

Gift of Personal Statement

By Jacqueline Cochran

to the

Dwight D. Eisenhower Library


*Interview considered  
OPEN without restriction  
per letter Dr. Wickman to  
Jacqueline Cochran  
dated 1/5/71*



In accordance with the provisions of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 as amended (63 Stat. 377) and regulations issued thereunder, I, Jacqueline Cochran, hereinafter referred to as the donor, hereby give, donate and convey to the United States of America for eventual deposit in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, and for administration therein by the authorities thereof, a transcript of a personal statement approved by me on April 23, 1969 and prepared for the purpose of deposit in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library. The gift of this document is made subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Title to the material transferred hereunder will pass to the United States as of the date of the delivery of this material into the physical custody of the Archivist of the United States.
2. It is the donor's wish to make the material donated to the United States of America by the terms of this instrument

available for research in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library. At the same time, it is her wish to guard against the possibility of its contents being used to embarrass, damage, injure or harass anyone. Therefore, in pursuance of this objective, and in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 507 (f) (3) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, this material shall not for a period of ten years be made available for examination by anyone except persons who have received my express written authorization to examine it. This restriction shall not apply to employees of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library engaged in performing normal archival work processes.



3. A revision of the above stipulation governing access to the aforesaid document may be entered into between the donor and the Archivist of the United States or his designee if it appears desirable to revise the conditions herein stipulated.

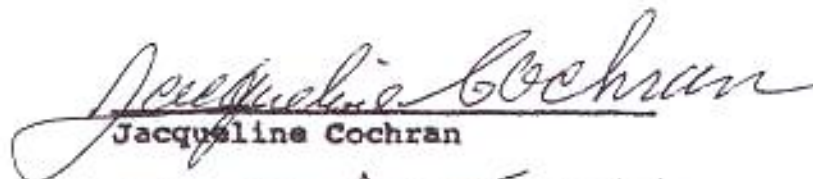
4. I hereby designate Floyd B. Odium to have, after my death, the same authority with respect to authorizing access

to the aforesaid document as I have reserved to myself in paragraph 2 and paragraph 3 above.

5. The material donated to the United States pursuant to the foregoing shall be kept intact permanently in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library.

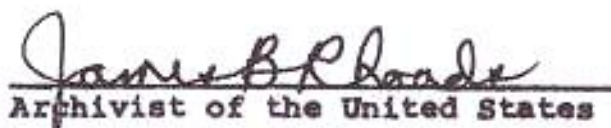
6. The donor retains to herself during her lifetime all literary property rights in the material donated to the United States of America by the terms of this instrument. After the death of the donor, the aforesaid literary property rights will pass to the United States of America.



  
Jacqueline Cochran

Date: 12 August 1969

Accepted:

  
Archivist of the United States

Dated: AUG 18 1969

This is an oral history interview with Miss Jacqueline Cochran on March 28, 1968.

DR. WICKMAN: I'm going to skip the story of your life cause I think that you are well enough known and I think they did this on the Columbia project on aviation anyway.

MISS COCHRAN: In all probability they did--I'm quite sure they did.

DR. WICKMAN: Your aviation career.

MISS COCHRAN: Yes.

DR. WICKMAN: One of the first places I'd like to start is to ask you when you first met General Eisenhower.

MISS COCHRAN: I have no idea. It was a long time ago.

DR. WICKMAN: Before the Second World War probably.

MISS COCHRAN: Oh, sure.

DR. WICKMAN: Yes. O.K.

MISS COCHRAN: Well, wait a minute. No, it was during the war.

DR. WICKMAN: During the war.

MISS COCHRAN: Yes, it had to be during the war.

DR. WICKMAN: Was it during the course of some social occasion?

MISS COCHRAN: I have no idea.

DR. WICKMAN: Then when was the first time that you got to know him well?

MISS COCHRAN: Probably I got to know him fairly well in 1946 which is what I talked to you about tonight earlier when I was on the phone. This was at the first convention of the Air Force Association, when I became convinced in my own mind that he was going to be the President of the United States.

DR. WICKMAN: Yes, '46, O.K. You want to tell me that story again for the record.

MISS COCHRAN: Well, yes, but let's get it in sequence if we can.

DR. WICKMAN: O.K.

MISS COCHRAN: You got the tape going?

DR. WICKMAN: Yes.



MISS COCHRAN: The first time that I had any inkling that we had a remarkable man in our midst was during World War II when I was working for General Arnold. There was a young man by the name of General Eisenhower, only who was Lieutenant Colonel Eisenhower, I think, or maybe he was Colonel Eisenhower came into the pentagon and he was in charge of plans or was put in charge of plans--

DR. WICKMAN: And operations.

MISS COCHRAN: Well, plans and operations.

DR. WICKMAN: Yes, plans and operations, right.

MISS COCHRAN: There was great excitement in the Pentagon. He was fairly low ranking but he had quite remarkable housing over in the housing area which was in Ft. Myer. Everyone from Lieutenant Generals to four-star Generals and Lieutenant Colonels were all talking about it. I don't remember what ranks he jumped but as I recall he was never a Colonel.

DR. WICKMAN: That's right.

MISS COCHRAN: And then he was promoted to a Brigadier General and then he skipped the Major General and he became a Lieutenant General and then I think he skipped everything else and became a 5-star General, right or wrong?

DR. WICKMAN: Well, I'd have to check it, I think--

MISS COCHRAN: Certainly a 4--

DR. WICKMAN: Yes, it was 4, I think it was a 4.

MISS COCHRAN: Well, anyway by that time he was already a Colonel. So, as I said, there were great problems in the pentagon about plans and what we were going to do in England and I'd had the privilege of meeting this fascinating person casually somewhere before that I don't remember who it was that introduced us or where it was, probably some social event. So things were getting pretty hot and heavy and there was sort of a little gathering for General Arnold. I sat on a table, I'll never forget and General Marshall sat down beside me, I was sitting there first. We started talking about General Eisenhower--he said "Do you know him?" And I said, "No, I don't know him, I've met him,



but I don't know him." He said, "You know he's the most remarkable human being I've ever met in my life." He said, "When I was in command, I think it was the Philippines, we were having the blue and red war out there. I was in charge of, we'll call it, red. It was a mock war. I came upon a young Lieutenant lying on his stomach out of uniform with his hat off, studying all the plans and he had all of the war won." General Marshall said, "I was just so fascinated, he didn't even know I was present. In fact, I think I was the first person to ever tell this to General Eisenhower." I'm not sure of the statement, fairly certain. He said, "He jumped up and he saluted and grabbed his hat and made motions like buttoning up his jacket as if he had it on. I told him to come to my tent and he was so right on the plans that he had made to win the mock war that I never took my eyes off him from that time on." General Marshall said, "You know where he is today and he is just as good in actuality as he was in theory back when he was a shavetail, in the Philippines." So I naturally started watching and looking as the whole world did and we all know this story in between. Then I didn't really get to know General Eisenhower again or



meet him again until 1946, I think the date was when Joe E. Brown, as the man and I, as the woman, were invited to Columbus, Ohio, for the first Air Force Association convention although it was not a separate Air Force but was still a part of the army. They had everyone who was anyone that had anything to do with the war including many civilians but Joe E. Brown and I were honorees exemplifying the man and the woman who had done the greatest amount in World War II as civilians, which I thought was a remarkable honor. We had people like General Eisenhower and we had Justice Jackson who had been chief prosecutor at the Nuremburg trials and all the commanders of all the various Air Forces and so forth. Mostly Air Force people but there were a few people that were not, like General Eisenhower for instance. The people by the name of Wolf brothers were hosts and must have spent a couple or three hundred thousands dollars putting on this show. Everyone was a non-paying guest including the enlisted men, I think that it's something that's never been told or looked at so. There were probably three or four hundred of honored guests alone. The whole city was just taken over. There wasn't a room that anybody could have

there unless you were one of these invited people. They just did the most fabulous job. So they served every meal and everything, first come, first served, because no place was big enough to hold all the people. It was all free. I never have seen so many freeloaders in my life. So they had this one big dinner and Justice Jackson was speaking that night and General Eisenhower was there and so was General Arnold. People put ladders up to the windows so that they could look in and see General Eisenhower and I turned to some of the people that I knew and some that I didn't know and I said "This is remarkable, this man will be President of the United States." "Oh," they said, "you are silly." And I said, "I'm not silly. No one can have this kind of popularity unless he is beloved by the American people." And I'll digress--he still is, tremendously loved, not only by the Americans, but by the world. So we went to a very private dinner that was given by these Wolf brothers. I know I was the only woman there. There were about 350 men present and I talked that night, probably about 40 minutes, with General Eisenhower. He came over and sat with me, I didn't go over and sit down by him so it was his duty to get up

and move out not mine. It was just that the adulation was so completely incredible, I turned around to him that night, I said, "Why don't you run for President? You'd be a goody!" And he said, "Oh, no, no, no," I guess many other people had said this to him. After that I didn't see very much of General Eisenhower until the next year, it was about a year later, and the Air Force Association had their convention in New York. It was at Madison Square Garden. And the young man who had been elected as the President of the Air Force Association--Jimmy Doolittle by the way, was the first president--and it had a \$158,000 of debt at the end of the first year. A man by the name of Tom Lanphier was elected as its president after Doolittle so he came in to New York. In fact he stayed at our apartment in New York. In the meantime with donations, donations like \$50,000 from Sonny Whitney and a lot of other nice people, they had gotten into a solvent condition. So they were holding the second convention in New York. They had it in Madison Square Garden. So they said, "Well, we're \$12 still in the red but we have to have a dinner." And I said, "Well, how many VIP's are you going to have?" "Well," he said, "about 75." I said,



"I'll tell you what I'll do, I'll feed and water them if you don't exceed a hundred." This list grew and grew and of course General Eisenhower was on the list and I called up his aide, Colonel Schulz, and I said, "Will General Eisenhower ride on a bus? Because this dinner has grown out of such proportions." It was 610 that I fed and watered at the Plaza Hotel in New York and I got these busses that are run by the airlines, they are very attractive. When the people came in for dinner, I named tables--I don't number them. So if you were sitting at Missouri--I named the tables by states--you were also scheduled to go to Madison Square Garden in a bus that said Missouri on it and I was determined to get all the people to the garden on time. The only person that was allowed to have his private car was ailing Baruch--

DR. WICKMAN: Bernard Baruch.

MISS COCHRAN: Yeah, the old boy. Because if General Eisenhower were to ride in a bus everybody else would and I don't know why I thought that, now you see, that is why I was so sure he would become president. Well the busses were all sitting out there

and everybody was fed and everything was organized and everybody was going to be on time. Except that people that were so well placed in life, high ranking in the military or top flight civilians, all tried to crowd on the bus where General Eisenhower was. It was a little embarrassing to see people going in that bus and standing up when they were already assigned some place to sit. So I made the remark again, I said, "I don't know why this man isn't President," he was at Columbia University then. He's had General Schulz around him, you know, most of the time. Schulz has been a permanent fixture like <sup>(McANON)</sup> Mony and some of the others. So we finally got to the garden ahead of time. It was the greatest show you've ever seen an organization like this put on, just fabulous, and Eisenhower was so impressed, everyone was impressed. So we had persuaded the members of the Madison Square Garden Club--there were only about 100 members--to give it to us for the evening. The show was over and we all went up into the club. There were just less than a hundred people out of several thousand there invited up to a private club and General and Mrs. Eisenhower sat over in a corner at a table, you know, just a little round table. And I got a couple



of aristocratic bouncers, you probably haven't had this vernacular used on your recordings before--

DR. WICKMAN: Nothing bothers the lady that types it up so go ahead.

MISS COCHRAN: --so I was determined that nobody would sit over and talk to them for more than 10 minutes and I had to find a way to get them out and let somebody else in. I remember we had one gentleman from Texas who was going to monopolize the Eisenhowers the rest of the evening. Finally it became about 2:00 in the morning and Senator Symington who was then Secretary Symington, Secretary of the Air Force, said, "Let's go over to a certain night spot and have breakfast" and General Eisenhower wanted to go so badly and Mrs. Eisenhower said, "As the head of the Columbia University I don't think you have any business over there" so the Eisenhowers went home but we took Barbara, John, and the rest of us all went over to the club cause we weren't famous like the General. I said before he departed, "Now that's what you get for being a school teacher. You see you can't possibly go over and enjoy the rest of the night."



I think this is significant for a man who became President, his humanness, charm and his like for people and everything that people do, the night club was perfectly nice and orderly and I don't know why one should say that a President of Columbia University shouldn't go over to this club--I don't know its name but it was one of the nicer places. So then I didn't see him again for a long time and the Korean War was hot and heavy, the beginning of it, and I was in the Pentagon and I ran into General Eisenhower in the hall and I was sort of startled and I said, "I thought you were teaching school at Columbia." Maybe that was fresh.



DR. WICKMAN: Do you remember what he said?

MISS COCHRAN: "Well," he said, "you have to do a few other things beside teaching school."

DR. WICKMAN: One of the things that I wanted to ask you was you know in 1948 there was some interest in trying to get him to run for the Presidency then and it didn't get very far because he said he wouldn't and I was just wondering if you had got involved in any of that.

MISS COCHRAN: I didn't get involved in it at all except I said in Columbus, Ohio, that this man will be President of the United States. I made an emphatic statement without any qualification that he will be President. I remember C. R. Smith who recently got a job as one of the cabinet members in our present administration, said "You're nuts!" I said, "Maybe I am, but he'll be President of the United States. No one can be that popular and not end up there." In 1946 going to Madison Square Garden I said, "He'll be President of the United States, no one can be that popular and not be President." But I also felt that he had the integrity and intelligence and ability, I was just a small person in comparison with the big shots looking for this man to be President of the United States. Believe me, both parties were after him. You know he never voted for a president in his life until he voted for himself, have you had that on your records?

DR. WICKMAN: Yeah.

MISS COCHRAN: Is that a known fact now?

DR. WICKMAN: I think it's a known fact.



MISS COCHRAN: Well, he kept it a dead, dark secret for a long time but it's a fact. I chatted with him at that period for a few minutes and I didn't see General Eisenhower again until I went to Paris. There was an awful lot of buzzing about politics and I'd never really been involved in them very much but I was asked to run out here in my district for Congress on the Democratic ticket and I was registered as an Independent and this was in December of 1952, I think it was 1952--

DR. WICKMAN: 1951.

MISS COCHRAN: 1951, yeah. I got a call from Mr. Whitney, what is Jock's first name?

DR. WICKMAN: Jock?

MISS COCHRAN: It's not Jock really--he's called that. Well, it doesn't matter. He was later Ambassador to Court of St. James. Anyway I was so startled, when he called on the phone, I went to the phone and he bent my ear back for a long time and he said, "We've been looking for a person fairly well known who has never been actively involved with politics to chair a rally

in New York City for General Eisenhower." By that time the General had of course left Columbia University. He had gone to NATO, was the head of NATO. By the way in the interim I met him there a couple of times at various social functions as the French have been and still are very nice to me. So I talked with Whitney a little bit about it and I said, "Why choose me?" He said, "We think you are going to do a pretty good job." And I said, "Well, I'll think it over and call you back and I'll consider all those conversations on the reasons for doing it." And I called him back and I had a plan I said, "There is no point in holding a rally unless someone goes and investigates these various states. Texas was one on my list, as well as Maryland and Pennsylvania. Maryland I named because I knew some people there. I can't remember all the states any more, I know I had five, I had trains in from five states for the rally. So I called Mr. Whitney back and I said, "Well, where we going to get the money to run all this?" And he said, "Don't worry about the money that'll be forthcoming. We just want this rally put on." So I said, "Well, I'll come back to New York and talk to you about it." It was just the




beginning of December so I went right back to New York and I sat down and talked to him and three or four other people whose names I don't even remember. And I said, "Well, let me try to evolve some kind of a plan and offer it to somebody." And they said, "Well, you just put it on." So then I started checking with people who ran Madison Square Garden and they said, "Well, they have never had a successful political rally in Madison Square Garden even for an incumbent in New York State, much less for someone who isn't even a candidate." He hadn't said yes. So I found out that on the 8th of February of '52 they were going to have a big fight at the garden and I figured the garden would already be filled if we could rent it for that date late and hold the crowd--this has never been told, I'm sure of this one. So I said, "Well, what do you think about having this thing at eleven o'clock at night on the 8th of February?" In the meantime I had gone to a man by the name of Dr. Irving Krick, who had forecast the weather for D-Day and he, for free (he usually charged about \$5,000 for a forecast), made a forecast for February 8th and said the weather would be mild, pleasant, no wind, wouldn't be cold, it would be somewhere in the 40's and maybe the upper 40's.

It actually turned out to be about, oh, it was in the 50's, around 58 degrees that night, which was unusual for New York at that time of the year. So I took off and I went into Texas and I started talking to people I knew in Texas and I felt I had some delegates sewed up which I did. And I went to all these states and I talked to all these people, I had about seven weeks to do it. I practically didn't stay home for Christmas I was so busy working on this rally. I was here for about four days during Christmas. Well everyone was worried and I said, "I've got to have a co-chairman." I had been working about three weeks and first time I ever met Tex McCrary the man we got a hold of as co-chairman and I said, "All right you put on the show and I'll get the people there." I didn't bother myself with putting on some kind of performance to hold the people but I'll take credit anyway for the "holler with the dollar" and "we want Ike" slogans. Those were two slogans that went all the way through the campaign. So I said, "Well, 'holler with your dollar' and 'we want Ike.'" I went to see the Chief of Police--I think it was Wallender, but you will have to check that name--and I said, "We're going to have



between 18,000 and 20,000 people at 42nd Street around Madison Square Garden at eleven o'clock at night." And he said, "Well, you just couldn't, it's not possible to have this kind of thing." And I said, "We have it." So this train came in from Texas, I don't know how many cars, they had brought their horses, their saddle bags, filled with silver dollars, I wish we had some of them now. We had two trains come in from Pennsylvania, a couple from Maryland and all these states and the people got off and they all started converging and it was getting out of hand for everyone who was working on it, including me. We just couldn't believe what was happening. The garden was filled with people and we didn't know how to get them out and I wanted the fight ring for our stage, that was my idea. This was a fighting campaign without a candidate. So in the meantime I was informed, I don't know this to be true, that the Democrats had been over to Paris, probably even the Liberals, everybody was trying to get Eisenhower to run. That's what I was told, but he always said "If I have a clear cut call from the American people I'll give consideration to it." So that really was what Jock Whitney and these other men, whose names I can't remember, were thinking about in connection



with the rally. We wanted a really clear cut picture where he had a call from the American people so he'd get out and move on it. So the crowds started to arrive, we couldn't get rid of the crowds inside the garden and I had started the flying '50's, one person. I went into factories, the factories let me in on the name of Eisenhower. I must have gone into 75 or 100 factories saying, "would you like to have Eisenhower for President." All right we have to have a crowd at Madison Square Garden, I was so sold on this idea.

DR. WICKMAN: Now was this in January, you say, of '52?

MISS COCHRAN: In January, we got this off in February. In December; it was the beginning of December, right at the first two or three days of December that this happened so we had about two months. So I made captains of flying '50's. Each had to find 49 people to bring to this rally. I don't think General Eisenhower realized that we were looking primarily for bodies walking around saying "we want Ike" and "holler with your dollar." So anyway all of a sudden I had more people than I knew what to do with. I rescued Mrs. James Doolittle

from a policeman. The city even called out the fire department. This is absolutely no exaggeration. They called out everybody available for duty because the crowds were just so terrific. We couldn't get rid of the people inside the garden, we couldn't get the people that we had brought there inside the garden. Oh, it was really a mess. It went on till five o'clock in the morning. I've never seen so many people.

DR. WICKMAN: It made the newspapers.

MISS COCHRAN: That's the understatement of the year. So there were too many people inside the garden and I think it was supposed to hold 16,000 and they estimated 21,000 inside the garden. So then people got up and announced in a loud, loud voice, "you people who were not invited to this rally, will you please get up and leave" and they said "We want Ike, too" so they weren't going to leave. So then they were milling all out in the street. McCrary had put on a marvelous vaudeville show actually, if you want to call it that, that part of it I hadn't been involved with. So finally at five o'clock in the morning I went back to our apartment which was in River House

and this wonderful man, I wish I could think of his name he's a good friend of General Eisenhower's, extremely well educated, said, "I think you have General Eisenhower." He said, "Now we have to decide," I don't know where he came into the picture but apparently he had something to do with it, "now we got to find out who's going to take this film over and convince him." All I wanted to do was go to bed, I had been working for two months, sleeping very little and I was very tired. So the next morning I got a call and I'd been sleeping, oh, maybe two or three hours, and they said, "will you go to Paris and take the film over." So I said, "Yes, I'll go to Paris and take the film over." So I got on a TWA plane and I had an upper berth and it was hot and I was tired. And I got into Paris on Friday and I was met at the plane by two or three people cause they knew I was coming over. This was also very interesting to me. They said, "The General has gone to Luxembourg for the weekend and you have an appointment Monday morning with him." I have never been so pleased about anything in my life. I went to bed and slept the whole weekend. So Monday morning I went out and I had my satchel of film and I also had





my arguments all ready and I went in and the General was so pleasant and charming as we know he is and he started talking and I sat there and listened to him. I looked down at my watch and I said, "I've been here 28 minutes and you haven't given me a chance to open my mouth and I came all the way from New York on behalf of a great group of people 25,000 of them to tell you a story and you haven't let me say a word. Don't you think I have to have a chance?" And he started to laugh and he said, "You know it's true." And I said, "Your darn right it's true." And I said, "When are you going to listen to me, I'm supposed to get out of here in five minutes. You're supposed to be a busy man running NATO." So he said, "I'm sorry." And I said, "Well, you should be sorry. I've come a long way just to talk to you and you haven't listened to a word that I've had to say." So I started to tell him why I thought he should be President of the United States. The economic mess we were in, although it was nice compared with what we are in right today, I wish he was still around in power. I told him what happened at the rally and he said, "Really, all of that happened." And I said, "Yes, sir. I have the film



here to prove it. You wanted a clear cut call from the American people. I have it right here in a bag." And I told him about the trains coming in from Texas and all these states and how we couldn't get rid of the people in Madison Square Garden and I said, "That was my idea." I said, "Because they told me that even people who were incumbent in office couldn't get a crowd in Madison Square Garden. It holds 16,000 people, that's a lot of people you know. An awful lot of bodies." And I said, "I was going to make sure I had a crowd there even to fool you if necessary. That's how badly we want you. But," I said, "I didn't have to fool you, we couldn't get rid of the other people so we ended up with our 18,000 plus that 16,000. So I said, "We have about 35 or 40 thousand people and it took the fire department, as well as the police. There was no riot or any disorder or anything like that, but there were a lot of people milling around." So I said, "You just can't believe it unless you see it." So he'd given me my twenty minutes and I said, "Well, I still have 10 minutes coming to me." So he called up some of his aides or people and he said, "Will you change these appointments?" I know he had some oil man from

the middle east, I remember distinctly. And he said, "I want to talk to you a little longer." We talked a little bit longer and he got an enlisted man and I said, "This is an uncut, original, virgin film here and I don't want it spoiled so get somebody who knows how to handle it." And he started looking it up right away. And I said, "Well, let's get it wound back, just don't ruin it." And he said, "Oh, goodness, me." So we talked for another 2 1/2 hours, which I thought was pretty good going and he said, "Well can you leave the film. I'll send it out to the house, can you be there at five o'clock? I'll make sure they don't mess the film up." I said, "Yes sir, I'll be there." So this was from ten o'clock. Oh, we had some sandwiches. I left there about 2:30 and I was out at the house where they lived in Paris during that period at five o'clock. And they had a theater in the house, regular seats and everything, and I was sitting with General and Mrs. Eisenhower in the front row. General Gruenther was sitting directly behind us and there were a lot of people in the room, I don't know how many. And, of course, there were many duplicates in the film, there had to be



duplicates cause it hadn't been cut, it hadn't been edited in any way shape or form or fashion. And the General was just absolutely flabbergasted with what he saw. So was I, I knew it was good but I didn't know it was that good. It looked better even on film than it did in reality. And I think it usually is the other way around. It's got to be awfully good to look good on film and it can be pretty sorry looking if it isn't good. Well, this was just fabulous! So I said, "Well, I knew it was good, I didn't know it was this good." And he said, "Well, it's pretty exciting." And I said, "Yes sir, I think so too." So the film was over and everybody just dissolved as though they had gone through the floor and I found myself standing there with General and Mrs. Eisenhower and he said, "Would you like a drink?" And I said, "Yes, I would. I think I need one." So we went into another room and they brought a drink and I held up the drink and I said, "To the President," I was the first person to ever say this to him and he burst into tears. Maybe this is the wrong thing to say and maybe it should be cut out but this is exactly what happened. Tears were just running out of his eyes, he was so

overwhelmed and so overcome with the public demonstration that he had had of his value and the love the American people have and had, thank God it's both. So then he started to talk about his mother, his father and his family, but mostly his mother. And he probably talked for about an hour and this was the greatest thing that I think in my opinion that's ever happened to this man, this public demonstration that happened in Madison Square Garden. Now it was not that difficult to get all these people, they wanted it very badly. I just happened to, by accident, I suppose by accident, gotten involved with it. So he went on talking and I said, "Well"-- He calmed down a little bit and I said, "May I say one thing? If you think you're going to get the nomination without going back and working for it, and I'm not a politician, then I don't think you're going to get it. You're going to have to declare yourself, you're going to have to, I don't know what the timing should be on this, but you're going to have to go back to America and you're going to have to work for this." Do you want to stop now? "I'm as sure as I'm sitting here and looking at you that Taft will get the nomination if you don't declare yourself. There's not going to be a draft of you sitting here in Paris,



as much as the people like you, I don't think politics work that way from the little bit of talk that I've heard from the great pros and the knowledgeable people." And he said, "Well, with whom have you talked?" "Well," I said, "I've talked to Mr. Whitney, who got me involved in this in the first place, and several politicians." I said, "I don't even know their names now I just sat in the meetings with these people and I didn't pay much attention, I was just trying to put on a show." And I said, "Actually it was almost folded at the beginning." And I told him about holding the crowd in Madison Square Garden and I had 50,000 people instead of 18,000 on my hands practically, I said, "it was just incredible because the people from the street came in too." And I said, "Everybody was yelling and running around yelling 'I want Ike,' 'I want Ike,' 'I want Ike!'" And I said, "You may not like the familiar but that's what you are and you're going to be 'Ike' probably the rest of your life." So he looked at me very seriously, very calmly and I want to inject this--Mrs. Eisenhower sat there and she never opened her mouth, she never said one word, she never missed a word that was said, I've never seen a human being so interested. Now



don't forget this movie started at five o'clock, we broke up it was after ten o'clock at night and none of us had had anything to eat and the one drink. So he looked at me and he said, "Well, I think you're right." And he said, "I've been very impressed with what you've said today about the economics of the country, I don't follow it very much." He said, "I've just been a military man." And I said, "No, you can't be just a military man because you have already been in Columbia University, I think you've had a great deal of influence even on our economic set-up already even if you don't realize it." And he said, "Well, anyway, I'll come back." "Now," he said, "this is what I want you to do." We could have been in a private room that was sealed like some of the rooms are sealed for security. He said, "I want you to go and see General Clay and tell him to come over and see me." He said, "You can go tell Bill Robinson that I'm going to run." He was with the Tribune, do you know Bill Robinson?

DR. WICKMAN: Yes, I know the name, I don't know him.

MISS COCHRAN: Has anybody else brought him up in your--



DR. WICKMAN: Well, I don't know, I'd have to--

MISS COCHRAN: Well, he was pretty important in the whole set-up. And he said, "You can go talk to Bill Robinson and you can tell Bill Robinson, Clay and Jock Whitney, but," he said, "not another single person can be told, under any circumstances." I said, "No one." He said, "Absolutely no one can be told." So I said, "Well, don't you think it would be wise if I could come and talk to you or whoever you trust tomorrow morning and get this all down exactly what you want done if I'm going back as an emissary." And he said, "No, we'll settle it right now." So he got a little pad and he said, "Now you go tell Jock I'll come back. You go and see Clay and tell him I want him to come over here and talk to me." And then he told, talked about this fourth man and I just can't remember his name. "You just tell him that I'm going to be back he'll be there helping." I've never seen him around the General in all these years. He's been out here, but nevertheless there was a fourth man. I have it some place in my files if you want it, if it's important. So I came back to New York and of course Jock Whitney was literally at the airport to meet me and 'what's happened,' 'what's happened.' And I said, "He's coming back and he's



going to run and I want to talk to you" so I sat down and I said--oh, he also told me I wasn't to tell this man about talking to the other man cause I asked this question and I did everything very neatly and very tightly. So I couldn't tell Mr. Whitney that I could tell General Clay and vice versa, etc. So I said, "Well this is very interesting." So I of course had no trouble at all seeing Bill Robinson, I called him and I said, "The General told me to tell you that he was going to come back here and run when the timing and everything is right-- and you're not to tell anybody--no one, not even your wife, this is absolutely a dead, dark secret." But I couldn't get an appointment with Clay, I have never asked for an appointment with anyone in my life where I've ever had that difficulty before.

DR. WICKMAN: Was he with the--

MISS COCHRAN: He was with the Continental Can Company--

DR. WICKMAN: Yeah, uh-huh.

MISS COCHRAN: So I'd met General Clay but I again didn't know him. I met him in Germany, in fact I had dinner with him in Germany, just as I had met General Eisenhower. I knew him

about the same level. I called his secretary and I said, "I want to see General Clay and I am not trying to raise money, I'm not trying to get him to go onto a committee but it's very important that I see him." I called Mr. Whitney to try to get an appointment with Clay and he couldn't do any better. I couldn't get an appointment and I didn't want to tell Mr. Whitney that I had to see Clay about this and I said, "Do you know General Clay? I want to see him about something, can you get me an appointment with him?" Time was wasting. The King of England died. And it was just a mess. So finally I lost my temper with his secretary, I said, "Young lady, if you don't give me an appointment with General Clay, he's going to regret it all of his life and I'm going to see to it that you get fired. Now you tell him that I want to see him." This is absolutely necessary--

DR. WICKMAN: Was this where your problem was, with her, do you think?

MISS COCHRAN: I don't know where it was. I just told Clay this about a year ago and he just couldn't believe it. Cause



I went back to clear this thing with all the people that I was going to talk about. I don't think anybody gets quite that important. I can call the President of the United States including the present one and the one before General Eisenhower and I could see them, maybe not the hour that I called but pretty fast. Couldn't see him. And I was losing my respect for a man by the name of Clay. So she finally put me through and I said, "General Clay, it's a matter that concerns you and you only." Well, he must have had some inkling, it wasn't just like some, you know, nut or screwball trying to get an appointment with a person as important as General Clay. So I went up to see him and he was sitting in this office and all the doors were open as though some gal was going to go in and yell 'rape,' I don't know what he thought. And I said, "I have something very important to talk to you about and if you want to hear it you are going to walk down in the front of this building." And it happened to be, oh, the big building where the trains come in, what's it called, Park Avenue, Grand Central Station. I said, "You're going to go right down in Grand Central Station and listen to it." So he looked at me and I guess he thought



I wasn't quite nutty as I might have sounded trying to get an appointment with him. At that point, time was running out, General Eisenhower wanted to see him we wanted to get him back here. Mr. Whitney and the others had talked about a timetable and the importance of getting him back and I sat in conferences with some man who became the, oh, he was out here at the ranch, the Attorney General and all the rest of them. And there was the timetable and it was very important to get him back and he was waiting, I assumed, for some kind of counsel or advice that I wasn't either qualified or capable of giving. I'd simply hit the key that brought out the word. So I got down with General Clay and I said, "General Eisenhower wants you to come over and see him. And I made a recommendation to him in Paris that you meet him, if you want to go, at the King's funeral, it won't attract attention. He's going to run for the Presidency." Well, General Clay if he'd had false teeth would have dropped them on the sidewalk. And I said, "You don't have any time to waste I've been trying to see you for three days." I guess I sounded irritated, I certainly was. "Well," he said, "I don't even have a passport." I said, "For crying out loud, get your old one, if you've ever had one, and I'll go get it fixed in

Washington for you. The General wants to see you, you have to go to London to see him. And I think this is very important." So he said, "Well, come up to the office." I said, "I wouldn't come back to your office, we're going to talk right down here in the street." And he said, "Well, why?" And I said, "Well, this is top secret, so we'll just talk here." I didn't see any point in irritating him by saying I couldn't see him for three days or four days. So he got his passport. I flew the passport to Washington and I got the passport validated, brought it back to him, saw that he got on the plane and he went to London. And when he got to London, this was the aftermath, he found George Allen and Sid Richardson over there with the General who wanted to talk before the two of them and Clay wasn't going to talk before them. Have you heard this part?

DR. WICKMAN: No, no.

MISS COCHRAN: Well, we got to clear this with the General, he might not like it. So Clay just raised Sam, he said, "I'm not going to talk before them." So the General finally got rid of Richardson and George Allen and sat down and talked seriously and we nearly lost one of the greatest Presidents we've ever

had because Clay tried to persuade Eisenhower not to run.

DR. WICKMAN: Do you know why?



MISS COCHRAN: I think he thought he might lose and he didn't want to see him lose. I'm sure that he was that devoted to him, I'm putting that interpretation on it. But if it hadn't been for some other people who went over and worked later he might have at the end not have even come back. And that was the worst decision he'd have ever made wanting to see Clay. This is my interpretation. I don't know my facts that accurately but I know them fairly well. And I got them from people that were around him in the next two weeks and I think I have a pretty accurate story on it. And I know this but I don't know what General Clay has said about this thing but he did everything he could to dissuade General Eisenhower from coming back here seeking the nomination. And if he hadn't come back to seek the nomination he wouldn't have been President.

DR. WICKMAN: What do you think decided him then besides, I mean, after that--

MISS COCHRAN: I don't know General Clay's thinking.

DR. WICKMAN: No, I mean after his interview with Clay, what decided General Eisenhower?

MISS COCHRAN: Well, I think it was a clear cut call from the American people and everybody at that point pressuring him because if you read the first chapter of his first book he said, 'a lot of people were involved.' I think the first thing was the film that triggered him because that was a pretty strong call I mean how do you get two trains coming up from Texas with all these people and we already had all these delegates sewed up, there was no question about these delegates. Some place in my files buried I have the name of every person, maybe I should dig them out and I will some day but I'm not going to do it tonight. And we were pretty well set to go with, not that many delegates, and only by the grace of God, there were other people, now I don't know who those people are, I'm assuming who they are but I don't know them and I'm not going to call any names. But he almost decided not to come back and it was Clay who did it. And I think it would have been a great



tragedy for this country. It's the most decent thing we have had in public life for a long time. Not that I dislike our present President Johnson, I kinda like him a lot but--

DR. WICKMAN: He's a Texan and you're a Texan.

MISS COCHRAN: What?

DR. WICKMAN: I say, he's a Texan and you're a Texan.

MISS COCHRAN: I am not a Texan.

DR. WICKMAN: Oh, all right.

MISS COCHRAN: I was born in Florida, I think. The point is I like the President. I don't like many of his policies, I didn't like some of Eisenhower's policies for that matter but nevertheless, we needed him so badly then after Roosevelt. But I know that Clay tried to get him not to come back and he was very emphatic about it. And so they did meet in England during the King's funeral and he did come back. So I watched it from that point on and watched what was happening. And everybody was very nice to me and so I wanted so desperately right after I came back to go and tell Governor Adams that General Eisenhower





was coming back. Cause he didn't come back until, what, it was just before the convention, which was in Chicago and I've forgotten whether it was July or August, I guess it was July. And the primaries in New Hampshire were, as you know, very early, the first ones. And I'd never met or seen or talked to Governor Adams. And I got a call from Governor Adams and he said, "Have you been over to see General Eisenhower?" And he said, "What do you think?" And I felt kinda badly this man was working his heart out. I want to interject one thing here and I want it in the records. I don't think Governor Adams was dishonest. I think he was a fine man and he's been maligned and misused and mistreated, but anyway, my first meeting with Governor Adams was on the phone. So he said, "I need 25,000 dollars." I said, "When?" And he said, "Yesterday." "But," he said, "There's no point really in spending the money unless we have a candidate. Do you think we have a candidate? You've just seen him--the papers said so." And I said, "Governor Adams, I think he's going to come back, I just can't believe that a man could get this kind of a call from the American people and not respond to it." With my fingers and my tongue in my cheek I just said "I think he's going to do it." I

called Paris and asked the General if I could tell Adams and he said, "No." That's right, spent my own good hard money. And I said, "Look the conversation that we had, can I repeat it to one more man, it's Governor Adams?" And he said, "No." He didn't know what Governor Adams was doing up in New Hampshire. So we got the 25,000 dollars, it was the only time in my life I've ever committed my husband for anything. I said, "Well, I'll give 5,000 and Mr. Odium will give 5,000." I figured the family budget some place could cover it up. And I said, "I'll find the other 15,000," and I called a man by the name of John Hertz. I was the only person mentioned in his will beside his wife. They were just terribly close friends and he was an extremely wonderful human being. And I said, "John, you've been a Democrat all your life but you haven't liked what's been going on and I don't like it either. I think if we win this New Hampshire primary," I said, "I think we might have General Eisenhower. What do you think of him?" And he said, "Oh, I think he's marvelous." I've never heard anybody else say anything differently, ever. It just seems incredible but this is true. So he said, "What do you want me to do?" And I said,



"Well, I think if we can win this primary up in New Hampshire, we'll get him to commit himself and bring him back here. We'll make him President." "Oh," he said, "Oh, Jackie, I don't know," he said, "What do you want?" And I said, "I want 10,000, 5,000 from you," you see by law you can only give 5,000 dollars to a candidate, "and 5,000 from Fannie. I have to raise 25,000 before noon today." So he said, "If you want 10,000 dollars I'll send it over to you. I'll write it off as pocket money." And I said, "No, I want your name, too." Not that I was going to turn the 10,000 down but I finally got his name and the \$10,000. So then I called a man by the name of Howard Hughes and he gave me the other 5,000. So this was about eight o'clock when Adams called me, Governor Adams, and at eleven o'clock I had all the money, and I think it is remarkable to raise 25,000 dollars that fast. Of course, we gave 10 of it so it was 15,000. So I sent it up and I think it had a lot to do with the turning of no candidate to a most popular one. The New Hampshire thing was just absolutely a landslide, as you recall. Do you know what the percentage was?

DR. WICKMAN: No, not right off hand.

MISS COCHRAN: Very great.

DR. WICKMAN: It was great.



MISS COCHRAN: So the General came back and, oh, one thing I'll have to go back and digress. During the Madison Square Garden thing there were a great many people that promised to be there, they were extremely important and would have lent such prestige from a political point of view to the whole rally, a validity to the rally. But I look back on it maybe they wouldn't have given the right flavor, they probably would have been thought too political but they were supposed to be there and they were so afraid that there wouldn't be a crowd that most of them didn't show up and some of them became important in the administration and some cabinet members and some I've never respected as a result of breaking their word. So these are little sidelines that I've forgotten. But anyway we won the New Hampshire primary. And I'd never been registered as anything but just an Independent. So I went to see Governor Green whom I knew in Illinois and I said, "I've been looking over the roster of what people can be if you are not a delegate or an

alternate to get on the convention floor. And the highest thing I can find is a Sergeant at Arms. "But," he said, "A lady can't do that." I said, "I'm not a lady, I'm just a woman and I'm going to be a Sergeant at Arms." I said, "I'm going to be on that convention floor if I have to sweep the floor to be there." So I was a Sergeant at Arms and very shortly I was in many of the caucuses, not all of them, but certainly from Massachusetts and from many of the states and I found what was going on and I started feeding this back to the headquarters. First class spy was a Sergeant at Arms. And it was touch and go for a little while you know whether we were going to get the nomination or not, I was young of course real young then and I was just worn out. He just had to be nominated. So when it happened I sat down in just a little chair, just sitting there and Governor Adams came down to the platform and I stood with Mrs. Eisenhower and Governor Adams while the General made his acceptance speech. So tomorrow we'll talk about some of the characters and some of the things that happened that I've forgotten tonight, how's that with you?



DR. WICKMAN: It's all right with me.

MISS COCHRAN: Shall I just pick up there and go on?



DR. WICKMAN: Yes, why don't you? We left off at the convention and I was interested in other activities of the campaign, we're still in '52, campaign of '52, and one of the things we were going to talk about, give you a lead in here, was the animation.

MISS COCHRAN: Yes, we'll do that but one thing that I wanted to ask you, have you interviewed Sidney Wineberg?

DR. WICKMAN: No, I haven't and--

MISS COCHRAN: You see I think that Sidney Wineberg had as much to do, I want this on the record incidentally, had as much to do with the success of the campaign as any other human being in the country. He organized Democrats for Eisenhower and he's a very brilliant, remarkably successful man with a very simple background but he's a very funny person too. So anyway the campaign was on and I'd recommend that you get a hold of Mr. Wineberg and interview him on this because he even had so much money left over that he pro-rated the surplus and sent

it back to the donors. And he really made sure that there was none of this foolishness in people wining, dining, and riding in chauffeured cars on donated funds for a campaign. They were wisely spent. So I got busy working and I volunteered to our California National Committee for any assignment that they wanted to give me and Mr. Rundell Button was our national committeeman and I took on and then finally got involved in the national thing because of Mr. Wineberg. Previous to that, I had never registered as anything but an Independent so I was one of the Independents for Eisenhower. So I would take every assignment in the boondocks that was difficult to get to because I fly my own aircraft, unattractive places where people didn't want to go. I can't tell you how many speeches I made, but I must have made several hundred and all over the country.

DR. WICKMAN: Were most of these speeches to campaign people or were they open--

MISS COCHRAN: Oh, no, to open groups, Dr. Wickman. I mean in other words, some women's club would get women together for



coffee or some little, oh, women's club type of thing. These kind of things because of my general reputation in aviation and because I had the, well, we didn't try to avoid the publicity of going to Paris, taking the film over. I was very much in demand, actually over the country, whenever it was humanly possible, I would take off. Another advantage we have, I've been a director of one of our major airlines for twenty odd years. And if I couldn't fly my own airplane or it didn't seem reasonable to keep a schedule with my own aircraft I could fly for free so it would save money and there's always money, money, money, needed in these campaigns. Now none of us had serious doubts that we were going to get the General elected but on the other hand Stevenson was a pretty powerful man, you know, and he was a draftee of the Democratic Party and he had a great background so the election could have been lost. You know because of the military stigma, if you want to call it that, and the fact that we had the war in Korea and a few other things. So we never took anything for granted in this campaign, we all just worked, and worked, and worked and it was extremely well organized. So anyway I was working in the headquarters in Los Angeles, every day I went to work, I



just neglected my own business, just like you were paid help and as I said take any assignment that was handed out to me if it were humanly possible to do it. So one morning we had a meeting with the chairman of the Committee, Mr. Button, and I've forgotten who all the other people were but various precinct workers and this kind of thing. And we in the state of California wanted to get a twenty second and a one minute short and the idea was to get one which would go on well distributed to all radio and TV stations. We wanted both audio and visual so the whole idea seemed to be that they were going to show the Democrats murdering little pigs. You remember that one and plowing under the corn and trying to bring the prices back and all of this during the great depression. And I said to Mr. Button, "I think that's vulgar and in bad taste." I said, "We all, most of us eat bacon, but we don't like to see pigs being murdered." And I said, "I think that you have to get something that is really appealing, that will appeal to men, women and children" and I said, "In other words, a Disney." Well, we knew the Disney's very well in fact Mr. Odlum was on the board of the Disney Corporation and Roy



Disney, who was the business manager, a very competent one, for his very remarkable brother, spent a great deal of time at our house and they also were widely known as staunch Republicans. So I said, "Why don't we try to get a Disney thing done?" They said, "Well, it would just take weeks and we think this firm that makes these still animated where the cartoons come on would be practical but they weren't moving." You know what I mean. The pig idea was fixed, firmly fixed in their minds. Well, it was firmly fixed in my mind that I wasn't going to let them do it. I was going to find a way to stop it. And I was casting around, after all I had never been a party person on a national level or anything like that so I didn't know to whom to go. And I thought, well, if I have to get General Eisenhower himself I'm not going to let this be done and I figured I could get to him, if worst came to worst. Then I thought about Governor Adams. Well, I knew I could get to him because you see I raised the 25,000 dollars for him so surely I could get to him. By that time he was high up in the organization so I made Rundell Button mad. He never forgave me because it was his idea for the pigs, and



therefore he didn't want to give up his idea. And I said, "Well, would you give me three days to go and see Mr. Disney, I'm sure I can, I know I can get an appointment with Mr. Roy Disney. Whether I can get it with Mr. Walt Disney I don't know, but let me try and let's hold this in abeyance." And they said, "Well, we wouldn't have the money to do it." And I said, "All right, maybe I can get the money." And I was thinking immediately in terms of Sidney Wineberg who had a pretty vast sum of money at his disposal and I was thinking in terms that if we got something as good as a Disney setup and it wasn't too prohibitive in cost it wouldn't be a state of California issue, it would be a nation wide. So am I going in too much detail? Well, now I've forgotten, let's see--

DR. WICKMAN: Well, we were discussing the animation and discussing the kind of conflict of ideas here about what kind of film should be produced.

MISS COCHRAN: Well, I was just so adamant about it in my own mind that the kind of idea they had was a bad idea and that it would backfire on them. So I went and started calling people



that I knew and respected and that I knew were for General Eisenhower and the success of the campaign and I posed the question to them because when I'm adamant about anything and feel that it should or shouldn't be done, I made it a rigid rule to go to people whom I feel know more about it than I do and get their backing and concurrence with my thinking before I press too hard. That's exactly what I did on this one so that when I went to Mr. Disney I could quote names of people whom I'd telephoned and said, "Well, they agree with me and something has to be done." So I got an appointment, and of all things it was before seven o'clock in the morning to see Mr. Walt Disney and Mr. Roy Disney. Well, I was there even a half an hour early sitting on the doorsteps waiting and I went in and I explained and I said, "I think an animated film with the excellent taste that you people have, it if could be done." I said, "I'm just taking for granted that you're, I know that you're Republicans, that you're for General Eisenhower." And I said, "We really don't have any money in our own state funds, we're just spending down and down and down and incidentally that campaign was run a lot that way on a



state level which I think was good. Naturally the national came in with funds in California and other states but not to as great an extent as you might think. So they listened and they agreed that it would be pretty awful if a thing of the pig type got out. They said, "Well, now can you be here in the morning at six o'clock?" And I said, "Oh, of course." And Walt said, "Well, what we are going to do," he said, "we're not allowed because of unions and so forth to direct the people here in politics at the lot," and he said, "we have a very heavy Republican organization here right in our own organization. We will see how many people can be gotten as volunteers." And if you want me to, we can read into this record the names of the people. The film was made by volunteers. I have one of the original prints here, right here at the ranch.

DR. WICKMAN: Oh, all right.

MISS COCHRAN: Well, the names are going to be pretty hard to read, I think they will just have to be copied off here.

DR. WICKMAN: Uh-huh.



MISS COCHRAN: Don't you think so?

DR. WICKMAN: Yeah.

MISS COCHRAN: Well, anyway I was there the next morning and it was on a parking lot, a rented parking lot, and they had put out word on some kind of a bulletin board, anybody who wanted to work on a special project for General Eisenhower's campaign would be such and such place on a voluntary basis before working hours. So all of the people who, we'll read their names in later, were there, including both of the Mr. Disneys. So they explained what it was that we wanted to do and said there's not any funds to be had for it. The kind of thing we wanted would normally be a six months project and instead of that we had a four weeks project as I recall, not over six. And a girl who was a nurse wrote the little ditty, 'You like Ike and I like Ike and everybody likes Ike.'

DR. WICKMAN: She was a nurse at Disney's?

MISS COCHRAN: Yes, and she wrote that and it was accepted and Walt Disney, himself, directed all of this, which was the



great thing with his fantastic gift.

DR. WICKMAN: Mr. Disney signed it up at the top, didn't he?

MISS COCHRAN: Right up at the top, yes. And so finally it was completed and I did get a little rush on it. I would go out and have a look at it, it was quite a thrilling experience, then they would change it. When they got through they had a twenty second and they had a one minute, it didn't cost us anything, everything was volunteered. Now how they worked that out I don't know about materials and etc., but it was all voluntary. And we had to have, I think it was 2700 dollars, which I donated for distribution, I mean to make the film, you know, you have to make copies from the original track. I thought the original print was sent to General Eisenhower and I'll always think it was. But anyway Mr. Roy Disney brought it out here one night and showed it to General Eisenhower right here at this ranch several years ago, five or six years ago. But anyway it was filmed and I took a print and I flew into New York and I got into our apartment in New York a group of the leaders of the campaign, such as Mr. Wineberg,



Mr. Whitney, oh, I just can't remember the national committee-  
man, but of course we can get that name. They were all in my  
apartment. I had sort of, oh, maybe twenty men and we had a  
little buffet and I showed the film and I have never seen such  
enthusiasm in my life when they saw this film. I showed first  
the twenty second and then I showed the one minute and they  
said, "Let us get distribution throughout the United States  
on this" so we had more and more and more, there were hundreds  
of these copies made. And it was later written up, it was  
given more free space, shown more frequently as a piece of  
campaign propaganda than anything else that ever happened in  
the history of politics, because it was so attractive for the  
children, you see.

DR. WICKMAN: Yes, well, I said last night that I think it's  
the first one that I, I looked, I researched just a little bit  
after I was here last year and I've not found any record of  
any other animation like this being done for a campaign because  
the medium was so new, you know, television had only been--

MISS COCHRAN: Well, it was in such good taste. I remember the





closing scene on this was Mr. Stevenson on the tiredest old donkey, it was like the end of the trail type of thing riding away while the film said, "While Adlai goes the other way" but it was all in such good taste, no fun was poked at anybody and nobody had any innuendo about their decency because any man who is nominated for the Presidency is a very important person in this country. They're not somebody to be ridiculed and one of the great things of General Eisenhower's entire campaign, in both campaigns, was the fact that he stuck to the issues and what he thought the solution was for these issues and never discussed any personalities. I don't like personalities discussed, I think this is wrong. Now I think that you can point out that because of background one man's more fitted for a job than another man but not through trying to belittle that human being and Ike never did. And that's what this film did, it didn't poke ridicule, it was just, 'we're going to take Ike to Washington' and that was it and Adlai went the other way. So anyway Mr. Button wasn't very happy about it, it was so successful. And he never really liked me very much after that. Well, the Disneys, I don't know, I've



always suspected that somewhere there was a lot of money put into this thing by somebody because it was so well done but how it was done I don't care. They sent me this original print of one of the what do you call it, the cuts of the--

DR. WICKMAN: The frame.

MISS COCHRAN: --the frame. And we also picked out the best one as we thought and sent it to General Eisenhower. You see they had the candlestick maker, the painter, the doctor, and the businessman and everyone, they had a little elephant beating the drum for Washington, 'we'll take Ike to Washington,' oh, they were just darling! So we got that done and I think when I look back on that campaign, it was all of the people all over the United States, that somehow got together and fit pieces together that made probably the most perfect campaign that's ever been run for a President in the United States, clean, wholesome. Do you remember what, by what majority he won? It was just overwhelming.

DR. WICKMAN: Oh, yes, yes, it was.



MISS COCHRAN: So I was back in Washington or New York--

DR. WICKMAN: 72 per cent, wasn't it? I think it was something like that.

MISS COCHRAN: Something. It was just fantastic. And I was invited to go on the campaign train, well, I got on the train and after about four or five hours, I was invited for a 2-day run on this train. I didn't see where I was contributing anything at all to it and I thought well now this is a waste of human energy and of course this is very nice, a nice memory and prestige to get on a campaign train with a candidate and so forth but I got off and took an airline back home and went back to work. And one of his cabinet members, he was here for lunch and spent a couple of nights here about four years ago, I can't even remember his name, he was Secretary of something, and he came down here to see General Eisenhower. He said, "I was just never so surprised and quite impressed that a young woman who had been invited to go on the train and to visit with General and Mrs. Eisenhower and have meals with them--and that sort of thing--would get off the train because



she felt that her time could be more profitably utilized in some other direction, cause you know when you're going to try to reach the mass of people, it takes a lot of people to do it and that was the way I felt about that one, very strongly.

Well, I still think the film had a lot to do with helping along. You just couldn't turn your TV set on without seeing it. We couldn't get a TV to work here at the ranch, because we had no cable. They didn't have these relay stations up on the mountains but we had one place that we found where we could get reception which was down at the barn. I was invited to go to National headquarters the night of the election, the day of the election, and for the victory party. I was so exhausted that I just came to the ranch, there was no one here but myself and Mr. Odium, we spent a small fortune trying to get a TV to work and we got nothing but snow, so we turned on the radio and sat here and started listening to the returns and when I saw that it was all over but the shouting I went out on the lawn and did the shouting all by myself and came in and went to bed.

DR. WICKMAN: That's a wonderful story.

MISS COCHRAN: That ended my part of the campaign and I did my shouting alone. But I think it was that kind of tireless work that put this election over. The only thing I wish Ike could have served 12 years instead of 8 years. We may have had a different story in this country. Although the thing-- there were three things--that made me into a Republican. One was Eisenhower of course and the major factor and the next was the need for a strong two party system and the third was that I got so disgusted over President Roosevelt breaking the great precedent of our country and running for a third term and then for a fourth term when nobody had ever done it before. Then I think when this law was passed and by the Republicans, I might add, limiting the terms to eight years it meant the titular head of the party lost control of the party even while he was in the White House short of eight years. It was one of the great things that started tearing the parties down, destroying their strength. Now I'm sure that if that were not possible we wouldn't have this third party running today, with Wallace coming in so strong and I think it is really a shame that the limitation was two terms. Always the incumbent could use the threat of a third term and if he were good he'd get it. You



know General Eisenhower could have been elected for a third term.

DR. WICKMAN: So after the election of '52 then, what was your contact with General Eisenhower after that, just incidental while he was President?

MISS COCHRAN: Well, yes, really, he was awful generous and kind to us. We were invited to I don't know how many state dinners, I'll see if I can remember them. I know Bayar was the President of Turkey and I think later was hanged during one of the upheavals there, then the state dinner for General DeGaulle. And we went to a state dinner for the Supreme Court and we went or rather I went to the Queen Elizabeth state dinner, which incidentally involved a very amusing incident. You see the White House had been altered and rebuilt on the inside and so instead of the state dining room holding only 30 people it would hold over 60. I think there were 92 at this one and I flew back from England and arrived in New York and found that Mr. Odium was in the hospital with a gall bladder attack. I immediately called Ann Whitman and I said, "We've accepted for

this dinner and Floyd is in the hospital," I said, "it isn't serious but he's too sick to go to the dinner and I presume this cuts me out of the pattern." That's one of our expressions in aviation. And she said, "I don't think so, because you were the first non-official people that were put on the list." Nice thing to hear. And well, you know, they must invite certain cabinet members and certain people in the Congress, etc., and whatever space is left over they have to decide whom they are going to invite. So she said, "Let me call you back if you can come on up for the dinner, maybe it can be arranged." I said, "Well, I'd be delighted." So she called back and she said, "You're invited." Well, the only Democrat invited was Lyndon B. Johnson, then Senator Johnson, along with Mrs. Johnson. When I arrived at the White House, oh, by the way, I almost wore the same dress that Queen Elizabeth had on and I thought she bought all of her clothes in England and this was a French Dior. To have on the same dress would have been a catastrophe. Incidentally, that was the gayest, prettiest dinner that I've ever seen at the White House and I've been to eleven. Never have seen anything like that, the decorations, all the pink and white,



just marvelous. And Mrs. Eisenhower had a special little couch of her own upholstered in the same color of the ribbon that the Queen must always wear across her dress. The couch was in the blue room where the ladies had coffee. And so when I arrived you know you line up in this big room to go through the formal part of it. The President and Mrs. Eisenhower and the honored guest come in, it's very impressive. And you go through the receiving line. I was down toward the end with the family and so I had no idea where I was going to sit and then Senator Johnson came over and I thought, 'oh, oh, I'm in business, I'm really going to be seated pretty high if he's taking me in to dinner' and the only Undersecretary that was there was Undersecretary Herter. I was seated between Senator Johnson and Mr. Herter, or Secretary Herter and the 14th to the right of the President and 13th to the right of the Queen. And we were seated so tightly that you literally almost couldn't eat because there were 92 people. Well, I guess they wanted as many of the family and important people as they could and I don't blame them and I sure felt important that night. The Queen got up to make her toast and Prince Philip stifled a yawn and looked







exceedingly bored. This was the funniest thing I've ever watched at such a dinner. The Queen and General and Mrs. Eisenhower were seated in beautiful chairs and we were seated I think on what were almost like folding chairs, the smallest chairs I've ever seen. It did look kind of funny to see the Prince seated so much lower than the Queen. I guess it's protocol the way they have to do it. There was a terrible storm that night, oh, it was an awful storm, but it sure showed the stuff that General Eisenhower was made out of, the incident that happened. The Queen finished her little speech like a little girl talking, it was so charming and so pretty. She always reads it you know. And so she sat down and the General got up, our President, and all of a sudden, have you ever heard a Gatling gun?

DR. WICKMAN: Yes, I have.

MISS COCHRAN: Well, it sounded just like a Gatling gun going off and everybody was a little startled. General Eisenhower changed color slightly but he never hesitated, quit, moved, did anything but carry on and literally men came in from behind the French window curtains, I guess they were Secret Service men

stashed away all around the room. The room had gotten very hot and the air conditioning was not working properly and the men had cracked one of these doors and the wind caught it just right and that's exactly what it sounded like as though they were being assassinated, oh, it was fantastic. And you know Mr. Herter's quite crippled with arthritis in his hands and he has trouble walking. I even remember what the dessert was, they first served some little halves of tiny little pineapple and then they passed a sherbert around, put it on top of this. And Herter spilled some of it on the lapel of his coat and I picked up a knife and snatched it off so fast I don't think anybody ever saw it cause I knew he couldn't do it and it would smear all over. So Senator Johnson said, "You certainly are quick on the uptake." And I said, "Well, I thought it was the polite thing to do." And after dinner was over Mrs. Whitney, you know she was Betsy Roosevelt. She had been married to one of the Roosevelt boys and often used to act as hostess to President Roosevelt. She said, "Well, you certainly had high seating tonight." They were seated way down although he was the Ambassador to Great Britain. She said, "I wonder how that



came about." And I said, "Well, maybe it's because I've done more for the country than you have." I couldn't resist it. But this was a marvelous experience and when we went into the blue room Mary Jane McCaffrey came over and said, "Mrs. Eisenhower wants you to be the first lady to sit down with the Queen and her and maybe you can set a pattern and not stay more than four minutes or three minutes." And she wants to make sure cause all the ladies were not going to get to sit down by the Queen and Mrs. Eisenhower. So I was just so pleased and I went over and I sat down and I have never been able to figure this one out because the Queen must be extremely well briefed because when I was in England during the war I took a group of American women pilots, 25, over to serve with the British forces and she came out and reviewed our outfit as Princess one day during that period, and she remembered it.

DR. WICKMAN: She must have been, what, 12 years old, 13, something like that?

MISS COCHRAN: About 13 or 14 years old, dumpy looking little girl and she turned out to be such a beautiful lady. So I

sat down and Mrs. Eisenhower in her wonderful, warm, friendly human way joined the conversation. I think she's just marvelous and has really never been properly portrayed to the American public in anything you write or read. I think she was one of the most dignified first ladies we've ever had in the White House. Nobody could be more perfect than she was then. So she said, "Jackie, how's Floyd?" And I said, "Well, he's very much better." And the Queen said, "Oh, well, what's the matter?" And I said, "Oh he has the flu." I thought it was the easiest thing to say, you don't explain a gall bladder thing in two minutes to a Queen. And she said, "Oh, you know we almost had to cancel our trip here because Prince," she said, "Charles, you know the Prince." I said, "Yes I do." She said, "He became ill just before our departure. I hope your husband is all right." And I said, "Oh, he's going to be just fine." And I said, "He's just devastated over not being here today because he thinks you're the most beautiful lady that he's ever looked at." This was all televised incidentally. And I said, "He'll be watching you on TV anyway tonight." And she just smiled and I thought 'Oh, jeeppers, have I said the wrong thing to tell the



Queen how beautiful she is' but I don't think so because I think she enjoyed being told she was beautiful. Well, I didn't stay even two minutes, that was it and I got right up and did my little bow and got out of the way. Well, about three more ladies sat down and then another lady sat down, I've never been so distressed, I bet she sat there 15 minutes. I don't know how thoughtless and selfish people can be, I won't call her name because I don't think it's a polite thing to do. But every woman should have stayed about two minutes and there would have been a chance for so many to have sat down there. Then when they had the dinner for DeGaulles I again was invited to sit down with him. And I said to Mrs. DeGaulle, "I had the privilege of meeting your husband during World War II at a dinner at Lord Beaverbrook's." And Mrs. DeGaulle-- you know she had the small children and she didn't go out very much. She rarely went out in England and she seemed so startled and she questioned me very carefully, this was odd. She did not speak English and this was through an interpreter. So those were incidents. Then when General Eisenhower appointed one of his cabinet members. I felt very unhappy about it. I



didn't think this cabinet member, two of them as a matter of fact, were going to bring credit to his setup and both of them, I think, made kind of a mess out of it. Now I don't know whether I should call their names or not but it really happened and I'd had dealings with both of them, considerably during World War II. And they were the kind of people that could have brought so much to his operation and I think both brought discredit to it. Are you interested or not, maybe, I better keep quiet on that point.



DR. WICKMAN: Well, I don't know unless there's, you know, unless there's an incident or series of facts or something that, you can give your personal opinion of anybody you want to--

MISS COCHRAN: Well, I guess we'll skip it.

DR. WICKMAN: All right. I was going to ask you in connection with the cabinet though this is while the General was President, did he ever or did the cabinet, any members of the cabinet, ever contact you with regard to aviation matters?

MISS COCHRAN: Well, no not that directly but the funniest thing I was here at the ranch when I got a call from, oh, he was a

Doctor, can't think of his name, he's head of all the rehabilitation thing in the United States, what is his name, Rusk, Dr. Rusk. And so he called me and he said, "The President has asked me to organize a group to go out and raise medical supplies, clothing, food, etc. for Korea. And we have decided that you would make the perfect chairman for this." And I said, "Well, really," I said, "I just had an experience with Syngman Rhee," and I said, "I am so unhappy over this man and I'm so miserable about what we're doing there." I said, "I wouldn't go out and raise my finger to help what he's not doing, not what he's trying to do." And I said, "I'm sorry that I would be requested, I presume almost from the President." And he said, "Yes, we discussed it and he thought you were the ideal person." And I said, "Well, you tell the President that I'm just very sorry, I can't do it." So he argued with me for half an hour and then Adams called me back, you remember he went to work as a direct helper to General Eisenhower. And he talked to me and I said, "Look, let me tell you what happened," I said, "it was just three months ago," I said, "I was on my way to Australia where I was invited as an official guest of



the government. I went into Korea and I was with General John Cannon who was making his last tour of all the bases as a four-star general and with our American Ambassador whose name I don't remember, he was an Irishman and I don't think a very effective ambassador by the way. So the three of us went to call on Syngman Rhee and we sat down in this garden, you know, he was married, Mr. Rhee, to an American woman. Also he was educated at Yale, I think it was Yale, one of our American colleges anyway. And we sat down in the yard in a kind of a garden and they brought some tea and I guess it was a secret service man sitting right over at another table about twenty feet away and President Rhee turned around to me and he said, "I'm very happy to meet you I know you very well by reputation and I happen to know that you're a pretty outspoken person and," he said, "so maybe I can get my thoughts across." And I said, "Well, I'll do what I can, Mr. President, what is it that you want to get across?" "Well," he said, "In the first place I think you people are harboring communists." I said, "What did you say?" He said, "I think you are harboring and fostering communism in your country and I think you're doing



a thoroughly dishonest job in this country." Now this is the truth, this is almost a quote, I've got a letter in my files that I wrote to President Rhee and I've got a reply. He said, "Third I think you are yellow as a nation I don't think you're worth anything." And I said, "Well what do you do about communism?" He said, "Well, we find them in the morning and shoot them at night." And I said, "Without a due process of law to find out whether things you've heard are valid." He said, "We get rid of the communist." And I said, "Well, Mr. President, I don't think we're yellow and I don't think we're intentionally harboring communist, I know they are communists in every country in the world today, even Spain that has so successfully tried to stamp out communism and fought a war over it. But," I said, "I don't happen to like to have my country spoken of like that. And," I said, "if you were not an elderly man and if I were strong enough you'd have to beat me up or I would knock you in the nose and that's just the way I feel about it." And I said, "I won't sit in the presence even of a head of state who will say things like that about my country. I love my country above everything else. And I think you're



a nasty minded dirty old man and I'm getting out." I got up, the Ambassador never said a word, General Cannon didn't say anything, and I said, "May be General Cannon is a military man and can't say anything and maybe the Ambassador is just a paper-toter but I won't let anybody in my presence talk about my country like that without a comeback." I got up and I walked out on the street, now knowing how to get back to the hotel, not being able to speak the language, but I wouldn't sit in his presence. Well, what would you do? I don't care if he is a President of a country or not he couldn't call us yellow and dishonest and very bad people, he called us everything he could lay his tongue to and he wanted this information disseminated to the American people, thinking I would be the carrier on a public level for him.

DR. WICKMAN: What year was this?

MISS COCHRAN: 1953.

DR. WICKMAN: '53.

MISS COCHRAN: I know exactly when it was. It was also in the



early spring of '53 and I went into Japan at the request of the Air Force and the State Department to do some work there on a public level at their request because we were trying to get Japan to rearm and build some airplanes and I preceded Vice President Nixon and I had just done this Mach I speed thing and I was looked upon as something. Well I was about the 17th pilot in the world that had accomplished this feat. So I was very accepted on a public level in dignity, you see. And while I was on this tour I was also requested to go into Korea and go into these places and see the American forces and all these kind of things. So naturally I was received by Syngman Rhee and General Cannon had to go so I was invited to go along in his aircraft with all of these high ranking officers, which made it very pleasant. Well I just wouldn't let any President or Vice President or citizen of any country stand up and talk about us in that fashion. So I told Governor Adams, I said, "Listen this was just terrible." And I said, "I just had a very bad and very unpleasant experience with Syngman Rhee," and I said, "I wouldn't lift my finger to do anything for him or his country. I think he's the one that's dishonest."



And I said, "I don't know why.." "Well," he said, "this is just incredible." So whereupon President Eisenhower called me and he said, "I'm sorry you feel that you can't accept this appointment." I said, "Well, Mr. President, under no circumstances" and I told him the story quickly of Syngman Rhee and he started to laugh and he said, "Well, you really told him off." I said, "Yes, sir." I said, "I don't know what your policies are and I'm sure whatever they are they are wise policies and I'm not trying to say whether we're doing the right or the wrong thing to support this man but how can we support someone who is saying this kind of thing about us and has this kind of a feeling, I don't see how we can be very successful." I think my theories have been carried out just recently about Korea. I said, "I think all of this will backfire on us one day." And I said, "This is my personal feeling and no one can have any judgment on any subject in my opinion unless they have all the facts, I don't know the facts. But I do know one fact, Syngman Rhee is either crazy or senile or a dirty dishonest man and to sit there and take our support and help and money and everything else and then think about us the way he expressed

himself to me." And I said, "I wouldn't have anything to do with it or with him." I said, "Now if you're determined that somebody go forward with this thing I'd be very happy to make a couple of recommendations." He said, "Well, I'd like to have them." I said, "No one's ever asked Mrs. Wilkie to do anything since Wilkie died." I said, "She's an unknown quantity in this country. We not only have gotten for the first time in God knows, I don't know how many years, a Republican President in office." See he'd just taken office in '53. But I said, "We've got to do something to strengthen the party." I said, "Whether you stay in eight years or what happens, the party must be strengthened and I think we have to start all over on that level. Why don't you invite Mrs. Wilkie to chair this and then get some good people in behind her? She has never had this kind of organizational background, experience." I said, "The chairman of my board," I said, "gives one-third of his time to charitable things and," I said, "he's a great merchant and I'll get him to help."

DR. WICKMAN: Which board was this, Jackie?

MISS COCHRAN: Jacqueline Cochran, Incorporated, cosmetics, I had five companies in there and I even had the distribution for Disney film in Spain and I had, that was when it was called J. C. Inc., I had the Riche perfume I developed in this country and, oh, lots of other things. And my chairman of my board was a remarkable man and used to be the head of Bonwit, later he became the head of another group of stores.

DR. WICKMAN: Who was this?



MISS COCHRAN: Mr. William Holmes. He's dead now. I said, "I think he'll do it if I ask him and he certainly could either co-chair it maybe or help Mrs. Wilkie." I said, "I'll do anything for you, General Eisenhower, but," I said, "I just can't touch Syngman Rhee after the way I spoke to him and," I said, "I'm sorry." So I called up Bill Holmes, I went back to, I've forgotten whether it was Rusk or Governor Adams and said, "Mr. Holmes will be willing to help" and I think he must have raised a million dollars worth of merchandise from all of these stores and he knew everybody in the trade. And I said, "I think that could be helpful but," I said, "I'm undercover,

I'll do what I can, but I'm not going to get my name associated with it." I don't think it was two days after Mrs. Wilkie was named, I got a long telegram from her asking me to be her co-chairman, which made me chuckle because she didn't realize that I had been asked to take the job. The night they held the dinner in Washington and all this stuff was turned to Syngman Rhee at the White House and there was a great to do, didn't I get in the elevator at the Statler Hotel and who was in the elevator but Dr. Rusk and Syngman Rhee, can you imagine!

DR. WICKMAN: Did Mrs. Wilkie ever know?

MISS COCHRAN: Oh of course not. What I did was to leave the country, I got on a plane and went to Paris to prove that I couldn't be here to work on this thing. I didn't want to-- these are really little closed things that we shouldn't talk about right away but I think it's very cute. So that was the first thing that General Eisenhower asked me to do which I turned down for good cause. I still think that our permitting Rhee to stay in there has some of the present day effects as to what's going on in Korea right now--that's my opinion, right



or wrong. Now maybe there was no alternative course and no one can stay in office or have a job as big as the Presidency and have everything right and have all the decisions right, you know that. I think his batting average was about as high as any President who has ever been in office. But since he's been here at the ranch during winters he used to come up sometimes, it sounds awful to say this, to the pantry and we have there every little thing he liked to have a cup of tea and he liked to do this himself. It was as if there was nobody here. He has stopped doing it now but he used to do it when he could walk up the steps and this kind of thing and he would peek out here into the main room and maybe come out and sit down on the porch for awhile. So one day I came up to the house--I often come up through the kitchen--to inspect it just to make sure that everything was the way I like it and who was sitting here but the President, our General Eisenhower. You know we never infringe on his privacy, we practically don't speak to him if we think in any way it would disturb him here at this ranch which I think is a unique setup, don't you think so?

DR. WICKMAN: Yes, well, we're going to get into that.



MISS COCHRAN: So I said, "Well, hi, it's nice to see you" and I was going to pass on through and he said, "You look very angry." I said, "Well, General, I am angry." And he said, "Well, sit down and tell me about it." So I sat down at the pantry table and I said, "Well I'm angry over a decision of the CAB," I said, "you know every President since 1928 has laid an egg on the air transportation in this country and every egg has gotten bigger than the egg before." Incidentally, we're going through it now again. And I said, "Nobody has ever solved the problem and no one, no President, has really ever given proper thought to this." And I said, "When the CAB was created everyone in aviation was interested in the commercial growth and the economic growth of aviation and what it could mean, not only to the country in prestige but to the nation on an economic basis." I felt that maybe we had a judicious transportation court that would hand down good prompt decisions. You see, it's only a five man board, which I think is a little small for any industry that big. I said, "Instead of that it worked for about three years and they started making appointments mostly of wornout political hacks, instead of getting



wise learned people in there to really set up the route structure," I said, "I'm convinced that even today with the reappor-tionment of the entire route structure in this country there would be no subsidy at all and everybody would have some profits at the end of the year. Number 2," I said, "the way we award our foreign routes which is done entirely by the President at the discretion of the President is just as wrong as it can be." I said, "We sign a treaty with XYZ country, they're allowed to fly into our country," I said, "we don't have enough lead time for ourselves and instead of limiting when that country can come in with its aircraft we let them in promptly," I said, "since the airline is government owned in every country except ours that I can think of, they will shut down any route to put equipment on the USA run and get in here a year or two years ahead of the United States awardees; thus taking the cream off the top before our country can get geared up because the chips are pretty high on this equipment today." And I said, "Because of our regulatory systems on domestic routes they just don't have the equipment to get in there and exercise our half of the business." It's going to happen right now by the



way on the Miami to London and Miami to some other places. Oh, sure it's bound to happen and I went on with the General. He came out here on the porch and we talked about this for about two hours and he said, "Why didn't you come to me on this when I was President," he said, "because I think I see the wisdom." And I said, "Well, Mr. President, I just don't understand why somebody in every President's cabinet isn't watching this," I said, "I'm not blaming you any more than I am every President before you. And I've never been able to understand it." And I said, "Well nobody invited me to express my views and I don't force myself on anyone." But that was an interesting incident that happened here at the ranch.



DR. WICKMAN: Let's go back for a minute to political things just briefly but in the 1956 campaign did you get involved in that at all when he ran for re-election?

MISS COCHRAN: No, I ran for Congress and helped the national ticket only in my own district.

DR. WICKMAN: You ran for Congress?

MISS COCHRAN: Yes, and I lost by approximately 700 votes to a Hindu who was born in Panjab, India, whom I'm positive was a communist and who got into the country under fraudulent visa who avoided being picked up until the statute of limitations ran out and then when Mrs. Luce was our Congresswoman she introduced a law that Asiatics could become American citizens and I think she was wrong in her approach. You know until then no Asiatic could come from their own land and become an American citizen, most people don't realize it but it's true. This man waited about four years under that law before he became an American citizen. I've always believed, I couldn't get the proof unfortunately that he's not even the man that he said he was on the passport, I think it was his uncle.

DR. WICKMAN: Is he still in Congress?

MISS COCHRAN: No, he was in Congress for three terms and he had some kind of a brain tumor and the last time didn't even run, let's see that would be '56, '58, '60, so it was 1960. And a Republican by the name of Martin ran and only won by 10,000 votes, although the Democrat hadn't been in the district

for a year and the taxpayers' money was keeping the Hindu in a hospital, I think he's still living as a matter of fact. There are many Mexican-Americans in the district. And I didn't get the support I should have had when I won the nomination from the party. About three weeks before the final in November, General Eisenhower was going to appear in Los Angeles and word came through that he personally wanted to see me and could I come up. Until then I wasn't going up for the rally I was just exhausted from campaigning and I didn't see anything to be gained. It wasn't my district. So naturally the President-- it's a command if you get an invitation of any kind from him-- so I went up and went into the living room where he and Mrs. Eisenhower were staying and he said, "Well, it's going to be awful nice to have you in Washington." And I said, "But, Mr. President, I don't think you're going to have me in Washington." I said, "I've run out of money and no money has been forthcoming," and I said, "I've had a run around though because I've donated over 20,000 dollars to the party not a dime has come back into my district. Hopefully," I said, "I thought it would." "Well," he said, "you and Floyd are not exactly poor." I said,



"Yes, Mr. President, but both federal and state laws prohibit a candidate from spending more than 2,500 dollars of his own money on his own campaign in the finals." He said, "Well, I didn't know that." I said, "Well there's no reason why you should know it, but," I said, "that happens to be true and therefore I don't think a person should do something dishonest and not obey a law whether you agree with it or you don't agree with the law. If you are trying to get into an organization like the Congress of the United States and you're going to help make the laws you mustn't start out by breaking them." So I said, "The money has not been coming and this East Indian has spent more on billboards than I've had to spend on my whole campaign." And I said, "The color question is an issue too created by my opponent." And I said, "I've had some very serious tragedies happen," I said, "you remember the two planes that collided over Grand Canyon," I said, "my voluntary chairman for the whole county who knows every Mexican in every packing house in the county and who had really worked for me in a way that was just incredible in the primary, well," I said, "he was in one of those airplanes and we don't know what he was doing in



the campaign and we couldn't pick up all the strings and put them together. All in all," I said, "I just think I'm so outnumbered that I'm not going to win, I'm going to lose by between 1500 and 3000 votes and I can't make anybody believe it." So he said, "This is incredible." I said, "Well, it's a little late to pick it up even now," I said, "this is my opinion." Well I lost by 1300 votes, about that in round figures, so half of that or 650 more votes could have put me in. I did not ask even for a recount. I think they did a little interesting voting of "wetbacks" down in Imperial County, I really lost in Imperial County where this Hindu lived where we have a very high Mexican population and Negro population. So I think General Eisenhower tried to be helpful, they sent some men down to Imperial, I guess it was his doing and the party leaders down there said to the ones who came, "Well we don't need you, we're in business down here, we're going to take it by a great majority" and I couldn't make anybody believe otherwise. So I didn't naturally work on the General's campaign. So the day I lost he called here twice and Floyd talked to him. He was hoping to get me and tell me how sorry he was which I think was a very

gracious and wonderful thing for a President to do. And I just sort of took off and got into a corner and licked my wounds cause it's no fun you know to spend nine months campaigning your heart out and then lose. I was the first woman ever nominated on the Republican ticket in the state and I was the second woman to ever be nominated on any ticket for the Congress in the state. And I was also about the sixty-seventh woman in the United States to be nominated which has been a little surprising to me. Anyway it was less than seventy-five. And I think only about oh, 20 odd women had ever gone to the Congress, I didn't realize it was so few, you know. So I guess I was aiming pretty high anyway but it was a very interesting experience even though a little devastating at the end.

DR. WICKMAN: Let's go to the post-presidential period then, a little bit and for how long has General Eisenhower been coming out to the ranch, had his office out here?

MISS COCHRAN: Well, oh that, when he decided to make the Palm Desert area his winter home. It was then intended for maybe a three or four months period. Well as you know he went out



of office in January, just like all Presidents go out of office, and they invited us back as their personal guests even for that one, for every inauguration we were there as a guest of the President and Mrs. Eisenhower, which after all was very nice indeed, for the two inaugurations. And right here could I digress for a minute while it's on my mind. The inaugural ball, let's see there had to be several when he and Mrs. Eisenhower attended. At the first one in 1953 Floyd and I took a box and I had box number 13 which is my lucky number. We had among our guests General Vandenberg. It was the first time I had seen him in full dress uniform of the Air Force, which is really white tie and black tails with epaulettes on the shoulders. General Vandenberg I think was one of the most handsome men I've ever seen in my life and one of the most perfectly groomed. He was the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and he and Mrs. Vandenberg were our guests and also Justice and Mrs. Reed. I'll never forget our box. I think there were 12 or 14 to a box. General and Mrs. Eisenhower arrived with the then suspected beginning of the cabinet, although they had not been announced. And word came down to our box that General Vandenberg and I were supposed

to come up and pay our respects to President and Mrs. Eisenhower. Well, of course, we were so pleased and oh, Mrs. Vandenberg was so angry because she was not invited up but neither was my husband, Mr. Odium. So General Vandenberg and I went up to the box and Mrs. Eisenhower, bless her beautiful heart, said, "Jackie, now look what you've done to us," before fifty million people looking on and I said, "Well, I may have done something horrible to you and the President, but," I said, "I am certainly proud if I had any part in it, thank you," and I said, "I do think I had a little part in it, and if so I've certainly done something wonderful for the nation. This is going to begin a whole new era." But, oh, this was really quite thrilling to be invited up to the box. We stayed, oh, probably three or four minutes and left. There was the most beautiful young girl came over to me and she said, "Who's that handsome man? And what kind of a uniform is he wearing?" And I said, "Well, my dear," I recognized the girl as from a very fine family. I said, "He is the Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force, would you like to meet him?" Well, this made Mrs. Vandenberg angry, she was pretty jealous anyway. So when the General came back from

dancing with one of the ladies, I said, "I'd like to present you to Miss, "whoever her name was and I said, "Dance with her, she's going to swoon she thinks you're so handsome," and he did. I like to hear things put things like that anyway. Oh, Mrs. Eisenhower was so beautiful, by the way, she gave me a most wonderful photograph of herself in her inaugural ball gown, which is one of the most beautiful gowns I've ever seen her wear and it looks absolutely completely in style and taste with today's fashions. It's not dated, never will be dated, just beautiful.

DR. WICKMAN: Yes, we have a large color photo of her.

MISS COCHRAN: Isn't it lovely?

DR. WICKMAN: Yes, it is.

MISS COCHRAN: She wrote on the back what it was and everything in her own handwriting, I'm very grateful to have this.

DR. WICKMAN: Oh yes, we got in there because those are the kind of things you know we just can't capture anywhere except from the memory of the subject. Well let's go back to this business



of the post-presidential period then and how long he's been making his office here at the ranch.

MISS COCHRAN: When he was in office he came out to visit the desert and stayed at the home of Mr. Helms, you know the bread maker.

DR. WICKMAN: No, I don't know.

MISS COCHRAN: Well they have a lovely place over here at Smoke Tree Ranch. I think that's what decided him to come out permanently, I don't know, I've never asked him but you might ask him that yourself because I think it's interesting the things that decide people, what makes them do something. Anyway if anybody tells me if the President comes and visits your home, you can't keep out of the press, then they're wrong cause I have had it happen here several times. Just had it happen you know again last February, the past President and the reigning President called together.

DR. WICKMAN: We will get it down.

MISS COCHRAN: Floyd had a gall bladder operation in Albuquerque



We had just brought him home accompanied by the great Dr. Lovelace, who was killed in an airplane accident three years ago this coming December. Lovelace was a close personal friend and he was the surgeon on the job. And he was also a great friend of the President and he was here and two little daughters, Jackie, my namesake, and Sharon. We knew the President was in the area visiting the Helms and he was playing a little golf and El Dorado Club had just been built, it was a new course. And word came over and we had less than an hour's notice that (look at the quail walking over there, oh, isn't that marvelous, look at her, she's got a nest. This is the kind of things I like, see her on the wall, she's gone behind the barn). Well, anyway, word came through that the President would like to come over and call and although Floyd had already had his quota of activity that day we got him all dressed and sitting out on the lawn and over comes the President very informally in his golf clothes. I had all the domestics all lined up so that at least they could see him and he was so sweet. He went over and shook hands with everyone of them, which was a great thrill for them of course. He spent, oh, about an hour. He was



sitting out on the lawn and to me there hadn't been enough security people come over here and I'm always worried about an assassination of the President by some fanatic or idiot. You can see how thick the trees are around this house. It would be impossible to check it. And I said, "I don't like you sitting out here, why don't we come in the house you've had enough sun for one day anyway," and I said, "I feel a lot more secure about it." And he laughed and I personally went and mixed a soft drink and took it to him and oh, I guess he stayed over here and visited for about an hour and he said, "I think this is just the most wonderful place I've ever seen." I said, "Fine, we have a house waiting for you when you're out of office." Cause we all knew he never could run again, this was it. So when he was going out of the White House we were invited for the mustering out ceremonies, I call it, along with the inauguration of the new President, who was Kennedy. So in January, late January, word came through that he was coming out to El Dorado Country Club and that he simply had to have some temporary offices until they could organize for him and did we have any space that he could use here as temporary



office. So the quarters that he's in right now, I turned over to Mrs. Whitman, who informed me as I told you last night, that she was the only person who ever took dictation from General Eisenhower, I think that should be authenticated, by the General. So we set her all up and Ann became the most frustrated woman I think I've ever seen in my life because she didn't have a staff and the mail used to be delivered out here at the ranch in bags by a special truck. And we had to put an extra girl on the switchboard because word went out that the General was here. Still we kept it a dead dark secret as much as we could. And we had no idea that he was going to personally come over here to work. And he immediately got in the habit of coming for several hours a day. And so we have lots of guests at this ranch and at time Mr. Odium was very busy and he had many boards, companies that he controlled and the boards would come here to meet because he's never been very well and this was a half business and half social home for us and geared to take care of these large numbers of people. Well they were all so excited about the fact that Eisenhower would come over here, I don't mean this disrespectfully when I just use the word



Eisenhower and I'm sure they will put General Eisenhower when it's typed. And I just put a little notice in every guests room, I said, "We are privileged to have our President Eisenhower have his office here at the ranch and he comes and goes frequently. I would be most appreciative if no one would ever stop him or waylay him or speak to him or bother him because he must be afforded every privacy that can surround him while he is here in our midst for the next few months." Well I assumed I was setting up the office on a very temporary basis. Well when the season was over I remember he stayed right through until late April that year or sometime in April. And Ann came over and she said, "If I had not been made a member of your family here," she said, "I don't think I could have survived the winter." And she really used to work hours that were just incredible, you could see the lamps burning and she was down there pounding away on typewriters trying to cope with the volume that was coming in. And, oh, I'd get phone call after phone call after phone call, some of them from nuts and some of them just people wanting to know if I could intercede to get the General to do this or to get the General to do that or





get the General to do the other thing and I'd say, "I'm very sorry but under no circumstances will I contact General Eisenhower in connection with these appointments. They must go through normal channels." "Well, what was the channel?" I said, "Well, I don't know, I'd write a letter, I don't know what telephone to give you." "Well, you mean you don't have the telephone number?" And I said, "No, I don't have the telephone number." I remember during that winter or maybe it was the next winter I got a call from a very famous newspaper man like you know UP or AP and he said it was just urgent that he get an appointment with General Eisenhower. And I said, "Well, I don't have his telephone number," and the man almost called me a liar and I said, "Well, I've deliberately avoided having General and Mrs. Eisenhower's number because of these kind of phone calls and if I don't have it, I can tell the truth and say that I don't have it but," I said, "I'll tell you what I'll do," I said, "I will drive over to their house at El Dorado Country Club and I will leave a note with <sup>Mooney</sup> Mony, you know, who has been with General Eisenhower for many years. Now whether he's there and he'll get this note I have no way



of knowing but I will do that and I'll give you my word." So I immediately went over and the General was, I think, playing bridge but I'm not certain and he thanked me and he said, "Well, don't you have our phone number?" And I said, "No, sir, and I don't want it." This happened also with the Secretary of the Treasurer trying, former Secretary of the Treasurer, trying through me to get him one day--



DR. WICKMAN: Mr. Humphrey.

MISS COCHRAN: Yeah, three or four years ago. But to go back here a little bit for the record. We didn't know how long he wanted to have his office here, we were delighted as long as we could afford it and support it and you know how difficult it is with all domestic problems these days. So we've had the privilege of having General Eisenhower here in his office ever since he left the White House and we've had hundreds and hundreds of people come here, sometimes we've had as much as 600 people arrive out here on the lawn, as you know, it's a beautiful lawn and a beautiful place for the General to receive people. And he, I think, has been made very happy and I know

he's had complete privacy. I'm going to have 450 Air Force wives from March Air Force base and Mrs. Eisenhower is going to be our honored guest on the 2nd of April now, this year. And General Eisenhower is going to see them for about, oh, a few minutes up here in our big living room and that is the first time in these eight years, well it is eight years now, isn't it, that I've ever asked them to do anything. Now that's how careful I've been. Now, for instance he had his press conference here in our big living room in connection with the death of Sir Winston Churchill and he made his famous statement in that room. Our house was wired for a week waiting for Churchill's death. And I happened not to be at home and Mr. Odum was asleep when the General finally came up here and made the historic statement. And we were all so amazed that General Eisenhower had not been requested to officially represent the President at the funeral and I believe that General Eisenhower was the only person invited by the Queen as a personal guest of Her Majesty to attend the funeral and of course that's why he didn't go representing the President. And then there was another time when President Kennedy asked President Eisenhower



to receive the Pasha of Kanitra, that's a very interesting story that we have to get into. Cause I got stuff for the Pasha for several days, in fact, if you're interested it's ad infinitum that we have things that we have to talk about, about the little things.

DR. WICKMAN: Well, we can do that--



MISS COCHRAN: Oh, and then I'd like to tell you about the time that I represented President Eisenhower at the inauguration of Somoza in Nicaragua and that followed the time that he tried to get me to do the job for Syngman Rhee. The next time he called me on the phone one morning at eight o'clock and said, "Are you still in bed?" So I'll tell you that one.

DR. WICKMAN: O. K.

This is a list of the people who worked on the animation for the Disney Studios for the '52 election.

Walt Disney

Betty Sweitzer

Bunny Venable

Sid Batson

Bill Anderson

John Lounsbury

Alf Teeter

Bie George

Paul Smith

Roy Williams

Eric Larson

Dale Oliver

Warren Williams

Bill Berg

Roland Krump

Clark Mallory

Harvey Orr

Claude Coates

Ruth Wright

Rusty Jones

Milt Banta

Al Gilmore

Bruce Bushman

Dan Downing

A. Kendall O'Connor

Jean Young

Art Stevens

Mc Laren Stewart

George Rowley

Ken Anderson

Thor Putnam

Mary Hunter

Ken Peterson

Ann Lord

Ham Luske



Art Crookshank

Charles E. Felipe

Joe Frank Morrison

Aaron K. Merrill

Margy Wilcox

Katherine Kirwin

Robert Gibault

Betty Ann Guenther

Mary Flanagan

Jud Conlon

Joe Leahy

Lance Nolley

Winston Hibler

INTERVIEW WITH

Jacqueline Cochran

by

John E. Wickman  
Director

on

February 28, 1970

for

Dwight D. Eisenhower Library



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE  
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY

Legal Agreement Pertaining to the Oral History Interviews of  
Jacqueline Cochran

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 21 of Title 44,  
United States Code, and subject to the terms and conditions  
hereinafter set forth, I, Jacqueline Cochran (hereinafter  
referred to as the donor), do hereby give, donate, and convey  
to the United States of America all my rights, title, and  
interest in the tape recordings and transcripts of personal  
interviews conducted on February 28, 1970, and May 1 and 2,  
1973 and prepared for deposit in the Dwight D. Eisenhower  
Library. This assignment is subject to the following terms  
and conditions:

(1) The transcripts shall be available for use by  
researchers as soon as they have been deposited in the  
Dwight D. Eisenhower Library.

(2) The tape recordings shall not be available for use  
by researchers during the donor's lifetime. After the donor's  
death, access to the tape recordings is to be for background  
use only, and researchers may not cite, paraphrase, or  
quote therefrom.



(3) The donor retains during the donor's lifetime all literary property rights in the material given to the United States by the terms of this instrument. Thereafter the aforesaid literary property rights will pass to the United States Government. During the life of the donor, researchers may publish brief "fair use" quotations from the transcripts (but not the tape recordings) without the donor's express consent in each case.

(4) Copies of the open portions of the interview transcripts, but not the tape recordings, may be provided by the library upon request to researchers.

(5) At the discretion of the director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, copies of the interview transcripts, but not the tape recordings, may be deposited in or loaned to other institutions. Upon death of donor, at the discretion of the director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, copies of the tape recordings may be deposited in or loaned to other institutions.

  
*Josephine Baker*  
Donor

Date

*James B. Rhodes*  
Archivist of the United States

Date

*January 11, 1977*



This interview is being conducted with Ms. Jacqueline Cochran on February 28, 1970 at the Cochran-Odlum Ranch, Indio, California. The interviewer is Dr. John E. Wickman, Director, Eisenhower Library.

Page 99

MS. COCHRAN: When all the D-Day plans were laid, as you know they were--I suppose coordinated with the British--but I still think that primarily--I don't know this--but General Eisenhower and his staff more or less laid the plans. Do you believe that?

DR. WICKMAN: The SHAEF [Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force] organization did it, yes, and he was the head.

MS. COCHRAN: He went in to brief Mr. [Winston] Churchill, and when he got through briefing him, Mr. Churchill said, "I'm going to be in the first assault boat."

So General Eisenhower argued with him and said, "You can't. It'll take a third of the people to make sure that nothing happens to you because you know all the plans. It just can't be done."

He said, "I'm the premier here and nevertheless, I'm going to be in the first assault boat." So General Eisenhower was extremely concerned and worried about it, wondered

what he could do, and he decided he'd go see the king, George VI of England. So he called up and asked for an appointment with the king. And he went in and told the king, he said, "Now this is your prime minister, but nevertheless he simply cannot under any circumstances be permitted to go into an assault boat in connection with this invasion."

So he said, "Just leave it to me; I'll take care of it." So a day or two later Mr. Churchill went in to brief the king on the D-Day plans and when he got all through he said, "Well, Winston, I'm going to be in the first assault boat."

Well he said, "Sir, you can't do that. Under no circumstances can you do it."

He said, "Well, fine. Winnie, we'll both stay home then." Isn't that a cute story?

WICKMAN: Yes.

COCHRAN: Want to cut it off for a second?

WICKMAN: Sure.



[Interruption]

COCHRAN: As I said, I was told this story by Air Marshal [Arthur Travers] Harris who was commander in chief of Bomber Command. He was very close with Churchill, by the way. So when General Eisenhower was here one night, I said, "I heard this story from two British sources and I'd like to know whether it's the absolute truth."

He said, "Well not exactly the way you told it." But he said, "This is the way it was"--I heard it just a little bit differently--and this is the way I remember it as he told it to me at that time and I think I asked him to put it in his next book and he said, "I'll consider it."

WICKMAN: I'll have to check back in At Ease and--

COCHRAN: Yes, and see if it's in his book.



WICKMAN: Well I did my homework this afternoon. I've got a whole list--

COCHRAN: All right, let's go.

WICKMAN: Well the first one was to go back and pick up the reception of the Pasha Kénitra.

COCHRAN: We had a streak of very bad weather that particular winter. It's about, what? Four years ago, now, five years ago, isn't it?

WICKMAN: Must be four or five.

COCHRAN: Yes, I don't remember the dates.

WICKMAN: '65.

COCHRAN: Oh, you know the date?

WICKMAN: Well, no, no. I say about '65 or '66.

COCHRAN: Well [John F.] Kennedy was in office. President Kennedy called President Eisenhower, or General Eisenhower, and said, "Would you be kind enough to receive the Pasha of



Kénitra." He was about the third cousin to the king, and that was the new name they had given this area, which is Casablanca, and where the big naval base is which is Camp Dulouge, I think it's called. And Marris Air Force Base, which is terribly important to us, strategically still is-- we don't have it any more. And they were trying to save these bases in Africa. So he was really sparking the President, President Kennedy. So President Eisenhower called Floyd [Odium] and he said, "I want to talk to you and Jackie about this man." He said, "He's coming over here." And he said, "I have my friends here to play a little bridge," and he said, "I don't want to really--beyond just having a press conference with him," and he said, "I want to be gotten off the hook and would you be kind enough to do it? And may I have the press conference at your house?"

And I said, "Well, you know you're always welcome." So I had plenty to drink and plenty of snacks to eat and so forth for the press. He said to Floyd, "I'll come by and pick you up and take you out to the airport to meet with him." He was being flown by a navy pilot; I'll try not to call the name of the pilot because I'm not going to be very charitable.



And it was cold, it was below freezing, and very bad weather like today--I mean it was just--not raining--but low clouds and heavy icing in the clouds and just awful. So they were supposed to be at Thermal [California] at exactly an appointed time. And Floyd and the General got out to Thermal and just darned near froze to death waiting. It was an hour and a half he waited for this plane. And this navy pilot, either one of two things happened. He either got lost or he did go down around Grand Canyon and said he couldn't see, if the weather was too bad. I don't know which story is correct. And so imagine keeping the General sitting out there for an hour and a half in this cold. So they came back to the house here and I met them.

In the meantime, General Eisenhower said, "I don't know where I can send this man for lunch." He said, "I don't know what color he's going to be or whether there'd be any difficulty in restaurants. I really don't know what to do with him."

I said, "Well don't worry. I've been in Africa quite a bit and I've been privileged to be entertained by the



son, the great pasha of North Africa and I've read a lot about them and I know their customs. And I'll feed them and water them and take care of them, see that they get back to their plane. You don't have to worry any farther about it." So I met them at the door with three dates on a plate and a glass of milk and I said, "I'm sorry it's not camel's milk; this is all we have, but it's good pure milk." See, they don't drink any alcohol at all. And they had a man who was from Lebanon, who was the interpreter because they speak Arabic, and he was going to one of the schools up north. So he was surprised that I knew this custom. That's what to do when people are welcome in your home; you meet them at the door with a few dates on a plate, just two or three, and a glass of milk, camel's milk.

Well he sat down and he said, "Well, I don't have dates like this."

I said, "As a matter of fact, we've had people from your country finding out how we grow these dates and this is one of the few places they're grown and so on." We had a very nice conversation. So the press conference was over.



Through the interpreter I said, "Now you can assure him that there's absolutely no pig fat, nothing but vegetable oil and lamb." I said, "There's no anything that would offend his religion," because it's very important to them. And he was so appreciative that he could come into a home and not violate his religion in any way. So we had beautifully done lamb and we had all the kind of things that he would like for lunch, and he was a big eater and a good eater, and so he just had a good time. Took him over to number four guest house to freshen up after the press conference, before lunch.

After lunch the navy pilot announced, "I cannot take off. The weather is too bad." He said, "I don't know what we're going to do." Just happened we didn't have any guests at the moment, and we had all the guest houses open.

I said, "We'll just put you up for the night." For three days the weather was so bad they couldn't get out of here. And I was stuck with the whole entourage and all the navy crew. So that afternoon he wanted to be driven around the valley and he said, "I want very badly to see General



Eisenhower's house. I'm so sorry he had to go away."


Well, I knew he wasn't away, so I hotfooted it over and I said to Rusty [Brown], I said, "Call the General and tell him to be sure not to open the door and not have any sign of life around there because I'm coming over so he can see the front of the house and drive him around ElDorado, and if he wants his picture taken in front of the house, then there's nothing I can do about it and he's stuck and we have them for the night." And so she took care of that part. Over we went and I was standing out getting my picture taken with the Pasha in front of the General's house and he said, "There wouldn't be any chance we could go inside?"

And I said, "Oh, no, I wouldn't think of doing that." I said, "I'm not even sure if he has the help there or anything."

About that time Freeman Gosdon started walking in the back door and he waved and said, "Hi, Jackie." And I just ignored him; I cut him dead. And I said, "Isn't that awful," I said, "The domestics in this day and time in this country are just so fresh." Well, what was I going to do? I couldn't very well let the General down, or Freeman. I was just talking



to Freeman a few minutes ago and asked him to come over for dinner tomorrow night or the next night or the next night. You must get him because he was just a personal slave to the General, was marvelous. But can you imagine me cutting him cold. And so then we got our fix next day, nothing doing. Well in the meantime I'd worked on him over bases, and began to realize that he wasn't as influential as you'd think he was--just putting on an act. So they said they were going into New York. Well, we have this beautiful apartment in New York, so I decided to put up this aid to the Pasha and his interpreter and his aid and the navyman and I said, "You can invite your wife down, there's enough room." And I let them stay there for two or three days. At least they would see a unique home and maybe it would be helpful. Well ever since then, every time any potentate comes from any of these countries, I get a call. I've never entertained any more of them; I had enough of that route. So the next night we went over to the club for dinner, and I warned the club ahead of time. I said, "This man is here on business with General Eisenhower and we're looking after him for him." And I said, "Under no circumstances do I want any static



about bringing these people over." I said, "I wouldn't do it if it weren't for General Eisen--as his guests here, official guests here." So we went over and they served a date dessert with compliments of General Eisenhower, as though he'd arranged for it.

So he said, "What can I do to get some of these dates?" So we put a couple of flats of dates in the plane with him on his way home, and so I think he was quite happy. But we got an awful lot of people that we had to look after, that would come here just to see him for a day or two. But I think this was the funniest one because he was home all the time.

WICKMAN: Yes. This is one of the things that I told you before, in '68, that I found so interesting about the whole set-up here for the General, as well as for the country. The fact that you have been willing, you and Floyd both have been willing to go this far, and go this route, it's just terrific.

COCHRAN: Well I'll tell you a fantastic story. When President

[Richard M.] Nixon was going to run the first time--

WICKMAN: In '60.

COCHRAN: Yes, before the announcement came. They sent a group of people down, which they did periodically, from March Field to scan the house to make sure that there are no bugs in it and that, you know, had security. We never knew who these people were; we didn't want to know. And for four days, six or seven hours a day, they held meetings over in number four guest house. It was completely isolated. I'll show it to you; it's way down at the end here. And carloads of people would come in; they came in from everywhere. And these meetings went on and we sent lunch over every day for sometimes it would be eight, sometimes it would be ten, and had it all set up with refreshments and they had great comfort. We set up bunches of card tables so they'd have a conference table and--

MR. FLOYD ODLUM: I know who a couple of them were.

COCHRAN: Who were they?

ODLUM: One of them was the attorney general under Eisenhower.

COCHRAN: Well, yes, but he was staying here as our house guest for two weeks.

ODLUM: Yes, also was Harlow.

WICKMAN: Bryce Harlow.

COCHRAN: Yes, well Bryce Harlow was staying here, too.

ODLUM: Well I guess so.

COCHRAN: Those two were staying--



WICKMAN: What time of the year was this Jackie? Was this in spring or--

COCHRAN: Well, that's the trouble with me you see. I never can remember dates. I should have kept all these dates, but I didn't.

WICKMAN: Well was the General out here at the time?

ODLUM: Yes.

COCHRAN: Oh, yes, he was here.

WICKMAN: So it would have been in the winter or spring kind of thing.

COCHRAN: Yes. But these two men were house guests here. I don't think on this particular occasion--because I wasn't here when Bryce Harlow was here.

ODLUM: Well he was here for these meetings.

COCHRAN: But we didn't know the others. We never tried to pry into his--

ODLUM: I never can think of Herb Brownell's name very well, although I've known him for years. But Brownell was special master in this Howard Hughes hearing.

COCHRAN: Brownell.

WICKMAN: Brownell, yes.

ODLUM: And he's the fellow who gave a judgment of damages against Howard Hughes for a hundred and thirty-seven million recently, for not appearing in court.



COCHRAN: Well, I think Brownell's a very fine man. And I think he was a good choice. And then the secretary of the treasury--what was his name?

WICKMAN: Humphrey. George Humphrey.

COCHRAN: Yes, he was out here for about a week. Spent about a week with us.

ODLUM: Humphrey died recently.

WICKMAN: Yes, he did.

COCHRAN: I think he would have made a great President.

WICKMAN: Humphrey?

COCHRAN: Yes.

ODLUM: You know how, oh, I'm--

WICKMAN: Go ahead. Go ahead.

ODLUM: You know how Humphrey got the appointment?

COCHRAN: No.



ODLUM: Well, after Eisenhower was elected, they had their headquarters at the hotel in New York.

WICKMAN: Commodore.

ODLUM: Commodore. Sidney [J.] Weinberg was one of the inner circle; he was big with them.

COCHRAN: One of the king-makers.

ODLUM: And Sidney Weinberg was asked by Eisenhower who he should select as the secretary of treasury. And Sidney Weinberg thought awfully hard and he came up the next day with the fellow Humphrey. He hardly knew Humphrey, himself.



COCHRAN: Well, why did he choose him?

ODLUM: Because he had a good reputation. And Sidney proposed Humphrey to Eisenhower and Eisenhower had never heard of him.

COCHRAN: Well I know one thing--General Eisenhower told me he was presidential material. He was a marvelous man--

WICKMAN: Oh, yes, Eisenhower became very fond of him.



COCHRAN: Oh, yes. He was really an outstanding person. I was just thrilled with him. Who was this other cabinet member who was here? That brought to my memory the fact that I'd ridden on the train--got on the train in New York and must have gone up through New England with them?

ODLUM: I don't know about that.

COCHRAN: I can't remember his name.

ODLUM: Another one was--Sidney Weinberg was--secretary of air.

COCHRAN: Not Sidney Weinberg, dear.

ODLUM: No, I'm telling you a story. Sidney Weinberg was in the king-maker's chair. And a group came to me from the Air Force Association and asked me to try to get Jimmy Doolittle in as secretary of air. And I said, "Well I'm not in anyplace, in that kind of a position. All I can do is talk to Sidney Weinberg."

And they said, "Well, he's the king-maker all right."

So I went to Sidney and he said, "Well, it's impossible."



He said, "He's not even a, he's not even a--

COCHRAN: Republican?

ODLUM: --college graduate," I think they said.

COCHRAN: Oh, he has a doctor's degree.

ODLUM: So I stepped up and I said, "He's not a military man. He's got a doctor's degree from M.I.T. [Massachusetts Institute of Technology]." And I gave them the whole record and Sidney took it up. He got sold to Jimmy Doolittle. And he submitted him. But the fellow who was the treasurer of the Republican party at that time, you know the fellow who lived over at John Hertz and they had a break--clean-up with him. Guy Talbott had been treasurer of the Republican party--



COCHRAN: That's not his first name. Harold Talbott.

ODLUM: Harold--

WICKMAN: Harold Talbott.

ODLUM: And Harold insisted that he was going to be secretary for air. But he just cut everybody out. He wouldn't take

any--they offered him everything almost, the army, the navy, anything except secretary of air, and he wouldn't settle for anything.

COCHRAN: And then you know there was almost a terrible scandal that came out about Talbott.

ODLUM: Well there was a scandal.

COCHRAN: Well it didn't get--

WICKMAN: Not as full--no it didn't get out. Not really.

ODLUM: John Hertz, who hated Talbott with a vicious hate, when Talbott was to be in the secretary for air, came to me and said, "This man is a bad man. He's going to get himself and the government in trouble. And they better stop it right now." And they didn't stop it, and a few months later, John Hertz came to me and he said, "Well, I have the names and the dates and the amounts in question. I'll give them to you if you'll use them."

I said, "I can't use them. I'm not going--."

COCHRAN: And you sold Convair as a result of that.



ODLUM: Oh, partly. Yes. Yes, a great deal. And what he told me was, that it wasn't what came out in the papers, about the stuff that Talbott was on Air Force stationery for some firm.

COCHRAN: Well, it had to do with the runways.

ODLUM: Spanish air bases.

[Interruption]

ODLUM: I was in High Street when I first went to--

COCHRAN: Is it on or off?

WICKMAN: Yes, it's on now. Now it's on. Go ahead.

ODLUM: The law firm was Simpson, Thatcher and Bartley, I believe 14th and Vine Street, and they had about six partners; they've got about 200 partners now.

COCHRAN: Well anyway, General Eisenhower agreed to be the



honored guest at a Republican fund-raising dinner here at our house.

WICKMAN: About when was that?

COCHRAN: Oh, dear.

WICKMAN: Well try roughly. We'll doublecheck on it, newspapers and whatnot.

COCHRAN: About '54, '55.

WICKMAN: Yes, that's good enough.

ODLUM: '56, in there.



COCHRAN: '56. No, wait a minute, he was still in office then. No, no, it was after he'd retired and he was out here. So he was worried about the [John] Birch Society. And he was worried about the disturbances. And so we were very careful about the control of the tickets. In spite of that, we made thirteen thousand dollars here in one night for the party, because we furnished all the food and this kind of thing. We had Eisenhower steaks and it was really very well

done indeed. And I wouldn't let any freeloaders in, even the political people like the--well, the assemblymen and senators and so forth. I said, "Look, we raise money for you all year. If you come to this dinner, you're going to pay for it. Just that simple. There's no freeloaders." And I said, "I'm spending all this money to get money for the party, and I'm not going to have any freeloaders. So buy your ticket for yourself and your wife." Well this just startled--even the chairman wrote his check--I photostated the check to make sure--paid two hundred dollars for himself and his wife to eat that night. And the only freeloaders we had were Young Republicans that served the tables. And they had to come out here and work, and I mean work. And we fed them and they could sit down, and we thanked them. Then I wouldn't have anybody at the head table except General Eisenhower, and Mrs. Eisenhower, the chairman--

ODLUM: And Milton.

COCHRAN: --and Milton Eisenhower, who also made a speech. And then there were no feelings hurt, because you didn't know where to stop putting people at a head table. And I



remember [Alphonzo] Bell showed up and he said, "Like to come to your dinner."

I said, "If you have a hundred dollars, you may come." And he was a congressman. I said, "There are no freeloaders. I'm very sorry. Just that simple." Not one--one party's going to be given without freeloaders. Lo and behold, who shows up at the gate but two famous labor leaders. One of them was [George] Meany and who was the other?

ODLUM: McDonald.

COCHRAN: David McDonald. They said, "What, we can't come in?"

I said, "Nothing doing, unless you have two hundred dollars." I went down to the gate myself. I said, "There isn't a freeloader here." I said, "My husband and I have bought dinner in our own home and we furnished the food." I said, "This is purely, nothing but a fund-raising dinner for the central committee and the state central committee," and I said, "the national committee," and I said, "we split three ways. You just can't come in." Of course I didn't



want them in. So they forked up the two hundred dollars and I looked very nervous about it.

And they grabbed the General and off into the little room here they went. And he said, "Well, I don't want my picture taken with you." So I wouldn't let any pictures be taken. But so far as I know there were no real repercussions of any kind about it. But it was an interesting little side-light to the party that night.

WICKMAN: The next thing I've got is Somoza and Nicaragua.

COCHRAN: Oh, well this then. This was a very interesting thing. In the first place, when I was in Korea in 1953 and I went with General [C. Craig] Cannon--I was on his flight. I'd been asked to go by the state department and the defense department and the Air Force into Japan because the daughter of the premier in Japan, in '53--at least I know a date at last--was a great aviation enthusiast, and we were trying to get Japan to start building a home defense in aviation--just that simple. And the Vice President [Richard M. Nixon] was going in there, so they asked me if I would go there. Just made this mach one flight--first woman in the world--and I think



I was about the seventeenth pilot in the world. So I was surrounded with our people; they didn't realize who they were I don't think, when I had my press conferences, because the minute you shoot your face off you want to be very careful how you do it, and I am a careful person. I think you know that now. So anyway, I don't know how effective it was, but let's hope it was effective. From there I went into Korea and I went all over and General Cannon invited me to go over, and we inspected the troops and all of the rest of it. I also went up to see Syngman Rhee. I can't remember the name of our ambassador [Robert D. Murphy]; I know his wife was blind and he was an Irishman. So the ambassador--we can get his name because it was during '53, and Cannon and I went to the palace--we sat down in this garden; he apologized for his wife who wasn't well--you know she spoke English perfectly and of course Syngman Rhee went to Yale. And the minute we sat down he said, "I'm so glad to meet you." He said, "I just hope that you will disseminate in your country my feelings. I think you are yellow; I think you're a harbinger of communists." Well I just went up in arms. I just blew my top and these other two men sitting



there--well, now General Cannon couldn't say anything, but the ambassador could.

And I said, "I'm very sorry, Mr. President." I said, "No one can speak of my country like that." I said, "If you weren't considerably older than I am, even though I'm a woman, I think I'd take my shoe off and start beating you, I'm so angry." And I said, "No one but no one can speak to me about my country." I said, "What do you do with communists?"

He said, "We find them in the morning and shoot them that night."

I said, "They don't get a due process of trials or law or to prove them guilty or--." I said, "I don't like that either." And I said, "Thank you very much; I don't want your tea; I don't want your hospitality; I don't want any part of you and I'm leaving your house right this minute. Thank you." And I got up and I walked out onto the street. Fortunately, General Cannon's car had stayed there, and I got in the car and I went back to the hotel.

And so General Eisenhower, you know, hadn't been in office very long. I came back home and I wrote Rhee a letter--never had a reply, but I think he got it. And I got



a call from, oh, he's a doctor and he's done a lot of this rehabilitation work, Harold, Howard something or another, Howard--I can't remember his name. Anyway, he's a medical doctor, and I've known him off and on for years. He called me on the phone and he said, "President Eisenhower wants you to head up a drive to raise food, medical supplies, clothing --ship it to Korea."

I said, "I feel sorry for the Korean people, but I don't feel sorry for the head of the country and I think we are terrible, and I'll have no part of Mr. Syngman Rhee. Thank you." And I wouldn't raise my finger to help him. "I think we should throw this old man out of running the government."

So then I got a call from Sherman Adams and he said, "The President wants you to do this very badly."

I said, "You tell the President that I'm very sad that the first thing he's asked me to do--I wasn't seeking a job in his administration--would be something that was just, I just couldn't do it. Sorry." So the President called--which is fun to talk to a President on the phone, you know.


WICKMAN: President!



COCHRAN: Yes, any President.

WICKMAN: Right.

COCHRAN: Particularly one you like. So the President called and I told him the story and he laughed and laughed and laughed. And I said, "I'm sorry," but I said, "I've a recommendation to make." I said, "Mrs. [Wendell] Willkie, as far as I can remember, has never been asked to do anything for the party, take on anything, and why don't you get her?" And I said, "Behind the scenes, I'll be helpful, but I don't want my name connected with old Rhee after the way I spoke to him and I meant it." And I said, "It's not the people of Korea, I'm willing to help them, but I'm not willing to get mixed up with Rhee, because I'm so angry with him." And I sent the President a copy of the letter that I'd written Rhee outlining what had happened and I said, "I just want it for the record." And I said, "I don't know what's the matter with us as Americans to let you get away with this kind of conversation. I wouldn't do it." And I never talked to our ambassador after that, strangely enough. I said, "Why don't you do that?"



And I said, "My chairman of my board, Mr. Holmes," I said, "spends half of his life for charity, does philanthropic work. He knows every merchant in the country. I'm sure he can be very helpful." Howard Rusk was the name of the doctor. You've heard of him?

WICKMAN: Yes.

COCHRAN: So he said, "That's a good idea." The next morning I get a telegram, this long, saying "Will you be my co-chairman?"

WICKMAN: From Mrs. Willkie?

COCHRAN: From Mrs. Willkie. I hope I'm not duplicating, but anyway I got a wire from Mrs. Willkie and I simply, flatly got up and left the country till this thing got underway. Well, wouldn't I be in Washington the night that they're having the big dinner presenting these two or three or four or five million dollars worth of merchandise. And I got in the elevator with Howard Rusk and Syngman Rhee by accident. And anyway, it was a great success and I certainly added to it and contributed something toward getting it a success.



So then I never heard anything more from General Eisenhower until one morning my maid, who's been with me thirty-odd years, came into my bedroom and she said, "Miss Cochran, the President of the United States is on the phone."

I said, "Oh, Ellen, the President's not on the phone; it's his secretary."

She said, "No, ma'am, I just talked to him." She's a very intelligent girl. She said, "I just talked to him." And I reached over and picked up the phone.

He said, "You sound sleepy."

I said, "I was sound asleep. I don't get up early like you." And I said, "What a thrill to talk to you, Mr. President, it's just wonderful." I said, "What's happened? Is the world coming to an end or something?" I was just sort of kidding.

He said, "How would you like to go down to Nicaragua and represent me at the inauguration of [Gen. Anastasio] Somoza?" I never heard of Somoza; I vaguely knew where Nicaragua was.

I said, "Well, you won't probably believe this, but I never do anything that's important that I don't consult Floyd about."



He said, "This surprises me."

I said, "I'm sure he's going to say yes and I say yes, but I still think it's the proper thing to do." Don't you agree with that?

WICKMAN: Yes.

COCHRAN: But most people wouldn't think, you know, I'm so independent and I do all these things. And I said, "I'll talk to him and if I may, I'll call Miss Whitman back," --Ann, I knew her very well, "and give you my answer before the day is out."

And Floyd said, "Well of course. Why didn't you just say yes?"

And I said, "Because of my respect and love for you, I wasn't about to take on anything this important"--I don't know how many days were entailed. And so he gave me the privilege of choosing the man who would go opposite me on this thing. He had submitted several names of men that were acceptable to him, of course, first; it had to be that way. And the man I chose went to the hospital. So then I said,



"Well I don't have any choice after that. You can choose whom you please." And they made a corking good choice. They chose the man who headed up American Express [Paul Bradford?]. This is awful, I can't think of his name. Shut it off.

[Interruption]

WICKMAN: Yes, we can get that.

COCHRAN: All right. So I decided to fly my own plane down, and to get a diplomatic passport I had to go to Washington. And I said, "Oh, I don't need a diplomatic passport." And I've always sort of regretted that because it would have been a nice souvenir to have had. But I didn't, and I never think of those things at the time. So I flew my own plane down to Nicaragua, and was met at the airport by the ambassador [Thomas E. Whelan]. A man by the name of Mr. Allen was the protocol officer and Senator [Lyndon B.] Johnson sent a Texas delegation. And I want to tell you this was the vulgarest, commonest man I've ever seen, and I adore the Johnsons. And I don't think he realized what a sort of stupid man this was. So anyway, I was impressed with the





ambassador from the minute he came into the airport; his wife's name was Mims. And they'd never had any children. He was from the Dakotas, either North Dakota or South Dakota, I've forgotten which; he was in the wheat business, a very devout Catholic. And he would go through the streets of Nicaragua and the peasant people would yell, "Hi, Tom. Hello, Tom." This man, they just adored him. You see in Holy Week in Nicaragua, the only people that can ride are those--in a vehicle--are those that are infirm or a doctor or a fireman. Otherwise they walk everywhere they go. They really observe Holy Week. It's very deeply religious and Catholic. But I was so impressed with our ambassador and his wife. They were just marvelous. And I was impressed with the man who was my opposite number. I wasn't impressed with this man from Texas, whose name I can't remember. I always promptly forget names when I don't like people. But this Mr. Allen was so charming. He was the protocol officer; later he became ambassador in his own right and was a good friend of mine--he and his wife. And they've stayed here with us since then.

And he came in and he said, "I'd like to brief you on your role."

And I said, "I'm very glad."

He said, "While you're here, you'll supersede everybody else. You're the direct representative."

And I said, "Well what about the man who's opposite."

"No, you're the chief of the delegation and he's number two, and the ambassador really ranks third." I never knew that before. Did you know that?

And I said, "Well, look, this is ridiculous." I said, "From what I've seen of this ambassador, he is a good ambassador." And I said, "I would feel like an idiot for three or four days, or two days, to usurp his prerogatives and his position," and I said, "I'm not about to."

He said, "You'll have to go first in the delegation at the reception I mean when they receive the delegations."

I said, "Well I'm a woman, so that'd be simple." I said, "That won't look so funny." But, oh, I was so impressed. Well, apparently I impressed the people there sufficiently that they asked me to stay two or three days and do some records, which I did with an interpreter. I speak a little kitchen Spanish and I threw it in for good measure. And it



was just a very happy experience, just a wonderful experience. And I wrote a letter to the President and I said what I thought about this man because I think he was just great, really great. And Mr. Allen liked my behavior but I nearly disgraced us. The Americans were given absolutely more attention than any of the forty delegations that were there, and there were about forty there, in round figures. And we were just beautifully treated. I nearly wore the same dress that Mrs. Somoza wore to the inauguration. That would have been a tragedy, and I didn't. I never could wear it the whole time I was in Nicaragua. I was trying to choose between --at three o'clock in the afternoon, we were in white tie and a hot ball park with fifty thousand people.

WICKMAN: Gracious.

COCHRAN: Oh, fantastic! And then there was this big white tie dinner. And there was a congressman from Florida who was a charming--he was a Democrat but he was a charming man, really. And we were about fourteen at our table, and I insisted that I sit at the right of the ambassador, but I wasn't going to take the head of the table. I mean, I don't

think it's proper. I don't care what protocol says. And I was talking with the ambassador when I heard this very faint noise--uhhhhhhhhh. And I looked--and my hostess, who was a very fragile woman, she was not a gluttonous eater or anything like that--and I knew she was choking to death. I knocked my chair over; I tore a beautiful lace dress, it was a Dior; I got around the table and I grabbed her and I laid her forward and knocked her in the back, and a little piece of apple about as--oh, the end of your little finger--went out on the floor. And I sat her up in the chair. Well, she had lost her breath. Now I'll digress. A very good friend of mine, her sister died in a restaurant in Connecticut filled with people because she sucked something down the esophagus, down the wrong part of the throat. It's a spasm that causes this. So the ambassador was around and he said, "Oh, thank God." He said, "Thank God." He said, "Because this has happened two or three times." Well I'd have had her right down on that floor with my fingers in her throat. I'm not going to let anybody die in front of me--and started yelling for doctors. But it all happened so fast. I had to go out and get my dress sewed up and I said, "Well now, whoever saw



this," we had a very prominent table, "probably thinks I've gone berserk and beaten up my hostess."

WICKMAN: Did you check the newspapers the next day?

COCHRAN: No, I don't think anything was ever said. I don't know if anybody noticed it or not, but I was terribly embarrassed at my behavior--but I couldn't do other than what I did. But I enjoyed this one very much, I thought it was just fine.

WICKMAN: Were these, Nicaragua and in Korea, the only two times that General Eisenhower asked you--

COCHRAN: I did not go to Korea at General Eisenhower's request. I went to Japan at the request of the state department, but not General Eisenhower.

WICKMAN: Yes, I see.

COCHRAN: Now, he may have known about it, but I certainly was not sent by him. No, I'm very accurate about things like that. See if I hadn't just done the Mach One, and if the premier's daughter hadn't of been just an aviation, great



aviation enthusiast--she was nuts about it. And the whole world, I mean--maybe you do something like go to the moon first, or fly faster than sound before anybody else--it's newsworthy, you know?

WICKMAN: Sure.

COCHRAN: So. No. The only thing he ever asked me to do was to collect the merchandise and do the thing in Nicaragua.

I made a prediction that Mrs. [Oveta C.] Hobby, one, would disgrace his administration, which she did. Of course I don't like her--we had our battles in World War II. And--

WICKMAN: Over what, may I ask?

COCHRAN: Over the WAFs [Women Air Force], she wanted to put them in the WACs [Women Air Corp]. I said, "Over my dead body!" And also I knew that when he created this cabinet post, it was just going to raise sand with the economy of this country. And it's happening right now. And I'm not in favor of anything they do.

WICKMAN: I had a question I dug up this afternoon. When

President Johnson was out at Palm Desert to see General Eisenhower, were they ever here?

COCHRAN: Yes. On the 18th day of February--I remember this date--about two years ago. I'd let all the servants off, except the housekeeper was here and maybe one girl, I'm not sure. And I'd put grease in my hair and I'd gone to bed to do some reading, and the weather was--ooo, fair. And I got a call from one of General Eisenhower's secret service men and he said, "The President would like to come over and call."

And I said, "You don't mean General Eisenhower, do you?"

He said, "Yes, and General Eisenhower, too. But the President." And he said, "Is it convenient?"

I said, "Give me thirty minutes to dress. It's one o'clock in the afternoon, but I'm not dressed yet," because I was just working around, you do that at your own home sometimes, everyone does. Well, I said, "Could you call me back and tell me exactly when?"

He said, "Yes." So by the grace of God, I had about two hours to get up and wash my hair and clean up and get



properly dressed. And there are pictures in there on the wall when they arrived. I want to digress again. That was two Presidents we've had call here that never got in the papers. You know, when they were in office.

WICKMAN: Yes, that's the reason I asked the question.

COCHRAN: So General Eisenhower took his golf shoes off at the bottom of the steps, and I wanted to get a golf cart and he wouldn't let me. So they walked up. And they sat in the big room in there with Floyd and myself. They were here about two hours, around two hours. At the end of about an hour and fifteen minutes, President Johnson said, "I'd like to see this ranch."

I said, "Well, if you'll give me about ten minutes, I don't have anybody on duty--we didn't expect any guests today; we just had a houseful of guests--and I'll go down and get a car out of the garage and take you for a drive around the ranch."

General Eisenhower said, "Well my car is down there, use that." Well I didn't know there was any rule about this sort of thing, and I went down and asked the driver to get out and





let me have the car--the General said I could have it. And the driver saw us here all the time. The General was here almost every day and--

WICKMAN: He wouldn't do it.

COCHRAN: So, oh, no--he got right out of the car. And so a secret service man started to pile in and I said, "We don't need you. I'm just going to stay inside the property." And the President got in on the other side and I remember I got in first. And I think it's because I've known the Johnsons for so long--I've saved his career and he says, his life, in 1948--we've been very close friends since before he was a congressman. You should have seen his Christmas present that he and Lady Bird sent us this year.

WICKMAN: What was it?

COCHRAN: Gold-plated bookends. Yes.

WICKMAN: In what design?

COCHRAN: Presidential design, naturally. He's kind of worked that one over-time, a little bit.



[Interruption]

I mean I had no illusions about going on the highway or anything like that. So I quickly called the golf course and I said, "You clear everybody there is off that golf course." Well it was late, real late in the afternoon by that time-- it was about four o'clock and it was just beautiful sunset and it was just charming. Well you should have seen these secret service men. It looked like a hearse they were in, taking off behind us. And so I tooted around the place and he said, "I'd like to see General Eisenhower's office."

And I said, "Oh, no, we could never invade his privacy." I said, "I couldn't do it even for you." And I said, "Now if there's anybody, if his secretary's there and the secret service men, if they want to invite you in, that's up to them."

WICKMAN: Wasn't the General with you?

COCHRAN: No, no. The General stayed up here with Floyd.

WICKMAN: I see.



COCHRAN: I took the President--

WICKMAN: Oh, I see. Go on.

COCHRAN: --in General Eisenhower's car, tootling around the ranch.

WICKMAN: Yes, yes, I got it now.

COCHRAN: And so I got down to the golf course and they had missed one couple playing--Mr. and Mrs. Rummons--and this is a big sort ravine, it's a beautiful hole, number seven hole. And I tooted my horn at them real loud, because I was afraid they might hit a golf ball and it might go through the windshield. And I pulled up and I said, "I apologize, but", I said, "would you like to meet the President?" Well Mrs. Rummons was so shocked--

WICKMAN: Where is Mrs. Rummons from?

COCHRAN: Well they live here in Indio, they're neighbors, they're farmers, nice people. And I said, "By the way, I'd appreciate your not giving this out to the community news-



papers." People have always respected our privacy here, but we try to be good citizens.

And so Mr. Rummons came over and said, "But you are the President." Funny. Well she couldn't, just couldn't even stand up, she couldn't speak. And so we came back in the house and so General Eisenhower said, "Well, you've just had another first."

I said, "How is that?"

He said, "I saw out through the window that you went with the President alone in the car." He said, "My son couldn't drive me around the farm without a security man." Isn't that cute?



WICKMAN: That's very interesting. It is interesting.

COCHRAN: Well, you know, General Eisenhower agreed with every single thing that Johnson proposed that day--and why they permitted Floyd and myself to be privy to their conversation, except we certainly are not gabmouths--I'll never know. It all dealt with Korea. I mean with Vietnam and it dealt with foreign policy, no domestic policies discussed at all. And they were completely in agreement on every single subject they discussed.

WICKMAN: Was this the only time Mr. Johnson came out here while he was President?

COCHRAN: So far as I know, it was the only time.

WICKMAN: Yes.

COCHRAN: It's the only time he came to our ranch--

WICKMAN: Yes. That's what I meant.

COCHRAN: --while he was President yes.

But I'm probably going to do almost as much recording for President Johnson's library--if I'm still young enough-- as I'm doing for General Eisenhower's because we've been very close, very good friends. And I don't think I'd exaggerate to say I spent fifty hours with him the last two years he was in the office at his request, which is very interesting, and by mail--

WICKMAN: Let me ask you one question--we're probably going to have to go--but what was the beginning of your association with President Johnson, back when he was a congressman?



COCHRAN: Well I got, as a one-man committee, the appropriations through                      for the first laboratories on aviation medicine; it's a long story, doesn't belong here in this library, but it was a very useful thing for this country. And President Johnson was then the executive assistant to a Texas congressman, and I never could find him in. And he was important in this picture--I'd called on about forty congressmen to get this money in 1937 or '38--can't remember this year, again. And so through the years we were always friends. And you see I never registered as a Republican until I registered to work for Eisenhower. I was always registered as an Independent.



WICKMAN: Yes. We have that on the last tape.

COCHRAN: And apropos of that, I think we need about half of the people divided--well, let's say 70 percent of them--divided as Republicans and Democrats, and 30 or 35 percent of them thoughtful Independents--keep 'em honest. So then I flew Johnson in 1948 when he was "Landslide Johnson." It was a better kept secret than the Manhattan Project; I never told

it until he told it, in 1956, the book he wrote. Then I flew him from Dallas to Mayo's Clinic when he had his first kidney attack, and he was back in the district in seven days, and he was about to die. But they stayed here for about two hours, had a good time. And I just didn't have anybody on duty. I broke out some dates and cokes and stuff and so we got along. Shall we quit?

[Interruption]

WICKMAN: I've got a question about how many people usually stayed at the ranch associated with General Eisenhower's office.



COCHRAN: Well naturally the Civil Service men were here all day long.

WICKMAN: Secret Service.

COCHRAN: Yes. What'd I call them?

WICKMAN: Civil Service.

COCHRAN: Yes, they are civil service, too.

WICKMAN: Yes, they are too.

COCHRAN: Well, secret service. I know they used to do a lot of cooking in the kitchen in connection with his quarters. The ice box was always supplied every morning with everything under the sun, fruit and fresh flowers put on his desk, and all kinds of food put in the ice box, and soft drinks and beer and everything like that. And then the sergeant [John A. Moaney] stayed here for about, I don't remember, I think it was three years. I'm not sure.



WICKMAN: That would be starting in '61--


COCHRAN: Probably.

WICKMAN: --and then, yes, '61.

COCHRAN: Or maybe his records show it. Probably Rusty [Brown] could tell you exactly, because I really don't know exactly. But at first he didn't stay here and then he was never on tap when you wanted him. So we decided we had better just put him up, too. Well, of course his secretaries--from the very beginning--when this first got started, they couldn't



find a suitable or acceptable office for him downtown or anyplace near his home up in Palm Desert--or at El Dorado Country Club. So we said, "Well until a suitable place is found, we'd be very happy to put up his secretaries, set up an office for him." Well he liked it so much it just stayed that way the whole seven years. And we always made the secretaries just a part of the family; they shared in all of our meals and they shared in the social life we had here or anything that came up. They were treated as a part of the family, and I think really that's the only thing that kept his office staff reasonably stable all the time he was here, because there's not much here for a working person to do and there's not much of a place to live. I don't know, but it's estimated fifty thousand visitors that descend on this area every November, and they're here till April. And it's very difficult to find desirable places to live, and the better hotels are so expensive, nobody could afford it, you know, really. So I think it was a very useful, pleasant set-up for them. I don't know how many of his personal visitors we had stay here, but we had so many through the years that I couldn't possibly name it.



WICKMAN: I had a question on that, too, Jackie. When someone connected with General Eisenhower, let's say one of his visitors, dignitaries, whoever, might be coming to see him, how did you know who was coming?

COCHRAN: Well, because we were told ahead of time, as a rule.

WICKMAN: I see. Secretaries, probably.

COCHRAN: Yes. We knew everything. But that was also another amusing thing. We had to put on an extra switchboard girl for the first two years he was here, because the girl who handles my switchboard also helps with the bookkeeping. See, this is a working ranch. And we had to put in two extra lines because we could never get on our own phones. If you want to get some real idea as to the popularity of the man, it was the most fantastic thing I've ever seen in my life. That switchboard went from early in the morning until late at night and the phone was constantly ringing--"Is this General Eisenhower's office?"

And we'd say, "Well, no, it isn't his office, but he

has an office nearby here and I can give you the office number."

And they said, "We've tried--it was published in the telephone book--but they said, "Well we didn't get an answer." Well, of course, that meant that Rusty or, of course she wasn't here then; it was the first year with Ann Whitman and the second year with--or was Ann here two years?

WICKMAN: She was here for eighteen months.

COCHRAN: Yes, it was the second go-around. And then we had--

WICKMAN: And then Rusty came?

COCHRAN: No, no we had--Mrs. Eisenhower's social secretary in between. Ah--McCaffree. Mary Jane McCaffree.

WICKMAN: Oh, Mary Jane McCaffree. Sure. Yes.

COCHRAN: She was here then for one season. I don't think that the General realized the hours these girls put in. I just tactfully got the message to him that nobody could be



expected to sit down and type half the night. And then they got a girl in to help. And then the Secret Service men would open the mail. And it used to come out here in big pouches --special truck. You've never seen such mail in your life. And--

WICKMAN: Yes, I have because it all came to us eventually.

COCHRAN: Oh, it did?

WICKMAN: Oh, yes.

COCHRAN: Well then you have some idea of what went on here.

WICKMAN: Enormous quantities.

COCHRAN: And they said, "Well can you arrange an appointment?"

And I'd say, "No, I have nothing at all to do with his social activities--nothing whatsoever." And this would go on and on and on. So then one day--and I can't remember his name--it was a Sunday, and it was one of the few times that Rusty was ever off. She was here all the time, twenty-four hours a day. And I got a call from a very famous newspaper --honestly, I can't remember his name. He said, "Well, this



was just urgent." And he knew--

WICKMAN: We have that on the other tape.

COCHRAN: You do.

WICKMAN: Yes, that particular story. That one, yes.

COCHRAN: But it was amazing, and also Frisco [San Francisco] friends of ours, "Is there any way in the world can we meet the General?"

And we'd say, "No, we don't handle any of his social activities. We're very sorry."

WICKMAN: I think that really is important and a great part of it, his being here. The fact that this kind of protection was available, you know.

COCHRAN: We didn't make any difference who came here to visit us or how important or distinguished or how close they were as personal friends; we didn't let anyone invade his personal privacy. I think I told you about General Hunter Harris didn't I? General Harris' mother introduced General and Mrs. Eisenhower.



WICKMAN: Oh.

COCHRAN: Hunter Harris.

WICKMAN: Oh, yes. No, you didn't--

COCHRAN: Well, now, there's a four-star general, and he's a very brilliant man. In fact they spent the holidays with us this year and they're very close friends. And Hunter came to spend a few days with us just before his retirement. Any way, the--what is it--four or five four-star generals and they are pretty important people, you know? And he said, "Jackie, would you tell General Ike I want to see him tomorrow morning?"

And I said, "Certainly, not. If you want to see him, you go through the regular channels and ask for an appointment."

Well he said, "I won't do anything of the kind. I'll just go down."

And I said, "No, not at my house you won't. No one but no one is allowed to just walk down to that office and open the door and knock on the door. I'm very sorry." And



I said, "I'm not going to break that rule for you or for anyone else. You go through the regular channel." And I said, "The secretary will be up here for lunch, and you talk to her about it, or you telephone from the outside; but you're not going to go down because you're staying here at the ranch and knock on the door." I said, "Nothing doing. We don't let that happen here." And that's really the kind of protection we gave him the whole seven years he was here. Didn't matter who it was.


WICKMAN: I had another question here. Did members of the General's family; John, Barbara, grandchildren, did they ever stay here?

COCHRAN: No, they never stayed here as house guests. They stayed over with the General and his wife, Mamie. But I don't know whether they had a separate cottage for them or not. I never asked. I know that they were here many times for meals and I know one Christmas Eve--it was the dearest, most fun Christmas Eve you've ever seen. I think I've told you the story about General Yeagers, General now--



WICKMAN: Yes.

COCHRAN: Well, his family, they were all here. And I was racking my brain what I could give, I guess it's Susan-- she's the youngest, little girl. She was about seven then. Oh, for the Mexican children we have a huge stocking, one of these knit things, and we'd fill it with all kinds of goodies that they normally don't get here at the ranch. On the outside we'd tie silver dollars when we could get them, for the bigger children, and for the smaller ones, we'd have fifty cent pieces and quarters, and tie three or four dollars on the outside of the bag. So I thought this little girl might enjoy that. And we got a nice doll or something for her under the tree, but she was so excited over this money. She'd say, "Look grandpa, look grandpa, I have money."



He said, "Well, you better give it to me so I can put it away for you."

And she said, "No, you take everything and you're not going to take my money." Isn't this cute? And little things like that. I know that we had this big high stool out in the kitchen and he was going to make this quail hash, which was



one of the dishes we have for Christmas. I know the Goddens and their two children were here because they were children then. Actually, what he did mostly and was sit up on the stool and amuse himself with all the help and myself while we were doing the work, and he was telling us how to do it. There were some wonderful gay times here.

WICKMAN: You said something last night about how you kept John from going in the Air Force?

COCHRAN: No. No, no. During the convention when [Sen. Barry M.] Goldwater was--railroaded through--

WICKMAN: In '64.

COCHRAN: Yes. I was invited as a part of the General Eisenhower party to San Francisco. Well, I was working for Goldwater, and the family were working for Governor [William] Scranton, so it was a little bit awkward. But, I never said anything to the General about it. And one morning Mamie said, "I want you to talk to John about this airplane that he's flying."



And I said, "Look, I can't go and talk to somebody about an airplane they're flying unless they ask me about it, and I certainly will be very happy to furnish them with my opinion and," I said, "I think it should be pretty valid. I've had enough flying experience."

Well she said, "I'm worried to death about it. He flew this little tiny airplane out here by himself." A single-motor airplane, I don't remember whether it was a Cessna. I think it was a Cessna 180 or something in that class.

I said, "If he flew it out here, you should be fairly confident."

She said, "But I don't think he does have enough experience. And he's going to fly it all the way up to Seattle, Washington in the inland route and back into the east and so forth."

And I said, "Well, frankly, unless he's an extremely competent instrument pilot," I said, "he has no business going north of where we are now because the weather's very treacherous; you can have, up on the Oregon coast and in through there, you can have the weather roll in in five minutes." I said, "There's a fog bank that is almost



perpetual off that coast and if the wind shifts, you've had it." And I said, "It's probably out in that area, and certain parts of Alaska and the Alleghenies, that claim more inexperienced pilots than any other area in the United States with treacherous weather."

She says, "You've got to talk to him."

Well this was a little bit awkward. I said, "Well suppose he gets his maps out, you suggest it to him." So I went into their sitting room the next morning and I just flat out, I said, "Now how much flying time have you had?" He hadn't had a lot--couple of hundred hours or something. It's a danger point with pilots anyway. He had no instrument training whatsoever. He was also flying a single-motor airplane which means if it conks out in this really rough, rough, country--and if you take a look at your topography of that area up there, the inland part of it is really roughed up--

WICKMAN: Yes, I've been through--

COCHRAN: And very high also. And I said, "Well you know,

John, your mother is a little bit anxious about this thing and I think justifiably so." And I said, "Unless you have a really very competent instrument pilot with you, I don't think you have any business going in to that country." And I said, "You don't get too much ice at this time of year, but you can get ice." For instance we have icing over these mountains here today, and snow. I'm sure of it, and we'll see it tomorrow morning when the clouds clear up. And I went into the danger of it, and I talked about the inland country. And I said, "What kind of communication system do you have?" Well, it wasn't very adequate. I said, "You realize some of these stations are so far apart you're going to be out of communication?"

And he said, "No, I didn't."

I said, "Well, you will be." I said, "You'll go here on this particular leg if you take the inland route--" I've forgotten where it is, but it's way up around Klamath Falls [Oregon] and up in the area. I said, "You'll be out of communication; you'll be flying all--" I said, "Do you have any oxygen?" No he didn't have any oxygen. I said, "What



is the really top surface ceiling of the aircraft?" He didn't know it. How high it could go and fly it and then no oxygen to fly it with. Well, when I got all through, he didn't take the trip. He took the plane back to Washington, or back to Gettysburg. And shortly thereafter, he quit flying.

WICKMAN: For heaven's sake.

COCHRAN: Now whether my conversation had anything to do with it or not I have no way of knowing because I've never asked him.

WICKMAN: I've never heard the story, so I don't know. We'll find out; it's a good point--

COCHRAN: It's a very interesting--

WICKMAN: Yes, it's an interesting point.

COCHRAN: --type of story. I remember he asked me the question. He said, "How much time does one have to devote to being a good pilot?"



I said, "A minimum of thirty hours a month." And I said, "For instance, if you get your instrument rating, you must put in at least eight or ten hours a month under the hood, simulated or actual." And I said, "Flying is not a thing that you learn--"

WICKMAN: Learn once and forget.

COCHRAN: "--and then forget about, and go out and do it occasionally when you want to." I said, "It's something you have to work at all the time." So that was kind of interesting to have some influence on the family. I'm sure it influenced what he did if it didn't actually--

[Interruption]

COCHRAN: a great surprise. For instance, he wanted to do some serious talking with Mr. Brownell, who was his attorney general, and the Brownells stayed here for over two weeks. They met often, and the General and Mamie came over and dined often at that time because the Brownells were here. But this was also very funny. I just said to him, I said, "Now look. I'm not going to invite you to dinner because




you never turn me down, and I don't want you to think we're preying on your social time, or things you want to do, or people you want to be with. Our house is here, it's open, you can tell us any day by twelve o'clock if you want to come and dine with us, or you want to bring people over to dine with us." We had a marvelous staff at that time. We were very lucky until the last year and a half that he was here. I had two girls that died of cancer that were just mainstays here in the house. Peggy, the one that he was so fond of, the old Irish gal, who did things beautifully in the dining room and served beautifully, and the knives and forks were in the right place and everything was-- Well, for instance, my really fine silver; I've put it away for the last three years. I just don't even use it, and really fine china, because all they do is, they just break it all up and you can't get good help now. But I was fortunate and did have good help. So they'd just literally tell us when they wanted to come over and have dinner with us. And it was very odd and very interesting.

I know that he called me one morning and he said, "I have quite a few friends who are very anxious to see the

opening of the series ["Eisenhower on the Presidency"] with [Walter] Cronkite," these television things that he put on. He said that we'll have to eat exactly at this time and be finished exactly at this time, etc. He said, "Could I bring them over and use your big room to show this in?"

And I said, "Well you know we don't have the cable yet." But I said, "We get very good reception on the NBC, excellent." And I said, "I will have three sets put in and I'll have a man here to monitor them who knows how to handle TV." I said, "I have some friends coming to dinner that night, some of my neighbors, some of my farm friends." And I said, "I'd be delighted if you'd bring your friends to dine. How many will you have?" Well, we were a total of about forty-five for dinner here, and about twenty-odd were his friends. And I had about twenty. And I rang a few of my close neighbors that had never had an opportunity to meet him or to really sit in a room with him. I thought, well, this is a good occasion. And I know the Hopes were coming to dine that night before this thing came up. And Dolores [Hope] got pleurisy and didn't come, but Bob [Hope] came. So then I





got a call almost, oh, almost too late to change. When I had decided to have the dinner, we would have dessert and coffee after the thing was over, because we were running so tight on schedule unless we started at six o'clock or something. And I warned all of my people, I said, "Now look, you have to be here on time; you have to sit down exactly on time. And whether we're finished eating or not, we quit at a certain time and start looking." I used to have some excellent extra help I could get here, too. So then, we got this call, and he said, "Could you move everything up thirty minutes?"

I said, "Yes, we'll move everything up thirty minutes." And I'm inclined to have a couple or three different kinds of meat when I have a large crowd and a big buffet. I remember that night I had roast beef--and the General by the way always liked the bones out of the roast beef put back in the oven and cooked--that was his favorite part. And we had chicken, both on the spit and fried chicken, which we're going to have tonight by the way. Oh, I had one other kind--it was spareribs; I remember he liked them. It



was three different kind of things that we had that night, basic things. So I didn't ask any questions why he wanted it moved up--I just never asked questions. I never imposed on him in any way, shape, form or fashion. And I asked Rusty, I said, "Why has everything been changed and moved up."

And she said, "Oh, the President's [Kennedy] going to speak before General Eisenhower, and he goes off, and General Eisenhower comes on." Isn't that funny? You felt like the President had planned that, just purposely to try to knock the edge off of General Eisenhower's opening of the speech. None of us were too keen about what the President had to say that night. I don't remember exactly what it was, but something on domestic policy. And that was when Kennedy was in.

So, everything just went beautifully, and everything was just like clock-work. There wasn't a slip anyplace. And it was all over, and there was just complete silence in the room, just dead silence; it was the oddest sort of atmosphere. And Bob Hope said, "Well, General, you had fifteen million people in the palm of your hand for an hour, and not one single laugh in the whole lot of it." Nobody else on



earth could have gotten away with it but Bob Hope.

And after that, Bob told me the sweetest story. He said he was at Burning Tree playing golf and the General was playing that day, when he was President. And he just sort of announced at large, "Anybody going to Washington that would like to go in with me?"

And he said, "Tony, my son, was over there with me." He said, "Sure, naturally I had a car there, but I wasn't going to pass up an opportunity to ride with the President." He said, "He invited us in, took us on a personal tour of the White House." And you know when Bob Hope told this story, he almost couldn't keep the tears out of his eyes, he was so deeply touched and so impressed with the treatment that he had received from General Eisenhower. I couldn't possibly find either the words or enough adjectives to say how much this man was just literally worshipped. I remember he played golf with me out here one day on my course. Although it's a public course, we reserve the right to close it any two weeks that we want to. And we sell season tickets to some of these people. And you see we do this marvelous program for the high school girls and boys out here. They



get all their golf for free, and they get taught. The General admired that and wanted to play the course because he'd never played it. And so we just held everybody off the tee for one hour. And they knew something was going on, and all of a sudden a crowd instinctively gathered. Why? They knew something was going on. Well you've never seen such a gallery in your life. We were going to play eighteen holes, and there were just so many people, he couldn't take it any longer, and quit at the end of nine, because we only have a nine-hole course and we didn't repeat it. And the same thing at El Dorado; he almost could never play golf at El Dorado without an audience. Oh, by the way, you've heard of Pollard Simons.

WICKMAN: Pollard Simons?

COCHRAN: You know, he has the house over at El Dorado looks like a drive-in bank.

WICKMAN: Oh, yes.

COCHRAN: And I was playing with Pollard one day. And you



see, you've got four greens and four tees that come right up to the clubhouse there; you see these four greens and four tees--it's quite remarkable. And we were coming in on nine, and the General was coming in on eighteen or vice versa, and they are right side-by-side. So Pollard said, "Would you like to meet General Eisenhower?"

I said, "Well, I'd be delighted to meet him." And I couldn't believe that he didn't know that he was spending half his life over here, when he was in the Desert. So we started to walk over and General Eisenhower put his arms around me and kissed me and he said, "I'm sorry you weren't home when I arrived the other day."

Pollard said, "Why didn't you tell me you knew the General?"

I said, "You didn't say that. You asked me if I would like to meet him. I'd like to meet him--it's a matter of semantics. At any time." But all these people that were so proud that they could speak with him, you know. I only told this story to show you the pride with which people spoke. And another thing that happened over at El Dorado--you know



the brick building that was diagonal across the fairway eleven from their house?

WICKMAN: Yes.

COCHRAN: I don't think I want to call any names because the woman is a very nice woman and history will never know who this is, I don't think. Well these people had been over to our house two or three times, and I particularly liked his wife, and he was a beautiful golfer--he was only about a four handicap. For some reason, you didn't see too many people playing with him.

And so he called me one day and he said, "Jackie, could you get me a game with the General? I want to play golf with him so badly."

I said, "Not a prayer; I've nothing to do with his social life." I said, "I wouldn't dream of even taking my own personal friends and seeing that they got to meet him, unless they were coming to dine or something." I said, "I just couldn't do it." I remember when they came over to the house for dinner, neither one of them ever took a drink.



And I also suspected that he had done a little drinking in the past from the way he looked. And one night he went berserk. Came out of his house stark naked with two pistols, holsters like a kid, you know, playing cowboy? Shouting he was going to kill the S.O. so and so. That's why they had to put that hedge up in front of the house, the secret service. And he hated that hedge, because he liked to sit there and watch people going by playing their golf. And he was overcome, and he had to give up his house, and they were thrown out of El Dorado, of course, and they didn't prosecute because they didn't want any scandal or things. Did you ever hear the story?

WICKMAN: No, I don't think so.

COCHRAN: Can you imagine how tragic that'd of been, if he'd been outside, and the man had of killed him?

WICKMAN: Yes.

COCHRAN: So we had a lot of excitement. Apropos of that, we had this woman--I was down at the ranch--and Mrs. and



Buck would know more about it than I do-- The General had already left his house--

WICKMAN: Buck is--you mind identifying him for this--

COCHRAN: Buck Chandler. He's worked here for thirty years. He's deputized a deputy sheriff because of oh, people preying on our game because we have a preserve here for birds, and this kind of thing, very reliable person. So this woman shows up at the office and they were trying to hold her in the office. And she had a great big bag; they couldn't search her. That was the first time I found out that the secret service can't arrest anyone. Did you know that?

WICKMAN: Yes. That's right. We have his--

COCHRAN: The local authorities have to do it. Well anyway, if you want to get the story in detail, they couldn't head the General off; they knew the car would come down the driveway. And after that, we had him come through the front gate, and never come down the back gate, which everyone uses,





because that would pass the office, and if we had anybody that was undesirable, we had a chance to stop them. And they finally got the woman out of here just about two minutes before the General's car arrived. And they threatened to call the police if she didn't get off, and they finally got her off the property, and she was nutty as a fruitcake from what I heard. The reason I brought this up-- I don't remember how many secret service he had, but I think it was about seven, wasn't it?

WICKMAN: Yes.

COCHRAN: I think that was the number, because I used to invite them up for meals occasionally and, you know, for parties and things. And I heard so many people criticize the fact that the taxpayers had to furnish this kind of security for a man that was out of office. Well, we had concrete evidence that it was justified from his safety point-of-view to have this secret service. And that's the only reason I brought this story up.

WICKMAN: We get this angle all the time too, and did while



he was alive. It's not just the physical protection, but-- I don't think in the case of General Eisenhower--because people loved him so much--I don't think that he should have to have his entire privacy destroyed, once he's out of office, just because he was the President, you know. It would have been a terrible thing if he would have had none of this protection at all. Everybody would run over the place.

COCHRAN: Well, you know they even stole the sign off the gate at Gettysburg, so they told me.

WICKMAN: They did. No, this is true. Mrs. Eisenhower and I were talking about that in August. They just pried it right off, and there's no telling what else they would have done had it not been known that the secret service--

COCHRAN: Well, all I can say is, because we don't have this place fenced, and we don't keep guards on the gate, although we have private patrol, and we keep it lighted up at night like a Christmas tree, as you know. Well, I just wouldn't have been happy with him being here if he hadn't of



had these security people. Because I don't think I could have kept people out of here, really. And it was really known that these men were always sitting here. There were always, I think, three of them on duty at all times, or maybe it was two, I've forgotten which.

WICKMAN: Yes, there were three. Two with him, and one back at the El Dorado.

COCHRAN: Yes, that's right.

WICKMAN: Are we through with Walter Cronkite?

COCHRAN: Well, yes. This was, oh, I forgot to tell you. I set up a separate cottage and the great portion of those films were done right here at the ranch. Did you know that?

WICKMAN: No, I didn't know that.

COCHRAN: Yes. We had number two guest house set up for him, for weeks on end over there, all supplied with everything, and where it was completely isolated and quiet, and they did a lot of their talking over in that living room.

WICKMAN: I was wondering how they got it done.



COCHRAN: They did it--I don't know how much of it. Now again you'll have to find out from Rusty how much of the films were done here on the place.

WICKMAN: Well we have the schedules. You know everything came from Gettysburg and we have schedules and--

COCHRAN: I know a lot of it was done.

WICKMAN: I was going to ask you about Walter Cronkite because he and the General were very close, and the General enjoyed Walter very much. Did he ever come out besides this time? Was he ever out here?

COCHRAN: No. At the time that this was going on, I don't think I was at the ranch. I think I was either away on one of my long trips. But I know I found out later that this cottage had been set up for them to do a lot of work in, together here. Now whether they did just one of the series, or a part of one of them, or worked on all of it a little bit, I don't know. Except, I know he was here working.



WICKMAN: After this night when the--

COCHRAN: You have talked to Rusty too about some of these things, haven't you?

WICKMAN: Well, we're saving Rusty a little bit, on a lot of this. I'm getting a whole kind of schedule worked up for her and she's so easily available. You know, the big problem with this thing is time, getting out to be able to interview people, and interviewing the right people for what we need, and because Rusty is so handy why she's--


COCHRAN: Well, I'd be very pleased if you could have her fill in some of these dates that I just can't remember. You've got the schedule anyway and the same thing about the Cronkite thing. I guess it was foolish that we didn't keep some kind of a diary around here, but we didn't really.

WICKMAN: I was wondering about the night that the Cronkite series was shown here. After it was all over, and after Bob Hope made his comment, whatnot, did the General reminisce? Did this group hang on for hours after this thing?



COCHRAN: I don't think they went home before one o'clock in the morning. That was another thing. Whenever the General came here to dine, we would always have dinner, not only exactly on time, right on the dot, but we wound everything up on schedule, but he never left here before midnight. Whether he found the people we had here or his own friends that we'd invite to be around him, too, I don't know, but he'd never go home on time. He enjoyed it, and that was very pleasing to us, of course, extremely pleasing to us.

I'll tell you a story. There was a congressman out here, and he and his wife gave a dinner, buffet dinner, in honor of General and Mrs. Eisenhower. And I don't think that they had ever been close in any way, although he took credit-- [Robert R.] Bob Barry's his name--for having worked closely in the early campaign. But I didn't run into him very often. I was pretty active in that first campaign. See the second time he ran, I was running for congress here myself. So anyway, we were supposed to be over there at 7:00 o'clock. Well, I arrived five minutes of seven, because--oh, that was another thing. When I invited people here with the Eisenhowers, I made sure that the guests were here ahead of them.



And he said to me one day, he said, "You're the only one of my friends who treats me as though I'm still the President."

I said, "You are, so far as I'm concerned." Once a President, always a President.


So I always had people here ahead of him. I arranged it that way and I said, "Please be on time, the Eisenhowers are going to be here." I didn't want people coming in after they arrived. But we went over to the Barry's; so people started arriving late. It got to be 8:30; it got to be 9:00; it got to be 9:30 and he was hungry and he wanted his dinner. He was standing up; they didn't see that he had a comfortable chair; they weren't looking after him and Mamie the way they should have. Everybody was pulling at him, and I just got distressed. And I knew the Barrys well enough that I went over and said, "You know, I think you're doing a terrible thing to your honored guest here tonight. I think he wants his dinner and he's accustomed to eating at a certain time, and we all know he's not in the best of health, and I'd like to recommend you get the show on the road." Because I just got so distressed over it and I don't



know whether they liked me for it or not. I thought 9:30 was quite long enough to wait. Do you agree?

WICKMAN: Oh, yes. Yes.

COCHRAN: But these were the kinds of things that people did that I think were damaging to his health, and were not carefully enough done. But one thing, the last Christmas Eve dinner he had here, I had strict orders that he wasn't to have any--for instance, we took tomatoes and took all the seed out and stewed those for him; and the dressing for the turkey was made without any seasoning, which, very little, I mean, none of the normal seasonings. And everything was cooked individually for him and in beautiful little dishes--you know these little dishes you can cook in that you buy in France that are so colorful and pretty--everything was done. And lo and behold, it was all beautifully presented, he didn't touch any of it. He went over to the table and ate everything that we ate, including pecan pie and mincemeat pie--we had three kinds of pie. And Mamie didn't see it because she was over at Floyd's table--you know how we have these





separate tables in here--and I didn't have the heart to tell on him. And I don't care; he enjoyed it and I don't think that that's important. I'm sure it didn't shorten his life; he enjoyed it too much. You see, I told you when I have a party I always have two kinds of meat: If I have turkey, I'll have roast beef along with it. That night he ate both. I never have seen him eat so much or enjoy it so much. And he liked the thigh of the turkey.

WICKMAN: That would have been the Christmas of '67.

COCHRAN: That was the last Christmas Eve he ever spent with us. And then, we didn't invite them. That was traditional from the very beginning. See, they'd come out just before Christmas. So we always had them, and the family, or anybody who was out here, or any friends they had--this Christmas Eve party. And it will always be one of the great memories of this household. I know one Christmas Eve we had General [Laurence S.] Kuter, whom I consider one of the most brilliant men we've ever had in the Air Force. And Kuter had had a serious back operation and was running NORAD



[North American Air Defense] from a reclining type of portable wheelchair, if you want to call it that, because he couldn't sit up. He could stand up, but he couldn't sit down. And I suggested that he come out here and get on a regime of never sitting down, but staying on his back and spending about three hours in this hot pool. And I know that couch there at the end of the hall looks short because the room is so big; it's over seven feet long. So he would lie there in the evenings and then he would lie on the one in the dining room for his dinner. So this was Christmas Eve and he was getting along so beautifully. And he really was beginning to get well, without the pain, without the irritation of the root of the spine where he'd had all this surgery. And he said, "Well, I'll just have to stand up or sit up tonight."

I said, "No, you're here to get well and I'm sure General and Mrs. Eisenhower will understand it. You just go right on your orthopedic couch over there at the end of the room and occupy your place." I said, "And I'll explain it."

Mamie Eisenhower sat down with the General, and I've never seen her enjoy anybody as much as she did. And he said, "I never thought I'd lie down in the presence of an



ex-President." It's true. But he did sit up at the table that night, but all during cocktails, after dinner, he stayed on his back and on the couch. But we've had a lot of fun memories here with people.

WICKMAN: Yes, he was always great to watch with people, any kind of people.

COCHRAN: Oh, he was marvelous with them.

WICKMAN: Terrific. \*

COCHRAN: Just wonderful. I know you have all of this. In fact I think it was in the Cronkite series, because I saw most of them, where they miss their weather. You know, because they had to have darkness and good weather and what that man must have gone through, because it's pretty hard to keep those kinds of secrets. And it was just amazing.

WICKMAN: I have one question--it's one of those things that again, there's a difference between what the world knows from newspapers and whatnot, and what you and Floyd know from your association with the General. Out here at Palm Desert, who



were the people who were the closest to the General? In other words, this is the kind of thing that gets distorted too over the years so--

COCHRAN: Well, I know that they saw a lot of the Batsons. So many people sort of, I think, almost forced themselves on these people. I don't know why I had this feeling. Now I have no knowledge, and I don't have any facts to make a positive statement. Now Rusty, again, could probably tell you this one better than I can. But I'd like for her to corroborate this particular statement of mine. I have a feeling that a great many people, they just called up or they just came over; they just dropped in almost unannounced and this kind of thing; I had this feeling. Because one day, I was going to play golf with a friend of mine, and when I got to the club, they said, "Mrs. Eisenhower said, 'Would you stop by before you leave?'" And it was the only time I ever did this. I was playing with Tony Lavere, who's had more firsts in aviation than any man in our country, that means flying an airplane before anybody else does. So I went to the window, you know how the kitchen was out facing



the hole, and I said to Moaney, I said, "Would you tell Mrs. Eisenhower I'll be through playing golf about such and such a time and I'll come over." I don't even remember what it was she wanted to see me about.

He says, "Well maybe you could see her now." So he went and I went into her bedroom and she was resting. I took my shoes off, of course.

And I said, "You know I have the greatest friend outside and he's such a wonderful man." And I said, "Do you think he could come in and sit down on the porch until we get through with..."

She says, "Bring him in." So Tony and I sat in her bedroom an hour and a half, and he'll never forget it as long as he--she looked so pretty in bed that day. Well, while I was there--I'm not going to call a name--but somebody unannounced came to call. Now I can't imagine anybody having enough guts to go into the home of anyone, certainly not an ex-President, sort of unannounced, you know what I mean? So I don't know. I know that the people that were around them a lot were the Batsons, the Gosdens, and the [George] Allens. And then somebody that the General was



so devoted to, and he always stayed with us--you asked how many people stayed--and that was General [Alfred] Gruenther. And I think there was a true love and devotion between these two men. Now that was one that I'm sure of. Because when Al came out here, the pool was so handy for him and he always stayed with us but spent most of his days over with the Eisenhowers, which I think is kind of interesting.

WICKMAN: Yes, which reminds me--I'm supposed to say hello to you for him too, because I just talked to him on the phone last week, before I took off.

COCHRAN: Well, I just adore them; I mean I think they're just great people.

WICKMAN: Yes, he really is.

COCHRAN: And he loved playing bridge with him and I don't think he ever beat him. You see, that was another thing: I think he liked people that could play bridge with him who played well. He enjoyed that. Golf and bridge I think are the two real recreations that he had.




WICKMAN: And Bob Hope, also?

COCHRAN: No.

WICKMAN: He was not out here?

COCHRAN: I don't think that Bob was ever around him a great deal. I don't think so at all. Because I know that Bob was so thrilled because, as I said, when he asked us if he could have the people over to use the big room for viewing--you know this room can seat 250 people, and I just thought I'd leave some idea as to how big the room is--enormous room. And I said, "Why don't I give them dinner and entertain them for you. I'd be so pleased to." Well, now if my life depended on it, I know he brought about twenty people over here. I think the Batsons were along, but I can't even guarantee that. I don't know who they were. Now maybe Rusty would have a list of them, and I'd love to have it if she does for my own record. But we had at least twenty people. You know, another thing I never did understand, I don't think their secretaries were ever included in any of their social activities, which surprised me. Don't you think that's kind of odd?



WICKMAN: Yes, well I don't know. It is true, there usually was a line between the, you know, the working staff and the Eisenhowers. I don't mean that to sound the way it did sound. You know, they put in their eight hours, their twelve hours, their fourteen hours, and they had to have a change of pace, too. And I think that the General frequently just didn't think of it. He didn't think to include them. They'd been working closely all day.

COCHRAN: Well I remember one of the first parties that we had them to when they first came over when Ann Whitman was with them. And you know, Ann told me that she was the only human being who ever took dictation from the General the whole eight years he was in the White House. Isn't that interesting?

WICKMAN: Yes.

COCHRAN: She said she had a call once at three o'clock in the morning to dictate something over the phone. Since she'd already worked till ten o'clock, and she was just dead, and he was dictating this over the phone and she said, "I





wasn't sure I even got it right." But I don't think she and Mrs. Eisenhower got along very well together.

WICKMAN: I don't think that Mrs. Eisenhower got on well with any of his secretaries, really.

COCHRAN: Oh yes, she did with Rusty.

WICKMAN: And again I don't mean the way that sounds either, but from the standpoint of the organization--I don't mean that they didn't personally get on--it's not that. It's just a question of the scheduling, the organizing of the life, and--

COCHRAN: Well, Ann was quite openly incensed over a lot of things here, furious. And you know they'd go over there to take dictation, and he would come over here. And the hours were long and there was a lot of dissension between Ann and Mrs. Eisenhower. And I think this should go in the record. Then Mary Jane, who had been Mrs. Eisenhower's social secretary, came out here, and I don't think she was a good secretary for the General. I think there was a lot of problem there.



WICKMAN: Yes, I think that's right.

COCHRAN: And then, of course, Rusty had been way down the totem pole in the secretarial staff during his Presidency. And my lord, she worked for this man. I've never seen such a slave in my life. And I think Mrs. Eisenhower liked her very much and was very nice. I remember I included Ann, and subsequently, the other secretaries. I never had the sergeant up on any social things, but sometimes when just the family was here, I'd invite him in for a meal just to give him a home-cooked meal--didn't do us any harm. But I think they got along better; I think it worked out better. And I think they should have been very grateful to Mary Jane. Now this little military gal that came--

WICKMAN: Nancy Jensen.

COCHRAN: Yes. I think she was a hopeless case.

WICKMAN: Why so Jackie?

COCHRAN: Well, because, first place her typing was not as good as it should have been. I don't think she had the



ability to handle the work for an ex-President, let's put it that way. I think she was a nice enough girl, and brother they didn't keep her here on weekends! And she didn't put in those fifteen hours. And I know they had to get in one or two other people, on daytime work. But I don't think it worked out too well. I think it was a great loss for the General when Rusty had to leave. And I was sorry that that happened. Truly sorry.

[Interruption]

MISS VI STRAUSS: --washed my hair, and she stayed until about nine o'clock and then after she left, I turned on the TV and then I heard that the General was taken to the hospital at March Field. So I hurried down to her to tell her, because I didn't know that she had known, and she had just at that minute heard of it too. That's how quiet it was.

WICKMAN: Let me ask this question, when was the last time you saw General Eisenhower?



COCHRAN: The last time I saw General Eisenhower was about a week before he died. And I was in Washington and I called Mamie and I said, "I'd like to come out and pay my respects to you." And I was permitted, you know, you were there, during the time he was ill.

WICKMAN: At the hospital, yes.

COCHRAN: Well you know that it was a Presidential suite that they had had before, because I went and called on her once when she had an operation--you know she had this little room over at the side--and went in the living room. And somebody had brought him a helmet. You know anything about the helmet? I don't remember what the helmet was for although he was that ill. And you know they just showered him with all kinds of gifts.



WICKMAN: Oh, yes, we've got them all.

COCHRAN: And he was under very intensive care and she said, "I don't think he'd want anybody to see him."

And I didn't really want to see him, but when the nurse opened the door, she said, "I think you should just peek in,

just to have a look." And I didn't speak to him or anything, but when I physically saw him for just an instant, maybe a minute. And--

WICKMAN: Well, let's go back, when was the last time you visited with him? Was that--

COCHRAN: Well, here at the ranch.

WICKMAN: --was here at the ranch, yes.

COCHRAN: And it was just that simple. I'm trying to think --they took him from here, ill, you know. And he went right into the hospital, and he never got out.

WICKMAN: Yes. Right. That was in May.

COCHRAN: I think one of the most touching things that I've ever seen--and I'm not a crying kind of female--but when they came to the window, and he was in his dressing gown, and they held a ceremony outside of his window at the hospital. What was that on the occasion of, his birthday or their wedding anniversary?



WICKMAN: Ah, let's see. We have the whole story on recordings and everything else. I think it was his birthday. It was either that or it was the anniversary of, a military anniversary.

COCHRAN: Well, anyway, it was some kind of a ceremony, and he looked so badly, and I just couldn't keep the tears back because we were awfully fond of him.

WICKMAN: You weren't here when he had his heart attack then? Were you in town or--

COCHRAN: I think I came in a few days later. You know, she went right up to March Field and stayed right there. How long was he in March, about two or three weeks?

WICKMAN: Yes. About three weeks, I think.

COCHRAN: You know they prepared a special suite up there for him. And kept it in readiness. Did you know that?

WICKMAN: No.

COCHRAN: From the time they moved out here, I



was told; I never saw it. And that's all right with me. I think these things should be done for an ex-President. There were a lot of little things that were so touching and sweet.

WICKMAN: Can you remember after that, the Air Force wives were out here in April or May of '68.

COCHRAN: It was late April.

WICKMAN: Late April.

COCHRAN: About the 20th, as I recall.

WICKMAN: Were there any events or anything that he was involved in, after that, before he went to the hospital? Anything unusual in there that you can recall?

COCHRAN: All I know is, and I don't recall whether anything happened after the Air Force wives visited here, but all of a sudden, you'd look out and here the buses would be rolling in. I've seen buses lined up from clear past this other gate, down to the other gate--I never specifically counted



them. But eight and ten buses sometimes would come in filled with either school children, or special groups and they never set up chairs or anything for them. They always just stood on this enormous lawn, you know with holes. Well, I've had over a thousand people down on that lawn and they all moved around comfortably, at political rallies and this kind of thing. I had a corny thing going on called the Moonlight Champagne Dinner, and we'd raise enough money to buy all the food and we fed them very well. We gave them fried chicken and corn and--have it late when we knew the weather would be warm, and put a lot of bunting up and make it look very colorful. And I used to raise about oh, seven or eight thousand dollars down there every year. I did this for years and years and years and years. I was the mainstay of the finances for the county central committee. So as I said, I've had a thousand people down there on the lawn, and I could never do it until after he left. I'd always wait and wait and wait; he got to where he left later and later and later, you remember? He stayed here until way late in May one year. But my goodness, the groups of people who used to





come in here. Now that had to be very tiring. And I was terribly sorry to have missed one group--that's Up With People, or--

WICKMAN: Oh, yes.

COCHRAN: Group that came out and sang and serenaded him with songs. Did you see the pictures of that?

WICKMAN: Yes.

COCHRAN: I think that he was very happy with that one, and enjoyed it thoroughly. I think he kind of loved people rather than a person.

WICKMAN: Especially young people.

COCHRAN: Yes. I think he did. I think so. But I don't recall anything specifically happening after the--

WICKMAN: I know when I was out here late in March that year, there was a lot of activity going on over in the office and around with the impending political campaign.

COCHRAN: Oh, I know it.



WICKMAN: That might have been part of the reason--his increase in activities.

COCHRAN: Well, I think he was too active. And I think he had far too many demands on his energy and time. And I think he should have been left in a more tranquil fashion. But maybe he liked it, I don't know.

WICKMAN: Oh, yes, I'm sure he did. I know he did, in fact. No question about that. You said last night that Mr. Johnson was here to visit General Eisenhower.

COCHRAN: They played golf together.

WICKMAN: Yes. So you saw them together, let's say over a span of hours, and maybe this happened more than once--

COCHRAN: No, just the one time.

WICKMAN: Just the one time.

COCHRAN: Just the one time. And they'd played golf, and the hole that General Eisenhower had had a hole-in-one on, over here, this little par three course? And that day he



almost had another hole-in-one--he was playing with President Johnson, came within just a foot or two. And I told the General, I said, "If you'd have had another one, I'd have sworn you had a magnetic ball and it jumped into the hole."

WICKMAN: Well, my question was really, in observing them, and talking with them and whatnot--how would you characterize the relationship between Mr. Johnson and the General?

COCHRAN: Well the General was very attentive when the President was talking to him. They talked only on foreign policy; they did not discuss any domestic issues whatsoever. And when we went down to see the ranch--I told you about using the General's car--President Eisenhower said to Floyd, Mr. Odium, my husband, said, "He's a compulsive talker." Isn't that interesting?

WICKMAN: Yes.

COCHRAN: Now what he meant by that I don't know. But they discussed some pretty deep subjects, and there was no question, there was complete agreement between the two men, on



the subjects they were discussing. Because I know he said more than once during the conversation, "Well, I really wouldn't have any recommendations to offer to you on this subject, because I agree with your approach on it." Or you know, "I think you're doing the right thing." Isn't that interesting?

WICKMAN: Was President Kennedy around here?

COCHRAN: He was out here to visit the General, but not at the ranch.

WICKMAN: But not here, he was over at Palm Desert.

COCHRAN: He was keeping him in his home over there.



WICKMAN: We have pictures and all the rest of it.

COCHRAN: No, Kennedy was not here at the ranch, not to my knowledge. He may have come over here to the office, you never can tell because--

WICKMAN: I don't think so.

COCHRAN: Well, I don't know. Rusty or whoever was secretary, could tell you that.

WICKMAN: Well we have pictures--

COCHRAN: You see we never made any effort whatsoever, to check up on who came here. And the only time I was conscious of people coming here was when they needed another cottage; they had a large group or we fixed up number four or number two cottage like we did for Cronkite. That was when he had a big press conference over here. All of his big press meetings were here. Now, I don't know how many he had, but he must have had a dozen, and I'm just guessing at that, you'd have to get it out of the record--I know three or four. And I remember asking the press if they'd be kind enough to give a Palm Desert headline because it just got a lot of curiosity seekers out here at the ranch and people driving through and focused--see we tried not to focus attention on the fact that he was here every day, at an office, just like a person going to work every day. Because it was just too hard to keep people, driving through the property, under control and we weren't looking for any prestige out of it or anything like that. When he first was here, we said, "Oh, no just his secretary is here. Oh, no,



the General doesn't come here." Which was not even true. We did that to discourage curiosity seekers.

WICKMAN: This is a very interesting question, too, because I've been here several times and the ranch is relatively open. How did you keep them out?

COCHRAN: Well as you notice when you drive in, it says this place is under patrol.

WICKMAN: Yes. Is that enough?

COCHRAN: We used to patrol a lot heavier when he was here, and the patrol officers know the ranch cars. We just chased people out. We still got a lot of people driving through, pretending they are lost, because they want to go through the property. And I stopped a car just a few days ago. I said, "Is there anything I can do for you?"

And they said, "We know that General Eisenhower had his office here. Would you show us which one?"

I said, "I want to be courteous to you." I said, "This is my home and it's private property and we have a sign 'No Trespassing'." So you see people are still curious. Oh, by



the way, since you're staying in the Eisenhower office, we took a long look at whether we'd ever let anybody use those quarters again and then we thought, well, that's silly; people will just get the greatest thrill of their lives staying in there. And a man who admired and loved General Eisenhower very much, he's also dead now, Mr. [Harold H.] Velde; he sent me this plaque which I think was very touching, this bronze plaque saying that General Eisenhower worked here. You know that mallet over there on the desk and those little soldiers? That was his, but he left it there and I'm not going to give them to anybody. Would you?

WICKMAN: No.

COCHRAN: I think I can legally keep those and not bring them to anyone's attention.

[Interruption]

WICKMAN: What did the office staff do after hours around here?

STRAUSS: Well, Rusty had a true friend come on the secret service and she went off with him.



WICKMAN: They play golf and?

STRAUSS: No, they didn't play golf. She'd go over to their house. There was one here had his wife here and they had a baby. I remember this baby coming over here. And she did that. And otherwise, well, she came up here with us, you know--

WICKMAN: That and work.

COCHRAN: She'd play a game like Scrabble once in a while.

STRAUSS: But that was about all.

WICKMAN: We've mentioned this several times. People don't realize how isolated it is out here.

STRAUSS: She'd come up here and have her dinner, and many times go right back there and work a while.

COCHRAN: Or go right to bed because she worked so hard.

STRAUSS: She had an awful lot of work to do all the time.

COCHRAN: You see he came over here every morning--





STRAUSS: Yes.

COCHRAN: Or she went over there around seven o'clock. I don't know if you knew that or not.

WICKMAN: No, I don't think we worked out exactly the schedule of the day.

COCHRAN: Well I think it was almost every morning at 7:00 or before.

WICKMAN: This was something else that I recall asking someone last time I was here. As far as I can tell, the office in Gettysburg never kept any kind of detailed personnel records, that is administrative records, but they apparently didn't take any time off once they came out here.

STRAUSS: No, very little. No.

WICKMAN: I can't find any record of her taking, you know, a vacation.

COCHRAN: Well I'll tell you somebody who did take a lot of time off, and that was Mary Jane McCaffrey. And she went



down to Las Vegas three or four days with . And she wasn't nearly as attentive--and so was the military girl-- she was off almost every weekend.

WICKMAN: But Rusty seems not--

STRAUSS: But Rusty did very little, no, she was here most of the time. I think she had some friends in Los Angeles she--

COCHRAN: Well, her Brother.

STRAUSS: Her brother. She went up there a couple of times, but not very often. Usually, she was around here, stayed around here.

WICKMAN: Well, that's just one side of the whole operation.

COCHRAN: Well she was by far the most attentive, except the first gal--

WICKMAN: Ann Whitman.

COCHRAN: Ann Whitman. Ann didn't even take time to eat. I never saw anybody put in the hours that she did in my life.



WICKMAN: It's interesting when I interviewed--well, I didn't interview her on tape--we talked. We talked for about two hours I think this past fall up in Governor [Nelson A.] Rockefeller's office, and Ann Whitman corroborated everything you've said about her first two seasons out here. You know, the last time you and I talked you made the statement that you thought she was very unhappy out here, that she worked long and hard and she just was happy to get out of the--

COCHRAN: She just tore herself apart. She worked night after night.

WICKMAN: This is what she said.

COCHRAN: And we'd send a tray of food down to her, and sometimes it would go untouched.

STRAUSS: Yes, she rarely came up, you know.

WICKMAN: Yes, she said, "I was never more unhappy, I think, in my whole life." Because there was just so much to be done and it was such a complete change.

COCHRAN: Well, don't forget, she had her own staff under her in the White House.



WICKMAN: Yes. That's right. One of the differences, all of a sudden, you're it.

STRAUSS: I don't think she had any help, did she? I mean I don't--

COCHRAN: No.

STRAUSS: Rusty at times had some extra help, but she never had any to my knowledge.

COCHRAN: You know Freeman Gosden made an interesting remark over here one day. He said, "I wonder if General Eisenhower ever realized the number of people that just surrounded him with love and care and attention, where he never had any problems whatsoever, of any description." Kind of interesting to think about.

WICKMAN: Yes. Well, it's been commented on many times. The people from the various staffs have always commented on it, what organization it did take, especially after the Presidency.



[Interruption]

WICKMAN: Well, let's get that in here somewhere.

COCHRAN: Well, picking up all the little odds and ends--

WICKMAN: In 1961, probably?

COCHRAN: Well I don't remember what year it was.

WICKMAN: Or was it '62? It was early though.

COCHRAN: When this sergeant first came out here, you see, he opened the mail and he did quite a lot of things. It was not satisfactory when he was living downtown; so the General said, "Do you think you'd have a spare room for the sergeant?"

And I said, "Oh, sure." Now we didn't fix his meals; we just gave him the room and kept it clean for him. But he did most of his cooking over in the kitchen anyway; he always had it in a mess. One night we got a call from the chief of police, who was a very close friend of ours, and a wonderful man and he said, "Sergeant's been a little bit on the town tonight. We had to pick him up and put him in the



pokey." So we got either Buck or somebody and sent them down and hauled him out and brought him out to the ranch and I read him the riot act the next day and I said, "You can't do this sort of thing; it could get in the papers and could be very embarrassing."

And he said, "Well, I just drank a few bottles of beer too much and I'll swear it'll never happen again." And we kept the whole thing out of the papers. There was no problem with the police or anything and no arrest record or --they just stuck him in the pokey until they could call us, just what it amounted to.

WICKMAN: So they knew who he was. This was--

COCHRAN: Oh, sure. Or he probably told them who he was; I don't know.

WICKMAN: Yes, that may have been.

COCHRAN: I couldn't answer that.

WICKMAN: That may well have been.

COCHRAN: Yes.



WICKMAN: I think I wanted to check back on one other point too that may be in the transcription. I went through this transcription before I came out to start all this. But General Eisenhower was not out at the ranch before '61. Is that right? Did he come here to stay or--

COCHRAN: Oh, sure. When he was President.

WICKMAN: Yes, when he was President.

COCHRAN: He came over and they were staying over to cottage at

WICKMAN: That would have been the very first time he came out.

COCHRAN: I think it was.

WICKMAN: Yes.

COCHRAN: And Floyd was in the hospital in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the Lovelace Clinic having a gall bladder operation. And word came that General Eisenhower was going to come and call. And they sent out the security people and checked the



place over. And it was a beautiful day and Floyd came home from the hospital three or four days early and Randy Lovelace, Dr. Lovelace, came with him.

STRAUSS: Harry was too.

COCHRAN: What?

STRAUSS: Harry was here.

COCHRAN: Yes and little Jackie, and all the children. And I flew them here. So when the General arrived with all this secret service and everything, they came up the steps. And he said he wanted to sit in the sun. So I said, "Well you put your back to the window," because I figured it wassafer. I was just worried about people being down in the grove or --because you never know. Well he stayed here, what, an hour and a half? Two hours?

STRAUSS: Yes. Sat out here in the lawn.

COCHRAN: Yes. We had just a good time. So I had all the help standing on the steps down there--we kept about eight or ten of the help down--and he shook hands with every one





of them when he went out. So I said, "Now listen, this is a completely private visit of the President and it's not supposed to get in the papers." And it was never in the press. Same thing when Johnson came here with the General. Never been in the press. The press just simply lost them for two hours. So it is possible not to have publicity surrounding every single thing that happens to him.

WICKMAN: Yes.

STRAUSS: Of course the secret service men were down there; we couldn't go back and forth, couldn't cross the road down there. And then towards the end, we all came up and shook hands with him. He was so nice, so gracious.

COCHRAN: Oh, yes, he was.

STRAUSS: Turn that off a minute. I'll tell you something.

[Interruption]

COCHRAN: He must have called me twenty-five times on the phone, personally.



STRAUSS: What a shock!

COCHRAN: He needed a sounding block; he needed a friend, the last two years, and I'm his friend.

WICKMAN: Now go ahead--tell it again. You told it once, now tell it again.

STRAUSS: Oh, I can't tell it.

COCHRAN: Oh, come on.

WICKMAN: Sure you can. Sure you can, Vi. Well, we'll just start with the fact that the General was coming out; this was while he was President?

STRAUSS: I think it was while he was President. And he came out unexpectedly because everything was closed, yet. La Quinta hotel was closed and we were closed so it must have been like in October, early October or some time like that. I think it was; I'm not too sure, though. And as I say, I was in Los Angeles shopping for the ranch when Mr. Oglum found me in Bullock's basement or someplace, and said that



the President was coming out here and was there anything that I could do for them, you know--if they needed more kitchen facilities or anything like that. So Mr. Allen? came with me. When they got out here I called Mr. Allen? and he said, "No you can't, there's nothing you can do, we're all set up." And I know at La Quinta Hotel they got in extra help to open up some rooms and all this sort of thing. And he might have gone then, later, over to Mr. Allen's house, and I'm not sure, but he had his meals over there or what--

COCHRAN: Well, I came out here and went over and had dinner with him at George's house, during the time he was here then.

STRAUSS: Yes. Well I know the La Quinta Hotel had something to do with it. So this was a Sunday morning and, as I say, I'm sitting there reading the newspaper with my hair up in curlers and no make-up on or anything. Suddenly, I hear some voices down below and they're saying, "Yoo hoo, Miss Strauss, yoo hoo." And I looked out the window and there was the President of the United States with Mr. Allen. I'm taken so by surprise I don't know what to do. But I rush and take my hair down and put on some lipstick and put on a dress and I



practically fall down the steps, and they're gone.

WICKMAN: And you're all alone.

STRAUSS: I'm there by myself and I just felt so terrible, you know, I'd missed them. And I was just standing there like this and finally--they had taken a tour of the ranch and they were on their way back. Then, when they saw me, they stopped. And we had a nice little conversation.

WICKMAN: I had a question I think I asked last time. Maybe I was talking to you about it, Vi, the last time I was here. Does anybody really know--why did the General settle in at El Dorado? The others were all open, weren't they? They were in existence. I mean--La Quinta and Thunderbird.

COCHRAN: Well, I think McClellan is the one who built this beautiful house for them over there.

STRAUSS: I think so.

WICKMAN: Who was this?

COCHRAN: McClellan.



WICKMAN: McClellan, yes.

COCHRAN: Yes. And--

STRAUSS: And offered the house to them.

COCHRAN: I'm sure that they had this house at the courtesy of Mr. McClellan all the time. Wouldn't you take it, too? I mean after all, they already had done something for it.

WICKMAN: Oh, yes.

COCHRAN: Well, who was it used to send their car and chauffeur down, and put it to his use, during the season?

WICKMAN: I don't know.

COCHRAN: I don't know either. Ask Rusty, it's kind of interesting. A car and chauffeur was sent down here at his disposal. I'm sure the government's supposed to furnish him one, isn't he?

STRAUSS: He had two cars, because Rusty used their car.

WICKMAN: No, the government--



STRAUSS: No, Rusty had a rented car.

WICKMAN: This is--

COCHRAN: She had a rented car?

STRAUSS: Rusty's car was rented.

COCHRAN: Oh, I thought it was theirs.

STRAUSS: No, but there were two cars. Mrs. Eisenhower had one of those black cars.

WICKMAN: Yes, it was probably the secret service car. One of the things a lot of people don't understand about how that worked; the secret service provided a car for him. They do this for the President and they do it for the former President, because it's the only way they can be sure of the car. It's one of their cars; it's outfitted the way they want it and they know every square inch of the thing. And so that was one of their cars they brought down from Los Angeles.

COCHRAN: Well, would you then please tell me why there was no communication in the car that he drove while he was out here?



WICKMAN: I don't know. I don't know.

COCHRAN: And I don't think it was a secret service car. I think it was somebody else that sent that car and chauffeur out here. And I may be mistaken and you can check--

STRAUSS: But he came out here every morning with those two service men in that--

COCHRAN: I know, but there was no communication in that car because when we had this near unpleasant mishap with this woman that we couldn't get rid of that we know is a little bit off--

WICKMAN: Well, they may have thought they didn't need it, you know. One of those things. Then they may have gotten smart afterwards.

COCHRAN: No, they didn't. It was still, never any communication in the car. Because it was something that annoyed me. I thought it was impertinent not to have communication with all the crazy people there are that are floating around.

STRAUSS: But there wasn't much of that occurred. I don't



think there was--

COCHRAN: I think it was twice, total of twice that we had people. Oh, we chased people out of here a number of times, curiosity seekers--

STRAUSS: Yes, if they were driving around, you know, thinking they could see him or get a glimpse of him.

COCHRAN: You know, a lot of the people that play golf, you know how that gate's open and people would drive in in the morning and we had him coming in through the other gate then. Because we didn't think that was smart.





INTERVIEW WITH  
Jacqueline Cochran

by

John E. Wickman  
Director

on

May 1 & 2, 1973

for

Dwight D. Eisenhower Library



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE  
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY

Legal Agreement Pertaining to the Oral History Interviews of  
Jacqueline Cochran

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 21 of Title 44,  
United States Code, and subject to the terms and conditions  
hereinafter set forth, I, Jacqueline Cochran (hereinafter  
referred to as the donor), do hereby give, donate, and convey  
to the United States of America all my rights, title, and  
interest in the tape recordings and transcripts of personal  
interviews conducted on February 28, 1970, and May 1 and 2,  
1973 and prepared for deposit in the Dwight D. Eisenhower  
Library. This assignment is subject to the following terms  
and conditions:

(1) The transcripts shall be available for use by  
researchers as soon as they have been deposited in the  
Dwight D. Eisenhower Library.

(2) The tape recordings shall not be available for use  
by researchers during the donor's lifetime. After the donor's  
death, access to the tape recordings is to be for background  
use only, and researchers may not cite, paraphrase, or  
quote therefrom.



(3) The donor retains during the donor's lifetime all literary property rights in the material given to the United States by the terms of this instrument. Thereafter the aforesaid literary property rights will pass to the United States Government. During the life of the donor, researchers may publish brief "fair use" quotations from the transcripts (but not the tape recordings) without the donor's express consent in each case.

(4) Copies of the open portions of the interview transcripts, but not the tape recordings, may be provided by the library upon request to researchers.

(5) At the discretion of the director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, copies of the interview transcripts, but not the tape recordings, may be deposited in or loaned to other institutions. Upon death of donor, at the discretion of the director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, copies of the tape recordings may be deposited in or loaned to other institutions.



Augustine Boston  
Donor

Date

James B. Rhodes  
Archivist of the United States

January 11, 1977  
Date

This is an interview with Jackie Cochran done in 1973. The interviewer is Dr. John Wickman of the Eisenhower Library staff.

Page 219

DR. WICKMAN: . . .how this all started with the Pasha thing here.

MS. COCHRAN: Well, I think I've told you so many times in previous recordings that General Eisenhower was told by me, I think even by Floyd [Odlum], but certainly by me, in no uncertain terms that we would not encroach upon his privacy, that our house was at his disposal, that we would at all times clear the big room. Oh, may I digress here?

DR. WICKMAN: Sure, go ahead.



MS. COCHRAN: Did I ever tell you about the time that he had the big high-level conference in number four guest house? Did I record that or not? If not, it's a very interesting incident that took place.

DR. WICKMAN: I don't remember.

MS. COCHRAN: And they came in big limousines and whisked by so fast nobody could even tell who they were, and we sort of kept the roads cleared and for three days--you never saw number four

guest house at the old place, did you?

WICKMAN: I saw the outside of it, yes.

COCHRAN: Well, it was a beautiful big house and was very, very nicely furnished and beautiful garden and very secluded. And they sent a group down from somewhere, I guess, March [Air Force Base], and they scanned the house thoroughly and cleared it.

WICKMAN: Is this still the post-Presidential period or when he was President?

COCHRAN: No, this was when, yes, it was after he was--

WICKMAN: After he was President?

COCHRAN: There's his office. And I'm pretty sure Nixon was in on it. But I think that this is a story that you should get from one of the secretaries. I don't remember the date well enough to pinpoint when it took place, whether it was during one of Nixon's--

WICKMAN: Maybe it was '60, no--



COCHRAN: I just don't know. But I know he came to me at that time--it sort of kind of ties in with this story. Usually he'd either come to me directly or he'd say to Rusty, "Tell Jackie if she's not busy to pop in for a minute."

And I'd pop in and I'd say, "No, I don't need to sit down, what do you want?" And I just always felt very, very peculiar about imposing upon him in any way, and using his time. I felt he had so little of it left and so much to do--that also was back of it. And so the same thing happened with the house.

[Interruption]

COCHRAN: And so he wanted to know if he could come up and call and I said, "Well, of course, you can come up and call any time you want to; it doesn't matter." No one was there; it was after lunch and everybody had left and so he came up, and he said, "I've got a little problem."

And I said, "Well, can we help you with it?"

And he said, "Yes, you can." He said, "I'd appreciate it if Floyd would go out to the airport with me tomorrow and meet the Pasha of Kénitra."



And I said, "Well, where in the world is that?"

He said, "Oh, Camp Deloge in North Africa."

And I said, "Oh."

He said, "The President wanted me," that was Kennedy, "wanted me to receive him and they're trying to save as you know the air bases out there."

I said, "Well, actually, General, I went out last year trying to be nice to people out there and to help, hopefully, to save the Air Force Base. I don't think I was very helpful, but I tried."

And he said, "Well, anyway this man is coming and they're trying to save Camp Deloge and they're trying to save the air bases and things out there." And I agreed to see him. But he said, "You know Mamie is down in Phoenix on her two weeks' dieting, and I have my golf partners out here and my card partners, bridge partners." And he said, "I don't want the man at the house because I don't know whether he is going to be hard to get rid of." He said, "These people are very peculiar." And he said, "You don't dare offend them," but he said, "I wonder if we could have a press conference here."

I said, "Well, we've told you you can have anything you

want to here. I'll even ask our guests to go away if you need the house empty." You know really it was unusual to do a thing like that for a man for seven years; it didn't happen too often but it would happen four or five times a season. The weather wasn't very good, we were having one of our cold spells.

So he said, "Well, now I've got one other problem." He said, "I'm not sure of his color and I'm not sure how well he'd be received and I'm a little reluctant to send him over to the club for lunch. Do you know where I could send him and arrange for them to have lunch?"

I said, "Yes, they'll have lunch right here." And I said, "Since I have been received by the \_\_\_\_\_ who was the top man in North Africa," and I said, "been thoroughly briefed on their behavior and protocol."

He said, "You have?"

And I said, "Yes, I think I can make them happy." And I said, "We'll be very happy to arrange lunch for him and whoever is with him. I'd like to know how many."

"Oh," he said, "that's just wonderful." So the Pasha of Kénitra had a big dagger. I thought that was a sort of a funny




thing to bring. Well, you know, a thing you kill people with, all bejeweled. And so the press really showed up in strength that day. My Lord! The place was packed. And they arrived an hour and forty-five minutes late. So he came by and picked up Floyd; they went to the airport, and there was a navy captain flying it. And there were about seven in the crew, at least seven or eight with the enlisted people. And lo and behold, he decided to give them a ride over Grand Canyon which of course was not true at all and I don't know who he was kidding, he wasn't kidding me. But the weather was so, just so terrible in here, he didn't want to come in with it. And poor Floyd and the General was hovering in this FAA [Federal Aviation Administration] room down there because they were freezing for an hour and a half or nearly two hours waiting for them. Can you imagine it--the navy doing a thing like this? I guess they didn't expect the General out there; I don't know what they expected. So all of the cars were lined up. You see, they would send cars, official cars down from March on this sort of thing for support really of those projects that he had. So about eleven o'clock they started arriving. They were supposed to have arrived at nine-thirty or something kind of early in the



morning, because I know Floyd didn't like getting up. And I was standing at the door with four dates and a glass of milk on a tray when they arrived in the door. And that is the custom. And he said, "Oh, you," through the interpreter he said, "you spent time in my country."

I said, "Yes, and you may not like this but," I said, " that was unseated by your relatives is the one that I knew very well indeed." And so I gave him his dates and his milk and he stood right there and ate all four of them and said, the best dates that he'd ever eaten, and drank his milk and just a small glass. And, oh, I had a towel for him to wash his hands. We didn't have the water and this stuff but I had a clean towel and a wet and a dry towel for him to wash his hands and eat his dates and drink his milk. Well the President was just tickled to death over this; this was a nice little touch. And so we treated him as a royal visitor and we went into the big room and they held their meeting and they did their talking and he made his presentation of the dagger and I gave the press all the water and other things to go in it if they wanted to drink. And I had just huge plates of hors d'oeuvres



and little sandwiches and things like that because, you know, these people can stay around sometimes and you don't want to insult them. So anyway the General said, "I have to go out of town, and I waited just to be with you." It's the only time I ever heard him tell an untruth, but I don't consider it an untruth because it's terrible the way these people are preyed upon you know. And he said, "Jackie, here, has offered to take you through the desert and show you our wonders and look after you this afternoon and what time do you want to depart? And, I'll have the cars ready" and, you know, everything will be arranged. And he turned around and I said, "Well, we're not going to have lunch until one-thirty." I said, "Maybe the Kénitra would like to go to a house and take a rest and a shower and have a little peace to himself." Well the old boy really liked it, apparently he was pretty tired. We had no guests at the ranch at that time, we were just awfully lucky. And that way I could get rid of the newspapers, by that time it was about twelve o'clock. And I said, "There'll be lunch served at one-thirty," because they also eat very late in North Africa and sleep all afternoon. And I said, "You could



take your rest before lunch and then I'll take you around and show you the date groves," because he was fascinated with the dates. So we sent him over and all the other people; I said, "Well, you can wash up," and I invited his officers and the interpreters, but I didn't invite the enlisted people--we sent them downtown for lunch. And I'd arranged that too. So lunch was over. Oh, when he came to the luncheon table I said, "There is no animal fat except the lamb of any description in your food." And I told the truth. You know we cook with vegetable fats anyway, and they drink milk so that's all right. And we had lamb just done to a turn. I had gotten a tiny baby lamb and had the whole thing roasted the way they do it. And I said, "You may pull it off with your fingers and eat the way you're accustomed to," I had the rice--. Well really, I had the whole meal, the rice and the raisins--

WICKMAN: Good gracious!

COCHRAN: --and I really had a sumptuous, brilliant dinner. And he ate and ate and ate, I thought he was never going to stop eating. He said, "Well, this is the only fine meal I've had in

America." The General had told him that I was kind of famous in flying and this sort of thing, which was nice after all; he must have told him in the car on the way to the house. So I said, "Well, my husband has to rest after lunch," so Floyd went to rest and I took them. And he said, "I want to see where the General lives."

And I said, "Well, that is kind of awkward." And I thought, I don't want to say I don't belong to the club that the General belongs to. We all have a peculiar little funny pride, whether we like it or not. And at least I am honest enough to admit it. So I didn't want to say I wasn't acceptable. I didn't know what to do and I thought and I said, "Well, his house is in a pretty private area, but," I said, "we can drive by." I said, "I don't like for people to see me staring at it because naturally I can go there any time I want to." Old Sandy was there and she got a funny look on her face. So I said, "Excuse me a minute and I'll get everything arranged." And I said, "Sandy, for heaven's sakes, you call over to the house right away and tell them to put all the window shades down and to make the house look closed up and make awfully sure that for the next hour and a half nobody shows their face around the front of that house, because it


would just be tragic if he saw him and he didn't receive him or anything like that." I said, "It would be terrible." Well, when we got over there he was just determined to have his picture taken with me in front of that house. So I was just trying so hard to go and show him other beautiful homes and take him into the clubhouse and let him see it or do anything to just distract him from General Eisenhower's house. And about that time, when we were just getting out of the car to go and stand here in the front of the house to get this picture taken, Freeman Gosden started over from his house and was walking up the back to go into the back door. He said, "Hi, Jackie." I just turned my head and cut him cold. And he looked kind of funny and then he walked on because he's a very sensitive man as you know from last evening. There's just no finer gentleman or finer person any place in America than this man. And I just felt terrible! Because we always kiss each other.

And so the Kénitra said, "Who is that?"

"Oh," I said, "it's just one of the servants here, one of the secret service men or something; I don't know." I said, "They all call me."

He said, "Well, he seems to know you awfully well."

I said--this is all through an interpreter--I said, "Oh, well, everybody knows me around here and around this general staff and so forth and they all call me Jackie," which was true. And I said, "It doesn't mean a thing." And I said, "I was trying to figure out who he was but then he walked on." I was just dying; we hadn't covered our tracks well enough. But by that time it was around four o'clock and I said, "I suspect that your pilot is going to want to take off before dark," and I said, "the weather is not very good." Oh, it was cold! It was so bad and the icing condition was so bad that this captain wouldn't take off. And it wasn't too bad for a top-flight pilot to fly, but a lot of these boys are a little nervous and I don't blame him; he was not familiar with the place and I'm not belittling him as a pilot but--and it's not as safe as if you go in like an airline pilot every day and there are a lot of mountains here and poor guidance facilities.



So he said, "Well, you know, Miss Cochran, I think you're stuck with us."

I said, "Really," because I was just shocked. So I not only put up the Kénitra; I put everybody up. Well, we had dinner for them that night; we had a fairly light meal because I had really

fed them at lunchtime. And all he would eat in the way of meat would be--you know they don't even eat chicken. They don't eat anything but lamb, that's it. So I don't think that goes for all of them. They may eat seafood or something. But I had checked up on him and he was the lamb-eating family; so of course we had lamb again. Then I found out that he had turned western and ate everything in sight. But I didn't know it when he was in the house. So the next day the weather was so bad we couldn't get him out of the house.

WICKMAN: What kind of weather was it, Jackie, do you remember, was it overcast?


COCHRAN: Well, it was, it was even snowing down at the fifteen hundred foot level. When it gets bad in this desert, it's really bad. So we were stuck all the next day, the whole day. And I called up not only the, oh, a couple of the big shots at the club over there, you know, the people that were the directors of this sort of thing. And I said, "I'm stuck with a guest of General Eisenhower's and he is from North Africa"--he was pretty dark--and I said, "I don't have any place to take him to and I'm stuck with him." And I said, "I want to bring him over



there and I don't want any questions asked," he's in all of his dresses and flowing robes and what have you. And I said, "I hope it will be all right, because I can't handle him any longer; I've just gotten so tired and weary."

And I called three or four of my good friends and one of them was even the president of the club at that time, and he said, "Well, I don't see why there should be any problem."

I said, "The President of the United States sent him out here and he's the Pasha of Kénitra and it will make a colorful story even for the club if you want to write it up," which they did. And I said, "I'd like to take him over there for dinner." So I even took the enlisted people, which of course they greatly appreciated. And I had the enlisted people for dinner; I didn't have them for the lunch, I sent them downtown to a good restaurant and paid for it. But for dinner in my home I had them. They were there all the next day. I took this geezer and I rode him around the golf course, but he wanted to go ride in a golf cart in El Dorado. I said, "Well, they just don't permit people to go riding around the golf course in a golf cart," I said, "because you might get hit with a ball and you can't go through the players and," I said, "that really



is not possible to do." And he felt so important that he thought I should be able to just turn all the players off and let him ride around in one of those golf carts. Now I said, "I'll take you down on my golf course and take you around in a golf cart." Well he was like a little boy; he thought that was a great idea, great fun. I had work to do and all the next day the President heard that we were stuck with him and he sent me the sweetest note. He said, "Jackie, I'm sorry I got you into this mess." So I said to Rusty, "Call him and tell him I'm taking them to the club for dinner and for heaven's sakes don't show up over there anywhere," because I thought maybe he might take his men there for dinner. I said, "Just be sure that he keeps his window shades down; he'll probably insist on driving by the house again." He didn't. So we went over to dinner and he was so proud of being taken to this club and taken down in the little Eisenhower room--you know the one that has his picture in it. And I explained to him that the General had cooked steaks on the outside out there--they kept the grease spots out there. Did you know that?

WICKMAN: No.

COCHRAN: Sure, I think this is cute, where he would cook for just a few private friends. And he said, "Were you among those people?"

I said, "Well, of course, we're very close, warm friends."

And he got real vulgar; he said, "Do you charge the General for all this service you give him?"

And I said, "Oh, of course not," I said, "that would be an insult." I said, "If he is going to pay for something--"

[Interruption]

COCHRAN: This gives me an opportunity actually to put this on record because I think maybe there might have been a lot of people who thought that there was some financial arrangement on this thing because, you see, we took care of such an entourage of people, all the soft drinks for all of his--

WICKMAN: Secret Service?

COCHRAN: --Secret Service men, and some of it that wasn't so soft. And always there were things put in the kitchen for sandwiches and bread and food stuff down there, anything they wanted. They always had their lunch automatically out of



the ice box down there. Then the sergeant who was getting per diem, he was there for about four years or five years. And actually when you wanted to add it up it ran about thirty thousand a year. Well, most people just don't do those kind of things even for an ex-President, not for seven years. I guess it was seven winters, wasn't it?

WICKMAN: Yes. How did you get rid of the Pasha finally?

COCHRAN: So I just said to the Pasha I said, "No."

He said, "You must be very wealthy."

I said, "Not particularly, but we have a pretty good income," and I said, "I can assure you that there are many people in this valley would be delighted to have General Eisenhower live at their house for every winter." I said, "Because he lives here more than he does at home."

And he said, "Well, do you see him and talk to him every day?"

I said, "Oh, no, sir. I'm sure the reason he's here is because he has privacy, it's the only place."



He said, "Well, I was received in your house instead of his house today."

And I said, "Well, he receives all of his dignitaries here."

He said, "He does!"

And I said, "Yes, sir, he certainly does." I said, "I don't know of any press conference," I said, "I'm not saying that he hasn't seen a pressman at his house, but any press conference that I know of that he has had since he's been out here in the wintertime has always been here in our house." I don't remember now whether Churchill had died or not but I think he had, but something important had happened and we had had a great whoop here once or twice. And I said, "He even has high-level meetings out here in some of our guest houses." I said, "The guest house that you took your rest in," I said, "for three days he had large groups of men coming in there. I don't know who they were; I didn't ask."

"Well," he said, "I would want to know who is coming into my property."

I said, "Well, as far as I'm concerned, anyone whom General Eisenhower would ask here would be welcome; even if I didn't like them they would be welcome."

So he said, "Well, it's a very odd way."

Now this interpreter was not North African or, it's not that, what I want to say--

WICKMAN: Arab?

COCHRAN: Arab, was not Arab. And he was from the University, I think, of California and he spoke Arabic, of course, very well indeed. And he was a very offensive young man; I couldn't stand him. And I think that some of the questions that he asked--

WICKMAN: The interpreter asked them?

COCHRAN: --he was trying to find out rather than the Pasha of Kénitra. And I've always thought so, because I just don't think a man with the breeding of royalty in his background would come in and ask these terribly personal questions that he asked. And he said, "Could I see your private quarters?"

And I said, "No, there I draw the line; I don't take anyone into my private quarters." And I said, "I'm sorry." Well actually our quarters, mine and Floyd's, were not that impressive. You've been in them.



WICKMAN: Yes. That's what it sounds like; sounds like the interpreter was interpreting rather--

COCHRAN: I don't know but he sure asked a lot of very personal questions. And I said, "Oh, no, we don't."

[Interruption]

COCHRAN: And so he said, "Well did you furnish all those cars this morning?"

I said, "Oh, no, we didn't do that." I said, "Our government takes very good care of the ex-President of the United States and certain things are provided for his well-being and comfort and so forth." And I said, "You can go and read that in a book if you want to, there's no point in my going into the details." But I said, "The only thing we furnish the General is his privacy, his office, and that kind of thing."

And he said, "Well, could I go into his office?"

And I said, "No, you should have asked him that this morning." I said, "I couldn't, I wouldn't think of doing such a thing."

He said, "You mean you never go into that office?"

And I said, "Well, of course I don't unless he's there himself and he asks me down." I said, "We have people go in to clean and do these kind of things." I said, "No one goes into his office."

He said, "Well, can't you ask the secretary?"

I said, "No, I wouldn't embarrass her to that extent. She has no more right to take anyone into his private office than I have." And I said, "You can look at it on the outside." So they photographed that from end to end. He was just fascinated with this whole thing. He just couldn't believe it!

So I thought well, now, I've done so darned much for this man. Oh, we took him to dinner, and we had a prearranged dinner to a point but I let--I had the starter--I let them select their own meat. I didn't know whether he ate anything besides lamb or not; I know they don't in North Africa if they adhere to their religion. And he ordered steak. It made me so mad, I'd eaten lamb twice that day. And they brought in the most elaborate dessert and I never did remember to ask General Eisenhower or ask Rusty whether they really did do this or whether the club did it. They brought out a very elaborate





dessert made out of dates and said this is with the compliments of General Eisenhower. So I don't know whether the club did it or--. And he ate all of it and asked for a second one, and they didn't have a second one. And I said, "Well, I haven't eaten mine; it's here and would you have it? I haven't touched it." Naturally he was at my right. So I said to Floyd, "Now we've done so much for this man, maybe we have done something to help hold these bases that the President wants to hold so badly because that's really why he's here." There was no one in our apartment and we have this marvelous staff and the place was just palatial. I mean really it was so beautiful, John, you've never seen a more beautiful home. And I said, "If he's only going to stay two days; I'm going to put him and this captain up and this captain's wife and his interpreter but no more," I said, "not any big entourage." I had enough room for that. So the old boy stayed two days in our apartment and had a ball and had all of the council up there and half the damned town there.

WICKMAN: Now this was the apartment in New York?



COCHRAN: This was the apartment in New York, the New York apartment, Riverhouse. So I never received a letter from them; I never received a little house gift kind of thing that you'd think foreign--not a damned thing. And I would liked to have a letter on this. Don't you think they'd have had enough manners to send a letter through? I got one from the navy captain. So to really wind this story up, it was sometime afterward I got a letter from this interpreter saying some very distinguished Middle Eastern guest was coming into this country-- I've forgotten who it is, it's in my files some where--and would I like to receive them. And I wrote back and said, "No, I only received people like that when I was requested at the highest possible level, and he was very kind to give me an opportunity to meet the distinguished guest but I just really couldn't do it." This is the truth. And I said, "When the Department of State asked us," which they have several times, "to receive people we have done it," I said, "like the Minister for Agriculture from Spain, who happened to be a very close personal friend of ours and had been personally invited by me anyway," but the state department didn't know it. And I said, "We received him here and we've received a few distinguished people,



but," I said, "no, we don't do it unless--." And I just repeated the letter just about the way I'm saying it now, unless it comes from some very high level. So that's the end of my Kénitra story.

WICKMAN: Your Kénitra story, okay, good.

[Interruption]

WICKMAN: --shoes and sitting out looking at the mountain.

COCHRAN: You see his office was in what we call number seven apartment, which is that long sort of dormitory building that we had. Stop it a minute.

[Interruption]

COCHRAN: Well his office was down in this dormitory building, and you see they had wonderful space down there--the living room was quite large. You've been in it; in fact I think you've stayed in it.

WICKMAN: I did.

COCHRAN: There was a little private garden in the back and there was a place where he could park his car and nobody would

know he was there. And of course I didn't realize at any time that he was going to physically come over there and do this work. I thought he would do his dictating and his work in his own home, and then his secretaries would use that as the office and, if he did come over, it would be a very minor sort of thing. Well of a sudden I found out that he not only was having large groups of people, once there were several bus loads of children, no place to receive them and he said, "Could he receive them up on the lawn where the little house is?" We always called it the little house just west of the main house where he was the last, what, three winters I guess, maybe four winters, I don't know. I wish I could remember myself, I'm not certain. Well, in a way he had then more space too because he had this little house all to himself--it was the place where the Secret Service men said they liked, they could see everything that was going on. The bedroom of the little cottage she used to do her typing in, his secretary, and it gave him a large enough office. It was not elaborate in any way; it was simple and down to earth but comfortable. But he had a beautiful view and he had two acres of lawn, that's a lot of lawn to have, and lovely flowering trees and



tangerine trees and then over the tangerines, they were low enough you could see over them, the whole vista of the mountains. And because of the shape of the building from the front porch of the office, he had complete privacy. No one in the world could see him. So one Sunday, or Saturday I don't remember which, I went around back of that house to cut some branches off a flowering tree and here he was sitting there in a chair with his leg crossed swinging his foot with a different shoe than the one he had on the other foot. And he said, "By jove, it's kind of hard to get up," and you know how embarrassed he could be if he got caught, and I felt like I was spying and I started to retreat. And he said, "Oh, come on, sit down for a minute."

And I said, "Well, General, I'm sorry I didn't know you were here; I didn't see the car." Because the car was just in full view of everyone, he parked at the kitchen door down there. There was no way not to see it. And we didn't have any place to put it where it was private.

And he said, he had a football injury in his knee and he had this shoe with this lead in the sole, or lead sole I don't know which it is. Which is it?

WICKMAN: The lead is in the sole.

COCHRAN: It's in the sole of the shoe. And he said, "I exercise my knee and it's always kept it very agile for me, just perfect." And he said, "This is a good opportunity to sit here and look at the beautiful view." So I sat and chatted with him for a minute or two. Well, you know when Mr. Gosden was over here last night and when I pointed out that he more and more frequently the last two winters he was there, on Saturday or Sunday and it would happen too, I'm sure it happened--I wasn't there that much myself but when I was there I'd notice it'd happen on an average of two or three times a month, certainly a minimum of two times--he would just drive up over there and there he would sit. I don't think he was exercising the knee all that time. And he would just sit alone and he would sit out there by the hour because I asked Rusty, I said, "What is the General doing? Does he want a bed to lie down or anything like that to rest?" Because I'd asked him that before but he didn't.

She said, "No, he just likes to come and sit in that comfortable chair you put out there and just sit and meditate."

She said, "He doesn't want me to bother him and doesn't anybody to bother him." And he would stay out there sometimes as long as four and five hours and it would start getting cold. And any beautiful day on a weekend, he'd be out there by himself.

WICKMAN: Very interesting.

COCHRAN: Well, I think it's interesting because I don't think he had much privacy in that house that he lived in over at El Dorado. I think people--

WICKMAN: That's about right.

COCHRAN: --just popped in all the time and I think he just never found himself alone where he could shut himself away from people. Well we would have very distinguished guests-- I'll give you an instance of one of them. Hunter Harris, General Hunter Harris, he was a four-star general, one of the eight, and a very fine person. Well, his mother introduced General and Mrs. Eisenhower, was how they met at her house. And of course Hunter was very proud of this. So General Harris was visiting us and he said, "I guess I'll go down and

pay Ike a visit."

I said, "Oh, no, you won't, not at this house." I said, "You are my guest, you're not his guest, and no one, I don't care who they are, it could be one of his former cabinet members, is permitted to go down there and disturb his privacy." I said, "Now if you want to see him, Hunter, you'll either make your arrangements through his secretary or you'll go over to his house and call on him, but you're not going to do it here."

So Hunter was there another time and he said, "Well, I see the General's car out there, he must be down there alone; I'm still going to go down."

I said, "No, you're not."

WICKMAN: Very determined guy.

COCHRAN: Well, I just didn't let them do it. No way! So then I said to Rusty or to him, I don't know which one, probably to Rusty, would he be kind enough to have the driver go over and park behind the long building, it was shady and cool over there, where he had formerly parked so that people wouldn't know he was there on weekends because we had too many





people that was just dying to meet him, you know. It was just awful, I mean the things we'd go through with the people that would come there and good friends and old friends. We had hundreds of people visit us that never met General Eisenhower. And do you know they'd stand out or sit on the lawn to see him come into his office, that's how much he was beloved. And I felt mean. But can you imagine if I'd have let people go down there and bother him.

WICKMAN: It'd be just like being back at the El Dorado.

COCHRAN: He just never was bothered.

WICKMAN: No, I think these habits of his were very interesting and I'm glad that we could get this in because I have the feeling, oh, I know that he did the same thing you know when he was at Abilene. He would get up early in the morning, very frequently, and would take a long walk with one of the Secret Service men, usually one of the younger ones, because the older ones arranged the schedule so the younger ones had that trek in the morning see and they have to do it, and they would go off and he just apparently just wanted to be alone because the



minute he got back there were people around.

[Interruption]

COCHRAN: That had to go on the record because I think it's just as funny as it can be. And you see we had this one chief of police here for twenty-five years and he was as fine a man as I'd ever met. So he said, "I've got him in the pokey house." I said, "Well, bring him out here and give him to me and I'll put him in his room and beat--" well, you know.

WICKMAN: That was the first winter the General was here? Was that the ranch, at his office at the ranch?

COCHRAN: Well, you see the first winter he didn't have a sergeant. I don't think he did.

WICKMAN: That was in '61.

COCHRAN: I think it was the second winter that he had the sergeant. You see they used to bring out--the winter that Ann Whitman was here--she was only here one winter, am I right?

WICKMAN: Right, that's right, yes.

COCHRAN: You see, I'm not sure enough of some of the accuracy of the dates.

WICKMAN: Well that was the winter of '61.

COCHRAN: I'm accurate about everyone who was here, that they were here and they worked.

WICKMAN: That was the winter of '61.

COCHRAN: Well, I'll tell you one cute little tidbit; I think this is divine. You know when Mary Jane McCaffree was here?

WICKMAN: Yes.

COCHRAN: She was just about as useful to the General as I would have been as his secretary; she was just nothing. And she loved the social life and she went to Las Vegas with me for four days and I just felt so sorry for him. And even we were doing little things for him you know. I had an excellent secretary at that time, and whenever we could do something, man the telephone for him and do minor things. But she really was completely useless, useless . And one day she came over and she said, "You know Mrs. Eisenhower's maid that




she has had all these years"--what was her name? "Rose--"

WICKMAN: Rose.

COCHRAN: --"is ill. Do you think you could send your wonderful personal maid over to take care of Mrs. Eisenhower?"

And I said, "No, no way." I said, "Now I draw the line, I'm sorry." I said, "No, no, nothing doing, no way." I said, "I've had this woman for thirty years and I'm going to keep her till she dies." But I thought she had her nerve. Of course she was interested in Mrs. Eisenhower's welfare and had no interest in the General's welfare. On the other hand, Rusty made herself vitually into a slave for this man. A wonderful, fine woman. And of course Ann was just furious all the time after she'd worked fourteen, fifteen hours a day. I think she'd have starved to death if we hadn't have sent food down to her. And she was very bitter and very upset.



WICKMAN: Yes, and she remembers this too that way. I mean I've talked to her about it in New York.

COCHRAN: Well, I hope she remembers that we were very nice to her.

WICKMAN: Oh, yes. No, but I mean she remembers her personal problems in, you know, this period. Because it was always so strange, it struck many people as strange that she left the General. And she has been quite candid about it. She said she just simply couldn't stand it, that's all. And it was just one of these things where before she had support people around. She did all of his dictation, but she had other people around to do things and now she had to do it all, and she just--this business of being alone and Gettysburg is, you know, it is a rather isolated place too and very small place and everybody knows what everybody else is doing, and she just couldn't take it.

COCHRAN: Well, I think it was partly her fighting with Mrs. Eisenhower.


WICKMAN: This may be too.

COCHRAN: They fought like cats and dogs as I understood it. But Rusty was able to handle that and get along. And she was so good for him and did beautiful letters and just wonderful

things. She was a fine woman, or is a fine woman. I don't know why I put it in the past tense.

[Interruption]

COCHRAN: --just a fine, fine relation with the press. Part of it goes back to World War II, which is not a part of this story and what I did in Asia for the press--they couldn't do it for themselves. And part of it, I've always leveled with them. I have this wonderful friendship with Marvin Miles who is one of the finest aviation writers I think in the country; he has never broken my confidence. So I really always made the press feel that they were just second to only General Eisenhower when they were in the house. And goodness knows, they were in the house often enough. I don't think there was ever a month we didn't have some of them over there for a meeting. And we didn't stick around; that's another thing I don't think I ever said. We'd have these people, I'd set everything up for them and see that I had all the drinks and all the food and everything they needed and I'd take off when I didn't want to hang around--I didn't think it was proper to do it, none of my business. But I would say to the press, you see, I'd say, "Now listen, don't give a



dateline the 'Cochran-Odlum Ranch', because all we'll do is get ten jillion telephone calls and ten jillion other things and people say, 'Now, can you get the General to do this,' or 'Come down here and see my child because it's got a sore finger.'" And so they always gave the dateline, they never--oh, I didn't know we were recording?

WICKMAN: Yes, I am.

COCHRAN: Now, do you think I was foolish to do that?

WICKMAN: Well, you weren't foolish. But that's one of the reasons why originally I wanted to do all this you know because, I mean, at the time, I would have done the same thing because you don't you didn't want them . But it historically it is confusing who are not the press that all of this was taking place at the El Dorado.

COCHRAN: And none of it.

WICKMAN: And none of it took place at the El Dorado, that's right.



COCHRAN: Including the great thing with Churchill.

WICKMAN: That's why these things are important.

COCHRAN: Recordings he did with people and work he did with people and these men secret as well-kept as the Manhattan Project because nothing--you see the thing that most people cannot understand, I almost can't understand it myself, was the fact that when he was President he came out to call on us. It was never in the newspapers. And I permitted all the help, we had a big staff about fifteen people then, to stand on the steps as he walked down so they could see the President. And I told him, "Do not shake hands with all these people, they just want to see you." And I don't think it was right to have the President, of course he had only had one term then and he wanted to make sure they voted for him the next term if he had run. So it was a little bit of politics involved. And do you know it was never in the press that he was there? And nobody could understand that it was never in the press when he and President Johnson came and stayed over two hours. It was never in the press any time that he ever





came in our house on the social level, not once. Now don't you think that's remarkable? And I think a lot of people probably got the idea that this was a commercial arrangement because we didn't take advantage of the tremendous amount of publicity that we could have had out of it. But then again he would have had no privacy. It was the funniest thing, I mean, but I didn't want it that way and neither did Floyd and he was so happy. But it was really like the man who came to dinner--he used it for a couple of months. Did I ever tell you that George Allen set that up, primarily?

WICKMAN: I don't remember; I know we talked about--

COCHRAN: Well, I don't know whether I did or not, but George Allen called me one morning and he got me on the phone because I've always sort of run the house. And he said--could we put his secretary up for two or three weeks till they found a suitable place or would I look for a place for him? And I said, "I wouldn't look for a place for a President, look for their own. I wouldn't know what they want, what the requirements are, and I don't have the time anyway, George, and I have no desire to do it." Just that flat because I--you found out now I'm



pretty honest. I said pretty honest, you know, I might get a little dishonest like I did with Freeman last night and pressure him a little bit, "Did the address?" and things like that. But I said, "No, but we'll do the best we can. We'll make a place available so they'll be comfortable." Well, there was never any word, never anything said about moving or doing anything different than what he had, just loved it. He had to or he just wouldn't have gone on doing it. Because when the crowds got so heavy and distinguished people coming there and receiving the kind of people he did, I was embarrassed. There was really no facility there for them to do this kind of thing, and we had better accommodations. So I took the General around--I didn't put this on the record by the way--and I said, "We've decided to move you." I said, "Well, now maybe we'll even throw you out, maybe you won't like it." And he laughed, he said, "By jove--"

