An Oral History

with

David B. (Burr) Udall (part 4)

Tucson, Arizona

conducted by
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JF: Okay, this is Side B, Tape 28. We were talking about Washington politicians.

DBU: So anyway, we went back and actually stayed with Stewart--I don't remember all this--we stayed with Stewart two or three days. Morris took me over to the Supreme Court and got me admitted. There's a whole bunch of things in D.C. that come under the Interior Department. And so he had it all arranged, we could go to Monticello, and we'd go here, and we'd go there. And I went down, it was probably day two, to his office, which is bigger than the basketball court in St. Johns. It is a gigantic office. I don't know if it still is. Frank Berry [phonetic spelling] was there, and I came in and Stewart said, "What do you want to do?" And I said, "Well, they'd like to go to the Smithsonian, and they'd like to go here, and they'd like to go there." And he said, "Okay, my chauffeur will take you." And I think it was Frank, but one of the guys in there said, "He can't do that. The regulations are, the only people that can be in the limousine are you and your guests, but you have to be in it." And that driver looked at me for a little bit, and he looked at Stewart, and he said, "Tell you what, you look enough like him, if you'll sit way back, they'll never know the difference." (laughter)

JF: That's great!

DBU: So that's what we did, we'd drive up to someplace in this big limo and get out and do our thing.

JF: Have all the tourists staring at you, wondering, "Who are they?"

DBU: Yes, "Who are these important people?"

JF: Were you surprised that Stewart never ran for election again?

DBU: Yes, initially I was. I thought he would do what seems to me everybody back there does: he would stay right in Washington, and he'd become a lobbyist or a lawyer for a big fancy firm, or something. He just wasn't interested, he'd had enough. He came right back to Phoenix and was there doing his thing. At some point--I think it was Carter--Stewart needed--probably still does--something like six months to get certain pension benefits, and he wanted a job, and Carter wouldn't give it to him.

JF: He wanted a job just to serve out the six months?

DBU: Yes. Not an ambassador or something important, but something kind of important.

JF: And Carter wouldn't do it?

DBU: Carter wouldn't do it.

No, I was surprised. Stewart, as I said, he was and still is, I think, a very good politician, but apparently he just spit the bit out, unlike Morris, and had had enough and wasn't going to go any further.
JF: And he's been practicing law.

DBU: Kind of. He practiced law in Phoenix, not full-time. I don't know how to describe what Stewart was doing. Most of it was--he did some environmental stuff, he did a bunch of consulting about like noise and airplane overflights in Phoenix. And then he got involved with all these uranium cases, and that's where his focus finally settled in on those. He lost every one of them, they never won a case, ever.

JF: The uranium cases?

DBU: Yes. The only one, he got me involved, I went up to Phoenix--I can't tell you what year--he found some mining contractor who was involved who had insurance. The rest of the time, he's suing the federal government. And he didn't understand how you settle a claim with an insurance company, and he wanted me to come up and do it. So I went up and spent a day and got him $350,000 or something. But his ace in the hole was always that it was so bad, what the government had done to these people, that even if he lost all the cases, he could go to Congress and get a bill passed to get them compensated--and he did, and got Bush to sign it. So now he's busy finding, or trying to find all these people that are entitled to money, or their [heirs] or their siblings and kids. And he's busy writing books, like he always does.

JF: And he lectures a fair amount, doesn't he?

DBU: Yes. I'd forgotten that. He was big on the lecture circuit, and got a lot of money for doing it. But it was all conservation. It used to be, I could always count, one gift I would get for Christmas was Stewart's new book. (laughter)

JF: Every Christmas, you got a new book!

DBU: Right.

JF: Well, I'm going to turn off the tape for one minute.

DBU: Okay. (tape turned off and on)

JF: Okay, we're back again. Going back, then, to the same time that Stewart ran for Congress, Mo ran for Pima County Superior Court judge, and lost, as I understand, in large part, because of a ballot mix-up.

DBU: Right. At least that's what he claimed. (laughter)

JF: Do you doubt that at all?

DBU: No. (laughter)

JF: He then returned to private practice (DBU: Correct.) at Udall and Udall. Now, you were then clerking in his office?
DBU: No.

JF: You were already gone?

DBU: I was already practicing law when that went on.

JF: So you clerked....

DBU: I clerked for them from 1952 to 1954. What year did he run for judge and get beat?

JF: In 1954.

DBU: Okay. So I was already practicing with this firm when that happened to him, because that was that fall, the fall of 1954 is when he got beat.

JF: Now, their decision not to hire you, did that have to do with just not needing anybody else at that time?

DBU: What he told me on the phone was, "Both Stewart and I are going to run for public office." He didn't say to me, "You can take over the practice," which he could have said. (laughter)

JF: Well, that must have been quite a surprise to you.

DBU: Yes, it was.

JF: Did you know Tom Chandler before that?

DBU: Yes, not real well. I met Tom.... Tom's got a memory like.... I've never met anybody who has a memory like Tom. Tom says, and I'm sure it's accurate, that he met me in 1946 when we came here from St. Johns to play in the state basketball tournament.

JF: He's got a memory!

DBU: Yes. And I kind of knew Tom while I was going to law school. I mean, I'd worked on a couple of cases for Morris and Stewart where Tom and McCarty were involved, and that was kind of what I knew about them.

JF: But until he called you up and offered you this job, you hadn't known him that well?

DBU: No. See, I never even looked for a job. It never occurred to me that I was.... I mean, I knew where I was going, I knew what I was going to do.

JF: Well, it would seem obvious it was Udall & Udall. (DB: Yes.) While you were at Udall and Udall, did you ever sit in on any trials of either Mo's or Stewart's?
DBU: I sat in part of a trial that Morris and Stewart--it's a famous case--that McCarty defended, not Chandler. It's in the books. It's called *Borrow vs. El Dorado Lodge*. And I did a bunch of work for them on that case, and so I kind of... Law school back then, you started, the first class was 7:30 and you were done at 12:30. There was never a class after 12:30, so I'd come down in the afternoon and watch part of that trial. Stewart and I, never--I don't remember ever handling a case with Stewart. I handled a bunch of them with Morris. And Stewart, when he went to Congress, he'd be back here by June. I mean, Congress was recessed, and he'd come back and practice law for five, six months, and Christmas time, put all those kids in the car and go back to start serving in Congress again.

But after Morris got beat, then 'til he got elected in 1961, I guess it was, I handled probably 500-700 cases against each other.

JF: Against each other?

DBU: Yes.

JF: Really? You were working for Chandler. Now, who was with the Chandler firm at that time?

DBU: At that time.... Well, the name of the firm was McCarty and Chandler. The third person in the firm was me. And then in 1958, I think it was, Jim Richmond came with us. And then in 1959, Tuller, who was a Superior Court judge, resigned and came with us. And McCarty had left us by then, although the name of the firm didn't change for a while.

JF: So then two ex-judges came on board?

DBU: Yes. Although Richmond then was just fresh out of law school.

JF: Oh, okay, so future judge.

DBU: Yes. And Morris always had Chuck Ares over there with him. Paul Reese was there for a while. Bill Browning was there for a while. Don Estes, who's dead, was there for a while. Bob Finn was there for a while. I mean, he had lots of.... I don't know, I think most of those guys had their own practice, and he's kind of helping them. I don't think they're on the payroll. We tried one case against each other, Morris and I did, because it was one of these "no win" situations. If we tried a jury trial and he won, my client's going to think I went in the tank, and vice versa, so we never did it. And then I don't remember, 1958, 1959, sometime in there, we had a case that was a court trial without a jury, and we both talked to our clients, and I can't even remember what the facts were. It wasn't an automobile thing--it was some contract dispute. And we tried that against each other, and I won. (laughs)

JF: Good! (laughs) Do you remember the name of the case at all?

DBU: No, I don't.

JF: So you went into insurance defense, for the most part, and he did mostly plaintiffs' work.
DBU: Exactly.

JF: So your firms were colliding pretty often probably.

DBU: Well, the story I always tell, Julie, is we had a case--bad case, and I won't bore you with the facts--a wrongful death case--and I'm representing the defendant, and Morris has the plaintiff. And my insurance company is somebody named The Stonewall Jackson Insurance Company of Birmingham, Alabama. And I've been writing to these people for about three months, and one day I picked the phone up and this guy says, (in Southern accent) "Mr. Udall, I's readin' yo' lettahs he-yah. The best I can determun, you and the plaintiff's lawyer has the same last name. Is yous by any way related?" I said, "Yes sir, we're brothers." And I can hear the phone hittin' the side of the desk. He comes back, he says, "You-all say brothers?!" And I said, "Yes sir, we are, but don't let it bother you. We handle a lot of cases. If it doesn't settle, Mr. Chandler will try it." "Brothers?!" I said, "Yeah." It bugged him. But people around here, you know.... I don't know, you'd have to ask. Most people, I think, didn't know whether we were brothers or cousins or what. They knew we were from St. Johns.

JF: What was your impression of Mo as a trial lawyer?

DBU: One of the best. Very good.

JF: How about Stewart?

DBU: Stewart was Stewart! (laughter) I mean, Stewart was a good trial lawyer. I saw Morris try more cases than I did Stewart. But Stewart--one of the secrets to being a trial lawyer--there are two big secrets--the first one is to get it prepared. I mean, there should never be a surprise in the courtroom. And the second-biggest secret is being yourself, because if you're not, the jury will smell it out, they'll know you're a phony. Paul Reese is a good lawyer, but the first four cases I tried by myself was against Paul. In Case 4, I said, "Paul...." And Paul was trying to be Morris, he wasn't being Paul Reese. He was being the home folks, "folksy" approach, and I said, "Reese, if the issue is which one of us is the most country, I'm gonna win every time. There's nothin' I can do about it." (laughter) Because Paul's from Boston. (laughter)

But Morris always got them ready, and he had a great feel for how to try a case, he did. He and Tom tried a lot of cases against each other--tried a few with each other. Morris is somebody who scared the hell out of you in a courtroom.

JF: In 1961, Stewart had been appointed to the secretary of Interior, and Mo ran in a special election for Stewart's seat in Congress and was elected on May 2, I think it was, 1961. Did you work on that campaign at all?

DBU: No.

JF: You just stayed away from it?
DBU: I stayed away. I always said the perfect answer, Julie, when people were running, they always came to me and said, "Give me money," I said, "I give all my money to my brothers." I didn't give them a nickel (laughs), but I had the right answer!

JF: But you had the right answer! They didn't pull you into fund-raising or anything?

DBU: Oh, they'd kind of say, "If you've got some friends that are clients that have got money, if they want to give it to us, why, mention it."

JF: "We're here."

DBU: But I never really got involved in it. I just didn't.

JF: Do you remember any stories related to the campaign, or you just stayed completely away from it?

DBU: No. I just remember Morris running. I talked to him a little about it. Who the hell did he run against?

JF: Mac Matheson was the first one.

DBU: Yes. I remember thinking from all I knew and what I'd heard, he was a lock--I couldn't see Morris ever losing then, an election.

JF: You've said many times that you somehow missed the political gene in the family. (DBU: Right.) Have you never had any interest in running for office?

DBU: No. I think, when I look back at it and think about it, and like we talked before, what we talked in my family when I was young was politics. Not just running for office, but what was going on in the country. I think you either do what Morris and Stewart did, which is get actively involved in it, or what I did, which is just go the other way. I mean, when they were fourteen, fifteen, sixteen years old, they were out there trying to run people's campaigns in St. Johns. They were always involved.

JF: Just in their blood.

DBU: Yes. And it was in Dad's. I mean, Dad.... You know, one of the old stories I tell--this is why it takes so long, I tell stories....

JF: That's good! That's why we're doing this!

DBU: One of the people in Mormon history--I can tell you all about it from that--but anyway, one of my mother's grandfathers, my great-grandfather, is a guy named Jacob Hamblin. On the other side of Mom's family is a guy named John D. Lee. They did not like each other. Jacob Hamblin's son, who would be Mom's uncle, was the county treasurer in St. Johns, and Dad was the judge, and they got him with his hand in the cookie jar. And my Dad did not believe in that. I mean, my dad,
if you were a public servant, it was a trust, and you didn't violate it. And what I remember--and I hope I'm right--Dad would walk from home to the courthouse, walk back and have lunch, walk to the courthouse, walk back. And he'd walk in and say to my mother, "Louise, what's for supper?" And Mom would say, "If you're going to send my uncle to jail, you can fix your own supper!" (laughter)

JF: I would have liked to have known your mom! (laughs)

DBU: And he did! Dad gave him two-and-a-half to three years in Florence.

JF: Did he fix his own supper?

DBU: I don't know. I don't remember that part at all. And years and years later, Julie.... I was telling this story, when I was smart enough to know something, I said to Dad, "Why didn't you disqualify yourself and get another judge?" And he said what he always said, "I was going to do the right thing. I was going to be fair. Aside from that, the county couldn't afford to pay to have another judge come from another county. And even if they did, it would have had to have been one of my brothers," because Uncle Don was the judge in Holbrook and Uncle Jess was the judge in Safford, and they were the two closest counties.

JF: (laughs) So there was no way to avoid Udall justice.

DBU: Right! That's right.

JF: I'm assuming that you must have known Pat Udall, Mo's first wife (DBU: Oh, yes.) fairly well.

DBU: Fairly well.

JF: How would you describe her?

DBU: Different! (laughs) Boy, I don't know how to describe Pat. Alice is trying to talk her into coming down next week.

JF: Oh, good! That would be great!

DBU: I haven't seen her in a long time. They got married up there. They didn't tell Mom and Dad. I don't think Morris ever told them he was getting married.

JF: Oh, is that right?

DBU: I don't think so.

JF: They got married up in Denver?

DBU: In Denver. And her family is a very prominent family up there. You know that.
JF: Well, I guess I didn't realize it was a prominent family. I knew they'd met in Denver.

DBU: Well, her maiden name is Emery, and they're big in banking and Estes Park outside of Denver. Her grandfather founded all that.

JF: Oh, okay, I didn't realize that.

DBU: So they're big up there. Pat and Alice were good friends. I used to see a lot of her. The story I always tell about her--when I say "different"--I came here, it had to be the year that Morris got through playing ball, and they moved here. And they lived in a little house right off of Tucson Boulevard, just north of where Bob Dobbs' is, on Sixth, up there on the hill [probably 4th Ave.]. Because of having to be here eight days early for my job at the infirmary, I came down on the bus, the bus station was down here, and I walked from the bus station to their house, got there about 10:30 at night and knocked on the door, and she came to the door. She knew me, she knew who I was. I said, "I'm here, and I need a place to sleep." She said, "You can't stay here," and closed the door in my face.

JF: You're kidding!

DBU: Nope. So I walked back down to the bus station and slept on . . . . .

JF: So you never saw Mo?

DBU: No.

JF: Did he ever know about that?

DBU: I think, but I don't know. I mean, it was kind of, you know, like I'm there to rape her or something. I don't know what the hell she was thinking.

JF: And you had met her before.

DBU: Oh, yes, it wasn't like I'm just somebody off the street.

I'll tell you one other story. When I was in the Philippines--Mom always told this story--Stewart and Ermalee got married, and Mom sent me a picture of them, so I'd know what Ermalee looked like. And apparently I wrote her a note saying, "Stewart is wearing my shirt." That was the whole comment (laughter) which was great. When they went in the service, it was the best thing that ever happened to me, I had lots of clothes. Stewart and Dad and I are about the same size, so I very seldom got any new shirt--it was something handed down. So that's why I was mad that he was wearing my shirt.

JF: In Pat's case, how do you think she took to Mo's political ambitions?

DBU: I don't think she did. I think that was a lot of the problems and the strife. I think--and I don't know this, Julie--but I think the biggest factor that caused them problems was she was well-
known, the family was well-known in Denver, and nobody knew her down here, and all she heard was about the Udalls, and it made her madder than hell, she didn't like it.

JF: Especially if she was from a prominent family up there.

DBU: Yes. I mean, that was the impression I always got. They used to get into battles, I guess. I never saw them fight, but I'm sure they did.

JF: Do you think she would have been more content if he had just stayed a lawyer?

DBU: I think so, yes. I think so. If he hadn't got into the political arena, then he doesn't get his name in the paper, people aren't talking about him as much. And I think that bothered her, I really do. I really do.

JF: In 1967, Mo came to Tucson and at the Sunday Evening Forum became one of the first members of Congress to announce his opposition to Vietnam. (DBU: Right.) Did he tell you ahead of time that he was going to do that?

DBU: Yes, he did. That's one of the few things he told me he was going to do. And he talked to Stewart about it, as I'm sure you knew.

JF: I'm interested in you saying, as you did earlier, that he never consulted you at all (DBU: Not very often.) because I've heard that from a number of people. It sounds as if Mo just kept his own.... (laughs)

DBU: I think he did. I think if he consulted with somebody politically, 'til he died, it would have been Dad. I mean, Dad could open a lot of doors, knew a lot of people. Dad was, as far as I can tell and know, very highly thought-of in the legal community, and in the political community. I mean, he was somebody you could trust and his word was good, so he could help his sons when they wanted to run--quietly. He couldn't in public, because of his job. But the person probably that he talked to more than anybody was Stewart. But I think he was pretty much a lone wolf when he came to.... I mean, the one thing that I'm real positive about that Morris talked to me about was when he first found out he had Parkinson's, whether he should tell anybody. And he went out of his way to come and talk to me about that.

JF: That was a very personal (DBU: Yes.) decision.

DBU: And I told him--I don't know what anybody--I told him, "Look, you've told them the truth all the time--tell them! Don't hold it back. And he held it back for a number of months or whatever, before he finally came out with it. And I still think he was wrong. I think if he'd have came right out as soon as he found out, it wouldn't have made one damned bit of difference, and he thought it would. He thought it would hurt him the next time he ran.

JF: He thought just election-wise it would hurt him?

DBU: Yes.
JF: In 1968, and then again in 1970, he unsuccessfully challenged the seniority system (DBU: I remember that.) running first against Speaker John McCormack, and then against Hale Boggs for majority leader. Were you surprised by these races?

DBU: No.

JF: Why do you think he....

DBU: It's always been his way. It was always his way. The fact that he "took on authority"--and I use that in quotes--was Morris. I mean, I don't know how the hell you put it, Julie, but it's kind of like him being the student body president, or him being the captain of the team. "Somebody has to do it, and I'm the best person." I mean, that's the way he thought, and believed it. I mean, it wasn't something phony. He wasn't doing it because he wanted the title--it was "you need good people to do this, and when I look around, I'm the best one there is." Maybe that's just supreme self-confidence. I think when he went back there, he started off with, "I've got to learn how it works" and all this. But then he got looking at the seniority system and he thought, "This is nuts! Us young people are better qualified, and somebody ought to do it!" He looked at all of his peers and said, "I'm the best one, so I'm gonna take you on!"

JF: Between the Vietnam speech and these races for leadership, do you think that he was already at that time considering a run for the presidency?

DBU: I can't answer that. I don't know as I know, Julie. I would doubt it, just his makeup. The impression I always had with the Congress thing was what I just said, that "they ought to change all this," and he was the one who would be the best to do it, and so he ought to do it. And I guess that's what I think when it came time to run for the presidency. He thought, "Here's a vacancy, here's something available. I'm better than any of these other people running, so I'd better run."

JF: Did you get involved in that at all (DBU: No.), in the presidential race?

DBU: Not at all, not at all. I mean, I saw him from time to time, but I didn't get involved in the campaign.

JF: Did he ask your advice about that at all?

DBU: No.

JF: How did you learn that he was going to run?

DBU: I read it in the paper.

JF: Is that right?

DBU: Yes.
JF: What was your reaction?

DBU: Same as with Stewart down here about being the secretary, "You ain't got a ghost's chance in hell!" (laughter) "You're out of your mind!"

JF: Someday they'll learn to listen to you! (laughter) Were other members of the family involved in the presidential campaign?

DBU: Elma got involved. Eloise may have in a small way. They were in Richmond, Virginia, then. I don't think Inez ever did. I don't think Stewart--Stewart did, to some extent--I shouldn't say that. Elma got involved.

JF: Stewart was campaign chair, wasn't he?

DBU: Right. And Stewart consulted with him, I believe, quite a bit on strategy and all that sort of stuff, and probably helped him raising money. But no, I was never involved in that. I know he came out here, whenever the hell it was, when he was running, by the time he had Secret Service--that drove me nuts, drove Alice nuts. He came to eat one night, about four o'clock I get this phone call. She didn't say hello, she didn't say nuthin' she said, "You gotta get these God damned people out of here!" And I said, "What are we talking about?!" She said, "The Secret Service is here with all these dogs!"

JF: In fact, that was probably the time we came into Tucson for an event in his campaign plane.

DBU: Probably.

JF: When he still had the campaign plane.

DBU: Right. I know he came to eat, and Ella came. I don't remember, maybe Tom came. But we had Secret Service up on the roof. It was pretty unbelievable.

JF: Let me ask you about Ella. On December 1, 1968, you and Alice witnessed Mo's marriage to Ella.

DBU: In our house.

JF: Oh, it was in your house?

DBU: Yeah, they got married on our house.

JF: Okay, I wondered that. Considering that Ella was born and bred in the D.C. area, why do you think they chose Tucson?

DBU: I don't know. Nobody ever said. What I was told was, "We're getting married...." And I don't remember whether it was me or Alice--probably Alice--and said, "Where?" and they said,
"We don't know," and knowing my wife, she said, "Okay, get married at our house." So that's what they did.

JF: Were they in Washington at the time when....

DBU: (sigh) I honestly don't remember, Julie. I want to say the first I knew they were getting married was just a few days before they got married, and they were in Tucson at the time.

JF: Had you met Ella before that?

DBU: Yes, a couple of times. I liked Ella. Ella's different than Pat. (chuckles) And Norma's different than all of them, but that's another story.

JF: Tell us about Ella.

DBU: Ella was very outgoing. Pat was very introspective, I always thought. I mean, I thought of Ella more as a friend than I did anything else. I mean, she cared, she asked me questions, she got along with Alice and got along with my girls. We never had a lot to do with them, but anything I ever had to do with her, I enjoyed it, she was a lot of fun to be around--she was.

JF: When she died, her death was ruled a suicide. Did that surprise you?

DBU: Surprised the hell out of me. I guess you're told the people who are going to do that, call a bunch of people. She called me about three days before.

JF: Did she?

DBU: Yes.

JF: Did she seem upset?

DBU: No. Just kind of "How are you? We're coming out. Miss seeing you, blah, blah, blah."

JF: She was planning on coming out here?

DBU: Yes, that's what she said.

JF: Wow.

DBU: But I've heard that a lot of people who do that, do that sort of thing, make a lot of calls to people and kind of closing doors, saying goodbye.

JF: Well, it didn't sound like closing a door.

DBU: No, it didn't, but that's what I'm saying I've heard, is that a lot of psychiatrists will tell you that's what happens with people that do that.
JF: Now, their wedding--were you the only ones there? Were there other people?

DBU: I'm trying to remember. Jack Marks married them. He was a Superior Court judge then, lived in the same neighborhood we did. Marks' wife was sick, she never went out of the house--could have been dead by then, but I don't think so. I think that's all there was there.

JF: You think it was just basically you all?

DBU: And we all went out to the Tack Room and had dinner afterwards--I remember that.

JF: Sounds like a good place to go.

DBU: Marks bought, I remember that, because it's still a family joke with Alice and I. I've been to the Tack Room three or four times in my life, and the guy came by and you know, they've got all the vegetables in individual dishes, and he said, "Brussels sprouts, Your Honor?" So any time we have brussels sprouts, that's what it's referred to at my house. (laughter) And Marks, who was kind of loud and obnoxious in a lot of ways, just roared. But Morris and Jack were pretty good friends. I don't remember anybody else being at that wedding. I'd have to ask Alice. Her memory on that sort of stuff is better than mine. But it seems to me that it was just the five of us that went to dinner. That's kind of why I'm saying that.

JF: What kind of first lady do you think Ella would have made?

DBU: Oh, boy! (laughter) I think Ella would have done pretty well at it, don't you?

JF: Yes. I think she would have risen to the occasion.

DBU: Oh, I do too. And I think she had her own causes, or got her own causes, and I think she would have been a great supporter of his. She was great pushing him up front. She wanted in the background, all those sorts of things. No, I think she'd have done a real good job.

JF: She always struck me as having a very good relationship with Mo in that she was the one person I knew who could tell him he was dead wrong, or he was full of it.

DBU: And she wasn't adverse to doing that when she thought that.

JF: What kind of president do you think Mo would have made?

DBU: I think he would have been outstanding. You know, and I'm prejudiced, you know that. But I think, unlike a lot of people that got that job, he would have got--and he would have picked them careful--real, solid people to work for him. All this scandal stuff you got with departments, whoever in the hell the president is, you wouldn't have had it with him--I don't think. He's a pretty good judge of character.
JF: The year he lost twenty-two primaries, he also fell off the ladder, broke both his arms, contracted viral pneumonia, suffered a burst appendix, got peritonitis (DBU: Had a good year!), and began showing signs of Parkinson's. Were you in touch with him then at all?

DBU: No. Hardly at all. I was in touch with Ella, but not Morris.

JF: How did she cope with all of it?

DBU: I thought pretty well. It's like somebody told me I had prostate cancer and I had surgery and all that stuff. Well, what the hell are you going to do about it? I mean, you have to live with it and get on with it, and that's kind of the way Ella was. I don't like it, but there's not much I can do about it, and we've got to make the best of it.

JF: Right. When did you first learn that Mo had Parkinson's?

DBU: What year did he announce it? That is the only way I can answer that. And probably, like I said, he, one of the few times, went out of his way. He was in Tucson, I don't know why, and called me and said, "I want to talk to you," and said, "they think I have Parkinson's disease," or "I do have Parkinson's disease, and my concern is, should I announce it?" And I said, "Look, you're one of the first, if not the first who started disclosing your income tax returns. You've always been up front with it. You've got to be up front with this. It's not going to phase you politically one bit. As I understand disease, it's not like Alzheimer's or something--you're able to function mentally, you're just as good as you ever were, so why not tell them?" And he wouldn't do it, I know that. And I know he got differing opinions from differing people.

JF: Do you know how much later it was that he....

DBU: I want to say four to six months later, is when he finally--and it could be even longer than that, Julie, but maybe six, eight months.

JF: The actual diagnosis, I don't think, was made until 1979 or something, but I always got the impression that.... I mean, even from talking to Ella, I got the impression that they certainly knew something was wrong back as early as 1977 or so.

DBU: Yes. Well, when I talked to him, the diagnosis had been made. He had been told by, I think it's a doctor in Phoenix, isn't it, who first diagnosed it? the way I remember it.

JF: I don't know.

DBU: I know what I was told was he was having these problems, the motion problems and walking problems. I'm almost sure it was Phoenix. He walked into the doctor's office and the doctor looked at him and said, "You have Parkinson's disease." He wouldn’t run a bunch of tests or anything.

JF: Your sister Inez had Parkinson's.
DBU: Right at the end, yes.

JF: How old was she when she contracted it?

DBU: She was seventy, I think. I mean, when in the hell was it? A number of years back. I was out at a neurologist's office to take a deposition. He had a book on Parkinson's, and I'm waiting and I'm reading it, just to kind of... And he came out and we introduced ourselves, and he said, "Are you related to Mo Udall?" I said, "Yeah." He said, "Well, why don't you take the book with you? I've got a lot of 'em." I've got it here someplace. We got through the deposition and he said, "Probably you want to read it because you're worried that you're going to get it. You're not. It doesn't run in families, it doesn't have anything to do with your genes." I said, "Oh, really?" He said, "Yeah, what we think is the people who lived through the 1918 flu that killed all the people"--which would have been Mom and Dad, they were alive then--"and the people who were born and lived in an alkaline climate"--which St. Johns is--"those are the two factors that make you get Parkinson's." And I said, "Maybe, but let me tell you something. My oldest sister just got diagnosed with it. I have on my Mom's side, an uncle and an aunt who had it. You ain't gonna convince me it doesn't have something to do with your genes."

JF: Yes. It's amazing how little they know.

DBU: Oh! it is. Yes, it is.

JF: It really is. How about Norma? Do you know Norma very well, Mo's third wife?

DBU: I know Norma fairly well. I'd just as soon not talk about it.

JF: Okay.

DBU: Norma and I are Morris' co-guardians. We take care of the money. So I don't know Norma that well.

JF: Let me ask a couple of general questions.

DBU: Sure.

JF: I really just have a couple more here. Two of your nephews, Mo's son Mark and Stewart's son Tom are running for Congress this year. Obviously you know that. (DBU: I do.) Tom's been attorney general of New Mexico for a while.

DBU: Eight years, two terms.

JF: Is it eight years?! Wow. Okay. Why do you think it took Mark or another of Mo's children so long to get involved in politics?

DBU: I don't know. I think in talking to Mark--Randy, Morris' second son--and he were on the outs for a long time.
JF: Mark and Randy?

DBU: No, Randy and Morris. And I've never known the full story behind that. I know Randy had some very strong feelings about Mo. I talked to Mark, when the hell was it? Eight, ten years ago. We went up there to a wedding. And he was kind of saying then, "I'm all of a sudden starting to think about running for office. I never did like it when Dad was running. I didn't like him being gone, I didn't like all the turmoil, I didn't like all the press." But I think my opinion about Mark is, he finally just decided--kind of like his dad--"somebody's got to do it, and I'm the best person. I'm going to do it." Where Tom, I think, more.... I mean, Stewart got a lot of press and did all that, but Stewart's kids have always thought Stewart's crazy--and they're right! (chuckles) They're scared to let him drive around the corner, because he may not come back, he doesn't know where he's going. And so I don't think that the impact on Stewart's kids was the same as it was on Morris' kids, being in politics.

JF: Well, and Morris' kids lived in Colorado most of the time they were growing up. Did they spend much time with him in Washington, to your knowledge?

DBU: Very little.

JF: Do you see any other budding politicians in the Udall extended family?

DBU: Well, I know Anne used to think she was always going to run for years. She used to talk about she was going to run. But I think when she went to North Carolina, she gave that theory up. No, I don't see it, but I don't go out there and hug them and shake hands and figure out what they're going to do.

JF: How about any of your kids?

DBU: No! No, my kids have no interest in politics--I hope!

JF: Now, one daughter, Lolly--or Laurie, I should say--is an attorney.

DBU: Yes, criminal lawyer.

JF: How about your other daughter?

DBU: The other one is the oldest, and she got a master's degree in health administration and did that for about ten years and, quote, "burned out," which I don't understand. She went to school at Stanford, and a friend of hers is, if you've got over $6 million, he'll invest your money for you. So she's his girl Friday, she works for him.

JF: Okay. Let me ask you a question that's just been on my mind since I read Mo's book Too Funny to be President. In there, he wrote of being very self-conscious. And specifically he wrote, "My glass eye, coupled with my gawky frame and lack of confidence made me an extremely self-
conscious boy." Yet Mo seemed to be willing to be the first to jump into student body president, quarterback of the football team....