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INTERVIEWEE: GERALD C. MANN and GERALD C. MANN JR.

INTERVIEWER: JOE B. FRANTZ

October 12, 1968

F: This is an interview with Gerald Mann in his office in the Frito-Lay Building in Dallas on October 12, 1968.

Mr. Mann, when did you first become acquainted with Lyndon Johnson?

M: I became acquainted with Lyndon Johnson when he was the head of the National Youth Administration in Texas just prior to the time that he was first elected to Congress from the Austin district.

F: Give us just a very brief rundown on yourself so that we can put you in context with Mr. Johnson.

M: My first entrance into politics and to hold any public office was when I was Secretary of State under the administration of Governor James V. Allred, and that was the time that I first met President Johnson. Then, subsequently, in 1938 I was elected Attorney General of Texas and was elected to that office for three terms and then retired from politics and have been in the law business, or business generally since.

F: So you spent a fair amount of time then in Mr. Johnson's home district?

M: Yes, I spent a little better than six years.

F: When you were on the Planning Board in Washington, did that get you in any contact with Mr. Johnson?

M: No. When I was on the Planning Board in Washington, I really never had any contact with Mr. Johnson at that time.

F: Tell me a little bit about the Texas Planning Board.

M: The Texas Planning Board was set up during Governor Allred's administration



in about 1934. It was set up for the purpose of following different statewide projects that Texas had in Washington, as well as making long-term plans for the development of our state. It was in existence for several years, and I think then just passed out of existence.

F: What did you do there?

M: I was a member of the State Planning Board by reason of my office as Secretary of State. The Planning Board had a representative in Washington, Colonel Paul Wakefield. Then, when he resigned that post, the Planning Board asked me to go to Washington. I had dealings with the Works Progress Administration and PWA and other alphabetical organizations of that time in pushing projects that different governmental agencies in Texas had before the national government.

F: Now, the National Youth Administration would not have been involved in that?

M: No. I was not involved or associated with the National Youth Administration in that work at all.

F: You said you met Mr. Johnson while you were Secretary of State--socially or in a business sense?

M: I became interested in President Johnson when he became a candidate for Congress from the Austin district. Even though I could not vote in his district, I supported him and was for him in that election.

F: Do you have any memories of that race? Were you enough involved in it to have any recollections?

M: No, that has been a long time ago, and I don't have any specific recollections except that I did talk to some mutual friends in that district and urged them to support him.

F: Then he became congressman, and you, of course, became Attorney General. Did you have any official relationships or social relationships during that period?

M: No. I don't recall any official relationships or social relationships, either, other than just time to time maybe in passing, we would meet.

F: When you ran in 1941, did you run against Mr. O'Daniel, Mr. Johnson? In other words, how did you set up your campaign in that year?

M: Senator Morris Sheppard died, and I felt that W. Lee O'Daniel was going to run. I didn't know that Johnson was going to run. I felt like I was running against O'Daniel because he was the strongest politically at that time in Texas, and I felt that I could beat him because his popularity had decreased considerably since he had been governor.

F: How did you plan your statewide campaign?

M: Well, that has been about thirty-seven--

F: Twenty-seven years.

M: Twenty-seven years. I don't remember just how I planned it other than just to make an announcement and start making speeches and getting an organization together and getting votes. At that time we didn't have the television, and you had to campaign personally throughout the state and over the radio. Of course, the big difficulty in any special election such as that, at that time, was that there was just one race, and the high man won, the one who got the most votes.

F: Did you and Mr. Johnson sort of get in each other's way as campaigners in this?

M: I'm sure if either of us had not been in the race, the other would have won, because I think we would have beaten W. Lee O'Daniel at that time.

F: Your race was against Governor O'Daniel more than it was then Mr. Johnson?

M: My race was against Governor O'Daniel in the beginning, but along at the latter part of the campaign it was to some extent against Johnson because he had the support of the National Administration that was very active in the campaign.



F: How did you try to counter this national support?

M: The only way I tried to counter it was by speaking against the National Administration interfering with local affairs.

F: Did your speech seem to get across?

M: Yes, I think so. I think it did, and I think it probably was instrumental, unfortunately, in the defeat of President Johnson.

F: You and Mr. Johnson both had quite good records--not trying to be complimentary--as moderate to liberal politicians here in Texas. Why do you think the National Administration supported him over you? Why did they get in it at all?

M: Well, I think the National Administration was very much fearful that O'Daniel would be elected. President Roosevelt knew Johnson and he did not know me. He also had Governor James V. Allred, who was a federal district judge and who was close to Roosevelt, and I'm sure that--even though I don't know it specifically--that Allred was instrumental in getting Roosevelt to support Johnson. I think Tom Connally favored my candidacy, and I think probably, as he told me later, that he urged the President not to get involved.

F: But Mr. Roosevelt was determined to get involved.

M: He did get involved.

F: After the election did you and Mr. Johnson remain political opponents, or did he make some overtures toward you?

M: There was no reason for any overtures. Simply because we were political opponents, there was never any animosity that existed between us in any way. We've always been friends. I did my best to win and he did his best to win; we both lost. But there has been no necessity for any overtures on either

side. We've always been friends, and we didn't carry any grudges even though we made a strong campaign.

F: Did you participate at all in his campaign in 1948 against Coke Stevenson?

M: No, I did not participate in the campaign at that time at all.

F: Were you active in the campaign of 1960?

M: Yes, I was active in the campaign of 1960, and I was also active in an earlier--not real active, but I helped Johnson when he was trying to go to the national convention at the head of the Texas delegation in 1956. I supported him then against, I believe it was, Governor Shivers' effort to represent the party as head of the delegation to the national convention. And then in 1960 I helped him at the time he was nominated for Vice President when President Kennedy was running.

F: Well, now in 1956, Governor Stevenson had not made it clear whether he would allow his name to be put up for a second run at the presidency. So, consequently, there was some consideration of, if not Stevenson, who would it be, and Johnson's name was mentioned. Did you take part in any of the preconvention maneuvering?

M: No.

F: The '56 state delegation was heavily contested, you know, from the precincts right on up.

M: Yes.

F: As to whether it would be Shivers controlled or Johnson controlled.

M: Yes. Well, I was active in the campaign and delivered the keynote address at the state convention.

F: Who chose you? Do you remember?

M: Well, I presume that President Johnson did. I don't know. I was asked to deliver the keynote address.

F: What was your theme in '56?

M: I don't recall. I don't recall the speech.

F: Were you involved at all in the maneuver on either side which chose Frankie Randolph over Mrs. Bentsen as national committeewoman?

M: No, I was not involved.

F: Which came, you know, as a surprise to a few people.

M: At that time I think maybe the liberals from Houston were seated in the convention at that time.

F: Did Dallas have a split delegation?

M: Yes. As I recall, Dallas had a split delegation. They had some more or less liberal group. I remember it was quite an active and contested convention.

F: In 1960 did you go to Los Angeles to the convention?

M: No, I didn't participate at all. I wasn't a delegate to the convention. I really had been in politics very little since I left the Attorney General's office. My only entrance in politics was that briefly in 1956 when I thought it was important that Johnson represent Texas at the national convention rather than Governor Shivers. I participated at that time, but very little. Then in 1960 I participated, but during those two times were the only times that I participated in politics since I was attorney general.

F: Why did you think it important to choose the Johnson delegation over the Shivers delegation?

M: Because I thought that Johnson better represented the Democratic Party; that Governor Shivers had been a Democrat, but in 1952 he had supported



the Republicans and evidently was going to do so in 1956. I thought a Democrat should lead the party; and I thought Johnson would be more representative of the state and the Democratic party.

F: Were you surprised when President Johnson accepted the vice-presidency in 1960?

M: No, I wasn't surprised that he accepted it, although I had not been at the national convention and had not participated in any way directly or indirectly in the state conventions at that time. But I wasn't surprised that it was offered to him; neither was I surprised that he accepted it because I thought he did the wise thing.

F: After the national convention in 1960 and the Kennedy-Johnson ticket was established, then you did take some active part in the campaign?

M: Yes.

F: Doing what?

M: Well, soon after the convention, Sam Rayburn got in touch with me and [said] that he and Johnson wanted to talk to me about heading up the campaign in Texas for the Kennedy-Johnson ticket. I had been approached in 1956, both by the Democrats and the Republicans, to head up the organizations in Texas--

F: This speaks well for your bipartisanship--

M: And I turned them both down. Sam Rayburn had talked to me at that time about heading up the campaign in Texas for Stevenson, and Sid Richardson and C. W. Murchison talked to me about running the campaign--and a number of other people--for Eisenhower. But I didn't do either because I was associated with Mr. Murchison, who was very much for Eisenhower, and I had been a Democrat all my life and had supported the Democratic party and had been elected by the Democratic party. I thought it would be unbecoming even

had I even been inclined to support Eisenhower, to have done so. So I just didn't do either.

So in 1960 that condition did not exist and I felt that it was important that the Democrats get back into office and I wanted to do what I could. So when Mr. Rayburn and the then-Senator Johnson asked me to head up the campaign in Texas for the Kennedy-Johnson ticket, I agreed to do so.

F: Did you go to Washington to meet with them, or did they come down here to meet with you, or was it handled by telephone or how?

M: I met them here. I met them on an airplane here at Love Field, and we rode to Bonham. Then I talked with them at that time and told them that I would do it.

F: How did you handle the campaign in Texas?

M: Of course, I hadn't been in politics in a long time and had been away from any organizations. I just left my office and went to Austin and set up shop, and we started campaigning.

F: Where?

M: I believe it was the Littlefield Building.

F: Yes.

M: And we set up office there and we ran the campaign from that office.

F: Did you organize the campaign by districts, or what were the mechanics of your organization?

M: As I recall, we organized it by counties throughout the state and had different leaders in different counties. Of course, the big problem was that we wanted to keep all the factions together and have just one organization, because we had Senator Yarborough on one side leading one faction; then, of course, we had Johnson and Price Daniel and others on the other side. We were just trying to keep all the factions of the



Democratic party together and have one single organization, and we were successful in doing so.

F: Did you yourself make speeches?

M: Yes, I made some speeches both on the radio and in public on television.

F: Within the state, or did you go outside the state?

M: No, wholly within the state. I had enough to do here.

F: Were you faced with the religious issue in 1960?

M: Yes, we were faced with the religious issue.

F: Did you personally try to counter that?

M: Only in speeches, and I was instrumental, I think, in setting up that speech in Houston at the time Kennedy spoke to the Baptist ministers.

F: Was that initiated by the ministers or initiated on the political side?

M: We had been talking about it and discussing it, and I had talked to Bobby Kennedy about having three or four or five leading clergymen of this area-- Protestant clergymen--to question Kennedy and had talked to some leading clergymen and bishops about doing it.

F: Did Bobby Kennedy think it was a good idea?

M: Yes, and he said that he'd take it up with the people and let me know. Then, in the meantime, the Baptist ministers were having a big meeting in Houston, and they said something to our representative there. Then he got in touch with us in Austin, and then that's how the meeting with the Baptist ministers was set up.

F: Here in Dallas, you had Carr Collins, Dr. Criswell, to name two, who were rather violently opposed to Mr. Kennedy. Did you try at all to meet their objections here in your own backyard?

M: Of course, we had a local organization and we tried to meet the objections wherever we found them. I don't recall specifically about what we did at



that time except I remember that Carr Collins was active in the campaign against the Kennedy-Johnson ticket.

F: I think active is a polite word.

M: Yes.

F: Did Mr. Johnson take much of a hand in the state organization, or did he pretty well leave it to you?

M: We had some men from Johnson's office who were active in the state organization. There was Cliff Carter and Lloyd Hand, who were two from Johnson's office, that were active in the campaign. But I think on the whole, as much as Johnson is constitutionally set up to let anybody run a campaign, well, he left it to us. We had some disagreements from time to time, but on the whole it worked out.

F: Would you like to say what you disagreed on?

M: Really, it was nothing very important except where and how we were to handle Johnson and Kennedy's speaking campaign in Texas, specifically where they were to speak. That was the only thing that we disagreed on.

F: More or less scheduling matters and mechanics.

M: Yes, whether or not we would make a speech in Houston at a certain time. We had a disagreement with the national organization in handling the speaking tour in Texas, but we got it worked out the way we wanted it worked out because we thought that it was in the best interest of the campaign to handle it the way we had it set up.

F: Now, what was the disagreement about?

M: One, they were afraid that Kennedy couldn't meet the schedule we had set up. Another was, with Johnson, he didn't think we ought to have a night meeting in Houston because he didn't think that we'd get enough crowd to justify it. But we thought we would, and we set it up that way, and it was

handled that way, and the trip was highly successful.

F: The Houston meeting was sort of a brilliant accomplishment.

Were you active at all with the Latin American elements in Texas?

M: No, other than just in our organization we dealt some with the Latin Americans. I don't recall anything extraordinary, or anything like that.

F: Where were you the night of the election?

M: The night when the returns were coming in I was in Austin.

F: At the Driskill, or--

M: At the Driskill, yes.

F: What did you do as that evening dragged on? Do you have any memories of it?

M: No, I was just listening to the returns as they came in and was, of course-- I'd been telling Johnson all the time that we were going to carry Texas. He was a little doubtful about it, at least he expressed his doubt to me from time to time throughout the campaign. But I was confident that we were going to be able to carry Texas, and of course I was very happy when we were able to even though it was by only about 50,000 votes, something like that.

F: That was enough.

M: So we did carry it, but it was a hard difficult campaign and we really had very little money, very little money. Most of the time we were without money.

F: Did you get what little money you had mostly out of Texas, or did you get a pretty fair percentage from the national party?

M: I don't know of anything that we got from the national party. We didn't get anything from the national party that came to me. Johnson might have handled some that came from the national party, I don't know, or somebody else, but I didn't.

F: By and large, where did your contributions come from in Texas?

M: Oh, I don't recall. We really didn't have very many.

F: I mean, were they in small denominations?

M: Yes, mostly in small denominations.

F: After the election, did you have any further relationships, official or otherwise, with Mr. Johnson?

M: No, none whatever other than just casual.

F: You haven't been interested in some sort of appointment nationally?

M: No.

F: Did you take part in the '64 campaign.?

M: No. I didn't take part in the '64 campaign. That was a pretty easy campaign.

F: You weren't as necessary in '64 as you had been in '60.

M: I'm really not active in politics, and so getting into it in '60 was rather unusual for me.

F: A diversion?

M: Yes.

F: Let's go way back. I understand that you had a rather dramatic experience on December 8, 1941--that you were in Washington. That was the day after Pearl Harbor. My information is not as precise as it might be, but perhaps Speaker Rayburn took you along to hear Mr. Roosevelt address Congress.

M: Yes, I was in Washington on December 7 when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

F: On state business?

M: Yes, as I recall, we had some matter before the Supreme Court. I wasn't arguing the question or--I've forgotten just what the purpose of the visit there was. But I also went there to see the President and had an appointment with him.

F: On December 7?



M: Yes as I recall Mr. Rayburn was going to arrange an appointment the next day on the eighth. And, of course, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, well, that stopped everything. I was there in Mr. Rayburn's office and he got me onto the floor of Congress at the time that the President made his famous speech the next morning after Pearl Harbor.

F: You were on the floor?

M: Yes. I was on the floor of Congress.

F: Can you reconstruct your reaction at the time of the events?

M: Well, of course, it was a very dramatic event. It was almost electric so far as the people were concerned, with rumors floating around everywhere that our whole Navy had been destroyed, which later turned out to be the truth, at Pearl Harbor. Of course, the people were fearful and afraid and on edge, but Roosevelt's message captivated and electrified the nation, I think, and pulled it together. He had the right words at the right time. So it was really on December 7 when you first heard the announcement of Pearl Harbor?

M: As I recall it, December 7 was on Sunday, and I was with Judge James Noel, federal district judge at Houston, who was in my department. We had gone to the picture show on Sunday afternoon. We came out of the show and people were talking that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor. We walked from the show over to the State Department. We had learned some way that the Japanese were meeting with Cordell Hull.

F: Could you get in the State Department, or had they thrown a cordon around it?

M: No, we didn't try to. We just walked down by the White House and the State Department. We didn't try to get in.

- F: Mr. Mann, let's go back to the preconvention period in 1960. As you will recall, there was something of a late boom for Senator Johnson for President. Did you have any part in that?
- M: Of course, I thought since Senator Johnson was the Majority Leader of the Senate and there had been a lot in the newspapers about the possibility of his candidacy, that he possibly might be a candidate. I believe he told me that he was considering running, and that he was getting away from Washington now and then. I urged that he should get out and speak in different areas of the nation and get better acquainted because a man can be a powerful leader in the United States Senate and a very prominent man in Washington, and yet not be well-known by the people generally. I do recall that prior to the national convention I arranged for him, because we had some business interest in Chicago--we had the Chicago City Bank and Trust Company and our president there--
- F: You're speaking about your business?
- M: Yes. We owned the bank in Chicago, and Mr. Norbert Engles was president of the bank. I believe [I] had introduced him to Johnson prior to that time. But, anyway, we had some directors of the bank that were prominent in some Chicago affairs, and [we] got Johnson an invitation to speak in Chicago and then arranged for Mr. Engles to give a party at the Southshore Country Club and invite Senator Johnson to come to that meeting, as well as John Connally and Mayor Daley. I believe at that time Senator Johnson met Mayor Daley.
- F: You think this was the first time the two men had met?
- M: Yes, I think it was the first time that they had met. I wasn't able to attend the party, but my son was there. He was living in Chicago and working with the bank at the time, and I was here. But I did arrange for Mr. Engles to give him the party.



F: From your son, do you have any idea how Mayor Daley and Mr. Johnson hit it off at the outset?

M: From my information, they hit it off very well.

F: Mayor Daley had just become mayor fairly recently--

M: Yes, he hadn't been mayor very long. He'd been mayor, I guess, three or four years maybe, but he hadn't been mayor very long.

F: But he wasn't supporting Senator Johnson?

M: No, not that I know of. I imagine in the national convention that the Illinois--although I don't know--delegation went for Senator Kennedy.

F: Did you hear Mr. Johnson's speech at that Chicago meeting?

M: No, I didn't. I wasn't present in Chicago.

F: Mr. Mann, I'm going to turn from you for a moment to your son, who is also named Gerald Mann, who was there at this particular Chicago meeting and get his opinion on this. Tell us just what that day and evening were like.

GM: Well, starting off at the luncheon which was held at one of the large auditoriums in the Stockyards--it was a large gathering of people. If my memory serves me, I'd say there were between 2500 and 3500 people present. The Senator was introduced and gave what--I remember commenting at the time--was one of his flag-waving speeches. It was not a political speech as such, but rather a--I know what I called it: "A Fourth of July Speech," and I think that's exactly what it was. It was a very good speech, and it was well received.

F: One of these "God and country"--

GM: Yes, exactly, but it was not a political speech. I don't think it was what Dad probably would have wanted him to say if he had been present. We had arranged that later that evening there'd be a small party. When I say small, there were about thirty to thirty-five people invited specifically



for the purpose of Johnson having a chance to chat with Mayor Daley. I remember Mayor Daley arrived a little bit late, and everybody stood around waiting for him to show up. The mayor frequently is [late].

F: Was Mr. Johnson there waiting, too?

GM: Oh, yes.

F: You know most people wait for Mr. Johnson.

GM: Yes. As a matter of fact, Mr. Johnson was waiting. In Chicago, I don't think there's anybody more important than Mayor Daley, certainly not at the time [Johnson was] the Senate Majority Leader. But Johnson was waiting for him. The mayor was perhaps forty minutes late, but there was a very good reason that he was late. He had been tied up in another engagement. We had a dinner there, and the Senator made some remarks--stood up after dinner and made some remarks. The mayor had left before the dinner commenced, or shortly after the dinner commenced. The mayor and the senator spent some time standing at one side of the room, sort of swapping stories.

F: This was during the dinner?

GM: No, this was prior to the dinner. It was a cocktail party prior to the dinner. It was a very relaxed atmosphere. Most of the people who were present were either members of Johnson's staff, who had come for the noon speech, or rather well-known Chicago political figures and bankers.

F: Do you remember the general tenor of Mr. Johnson's remarks that evening? These were political, weren't they?

GM: Yes, these were somewhat more political, and somewhat more pointed, and somewhat more unguarded, I would say. I remember distinctly I was very pleased, because during both the noon speech and the little talk after dinner that night that he made, that he directed some comments toward me which obviously flattered me very much. I don't remember the substance of

the speech except that it was more political and it was more pointed; and he said some things that--

F: Did he more or less indicate that he could be persuaded to offer himself for the nomination?

GM: That would be my recollection, yes. I don't think there were any direct words to that effect, but I think that's the feeling that everybody got about the purpose of the meeting.

F: This was strictly informal, though. He didn't talk from any notes or anything.

GM: Very informal. No, very informal. Everybody had had several drinks, and it was very, very informal.

F: Did Mayor <sup>D</sup>Maley make any response?

GM: No, as I say, I believe that Mayor Daley left either immediately after the dinner was over or during the dinner. He had another engagement.

F: You were living in Chicago then?

GM: Yes, I was.

F: Had Mayor Daley perfected his city organization by then so that it could deliver votes?

GM: Yes, sir.

F: So that this was a man worth knowing?

GM: We considered that Mayor Daley would be capable of delivering the Democratic party in Illinois without any doubt.

F: Do you have any recollection how soon after this that the Johnson campaign got under way?

GM: No, I do not, although I do know that it picked up some momentum for this. I believe that I gained the impression, when the dinner was over and we were in his room in the Southshore Country Club after the other people had left, that he was in a very relaxed mood, and he seemed to be picking up the spirit



of the contest because he commented on his reception with Mayor Daley and the speech at noon. And he was pleased at the reception.

F: Did he stay at the Southshore?

GM: Yes, he spent the night there.

F: After the dinner, then, after it broke up, you went to his room?

GM: Yes.

F: How many of you?

GM: I believe there was the Senator, John Connally, Norbert Engles, myself, and perhaps Cliff Carter.

F: To a great extent, he talked about what had gone on during the day?

GM: Yes, it was a sort of critique of the activities of the day and I know that the Senator was very, very pleased. He was very relaxed and very pleased. If my memory serves me right, he did not have a cocktail at the cocktail party but waited until afterwards, until he got to his room to have a cocktail.

F: So then you sat around for some time and just rehashed the day?

GM: Yes. It was a very relaxed occasion. The only thing that I can remember in specific terms was the fact that he was pleased with what had gone on, and that he was ready for more.

F: Well, now, as you recall, did you leave that evening with a feeling that maybe you had a candidate on your hands?

GM: Oh, definitely. Of course, this was the idea, to get the Senator some exposure in different areas of the country. As I said, I know that Dad tried to persuade him, and I remember a conversation between the Senator and Dad in which he told him that he needed to get out and get into other parts of the country.

F: Where was this conversation?



GM: I'm sorry, I don't have any recollection at all where it was.

F: It was in person though?

GM: Yes, it was. I can't tell you whether it was a hotel room or where it was.

F: It was in Chicago?

GM: No, it was not. It was after this that Dad said, "Now, I'll get you started by arranging this in Chicago."

The next morning I believe that they left rather early. I remember speaking to John Connally, and John Connally expressed the thanks of the Senator to Dad and to Mr. Engles for their efforts there and thought it had been a very successful undertaking.

M: Well, he didn't express them to me. I wasn't there.

GM: Well, he asked me to relay to you his thanks. That's what I remember about the following morning. That was John Connally.

F: But, you, Mr. Mann, did not do any work prior to the Los Angeles meeting toward getting him the nomination for the presidency?

M: No, I wasn't active in the state convention and wasn't a delegate to the national convention and really had nothing to do with his efforts, other than as has been related here, prior to the actual campaign.

F: During the campaign of 1960, you said a moment ago that the state organization ran constantly short of money. Did you ever have to go in the hole personally to help it along?

M: Yes, I loaned the campaign, oh, a total of about \$25,000, I think at one time--that was the total outstanding. It was all repaid to me after the campaign was over.

F: What was the money used for?

M: I specifically remember when the broadcast from Houston at the Baptist Ministerial Association when we had the confrontation between Kennedy and

the Baptist ministers and that was put on all the radio stations, I paid for that broadcast with those funds that I'd loaned the campaign.

F: You had to use your own funds for that?

M: Yes, and I probably borrowed them. But I did furnish the money to put that speech on the air, and later was repaid after the election.

F: I can see now why they made him the state chairman. In other words, you were interested in getting a proper job done regardless of how it happened.

M: I felt like that--and I think as it turned out to be--that that speech was really the turning point in the Kennedy-Johnson campaign. I think from that point on they began to move forward and ahead.

F: It was more than just a Texas speech?

M: Oh, yes, the tapes were taken from that speech and utilized in every state in the nation, I'm sure, for the balance of the campaign.

F: I think it's generally considered a highpoint in Kennedy's campaign.

M: I think it was one of the greatest political events in history. I think Kennedy did a marvelous job.

F: Did Kennedy seem properly appreciative of what you had set up here? Did he seem to realize what he had done?

M: I doubt if he ever knew it--ever knew the part that I played in it.

GM: Bobby Kennedy did.

M: I don't know whether Bobby Kennedy knew that I--. I don't think that Bobby Kennedy--

F: Did President Kennedy realize that this was a historic event?

M: Oh, I think he did, and I'm sure after it was over and he got away from the event, I'm sure he realized the tremendous importance of it.

F: But you never received any personal thanks for it?

M: Oh, I don't recall. I wasn't looking for any personal thanks, and I don't



recall specifically although President Kennedy seemed appreciative of my efforts and the efforts of everybody in the campaign.

F: I'm sure both Kennedy and Johnson were appreciative carrying Texas, which was crucial.

GM: Many of Texas were against them because they were afraid that he was going to do away with the 27-1/2 percent depletion allowance. We weren't getting many campaign contributions from the oil fraternity.

F: Did you ever take part in the Tidelands controversy?

M: Yes, I took part in the early Tidelands controversy. When I was Attorney General was when it first came up, and I took part in it at that time in appearances before the Senate committee that was considering the resolution.

F: This was when Ickes was Secretary of the Interior?

M: Ickes was Secretary of the Interior; Warren was Attorney General of California. We met in Washington and appeared before the Senate Public Lands Committee, I believe, before whom the resolution was pending and supported by the Navy. We were able to defeat it in the committee. Warren was there at the time. Of course, California's interest was similar to Texas'. Texas bore the brunt of the presentation by one of our assistants who had been assigned to that job specifically.

F: Do you remember who that was?

M: Yes. Dick Fairchild, who now lives in Nacogdoches.

F: During your period as the Attorney General, the Tidelands Bill never got out of committee.

M: No, it never got out of committee. We were able to defeat it in committee, I believe it was, the Public Lands Committee of the Senate where they had before them a resolution declaring that the Tidelands were a part of the national domain.

F: Now, when it was resurrected under President Truman, were you involved or were you--



M: No, I wasn't involved. I was out of politics, out of office.

F: Mr. Mann, did you ever ask Mr. Johnson for anything in return for what you had done for the party?

M: No, I didn't ask him for anything. I had occasion to be in Washington soon after the election and saw him, in company with Mr. Engles--went out to his home there in Washington and had breakfast one morning. It was on that occasion that the vice president-elect asked me what I wanted out of the National Administration. He said, "As far as I'm concerned, you can have anything you want." I told him that I didn't want anything. I remember he told me, he said, "Well, if you want anything, you'd better be asking for it because people don't get anywhere up here without asking for things. If you want some job, well, you'd better get after it." I told him that I didn't want any job; that I was perfectly happy and contented where I was. So, that was that conversation.

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Gift of Personal Statement

By Gerald C. Mann

to the

Lyndon Baines Johnson Library

In accordance with Sec. 507 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (44 U.S.C. 397) and regulations issued thereunder (41 CFR 101-10), I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereinafter referred to as the donor, hereby give, donate, and convey to the United States of America for eventual deposit in the proposed Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, and for administration therein by the authorities thereof, a tape and transcript of a personal statement approved by me and prepared for the purpose of deposit in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library. The gift of this material is made subject to the following terms and conditions:

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Signed

Gerald C. Mann

Date

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September 12, 1974