

INTERVIEW WITH

Floyd Oles

by
Dr. Maclyn Burg
Oral Historian

on

April 20, 1972

for

Dwight D. Eisenhower Library



Gift of Personal Statement

by Floyd Oles

to the

Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

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Floyd Oles
Floyd Oles

Date: APR 17 1973

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This interview is being taped in the home of Mr. Floyd Oles. The interviewer is Dr. Maclyn Burg of the Eisenhower Library and the interview is taking place on April 20, 1972. Present for the interview besides Mr. Oles is Mr. Oles' wife, Helga, who was also present at many of the events that we are going to discuss, and will from time to time be the third voice that appears in the interview.

DR. BURG: Now, Mr. Oles, if we concentrate in this interview just on the 1952 campaign, to begin with, I know there are some stories you want to tell us about Milton Eisenhower, and, of course, about Edgar Eisenhower, who lived here in Tacoma. But, let's ask first, what was your position in the 1952 campaign?

MR. OLES: My position, actually, when the campaign was underway, was state manager for the Eisenhower-Nixon campaign.

DR. BURG: When had you associated yourself with that movement or formed that movement--how soon?

MR. OLES: Well, that was much prior to that. I had been interested in it back in 1951, when we didn't know if the General was going to be a candidate or not.

DR. BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: But along about September, perhaps a bit earlier in 1951, there were a good many of us who were hopeful that we could get the General to be a candidate. And the reason for that was not any feeling of other than great friendliness for the other potential candidate, Robert Taft, particularly in my own case, because in 1940 I had been the state campaign manager for Robert Taft's ambitions to be the President.

BURG: So you had worked at that time with Judge Charles Paul?

OLES: That's right.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: With a good many others.

BURG: Right.

OLES: But the leaders of the campaign for his nomination at that time in this state were myself and a Colonel Bert Ross. And Bert and I had organized quite a campaign. We didn't have much money, and as you may recall, the whole thing went awry anyway. Because--



BURG: In '40?

OLES: In '40. Because--my goodness, I even forget his name, who became our nominee of 1940 against Roosevelt.

BURG: Willkie.

OLES: Yeah, that's Wendell Willkie.

BURG: Wendell Willkie.



OLES: Who came from nowhere and, incidentally, went nowhere. But at that time--

BURG: But rather shocked your forces. He came out of nowhere and won the nomination.

OLES: He won the nomination and, of course, was overwhelmingly defeated. But at that time, I had put on quite a campaign for Robert Taft. And his brother-in-law, Dave Ingalls, whom you may remember, who came out--

BURG: Yes, I do.

OLES:--here with his wife, and I met them, and we carried on quite a bit of propaganda around the state, and we had a great many meetings. But, as I say, that was where that went. But, of course, my admiration for Robert Taft never ceased. I have always had that admiration for him.

BURG: Where did you stand, then, in the '44 campaign? Where did your support go that year?

OLES: In '44 I was in Europe.



BURG: So your interest was--

OLES: Yeah--

BURG:--at some distance.

OLES:--I was not in any position to be active in politics; I was at that time a staff officer in staff work for the SHAEF headquarters in London.

BURG: I hasten to add that another interview with Mr. Oles will

trace some of the military career of the World War II period, so we will pass over it now to return to it on a later date. In '48, were you back from overseas?

OLES: No, I was not. I was still in Denmark in '49.

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: We had, we had a long deal there that, as you say, we can talk about another time.

BURG: Uh-huh, and we shall. Had you known General Eisenhower personally through this period?

OLES: No, I've never known him personally.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: As you know, I have a lot of pictures in which he appears with me, for that matter, but those were merely campaign pictures we took on those rather rare occasions when I was in the same place that he was--

BURG: I see.

OLES:--at the time.

BURG: I see. But you knew of his work. Can you recollect--I know it's very hard to look back over that span of time--can you recollect the kinds of impressions you had of him through the World War II and post-war period, before this campaign of '51 and '52?

OLES: Well, let me say that I looked at this as a dedicated and life-long Republican.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: And I wanted to see an end put to the Democratic and extremely self-styled liberal administration we had in Washington, D.C. And I was willing to do anything I could to that end. I didn't think that there was much I could do, other than simply as an ordinary citizen. My wife and I had only returned to stay in this country permanently from Denmark--let's see, the last time we got back was in 1951, wasn't it?



MRS. OLES: Yes.

OLES: We had bought this house, but we had not yet occupied it.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: So, we came back in 1951, and I had been very active in politics before the war, so I was fairly well-known. And I got a phone call from Hugh Scott, who is now the minority leader of the Senate.

BURG: Can you place that call in time, do you remember the date?

OLES: Oh, it was probably in, it was probably in August or September of 1951.

BURG: Uh-huh, right.



OLES: And we had only been back from Europe a few months, then, and he wanted to come out and have a talk with me. Well, I couldn't understand it, I saw no reason for it, and I didn't know Hugh Scott. But he said that he had talked to Arthur Langlie, who at that time was the governor here.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: And Arthur Langlie had recommended that he should talk to me about it. They had got their heads together and decided they had to have somebody to head up a campaign for General Eisenhower's nomination in this state. And apparently Langlie had concluded that I was the one to do it.

BURG: And also had concluded, then, that Robert Taft was not the candidate who might be able to win.

OLES: They and I had agreed--I mean not, not Scott, I hadn't met him yet--but the governor and I had talked it over a number of times, because we at that time were pretty good friends.

BURG: I see.

OLES: And he had wanted me to take a position in the state government, and I didn't want to do it. I was quite free and clear. I had no obligations at the time. So--



BURG: Can you tell us why you didn't want to take that position?

OLES: I didn't want to be committed to it, I didn't want to be tied down, I hadn't made up my mind yet--my wife and I hadn't made up our minds what we wanted to do. And I didn't want to live in Olympia. We had this home, we had bought it,--

BURG: Right.

OLES:--paid for it, and we felt that we'd want to stay in Tacoma. Tacoma was our choice of a place to live. And the governor had not told me that he was suggesting my name to Scott, who was one of the leaders in the movement to get Eisenhower to run.

MRS. OLES: Eisenhower was still over in Paris at that time.

OLES: Yeah, Eisenhower was still abroad at that time, in Paris. So, of course, he had told me, then, that Arthur Langlie had suggested it, and I was somewhat taken aback, but I went down--I said I wouldn't make up my mind about it; I would talk to Art Langlie about it. So I went down to Olympia to have a talk with Art Langlie. Called him up and said, "I'm coming down." And he



was very complimentary--he was patting me on the back to make sure I did it, you see.

BURG: Of course.



OLES: And I walked in on him--we were old friends at that time--and I said, "What's this you've been telling Hugh Scott?" At that time Hugh was in the House of Representatives, you might recall. And he said, "Well, I'll tell you what I told him: I told him that I was going to recommend to him the smartest politician in the state of Washington." I said "Well, that's a lot of flattery, but what do you want for it?" He said, "I want you to run that campaign." Now, in our state, of course, it was a matter of getting delegates to the state convention, and of controlling the state convention, because there's no such thing as a primary of that kind in our state, you know.

BURG: Yes, coming out of the grass roots--precinct caucuses on up.

OLES: From precinct caucuses on up to the state convention.

BURG: Right, with nobody required to register for a particular party.

OLES: That's right. We have a wide open primary. Whenever we have it here, you don't have any obligation. You can cross over and vote for the weakest opponent that you can try to get nominated, so you can beat him in the finals.

BURG: Right, right.



OLES: So, there was coming up around the first part of October a western states Republican conference at the Olympic Hotel in Seattle. So, I told the governor that I would go through with it up to that time, anyway, and see what it looked like. So, Hugh Scott came out, and we had a long talk, and I agreed to go ahead with it, and we finally got started raising a little bit of money.

MRS. OLES: When did Charles Mattingly come out here?

OLES: Charles Mattingly didn't come out until we actually got underway, I think.

BURG: We might ask, what is Mattingly's occupation, and where is he from?

OLES: Mattingly was a St. Louis lawyer who was one of the leaders in the campaign--he's dead now--in the campaign for Eisenhower. And he was actually employed by the Eisenhower organization out of Washington, D.C. to help organize states for Eisenhower. And he was sent out here to do it here, but as he told me, he quite frankly told me--he didn't come until well along in the campaign--but he told me quite frankly, he said, "I got out here and found there was nothing for me to do; it was already done." So he told me when he first arrived and looked the situation over, he said, "I'm just going to be sitting on the sidelines watching what you do."

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: So he stayed through the convention.

BURG: So, in 1951 he is not a factor--

OLES: No, not in '51.

BURG:--here at all. All right.

OLES: So, we went to the western states conference, and we didn't get very far--the state was under control of people who were on the Taft bandwagon, completely. The state chairman in Seattle-- what was his name, the state chairman that I had such a ruckus with?

MRS. OLES: Oh, that man in the printing business?



OLES: Yeah.

MRS. OLES: Starts with M--Morton, wasn't it?

BURG: Mort.

OLES: Mort Frayn.

BURG: Mort Frayn.

MRS. OLES: Mort Frayn, yeah.

BURG: R. Mort Frayne.

OLES: Yeah, he was the state chairman, and he was violently opposed to Eisenhower, primarily because he was a pro-Taft man, of course. And so was the entire central committee. Now, what was the name of our state committeewoman who was also so bitter?

MRS. OLES: Tourtellotte.

OLES: Yeah.



BURG: That would be Mrs. Neal Tourtellotte.

OLES: Mrs. Neal Tourtellotte. So they were very much opposed to it, and the whole delegation from Spokane, who were at this conference, were also very bitter about it. So finally, Hugh and I were there together, and we managed to get only one man to go with us. And that was J. C. Morris, who was the state committeeman for the party from Alaska--he lived in Anchorage. And J. C. was a hundred percent for Eisenhower. So, we had in the whole western state conference, we had three Eisenhower people, and then Hugh was not from our state, anyway.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: And the dramatic moment that I remember was when they had a caucus of the Taft supporters, and it turned out that was the whole, the whole western conference. And they had to use one of the big rooms, and I remember there a whole bunch of them surging into this meeting for Taft, and here was Hugh and myself and J. C. Morris standing on the sidelines there, and as they went by, one of the men whom I knew from Yakima--can't remember his name-- yelled at us as he went by, "Where's the Eisenhower caucus?"

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: And, of course, we were the Eisenhower caucus.

BURG: Let me ask you at this point, how old a man were you at this juncture?

OLES: Well, take '52 from '72, and I'm now seventy-six, and take twenty years from that--fifty-six.



MRS. OLES: You must have been, yeah, fifty-six, yeah.

OLES: I had to be fifty-six.

BURG: All right. Now, the people that were streaming into the Taft caucus, what was their age in general, how did they average out for age?

MRS. OLES: Older.

OLES: I think they were all, by and large, on the average, elderly. I mean, they were the older people.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: That's true.

BURG: Uh-huh, all right, fine, thank you.

OLES: That isn't specifically true, of course, but it's near enough to be.

BURG: Right.

OLES: Well, at any rate, we didn't get anywhere in that. And



then we started, with the help of the governor, who was on our side, trying to get an organization set up. And it wasn't a very easy thing to do at that time, under those circumstances, and with the obvious opposition of the official Republican party in the state of Washington.

BURG: So how would proceed? What steps did you take trying to do this?

OLES: Well, I told Hugh that we first would have to call some meetings and get some well-known speakers to be in favor of Eisenhower, and build up a bit of public sentiment, and get our names in the newspapers as Eisenhower people. And set up a headquarters, which we did, and begin to get some workers.

BURG: Headquarters in Seattle?



OLES: No, we set them up here in Tacoma.

BURG: I see.

MRS. OLES: We paid for them, but they wouldn't give us any money, so what we spent came out of ours.

OLES: Yes, we had to put up the money ourselves, I mean.

BURG: No Republican party--

MRS. OLES: No.

BURG:--help, Mrs. Oles?

MRS. OLES: No.

OLES: Not a penny, not a penny.

MRS. OLES: Opposition, violent opposition, right here in Tacoma.

BURG: Since we all three know that there was an Eisenhower here in Tacoma who had considerable money, let me ask, at this point, how much money did he contribute?

MRS. OLES: Not a dime. Lucy, every three-cent stamp that she would use at home, she would come down and collect from our--

OLES: From Helga.

BURG: Lucy being--



MRS. OLES: We took it out of our own bank account.

BURG:--Edgar Eisenhower's wife.

MRS. OLES: She got every three cents.

OLES: Well--

BURG: Right down to the penny.

OLES:--right down to the penny. But Lucy was tight-fisted. But aside from that, I can tell you about Ed, because Ed and I became pretty good friends as matters developed, but we didn't start out that way. I had never met Ed, and I was just getting underway and I just put a few stories in the newspapers about how we were getting started, and I was always being twitted by the Taft people, 'Where's your candidate, where's your candidate? You haven't got a candidate.'

BURG: I see.



OLES: Because I went to all the Republican meetings and tried to start some propaganda. But I remember one day I was in the Sears and Roebuck store down town, shopping for something or other, and

believe it or not, I got a phone call in the store--they paged me in the store. And I went in the manager's office to get on the telephone and it was Ed Eisenhower, and, boy, was he mad! He was violently angry! And he said, "Oles, you've got to stop this; I don't want my brother running for President." And I said, "Well, you'd better talk to him."

BURG: Amazing!

OLES: And he gave me quite--I mean, if you knew Ed Eisenhower, he had some pretty salty language, and when he talked to me, he said, "Now, God damn it, I want you to put a stop to this."

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: "I don't want to hear any more about this. Now, you cut this out, and cut it out right now." And, of course, I didn't know Ed and he didn't know me at the time, but that wasn't the right approach for me, and he should have known better, if he'd known me at all. So, I 'God damned' him right back again, and I said, "I don't give a good God damn what you think about it. I'm



starting a campaign, and if you don't like it you know what you can do." And I hung up on him.

BURG: I see.

OLES: So that was a bad start, you see, between me and Ed.

BURG: Not, not the warmest start in the world!

OLES: No, it was pretty bad. And I came home and told Helga about it, and said a few bitter things about Ed Eisenhower. But we began to pick up some help, and I picked up a young fellow to be one of my assistants, I'm thinking--

MRS. OLES: Don Eastvold?



OLES:--no, no. He's now in California.

MRS. OLES: Oh, Ken Hagedorn.

OLES: Yeah, a guy I picked up--Ken Hagedorn.

BURG: Could you spell the last name?

OLES: H-a-g-e-d-o-r-n.

BURG: All right, fine.

OLES: Ken Hagedorn. And he is now down in California.

BURG: Was he a Tacoma man?

OLES: He was a Tacoman, yes.

BURG: And how about his occupation?

OLES: Well, he had had a peculiar occupation. He had been a motorcycle policeman, and he got cracked up some way and got retired for disability. And he became rather successfully a--

MRS. OLES: You need a pillow on your back.



OLES:--a consultant of some kind for--business consultant. How in the world he ever got into that I don't know, but he did quite well at it. But apparently it wasn't a business that required full time on him, so I made him a proposition that he ought to go to work for the Eisenhower campaign. And he was very effective--

he was good. And I sent him all over the state of Washington to various meetings everywhere to drum up support.

BURG: Young, in the sense of about how old?

OLES: At that time, I suppose Ken was thirty-five.

BURG: All right, let me ask you this: He is one of the first that you've attracted with your campaign, he's coming in as an able assistant, is it typical of the group that you're beginning to contact--

OLES: Yes.

BURG:--that they are like this?

OLES: They are the young people. And the next one that I found who was enthused and willing to do something was Don Eastvold, the son of the then president of Pacific Lutheran University.

BURG: Who was a lawyer, I believe?

OLES: He was a lawyer.



BURG: By occupation. All right.

OLES: And Don was all for it. And he began to collect some more people, and then I got a whole bunch of them around here--I could, have to go over my list, here. I began to get the younger people into it. You know, they'd organized what they called "Citizens for Eisenhower," which was presumed to be non-partisan in the sense that it would take in anybody, whether he was a Democrat or a Republican. And we got a certain number of them who were not Republicans, essentially.

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: And then we started to do some meetings to get speakers in, and the first one that I remember getting was the then-senator from Pennsylvania, Duff, Senator [James] Duff. I, I don't know if he still lives or not--probably not; he was not very young at that time. So, through Hugh Scott we got Duff to come up here, and we put on a big meeting, and we had first a meeting in Portland, which other people arranged down there. And I had a rather amusing

experience about it, because my wife and I went to the Portland meeting, which was at the Multnomah Hotel, and the principal organizer down there was Wayne Morse, who was then a Republican senator and obviously ambitious to be nominated for Vice-President. And we arrived there--and what was Duff's first name? I've forgotten. I got real well-acquainted with him, and now I've forgotten his first name.

BURG: We'll check that out and add it in brackets.

OLES: But he hadn't arrived yet, at the meeting, and so my wife and I were left with Wayne Morse for better part of an hour, because we happened to get there early--the theory being that I would take Duff in my car, and take him up to Tacoma and Seattle, which I did.

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: But I had an interesting time with Wayne Morse, because I listened, as I recall it, for three quarters of an hour to Wayne

Morse telling me how the salvation of the United States from those unspeakable Democrats depended on our getting Eisenhower to run for President--which hadn't yet been determined.

BURG: Uh-huh. This meeting is '52, now, early '52?

OLES: Well, let's see.

MRS. OLES: We have our diaries, but if it is important, we could get it--the exact date.

OLES: I have the diaries.

BURG: O.K., good, we will.

OLES: I have these diaries upstairs, there, that cover every day and everything we did on every day all the way through this campaign.

BURG: Marvelous.

MRS. OLES: From almost your whole life.

OLES: Yeah, practically my whole life.



BURG: Marvelous, marvelous.

OLES: I've always done that. Well, I can't tell you dates without referring to them.

BURG: That's all right.

OLES: But this is one of the early things, anyway. And he [Duff] did a good job. But at any rate, Wayne Morse gave me this three quarters of an hour lecture--and he is one of the men who once starts, you can't stop him--

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES:--about the absolute necessity for getting Eisenhower to run, because we were not going to be able to win with an ultra-conservative like Robert Taft. Well, in that part of it I agreed. I felt that we had to have a new personality, and one already with a strong public support because of his war record.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: Eisenhower was a hero, and I felt that the Republican party



had to take advantage of his standing with the public. I expected him to be a great President, but I expected him also to be a great candidate. And at the moment, that was my principal interest.

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: It was always amusing to me to recall that the next, at the national convention of that year, according to those who came back and told me about it, that as soon as Dick Nixon was made the Vice-Presidential candidate, then Wayne Morse came storming down the stairs saying, 'We have ruined the Republican party by nominating that man for Vice-President.' And, of course, the obvious fact was that he expected it himself. And it was very great bitterness on his part that resulted in his leaving the Republican party and becoming a Democrat, where I don't think he was ever too welcome either.

BURG: You didn't view the Nixon nomination as any kind of disaster, then, yourself.

OLES: On the contrary. I thought it was fine; I thought it was wonderful. He came from California, he'd had a good record, he was a youngish man, he had plenty of fire and vim and vigor. I thought he was just what we needed.

BURG: So you're conveying to me now an image of the Republican party, nationally perhaps, certainly in the state of Washington, as rather fatigued and without drawing power in your eyes?

OLES: We had a bunch of old people running it who were stick-in-the-muds, and stodgy, and they'd been too successful too long.

BURG: Now, you think of them as too successful?

OLES: They had been.

BURG: But they had not elected in the state?

OLES: Oh, yes; they'd elected Arthur Langlie governor.

BURG: Now, that they had. But other than that, had they done too well, do you think?



OLES: We had, we had five of the seven congressmen--we were not in bad shape. But, I didn't think that on the national level we could win with Robert Taft. If I had thought we could have won with Robert Taft, I would have been wholeheartedly on his team.

BURG: Uh-huh. Did you know much about Eisenhower's Republicanism at the time?

OLES: I didn't think that he had any. I understood at the time, I understood at the time, and I believe correctly, that he had even been approached by the Democrats. And that he hadn't yet made up his mind if he was a Republican or not. And, as a matter of fact, as a President he didn't turn out to be very Republican, and that was one of my complaints about him, afterwards.

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: I still feel that way about it. But at any rate, at that time I was not so concerned with the depths or the intensity of his Republicanism as I was with the fact that he could win.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: And I was deeply concerned about the situation that we were in--if we were going to have, as apparently we had, a virtually permanent control by a party that was becoming increasingly left-ist and ultra-liberal.

BURG: And you saw him as a, perhaps, a forlorn hope to stop that?

OLES: That's what I saw.

MRS. OLES: And also because he got along with the rest of the world.

OLES: Well, he had--

MRS. OLES: He had capacity.

OLES: That's right. He had proven himself to be a very smooth diplomat.

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: And he did that. He kept some warring people, with many mutual animosities, working together. And he did it very competently. So that was very much in his favor.

BURG: Yes, I see.

OLES: What he lacked as a President wasn't any lack of conviction or principle at all; it was a lack of political expertise. And that plagued him all the time he was President.

BURG: Now that lack would lead to something?

OLES: The lack would lead to his permitting himself to be led by people who didn't have his or his party's best interest at heart. It would lead him to allow the bureaucracy, which was overwhelmingly Democratic after those many years of power under Roosevelt, to make appointments of Democrats to offices that should have been given to Republicans.

MRS. OLES: And he went out of his way to reward the Taft people, to entrance them.



BURG: Uh-huh.

MRS. OLES: The jobs went all to the Taft people, and he almost--
isn't that right?

OLES: That's right.

MRS. OLES: Uh-huh.

BURG: Was that true--

OLES: He had all--

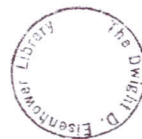
BURG:--within the state of Washington?

MRS. OLES: Yes, uh-huh.

OLES: Oh, yes. Definitely. The people who had opposed Eisenhower,
many of them very bitterly, were the ones who received the patron-
age after he was elected.

BURG: Patronage being dispensed in this state by whom?

OLES: It was federal patronage, and therefore it was dispensed,



actually, by at that time our senator--Harry Cain, wasn't it?

MRS. OLES: I don't know who dispensed the patronage, how they--

OLES: Well, Harry Cain was the state, was the senator from--

(Interruption while cassette is being changed)

BURG: Harry Cain, senator from Washington, was an anti-Eisenhower, pro-Taft man, himself. He would be, would be--

MRS. OLES: Would be MacArthur.

OLES: Well, he wasn't a pro-Taft man.

MRS. OLES: No, he was MacArthur.

OLES: He was a MacArthur man.

BURG: I see.

OLES: And he was anti-Eisenhower, and I couldn't get him out of it. Now, Harry and I were very good friends--he's now down in Florida, you know--



BURG: Yes.

OLES:--engaged in some kind of savings and loan business down there, and he has, I think, a radio program where he gets notable people to come down and talk. Oh, Harry and I have had many talks about it since that time, and he admits that I was right and he was wrong.

MRS. OLES: Harry sat right down at the breakfast table--wasn't it in Spokane--and you told him to get on the team.

OLES: Well, I, I had every, I used everything I could to get Harry on the team, and I didn't succeed.

BURG: He persisted in remaining pro-MacArthur?



OLES: That's right.

BURG: That interests me, because I was told that the man was pro-Taft.

OLES: No, he was not pro-Taft.

BURG: I'm glad to have that straightened out.

OLES: But it, to wind up about Harry--Harry and I were very good friends. He was the mayor of Tacoma, and he and I and this man Frederickson, whose picture you saw, all went in at the same time--

BURG: Paul Frederickson.



OLES:--into the army. And we were all at the school, at Shrivenham in Berkshire in England, where we were taking a course in military government. And Harry was there, and I called together, along with a couple of other fellows, I called together a meeting of all of the officers at that school who were from the state of Washington. And we all agreed that Harry should run for the Senate--even the Democrats agreed with that who were officers at that time, including Smith Troy, who is down here as prosecuting attorney at Thurston County now. And later he became the attorney general. But, at any rate, we got together at Shrivenham--we had our picture taken, I have the picture of that

group that met--and we urged Harry to run for the Senate. So, when Harry came home, which he did rather early, shortly after the end of the war, he got back home again and ran for the Senate and he made it. But we started Harry off in Shrivvenham in Berkshire.

BURG: In '44?

OLES: In '44.

BURG: Urging him in '44--

OLES: Urging him in '44.

BURG:--and he ran in '45.

OLES: But, to wind up about Harry, I argued with him and I pleaded with him to get on the bandwagon. I told him, "We're going to win this thing, we're going to give Eisenhower the delegation from this state, and you should go along with it." And at the convention in Spokane, I sat with Harry while I was running the thing, and all the boys were coming back with questions: 'What do



we do now?' and 'What do we do about this delegation?' and so forth. But I sat there with Harry the whole hour or two or three, laboring with him. I said, "As soon as this thing is over and we've got the delegation for Eisenhower, you're going to make the speech." And I said, "For God's sake, go up there and say, 'My people have spoken, and I may have been for MacArthur or Taft or somebody else, but my people have now spoken and I'm down the line a hundred percent for Eisenhower.'" I said, "You get up and do that and we'll re-elect you." And I said, "You don't do it, and we'll beat you." "Well, Floyd, I'll tell you what's going to happen," he said. "Your man and Taft are going to lock horns at Chicago, in an impasse, and neither one is going to be able to get enough votes to be nominated, and my man is going to go in." I said, "Harry, there isn't a chance in the world, you haven't got a, even a Chinaman's chance." And the damned fool wouldn't listen to me, and finally he gets up and makes his speech, and he avoided all reference to the Presidency, but he would not come out and say he was for Eisenhower, even though we had given Eisenhower twenty of the twenty-four delegates.



BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: And the only reason he didn't get the other four was because I decided not to anger the Spokane delegation--I said, "Let's give them four delegates."

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: So we gave them the four Taft delegates.

BURG: Do you remember who the four were? Hazel Baker--

OLES: Well, I've got them, they're all right here.

BURG: Oh, O.K., just so long as we have it. No one has been able to remember anything more than Hazel Baker.

OLES: Well, they're all right here.

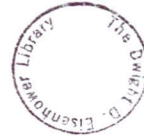
MRS. OLES: [lost this phrase]

BURG: Delegates.

OLES: Everyone is right, listed right here.

BURG: Oh, O.K., fine.

OLES: So, at any rate, it was a great disappointment to me that Harry wouldn't go along with us, and years afterwards, and during the time when I was chairman of the Committee on Retirement of the Reserve Officers Association--we were living in Washington half the time--along about 1960, maybe, Harry came up to Washington, D.C., where he was going to get some big names to come down and appear on his program in connection with his savings and loan association in Florida. And purely by accident, Helga and I were over in the Capitol building, and here we walked right face-to-face with Harry Cain. So, Harry and I saw a settee over in a corner some place--



BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES:--and sat down and started to fight the whole campaign all over again. Helga got completely disgusted and went back to our

apartment in the Congressional Hotel. And Harry and I sat there for seven hours.

BURG: Harry was still recalcitrant about this whole thing--he was still right and you were still wrong?

OLES: No, no, he agreed that I was right and he was wrong, but we couldn't give up talking about everybody we'd seen and what we had done and what we might have done that was different, and why did we give them four delegates--I mean, everything like that. Went all through it from start to finish.

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: But Harry, Harry was a stubborn mule, other than which he would have been re-elected.

BURG: So, he had the one six-year term as senator, and that was it for him?

OLES: That was it.

BURG: Now, did he strive for re-election, Mr. Oles?

OLES: Oh, yes, he tried hard enough.

BURG: And was the defeat administered to him a heavy one? Do you remember, roughly, the proportions of that defeat?

OLES: I don't think so, because at that time he was running against Scoop Jackson, wasn't he, I think.

BURG: Yes, that would probably be about right.

OLES: It was Scoop, yeah. Scoop had been in the House with--

BURG: Well, Henry Jackson.

OLES: Yeah.



BURG: My transcriber is not from the state of Washington.

OLES: Well, everybody knows him by Scoop now--

BURG: Yeah, it shouldn't--

OLES:--and he thinks he's running for, for President, and I think he has no intention of being, trying to be, President, or being

nominated. But I think he's doing a buildup there for something else, and he probably could use it four years from now, if he gets enough attention this time.

BURG: I see.

OLES: There's another very peculiar thing about it; Scoop and I have always been close personal friends, and we still are. My wife has an inordinate admiration for his wife, who's one of the most beautiful women in the world--no doubt about it. And he has a couple of beautiful kids. She had his picture sitting over there a little while ago; I don't know where it's gone now.

BURG: Darn, Mrs. Oles.



MRS. OLES: Some Republican must have come out here and moved it. But we get a Christmas card every year from Scoop Jackson. I have a whole collection of them, you know, his family--

BURG: Right.

OLES: Well, Scoop is a wonderful guy in his way, and he votes

wrong all the time on social issues, in my opinion. And he votes always right on military matters. So he and I see eye to eye one hundred per cent on military and international affairs--right down the line.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: And we concentrate on that, and he has put those in for me, a good many of the changes that I have been able to make in the laws on military retirement he has initiated for me.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: And he's a very, very good man in that respect. And he's as sound as anything could be on military matters. And I think he's probably the best head in the Senate on them, by far. So far head and shoulders above the rest of these nondescript candidates that the Democratic party is now putting up, that he shouldn't even be considered in the same category.

BURG: I see, I see.



OLES: Way, way above them.

BURG: Interesting things coming from a staunch Republican.

OLES: Yes, that's right.

BURG: Now, you cited that Harry Cain could not be moved in '52 to help out. I'd like to ask you, can you name others who were your opponents--in Cain's case a pro-MacArthur man--but who did you consider to be your leading Taft opponents, the people that you had to work against?

OLES: Well, my big problem was the county central, or the state central committee and the state chairman, who was Mort Frayn. And the state central committee was dominated by Mrs. Tourtellotte.

MRS. OLES: And his--



OLES: And--what's his name from Spokane, the man who was the state committee, the national committeeman? You know him very well.

MRS. OLES: Owen [?]

OLES: No, no, who was he, who was he?

MRS. OLES: You're forgetting the list of the King County.

OLES: No, but I'm thinking of Spokane.

MRS. OLES: The state committeewoman was Hazel Baker then. I don't know when Tourtellotte came in.

OLES: Oh, that's right, Hazel Baker was the state committeewoman and Mort Frayn was state committeeman. This is, what is the date of this?

MRS. OLES: '52.



OLES: '52, that's right. Agnes Gherman--she didn't amount to much. Ray Moore was the King County Republican chairman, and he was on our team.

BURG: Yes.

OLES: He was, he was for us.

BURG: Yes.

MRS. OLES: I'd like to meet--

BURG: The man who gets Spokane--

OLES:--gets Spokane--

BURG: Homer, a Homer somebody?

OLES: No, no, it wasn't Homer.

BURG: I should have--

OLES: Wait 'till I get the 5th District, here. I'll tell you all about it.

MRS. OLES: O.K.



BURG: The name we were searching for was Harlan Peyton from Spokane.

OLES: Harlan Peyton is a very, was a very fine gentleman, and he and I were always very friendly. But he was, of course, overwhelmingly a Taft man. So was Hazel Baker. And Mort Frayn, who was the deciding factor. And Mort Frayn was a very dictatorial

character in that, in that job. And finally, of course, we had the governor on our side. And I started in a meticulous job of organizing every one of the thirty-nine counties in the state. I had a difficult time getting money enough to pay for the expenses. But we finally got a little bit here and a certain amount on credit. At the time we finally wound up that campaign, having had no support whatsoever from the central committee, I think I was personally in debt about five thousand dollars on the thing.

BURG: I see, that you had been paying out of your own--

OLES: That's right--



BURG:--pocket.

OLES:--or on my own jawbone, if you will.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: But after we got the thing rolling a little bit, I had planned to try to control a substantial majority of all the county delegations to the state convention--that was my purpose.

And I finally did. I had to control the credentials committee, and I managed to do that.

BURG: Now, how did you do these things? For example, the county committees--how would you, with thirty-nine counties, how did you manage to maneuver into a controlling position in the thirty-nine?

OLES: Well, to start with I either went to them or I sent either Don Eastvold or Ken Hagedorn into every county. We got, we found out whether the county chairman was on our team or not, and if he was, we used him, of course. And then we made a nose count of all the people who were candidates for the county convention--it's a terrific job. This thing runs into almost inconceivable numbers of individual people you have to--

BURG: Because in the county, you start at the precincts.

OLES: You start at the precincts.



BURG: And build up from that.

OLES: Now, there were certain places where we just gave it up,

and we thought, 'Well, all we can do with them is overwhelm them.'
And we did that.

BURG: How?

OLES: By getting enough other people to control the thing in
other counties. Now, there were certain counties I gave up; I
knew that I couldn't get them, because they would be overwhelmingly
Taft.

BURG: Where, geographically, were those kinds?

OLES: In the eastern part of the state, primarily.



BURG: East of the mountains.

OLES: East of the mountains, mostly. Then, on the finances, I
was invited to attend and present my story to a meeting of the
state central committee held at the Edmond Meany Hotel in Seattle,
out in the University district.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: And the governor was present, and the committee--virtually

the whole committee were there. So I told them my story that we needed this money for the Eisenhower campaign, and this was, well, this was afterwards, wasn't it? I'm getting ahead of myself, because this was after we'd gotten him nominated.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: So let's, let's skip that for a moment.

BURG: Because there could be no help from--

OLES: No, there was no--

BURG:--there was no help from them in the--

OLES: No, there wouldn't have been--

BURG:--attempt to nominate him.

OLES: All right, I'm getting ahead of the story. Then, how to do this job and how to organize it was the question. So we started in in our own county here, and I organized a--it started out as an Eisenhower club or group. After the election it became the Men's Republican Club of Pierce County, and I became the



first president. But it was only an Eisenhower group to start with.

BURG: About how big, in its initial stages?

OLES: Well, on paper I suppose there were, we finally managed to get several hundred in. We did it by getting people to sit right down on the telephone and call people up: 'Will you come to a meeting at the Elks Club on such and such a date at noon, and talk over what we're trying to do?' From that we would get these people in a group at the Elks Club, for example, at lunch, and say, 'How many of you are willing to go out into the precincts now and organize the precincts?' We'd get fifteen or twenty of them or thirty of them, and in the course of time, I got enough additional workers working with us so that I had, really, finally, hundreds of them in all the major counties of the state. Let's take Lewis County--which is all solidly Republican, so I knew I had to have it, you see.

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: So, I called one of my friends down there and found out that he was a Taft man. I can't do anything with him, but I knew that he would be very, very potent down there. So then I cast about and thought, "Well, who can I get in Centralia or Chehalis?" And then I remembered a fellow named Grant Armstrong down there--a lawyer, relatively young fellow. I called Grant up--my wife, incidentally, telling me all this time that I have a case of "telephonitis," because I spent hundreds and hundreds of dollars on the telephone. And they finally had a joke. At the time we were closing the headquarters after being successful, after it was all over, I still had these people to thank and congratulate all over the state, you see. And finally we were closing the office and they were taking away the tables and the chairs, and I recall my wife coming in and finding me sitting on the floor--the telephone hadn't been removed yet--and still telephoning people all over the state of Washington, saying, "Thank you."

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: But, taking Lewis County, so I went down to see Grant--I

had been, I went to most of the counties myself.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: We had time enough; it was a long campaign--

MRS. OLES: And we had boxes, remember--boxes of all the junk that you could sell; Eisenhower buttons and--

BURG: Oh, boy.



MRS. OLES:--ties and--to get a little money in, you know.

BURG: Yes, to get the money that way and distribute more propaganda for Eisenhower, as it were.

OLES: Yes, well, fortunately, Walter Williams and I were good friends, and he was the national head, you know,--

BURG: Yes.

OLES:--of the Citizens for Eisenhower. I'd tell him what I wanted. I wanted banners, I wanted flags, and everything that you could imagine--these little buttons and things, and we'd

sell them. One of my good friends, who was a good supporter, is a man that owns a restaurant over here on South Tacoma Way, Steve Pease. And Steve has one of these "Gay nineties" decor--

BURG: Yes.

OLES:--restaurants.

BURG: I see.

OLES: And he had secured one of the cablecars from San Francisco, and put a truck engine in it, and he used it for advertising.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: So, I got this from Steve--he contributed the use of it--

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES:--and I got a young man and his wife, who no longer live here--the Millers, you remember?

MRS. OLES: Uh-huh.



OLES: And I put the Millers on this thing, and I said, "Now, you're going to do nothing else from now until the election but run around the state of Washington in this thing, ringing that bell--" there was a bell on it, you know. And with streamers and everything up and down the sides: "Eisenhower for President." That went every place in the state of Washington.

BURG: They were salaried?

OLES: Oh, yes, we paid them something. Didn't we pay the Millers something? I doubt if we did, at that.

MRS. OLES: We paid expenses.



OLES: We paid their expenses, but I don't think we paid them any money.

BURG: I see.

OLES: I had very few people that I had to pay any money to. But that was only one of them. Then, finally, Ed Eisenhower came around and decided since the thing was rolling and finally

Dwight Eisenhower had agreed to be the candidate. So Ed had to come around.

BURG: Can you date his coming around, approximately?



OLES: I think Ed finally decided to go along with us as soon as the General had agreed to become the candidate. He got off his high horse.

BURG: Did he ever tell you, Mr. Oles, why he took the attitude he did about this?

OLES: Oh, yes, yes, he did. We had lots of talks about it. No, he told me that his feeling was that Eisenhower should remain above politics. He said, "Here is a man, my brother, and he has done a great thing for this country, and he has done a great thing for the world. And he has led these armies to success, and he should remain at that level, up there, and not descend to the level of partisan politics."

MRS. OLES: Well, you know, people do get smeared in any campaign, and they immediately smeared the whole family.

OLES: Naturally.

BURG: Yes, yes, yes, quite common.

OLES: And he didn't want the family smeared. I think he was quite sincere about it, quite sincere.

BURG: Did he indicate that there had already been, perhaps, an unwelcome amount of publicity--

OLES: Yes, definitely.

BURG:--generated because of it?

MRS. OLES: Oh, yeah.

OLES: Yes, he didn't like it a bit.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: He was a man who had--he was wealthy, he had been a very



highly successful lawyer, and he had always maintained a very low profile, himself.

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: He didn't get out in front in civic matters. He did his duty, but he didn't want to have it appear in a great big splurge. Well, at any rate, he came around, but Lucy, then, she wanted to get into it with both feet, and she did. And of all the people that I have ever met, with one or two exceptions--there were a couple of exceptions--, Lucy had the most well-developed capacity for making enemies of anybody I ever knew. She rubbed everybody the wrong way, she became dictatorial and she decided that she was going to run the show, and you either went along with Lucy or she blew up.

BURG: Did she have any official position during the campaign?

OLES: No.

BURG: Can I ask you, when did she appear on the horizon--only after her husband allowed her to--

OLES: Well, I don't think he was ever in a position--

BURG:--or was she in evidence before?

OLES:--to either allow her or not; I think she was a pretty independent character. But, she did not appear in it until we actually had a candidate and we were actually well on our way. And then she became so difficult for me to handle that I had to do something about it. Now, after he was nominated, she was very difficult. And she became, now, kind of a, well, she felt that because of her name, I think, that she was entitled to some special consideration and the right to leadership.

BURG: I understand.

OLES: And I didn't want her in that position. And she was causing me a lot of trouble here and in Seattle and in the major places by affecting that she was the one to say what this policy was or that, you see. And I couldn't have that going on.

BURG: Uh-huh.

MRS. OLES: She didn't know anything about it.



OLES: No, she was completely ignorant of it as far as politics go. So finally, I, I think I conceived of a brilliant idea and I'm still proud of it. I got it, I got away with it. I told Lucy that I wanted her to head a caravan of people who would go to all of the smaller towns in eastern Washington and hold meetings for Eisenhower.

BURG: You sent her into enemy territory?

OLES: Of course.

BURG: Where you didn't have much support anyway?

OLES: That's right.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: And she fell for it--hook, line and sinker. And she made the trip, and that got rid of her and I didn't see her the rest of the campaign.

MRS. OLES: We got an elephant for her, a little, bitty baby



elephant--for the trip.

OLES: Yeah, I even, I even hired her a baby elephant to go on this trek with her, you see. Put it in the truck and on she went, she and the baby elephant, all over eastern Washington.

BURG: Dear me. It didn't hurt you any, it--

OLES: No.

BURG:--could actually have helped.

OLES: It could have helped.

BURG: It may have helped.



OLES: People who saw her for the first time--she's good-looking, very good-looking.

MRS. OLES: Oh!

OLES: She was. That is a question women and men never agree on.

BURG: We have a dissenting vote here from Denmark, I believe!

OLES: But at any rate, she certainly didn't do any harm and she may have done some good.

BURG: And she certainly was not on the scene here.

OLES: She wasn't in my hair in western Washington.

BURG: About how long was she east of the mountains, on this trek?

OLES: Oh, that must have gone on for a month or so before the election, didn't it?

MRS. OLES: Oh, I think it was longer.



BURG: So pretty much, effectively, she was not damaging your cause here in the heavily populated--

OLES: That's right.

BURG:--end of the state, the western end of the state, at all.

OLES: That's right.

BURG: I see.

MRS. OLES: We got her out of the office.

OLES: We got her out of the office--she was always in my hair telling me how I ought to do it. And meanwhile, they'd sent Mattingly up--but that was later on. In order to control the convention, I knew I had to control a majority of nine hundred, approximately nine hundred, votes in the convention.

BURG: Out of a total of how many, sir?

OLES: That's--no, that's it.

BURG: Out of nine hundred votes.

OLES: Nine hundred was the total.

BURG: In the Republican convention.



MRS. OLES: When did Cabot Lodge and Mary Lord show up? In what period?

OLES: I'd have to look at the, I'd have to look at our diary, but Cabot Lodge came out. He was on the team, too, and he did very well; he's a good man.

BURG: Lodge was evidently one of the men, the key men, to talk the General into--

OLES: Yes, that's true, too.

BURG:--running at all? Uh-huh.

OLES: And Mary Lord. And she is good--now, Mary Lord was very good, indeed.

BURG: That's Walter Williams' co-chairman for Citizens for Eisenhower.

OLES: That's right.



BURG: Uh-huh, nationally.

OLES: She was a cousin, you know, of Averill Harriman, of whom, incidentally, she had a rather low opinion--which she didn't hesitate to express, incidentally.

BURG: Uh-huh, uh-huh.

OLES: But she did a lot of good with the women around here. Oh,

my goodness, when I stop and think of all that detailed organization--it's really something that you just can't describe in a short time, because we had women's groups, and we had youth groups, and we had every conceivable kind of a thing. I had speakers by the dozens horning our way into every kind of a meeting we could get into.

MRS. OLES: There was such terrific enthusiasm for Eisenhower that we have never seen since in any campaign.

BURG: Would you say, Mrs. Oles, that it transcended just the young, that you drew older people, too--

MRS. OLES: Oh, yes.



BURG:--into this kind of excitement?

OLES: Oh, yes.

MRS. OLES: And even grade school kids and high school kids--they came down and begged to us and we put them to work.

BURG: Uh-huh. So in this state, that campaign was not a product of the main Republican organization with whatever resources it had; it was actually pretty much a put-together, ad hoc--

MRS. OLES: Ad hoc thing.

BURG:--kind of campaign?

OLES: It was that. But we had--I kept a set of files, as you can see here--

BURG: Yes.



OLES:--and I had every county in the state organized, without exception, and I had a separate card index file on every county and every person who was in an official position in the Republican party in every county, and I had every one of them contacted to find out whether or not he was going to help with us or whether he was going to be against us.

BURG: And these file books, here, will indicate, will they not, whether a county chairman was pro-Taft or pro-Eisenhower?

OLES: Sure, yeah, I think we have it all right here, in any of these cases.

BURG: All right. And, of course, the precinct chairmen, presumably, were--I've heard the expression used that there was an old guard and there was a progressive Republican element; the old guard had the precinct chairmen all over the state.

OLES: For the most part, they did. Now, here we are--let's take a look for a moment at Yakima County.

BURG: And this is an eastern Washington county--



OLES: That's right.

BURG:--and very conservative.

OLES: Well, central Washington really. Now, here, it's very, very interesting to me, after twenty years, to look at these names. Now, here's Lincoln Shropshire, who was the chairman, and he's a lawyer and he's now the prosecuting attorney of that county. He must be getting on in years, now. And he was a Taft man, of course. May Hertig--she was the vice-chairman--she was for Taft. Now, Don McNeese, who was the secretary, Mrs. Don

McNeese--I think we had them on it. Then we had a Yakima County Eisenhower for President organization. I went over there and I got Bert Gunns, who was the Yakima County sheriff, to be the chairman of it. That worked out fine.



BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: Then I got, since I couldn't get Lincoln Shropshire--who, incidentally, is a very nice guy and a member of the legislature, where I knew him very well. We were good friends. But the former county chairman was Phil Phillips, and so we got him to be a member of our executive committee over there. I got county commissioner Lee Crossen of Selah to be one of the members of it. And I got Fred Palmer, who was the son of the former state committeewoman of our party there. I got an attorney, Carl Loy. Then I got Mrs. Don McNeese, who was the secretary of the party in the county there, and I got Don McNeese, her husband, to be on our, on our committee, too.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: Then I had to get some Catholics, so I got Tom Corkery and

he was the president--or he was the brother of the president--of Gonzaga University, see, and that didn't hurt me a bit.

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: Then I got Billie May, and she and Jim, her husband, were the two best workers I had in Yakima County. And she finally became a congresswoman for many years--just recently, just recently was left at home when a fellow named [Mike] McCormack beat her the last election, in '68 [1970].

BURG: I see.

OLES: But--

MRS. OLES: What's her name, what's her name?

OLES: Katherine, her name was Katherine May.

MRS. OLES: Katherine, yeah.

OLES: But all of her school friends always called her Billie, so in politics we always called her Billie May.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: So--

MRS. OLES: She was on the committee.



OLES:--I got a Mrs. Barrows, who was a former state committee-woman, and we put on a series of meetings, but by the time I got to the point where I could count substantially more than five hundred delegates, then I knew I could coast, you see, and I didn't care what happened after that. So what I did, then, with counties where there was a divided allegiance, like Thurston County.

BURG: Which is the Olympia--

OLES: Yeah. And for Lewis County, for that matter, I did the same thing. I went down there and talked to the Taft people and I said, "I'll tell you what I'll do: in order to save bitterness in this county and ill will after the convention, I'll divide the delegates with you, fifty-fifty." And in several counties I did

that--after I knew I had a majority, you see, because by that time I didn't care.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: So they all went for that, and it saved a lot of ill will in various places, especially Turston and Lewis Counties. But wherever I felt I had to have them, then I had to be a little ruthless about it. I was pretty ruthless, for example, down in the tri-city area, in Benton and several of the counties down there, where I was, I felt I was in trouble.

BURG: This was Richland, Pasco--



OLES: Yeah, in that area down there.

BURG: All right, can you explain to me, ruthless in what ways? Why were you ruthless and how did you carry out your campaign there?

OLES: Well, we had a divided delegation down there, and when we succeeded in getting a small majority in the county convention--

for example, in Benton County--then they got up a Taft delegation to contest it. And the thing was so close that it could have gone either way, but I knew that I controlled the credentials committee, and Don Eastvold was the chairman of it, and we just said, 'No, that's the way it goes; we're not going to listen to any protest at all.' So we just refused to listen to it.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: Now, they were all prepared, according to what they told me, to bring in evidence to show that there had been some hanky-panky some way or other in the convention. People who lose are usually pretty willing to claim that somebody was guilty of hanky-panky of one kind or another, you see.



BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: There may have been some--I don't know--but whether there was or not, I wasn't going to listen to it, because I needed the delegation. So we did it that way, and I was severely criticized

for that by some of them, of course.

BURG: They felt that the Benton County convention had been rigged in some way.

OLES: That's right.

BURG: To your knowledge, you don't know that it was?

OLES: I don't know that it was at all.



BURG: But to you, it didn't make any difference because you needed the votes--

OLES: I wanted the votes and so I wasn't going to listen to any, to any protest.

BURG: How did you get the credentials committee, by the way? You had Eastvold on it--was it that by then your forces just swung so much weight that--

OLES: That's right. We were able to name enough people to it to get control of it, and I knew we had no--anything I could get to

the credentials committee I knew that I was going to win.

BURG: Uh-huh. Your people, the fact that your people outnumbered Taft people, for example, on the credentials committee-- does that reflect a peculiarity of Republican politics in this state?

OLES: No, it merely reflects the fact that by that time I had control of enough county delegations, or a majority of them, so that I had the delegates, and I knew I had them. I had enough control.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: And of course, the credentials committee consists of delegates, and we could therefore name the ones we wanted to. But anyway, it was done in this way as you can see from this--I think you'd better have this, ultimately. I've been thinking of keeping it for a long time because there might be some basis on which I could use it again for the benefit of the party, but this now is twenty years old, and most of the--well, not most of them



by any means--but a great many of the people are dead and gone. But since most of our support was relatively youthful--

BURG: Yes.

OLES:--we still have a lot of them in business, still doing business.

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: And I expect to be active in the Eisenhower, in the Nixon-Agnew campaign again, but I don't think I will have any use for any evidence as old as that. I have, besides, pretty complete files on the 1968 campaign, you see.

BURG: Right, uh-huh.

OLES: I'm sitting pretty on that. Well, it was a very detailed job, because we had an uphill battle from the start. We were starting behind the eight ball, because the central committee was against us, and the old guard was against us.

BURG: All precinct organization pretty much in their--

OLES: Pretty much in their hands.

BURG:--hands.



OLES: Yes, we were pretty much starting as interlopers. And it was an organization job. Well, fortunately for me, I had been in organization work all my life, because I started out by organizing a group of trade associations. In fact, the first job I ever had of any consequence was assistant manager of the Manufacturers' Association of Washington in Seattle. And then I organized a whole series of trade associations after that, and I finally became manager of the Washington State Taxpayers' Association and I ran that right up until the year before the Second World War broke out. And--

BURG: Before the war broke out, or before we entered the war?

OLES: Before we entered the war.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: Because my last task for the Taxpayers' Association was to get the forty-mill limit on property taxation put into the state constitution, which called for a two-thirds vote of the legislature followed by a campaign to get it approved by the voters. And I managed that campaign and I got it through the legislature and I got it into the constitution. And at that time, then, a very large holding company firm in Seattle asked me to become its manager, which I did for a year, but by that time we were in the war and I was a captain in the Reserves.

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: So I was called to active duty, and that was that.

BURG: Yes. Now, once you had the delegates, once the Washington delegation to the national convention was set at twenty-to-four for Eisenhower, did you go with the delegation to the national convention?

OLES: No, no, I couldn't, because I was five thousand dollars in debt, personally, to pay the bills.

MRS. OLES: They kept calling you back to Washington for meetings and they'd say 'Well, we'll pay your trip and we'll pay your hotel room,' so we went back and put out our own money and then when he got back there, the man who had called up here had no authority, so we never got reimbursed and all this has been destroyed.

BURG: I see, I see.

OLES: No, it was a patriotic effort that cost me a lot of money. But anyway--

BURG: So you have never got it back?



MRS. OLES: No.

OLES: No, I never got that back.

BURG: The Republican Central Committee never reimbursed you--

MRS. OLES: Oh, no.

OLES: Oh, no, no, they were not for it at all.

MRS. OLES: They were still Taft.

BURG: The victory didn't make any difference to you--

MRS. OLES: No.

BURG:--you didn't get it back, even after Eisenhower--

OLES: No, but I did--

BURG:--was nominated or elected?



OLES: No, but I did get back enough money from the national committee for Eisenhower to pay the then-outstanding remaining bills of our campaign, here. And I had printing bills and other things like that. I paid them. But the national organization for Eisenhower, the Citizens for Eisenhower, nationally--I appealed to Walter Williams and he got me a reimbursement for that amount.

BURG: But still left you with the five-thousand dollar--

OLES: Thereabouts, yes.

BURG:--debt, roughly.

OLES: Something like that.

BURG: So you could not go to the convention; you didn't have money enough to make the trip--you were not elected as a delegate?

OLES: Oh, yes--no, I wasn't elected as a delegate because I refused to be a delegate. I couldn't afford it, at the time.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: But anyway, we're getting ahead of the story because we went to the convention--well, let's have this cup of coffee.

(Interruption for coffee break)

BURG: We're on.

OLES: Oh, this gets into the '56 campaign, so we don't have to look at that. This is all dog-gone--nothing else but receipts for expenses connected with the campaign, you see.

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: And it ran into such things, you see, as--there's some printing--and our bank account was kept at the People's National Bank in Seattle. And it was in charge of Paul L. Danforth, the vice-president. And, of course, we had a relatively small amount of money there all the time, but we kept getting a little bit more, you know, all the while.

BURG: Contributions from rank and file.



OLES: That's mostly it--we had to just get it where we could, even during the time when we were actually in the campaign, you see. Here we are in September '52.

BURG: Uh-huh. Were there any big donors of funds to your group?

OLES: No, we never had any big donors.

MRS. OLES: They were all for Taft; all the money went to Taft.

OLES: All the big money was for Taft.

BURG: I see.

OLES: But--here's Andrews' Letter Shop, and telephone bills galore, of course. I had lots of those.

BURG: Now, in effect, that file folder and other folders of this sort contain the full accounting for the campaign in 1952 of the Citizens for Eisenhower movement, the Eisenhower campaign here.

OLES: I suppose I--yes. I doubt if it's, I don't remember that I ever put it into one document--

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES:--but it's all here, just the same. One of the odd things was that after we got Eisenhower nominated--and you may recall that I got Don Eastvold to go back there, and Don Eastvold became the spokesman for the credentials committee of the national convention. And there was a big ruckus about some of the places where we alleged that there had been monkey business--Texas, particularly.

BURG: Yes.

OLES: And I had the pleasure of sitting and watching Don on the TV when he presented the report of the credentials committee in Chicago, and he had all of his report in the kind of a book in his hand, there. And I remember he got upon the platform, and he said, "You may have heard the old saying, 'Beware of a young man with a book.'" And he said, "Well, I am a young man with the book."

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: And he got up and defended the Eisenhower delegates, and he did it successfully. I've often thought that, if Don had followed some fatherly advice that he got repeatedly and persistently from me and from some others, he would have been a great man, politically. He had tremendous ability, enormous vitality and very bad judgment.

BURG: I see.

OLES: And that's what happened to him. Well, so far as the finances go, I must tell you this about it; after we had Eisenhower nominated, then I was up against the proposition of the finances for the final campaign.

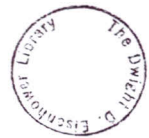


BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: So we had a meeting, as I started to tell you--and I guess somehow we got sidetracked--at the Edmond Meany Hotel, of the central committee--everybody there, including Mort Frayn and all this group who, of course, controlled the central committee.

BURG: Mrs. Tourtellotte still active?

OLES: Oh, yes, yes.



BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: In fact, I saw Janet down in Olympia during the last session, the 1971 session, of the legislature, and sat down and talked to her for a few minutes.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: But it was a peculiar situation, because here was a central committee overwhelmingly devoted to Taft, but in no position to be offensive to the governor.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: So the governor said, 'We must finance this campaign or at least give them a good running start'--told them that. And then he said, 'Now how much, Floyd, do you feel you should have in order to get started on this, realizing that you'll go out and collect money separately, especially for the Eisenhower campaign?' I figured that I'd already had myself prepared for the question and I said, "I want about eight thousand or eighty-five hundred dollars." That was to be seed money, that would start me off, you see, in the final campaign.



BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: So they passed a resolution instructing the, the chairman, Mort Frayne, and the treasurer, whose name I forget, to make a check out to Citizens for Eisenhower and give it to me. So I left the meeting quite satisfied that this was a good start; we were doing fine. I went back and continued to work in Tacoma, and nothing happened for a week, so I called Mort up and I said, "Where's

the money?" He said, "You aren't going to get any money." I said, "Why not?" He said, "Because I say so."

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: I said, "Well, we have a resolution of the central committee." He said, "All right, if you don't like it, complain to the central committee; they won't meet until after the election." I said, "So that's the way it is." He said, "That's the way it is."

BURG: Boy, oh boy!

OLES: So I got no money, and of course that's why I had to go out and scabble it every place that I could. By this time I was getting help from Ed Eisenhower and a great many other people, and I had some very peculiar things happen to me in the way of getting money. The last job I had before the war, at a time when I was a captain in the Reserve and about to be called to active duty, I was general manager of Clise & Company in Seattle-- you know the firm.



BURG: I know the firm. Charles Clise?

OLES: Charles Clise. And old Charley Clise was my boss, but I was the general manager of the company. And, as a consequence, I was also secretary and treasurer of thirty-six of his corporations. So, I was notified that I was being called to active duty, and Charley hit the ceiling: this was absolutely ridiculous. I said, "Well, that's the way it is." So--I've forgotten what he was paying me then but it was somewhere less than ten thousand dollars, I think, something, anyway, it was a good figure for such a job in those days.



BURG: Yes.

OLES: And I always got down there at eight o'clock in the morning, and I was in there one morning and Charley came in, as he usually did, sat on the edge of my desk, and he said, "Well, have you made up your mind to go to war?" And I said, "Yes, I'm called to active duty; I'm a captain in the army." And he said, "You know damned well I can fix that." He said, "I can get on that

phone and in fifteen minutes I can get hold of Secretary Stimson and have you out of it."

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: I said, "Yeah, I haven't any doubt you could, but you're not going to do it." So, I guess we argued for half an hour there. And he told me, he said, "You know what I want you to do," he said, "I want you to run this business, and I want you to make me free so that I can go into civic activities. I want to become the president of the chamber of commerce; I want to do a lot of things like that. I can't do them unless you are going to stay here and take this job." I said, "Well, you can always find somebody else." And he had a nephew, a pretty good man, and I said, "You can put him in here." And he said, "Well, I got you here and I got you for that reason and I want you here." And then he said, "I'll make you a proposition: I'll increase your pay fifty percent and I'll cut you in on ten percent of all of our purchases of real estate from this time on." Well, obviously, I would have been a millionaire.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: But either I'm stubborn or else something else is wrong with me, and I said, "No, I'm committed to it and I'm going to go on active duty." So he got up and started out of the room and he stopped by the door, and he turned around and he said, "I guess I'm lucky to get rid of you." He said, "I'm lucky to get rid of any man that's damned fool enough that he'd rather be a captain in the army than a captain of industry."

BURG: Uh-huh, uh-huh.



OLES: And that's the way we left it, and he never spoke to me again.

BURG: Oh, he didn't?

OLES: I was there the rest of the month, or a month or two, but he never spoke to me again. So, I understand that after I left he got this nephew of his in as a general manager and I believe he did very well--and he undoubtedly became a millionaire.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: Charley's dead now. But in 1952, I got a big surprise one day when I was in the Eisenhower office and I get a call from Charley Clise--just as sweet as pie.

BURG: I see.



OLES: "Well, Floyd," he says, "how are you doing? How's the world treating you and everything?" "Oh," I said, "fine." "I understand you're working for Eisenhower for President." I said, "Yes, that's right." "I'd like to help you out." And I said, "That's fine." He said, "Why don't you drop by the office the next time you're in Seattle and we'll have a bite of lunch together and I'll give you a check." I said, "That's fine." We made an appointment, and I went over there, and I went up to his office about a quarter of twelve and he still had a bunch of papers on his desk, and he was just as sweet as pie to me now.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: And he was signing a bunch of papers, and he threw them across the desk at me and he said, "Take a look at those; tell me what you think about it." And he was buying some property-- this is in '52, remember--but he was buying some property on the other side of Lake Washington, and he had the description of the property there and the price, so I got a piece of paper and I wrote it out carefully, rather hastily, and I said, "Well, Charley, you're paying two hundred and fifty dollars a front foot for that property." And he said, "Yeah, I know it." I said, "Well, I'll be damned if you'd do that if I was still manager of this outfit; I'd have screamed bloody murder," I said. He said, "No, you wouldn't; I've got it sold for three hundred right now."

BURG: That's what I know of Mr. Clise.



OLES: So I said, "Well, of course, I'm out of date, I haven't been around for some years. That was the answer to it." So we went to lunch, and we had a very pleasant lunch, and I got a few hundred dollars off of him--I've forgotten what it was now. And

later on, he called me up one day after the whole campaign was all over, and he said, "I want to set up an office for you in Tacoma, and I want you to take it over, and I own a lot of property over there and I want you to liquidate it for me." I said, "No, Charley; we didn't get along so well the last time, and I don't know how we'd get along this time." I said, "You'd better get somebody else to do it."

BURG: Was his one of the largest contributions that you got during the campaign period?

OLES: Yes, it was. I think it was four or five hundred dollars, and I don't think we got anything bigger than that, did we? From anybody?

BURG: And this was unsolicited, you had not asked for it?

OLES: No, I didn't ask for it.

BURG: Did he ever indicate to you that somebody had urged him to do it, or is your impression that he--



OLES: No, I think that he just had a, he saw that I was the general manager of the campaign, and he suddenly took a notion, 'I know that guy and I'm going to call him up'.

BURG: Yes, I see.



OLES: And I think another thing about it--I still think that Charley had a bad conscience, and I think he would like to, you know, butter things up with me a little bit from the abrupt way in which I had left him, in which I had left him when I did leave him.

BURG: Was Edgar Eisenhower's support financial, or was it largely moral support?

OLES: Oh, I think he put some money in, didn't he, darling?

MRS. OLES: I wish he'd then come and give me every three-cent stamp reimbursed.

OLES: I can't remember a thing about it because--I have all the records here; we could find out. I don't know what he put in, if anything, but I have a feeling that he put some money in--

but it didn't amount to very much.

BURG: Was his participation in the campaign other than financial?

Did he ever speak--

MRS. OLES: No.

OLES: No.

BURG:--on behalf of his brother?

OLES: No.

BURG: He did nothing--he preserved his anonymity?

MRS. OLES: He was always afraid of--

OL ES: He was always--

MRS. OLES:--worried that would be brought up. I think there was something in connection with his son, but I've never been able to find out.

BURG: You think there was something unsavory there--



MRS. OLES: Yeah.

BURG:--that Edgar was afraid of--

MRS. OLES: Uh-huh.

OLES: I think so. He had a son, and nobody ever spoke about him-- nobody ever mentioned him. And what the reason was, I don't know. You could always hear, and you still can hear, occasionally, references to Eisenhower's son, and the theory was that he somehow or other was not recognized by the family and wasn't regarded as an asset, but the details I know nothing about at all. I never inquired.

BURG: Uh-huh. Well, I think one of the things that is going to be most interesting to people examining these documents is that the campaign here does not seem to have been backed by big money, which would be the common, stereotyped view--that big money had supported the Eisenhower forces.

MRS. OLES: Huh-uh.



OLES: No, the big money was not on our side; it was against us. It was for Taft.

BURG: Certainly not in this state. And even after the Taft defeat in this state, the big money didn't come your way, anyhow?

OLES: No, no.

BURG: It wasn't yours before the state convention, and it wasn't yours after that convention or during the campaign?

OLES: No, not at all.



MRS. OLES: They're still bitter about the campaign.

BURG: Yes, yes.

OLES: There are still people who are bitter about it.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: Of course, when you look at in retrospect, and the fact that Taft died of cancer a relatively short time after that, one won-

ders what would have happened if he had been elected. Of course, I don't think he would have been elected even if nominated.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: But--and that was the reason I was in the campaign.

BURG: I've heard that expressed, too--that there was probably no chance.

OLES: There was probably no chance. But then, if he had been elected, some unknown person who would have been his Vice-President, would have been the President, and only heaven knows who that might well have been.

BURG: Yes, yes. Now, you remarked that you knew Milton, too?

OLES: Well--



BURG: Could you discuss that a bit?

OLES: In this--

(Interruption)

OLES: I became acquainted with Milton Eisenhower in a very odd

way. I told you that I was manager of a group of trade associations in the 1930's.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: And in 1941, after the Pearl Harbor affair, General Swing, who was in command of the Western District, which is now the 6th Army--I don't know what it was then; I think it was the 4th Army then in San Francisco--was prevailed upon to evacuate all Japanese from the coastal area on the grounds that they could be subversive.

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: Actually, my opinion is, and I have correspondence--I no longer have it, but I have had correspondence--from various growers associations and agricultural groups in California indicating that they had a good deal to do with that--to get rid of some what they regarded as cheap competition. The Japanese being in California, as here, the most industrious farmers, if you will--

BURG: Productive.

OLES:--and most productive. I, of course, was--amongst other things I was doing at the time--was representing these associations--several of which were composed entirely of Japanese. So, I had become very friendly with them.

BURG: And it was not your opinion that there was a danger of subversion from this group?

OLES: It was my information and knowledge that there was not, and I know it quite definitely, and that I can explain to you. While I was manager of the Taxpayers' Association, and again while I was running Clise and Company, I was in almost constant contact with the FBI in the Seattle office. The FBI were engaged in a very careful canvas of potential subversives of any nationality.

BURG: Pre-19-- , pre-December 7, 1941.

OLES: Pre-December 7--



BURG: I see.

OLES:--for a long time.

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: I had been assisting the FBI in ferreting out subversives amongst the Japanese--and there were some--for a long time prior to 1941, December 6. And I became very well acquainted with the head of it over there, whose name, of course, I forget, and with one agent in particular who was assigned to the task of working with me. And the result was that they had been able, with the help of the loyal Japanese-American citizens, to ferret out and quietly put away in a safe place the people who were suspected of being subversive.

BURG: You had been asked to do that because of your trade association contacts.

OLES: Because of my relationship with the Japanese. They knew that I knew all the Japanese in the area quite intimately, you

see.

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: And I was close enough to them, and they regarded me highly enough, that the FBI people knew that they would trust me. And many, many times the Japanese citizens have told me, 'You better have them take a separate or thoughtful look at so and so.' So that had never been done. Apparently there was no, no interchange of information between the FBI and General Swing's office, because General Swing assumed that they could all be regarded, apparently, as subversive. So, when Swing did that, the FBI in Seattle, and I suppose in general, were very much disturbed about it. And they told me that General Swing was making a problem that didn't exist before, because now the resentment made and developed by this action of taking these people suddenly and bodily out and putting them in what amounted to concentration camps, although they had a better word for it--

MRS. OLES: Relocation centers.

OLES:--relocation centers, yes--

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES:--was the worst possible thing to do, according to the FBI. And to show you that they have a certain prescience, as well--I was a scoutmaster at the time--when I left and went on active duty, the scouts of the troop and the troop committee--headed, incidentally, by a Jewish gentleman--bought me a wrist watch appropriately engraved, which I still have, and put on a big dinner for me down at the Elks' Club, and all the troop showed up, and all the papas and mammas.

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: And the speaker was the head of the FBI office in Seattle-- again, I forget his name. And I never will forget a statement he made as we left, and he said something to this effect, and this is pretty close to what he said, he said, 'I'm going to be very happy to tell Captain Oles, as he leaves, not only that we

appreciate what he has done to help us in this case, following Pearl Harbor, but,' he said, 'I want him to go away to war with the assured feeling that we're also ready for the Russian Pearl Harbor whenever that happens.'

BURG: And this was said at the banquet?

OLES: This was said at the banquet--

BURG: Yeah.

OLES:--to everybody in the group.



BURG: Well, was Milton Eisenhower then connected with the relocation?

OLES: Well, yes. Then, it seems that Milton Eisenhower had been assigned by President Roosevelt to be in a general, overall charge of this relocation. Milton Eisenhower was bitterly opposed to the relocation, and maybe that's why they picked him. But he was in charge of it.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: And it was a very, very unhappy affair.

BURG: Yes.

OLES: And I was there, of course, and I was very much moved by it. These people, of course, all having to leave and leave their possessions, leave their stores, their businesses and everything, or sacrifice them for virtually nothing. Down in the basement right now I have a beautiful fishing box--it was given me by one of the Japanese storekeepers in Seattle. He had to give it away, and he was giving everything away.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: Because he couldn't sell it, because the people who might normally have bought it knew that they could get it for virtually nothing, because they just had to wait until these people had to leave on a fixed date. They had them leave in trains, loaded with them--old passenger cars. And I went down to the train when they left--I remember one train after another--and I walked through the train shaking hands with my old friends, and all the



women crying. I remember Harry Kuramoto coming along with tears running down his face. I'm still moved when I think about it.

BURG: Yeah, very, very sad time for us all. I remember that, too. Did--

OLES: Well, anyway--

BURG:--Dr. Eisenhower come out for that?

OLES: He was, he was in charge of it there, and I, I called him up one time--he had an office in San Francisco, in this connection.

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: So I told him what a bad situation it was up here, and he said, "You better come down and talk about it." So, I flew down to San Francisco in one of those old Boeing planes, if you remember.

BURG: Twin-engine.

OLES: Yeah.

BURG: Mono-plane, yes.

OLES: And we went out and had--I had a long session with him at this office--and then he and I went out and had dinner together. He insisted on taking me to dinner at, believe it or not, a Turkish restaurant, where they serve coffee with all the grounds in it.

BURG: Yes.

OLES: You've seen that?

BURG: Yes.

OLES: Awful stuff.

BURG: Very thick.

OLES: So we talked it all over and he finally said, "Well, you know that's the way it is, Floyd; there's nothing else we can do about it. We just have to make it as easy on them as we can. But it's a terrible thing to do; it's a violation of their constitutional rights and the time will come when we're going to regret it. And when it will be recognized as being an enormity, as it



is." Well, there was nothing to do, so I came back and told the poor people that I had done everything I could and there wasn't anything more we could do. So they left, and that was my contact with Eisenhower, with Milton Eisenhower, at that time. Well, then, let's jump over a whole period of years, and I was in Denmark, and amongst the refugees in one of the what they call laagers, there, you know, or camps--

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES:--there was a man named Eisenhower. And he claimed that he was a relative of General Eisenhower and he had to be given special treatment, and so forth. So, the British commanding general of the mission, my good old friend, Brigadier Crow, called me up and told me the story and he said, "What are we going to do with this guy? He's going to get into the newspapers the first thing you know, here, and that could be real embarrassing." You see.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: So I said, "Well, I'll go and see him." So I went to go and see him and he was, he spoke only German and he was a German.

And--

MRS. OLES: Polish.

OLES: Polack, yeah, he was a Pole, a Polish-German, and I listened to the story, and he claimed to have been, that he wasn't pro-German.

MRS. OLES: He had, he had the same name as Eisenhower.

OLES: He had just the same name, and of course it's a name that there are probably thousands of them, you see.



BURG: Yes.

OLES: Eisenhower is common name over there, not here. So, I listened to his story and I then had an investigation made by the CID on him, and I found out that he, as a matter of fact, had not-- there was no justification for his assuming that he had not been pro-German; as a matter of fact, he had been--

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES:--just like anybody else. So, there was no reason to be

particularly nice about it, or careful with him or anything. So I thought, well, before I decide what to do with the guy, I'd better write and tell Milton about it. So I told Milton about it, wrote him a letter, and told him that, as far as I could see, I was hoping it wasn't going to become a big noise in the newspapers. But, as far as I could see, the fellow had no claim to being a relative although if he ever heard of anybody with this name in this geographical area, why, let me know about it. And I said, "Failing some word from you that there is some reason to give him some special consideration, I'm just going to send him along with the rest of the prisoners." So Milton wrote back and thanked me for taking that much trouble about it, and he said, "We never heard of the fellow, and there's no reason for you to give him any special consideration on our behalf."

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: So, we just bundled him off with the rest of the prisoners.

MRS. OLES: Ed has a daughter living in Germany.

OLES: Ed has a daughter?

MRS. OLES: Yes, in Germany.

OLES: I don't know a thing about it, really.

BURG: No, I don't either.

MRS. OLES: Uh-huh. She has a daughter and grand--, I mean, what is her name, Carlson, or something? Jim Stack will know.

OLES: Yeah, Jim would know all about it; I don't, really. Jim had a very--oh, boy, what a good job he had all during the war! You know, he was an aide to Eisenhower--

BURG: Yes.



OLES:--and he went everywhere with him. So he got into all these high-level meetings, and that kind of thing.

BURG: Right, yeah. Actually, liaison work, I think--

OLES: Yes.

BURG:--between Washington and headquarters over there.

OLES: A lot of the folks used to know him here when he was a sergeant out at Ft. Lewis--or Camp Lewis it was then, you know.

BURG: Right, right.

OLES: But he worked his way up.



BURG: Yeah. I'm looking forward to talking with him. We're going to start at that point--with Ft. Lewis--and take it from there.

OLES: Well, why don't we go back over these records, here, and go into more detail on the way in which it was done? We gave the General his second delegation to the Chicago convention, after New Hampshire.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: He got the first one out of New Hampshire. We could have given him the twenty-four, and I was sitting there talking to Harry Cain, and we got to the point where we had everything under control.

BURG: Yes.

OLES: So there was no more problem. And, I remember that Willard Wright and Don Eastvold and--who was that, who was that fighting guy from Seattle who used to be so rough?

MRS. OLES: Oh, gosh, oh--

OLES: Boy, he was a--

MRS. OLES:--Frank Holt?



OLES:--no, he was a good, good man, but boy, he was a rough character--Howard Graham, wasn't that Howard Graham? No, maybe not.

MRS. OLES: His name was Howard, all right.

OLES: It was Howard, Howard--Well now, anyway, these three came back to me and they said--and they were all enthused--"We've got the votes; let's give Eisenhower a complete delegation by pledging the whole delegation to Eisenhower," willy nilly, which, of course, we could have done. So, I went into a little session with them,

I got over in a corner some place and we talked about it--and I wish I could remember that guy's name, but his name was Howard something, but, Judas Priest, what a rough character he was.

BURG: I don't have him on my list.

OLES: Well, we made him a delegate--he was one of the delegates at the state convention.

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: Committee, no, this is the committee bulletins. Look up the state delegation, there, and you'll get him on the delegation from King County. But they came back to me and said, "Let's say, 'no.'" And we got into a session in the corner, and he said, "It's up to you, what do you want us to do, shall we bind them all to vote for Eisenhower?" I said, "Well, there's the problem, and I don't really think we ought to do it." Then they started to argue with me--they all three wanted to do it--and, of course, we had the votes.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: So, I said, "Well, have you guys stopped to think about what the newspapers will do to us? Because the newspapers will say that we bound four delegates that didn't want to be bound. And it might hurt us in the final campaign." Oh, they discounted that; they didn't think that was too important. I said, "Well, we got one more thing to think about--and this is very important--and that is, we're going to alienate the whole Spokane crowd, so I think we ought to give Taft four delegates." So, we had it hot and heavy there for awhile, and finally--I remember it was Don-- Don said, "Well, Floyd, you're the boss; you know what we think." I said, "All right, if I'm the boss, don't do it."

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: So we didn't do it.

BURG: An attempt to mend some fences in advance.

OLES: That's what I was trying to do.

BURG: Ease the, ease the pain of what had happened.

OLES: Afterwards, I thought maybe I shouldn't have done it, because it didn't have the right effect; the bitterness still went on. But, we took the state anyway, and we took the convention, the state convention, the national convention and the state, so that's all you can ask. We did it.

BURG: To what extent did or did not the Taft people lend a hand, then, in the campaign?

OLES: That was the trouble; they didn't.



MRS. OLES: Huh-uh.

OLES: They just sat on their hands.

BURG: Uh-huh. Did you ever estimate, was it ever possible to estimate, how many bodies you lost, then, by losing them?

OLES: In losing--

BURG: That is, out of Republican strength, the people who might

have carried weight and made things easier in the state in the campaign, how many of those bodies did you now not have? Or were you ever able to estimate?

OLES: Well, I don't know what bodies you would mean, because if you're talking about individual voters, there's no way of estimating.

BURG: No, I'm not, I'm thinking of the party wheel horses, the people that ought to have been counted upon to help carry the candidate.

OLES: As a matter of fact, I think we lost them all.



BURG: You lost all of that group?

OLES: We lost all of that group, now--

MRS. OLES: Was it Bill Howard, Jr?

OLES: Bill Howard--

MRS. OLES: Yeah.

OLES:--Bill, Bill Howard wasn't--

MRS. OLES: He was on the King County Republican Central Committee.

OLES: I thought there was a Howard in it, you see.

MRS. OLES: Yeah.

OLES: So, it was Bill Howard. And he was a tower of strength, and he was a remarkable orator, and he could really swing people. I don't know what's become of him. Bill Howard--I liked that guy, but he was a rough diamond, unquestionably.

BURG: That is, rough of speech--



OLES: Yes, rough of speech and ruthless, you know--he was one of the guys that, 'We can do it, let's do it'--

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES:--that kind of thing.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: But you have to have a few like that. And Willard Wright was always the calming influence, and Don, Don Eastvold--of course, he would do anything I told him--but Don Eastvold was, was a fiery guy; I mean, he was filled with all kinds of vim and vigor. He had great, great potential which he, which he ruined. But at any rate, I forgot to tell you one of the most dramatic things to my mind in that whole state convention at Spokane: the question was whether or not the convention would endorse a unit rule for King County. Now, King County had the votes to vote a unit rule.

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: But they couldn't vote a unit rule in the ~~state~~ convention without the approval of the convention.

BURG: I see. It was traditional in this state not to use the unit rule?

OLES: Yes.

BURG: Among Republicans, anyway?

OLES: That's right.

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: The unit rule is a--I've always felt, philosophically, it's wrong, because it's the ruthless overwhelming of the minority by the majority. It's not proportional, in other words.

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: But I did feel that I wanted to be absolutely safe, and there's a big vote from King County.

BURG: Yes.

OLES: So, I was willing to violate my own conscience a little bit to have the unit rule applied in King County, since our leaders there--and I had to keep them eager, and hard-working, and placated. And they were overwhelmingly for it. And you get fellows like Ray Moore and Bill Howard, and it's pretty hard to argue with them.

BURG: They had carried off a coup, hadn't they, by seizing control of the precincts that--

OLES: They had done that. That's right.

BURG:--had not been touched in years?

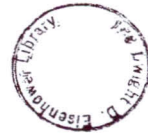
OLES: And they had done that successfully, and you could hardly then fly in the face of their wishes. But then the question was, would the convention, the majority of the convention--it took a simple majority--endorse the unit rule for King County? Would they accept it?

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: So that was a very serious question. So, again, the little group came back to me and said, "What will happen if we put the unit rule to a vote in the convention?"

BURG: Same group of Eastvold--

OLES: Yeah, Willard Wright--



BURG: Willard Wright.



OLES:--and Bill Howard. They said, "Well, you know; you've got the records. What would happen?" I said, "Well, I don't know, but I can find out. I got a way to find out, and that is I'll have to go back over our delegation from every county in the state, and find out, or at least estimate in my own mind, after we looked it over, which ones I think will stand by us through thick and thin no matter what we'd ask them to do." In other words, how many dedicated Eisenhower delegates do we have who will stick with us come hell or high water, even if they don't like the unit rule? But I said, "It's going to take me an hour or two to do it." I said, "You go back and call a recess, and Don and I will go on to another room some place, here, and we will go over the delegates one by one, and I will check them off and he will write them down--the ones we can depend on and the ones we can't. We'll just check them off with a little red mark--"

BURG: Uh-huh.

OLES: "--and then count them." So, they went back and declared a recess. And Don and I went down to a restaurant down the street a ways, and got a little private room in this restaurant and some cups of coffee, and we went over the delegates, the nine hundred of them, one by one by one. And I would say, 'Yes' and 'No' and 'Yes' and 'No'. He'd read them off, and I'd say 'Yes' and 'No'.

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: And I came up with five hundred and eighty--no, five hundred and eighty-one, I believe--I came up with five hundred and eighty-one who I said would vote with us come hell or high water, even if they didn't believe in the unit rule. That was enough. So we went back and I got our little committee together, and I said, "You can do it, if you want to do it." "Well, we want to do it." They got Ray Moore and a bunch from King County, and I said, "All right, go ahead. Put it to a vote and you'll get five hundred and eighty-one votes." So, they put it to a vote and they got five hundred and eighty votes. And these guys were laughing at me for

years afterwards; they said, "That crazy Oles, he missed it by one vote."

BURG: Yeah, uh-huh, slip-shod work!

OLES: I said, "I didn't miss it by any votes; my man was out in the toilet." But afterwards, this Mattingly--what was his first name?

BURG: Charles?

OLES: Charles Mattingly.

BURG: Charles Mattingly.

OLES: Charles Mattingly. After this, when I told him what we were doing, of course--he sat in on most all of these things and kept his trap shut.

BURG: More or less an observer from the national scene.

OLES: He was an observer.

BURG: Uh-huh.



OLES: He said, "I was supposed to help you if you need it, but you don't need it." So when we got it all through, got it done, and it came out five hundred and eighty instead of my five hundred and eighty-one, why, Mattingly says, "That is undoubtedly the most remarkable piece of political organization that's ever been known."

BURG: Good of him to say that, and it must have been very thrilling for you, too.

OLES: Yes, it was. It was really good. I understand Mattingly died not very many years after that. I was sorry to hear that, because he was a good man.

BURG: Listen, why don't we stop here, because I have other things that--

