

**THE SENATE IN THE 1960s**  
**Interview #5**  
**Wednesday, June 17, 1992**

**RITCHIE:** You said you had a story about Senator Robert Taft?

**SCOTT:** Senior, yes, who wasn't very sexy! [laughs] There was a very smart woman lawyer who was a friend of my friend Winne DeWeese, who worked for Carl Loeffler and later the Republican Policy Committee. This woman was really trying to push the nomination of Senator Taft to be President. And of course he was very brilliant. She said that if some of the girls would pay attention to him and flirt with him a little bit, maybe it would make him feel he had a little more appeal! [laughs]

This is like picking things out of the air, but Senator Proxmire, back when he had his hair transplants, used to come to the Capitol with a little knitted cap over his head. You see these things and you don't believe them, like the cartoons, but there he was. He used to walk from Porter Street, pretty close to where Frank lived, all the way, and I guess he jogged some of the time. When he got closer to the Senate Office Building he was jogging in case people saw him, but there he was with his shorts and this knitted thing on his head, covering the transplants. [laughs] He later was known for his Golden Fleece Awards, remember?

One day when Senator Proxmire was jogging to work he was held up. He told the thief he was dying—terminal. The thief didn't rob him.

Charlie Jones, who had worked for Senator Maybank of South Carolina, looked like Senator Proxmire, I thought. One day Senator Proxmire walked into our office and as he came through the archway from the outer office, my near-sighted eyes deceived me and I said, "Hello, Charlie Jones!" Needless to say when he got a little closer, I was embarrassed to realize my mistake.

**RITCHIE:** You mentioned about Senator McMahon and his toupee. I guess a lot of the politicians had their vanities.

**SCOTT:** Yes, whether it was known or not. One of the Senators was quite concerned about his campaign photograph—had Mr. Johnston and me picking it out. It was when Senator [John] Carroll (I believe from Colorado) was visiting our office. He was running for reelection and was quite concerned about the photograph which he wanted to use in his campaign. He showed Mr. Johnston and me different ones and wanted to get our preferences. I went with a more serious one which I thought would appeal to the voters. Another made him look younger, and I believe he went with that one. (He was not re-elected.)

**RITCHIE:** Lola Aiken said that all the Senators used to go down to the "baths," where they had a bottle of hair dye. She said, "After a while, all their hair was the same color."

**SCOTT:** Oh, no! [laughs]

I also wanted to mention Senator [Joseph] Biden's swearing in, which was very touching. After he had been elected, his wife was killed in a car accident returning from Washington after renting a house, and their little girl was killed. He didn't want to come to the Capitol to be sworn in, because his little boy was still in the hospital. So we passed a resolution enabling Frank to go over and swear him in in the hospital. I went with him. It was one of those things you really do remember. We went into the room where the little boy was and his leg was elevated. Senator Biden's wife's handbag was down there on the floor, and oh, my goodness, it was such a scene. They opened up a double reception room with doors that slid open, and Senator Biden's mother and father were there, and her mother and father, and it was very touching when Frank swore him in. I appreciated being there to witness it. Senator Biden made the statement that "I'm going to be a father first, and a Senator second. And if being a United States Senator interferes with my being a good father, then I'm going to resign from the Senate." I thought that was very touching.

Another item, which is not about a Senator, but about Jim Ketchum, who is such a colorful person. When he was interviewed to be Curator of Arts and Antiquities of the Senate, I sat in on the

interview with Frank. Jim, when he would tell about his experiences, which were considerable, referred to himself in the third person. It was really something. Frank looked at me, and I looked at him, and Frank was trying to be serious, and Jim had a straight face the whole time. This was the way he carried on. He had graduated from Colgate University, where Mr. Johnston's son went. He had been Curator down at the White House, and he started the book about Presidents down there, like the one we have here, *We the People*.

There were a lot of funny little events. One time I was over at his house for dinner, they lived on Capitol Hill a couple of blocks from where I did. We had dinner, and of course it was not real relaxed at the beginning. I had never met Barbara, and she was very nice; and we ended up on his patio outside, and we were getting more friendly as the evening went on. Finally, Jim said to me, "Well, Scottie, we have a surprise for you." I said, "What is that?" Barbara had this very attractive hostess gown on. And he said, "The surprise is, it's paper." [laughs]

After both Dottie McCarty and I had retired, Jim invited us to come down to have lunch. Instead of going in the Senate Restaurant we went out to have a picnic on the Capitol grounds. We thought that would be fun, and we each brought something. We went out under this big, beautiful tree, and we put down our blanket and the three of us were going to have fun reminiscing. All of a sudden a great big tractor came along and they were going to take down the

tree! [laughs] And I was sure Jim planned that on purpose! But he said he didn't.

When Jim Ketchum was Curator at the White House and LBJ was President, he staged a rehearsal for the unveiling of what everyone thought was an official portrait of President Eisenhower. He had Mrs. Lyndon Johnson, his two daughters, and some of the newspaper people there, plus Liz Carpenter of his staff. He had directed everyone where to stand, etc. When he pulled the draped cover off the painting, it turned out to be the one LBJ had called the worst he'd ever seen, the one done by Peter Herd, of him. The portrait featured the Capitol, all lit up, which drew attention away from President Johnson's face. I later saw it in the National Portrait Gallery, and I could understand the President's reaction.

Jim and his wife, Barbara, attended his assistant's, Mary Phelan's, wedding dressed as a maid and butler—the better to help out at the reception! He was really funny. An unforgettable character.

These were things I just happened to think of as I walked over from Union Station today. I remember one time Frank and I were at an Administrative Assistants party or something and there was a friend of his who was downtown someplace in private industry, and he started belittling the office of the Secretary of the Senate. And of course, I wouldn't let him get away with that! [laughs] I was trying to tell him about what I felt about the dignity and the importance and the service to the country and so on. And Frank said I sounded like an old mother hen with all my

feathers ruffled. [laughs] Frank said at that time, which I hope was true, that I had a wonderful feel for the Senate. I think I had a devotion that was very sincere.

**RITCHIE:** I thought today we could talk about when Frank Valeo became Secretary of the Senate. In 1965 Mr. Johnston decided to retire, and Emery had the interim period before Frank became Secretary. Did you wonder as all these changes took place what your position was going to be?

**SCOTT:** I wondered if Frank was going to keep me, yes. Of course, I was there through Emery, and I mentioned that some of the Senators wanted him to campaign for the longer term, but he wanted just to be a bridge in between. I was hoping that Frank would keep me. Of course, you always worry like that. One other time when I was worried about losing my job was back when the Senate was so closely divided, and my friend Senator [Frank] Lausche from Ohio was the one who would have the swing vote. We were kind of worried because Senator Lausche had said out in Ohio that he was a Democrat in Ohio, but "when I get to Washington I might vote with the Republicans." We were just scared he was going to vote with the Republicans to organize the Senate, in which case the Secretary of the Senate would be a Republican.

But fortunately Frank did keep me. I felt that I was able to help him because of my experience. Frank, I thought, was very thorough because when he came in he had the different heads of all

the different offices under the Secretary come in and meet them personally. As a matter of fact, I think he went to some of them in their offices. I think he went physically to the Document Room and to the Library. He was trying to get to know people. As I say, he called everybody by their first names, and I think he wanted everybody to feel close to him. That was one of the main things that I remember.

**RITCHIE:** Did the work change once Frank became the Secretary?

**SCOTT:** I think so. Because of his association with Senator Mansfield, and his trips with the Foreign Relations Committee, and when he was doing some writing, and when he was up at the U.N. working, he had more of a foreign policy interest, more international. I mentioned how he used to talk to the different people from the different embassies, speaking the different languages. He was able to shift from one to another. Sometimes he would take me to some of the embassy receptions. He said, "This is where a lot of the work goes on." So he had a different feeling as the work of the Senate was affected by some of the embassy people, and I'm sure through Senator Mansfield. He went with Senator Mansfield on three trips to China, the first right after the Nixon trip to China. And then he studied Mandarin Chinese at the State Department. He would go in the morning before coming into the office. Then on the second trip that he made he was able to converse and have dinner conversation with some of the people when

Senator Mansfield was entertained there. Then on the third trip he made two speeches in Chinese. So that was different from the actual workings of the Senate.

I think in some ways that he turned over some of the other things to me that pertained more to the actual running of the office, so he could be freed a little bit for this kind of thing. That gave a little different focus to the work. He was able to augment it and give it a different thrust.

**RITCHIE:** I would think he must have delegated some of those responsibilities, since he was changing his own focus as Secretary.

**SCOTT:** He was. As I say, I wanted him to get a little bit closer to some of the other Senators, a little more than he did. But I guess he didn't have time. You were asking once if when Senator Mansfield was leader he came into the Secretary of the Senate's office—you were asking about Mr. Johnston's time, and I said that it was different than Senator Johnson who was in all the time. Well, when Senator Mansfield was Leader and Frank was Secretary of the Senate, he would call Frank around to his office. So that was different too. He would call sometimes when I felt Frank shouldn't have gone, but he couldn't refuse. We were having luncheons sometimes for some of the Governors and so on, and Frank had to leave. I thought it was too bad that he was called away from what he was trying to do there.



**RITCHIE:** Did the Senators continue to use the Secretary of the Senate's office as a resting place and a meeting place?

**SCOTT:** Yes.

**RITCHIE:** So you still saw them trooping in.

**SCOTT:** Yes, well one of the things I forgot to mention, going back to Mr. Johnston was that during World Series time, some of the Senators were very much interested in baseball games. We were having long sessions, and Mr. Johnston used to have the TV on for them. Sometimes they would line the chairs up to watch the World Series games. Then I remember there was one time when they had the ball game here in Washington and Lowell Mason, who was FCC commissioner, would organize luncheons for the Senators who were going to be going out to the ball game. This was an annual thing, and we were instrumental in trying to help him plan some of the lunches. They were usually down there in the Family Dining Room. One time I was offered a ticket to go, but I was afraid my girls would feel bad about it. I didn't want them to feel jealous or anything like that, so I turned it down. That was the one opportunity I would have had to see the opening game where the President throws the ball out.

Along that line, Lowell Mason's daughter [Jimilu] was a sculptor, and she did a bust of LBJ. Of course, she couldn't get him to pose for her, he wouldn't sit still. He was always flying

around. So what she did was a little figure of him with one foot up and talking on the phone. [laughs] After that she finally did a bust of him. I don't know how she got him to pose, or whether she did it through photographs. That's the bust that's in the Capitol. But that was Lowell Mason who arranged the baseball luncheons.

**RITCHIE:** The Secretary's office was really an extension of the cloakroom, wasn't it? In the sense that it was a place where the Senators could go to relax and get away from the floor, but still be close to the floor.

**SCOTT:** Right across the hall, yes.

**RITCHIE:** So you continued having luncheons in there and things like that?

**SCOTT:** Oh, yes.

**RITCHIE:** In addition to becoming much more of an administrative office, because you had more staff beginning to work in the 1960s and '70s, I would imagine.

**SCOTT:** Well, of course I had the same staff. I had two assistants and nine messengers: the chief messenger, the assistant chief, the head waiter and his assistant, and the chauffeur and his

assistant, and the others. I had the same staff under me, but I guess you mean the staff of the committees and so on.

**RITCHIE:** And the staff of the various divisions under the Secretary.

**SCOTT:** I guess so. At one point, some of the offices under the Secretary used to be filled with patronage assignments, but during Mr. Johnston's time he did a very constructive thing. He tried to have them realize that the top people in each of the offices under the Secretary should be career people, because they knew the work, the work went on, and the responsibilities were greater. And he didn't feel they should be changed. In the Document Room, for instance, Theron Marshall was the head for awhile. He was getting different boys assigned all the time to different patronage jobs. He'd have to keep training people and then they'd leave. Of course, it didn't apply to them so much because you couldn't turn the Senators down. But Mr. Johnston really went to bat for keeping a nucleus of the top people so that they could keep the operation going. I thought that was a pretty good thing.

Then, I guess it mushroomed after that. The same thing applied for the Library and the Stationery Room, and the Disbursing Office—we didn't do anything much to change them at all because they were really career people, too.

Bob Brenkworth was the Disbursing Officer. We used to sign for our pay, which was actually in cash then. And so I walked in one day and signed Mr. Johnston's name for mine. Bob said, "All right, Scottie." I think those people were more or less career people, since the Disbursing Office employees were all accountants. Then after that, they changed the operation of the Disbursing Office, and you were allowed to have your check sent to your bank, which is so much better. That stopped the long lines going into the Disbursing Office.

**RITCHIE:** That's true. Until about the mid-1960s, all the Senate employees were paid in cash.

**SCOTT:** Yes.

**RITCHIE:** That's pretty remarkable.

**SCOTT:** Wasn't it, though? Yes.

**RITCHIE:** Frank said that when he came into office he checked and there were only two agencies in the government that were still paying their employees in cash. One was the Senate, and one was an army base in Alaska.

**SCOTT:** No fooling? Isn't that something? Well, another thing, we never had a bank.  
[laughs] I was talking to Bill

Ridgely recently. In Palm Springs everybody has been talking about the scandal in the House bank. I keep saying that the Senate never had a bank. Bill said that he had heard talk about it, but they never did create one.

**RITCHIE:** Could you tell me a little about the Disbursing Office and particularly about Bob Brenkworth, who was such an influential figure?

**SCOTT:** Oh, yes, he certainly was. He had a very, very *hard* job because he had to say "no" to the Senators. And, boy, he was really all straight down the line. He was like Mr. Johnston. He just went by the book. If a senator would ask him something, he would just have to say "no." If you would try to find out anything about anybody's salary or anything like that—of course, that was before we published the Secretary's report, as I mentioned the other day—he would say "no." He was very much a stickler, and he had to be. He was known for that. He was also known for being brusque. But you had to admire him! He was really a very, very hard worker.

That gets into the reason he changed jobs. He left when Senator [Richard] Russell, who was President Pro Tempore, got an appointment for him as Comptroller of the Senate. That was back when Bill Ridgely moved into his position as head of the Disbursing Office. Comptroller was a position that I think was actually—established, I guess is the word—at Senator Russell's request. I

remember I went around to his office when he first moved in which is right around from the Disbursing Office and his wife, Elsi, was there and Mr. Johnston and so on.

There was one incident that brought Bob's resignation about. Senator Mansfield decided that he wanted to have copies of the income tax reports from the top people in each office. It was to be very clean—like they said "clean as a hound's tooth" during the Nixon campaign. He decided that he wanted those. To Frank it was very embarrassing. He may have told you about this, I don't know. But the top people in each of the offices had to bring copies of their income tax returns to us. Frank wouldn't even look at them. He gave them to me, and I wouldn't look at them. But we did file them away, and we checked them off when received to record that they had done what they were supposed to do.

Bob didn't care for that ruling at all. You can't blame him in a way. We were just kind of caught in the middle. I think Bob felt that his operation should not be so much beholden to the Democratic Leader, to the Majority Leader. It was an overall service of the Senate, after all. And I could see his point of view because I knew him pretty well. He was so sincere and so conscientious, and I think he just resented the fact that the Majority Leader would ask for this. I think Senator Mansfield was just trying to touch all bases, but it was a personal thing. Some of us didn't mind, but some people did. Bob was the only one of our top people in all the Secretary's offices—services offices—who turned it down. He just felt very very *strong* about it. I

guess I got into this because Mr. Johnston and Bob were very, very close friends, and Bob was very kind to him when his wife passed on. They were just very, very close. They used to have lunch together. Later, I used to see Mr. Johnston and he would say, "Oh, Miss Scott, it's just terrible the way Bob is carrying on like this. He should realize that he should go along with it." I was trying to explain it to Mr. Johnston. I was trying to tell him that I understood, and I didn't think it was right for him to say "No" to an order like this. But I sure can understand why.

I don't know whether Bob finally decided to say "No." I remember Frank had him around there trying to talk to him to get him to do this and comply with it because Frank was right in the middle. Bob would get very upset and talk very loud! I think Frank was afraid he was going to have a heart attack or something. Frank then stopped having him around trying to talk to him, and then he would send *me* around to Bob! [laughs] Frank would write a long letter to Bob, which I would have to deliver and sit there. So I got myself right in the middle of this whole thing. And, like I say, I could see both sides, and I could see Bob's objections. It's probably in the *Record* someplace whether Bob actually resigned as head of the Disbursing Office, or whether it was just changed. I know then that Bill Ridgely came in.

Bill was a different type person than Bob. Bill was more flexible as far as trying to understand the reasons why and complying. But he was still a stickler for doing it the right way. He had a nice, quiet way of doing business, and was a little less

brusque than Bob in talking to the Senators, in making them realize what position they were putting *him* in. See? That was the difference between the personalities. Bill became the head of the Senate Disbursing Office, and Bob had this other office as Comptroller.

I don't remember the time element on that—how long he was in that office as Comptroller. But the literal function of that office was for some of the different Senate reports to be going through the Comptroller's office—like an auditor. It was not just kicking him upstairs. He did have a function. But I don't think it was too easy for Bill. Then Bob became ill, and he was ill for a long time. He was home and retired. And I used to visit him and Elsi. I felt badly because this whole thing happened. Bob had his conscience and his principles, and he just wasn't going to change them. The Disbursing Office—well, all our offices—served the whole Senate. But this was the Majority Leader's request. Like I said, Frank didn't like it at all and wouldn't even look at these income tax returns. It was an embarrassing time.

Then—let's see, Senator Stennis was the chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee. They probably knew about what we were requiring people to comply with. The Ethics Committee never got into any of our files. But this was the time when they were starting up.



**RITCHIE:** When I first came to work for the Senate in 1976, I had to file my income taxes with the Ethics Committee in a sealed envelope.

**SCOTT:** Yes, that was it, in a sealed envelope.

**RITCHIE:** And then if they had any reason to suspect me, they could open it.

**SCOTT:** They could open it. Exactly.

**RITCHIE:** But otherwise they couldn't. It always seemed very strange. But they stopped doing that—maybe about ten years ago, except for the top administrators.

**SCOTT:** Well, that was it. They'd come in sealed envelopes. Frank wouldn't open them; I wouldn't open them. All I would do was check off who had complied, and then we had to keep after them. We had to have it. That was it! But it could be opened if there were any questions.

**RITCHIE:** This was, I suppose, after the Bobby Baker problem?

**SCOTT:** Oh, yes.

**RITCHIE:** This was, in a sense, to try to get around it, too.

**SCOTT:** Yes, I think so, too. I remember so well talking about being as "clean as a hound's tooth" back when Nixon was running. My friend Harold Beckley, head of the Senate Press Gallery, was on a lot of campaign trips with Nixon and Rose Woods. I remember he had a little hound's tooth that was given to him and to some of the other newspaper people by the Nixons. But it was kind of a bad time. I think there may have been something about one of the people in the Document Room. I don't know whether they ever went into his file or not. I think he later left.

**RITCHIE:** The Secretary of the Senate is technically the financial officer of the Senate, but, really, it's the chief of the Disbursing Office.

**SCOTT:** That's right. The Secretary is the financial officer of the Senate. And he delegates that to the Financial Clerk which was Bob and then Bill.

**RITCHIE:** Has the Disbursing Office operated as an independent operation, or has the Secretary's office really been in charge? How close are the two offices?

**SCOTT:** I think they're close. I think all the checks are signed by the Secretary of the Senate for the Disbursing Officer.

**RITCHIE:** My sense was that Brenkworth was an independent person and didn't answer to other people above him.

**SCOTT:** [laughs] Officially, no. Officially, he was delegated to be the Financial Clerk of the Senate who was really the Secretary of the Senate. And he delegated—that's it! Because his signature was on the checks. The Secretary of the Senate's signature was duplicated.

I think that the same kind of independence prevailed for a while about official reporters. They were more independent, even though they worked right across the hall from us.

Like I say, *technically*—that's it—the Secretary of the Senate was the financial clerk of the Senate. From all those years back, so I guess that's the answer to that.

**RITCHIE:** Another office I never quite understood how directly they report to the Secretary is the Parliamentarian who, officially, is underneath the Secretary of the Senate but always seemed to be much more independent. How did it work when you were here?

**SCOTT:** Charlie Watkins, the Senate Parliamentarian, was there fifty years! I think someone said you did his oral history. Sometime I would like to read that.

**RITCHIE:** I interviewed Floyd Riddick, not Watkins.

**SCOTT:** You didn't do Charlie Watkins?

**RITCHIE:** Watkins had died before I came here.

**SCOTT:** Oh, I was wondering. I didn't think it started then. Yes, Charlie Watkins was there for fifty years, and you never met a more kind and caring person. Dedicated and conscientious. All the goods things. He was marvelous! He was Parliamentary way back all those years ago.

**RITCHIE:** He started in 1937 as Parliamentary, and actually had been on the staff long before that.

**SCOTT:** I don't think he felt independent. I think he felt that he would have served the Secretary of the Senate. Then there was Dr. Riddick. And before Bob Dove . . . .

**RITCHIE:** Murray Zweben.

**SCOTT:** Murray Zweben. I think they all considered themselves under the Secretary of the Senate. Mr. Watkins wrote the book about the rulings of the Senate; and I have a copy that he autographed for me. Then he and Dr. Riddick wrote one together. So I have both of them that were autographed. They go into all the different procedures and the rules and the rulings. I do think that they felt they were under the Secretary. They were given

leeway by the Secretary to be fair. They certainly weren't influenced or told how to rule—as they couldn't be!

Along that line—not the Parliamentarian's office, but I happened to think of something the other day. When Emery Frazier was Chief Clerk of the Senate and, then you mentioned they changed that when Darrell when he came in his was a different desk—it was the same desk. One time, I don't know who started it, but there was this great big blotter on the rostrum—this great big huge thing—and somebody started drawing stick figures of the Senate on this blotter. I wish they had taken a picture of that! They were stick figures and Emery showed it to me one time, with all the different Senators on it. Everybody who presided would add to it. And they left it for the longest time until it was completed. And then, finally, they washed it all off. It was so interesting. There ought to be a picture of that some place.

**RITCHIE:** I hope someone saved it. I know that the desk itself—the Vice President's desk and the desk the clerk's desk—Emery Frazier had moved to Kentucky when they restored the Chamber in 1950.

**SCOTT:** And they gave it to Barkley.

**RITCHIE:** They gave the Vice President's desk to the University of Kentucky and the front clerk's desk went to a

different college, I think Bowling Green. Both of them Kentucky because Vice President Barkley and Emery was the Chief Clerk.

**SCOTT:** Yes, from Kentucky. That's right.

**RITCHIE:** They have it on display in the University of Kentucky library and they refer to it as the Barkley desk. I pointed out that all the Vice Presidents sat at that desk from [John] Breckenridge in 1859 up through Barkley in 1950's. So it was the Vice President's desk not the "Barkley desk."

**SCOTT:** I see what you mean, yes. But they did give it to them. They presented it. Barkley was such a colorful man. Those were very interesting times. Of course, I used to be down on the floor filing a lot of those roll-call votes.

**RITCHIE:** Going back to the 1960s now, that was also the period when they began to computerize the Senate. One of the first was the Disbursing Office which in the mid-1960s finally came up with a computer system to pay the Senate employees. And slowly but surely other offices began to look into computers. Did that affect your work in any way?

**SCOTT:** I remember the day. I remember it well. Bill Ridgely was the Disbursing Officer and Frank was standing there at my desk, and they had a computer here in the back room. They were

testing it and trying it, and they were getting all thrilled and excited about it. Then—right in the midst of all this—Frank said he wanted me to check over on the House side on some legislation. Whenever I wanted anything, I could go to the committees and talk to the committee chief clerk and find out not only where the legislation was—exactly where it was—but what was going to happen. I mean, the *person*—not the computer—would tell you what hearings were scheduled and what was going to happen, and give you the real story, whereas the computer would just say what it was in.

Well, anyway, right in the midst of this, as Bill and Frank were standing there checking on this computer, for some reason, he had me call over in one of the House committees. And evidently, they had put a computer in, and the computer was down. They couldn't give me any answer. Before that you always dealt with a person! I also had some bad experiences with my charge accounts being on computers that got all messed up! I also tried to return a call one time for Frank to a hotel in San Francisco, and I couldn't get through as their computers were down.

Of course, I know that people put the information in the computers, and the machines are all so much more sophisticated. But I had one charge account at Jelleff's, and they kept sending me two different bills all the time. I would pay one, and they'd keep sending me another one. So I'd keep writing letters. I would say, "Dear Dumb Dumb. Here we go again!" I could never get anything done because it was all in the computer. Finally, I went to the top, some person at Riggs bank, to try and get them through.

Then I understand at that time Jelleff's took all their billing off computers because they were having so much trouble with it.

I think I mentioned the other day about when Marilyn Courtot came to the Secretary's office. She had been over under Senator [Howard] Cannon in the Rules Committee, and then she was put in our outer office. She had this great big bill for a computer for every Senator's office, and I guess eventually everybody got around to it. But that time, it was just a little ahead of the time because it was going to be hard for the old staff to get into that kind of work. Of course now, it's just like using a typewriter.

I think the Disbursing Office was the first to use one. They found it very efficient. They could get everybody's record up in just one second. It was marvelous as far as people's whole records, retirement information, and so on.

**RITCHIE:** When the computer center was established, it wound up as part of the Sergeant at Arms operations.

**SCOTT:** That's right.

**RITCHIE:** Was there any question as to where it should go? Whether the Secretary of the Senate should be in charge?

**SCOTT:** No, I don't think so. We only had our own offices to worry about if they wanted to use computers. I think the Public Records Office adopted computers. The Public Records Office had



all the pre- and post-election forms on file. I guess some of those they must have put on computers because the newspapermen could come in and see them; and then if they wanted them, they could buy copies of some pages. And I remember that there was a computer operation for them to actually see on the screen rather than sitting down and going through all the papers. Then they could buy copies if they wanted printed copies. That came through our Public Records Office, too.

**RITCHIE:** It's funny that the original Secretary of the Senate purchased quill pens for the Senate. That was the beginning of what eventually became the Stationery Store. But, the Sergeant at Arms was in charge of equipment, starting with typewriters. And they moved from typewriters to computers.

**SCOTT:** Yes.

**RITCHIE:** Although from the quill pen to the computer might be just as much of a straight line.

**SCOTT:** That's right. Yes. The Sergeant at Arms had to furnish the drapes, and the carpet, and the furniture. I remember one time we were having our office done over with carpet and everything like that, and we had great big tall cabinets that went up to the ceiling. I remember Mr. Johnston was away somewhere, and

we had to make a decision, as to the drapery material to be installed inside the glass cabinet doors.

That's why I worked very closely with Dottie McCarty. She was Chief Clerk under Joe Duke. And she and I went back and forth with administrative things. Mr. Johnston let me go ahead and decide what kind of drapes to put inside these big cabinets. So I told Dottie, and we went ahead and did it because they were in charge of all this furniture.

**RITCHIE:** So you feel the two offices—the Secretary's and the Sergeant at Arms maintained pretty good relations?

**SCOTT:** Oh, yes! Dottie and I in particular. Our offices had so much to do back and forth, and Joe Duke was my favorite. He was just marvelous. He worked so, so hard. And he worked very closely with all the Senators. He was very dedicated.

Then Bob Dunphy came after him, and Bill Wannall. Bill Wannall had been our Senate printing clerk, and then was eventually Sergeant at Arms. So we had known him from way back. He worked closely in our outer office. Guy Ives was the printing clerk before Bill. He was an older man and very gruff, but Bill was an entirely different personality.

I remember, when I was telling you about Senator Lucas' Administrative Assistant, Margaret Mahon, putting flowers on his desk in the Senate Chamber. This is what Bill did when Guy Ives died, at his desk of the outer office. All those fellows used to be

in our outer office and eventually they got separate offices. The printing clerk got a separate office down in the basement. That was Bill Wannall and Tom Gay, his assistant. The Parliamentarian was out there in the outer office, and then he had a separate office not too far from the Senate Restaurant. They gradually went out, they mushroomed into different office suites.

**RITCHIE:** It's amazing how many of the people spent their entire lives on those jobs. Really devoted themselves.

**SCOTT:** Yes. Yes.

**RITCHIE:** And they didn't retire! They died at the desk in a sense.

**SCOTT:** Well, that was what Beck used to say: "I want to die with my boots on." He was head of the Senate Press Gallery for many years.

**RITCHIE:** And some of them—like Mr. Watkins—were there in their seventies. Watkins, I guess was eighty.

**SCOTT:** I think he must have been around eighty. After he retired he went out to the Manor Home out there in Silver Spring. His wife passed on first, so then he was in this home by himself. And Mr. Johnston used to say, "It's so sad that all the years he

put in and he and his wife really didn't have any time after he retired to go any place or do anything because she died very soon after that." Dottie McCarty and I went out to see him—out to the Manor Home, and he was such a marvelous character. It's a shame that he wasn't here to do an interview. It's a shame.

**RITCHIE:** Yes.

**SCOTT:** I remember, he had his typewriter out there and his papers. Mr. Watkins, really, was always patient and always would have time to talk to you and would give you such thorough answers. Well, he was just a delight! He was marvelous. Floyd Riddick, who succeeded him, used to bring in these great big wonderful tomatoes from his farm. One other thing I have to say about Dr. Riddick, it's so funny, but whenever he would get a cold, he'd get a real, low voice. He liked to talk then more than any other time. He sounded like Charles Boyer or something. I can remember him talking with his low voice. He was very approachable. I enjoyed him very much.

**RITCHIE:** I get the sense that a lot of the clerks who worked at the front desk were Southern—Watkins and others—Southern gentlemen. Is that a reasonable description of them?

**SCOTT:** Well, I don't think so. I didn't get that feeling. Mr. Watkins, I guess he could be considered like a Southern

gentleman, because he was so dignified. Perhaps a Southern gentleman, or perhaps even senatorial himself—more so than a Southern gentleman, he was like a Member would be—very, very dignified. And Dr. Riddick was very dignified, too, although he liked to talk a lot like Senator Humphrey [laughs]. And that's why I say, when he had a cold with a real, low voice [imitates], he'd keep that up. We used to get a kick out of him that way.

And then Murray [Zweben] was his secretary. Let me see, he was—I'm trying to figure—Murray was offered the job of Senate Parliamentarian, and Murray and I went together to the reception that I think I mentioned the other day in connection with the different seminars that I gave. There was a reception for the secretaries of the senate and clerks of the house of the state legislatures. Murray and I went to that together. Later on there was something, I've forgotten what it was, when Murray was Parliamentarian, and there was something I corrected him on; about parliamentary procedure, a little thing that I had noticed.

Anyway, I think, Murray wanted a raise of some kind. And I think they felt that it wasn't deserved. I think this was when Murray left. Then there was another fellow whose name I can't remember who worked as secretary to the Parliamentarian, and he got very bored. He would come and talk to me, and I would say: "If you really want to make a career, you'd better just hold on." Everybody had gradually moved up and out. I can't remember his name, but he went over to the House side. Then the next one after

that was Bob Dove, and I don't know whether or not Bob Dove is now Parliamentarian.

**RITCHIE:** No, Bob Dove was Parliamentarian. But he is now on Senator [Robert] Dole's staff. He's parliamentarian for the minority.

**SCOTT:** Oh, really?

**RITCHIE:** When Dole stepped down as Majority Leader and the Democrats came in, Senator Byrd wanted Alan Frumin to be Parliamentarian. And then Bob Dove continued on with the Republicans, so he sits with Senator Dole. So now we have two Parliamentarians.

**SCOTT:** Isn't that interesting?

**RITCHIE:** I think that maybe part of it was Senator Byrd was such a master of the rules himself, and that the minority felt they needed some additional ammunition.

**SCOTT:** Oh, I see, to off-set that. That's very interesting, isn't it? Well, you know, that's kind of like the way it was with Bill Cochrane. Bill Cochrane had been chief clerk of the Rules Committee for such a long time under Senator Jordan. Then when it went Republican, he stayed on.

**RITCHIE:** He's still here, working for the Rules Committee.

**SCOTT:** Is he?

**RITCHIE:** He and Doc Riddick have offices right next to each other.

**SCOTT:** Is that right? Well, that's the way it used to be over on the House side when the administration would change. I think the Clerk of the House would do something else and still be there—kind of a "holding" job, maybe to advise the minority.

**RITCHIE:** Well, even in the Senate there had been a long tradition, for instance, the Librarian represented the majority party, and the assistant librarian was from the minority party.

**SCOTT:** That's right.

**RITCHIE:** And the Sergeant at Arms was from one party and the Assistant Sergeant from the other. Mark Trice was the Assistant Sergeant at Arms when there was a Democratic Sergeant at Arms. But from 1955 until the time you left there was a Democratic majority, so there wasn't that kind of a changeover, back and forth.

**SCOTT:** That's right.

**RITCHIE:** Not until 1980 when the Republicans won the Senate again. One of the big changes that occurred while you were there was the creation of the Federal Elections Commission and all the records.

**SCOTT:** Oh, yes.

**RITCHIE:** What was the Secretary's role in all of that?

**SCOTT:** Oh, that was really something! We had all sorts of different conferences about that. We wanted to be very, very careful and very sure and very conscientious to do a good job on that. It was a political hot potato. We all had conferences including some of the people from the downtown departments and everything for the advice and the wording of the forms.

Frank and Darrell met with these people—I can't remember exactly who they were now, but they did come up for meetings. That was done very, very carefully. I attended some of the meetings.

Lan [Orlando] Potter who used to be with Senator Pell, and who had run, one time, I think for the House or the Senate, Lan Potter came over with us. And he was very, very knowledgeable and very much of a help. And when they organized and established the Federal Election Commission downtown, Lan went there as their first director, from the experience he had with us in the Secretary's office in starting it off. And Flossie's daughter went down there, and she worked down there for awhile under Lan. When Lan retired a few years back, we went to his retirement party, Flossie and I.



He was very active from the time he started out here. I ran into him—I guess last year—over there in the Senate cafeteria. I don't know what he's doing right now. But he was the first director of the Federal Elections Commission.

The Commission, I think, was appointed by the President. And there were some Senators on it. But we worked on the exact wording of pre-election, post-election statements. We worked on the time element when they had to be filed, and it was a very big operation. And out of that grew the establishment of the Public Records Office, and some of our people went over there. This is what I was saying, the newspapermen had access to and could buy copies of these sheets. So the whole thing was out in the open. If any candidates didn't file on time they could be cited. It was against the law! See? So that was the beginning of that.

**RITCHIE:** So the job was getting more complex?

**SCOTT:** Yes. I remember that. And I remember we worked very hard to be sure it would be fair. And what levels of contributions that the committees could give; what they could give for use of the media. All of that! We wanted to be very careful and correct about it.

**RITCHIE:** Did the Senators have any problems with that at the time—objecting to all the bureaucratic routines they were being put through?

**SCOTT:** I don't know. I wouldn't want to say. I really don't remember. We did all the actual footwork about it, and all the nitty-gritty, all the forms. We sent them out to them and then had to be sure we got them back. It got to be a great big operation.

**RITCHIE:** Going back to the Senate as a whole, the mid 1960s was when the Vietnam War began to be the predominant issue, and it certainly became a very divisive issue in the Senate and in the Democratic Party. Did it spill over? Did you feel there were tensions developing because of the war and the hawks and the doves in the Senate at that time?

**SCOTT:** I suppose so. I felt sorry for Senator Humphrey at that time. I felt especially sorry for President Johnson. I remember Bobby Kennedy started being active at that time. And I think LBJ's heart was just broken because I think he was in such a bind. He had inherited part of this; and this is what brought him down. In the meantime Bobby Kennedy was going great guns.

My feeling, particularly, was about President Johnson because we had known him so well, and I was feeling so sorry for him. And I remember when Bobby Kennedy was assassinated, and at the services they had for him up in New York they had on TV some shots of President Johnson, who had said he was not going to run. You remember that speech? He didn't have it in the speech at all, and then at the very end on television he said he would not run. I was

watching him on TV at the Kennedy services and the cameras came back to him. They showed his reaction to the speech that Ted Kennedy was making, the eulogy for his brother; and the way I felt—maybe I imagined this—the way I felt—it was written all over his face that LBJ was thinking: "If I had known this was going to happen, I would have run." It was Bobby Kennedy whom he was worried about. I think he would have been mortified had Bobby Kennedy gotten the nomination. And from how we knew him, I think he wouldn't let himself be put in that position where Bobby Kennedy would be nominated after he had rebelled against him. But he had on his face this expression: "If I thought this was going to happen . . ." You know what I mean? I could just see this.

I'm a "people" person, and I love to see their feelings, particularly if I get to know them. And you can see what they're thinking, the reason why they're doing this, and this—that is what I find so interesting. I always said I was a "people" person, and Frank said he was an "idea" person. So I said, "Well, people have the ideas." [laughs] But I'll never forget that shot. He was acting like, "If I'd known this was going to happen . . ." That was his expression.

**RITCHIE:** Frank was very close to Senator Mansfield who was somewhat skeptical about the war in Vietnam.

**SCOTT:** Oh, and about troops in Europe, too. Mansfield was always against keeping troops over there.

**RITCHIE:** I was wondering, since you were a Johnson person at that stage and Frank was a Mansfield person, you must have felt the differences of opinion developing.

**SCOTT:** Yes I did. And I felt so sad about it. As I say, LBJ had inherited it. He was trying to get the whole thing over with, and then a lot of people were saying he shouldn't have gone further. But we're never the ones to back down. The best comment of all was from Senator Aiken, when he said, we should have said, "We won," and leave! That made more sense than any of the rest of it. That was the way Senator Aiken was. I thought if people stopped and listened to him a little more! But I don't know how close Senator Aiken was to President Johnson. I don't know whether he felt that close. But he was close to the other Presidents. And they should have given him the benefit of some of his suggestions.

**RITCHIE:** In connection with the war in the 60s, early 70s, there were a lot of demonstrations in Washington.

**SCOTT:** Yes.

**RITCHIE:** Did that complicate matters for the Senate? Did you have any dealings with demonstrations, security issues, and things like that?

**SCOTT:** Well, I think that was before that time. I remember, and of course, this was—remember when the Puerto Ricans started shooting? Remember?

**RITCHIE:** Over in the House Chamber.

**SCOTT:** Over in the House Chamber. And that was when Mr. Johnston was Secretary for the Majority, and we were in G-43. I heard afterwards that after they had done the shooting, they had come down the corridor, right in the Capitol, right outside my office, and had used the little elevator to go down. Oh, I was so close to that! That's when they put up all security devices at the entrances to the galleries. And they had all the glass and everything. You had to have your bags checked. Several years later, I was in Mexico, and I went to a beauty shop, and one of the wives of one of the Congressmen who was shot was there in the beauty shop. I don't know how we started talking about it, but he had been hurt. I think he ended up in a wheel chair. He had been shot. I remember talking to her about it and saying, "Oh, what they had gone through."

**RITCHIE:** Yes, and while you were there in '71, when the bomb went off in the Capitol.

**SCOTT:** Oh, yes. I remember that. And before that—there's no reason for it, except talking about shooting—this man shot

himself. He killed himself right outside the Senate Press Gallery. I remember Beck told me about that.

Then back when, let me see—I'm trying to think who it was. One of the Senators was going over to the Capitol in the old subway car—the one that they have on display. There was a man who took a shot at him.

**RITCHIE:** Oh, was this Senator John Bricker of Ohio?

**SCOTT:** Bricker. Yes. He was going over on the subway, and I think it was somebody whom he had appointed whom he let go. It was one of the patronage employees who lost his job. So he wanted to get back at Senator Bricker. That's who it was. And he shot at him, and Senator Bricker ducked down below the seat there in the subway car and said "Start off!" And, boy, the operator started off, and he saved his life! It was in the old Senate Office Building, and there were two holes from the bullets that went into the walls over there. I remember hearing about that and seeing the holes.

Then coming later on to the bomb—the bomb, I think, did some damage to the Disbursing Office.

**RITCHIE:** Yes. It was in a women's room just right below the Disbursing Office.

**SCOTT:** Yes. That was kind of scary. And then at one point—trying to think, this isn't exactly about the bomb. But at one point, this is more toward the time we were thinking of having the possible impeachment proceedings on the Senate floor, about Nixon. But they came in and they put "bugs" around our office.

**RITCHIE:** They put in bugs?

**SCOTT:** Remember the tall file cabinets. They put several different ones in. It was ordered, I think, by the Sergeant at Arms.

**RITCHIE:** Were they taping what was being said?

**SCOTT:** I don't know.

**RITCHIE:** Or debugging?

**SCOTT:** Yes, I guess that's it. Debugging.

**RITCHIE:** Oh, okay. So there was screening. They were looking for bugs. Did they find some?

**SCOTT:** No, I don't think so. But I remember the day they came in, and I was thinking this was unusual. And this was just about the time of all the Nixon trouble.

**RITCHIE:** They were looking to see if anybody was secretly taping.

**SCOTT:** I think that may have been because of the Nixon tapes probably.

**RITCHIE:** Darrell told me that down in the Foreign Relations Committee they used to come in periodically to look for bugs in the '50s. They were very concerned about electronic eavesdropping, which became a big issue at that time.

**SCOTT:** Then, of course, they had the Nixon tapes. I have a copy of it. A friend of mine worked for Congressman [Peter] Rodino, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, when they had the hearing, and she sent me a copy of the hearings. Then we had some other documents they had researched on impeachment procedures.

**RITCHIE:** But you're not aware of their ever actually finding there were any bugs?

**SCOTT:** No, I wouldn't say that. I was trying to remember if they were installing them or what they were doing. But I guess they were searching for them. I didn't ask too much about it, but I remember I was there and they were going all around. I think it was kind of confidential. Maybe I should take that out.



**RITCHIE:** Oh, that's okay because other people have talked about the whole question of eavesdropping, which became a big issue beginning with the 50s. So much had to be dealt with in secret. That's why they created that secret room on the top of the Capitol.

**SCOTT:** I didn't know about that.

**RITCHIE:** They still use it for security briefings. That's one area that's guaranteed to be free of any kind of eavesdropping.

**SCOTT:** That's very interesting. You learn something new every day.

**RITCHIE:** Times were changing, obviously, in the 60s. There was a lot of turmoil in the city and turmoil in the Senate, I guess, at the same time.

**SCOTT:** I have some notes on some other items. One of our people was the Enrolling Clerk, Harvey Carroll. Poor Harvey Carroll had a heart attack one day, and he would run all the way down the corridor to the Clerk's office to have something signed. So he had a heart attack, and he went to the hospital. And he was just there briefly, and he came back; and that afternoon he was running again. All the way over to the House side. Isn't that something?

Sometime, I'd like to get into some of the people that we had as guests come through. Some of the celebrities. Sir Anthony Eden and so on. I think that might be interesting. I was thinking of them—not so much Anthony Eden, movie stars and so on like that. Sometime I want to mention about the Martin Luther King riots and the Magna Carta. And one other thing, one time when Mr. Johnston was Secretary of the Senate—it was a night session—and Charlie Marston, who used to be in the House Press Gallery, called to find out if we were still in session. The House had finished and was waiting for the Senate to act on something so they could adjourn and go home. Charlie called me from the House Press Gallery, and he said, "Would you like to hear them down on the floor?" They were singing! They were singing on the House floor while they were waiting for the Senate to finish! I said, "I don't believe it!" I thought he was kidding or something. He said, "No." And he was in the House Press Gallery, and I could hear them.

**ITCHIE:** You mentioned the Martin Luther King riots in Washington in '68. Since we've been talking about demonstrations and disturbances, how did that affect the Senate and you personally.

**SCOTT:** Oh, that was just terrible! That was just terrible! I had my townhouse up here on 8th Street, S.E., Eighth and A. I remember the night it all started, they were having the fires downtown. I remember Dr. Riddick and I came out to the Capitol

plaza where we had our cars parked, and we could see the smoke downtown. I remember Dottie McCarty had gone on home, and she called me. She didn't want me to go home alone. She wondered about my car—if I wanted to leave it, or if I wanted to drive it home. She was worried. She said that Joe Duke said he would have the Sergeant at Arms car take me over to her place because she was worried about me. Then I had a friend out in Silver Spring who wanted me to come out and stay with her because I was alone. My Dad had passed on. I didn't even try to go out to Silver Spring because it was said you couldn't get through. There was some man who was shot when he stopped to get gas, in his car.

Then another friend of mine in those couple of days was coming up to see me from Annapolis, and he couldn't get over the bridge. They stopped people going on the bridge. I guess this must have been the second day it happened. Everybody had left. Everybody had cleared out, and I thought, "Oh well, I'll just stay and get some filing done."

And I got this call. Some woman—someone outside, not even connected with the Senate—said she heard they were going to start bombing the Capitol—connected with the riots and everything. I thought, "Well that's nice to know!" [laughs]. I went downstairs and I went out and the policeman was there. I told him I just got a call from somebody and they said they were going to bomb the Capitol. He said, "Oh, yes, we had gotten that report." I said, "You could have called somebody and told them so they could leave!" Those were just wild days. They put guards all over. They put

Marines all over. And I remember my Dad had prophesied this before he passed on. He was afraid there were going to be race riots in Washington. He said he wouldn't be a bit surprised to see a policeman on every corner. And it all came true!

I tried to go home, and when I tried to drive down, some of the streets were blocked off. A couple of blocks from my home at Seventh Street there was a 5 and 10 and the Eastern Market. The next day the 5 and 10 was all boarded up because they had broken the windows. And at this time, Frank had been on a trip with Senator Mansfield. I was over at Dottie McCarty's. I'd spent the night over there. We saw it on television. Her sister was crying when they showed all the looting. Frank called me there from San Francisco at Dottie's to see if everything was all right because he heard all the reports. It was just such a sad time.

I remember Flossie—I bet it was the first night—she lived out there in Virginia. And the apartment house where she lived was high on a hill, and she told me the next day they could look down and see the burning going on in Washington. A girlfriend of my cousin's and mine in Philadelphia had a daughter who was coming down with her high school class to have a field trip to Washington. They got right downtown to Hecht's, and the looting had started so the bus turned around, didn't even stop. They drove back to Philadelphia again.

Frank's friend, Ord Alexander, was the kind of person who was into everything. He was ahead of his time. He worked with the paraplegics to help them, and he was working with a group that was

trying to use coal for fuel, and he did some underwater diving. Anyway, he got involved in everything. So he went out that night with a policeman friend of his, and rode around to see some of the action. And he was telling us about it later at dinner parties. Ord Alexander.

I seem to be talking more about other people. But it was scary to me, too. That afternoon I got that call, I thought, "Boy! I better get out of here!" And when the policeman said they knew—I think they should have gone around to all the offices and called them or something. I guess most people were gone, but I was still here. Everybody cleared out. But I thought it was a real quiet time to get some work done.

**RITCHIE:** I guess that it disrupted business quite a bit.

**SCOTT:** That day everybody left! Everybody left! Usually, when I was there, my chief messenger would stay to close the office. But everybody left! I thought, "Oh, well, now's a good time. Real quiet." Which was unusual. Then I ran into Tom Gay. I'll never forget. He was assistant to Bill Wannall, the Printing Clerk. I ran into him, and told him, and he was amazed, too. We both looked at the policeman and said, "Why didn't you let us *know*?" They should have called every office in the Capitol and told them.

**RITCHIE:** Within a day or so there were National Guardsmen all around the building.

**SCOTT:** That's right! There were National Guardsmen. There were Marines. And metropolitan police. Three different groups. And you really had to show your credentials to get by them. They were also right down there where my little townhouse was.

One night I was with some people, and I couldn't get near there. I've forgotten how I got home. I had to go around a circuitous route. That was really sad.

**RITCHIE:** You must have felt like you were coming to work in an armed camp.

**SCOTT:** Exactly. I really did. I remembered what my Dad had said about the policemen. We had this cottage down at the Bay, and Daddy used to say, "If anything gets real bad in Washington, we can always go down to our cottage on the Bay and escape." It was just very scary. Then, of course, what's her name, Loretta King?

**RITCHIE:** Coretta.

**SCOTT:** Coretta—used to come in the Capitol *all* the time after that. She would show up *constantly*. You would see her in and out all the time.

The Sunday after the riots I went to church at Saint Dominick's on Capitol Hill with Dottie McCarty's brother in law. LBJ was there with his daughter Luci and her husband, Pat Nugent. After Mass, the President and his daughter and son in law paused and the people formed a semi-circle facing them. I thought he might address the crowd but there was no applause or anything. It was a quiet, emotional moment.

I think Darrell went down on one of the marches after that. I'm trying to think. He went down and participated in one of the marches. He felt strongly about it.

**RITCHIE:** Might have been the Poor People's March that came shortly after that?

**SCOTT:** It was something, and Darrell went down. I remember hearing about it. That was really very dramatic.

**RITCHIE:** Well, this is a very dramatic way to wrap up this session.

**End of Interview #5**