

An Oral History

with

David B. (Burr) Udall (part 3)

Tucson, Arizona

conducted by
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JF: ... This is side A of Tape 28, with Burr Udall. A little mischief story I once heard about, and it may be pure malicious hogwash, in which [case], you can tell me that. I understand there was someone in St. Johns who would give you an ice cream cone if you brought in a bale of hay to feed his dairy cows.

DBU: Well, yes, that is true. You have to go there--and you've been there, so you know--but the Elm Hotel, Grandpa's house, is on one corner, and the corner to the north is the high school, which is now something-or-other. [Editor's note: Burr's grandfather planted an elm tree in 1880 that still stands.] Just west of the high school was the tithing barn--good Mormons who tithed 10%, didn't have the money, you give it to them in kind, and part of it was hay. Then just to the west of the Elm Hotel, which would be just south of the tithing barn, was Brother Farr. And he had a little gas station and a store, and like everybody else, had cows and stuff. So you'd go to the tithing barn, take a bale of the Church's hay, walk it across the street--usually two people. Like I said before, you always had a hay hook. Actually, the way I remember it, for a bale of hay you got a quart of ice cream--wasn't just a cone. Maybe it was a pint. But it was enough for two of you to enjoy.

JF: The hay was coming from....

DBU: The hay was coming from the Church.

JF: And he knew it?

DBU: He knew where the hell the hay was coming from. (laughter)

JF: Did you ever get caught with that?

DBU: No. I'm sure everybody in town knew it, but nobody ever complained.

JF: Growing up, did you feel particularly close to any of your siblings? I know you fought with Eloise.

DBU: I probably felt closer to Eloise than I did to anybody else. Inez was pretty much gone, until she came back to teach high school. And Elma was pretty much gone. By the time, you know, I'm ten, eleven, where I'm supposed to remember things, Morris and Stewart are both gone. Stewart, I think, left in 1937, probably, to go to college, and then went on a mission. Morris left in 1939, to come to the university. Then the war came. Then they're gone. And by the time they're coming back from the war, I'm going in the Army and I'm gone. Then later, after I became somebody that you could talk to, I guess.... I became good friends with all my brothers and sisters. One of the stories I tell, Julie, actually, when Inez died a few years ago, Stewart and a bunch of people spoke at her funeral. But when--I can't remember the guy's name now--a guy from St. Johns--he came to me. He didn't come to me, I just ran into him. We're talking, and he said in 1958--so I'd been a lawyer four years--and he saw Dad someplace and he said, "Levi" or "Brother Udall" or whatever he called him, "who's the best lawyer, Morris or Stewart?" He said, "Neither one. Burr [is]." (laughs) He said, "Did your dad ever tell you that?" And I said, "No." (laughs) Dad never played any favorites. He was very straightforward about that stuff. So if he said it, I'm sure he meant it. It wasn't for my ears.

JF: Well, for what it's worth, I worked at the Court of Appeals for Judge Livermore for ten years, and your reputation over there is the absolutely best (DBU: Well, thank you.) appellate advocate that they ever had.

DBU: Thank you.

JF: How about your parents? Did either one of them particularly influence you?

DBU: I told this story.... Like you know, I tell stories, so I have to tell it. Since I've been married, I don't think I've ever said anything that my wife didn't correct me on. I mean, it's automatic. I'm used to it, and it doesn't bother me. Twenty years ago, whatever, we went someplace. We were in the Virgin Islands. It's a long story I won't bore you with, but we were setting there with this guy, who's a park guard with a third-grade education, in Caneel Bay, which is a real fancy resort, to have lunch. And I said, "This is a nice table," and she said, "That one's better." Okay? And he looks, and he talks with a British accent, and I can't do it, and he said, "You're the head of the household. The man is always the head of the household. The thing that people forget, the woman's the neck, and the neck turns the head. Most of the time, the neck turns the head so slowly that the head does not know it's being turned. In your case, that doesn't seem to apply." (laughter)

Well, I've used that anytime I make a speech to legal secretaries or whatever--I use that story, because it's true. But when I got thinking about it, that was always true in our family. We always did what Dad thought we wanted to do, but it was always what Mom wanted Dad to do, and she very quietly got it done in her way. Probably the biggest influence of the two of them was Mom. I think that's just the nature of the beast of a family--you're with your mother a hell of a lot more than you are your father. I mean, I think it's true of my daughters. I think they like me, they respect me, but the one who really gets the credit for the way they are is Alice, not me--although I claim it. (laughter)

JF: When they're good, right?

DBU: Yes, right. Dad would kind of follow up. When you weren't doing your homework, or you weren't doing the chores right, you heard from Mom, and Dad would kind of, "Yeah, do this!" But really, the driving force to get it done all the time was Mom.

JF: But was he the ultimate enforcer?

DBU: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. His rule was--if you had it coming, you got a whipping--and his rule was you could run. Didn't make any difference--you were going to get it sooner or later. And he always argued that up to ten feet, he was the fastest one in the family. And I've still got the barbed wire marks on my legs from running away from him and trying to jump that barbed wire fence and hitting it.

JF: Now, was this for corporal punishment that you were running away?

DBU: Yes.

JF: So that did happen occasionally?

DBU: That did happen on occasion, but it wasn't an everyday affair by any stretch.

JF: This is somewhat off the subject. Well, let me back up a little bit. Speaking of family life in St. Johns, did you celebrate holidays, Fourth of July?

DBU: Yes.

JF: Parade in town?

DBU: They had a parade. Actually--and my suspicion is it's still true today up there--the biggest day is the twenty-fourth of July. It's referred to as "the Mormon Fourth of July." It's the day Brigham Young got to Salt Lake. So that's when they have a parade and do all that stuff. The Fourth of July was a holiday. Brother Overson, the midwife, would always.... North of where we lived, there's a big swamp down there, and he'd always, about daybreak, set off three or four sticks of dynamite. Everybody woke up, the Fourth of July was here!

JF: How about Halloween?

DBU: I don't remember Halloween being like it is now up there. I can't remember hardly at all anything about Halloween. I mean, Christmas was a big deal. The twenty-fourth of July was when they had the rodeo and did all that sort of stuff. And Thanksgiving was always a big holiday with us. But other than those three days, I don't think much of.... Like Labor Day and Memorial Day, they were just regular old working days, as far as I can remember.

JF: Did you tend to spend Christmas with the extended family, with aunts and uncles, or was it mostly just your family?

DBU: Mostly just our own family. Mom's family was never there. I mean, Mom's family was in the Gila Valley. My grandparents on that side were dead before I was born, I never met them. And her brothers and sisters, none of them lived close to us. Every now and again, one of her brothers would come up to see us. And every now and again, we'd go to Thatcher and Safford to visit. But that didn't happen very often. But it wasn't--maybe it's just there's so damned many of us, Julie--it wasn't a big thing like everybody came back, all those Udalls came back from wherever they were to be with each other. We were there, Uncle Gibb was there, Uncle Grover was there. And kind of you met and talked, but it was no.... You know, back in the "good old days" when I was going to church, and before Grandpa and Grandma died, they all met at his house to walk together to church in the morning, about ten o'clock.

And I need to tell you one more Ollie Overson story. It's one of my favorite Mormon stories. They go in the morning to service and class and blah, blah, blah. And then at night you go, and it's usually about forty-five minutes or so. But anybody can speak. So we all meet, and the bishop gets up, and they have the opening prayer, and he makes the announcements, the choir sings a song, and then he says, "Our speaker tonight is Brother Ollie Overson, and I'm sure Brother Ollie

has a very good message for us." And Brother Ollie gets up and comes down. He said, "Brothers and sisters, I want you to know that this is the right church, and anybody that doesn't belong to the Mormon Church--the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints--we need to help them and convert them. I have a very good message for you tonight." He stood there for about thirty seconds and he said, "I've forgot it," and walked over and sat down. (laughter) And the bishop got up and said, "Ah, we'll have the closing prayer, and we'll have Brother Ollie back in a month or so when he remembers his speech." So we're in and out of there in a flash, and I'm layin' on the lawn outside the church, just roarin'. I can still remember my father kickin' me in the ribs, saying, "It's not funny!" And I said, "Dad, it is funny. I don't care what you think, it is funny!" (laughter)

JF: Okay, let me ask you about Barry Goldwater, briefly. (DBU: Okay.) How did your family become acquainted with him?

DBU: Well, the story is--and I think it is true--that Grandpa David King Udall was charged with and convicted of perjury, way back when. And Arizona was a territory, and the court was in Prescott, and he went there. Barry Goldwater's father went his bond. So that's where it all started.

JF: How did Barry become acquainted with the family? (DBU: Through Dad.) You stayed in touch, basically?

DBU: Yes, through Dad.

JF: Did he ever visit you in St. Johns?

DBU: I never remember seeing him in St. Johns. I mean, the one person that I've never forgotten--and I don't know if you've heard this story, and it has to do with Dad more than anybody else--but Dad ran, in 1946, and got elected to the Supreme Court back before they appointed people. There was a guy on the Supreme Court named [Henry D.] Ross, who was going to retire, who had said, "The person who should replace me is Levi Udall." So Dad had saved his money and there was a year, my senior year in high school, where I lived by myself for probably seven of the nine months, because he and Mom were out. He'd go to every county they'd ask him to come. The judges liked him, and he'd hold court, and go to Kiwanis, and walk up and down, shake hands, and do all this stuff. So Ross died unexpectedly. One Sunday, they were at church, and I'm inside, not playing basketball, like my mother told me, and the highway patrol car drives up. I go out and this highway patrolman said, "Is Judge Udall there?" And I said, "Yes." "Is he here?" "No, he's in church." "Where's the church?" And I said, "Right there. He'll be home in about thirty minutes. Come on in and wait." The governor was Sid Osborn. I forget what he had, M.S. [multiple sclerosis] or something. He was in a wheelchair. He said, "Well, I'll go talk to the governor." He came back and he said, "No, the governor would just as soon wait in the car." And so after a while, here they come, Mom and Dad. The governor sees Dad, and obviously said to the highway patrolman, "He's the guy." And so anyway, in they come--they come in the house. We have lunch, Mom makes lunch. I still remember, because it seemed so stupid to me. The highway patrolman wouldn't come in, which offended Mom. I mean, the governor's no better than you are, get the hell in here! But he wouldn't do it. So we got all through having lunch, and Dad said, "Governor, why are you here?" And he said, "Well, I'm sure you knew Judge Ross died," and Dad said, "Yes." And he said, "When I ran for election in 1944, my campaign manager was Joe Morgan, who was a lawyer in

Prescott. And I told Joe if there was any vacancy on the Supreme Court while I was governor, I would appoint him, and I'm going to appoint him." Now, why in the hell he didn't call Dad on the phone and tell him that is one of the.... I always thought it was just the respect he had for Dad, but I don't know that. And Dad said, "Well, governor, it's a long trip from Phoenix to here just to tell me that. I understand politics, and I think if you give somebody your word, you've got to follow through with it, and I don't blame you at all. Just do me one favor, when you see Morgan, tell him I'm gonna beat him!" (laughter) And he did!

JF: So he really did drive up there just to tell him that.

DBU: That was the only reason he came.

JF: Wow. So you moved to Phoenix after your father was elected?

DBU: I never moved to Phoenix.

JF: Oh, you didn't?!

DBU: No, I didn't. See, Dad ran in 1946, and it's a sign of the times. He ran statewide, his total budget was \$4,800. He had saved \$2,500, he got \$2,500 from the Platts and the Whitings, and a few lawyers. It cost him \$200 less, and he rebated the \$200--not to himself, but based on what people had put in. So I got out of high school in early June of 1946, and Morris and Stewart are back, and they're running that campaign, or helping run it. And I go in the Army. I went in the Army late June. And Dad gets elected, and Mom and Dad moved to Phoenix in early 1947, and I get out of the service and I come here to go to school.

JF: Oh, so you bypassed Phoenix entirely.

DBU: Right. My experience with Phoenix was I got here early December, when I got out of the service, and I went to Phoenix, and then I came down here, and I tell stories about that. So I lived there about a month, and then I came back to start school mid-year, in January. And that was the semester I lived in the dorm. And my first roommate was Jim McNulty.

JF: Oh, is that right?!

DBU: Small world. (chuckles) We lived together about two months, and then I moved down the hall with a cousin. But then school got out and I went home. I was going to work, and I couldn't work. I could hardly walk with my back. So I ended up having surgery. And then I got the job at the infirmary, and because of the surgery and the fact I couldn't work, I kept going to summer school. I was trying to get out of there as quick as I could. So I never really lived.... I mean, when I had the surgery, I was at home for about a month, but the folks were gone--Mom and Dad were gone. Elma took care of me, basically, so I never did live in Phoenix much. I didn't have much to do with it.

JF: So when they moved to Phoenix, pretty much all the kids were gone.

DBU: We were all gone, yes.

JF: Did your mother suffer empty nest syndrome?

DBU: I think. I think she missed St. Johns. I know Dad did. One of the stories I tell: When Dad left St. Johns, everybody up there, all the good Mormons, said, "Brother Udall, when I die, will you come back and speak at my funeral?" "Yes." Okay. What he should have had, which they didn't have, was a video tape, because what he did was--and this is what I found in his files--everything was in a legal file, and he had a file entitled "Funeral speeches, stock." Like "Jury Instructions." And you'd open it, and it would say, "We are here because ..." and the name would be crossed out, whoever had died, "who was born" new date, "who died" new date, and then it went on. It was about three pages, four pages. And then he had a file called "Funeral speeches, special." And that was for people that he really cared about. And part of the "stock" speech was in the "special" speech, but the special speech wasn't in the stock speech. So I said, when Inez died, one of the people that spoke at her funeral was Stewart. He started out by saying, "We are here because...." And then he paused and said, "Burr, this is a 'special' speech." I said, "Okay," I laughed. I was the only one there that laughed, because nobody else knew what the hell he was talking about.

But yes, they missed it. Mom, I think, missed more her friends, you know, because neither one of them hardly knew anybody. Dad knew people in the legal world, but Mom didn't. So Mom probably missed it more than Dad did.

JF: What did she do in Phoenix?

DBU: Oh, Mom was a wheeler and dealer--a mover and a shaker, more accurately. She got involved with the Church right away, with Relief Society. She did a lot of work with the Indians. She went to those reservations out there. She was a great quilter. Those women in St. Johns all quilted. I keep hearing the way women gossip playing bridge--those people quilted and gossiped. You know. So she got all that organized. She loved to square dance, and she got them into a couple of places where you could square dance--clubs and stuff. Dad would go, because she wanted him to go, but I don't think he was that hot about it. Maybe he was. And then through the Indian stuff, she met Helen Sekaquaptewa, the lady she wrote the book about. So they then started to spend more and more time on the reservation--at least Mom did--Dad didn't feel like he could, with the court. And they'd go back to the White Mountains.... The Supreme Court used to go on recess early in July and come back Labor Day. They took a two-month vacation--or supposedly. Dad didn't--Dad was up there writing opinions, but most of the other judges weren't. And Mom, like I said before, loved to horseback ride. She always had a horse, and she'd arrange to get a horse in Phoenix, and I think this was in the early forties--Dad bought her a horse. She was very proud of it, great horse. And the horse threw her, and she wouldn't tell Dad for five weeks, because she was afraid he'd take the horse away and beat on him.

JF: Now, she didn't ride back to....

DBU: Oh, no. But she'd ride around St. Johns, take that horse and go eight, ten miles.

JF: Now, did she and Helen Sekaquaptewa drive together back and forth from the reservation?

DBU: Some, yes. See, Helen would come down in the fall to get her kids in school. And she'd be there until school was out. So most of it was done there. I can just remember being there a couple of times, and Mom telling me they went to Oraibi, because Helen and her husband lived on a ranch about fifteen miles out of town. They went to the trading post to get something, and the trader said to Helen, "What are you and this woman doing?" I'm sure in Hopi. And Helen said, "I'm talking and she's writing." (laughter)

JF: That's a wonderful, wonderful book. Now, when did you get married?

DBU: I got married in 1955. Got out of law school in 1954.

JF: And got married right afterwards?

DBU: I got married a year later.

JF: And this was to Alice.

DBU: Yes.

JF: And where did you two meet?

DBU: Well, I met her--I didn't know her--I met her when we were both students at the university. And actually kind of got to know her the summer school before--I graduated in mid-year. I graduated in January because of summer school. In the summer of 1953, there was a lawyer--he's dead now--named Keith Benton. He and I lived together, because the infirmary was closed during the summer, I couldn't live over there and work. And he was dating Alice, and that's kind of where I met her. And then when I got out of school in January, she got out of school that spring. And the courthouse, everything was right there in that dome thing. The jail was nothing. And she was a juvenile probation officer. She and I started to date, and that's when we kind of got to know each other. She always tells the story that at some point I proposed to her. I denied that, but I guess I did. But she could never get me to commit. And finally she said, "When are we getting married?" And I said, "Why don't we do it in January?" And she said, "When?" According to her I said, "About the middle of the month." So we got married the fifteenth. (laughter) Dad married us.

JF: Oh, is that right?!

DBU: Yes.

JF: Was that in Tucson?

DBU: Yes.

JF: Was it a large wedding?

DBU: Oh, no. No, no. These are stories about me that you don't need, Julie, but she and three girls lived together in a house right over on Seneca, right by the Catalina Theater, just west of there. We got married in that house. The deal was, we went on a honeymoon, we came back, they'd move out, and we'd live in the house. So we maybe had thirty people at the wedding--not many more than that--her friends....

JF: Now, this was right across the street from the park there?

DBU: There's a school right there. There's a school just north of that.

JF: Oh, on the other [i.e., west] side of Catalina Theater. Okay, yeah, Jefferson Park School.

DBU: Is that what it is?

JF: Yes.

DBU: So we got married and then.... Well, here's another story I'll tell you. When I was in law school, I was Morris and Stewart's law clerk--I did everything. I served subpoenas, I did research, I interviewed witnesses--you name it. And I was going to go to work for them. The Christmas holiday, the infirmary closed, and I'm getting ready to take the bar exam January 2 and 3, and I'm going to take finals ten days later. So I talked to Miss Bocock, and she did something with the U. of A. that I could stay there, even though it was closed. So I'm living down in the basement where we all lived, and the phone rings. My memory is it was two days after Christmas. So I've got to run up the stairs, and I picked the phone up, I said, "Hello," and it was Morris. He said, "Stewart and I have been talking, and we've decided we can't use you. We think you ought to start looking for a job." Now, up 'til then, I'd never even thought about looking for work.

JF: You just assumed you were going to Udall & Udall.

DBU: Right. And the next day, the phone rang and I ran upstairs, and it was Tom, and he said, "I hear you're looking for a job, and we're looking for a lawyer." And I'm sure they had talked about it. But I don't know that for sure. So when I got out in January--actually the end of January I finished finals--and Elma and I drove up to San Francisco for ten days, and then I went to work for them the tenth of February for \$200 a month, and I wasn't worth any part of it. But Alice was making almost \$300 as a juvenile probation officer. That's why I married her, I was getting lot of money.

JF: (laughs) You married her for her money!

DBU: Right.

JF: Now how many kids have you had?

DBU: Two girls. We set off to have six, and had two in fifteen months, and never had any more. (laughter)

JF: Learned the wisdom of....

DBU: Just the way Mother Nature did it.

JF: Well, I was just going to ask you about college. What was your major in undergrad?

DBU: Well, when I started, I was going to be an engineer. And I think I flunked out of every college the university had--I really do. I took a bunch of stuff. And I'm about to get a degree in accounting in the business college. And summer school ended, so it had to be 1952. I went to Phoenix for ten days or so, and Dad would always take me up to the court and stuff like that. He said, "How do you like it?" I said, "I hate it. I cannot envision doing this all my life." And he said, "Why don't you go to law school?" And I said, "Every damned Udall I know is a lawyer. I'm not gonna be a lawyer." And he said, "Why don't you go to law school? Just go for a semester, can't hurt you. You might like it." So because of my infirmary job, I had to be here eight days before classes started to open it up. And they used to do physicals and all sorts of stupid things out there. So the old, old, old law school--it's on the main campus--I walked over there one day, and I walked into the dean's office and I said to the secretary, "I'd kind of like to go to law school." And she said, "Give me \$35 and you're in." That was it! I didn't have to take nothin'!

JF: That's all that was involved in getting into law school?!

DBU: That was all that was involved. Nobody said, "How are your grades?" or any of that. At that time, it only took three years of undergrad work to get into law school. They changed it that year. The year before, it was two years.

JF: Okay, so you had gone to undergrad three years. (DBU: Yes.) And just basically moved over to the law school.

DBU: Moved over the law school, and then I discovered I liked it, thought I could do it. And so the units my first semester of law school became electives, and I got a degree in accounting the end of that year. (chuckles)

JF: Okay. I noticed you graduated with a B.S. (DBU: Yeah.) So I wondered what that was. Now, were you involved in any sports in college?

DBU: No.

JF: So besides missing the political gene, you missed the sports/basketball gene?

DBU: Well, no, I didn't miss that gene. I got out of the Army, as I told you, and I came here, it's January, and I went out for freshman basketball. I couldn't run, because of the back, because of the surgery. And after the surgery, I couldn't do anything. No, the story I always tell is.... (sigh) What in the hell was it? It was 1945. Stewart is one of the starting guards on the University of Arizona basketball team. Morris hadn't started to play yet, or if he had, he was a scrub. And Stewart came home for Thanksgiving, and at Thanksgiving time in St. Johns, they always had a basketball game, and it was the Lees versus the town. And I'm a smart aleck high school senior,

and he's the big star at the U. of A.--or said he was. And I said to him, "We're going to find out. You play for the town and I'll play for the Lees, and you guard me, and I'll guard you, and we'll see who the best basketball player is." So we did, we played, and he got four and I got twenty-four, and I never let him forget it. (laughter) He always says, "I was just the older brother, letting you go easy."

JF: Yeah! (laughter)

DBU: No, I was actually, I thought, a very good basketball player. But once the back got where it got, I just couldn't do anything.

JF: Yes. Now, Mo was quite a star in college. He was student body president, and he was co-captain of the basketball team. Did that haunt you at all while you were in school?

DBU: No. It really didn't. He was about the only person I knew that was going to college who was banking money. I mean, he had the G.I. Bill, he was the student body president that paid him money. He had the basketball scholarship. He's cutting hair. I mean, honest, he's doing pretty well financially in that era. And as it worked out, see, I came in January, and he left in September to go to Denver. So there was only that short January through June that he and I were in school together. I mean, people still today, Juile, know me--a lot of them, back then in particular. The job at the infirmary, at noon they had a blue cart, and you pushed it up to the student union or the commons to get the food for the patients. And then you did it at 5:30. And most people knew me as the person who pushed that blue cart. They had no idea what my name was. They'd see me and they'd say, "Blue cart!" And Morris, I'm sure, did it before I got there. But I remember I was taking a course in chemistry, and this girl was all over me. And I'm thinking, "Gee, nobody's ever done this!" And we come out, and we're walking down the street, and Morris walks by, and he says hello to her. And we went where we went--she went her way and I went my way. Then I went to find Morris and I said, "Who the hell is she?" And he said, "She's our first cousin from Safford." Well, she knew it, and I didn't. (laughter)

JF: So you graduated from college in 1952, was that? (DBU: Yes.) Mo had already been out in private practice and was county attorney.

DBU: Yes.

JF: Did you work on that campaign at all when he ran?

DBU: No. Was he county attorney that quick?

JF: Yes, he was county attorney very quickly. He had been assistant county attorney for only a couple of years, and then ran for county attorney.

DBU: I know when I started to practice he was the county attorney. I remember that, but I didn't realize he'd been.... 1952 is when he got elected? I'm not arguing with you, I'm sure that's right, Julie, I'm not arguing.

JF: It always struck me as pretty fast, too. But maybe we can....

DBU: I think he got elected in.... No, I don't mean that. He got admitted in 1948, I think.

JF: I've got 1952 at age thirty, elected county attorney.

DBU: Okay, that makes sense.

JF: Yes. And in 1954, you got your law degree and were admitted to practice. That same year, Stewart ran for Congress. I understand that Mo initially considered running for that seat, but decided to back out and defer to Stewart. Do you know why he made that decision at all?

DBU: I think Dad.

JF: Is that right?

DBU: Yes. I think they were internally fighting with each other--Morris and Stewart. And I think Dad came down and said to them, "Stewart's the older, and he's got more experience, and he's the one that ought to run, and you ought to back off." Now, knowing the two of them, they would have.... I mean, the only election Dad ever lost in his life, his brother beat him. So he was used to having brothers run against brothers.

JF: What was that, what election?

DBU: In St. Johns--they ran for the clerk of the board of supervisors.

JF: And he lost?

DBU: He lost to his brother.

JF: Okay, so he had an inkling of that.

DBU: Of how that would work.

JF: Well, I always wondered about that. Do you think that caused any problems between Stewart and Morris?

DBU: I don't think so, I really don't. I think they were, they are, their own people. But I think they respected each other always. That was never a problem. I think Stewart at that time was probably a better politician than Morris was. Stewart was very good at the [grass] roots stuff. He was good at knocking on doors and going to PTA meetings, and the Kiwanis and all that stuff. Morris never did like that stuff much.

JF: So he was a good candidate--Stewart.

DBU: Stewart was, yes. The best politician in the family is Dad. I mean, Dad knew how politics worked, and they learned from him, and he was good at it. He was good at it.

JF: So Stewart's sort of more cerebral way didn't get in the way of his being a....

DBU: No. Stewart.... I mean, he is too long-winded, I'm too long-winded. But thank God I'm not as long as Stewart! But he is very articulate, and unlike.... Or like, I don't know.... Stewart doesn't have a sense of humor. I mean, he really doesn't. A little bit. But Morris always had a great sense of humor. I think I have a good sense of humor. I mean, I laugh at myself. But Stewart's always presented that serious, thoughtful, Einstein sort of appearance, and he can articulate it, and he's effective at it. He was an effective politician.

No, I never got involved in the campaigns.

JF: You didn't get involved in that either. Did you stay in touch with Mo when he moved to Washington, then, after he was elected?

DBU: To some extent, yes. To some extent.

JF: Did he ask your advice on any issues or consult you at all?

DBU: No. He always thought I was an idiot.

JF: (laughs) This is Stewart?

DBU: No, this is Morris.

JF: Oh, okay, I was talking about Stewart. Did Stewart, when he was in Congress....

DBU: No, Stewart never.... I mean, to a small extent. I mean, they both looked at me as the younger brother who was still ten years old, for a long time. They didn't think I knew much, and they were probably right. I mean, I'll never, ever forget when Kennedy was elected, in early December--just right down here, when the old Fox Theater was there--I ran into Stewart, and I said, "What are you doing?" He said, "I'm going to Washington tomorrow." And I said, "Why?" He said, "I'm going to be the secretary of the Interior." And I said, "You're out of your God damned mind." And he pulled me--there used to be a little alley right in here, and he pulled me down here, and he said, "Let me explain politics to you. I almost got myself beat in the congressional election because of the work I did for John Kennedy. And I delivered more votes at the convention in Los Angeles for him than anybody west of the Mississippi. And the secretary of the Interior comes from west of the Mississippi, and John Kennedy is a political animal, and I'm going back and calling my cards." And I said, "You're out of your mind." And two days later [I] picked up the paper and he was right, he was the secretary of the Interior.

JF: So he went after the job (DBU: Yes.), as opposed to Kennedy coming after him?

DBU: Yes. I don't know whether Kennedy--I've never read enough of the Kennedy memoirs and stuff, whether or not, what Kennedy's version of that is. But I know that was Stewart's. And whether they talked to him before and said, "We really appreciate all your help. Is there something we can do for you?" which is probably the way it worked.... But he knew where he was going.

JF: And he went back and talked to them and said, "This is what I want."

DBU: "This is what I did. And you've asked me what I want, and this is the job I want."

JF: Why do you think he chose Interior?

DBU: Probably just his interest in the outdoors and conservation. I mean, it had always been there in our family, and Stewart was a big pusher of it when he was in Congress. He believed it and he'd read a lot about it, and he'd seen a lot of it in action, like anybody in Arizona does. I think he thought that was the one he was better qualified for. And I think he knew that Bobby Kennedy was going to be the attorney general.

JF: Yes, which might have been the other thing he might have been interested in.

DBU: Right, yes.

JF: Did you stay in touch with him when he was in Washington?

DBU: Oh, yes. I used to see Stewart quite a bit back there. Actually.... Well, he was out here again--I don't remember what year it was--my girls--it was probably mid-sixties--and he said--I saw him down here--"What are you going to do this summer?" And I said, "I don't know, we'll probably go to San Diego." He said, "Why don't you go to the Virgin Islands?" And I said, "There's two reasons. One, I don't know where the hell they are. And two, why would I go there?" And he said, "They're in the Caribbean, and the reason you would go there is I appoint the governor, and you'll go as his guest." So we did. The girls and I and Alice's mom. And we went to the Island of St. Croix. It was great. The old British system, they had a government house and the second story was the governor's mansion when he was there, and that's where we lived, was in there. And we had a cook and a maid and a chauffeur and the whole eight yards. And every day, this chauffeur would show up, "What would you like to do today?" And I'd say, "We'd like to go to this hotel." "What time?" I'd tell him, he'd come back, take us to the hotel. We'd walk in and he'd say to the manager who was there behind the desk, "These people are the guests of the governor, and they are your guests." So we got lunch and the towels, the whole eight yards, and went along.

JF: That sounds great.

DBU: Yes, it was. And then I went back there--we all did again. I pulled the kids out of school, because he called me and he said, "When Johnson's term is up, I'm outta here. No matter if a Democrat gets elected or whatever, I'm not going to do it. And if you want to see Washington, you'd better come back now." And Morris was there then. So we went back, the girls and I, and Alice. That's when they passed the Central Arizona Project. We were there about ten days. I was

there just long enough to know it was time to come home, when I figured the country couldn't run without me, because I'm meeting all these senators and people, and....