



INTERVIEW WITH

Robert Bolton

by

Dr. Maclyn Burg
Oral Historian

on

October 15, 1971

for

Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
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April 21, 1979
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James B. Rhoads
Archivist of the United States

May 25, 1979
Date

This is an interview with Mr. Robert Bolton done by Dr. Maclyn Burg of the Eisenhower Library on October 15, 1971.

DR. BURG: Bob, if I can, what I'd like to start with is just you telling a little bit about your own background. That is, where born, what your education was and your previous work experience before we get to your taking over the papers.

MR. BOLTON: Well, I was born in Spring Lake, Michigan, educated in the grade school, high school at Grand Haven, Michigan. Undergraduate work, B.A. in History, Western Michigan University; M.A. in History, University of Michigan. Taught school one year, small suburb of Flint, Michigan.

DR. BURG: I see. Was this secondary school, Bob?



MR. BOLTON: Yes. And three and a half years of service in World War II.

DR. BURG: Let me ask you what branch?

MR. BOLTON: It was largely with a general hospital in the Medical Corps. Then I applied for a civil service position and was hired by the Departmental Records Branch at the Adjutant General's office, Department of the Army.

BURG: Had you specified that, Bob, or is that the assignment they made?

BOLTON: Well, it was equivalent of a Federal Service Entrance Examination, and it qualified you for historian or archivist and so on, related fields. And the Departmental Records Branch [DRB] contained the recent archives of the Army, particularly through World War II and the immediate post-war period. And I joined them in the fall of '51 and various work there, accessioning, description, very little reference.

BURG: Between the end of the war and taking on that work, had you tried teaching again?

BOLTON: Well, no, the actual teaching was after the war.

BURG: It did come after the war?

BOLTON: Yes.



BURG: Did you decide that that was not the career for you and wanted to get into another line of endeavor.

BOLTON: Yes, it wasn't. Well, I never intended to teach in the beginning. But my father died, let's see it was the spring of 1950, rather unexpectedly. And I had a job down in Guatemala, at the American school there. And, well, the responsibility of getting my mother resettled, and so I had to give that job up. And then it was along about August or September when I started looking for a job. I didn't really like the job because it was a small secondary school, and I was teaching four different subjects on which I had very little preparation or background in.

BURG: Yes, I've had that experience myself.



BOLTON: And so when this job came along, and I wanted to get to a big city anyway. I enjoy large city life.

BURG: In 1950-51 if I remember, Bob, was a bad job year for teachers anyway.

BOLTON: Oh, yes.

BURG: It was difficult to get employment.

BOLTON: Yes. Big post-war crop.

BURG: Just all of us finishing college at the same time. All right, that puts you in Washington, D.C., on this job. You found this job to your liking then?

BOLTON: Very much so. Enjoyed the work, the people. And I imagine you're interested in the involvement with the Eisenhower papers.

BURG: Indeed I am.



BOLTON: Well, early in the fall of 1952 my supervisor, Wilbur Nigh, in DRB came to me and asked if I'd care to go up to New York on a project, quite hush, hush. And so I said I wouldn't mind.

BURG: Bob, would this mean a move to New York?

BOLTON: No, temporary duty.

BURG: But they didn't tell you what kind of thing you'd be doing?

BOLTON: Not at that time, until it was firmed up that I was to go up there. Then I was informed that General Eisenhower, who by that time had received the Republican nomination, had

turned his papers over to the Adjutant General as a combination of official and personal papers, intermingled. And Bill Nigh went up with me to start me on the job, supposedly, of separating the personal from the official material in the file. The official was to go to the Adjutant General as records keeper of the Army and the personal go back to the General.

BURG: Now the physical location of the job, was it on the Columbia campus?

BOLTON: No, the place where we started work, Bill and I, was in a building near the Battery that was occupied by the First Army. And the papers were supposedly in the custody of the Adjutant General, but Lieutenant Colonel Schulz, at that time that was his rank--

BURG: This is Robert--



BOLTON: Yes, Robert Schulz, had an office there and had the papers in that office. He was assigned to the First Army at that time after being released as the General's aide.

BURG: So he had just been released from that job; then later he was associated with the General again but--

BOLTON: After the General went into the White House.

BURG: So there was an interim period for Schulz--



BOLTON: Right, from, I would say, a period perhaps from the Republican convention up until the inauguration.

BURG: O.K. So you then worked with him? Would you describe it that way?

BOLTON: Well, not with him so much because, of course, he had he had many other activities.

BURG: Yes.

BOLTON: But he was available for advice and information if we needed it.

BURG: Now may I ask you this, Bob, did you feel in your in your dealing with Colonel Schulz that you were free to make all necessary decisions regarding the papers?

BOLTON: It was up to us. Of course, anything of major importance you would discuss with him or I would discuss it with Bill Nigh.

BURG: But the General stayed out of this? You did not--

BOLTON: I had no contact with the General except sometimes his office, which was located at the Commodore Hotel, would call up, not to me directly but to Colonel Schulz, for say the name or nickname of a correspondent or his last current address, things of that nature.

BURG: Which was a facet of the work that none of you had really expected--

BOLTON: No.



BURG: --neither you nor Nigh.

BOLTON: That's right.

BURG: But you did this kind of work too.

BOLTON: Well, then Bill and I got into the project. Of course Bill was just up there a short period of time because he had duties back at Washington. And we both came to the conclusion that it was a hopeless job. Not only hopeless but it would be a disservice to the papers to even attempt to separate the official from the personal, because Eisenhower would write

frequently to [General George C.] Marshall rather informal letters giving what was happening, his opinion of various subordinates, relationship with the English, things of that nature. But right at the end of the letter there might be two or three paragraphs--word about Mrs. Eisenhower and, "Wonder if she's had her checkup at Walter Reed," things of that nature.



BURG: So this was perhaps the first time that this body of papers had been really worked.

BOLTON: Well, we also found that they were in quite a degree of disarrayment. The General had different secretaries at different times; so that they would have their own method of filing. When he was stationed at SHAPE [Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers, Europe], they would request a folder of correspondence with so-and-so because something had come up, and so they would send it by pouch to SHAPE headquarters. And then too there were some materials at Columbia University that had never been incorporated with the papers.

BURG: The papers were in file cabinets when you found them, Bob, or stacked up or--

BOLTON: Well, they were both in cartons and in file cabinets, if I recall. Well, they had such things as "One-time Geographic File" where they file correspondence, say, by the name of the country. So if you didn't know whether so-and-so was English, you'd have a little bit of trouble. There was a rudimentary cross reference index which, although it would be helpful, it would not be of great assistance if it was necessary to perform reference service.



BURG: Can you tell me who might have provided even that rudimentary cross-referencing? Had that been done by a group of previous secretaries?

BOLTON: No, I think it was done by secretaries at one time or another. So if John Jones had written the General a letter and he referred to Milton Smith, they would file it by the correspondent's name and then just a sheet--"Milton Smith. See John Jones," or something of that nature.

BURG: So when you got there and went through these papers, they're in sort of a mixed state and there is no official, no secretary, who is in charge of those papers who turns them over to you. Rather the papers as a body had come there--

BOLTON: Yes.



BURG: --and were there in storage, not under the active guidance or direction of a man or a woman?

BOLTON: No. Of course we did have to go up to Low Library at Columbia and pick up some materials that had been stored up there.

BURG: These related just to the presidency, the Columbia presidency?

BOLTON: Yes, largely.

BURG: So then your decision was that the papers--

BOLTON: It wasn't my decision to make.

BURG: Recommendation, then?

BOLTON: --my advice that the project be set up to organize the file in some logical manner.

BURG: Well, Bob, who did you give that advice to?

BOLTON: Mr. Nigh, and he agreed, and we discussed it with Schulz. Of course he was not concerned so much with what was done with the files but that it was put in shape that it could be used if necessary.

BURG: So he supported your ideas, too.



BOLTON: He agreed to that and then Sherrod East, who was the chief of the Departmental Records Branch--

BURG: Is that S-h-e-r-r-o-d, Bob?

BOLTON: S-h-e-double r-o-d.

BURG: And E-a-s-t.

BOLTON: Yes. And they had been consulted by Nigh, but of course I stayed on at New York so I wasn't aware of everything that was going on in Washington.

BURG: But in time, you received then different instructions.

BOLTON: We were to go ahead on an entirely different project than originally had been planned. What we worked out was that the files should be organized; at least, an index, although

it could not be a complete index, be prepared; that the file be microfilmed after it had been organized; then the Army would retain one copy of the microfilm for such official use as needed with very limited access at the consent of General Eisenhower; and that the papers itself plus, I think, two copies of microfilm were to go back to the General after the election, which, of course, meant after he entered the White House.

BURG: Now what physical volume of material are we talking about here, Bob? Do you remember?



BOLTON: I couldn't say offhand. It's been so many years; I haven't worked with it for a long time. But there is an inventory of the files.

BURG: As it was then?

BOLTON: Yes, the linear footage. So that should be available to you.

BURG: Any scholar can chase that down if they need to know it.

BOLTON: Yes.

BURG: All right, Bob, what's happened is that something that they thought presumably you by yourself could handle now suddenly has bloomed into something far larger.

BOLTON: Yes. On some of the routine chores, typing and inter-filing, we got assistance from First Army; they assigned clerical personnel.



BURG: They did not bring anyone else up from Department of the Army to assist you?

BOLTON: Let's see, there was one girl, I've even forgotten her name, from the Adjutant General's office, and she did have some records management background when she came up. But, well now that's just about twenty years ago so my memory isn't too fresh on names any more.

BURG: All right, then having launched on this project and having done the necessary microfilming--

BOLTON: Well, we continued working at this office on the Battery until after the election, and Schulz was very cooperative. In fact, he got me an admission ticket to go up to the Commodore Hotel on election night to watch the returns and see the general

excitement which prevailed up there. When the election was conceded, of course, Eisenhower and Mrs. Eisenhower came out to greet everybody.



BURG: Was it your thought then that all of your part in handling the papers then pretty well ended?

BOLTON: Well, the work wasn't completed by election time so on Veterans' Day, November 11, the papers were brought back to the Washington area and put in Departmental Records Branch to complete the project. So we continued working and micro-filming the file until shortly after General Eisenhower entered the White House and General Schulz had been named as military aide to the President. We then brought the file papers and the two microfilm copies to the White House, the East Wing, where they were kept under custody of General Schulz during the eight White House years.

BURG: I see. Now, Bob, let me put it this way, that body of paper relates to the General's private life as a soldier and in World War II and some of the Columbia years. Was it incorporated into some overall White House records keeping--

BOLTON: No, no, it remained completely separate from the other files of the White House because we advised General Schulz that it should have a clear cut-off date, not to intermingle later material with it because it had been microfilmed and any additional material would render the microfilm useless and, also, that the inventory--material that was added--would no longer be of use.



BURG: So really nothing ever was added to it that might have had its use during those eight years at the White House.

BOLTON: There were a few items that were added as an addendum that turned up that were concerned with a particular date period that the file covered. For instance, a folder or something that might turn up in the aide's file, that was in the period, say, of World War II; so that was incorporated. It did not disturb the date coverage of the file itself. A comparable file would be the file that was kept by Ann Whitman who was General Eisenhower's personal secretary during the White House years. And this of course covers largely 1942-1952 with a few scattered items from an earlier period.

BURG: Once the papers had been turned over to General Schulz in the White House, what is your job now? Do you return to your duties?



BOLTON: Well, supposedly I was to go back to my regular work in the Departmental Records Branch which I did, but Schulz devised various projects. For instance, he wanted his own office files set up and so on. And then, it must have been around 1955, Schulz borrowed me again to go over to the White House. Mrs. Eisenhower had stacks of still pictures, some of them labeled, some of them unlabeled, family pictures, pictures of friends, official ceremonies, so on, and she wanted some albums compiled with appropriate captions. It was mostly the family album type. So they had a little room set up on the ground floor of the White House. And they had saw horses with pieces of plywood as tables and the various stacks of photographs all around. The job was to, as I say, identify the individuals, the occasion, the date, things of that kind.

BURG: In many cases you're just using whatever internal evidence there is in the photograph.

BOLTON: Internal. Then too, I was quite familiar by this time with who the General's associates were by working the file and family connections and so on. So it wasn't as difficult a job as it sounds because General Schulz, on occasion, would help identify individuals because he had been with General Eisenhower since shortly after World War II. So it was a project of sometime, and I don't remember exactly-- perhaps two or three months. Then the photographs were mounted in the albums at the National Archives, and, if I recall right, a film copy of the albums was kept at the archives for eventual shipment to the Eisenhower Library, if there was one. And this also involved a trip out here to Abilene because, over the years since the establishment of the Eisenhower Foundation, particularly since the museum had been built and opened, I think it was '54, they had been sending various photographs out to the museum. And so General Schulz wanted me to go through them, and any particular photographs that would fill in gaps or would be worth putting into the new albums would be selected and either copies made or the original put in the album.



BURG: So that would have been your first trip to Abilene about 1955.

BOLTON: 1955, I think.



BURG: And the museum then freshly opened about a year.

BOLTON: Year, maybe a year and a half.

BURG: Now, Bob, it seems to me that you are picked for' this job at least in part because of knowledge of the papers certainly but also because you had some sort of relationship with General Schulz. It sounds as though he had asked for you.

BOLTON: Well, perhaps it was not so much to come out to the library, but after working intermittently a period of, let's say, two or three years with General Schulz, I think it was a matter of trust, matter of discretion.

BURG: I think we both know that General Schulz is not readily impressed with people and when he is--

BOLTON: He leans on you.

BURG: Yes, he leans on you, right. Of course, it's a compli-

ment to you that over that period of time you achieved his trust. All right, now after the Abilene trip, you went back to Washington with whatever photographs they had here.

BOLTON: And completed the project. And worked with Jim Gear at the National Archives to see that they were appropriately mounted and bound in these albums.

BURG: Now, Jim, at that time, had what kind of job?



BOLTON: Well, he was head of the preservation unit in the Archives.

BURG: Now that's roughly the same position he holds today, a little expanded from that?

BOLTON: Yes. Then in 1956 I received an offer to go to the Office, Chief of Military History, in their general reference section.

BURG: May I ask you, who made that offer to you?

BOLTON: I don't know if it was an official offer so much as-- If I recall the situation, the general reference section over

in the Office, Chief of Military History, had an opening and they consulted, I think, Sherrod East to suggest somebody that might be interested in it. And Sherrod was very much concerned with the people that he supervised, and he knew that according to rather strict manpower limitations on the Departmental Records Branch that promotions were going to be-- well, you see, this was a period of cutback around '55, '56-- and so I think he suggested me.



BURG: So when you say concerned, concerned in that he had quite a feeling for those who worked with him.

BOLTON: Very much so.

BURG: He wanted the best for them.

BOLTON: Yes.

BURG: And tried to take care of them in this sense.

BOLTON: Take care of them and if he felt that somebody could do a job, and he knew that it meant particularly a promotion or an advancement for the individual to expand professionally,

he was not the type to hold you back.

BURG: What is his job now, Bob?



BOLTON: Well, he has retired about, oh, let's see, it must be five, six years ago. He was, at one time, in charge of all the military records at the Archives. See, the Departmental Records Branch, in the late '50s, was absorbed, both the records and the personnel, into the National Archives. And part of the records that were once in the Departmental Records Branch are in the National Archives or in the Washington National Records Center.

BURG: So when you got out to the general reference section, you found that work to your--

BOLTON: It was very interesting. It was more or less an office of inquiry for any historical question relating to the Army and its history.

BURG: Now that would mean, if I remember your conversation with me yesterday, it would be as much work on the Army lineage system.

BOLTON: Well, that was performed in another branch.

BURG: So, you didn't have to do that.



BOLTON: No. That was to help the researchers who were preparing the official history of World War II plus take care of inquiries from the public, inquiries from various offices in the Army which related to historical subjects as concerned the Army.

BURG: Who headed that branch when you were there?

BOLTON: Israel Wice, W-i-c-e.

BURG: The general direction of the Office of Chief of Military History, who was there when you got there?

BOLTON: Well, let's see--

BURG: Was it Stetson Conn or--

BOLTON: Stetson Conn was there, and what was his name--just on the tip of my tongue. He was quite authority on

and wrote one or two of the green volumes. Greenfield.

BURG: Kent Greenfield. Yes, of course.

BOLTON: Yes.

BURG: Slipped my mind too. All right now, how long were you there on that tour of duty?

BOLTON: Oh, approximately a year.



BURG: And then some other opportunity came your way?

BOLTON: Well, the National Archives projected the publication of The Public Papers of the Presidents largely based on official press releases from the White House. It was entirely a new project for the Federal Register and also there was need for increasing liaison with the White House on the projected Eisenhower Library at this time. So since I already had worked at the White House on various projects, Wayne Grover asked me to transfer to the National Archives to work with the Federal Register on the public papers project, and to, more or less, work liaison with the White House on any records project or liaison regarding the future library.

BURG: Now Grover was at that time Archivist of the United States?

BOLTON: Right.

BURG: Do you have any idea why he picked on you, Bob? Were you ever told?

BOLTON: I wasn't told, but indirectly I assume that I already had an entry to the White House.

BURG: Because of your previous associations?



BOLTON: Previous experience.

BURG: So you think Grover, perhaps, may have sounded out Schulz.

BOLTON: He may have--

[Interruption]

BURG: So, sounded out Schulz or he may have had the inclination--

BOLTON: One of the staff assistants to Adams--

BURG: This is Sherman Adams?

BOLTON: Sherman Adams--lost an historian. I've forgotten his name right now. He's now with the State Department in some civilian cultural exchange activity. [L. Arthur Minnich]

BURG: We should be able to find his name.



BOLTON: Yes. Do you have that little White House book?

BURG: I think it's around somewhere.

BOLTON: It would help me a lot to refresh myself with names.

BURG: Well, we can check that out and find out who it was. You had named him--

BOLTON: No, I had been introduced to him, and I knew some of the file people in the general files, White House general files. And so I think Grover thought, well, here's somebody that already has an entree, who has some degree of trust on the White House staff, and (I don't want to persona grata to them) had some experience.

BURG: When the word came to you, Bob, I'd be interested in knowing what form did it take? Was it a phone call from Grover?

BOLTON: Well, I got a telephone call at work and was asked if I could come up to the archives to have an appointment with Dr. Grover. So I did, and he explained the project, particularly the public papers, and liaison for a possible future library. I was interested, and, of course, it meant a promotion which is not distasteful.



BURG: Yes, indeed. May I ask you, what your GS rank was at that time?

BOLTON: Nine, I believe.

BURG: Did he mention another number to you?

BOLTON: Well, he didn't. It was a lateral transfer, as I recall, but with a promotion within a relatively short time.

BURG: To ten, presumably?

BOLTON: Eleven.

BURG: Now there in the publications program, were they then working on the Harry Truman volumes?

BOLTON: They hadn't started that yet if I recall.

BURG: But that would be the first one that they did.

BOLTON: Like I say, publication planning at that point was that they would start with the 1957 volume.

BURG: Oh, in the Eisenhower series.



BOLTON: Eisenhower. And with the hopes to complete publication fairly early in the spring of '58 with that particular yearly volume. And, at the same time, work on the preceding year so that during the remaining three and a half, four years of the Eisenhower administration there would be two volumes--one current and one prior year published. The entire administration would be covered by the spring of '61.

BURG: Now that was the work you embarked upon. Who did you work under at that time?

BOLTON: With Warren Reid at the Federal Register.

BURG: May I ask how he spells his last name?

BOLTON: R-e-i-d. Mildred Berry, B-e-double r-y, mostly.

A lot of my work was to verify the text of the White House press releases, particularly those of speeches, press conferences, with the sound recordings because they were issued very hurriedly and sometimes errors crept in stenographers' notes and so on.



BURG: I would imagine some of those errors were hilarious. It would happen to us certainly.

BOLTON: Yes. Well, of course, I think there was more care. For instance one time on Eisenhower's South American tour, the plane flew over and drowned out his remarks, part of his remarks. The stenographer didn't pick it up, and, of course, it was inaudible on the sound recording. So we wrote to the embassy, I've forgotten which country it was, and tried to reconstruct what was lost. And so it included the indication that this was at best a reconstruction of those remarks which were drowned out. And, well, such things as verifying names that might creep up, identification of individuals, seeing that the text particularly of the press conferences were edited in such a manner as to be clearly consonant with Eisenhower's thoughts which was fairly difficult at times--the problem of

punctuation and so on.

BURG: That's worth pursuing a bit. You were doing that?

BOLTON: Oh, yes.



BURG: That was part of your job. We hear so much about his syntax. You found this a difficult thing to get it lined out so that compound sentences were built out of passages.

BOLTON: Yes, and I think it was largely due to Eisenhower's willingness to, at least, attempt to answer each and every question and to his great consciousness that, as President, the importance of what he said. You see, I think frequently he would start out and then realize that pursuing that line would not be well, and so he would drop a sentence or make a second start on the sentence.

BURG: Let me ask you, Bob, is that your personal observation or were you and others who did this work think about this and discuss it among yourselves?

BOLTON: We discussed it some, and very frequently I would go

to the West Wing of the White House (they had a basement room there), and get the disc recordings from the sound studio. The Army Signal Corps maintained that.

BURG: I see. All conferences were recorded directly on discs then?



BOLTON: Yes. Well, I think they went from tape to discs.

BURG: So you could listen to the remarks as they had been given?

BOLTON: Yes.

BURG: And do whatever editing work you felt had to be done.

BOLTON: Yes. I remember one time that the General was speaking to an Army group including, I think, many friends. And he was reminiscing about Army life, the period from before World War I, the old Army up through the beginning of World War II. And he mentioned something about how you had to be careful that your automobile would not startle the mule on the colonel's dougherty wagon. And of course I had had some experience with Army records and words. I couldn't recall

dougherty wagon; so I spent a great deal of effort and time and finally found out what a dougherty wagon was. It was a light cross-country wagon which contained a regimental office.

BURG: So, and named for an Irish practice or design, perhaps?

BOLTON: I don't know what the genesis of the word--

BURG: Was it spelled d-a-u-g-h-e-r-t-y?



BOLTON: I assume it was named after a designer. D-o-u-g-h-e-r-t-y.

BURG: Dougherty wagon.

BOLTON: And so I spent and probably wasted a great deal of time trying to identify it. I finally tracked it down to what it was, and so I wrote, I thought, a nice footnote for it. Of course, when it was reviewed, they dropped it because they kept editorial notes to a minimum only necessary to clarify the meaning. Of course, even though the person didn't know what dougherty meant, they could still understand that the mule could get frightened by a automobile.

BURG: Yes, I see. So really the standards that your team

brought to the work they were doing were quite high.

BOLTON: Yes.



BURG: You did your level best not only to take the President's words and to get that set out in punctuation style that made everything as meaningful as possible, but you also ran down the more obscure things--

BOLTON: Yes.

BURG: --and even though it might not be in the editorial notes, the attempt was made to do it. Later much of that was removed, I suppose, in the interests of economy too.

BOLTON: Well, interest of economy, and, I think too, that they felt that extensive editorial notes in a volume as current as that might possibly be pedantic.

BURG: Later on they may come to another conclusion about that, but did you people feel that that decision was reasonable at the time?

BOLTON: I think it was. Because, for one thing, we limited the personnel to putting out two volumes a year.

BURG: How limited, Bob? Do you remember how many?



BOLTON: Well, of course, the office in the Federal Register that worked on the presidential papers worked on other publications as well; so I have no idea how much time--

BURG: This was just one project out of several that--

BOLTON: The same office compiled the Government [Organization] Manual at the same time. There were probably seven or eight in all in the office.

BURG: And you were housed in the National Archives?

BOLTON: Yes. I was assigned to Carl Trever, T-r-e-v-e-r, who at that time was Special Assistant to the Archivist for Presidential Libraries. It's a predecessor to Dan [Daniel J.] Reed's organization.

BURG: And we're talking now of approximately what year?

BOLTON: 1957 up to January, 1961.

BURG: There is in existence a Franklin D. Roosevelt Library. There is a Harry S. Truman Library in existence.

BOLTON: At that time.



BURG: And there is a move here in--

BOLTON: Well, of course, in 1955 the general legislation for the establishment of presidential libraries was passed and approved. And so you could project the establishment in the near future of the Eisenhower Library, and also there had been intimations that the Hoover Library might be built. As you know, some things you learn not by being told but from what you assume. I do know that the Archives was approached by someone who was close to former President Hoover and asked if this legislation would also include past-Presidents.

BURG: Do you know the name of that man?

BOLTON: I do not know. I think it was someone up on the Hill. I know that they, he or they, was assured that President Hoover, if he so wished, could, under the legislation, have such a library established.

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BURG: This would mean, as we know, bringing some of the things from the Stanford Library for War and Peace out to West Branch and setting up.

BOLTON: Right.



BURG: As far as your work was concerned though, you stayed with the Public Papers?

BOLTON: Public Papers and also I worked with Mintler?, in the White House office.

BURG: How's that name spelled out?

BOLTON: You'd have to check that out.

BURG: Mintler?

BOLTON: No, Mint - something--golly I wish I had that book. Well, now when I look at it I'll--

BURG: That makes the job easy. We're closer now than we were before. [Ed. Note: The man in question was Dr. L. Arthur Minnich]

BOLTON: He was very much interested in compiling a sort of collection of the President's activities. As you know, the

White House staff is large and the President does not get involved with perhaps 99% of the correspondence. And so he did have me go through a certain series in the White House files and locate those cases in which the President was individually involved. And so we made thermofax copies, and I know you have his file out here now.

BURG: Yes, I've seen things come from it.



BOLTON: And then he worked to more or less separate them, those that had some significance and of minor significance.

BURG: Now how long did that take?

BOLTON: Well, it was more or less intermittent. I would work sometimes on Public Papers and go back to this. It's a little bit difficult to have any idea of exact time involved.

BURG: So part of the time you might be at the National Archives doing your duties there, but you might also be over in the White House, or were you in the Executive Office Building?

BOLTON: The White House files were in the Executive Office Building. Part of the work that involved Public Papers was largely in the West Wing of the White House on the ground floor.



BURG: All right now, what's the next step, Bob, in your career and in the career of these papers, the next big move, a big change for you?

BOLTON: Well, the next big change, of course, was going to Abilene. We also did work with the State Architect who was responsible for the design and building of the Eisenhower Library, providing them with specifications, say, for instance, air conditioning, security vaults, layout problems, approximate space needs for the various functions of the library, going over the plans with the State Architect, making suggestions, even though sometimes they weren't followed.

BURG: Can you give me an example of cases where the State Architect did not follow advice given by National Archives?

BOLTON: For instance, have you ever observed the vaults here?

BURG: Yes.

BOLTON: One of his questions was, "What is the regulation as to storage for security classified materials?" And at that time, the regulation that was used throughout the government, I believe, were Navy regulations which specified several alternatives. For instance, you could have re-enforced concrete or it could be concrete block with steel lining, certain type of combination lock door, so much fire resistance and all that. So he took the highest alternative. Right now you have a re-enforced concrete vault with a hardened plate steel lining with a bank type combination lock; so it far exceeds any requirements as far as security storage goes.

BURG: I see. So more money was expended there than was required by the government at that time.

BOLTON: Oh, yes.

BURG: When that decision was made, Bob, did you ever hear why? Was it simply because the State Architect felt, "We'll go first class all the way."

BOLTON: It was that and you see they anticipated that much more money would be raised much more easily than was the case. Not only was the architect given practically a free-hand as far as quality of materials and use of materials, but they assumed that enough would be raised that there would be an ample trust fund to support library activities after the building was completed.



BURG: This was not the case?

BOLTON: This was not the case. Now this is an assumption too, very little, if any, restraining hand as far as cost was put on the architect.

BURG: Scholars, I think, who need that information can find the ultimate cost of this building and the materials?

BOLTON: Oh, yes.

BURG: Did this require that you again come out here or was the State Architect sending representatives to Washington?

BOLTON: Well, both. He himself visited Washington at least two or three times that I remember. And Trever and I came

out, I think, one time. Let's see, the ground-breaking ceremony was October 14, 1959, if I recall right. They had a special train from Kansas City arranged by Senator [Harry] Darby on the Union Pacific. And Grover of course attended the ceremonies, and Trever and I were invited by Senator Darby to join the train. It came into town from Kansas City, Union Pacific. It was parked over on the siding there, and stayed over night, and they had the ceremonies the following day, and then that afternoon the train went back to Kansas City. But I did come out here with Grover once or twice when the building was under construction.

BURG: But at that time as you come out, Bob, you're coming out as one of the National Archives people closely associated with the papers. You're giving what advice is sought from you. You're not coming out as future director or anything of this sort?

BOLTON: No.



BURG: Not so far as you knew?

BOLTON: Not so far as I knew. I thought I might come out here. It was logical. After all I was the only one on the Archives' staff at that time that was as familiar with the papers as possible.

BURG: When that thought struck you, Bob, what was your reaction?



BOLTON: Well, it sort of interested me--entirely different life. I had lived in a large city for several years, and I felt I would like to do something different for a while.

I would say the next major activity was, near the close of the Eisenhower administration, getting the materials together, audio-visual, textual, so on, canvassing the various White House staff offices to turn over as much as possible of their holdings which in some cases we weren't too successful.

BURG: Who held back?

BOLTON: Well, I do know that Jim [James C.] Hagerty had something like 25 or 30 cartons, record center cartons,

taken out of the Executive Office Building, though I understand that John [Wickman] has at least received assurances that they will come out here. I think eventually they'll come.

BURG: He felt that those files were really still part of his own office, his own custody?

BOLTON: I don't know. You see, I could urge or suggest, but, after all, you can't insist. I had no authority nor did the Archives have the authority to go into the White House and say, "No, that goes out to the Library." We could suggest guidelines.

BURG: Bob, did any of you, to your knowledge, seek the President's aid in this or did the President feel that it was really Mr. Hagerty's decision to make?

BOLTON: Well, I don't know if the President was aware of it. And another point, yes, we did provide guidelines, we thought. For instance, if it related to their service as aides to the President, it was the President's papers whether it was filed in White House Central Files or whether the file was kept in

an individual's office. But we couldn't go into an office and say, "Show me your files." We did suggest that things that were strictly social or individual business affairs, the individual should take that with him if he desired.

BURG: Then really, Bob, what you were doing is forcing upon them the same decision that had been forced upon you up there in New York when you had to make that decision.

BOLTON: In a way. But, of course, you find that the White House aide is a busy man, and he usually refers it to his secretary.

BURG: And she does the winnowing out?



BOLTON: Yes.

BURG: So Hagerty was one and there were others that you found?

BOLTON: I think so.

BURG: Can you give me any examples of those who seemed to be quite willing to turn over the bulk of their White House papers?

BOLTON: Well, I think that most were. As you look down your list of holdings, you will find that many of the staff members were extremely cooperative. I'd hate to single out any particular one.

BURG: Of course our records would show that material had come here from them, yes, and it might look like a great deal of material, but here in this other instance you were able to say you saw so many record boxes of Hagerty's--



BOLTON: Yes, I couldn't say that for other offices.

BURG: But there was one instance where you did. I think the problem probably is so common that scholars will be aware that this does happen, and, as you point out in the case of Hagerty, it'll probably come here anyway.

BOLTON: Yes. Many people don't realize the physical set-up at the White House encourages the setting up of individual files in separate offices.

BURG: Now why is that, Bob?

BOLTON: The White House Central Files, at that time, were located in the Executive Office Building. Plus some of the presidential aides also had their offices in the building. But those that had the quickest and most immediate access to the President had their offices in the West Wing, and others had their offices in the East Wing. And if a secretary thought that she needs immediate access to a file-- her boss wants it, when right away something crops up. The President asks a question; he's not going to wait fifteen minutes while you make a telephone call and then send a messenger over from the White House Central Files. She wants to lay her hands right on the particular document.

BURG: So just the ease of accessibility might determine whether papers were going to go into a place such as this, into a presidential library, or whether they might be in the hands of staff members and get away from us at least temporarily or perhaps get away from us completely. There's just not much that can be done about that.

BOLTON: No. And secondly, another main factor that you have to remember is that in 1952 there was elected the first Republican President since 1928. The White House staff, I'm

thinking now of permanent staff, the secretaries, the file personnel, are strictly non-partisan. But I have a feeling that, particularly in the early months, the White House staff were not too sure of the relationship between the permanent staff and the new White House staff. And they perhaps tended to keep sensitive materials much closer to them than they did later on in the administration when the atmosphere [was] more mutual.



BURG: Let me make clear in my own mind then, the ones who tended to hold the papers, as it were, close to the chest were those people who came on with the Eisenhower administration in those first few months.

BOLTON: Yes.

BURG: The permanent White House staff were just not allowed to hold those materials until--

BOLTON: I wouldn't say they distrusted them, but they felt, after all, how can you be sure of these people. Seventy percent came on during the Roosevelt or Truman administrations.

BURG: In effect, what does it mean to be a career civil service and how trustworthy are you.

BOLTON: Yes, and trustworthy. Many of your long term employees at the White House--for instance, a fellow by the name of Yingling, Y-i-n-g-l-i-n-g, came as chief of the White House Central Files. He came there during the McKinley administration, I believe shortly after the Spanish-American War.



BURG: And was still there, Bob, when you were there?

BOLTON: No, no, he left I believe in the '40s.

BURG: But had been there through all those administrations?

BOLTON: Yes. And his successor, Betty Bonsteel, B-o-n-s-t-double e-l, (I'm not sure of the spelling of that) came there during the Harding administration, and she just retired during the Kennedy administration. So you can see the continuity of the staff.

BURG: This is something that probably doesn't get thought about too often. But you say that this period where files were being held up--

BOLTON: Well, this was the feeling I got being in and out of the White House.



BURG: And you thought that after a few months that it was much more relaxed.

BOLTON: Much more relaxed. They realized that this is a group of highly trained, efficient people that had long experience in the presidential office.

[Interruption]

BURG: All right, now, what is the year, Bob, that you're getting ready to come out here with the materials?

BOLTON: Well, it's after the election of 1960. Then, of course, the building here had been started. The first element that was finished was the service building. We were promised that the vault on the second floor up here would be ready to receive security classified materials and that the stack area on the first floor would be completed, except for shelving, and painted, and that we could occupy that.

BURG: This would be in 1961?

BOLTON: January of '61.

BURG: Now, by that time, by January of 1961, you had been given an assignment to come out here with the papers.

BOLTON: Yes.

BURG: All right, let's look into that just a bit. Who made that assignment, Bob?

BOLTON: Grover.



BURG: Once again, may I ask you, how it was done? What circumstances prevailed?

BOLTON: Well, since the staff here was to be very limited for the time being and much of the building was not completed, the idea was to come in and to occupy the first floor stack area, use that as an office as well as for storage of papers which came out in records center cartons. The building of course was still in the custody of the State Architect. Some agreement was worked out between the Archives and the State Architect that we could have occupancy, limited occupancy of part of the building. And then, at least the first two or

three years, more or less a holding operation. I mean, work and processing the materials, of course, with no expectation of being able to open anything for research. And Grover wanted the staff to be kept small.

BURG: How big a staff did he have in mind?



BOLTON: Well, initially, in January of '61 there were two archivists, Roland Doty, Delbert Bishop--

BURG: What was his first name?

BOLTON: Delbert. Both of them had some experience at the Truman Library.

BURG: I hadn't known that.

BOLTON: And then Scottie.

BURG: This is Willie Scott?

BOLTON: Willie Scott. Came out from Washington with me. Initially, for the first year, there were the four of us.

BURG: So Doty and Bishop were at the Truman and simply made a transfer from the Truman here?

BOLTON: Well, I'm not sure whether they were on the staff or on TDY [temporary duty] at the Truman Library to get some background training.

BURG: So we would have to look that up. They may have been in Washington at--

BOLTON: No, they weren't in Washington.



BURG: They never had been there?

BOLTON: Not on assignment, at least.

BURG: So just you and Scott then are brought out from Washington?

BOLTON: Yes.

BURG: Again, when Grover contacts you, do you remember how this was done? How did he put it to you?

BOLTON: Well, he said go out and be acting director until the appointment of a permanent director, that the staff and functions were to be limited at least until the building was completed and dedicated. We were to process as much of the

material as possible getting it into archives boxes, labeling. Later on we would go into the screening program, but, as I say, it was largely a limited operation for the first three or four years.

BURG: Did he let you pick the people who would work with you or was he going to pick?

BOLTON: He discussed it with me, and I had met both Doty and Bishop at the Truman Library, and it was agreeable to me.

BURG: You thought they would be compatible?

BOLTON: Yes, which it turned to be, very much so.

BURG: And you knew Scott?

BOLTON: Scott in Washington. Perhaps you'd like to get into cleaning out the White House.

BURG: What I wanted to do, yes, was to follow these papers. Now we can, I assume, add in the Columbia [University] and Army material with the White House material.

BOLTON: No, the pre-Presidential papers did not come out until,

oh, it was probably 1966. I know it was four or five years after the Library--

BURG: That group of papers, let's dispose of them.



BOLTON: That group of papers went up to Gettysburg together with certain selective files from the White House which were to be used in writing Eisenhower's memoirs, The White House Years. Among them were Ann Whitman's [President's secretary] file, the staff secretary's files, and a few others. The greatest bulk of what came out here immediately were from the White House Central Files plus the files that were turned over to us from the various staff offices in the White House.

BURG: Now were you yourself back there and in the White House putting all of this material together to come out here?

BOLTON: Well, we had meetings with secretaries of various staff members. We sent a little questionnaire, "About how many file drawers of material do you have that is going to Abilene?" And then we sent laborers up with record center cartons, and they would pack and the secretary would label the record center carton indicating the highest security classifi-

cation, so that we could adequately protect that type of material when it got here.

BURG: Was this started, Bob, immediately after the election?

BOLTON: No, I would say it was mid-December, perhaps late December.

BURG: Of 1960 and well under way then by January?



BOLTON: By early in January. It's a good many years and I can't give you exact days, but I would imagine the people who did the packing were from the regional records center in Washington with long experience in packing and labeling and maintaining your sequence of files and so on. And the Archives engaged a trucking firm and they had forty foot semi-trailers, and one would come in and park on, what do they call that, East Executive Avenue?

BURG: That very short little street between the White House--

BOLTON: [--and what they] called the State, War, Navy Building and the White House grounds.

BURG: I know the street.

BOLTON: Yes, and then they would fill that truck to rated capacity and seal it. And then the tractor would take the trailer and bring it over to the Archives and park it in the basement of the Archives.

BURG: And just leave it there?



BOLTON: Leave it there under protection. And then over a period of five or six days, probably ending about the 14th or 15th of January, we filled four forty foot trailers to load capacity. Then, I think it was January 15th or 16th, I flew out here and Del Bishop and Doty met me here and made preparations to receive the trucks here. The entire back part here had no pavement, and luckily it was cold enough that the ground was frozen or it would have surely bogged down.

BURG: The loading dock was built out there but none of the concrete had been poured.

BOLTON: No driveway. Along about the 17th, perhaps, Grover

wanted me to come back to Washington to try to locate any remnants that might have been missed in various staff offices that turn up at the last minute when everybody is quickly moving out and they say, "Well, this file is here, and we can't leave it for the Kennedy administration," and so on.

BURG: It was a good thought. It was Grover's idea to run that last minute check.

BOLTON: Yes. So the trucks had arrived and people from the Kansas City Records Center, Don White and two or three of his staff, came out and we started unloading the trucks. Bishop who had his car here, drove me to Salina, I think it was the 17th or close to it, and I flew back to Washington to pick these scattered remnants up and took them over to the Archives for eventual shipment out here. And since, of course, hotel accommodations were at a premium, Trevor put me up in his home in Arlington. And then the famous snowfall of the 19th the night before the inauguration when everything was bogged down. So we finally got home about midnight that night, his home. We watched the inauguration on TV on the 20th; he drove

me to Washington National [Airport], and I flew back to Abilene.

BURG: So you had done your job actually before the inauguration took place.

BOLTON: Oh, yes.



BURG: Now what volume did you pick up in that final go around?

BOLTON: It was not of any great amount, just scattered. Sometimes scattered folders.

BURG: So a fairly small number of archives boxes.

BOLTON: Yes, I can't recall how many.

BURG: Transportable in a car.

BOLTON: I would say probably so or small van, econo-van, something of that type would have held it all easily.

BURG: Which then came on out by highway.

BOLTON: Eventually, I forgotten exactly.

BURG: All of these papers were brought out, the trucks--

BOLTON: Brought into the archives.



BURG: You then, with the help of the people they sent you from Kansas City, actually did the physically grueling job of unloading four forty foot trailers into this place.

BOLTON: Yes. You see the convoy of the four trailers came out from Washington (I think it departed probably around the 14th or 15th and the Marines furnished an escort and guard to accompany it), but when it got to Ft. Riley, they put it in a guarded area, a mounted guard on the material. Then they fed them from Riley one truck at a time to here.

BURG: And were you able to unload one truck within a day's work usually?

BOLTON: Yes, I think so easily. In as much as we didn't have shelves in the stack area, we lined up the record center cartons in file order in rows across the floor.

BURG: In that large supply room?

BOLTON: Three or four high, the cartons.

BURG: Now there were no building guards were there at that time?

BOLTON: There were no building guards. Clyde was on board.

BURG: Clyde Yakle?



BOLTON: Yes, for maintenance of the service building and keeping heat and so on. The rest of the building was just a shell, had no windows. They had plastic sheets draped over the windows. They were still working on this entire area [second floor staff area] on putting the terrazzo floors in the hallway. Marble was not set anywhere in the building. The walnut paneling was not up.

BURG: You had lights and heat in your area there?

BOLTON: Lights and heat. To use a washroom we would have to go down this hallway [second floor hall in the staff area] to the east staircase then go down a ship's ladder type going down to the tunnel, go through the tunnel to the washroom in the service building. So we had no secretarial help for almost the first year.

BURG: Because of that?

BOLTON: Yes.

BURG: Just the one lavatory facility and four men working here.

BOLTON: Plus the laborers.



BURG: All male?

BOLTON: Yes.

BURG: And really not a place that you felt you wanted to bring a woman into?

BOLTON: Yes.

BURG: That's very interesting. And eventually you do then get secretarial help?

BOLTON: Yes.

BURG: By then the building is--

BOLTON: Very well along, near completion.

BURG: So as far as guarding this material, Bob, it had the escort out and the escort and guard at Ft. Riley while it

stayed there. It was brought out here--

BOLTON: And the Public Buildings Service negotiated a contract to have nighttime guards for the building.

BURG: Hired from a detective agency or something of this sort?



BOLTON: Yes. Well, they hired some local men as guards until after the building was completed.

BURG: Let's get clear and on the record, you were here in the capacity of acting director. Del Bishop, and Roland Doty had come out and they are both archivists.

BOLTON: Right.

BURG: Full archivists, not trainees or technicians. Then Willie Scott has come out from the photo installation there in the National Archives.

BOLTON: As a photographic technician. And also we worked out a scheme for cataloging still pictures and identifying them. That was one of his early responsibilities.

BURG: So, in effect, all four of you are down there in that big--

BOLTON: Stack area. We had our desks lined up in the south end of the stack area. We managed to have a telephone strung in. They had the duct work finished, but they were still working so you couldn't bring telephones through the ducts or [through the] conduits. So they strung in a telephone line to the back of the building and brought it through the loading dock doors and into the stack area so we had a telephone.

BURG: And then under that kind of primitive arrangement, you then spent perhaps a year?

BOLTON: It would be, yes, about a year.



BURG: Accessioning this material, arranging where you could--

BOLTON: And reboxing into archives boxes.

BURG: And your shelving, I presume, during this period of time--

BOLTON: It had not yet arrived.

BURG: During the year it did?

BOLTON: No, the shelving wasn't installed till after the dedication of the building.

BURG: How come, Bob?

BOLTON: It was partly result of money because this was supposed to be furnished by the State Architect, as well as the entire furniture for the building.

BURG: Which I understand is rather unique. Not often does a presidential library get donated fully equipped.

BOLTON: Well, it did not work out that way.



BURG: And it wasn't really fully equipped in this instance, either?

BOLTON: No. Money was very short, and they had to put on a campaign to raise additional money; so it did delay installation of the shelving until after the dedication. We came in January of '61; I think it was May '62 that the dedication was held on the anniversary of the General's mother's birth.

BURG: I see. And you remarked to me with a smile yesterday when we rededicated the museum, which was a hectic experience, you would not want to go through another dedication--

BOLTON: Oh, no.

BURG: --with the size staff you had at that time. This was the occasion where Lyndon Johnson came out as Vice-President of the United States.

BOLTON: Yes.

BURG: And I'm sure that scholars can find the records of who was here and what was done on that dedication.

BOLTON: Oh, yes.



BURG: Do you recall, I don't know whether we got it on tape, your story of how you suddenly found out Johnson was coming, and you were told he would come in the east door, and you went down there, and while you were there he showed up and came in the front door.

BOLTON: Yes.

BURG: And was seated on the platform when you returned. Do you recall anything else about that dedication that sticks in your mind?



BOLTON: Well, anything like that there are several crises that seem to be insurmountable and you flounder through and it works out it seems. For instance, we had tried to get a representative list of guests. For instance, we wanted scholarly representation and, of course, political representation, then too, the many donors, particularly those that had made it in sizeable amounts towards the library. It made it difficult, but part of it was handled from Senator Darby's office in Kansas City, and part of it handled here which made sometimes a problem of coordination.

BURG: Let me ask you about this, Bob; let me pursue the matters as best we can here. You're here as an acting director, and you're going to dedicate this very lovely installation. You're a government civil servant. How was Senator Darby introduced in this matter? I'm very much interested, since his office did a great deal of it, how are you informed that this going to happen?

BOLTON: Well, a month or two months before the dedication, probably closer to two months, local people, because they had such a large part in various aspects of the dedication, were beginning to be concerned about planning and arrangements. So a number of people, particularly those that were very active in the Eisenhower Foundation, Brick Garrison was one. Let me think--

BURG: Charley Case?



BOLTON: No, he was fairly aged by that time. He was not too active even then.

BURG: C. A. Scupin?

BOLTON: He didn't go down although he was a tower of strength all the while through.

BURG: I see.

BOLTON: Well, several of us went down to Darby and delineated the various areas of responsibility, such as, what his office would handle and what our office would handle.

BURG: I think those who are not aware of this situation would want to know why Darby, particularly, in this thing?

BOLTON: Darby had long been interested in the Eisenhower Foundation. He had long acquaintanceship, friendship, with the General. He had contributed generously to the building. Also he had resources, which in a small town such as Abilene, are difficult to obtain, and his generosity, which led him, I'm sure, to offer this great assistance. Also he was chairman of the Presidential Library Commission, State Commission.



BURG: I thought he had some office either there or with the Foundation.

BOLTON: He had both, I believe. He had been actively involved in the entire fund raising campaign in the entire building and so on of the library.

BURG: Is it your recollection then, Bob, that some of the local people, long associated with the Eisenhowers or with the move for the museum and the library, approached you and offered to lend help and suggested an approach to Darby?

BOLTON: No, Darby was involved already and was from the beginning. But I'm saying that the planning of the dedication was initiated when we went down and discussed the various plans with the Senator.

BURG: This is such a tenuous area. While it's probably well understood now, I fear it may not be well understood in future time exactly how a private citizen really is brought into the planning sessions for an installation such as this. All right, then Senator Darby and his office take over a certain amount of the burden then of the issuing of the invitations?

BOLTON: And the Presidential Library Commission did hire a woman to handle much of the secretarial and clerical work in relation and she had a--

BURG: For the dedication alone?

BOLTON: For the dedication, temporary employment.

BURG: And at the time that this work is being done, it is you and your three men--

BOLTON: And by that time we'd also hired Mrs. Inman.

BURG: Genevieve Inman is also on staff as a secretary?

BOLTON: As a secretary. And a few months later, perhaps a month or two months, (you might want to check this with Marie Bolton) I think it was just about a month or two months before the dedication, she also came on board.

BURG: I see, so first, Mrs. Inman, then Mrs. Bolton, Marie Bolton is brought on.

BOLTON: Yes. No relative.



BURG: So you have these two ladies on as your secretarial help. Also, six of you--

BOLTON: Three, four, six, plus the woman hired by the Library--

BURG: Commission, with whatever assistance Clyde Yakle--does Clyde have a staff?

BOLTON: Clyde, I believe he had a staff of perhaps two or three.

BURG: Two or three PBS people to aid?

BOLTON: Yes. Because the building was completed in the fall

of '61, substantially completed. However, they did not get around to planning driveways, sidewalks and so on, and so it meant a crash program early in the spring to get driveways and walkways in prior to the dedication. And also they ran into difficulties with the ground. It was a very cold winter, and they needed fill on the north side of the buildings to slope down toward the street. And it was very difficult because of the frozen condition of the ground.

BURG: So this is the winter of 1961-62.



BOLTON: '61-'62.

BURG: Frozen badly enough so that they just can't scrape it off and

BOLTON: What they did, they bulldozed the frozen ground up and shoved it over where the sun would hit it, and then use it for fill.

BURG: They got it out there where the sun could get on it and thaw it out, and then they could do something with it. They of course didn't try to plant anything? It would be next to impossible too, wouldn't it?

BOLTON: I think they sowed rye grass or something of that quick sprouting variety so at least there would be some greenery around the building. The court was not planted at that time, and Chuck [Charles L.] Brainard brought in flowering plants; they temporarily transplanted them. They used grass cuttings to cover the ground so it gave an appearance of greenness at least for the dedication.

BURG: Brainard is a local nursery operator?



BOLTON: He's with the Duckwall stores. By profession he's an architect.

BURG: So he just did this out of the goodness of his heart?

BOLTON: Yes, his interest. Well, the whole town was that way.

BURG: I see. That's good to know, too, much cooperation when you move here.

BOLTON: Very much. For a small town you found a great deal of people with experience in handling an event of that type.

BURG: Why do you suppose that was, Bob?

BOLTON: Well, just because it had happened before several times.

BURG: They'd had the President here before--

BOLTON: Well, they had him here for the ground breaking ceremonies. He was here for the World War homecoming celebration in '45 and kickoff for the (now these are just a few of the occasions when he was back, major events) campaign for the nomination was here and so on.



BURG: So it was your feeling that, for example, local police, the highway patrol and other people knew--

BOLTON: And also the local people themselves would volunteer use of their automobile, organize transportation between the-- well, for instance, the special train from Kansas City parked over on the Union Pacific tracks and they were to provide transportation. We had a row of automobiles always available for anybody on the train to go anywhere in town.

BURG: This was arranged by local people using their own cars without billing anybody for it.

BOLTON: Yes.

BURG: They simply volunteered to do it and provided, in effect, a cab rank for the visiting dignitaries.



BOLTON: I can give you an example of one thing they did for you. The Eisenhower Foundation held a reception the evening before the dedication, things like that.

BURG: I'm glad that we brought that out. That would mean that if dignitaries had to go to their motels, and I would assume that there would be a bit of a problem there too. There couldn't have been as many motels at that point.

BOLTON: No, the White House Motel and the Trail's End were not built at that time. Perhaps the White House might have been.

BURG: There were two, I understand, out 3rd, one was the Diamond--

BOLTON: Yes, both were relative small and not of great quality. And the train did serve as overnight accommodations for the VIP guests.

BURG: Let me ask you this because we've touched upon it already and this, I think, is the legitimate place to bring it out. It's one of the things I wanted to pursue with you a bit. I've mentioned Charley Case and Scupin and others. You came in as the outsider, Bob, and came into this very small town kind of atmosphere, and you found here people who knew the Eisenhowers and perhaps knew the General, and you found yourself dealing with them on a very different kind of plane. You're both in this town together, and you share some of the same social functions. Can you comment on some of these people and how you found them to be?

BOLTON: I prefer to do it in more general terms.



BURG: If you wish to.

BOLTON: First of all, I know myself and I'm sure other members of the staff were welcomed into the community. The people here were very proud of the museum; they were proud of the library. I think the staff was welcome because it's very community conscious, the population here particularly among the leadership of the town. And so I do think that we were

welcomed and given every possible effort of cooperation on the part of the community. I did get to know Charley Case quite well. I enjoyed being with him. He would never let me tape an interview with him although he did recount many of his experiences with the Eisenhowers over a period from the General's youth up until currently.

BURG: But he always insisted that that be off the record?

BOLTON: Off the record.



BURG: You pursued it enough times to know that it wasn't going to go. And he of course would be one of the outstanding people to contact. Do you remember others who were still alive? This would have been, roughly, ten years ago, not quite ten years ago.

BOLTON: Well, there were a few of his classmates in high school. But for one thing he left Abilene in, was it in 1910 or '11?

BURG: Probably about '11, 1911, I think.

BOLTON: And except for occasional visits home with his mother up until World War II, and he was relatively unknown, an obscure Army officer, I doubt if, except for a few boyhood friends, there was too much contact with the local people. He wasn't marked out as unique as this.



BURG: Mrs. Eisenhower's boy who seems to be doing all right in the military service. And you prefer to keep your comments about Mr. Case or any of the rest of them--

BOLTON: Well, no, now, of course, this is just a memory. I think one of the outstanding stories might clarify something. But I would prefer that this be closed perhaps until certainly all this generation of the Eisenhowers--

BURG: We'll be happy to do that.

BOLTON: Now this is what I gathered, not only from Case, but that the father and mother were extremely religiously inclined coming from the more rigid Mennonite background with the close subordination, manners, dress and so on. They did become religious explorers.

BURG: Religious explorers. That's an interesting phrase. They were searching for--

BOLTON: They did, for a period of time, for several years, become interested in Jehovah's Witnesses. What were they called at that time, after one of the founders?



BURG: Sorry, I only know them as Jehovah's Witnesses. I'm not aware of the other name.

BOLTON: Both Mrs. Eisenhower and Mr. Eisenhower did participate in Jehovah's Witnesses activities, both in worship and in missionary work.

BURG: Here, locally. They had left then the River Brethren congregation?

BOLTON: I don't know if they had left it completely, but they were quite involved with the activities of local Jehovah's Witnesses. And this brings us up to the World War I period.

BURG: That soon, Bob? They had identified with that body to that extent before World War I?

BOLTON: Yes. I don't know when their involvement began.

BURG: You never heard anyone say?

BOLTON: And this is getting into the American Protective League. I don't know if you're familiar with it.

BURG: No, no, I don't think I am.



BOLTON: It was a group who at least gained the cooperation of the Justice Department in seeking out pacifists, slackers, draft dodgers, and so on during World War I. And the Eisenhower parents were involved in distributing Jehovah's Witness tracts which are pacifist of course. Now this is what Charley told me. I think this whole thing on the religion, I'd prefer to have it closed for some period.

BURG: We shall.

BOLTON: That the district attorney for Kansas indicated to Charley, who was a member of the American Protective League.

BURG: Charley Case was a member of it?

BOLTON: Yes. That the Eisenhowers might be subject to arrest for distribution of pacifist literature.

BURG: A very strong German name coupled with the pacifist literature.

BOLTON: Yes. And Charley, as a long time family friend and feeling that their activities were harmless, was quite upset about it. He hated to pursue it and finally decided that it would be better for the parents to be warned and that they give their agreement not to distribute the literature than to, perhaps, get involved with the law. And so Charley did go and talk with the parents. By that time, of course, all the boys had left home. Perhaps Milton might have been home, I'm not sure, but I'm sure the other boys probably had left.

BURG: He might have been, because of his age.



BOLTON: Yes. The parents did agree to stop distribution of the literature. And the boys gained knowledge of this particular incident, and they were very grateful to Charley Case, not only the boyhood friendship, but that Charley saved the family from embarrassment, at minimum, and perhaps even more.

BURG: Now the reason Case would be significant in this was because he himself had a legal position--

BOLTON: No, he's not a lawyer.

BURG: I thought he was judge or something of this sort.

BOLTON: No, Case's father was a very prosperous merchant here in Abilene and had a dry goods and perhaps ready to wear clothing store. What's the name of the one downtown here now?

BURG: I think it's Hamburg's.



BOLTON: Hamburg's and that's the location of it. Charley went to Princeton. In fact, he was a student of Woodrow Wilson. He took a class that Wilson taught. He graduated from Princeton and came back and eventually, not right away, took over his father's store.

BURG: So the Kansas District Attorney or Attorney General is--

BOLTON: Well, this is a Federal District.

BURG: He's contacting Case because he knows Case is a friend--

BOLTON: Is a member of the American Protective League.

BURG: Not because he's a friend of the Eisenhowers at all?

BOLTON: No.

BURG: He makes the contact because of Case's membership in the American Protective League, and Case then is faced with the dilemma of--does he follow the tenets of his organization and root out or does he try to help out.

BOLTON: Help out and get cooperation from them.



BURG: So rather than take the course of pushing this matter with his own organization, he prefers to go to the family, and he talks with the parents and gets them to stop distributing. And the boys' reaction was one of gratitude to Case. You caught no idea from what Mr. Case told you that the boys might have been irked with their parents for being suspect in this regard?

BOLTON: No, nothing, as far as that goes. But I think the boys were grateful that it was handled without publicity and without any trouble for their parents.

BURG: I can recall the stories that I've read, Eddie Rickenbacker had this situation, the young man who flew with Frank Luke and was finally shot down, killed, protecting Luke.

Their German names had been enough to make them suspect, and, in the case of the young man who flew with Luke, I think there was a certain amount of bitterness. He had been arrested and kept from going overseas, as a matter of fact, because of this. Well, Mr. Case didn't know that. It's an interesting side-light on this whole situation.

BOLTON: Now this, too, I'd like to keep off the records as far as immediate use.

BURG: All right.



BOLTON: The parents' connection with the Jehovah's Witnesses at least lasts up into World War II. The General's father died early in '42, shortly after Eisenhower had been recalled to Washington. It was right in that period where everything was going wrong, Philippines. And as a key officer in the OPD, Operations Planning Division, or rather it was a predecessor to the Operations Planning Division, [the General] could not even attend his father's funeral. And my understanding is that it was a Jehovah's Witness that conducted the funeral service for his father.

BURG: I remember reading a letter or reading his remarks on that day. He sequestered himself for a period of time that was the best that he could do to memorialize his father.

BOLTON: Then when Mrs. Eisenhower died in 1946, the funeral was conducted by a Chaplain from Ft. Riley.

BURG: Rather than the Jehovah's Witness group?

BOLTON: Yes.



BURG: Because, I think, there was resentment. They had used her.

BOLTON: Well, they exploited her. And she was quite infirmed and aged.

BURG: Yes, and the boys--

BOLTON: Resented that.

BURG: That's a much bnger association in that religious body than I had imagined because, for some reason, I just assumed that Mrs. Eisenhower just before World War II had or gone back. Well, if you wished that closed, Bob, we can certainly do that.

BURG: Right. Is there anything else about the townspeople. I have to ask this rather bluntly. We have an idea of where and how frequently cooperation came your way. Again if necessary under closure for a period of time, are there outstanding examples where you did not receive cooperation from this community.

BOLTON: No, the community always cooperated.

BURG: No name comes to mind--



The remainder of page 84, pages 85 and 86 have been removed in accordance with the wishes of the interviewee as set forth in the legal agreement located at the front of this transcript.

BOLTON: Rock Island Railroad and a street. And when the plans for the library grounds, layout of parking lots and so on, was done, the original plan was to start a chain link fence at the east end of the library ground behind the library and extend it only as far as the west end of the library building which would allow unrestricted access back and forth between Old Abilene Town and the library grounds with the resultant papers and trash, use of the parking lot and so on. So I was able to get one or two other individuals, I don't recall whether it was Scupin or John Lehman, also wanted the fence extended all the way to the west end of the grounds to prevent easy and free access back and forth.

BURG: So they got that.



BOLTON: I don't recall the individuals that did cooperate on that.

BURG: Was it also during your administration that the rather quick growing shrubs were planted along the line of that fence?

BOLTON: I also requested poplar trees with green and the honeysuckle vine that climbs the fence and so on.

BURG: Yes, people will be happy about that, I'm sure. Now this is very, very interesting to know. And as I think you know, we still have our problems along these lines. But basically you found the community helpful. Let me ask you about the family itself and the degree to which you have been in contact with the General himself or with his widow or with the brothers?

BOLTON: Well, now we did act as a practically current file room for the Gettysburg office. They would only keep material at Gettysburg that they thought they would have need for future reference.

BURG: During the post-presidential years?

BOLTON: Yes. And the rest of the files were sent out in batches, unsorted batches, in envelopes and cartons.

BURG: As they found they had no use or as they accumulated and they didn't think they needed them, they came here.

BOLTON: Yes. And so, particularly Mrs. Bolton, would arrange them, and we did have frequent need to perform reference service



because things would come up and they would need it when they knew it was stuff we had.

BURG: And we should probably get on the record that you are still at this time dealing with now General Robert L. Schulz.

BOLTON: Or his secretary, or the General's secretary.

BURG: But you do not see the General yourself?



BOLTON: Perhaps this might be interesting. Probably it was in 1962, I was back in Washington and Grover and I drove up to Gettysburg. We had an appointment with General Eisenhower to discuss in more or less general terms (this was after the dedication; it may have been early '63 I don't recall) plans for the library and what we hoped to do. There was talk then of getting a supporting group to help the library financially, not only that, but to lend prestige to its activities. I think they called it the Eisenhower Associates or something like that. It was organized, but I understand it has not become very active. Now I've been away for four years so I don't know too--

BURG: Now, I've not heard of the group either which would

indicate that perhaps they've not.

BOLTON: Wickman might surely fill you out on that. We were talking more or less in general terms. All at once the General said--now this is a paraphrase, I probably can't remember his exact words, almost ten years--"When I die, I've decided I'm going to be buried at Abilene." And of course we had never brought the subject up. One doesn't.

BURG: So it was coming out of the blue, as far as you were concerned.

BOLTON: Out of the blue and we had more or less expected that Arlington Cemetery or perhaps the National Cemetery at Gettysburg or even West Point would be the place or even the Municipal Cemetery where his parents are buried. And then he went on to say, "Mamie doesn't like to talk about it, but I've decided." And then he went on about how he wanted to get as much of the mementos into the museum and to the library as possible so that his estate would not be burdened with taxation to such a great degree. But he also went on that Mamie was quite sentimental about it, and she'd like to keep a lot of his various, I think he said "knickknacks", I don't remember



exactly. I'm saying "we" (I'm including the Foundation in this although they were not part of the library at this time) did receive fairly frequent shipments, particularly museum mementos. And they did release, later, the pre-presidential files, both the paper and one copy of the microfilm.

BURG: So that body of material that we began with in New York now comes out here.

BOLTON: Came out here, probably in the mid-'60s sometime, '65, '66.

BURG: So, say, almost 15 years after you had first made its acquaintance, it now comes out here.

BOLTON: Yes.

BURG: Now at that time, Bob, given the remark that he made, was there further discussion of this Place of Meditation, the Chapel, at that point?

BOLTON: When we left General Eisenhower's office we went next door to General Schulz's office and briefed him on what



we had discussed with the General so if there was any follow-up that he could go ahead and take care of it. And so we told Schulz about it and, of course, that surprised him too. And he said that at an appropriate time he would try to get additional information on what the General wanted. Now this was indirect and an assumption on my part; my chronology is not too strong as to when talk actually started about it. The General wanted a place where visitors could contemplate the given course of the United States and perhaps recharge themselves to be better and more patriotic citizens. Of course, the thing would be obvious to anybody that looked at the plans, particularly if they knew that the General said he wanted to be buried in Abilene on the Library grounds, that this was to be a tomb rather than a, what you would say, a mausoleum rather than a--

BURG: Than just a Chapel?

BOLTON: Than just a Place of Meditation.

BURG: Now when was it that he first told you about this, what year again?



BOLTON: Well, it was sometime between the dedication in the spring of '62 and before Dr. Aeschbacher came on duty in the summer of '63.

BURG: We'll probably be able to pin it down by your movements and Grover's movements too. We'll need to do that. There's another thing that I wanted to ask you about, and I hope you'll respond with candor because as you know we can close areas. Having been here only a year myself there's much that I don't know, but I do know that when you arrived here to open this installation with all of its scholarly apparatus and aimed that way and you yourself a scholar,

[Interruption]



BURG: When you arrived here, here was a functioning museum which had been in operation much longer and with its director, J. Earl Endacott. It occurs to me, well, it would occur to anyone I think, that there just had to be some kind of friction here until you could work out what function each of you was carrying on.

BOLTON: Well, there was no real friction once we got straight. Now the primary distinction was that Endy was principally interested in artifacts in the home. He had already received, prior to the establishment of the library, materials that normally would come to the library, rather than the museum function.

BURG: You're thinking of photographs, for example.



BOLTON: Audio-visual materials, still pictures, motion pictures, sound recordings, things of that kind. And he did turn them over to us as soon as we had suitable equipment to house them at his own volition.

BURG: You did not have to press this issue at all?

BOLTON: No. Of course, it rather disturbed me that he had nitrocellulose motion picture films stored in the vault with some of the more important items that were not on exhibit.

BURG: This film being highly inflammatory and--

BOLTON: Highly inflammatory, and possibly explosive.

BURG: Inflammable, I guess is the word I wanted. Now I know from many other accounts that museum practices were carried out that trained museum people would find reprehensible.

BOLTON: Well, now I never held that against Endacott for this reason--he brought a tremendous devotion to the job, not only devotion but a great deal of hard work, ingenuity, solving problems with no background in museum techniques. I did not, and here too I'd like this not open because I'm making a personal evaluation of a person who is still around.

BURG: All right.



BOLTON: I would never bring up to him that I thought that exhibit could be improved. It would insult him so, and I am not a museum expert myself. I might think, "Well, I don't like it too well, but I don't know enough to make any great improvement myself." And then too, you have to remember that when the museum was opened, Endy had very little salary. He and his wife had devoted themselves to the home, maintenance, keeping it as close as possible as it was when Mrs. Eisenhower died in '46. I think nobody can fault him on his management of the house.

BURG: Everything left just as it was?

BOLTON: Was, and extreme care to keep it as authentic as possible. I think it's great that we very frequently preserve the homes of outstanding citizens of wealth, of great attainments. But I know of nowhere where you find a home, well, I don't like to use class terms, but sociologically, perhaps, called lower middle class.

BURG: Yes. Kept absolutely intact.



BOLTON: It's a sociological exhibit if nothing else.

BURG: And you give Mr. Endacott the credit for doing that.

BOLTON: Indeed.

BURG: Now did he become then a part of your staff when you opened here?

BOLTON: No. The Foundation retained the museum and house functions until 1966--up to a period in between when [William D.] Aeschbacher left and Wickman came on board.

BURG: Was there any particular reason why they did? Was this

in deference to Mr. Endacott and his long service?

BOLTON: No. See, the Foundation which built the museum and owned the home was established long before there was any thought of the library. I'm sure that they had operated with success. Now I'm getting into the background of the transfer of the Foundation property, including the museum and home, to the government. I think this was one time when the Eisenhowers were out here; I've forgotten the year--must have been after the dedication. Anyway, Grover flew out here. It might have been after the dedication. It slips me now exactly when.



BURG: So sometime in the spring of '62 or after, shortly after.

BOLTON: Or after. I think it was after because Grover rode out on the train with the Eisenhowers when they left, as far as Denver I believe. I just can't recall exactly the occasion. The General felt that the entire thing should be handled by the government, National Archives. He felt that, although the Foundation had done good work and had displayed remarkable initiative and ability as far as fund raising and maintenance of the home and museum, there was less and less attraction for the

younger leaders of the community in the Foundation. And, of course, he was always afraid that if the Foundation did not maintain its strength that some other group individually, perhaps, could get in and, perhaps, not handle it so well, or perhaps even exploit the activities.

BURG: Could it be put as strongly as the President felt that the older group in the Foundation simply weren't taking in young men?

BOLTON: Well, no, I'm not sure, frankly.



BURG: This you got from Grover?

BOLTON: Now this you realize is second or third hand.

BURG: Yes, it's hearsay from Wayne Grover or--

BOLTON: Or others.

BURG: Or others?

BOLTON: Yes.

BURG: But that was as far as Grover could understand, a factor

in the President's mind?

BOLTON: Yes.

BURG: That the Foundation, though he liked it--

BOLTON: It was not as vital perhaps as it was in the early days.



BURG: And he could see ahead the possibility that it gave up its meaning completely if it fell into the hands of those who might exploit his name and his rank. So from that point on, he is actively working to move the whole thing into the federal government.

BOLTON: My understanding was that the General could get consent of his brothers to the transfer of the home, in which they were primarily concerned, to the government and the museum, and negotiations went on with the Eisenhower Foundation, and they of course considered the General's wishes paramount. Now this is going on concurrently with the construction of the Chapel, and it was during the period between Aeschbacher and Wickman that the transfer was consummated. The museum and home staff were

taken into the library in the legal transfer of the home and the museum and the grounds.

BURG: So this is a matter that I should pursue further with Dr. Aeschbacher when I talk with him.

BOLTON: Now you realize, of course, that much of this is hearsay on my part, and I may well have gotten things wrong.

BURG: We'll check that out. Now in 1963, if I remember you correctly, Dr. Aeschbacher comes here, and he is appointed the Director.

BOLTON: Right.



BURG: Now can you give me any background on that? What prompted the decision? Did they feel that the library had now grown--

BOLTON: Let me say it this way. I do not like administrative work, and I do not like travel. During the early period, I enjoyed it. It was a small staff, intimate relationship that few of us have. And it did not involve much administration or too much travel. And so when Grover was out here, it must have been late fall of '62 or early winter '63, I approached him that

I did not want to stay on as director, that I realized that promotions and so on would be involved, but I did not have responsibility and had an adequate income at my present grade and wanted to get back to working more with papers and more of the archival functions rather than management functions. I asked him, if he wanted me to stay on as second, I'd be glad to do it or, if he wanted me elsewhere in the Archives, I would be glad to return either to Washington or go to one of the other aspects, or if he didn't want to fit me in anywhere I'd look for a job.

BURG: What did Dr. Grover say?



BOLTON: He said, "Well, put it in writing. Write to me personally." So I wrote him a note according to--now I've forgotten; I never even kept a copy; it was handwritten--according to our conversation [about] my wishing to be released from the responsibility and so on. And Grover, I'm sure he consulted--when he had chosen Aeschbacher as director--with Aeschbacher who said he wanted me to stay on.

BURG: I see. You did stay on then, for a time, with Aeschbacher?

BOLTON: I stayed till--well Aeschbacher left in spring of '66. The transfer of the museum and home occurred between Aeschbacher and Wickman. Then Wickman came on in the summer of '66, and then I left in '67, fall of '67.

BURG: Now what position, Bob, what title, did you hold under Aeschbacher?

BOLTON: Associate Director.



BURG: Associate Director under Aeschbacher.

BOLTON: And Wickman.

BURG: And under Wickman.

BOLTON: Yes.

BURG: And then did you pursue the matter of being relieved again in '67?

BOLTON: No. Well, let's see if I can explain it this way. Early in the development of the presidential libraries, in fact since Roosevelt's death until the Truman Library was

opened in '57, there had been only one presidential library. The Truman Library was opened in '57, and each of the libraries had developed individual methods in procedures for handling it, and there was, I think, some pressure on GSA [General Services Administration] to standardize operations, and perhaps also to provide guidance to the establishment of future libraries in their activities. [Robert H.] Bahmer, in the summer of '67, asked me to come back to Washington.



BURG: Bahmer was then the Archivist of the United States?

BOLTON: Archivist. And work on a handbook of operations which would perhaps not standardize so much the existing libraries, but provide guidance for future libraries. So I returned to Washington in the fall of '67 and was assigned to the Office of Presidential Libraries. We, by that time, had Hoover Library, Roosevelt Library, Truman Library, Eisenhower Library. The Kennedy Library, of course, is still not under construction, and was actively planning the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library. So I did work and drafted the handbook of procedures, the first one. And Dr. [Philip C.] Brooks, who was at the Truman Library, also worked with me on it. He came into Washington one time for a month or so, and we

worked together on it.

BURG: So it would be fair to say that, once again, promotion had come your way doing what you used to do.

BOLTON: Well, no, I took a lateral transfer because, frankly I did want to get back to Washington and an urban area. I was happy with the way things worked out.

BURG: All right, then let me ask you one final thing. If you had to open another presidential library, what would you do differently? What was done as you people got this one rolling that--



BOLTON: Well, I think, at least in the initial phase, whoever is in charge, it would be best if he had fairly long experience in an existing library. One of the things, I feel, that I'd had no administrative experience before I came out here. And I felt very much the lack of that. Well, you know, I did not like that area of activities.

BURG: Generally your experience has been pretty much as a loner doing special projects by yourself--

BOLTON: Yes.

BURG: --and suddenly found yourself having to administer four people, and there are six of you, and it's beginning to pick up.

BOLTON: I knew it was getting bigger and bigger all the time.

BURG: Yes, we have.

BOLTON: That the administration would be a major activity rather than incidental to the activities.

BURG: As it was, you could work with the papers and administer as sort of a sideline.

BOLTON: Yes.



BURG: And it was going the other way. So your primary advice then is pick somebody out of one of the libraries already in existence to go to any new enterprise at its beginning.

BOLTON: And particularly where he has some administrative experience. You see, we did have a situation here that was completely different from any of the other presidential libraries with the museum activities for the first five or six

years divorced from your other activities. And then, too, I think the Hoover Library did experience the same thing--that you are rather remote from the regional office in Kansas City. Perhaps if you had this administrative experience, things would have gone smoother.

BURG: Do you feel it was a liability to be at some distance from the regional office?

BOLTON: Yes. You see you're a central office activity, but you rely on the regional office for support.



BURG: Central office in the sense that National Archives and Records Service is the parent, yet you must have the physical support, supply support, of Kansas City.

BOLTON: Supply, personnel and all the other from the region. Perhaps there is a reluctance on their part, and they may feel that they are intruding if they had been offering all the help they could give.

BURG: In part then, Bob, probably because of your own particular makeup, your great interest in handling the papers and having worked with the papers, as far as you were concerned,

the more help from Kansas City, the more the better. You appreciated all of it.

BOLTON: Yes. I'm not down grading Kansas City. Frankly, in many cases I didn't know who to approach in Kansas City. If I would have had administrative background--

BURG: Yes, I see. You might have been able to approach exactly the right person and still maintain the independence of this organization and its operation.

BOLTON: Yes.

BURG: We've spoken a bit about areas wherein the State Architect and you people who had some experience with archives did not agree.

BOLTON: Well, I wouldn't say not agree but--

BURG: Certainly your advice was not taken.

BOLTON: Well, let's put it this way. It's an architect's dream to have all the money he can spend and put up, well, it might be a monument to himself. Of course, we had no restraint on the architect. Nor could we.

as choice of shelving. It sort of dismayed us, when we got the



BURG: Did you lose any battles; we'll call them battles.

I assume this was a pretty good natured relationship you had with the State Architect?

BOLTON: One incident that's amusing now is that before leaving Washington I got together with our records center management people who are familiar with all different types of shelving and the layout the stack areas with appropriate shelving and so on. And they highly recommended angle-T bar shelving which supports each shelf on all four corners, being much more stable and strong and so forth.



The State Architect had hired a library consultant, not an archivist, to determine what kind of shelving he would need. So he was familiar of course with the central post type shelving with your slots on the sides where your shelves snap into the slot. So we had a job trying to sell the State Architect on angle-T bars being stronger as well as cheaper and more durable and all the rest. As far as he would go along with it, he would put out specifications for both angle-T bar and center post shelving. We were so sure of ourselves that the angle-T bar would be less expensive that he wouldn't have a leg to stand on as far as choice of shelving. It sort of dismayed us, when we got the

bids in, that one manufacturer of center post shelving was below any of the bidders on the angle-T bar shelving. And it just cut the ground right from under us; so you've got center post shelving in your stack area now.

BURG: So as far as you know it's worked?

BOLTON: It's worked but I don't think--over a period of years, it won't have the durability of the angle-T bar.

BURG: The great difference being the difference in weight?

BOLTON: Essentially because, see, a library shelf is usually about eight inches?

BURG: Probably.



BOLTON: Eight or nine inches, and here you've got what, fourteen?

BURG: Plus the weight and some of them exceeding the weight of the paper.

BOLTON: And it's cantilevered out away from the center post rather than supported on the four corners.

BURG: So there was one where you people trapped yourselves. Well does anything else come to mind, Bob, that you'd like to get on the record in this session?

BOLTON: No.



BURG: We've covered a lot of ground, and we're very grateful; so, if nothing else comes to your mind, then let me thank you for this interview, Mr. Bolton.