidate. Don and I over the years have done a great many wonderful things for the state, but making Betty King Secretary of the Senate was by far the best. Anyway, I tell you that though did contribute to making a marriage made in heaven. Charlie eventually went to be on Charlie Wilson's staff during Charlie's...he didn't become one of Charlie's Angels actually, but...anyway, he and Charlie are a wonderful match. Let's put it that way.

NBY: Yeah. Good time Charlie.

BH: Exactly.

NBY: Can I get you to talk about Artesia Hall?

BH: Oh, you bet. Okay. Artesia Hall came about in this way. One night I was speaking to a dinner of the Board of Directors of the Trinity River Authority. They met. The dinner was somewhere over in Liberty County. After the speech, one of the directors comes up, and says, "My name is so and so, and I am a funeral director here in Liberty County. I'm telling you that I'm a funeral director, because I want you to know that I am not squeamish. I've scraped a bunch of people up off the street and so forth. Now I am also foreman of the grand jury here in Liberty County, and what I am about to tell you, I am not supposed to tell you, because it is grand jury information. I am telling you, because I want you to tell Dolph Briscoe this. I am a friend of Dolph. I was his campaign manager in this area and so forth. We're about to indict Farrar for child abuse. No, we're about to indict him for murder." He describes what's going on there, which is really bad. John Hill is Attorney General. Dolph calls John, so the next day Dolph and John and I, we fly down to Liberty County. John really did a superb job on very short notice of organizing testimony. The district judge there, Clarence Caine – Clarence held a hearing at 8:00

that night. John put on testimony of one woman who testified that she'd been stripped, strung up by her elbows, and dipped repeatedly into a septic tank. The other one testified that she'd been stripped, tied down on a table, and scrubbed with a wire brush. Before we flew down to Liberty, I called Raymond Vowell, who was Commissioner of Welfare, which operated all the state schools, the reform schools. I told him what I assumed was going to happen, which did. I told him to have his people standing by to have his people standing by to move in and take over the school, which he did. During the hearing, I got the impression, which would certainly not be surprising, that the judge and the sheriff had a pretty good idea of what was going on there, but they just needed a case or something to move on it. They did very promptly. Then Farrar appealed. Farrar claimed that John Hill and Dolph Briscoe and I and the judge and the sheriff had violated his civil rights. In federal court, in district court, Judge O'Connor, here in Houston, we won or thought we'd won. The sheriff and the judge and I were convicted of having conspired to violate his civil rights and awarded damages of \$1, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, so we thought we won. Well, Farrar appealed, went to Supreme Court. I was represented by Finis Cowan, who was a friend of mine from Rice. Finis is one of these people that's always been recognized as the best at whatever he does. He was briefly, about three years, a federal judge. He resigned, because as he told me, he couldn't stand to see those lawyers down there screwing up and he couldn't do anything about it, so he resigned. It all came out okay, so that's Artesia Hall.

NBY: Okay. You were at one point, changing gears radically here. Deng Xiaoping, and you were assigned to escort him.

BH: I am sorry, who?

NBY: Deng Xiaoping of China was visiting. Jim Granato tells the story that I guess you've told him. You were assigned to escort him, and you were concerned about being able to make conversation with him.

BH: That happened. That's true. Ann Richards was Governor. What you said is true, but I'm sorry. I cannot remember the rest of the story.

NBY: Jim says that you said you were worried about making conversation with him, and the problem was solved because he fell asleep in the car.

BH: Well, he had an interpreter with him, but I couldn't understand the interpreter either. That's exactly right. He did. He had been way overscheduled, and of course, had a long trip from China, and he did fall asleep in the car. That's absolutely right.

NBY: And that solved your problem.

BH: Exactly.

NBY: Okay. Well, Governor Hobby this has been most helpful. This has been wonderful. We thank you very, very much for your time. I think we're at a good place to stop, so thank you very much.

BH: You're quite welcome.

End of interview.