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She was the only woman I know that could make the Senator do anything. I think Miss Ina--kiss Pat made the Senator mad more than likely half the time because she didn't know how to handle him. Miss Ina, she just let him go-- she would let him do whatever he wanted to. But Modine was the one who ran the show. And she was the one--of course, she cooked for him; she cooked what he liked, what he wanted and then everybody else had to eat what he ate. (laughs) But, the day we went over to the Research Center on that Saturday for the dedication, the Senator was still in awe because the governor had sent a state trooper out to lead them over to the Research Center. And he was like: "Why are they doing this for me?" type thing. But it was always self-effacing--even though he enjoyed it and enjoyed the attention and was very proud of the fact that he was able to get the money to put the Research Center here--that was one of his-- He said one time afterwards that that was one of the things that he could point to that he took great satisfaction in, getting this agricultural center located here because, of course, Senator [James O.] Eastland wanted it located in Mississippi. And Senator [John C.] Stennis also wanted it located in Mississippi and Stennis was on the Appropriations Committee with Senator Russell. It was sort of a--and Allen Ellender would have liked it to have been in the state of Louisiana because he felt like they had enough agriculture down there. So there was a big fight and the Senator pulled a lot of strings and probably had a lot of activity in the art of compromise to get the thing over here. There was another, I think out in the Midwest somewhere like Kansas was after it too. But then for them to name it after him was, I think he was a little embarrassed that they did name it for him after he had--but he was proud of it and very pleased. So that was kind of a star in his crown when he finally saw it come to fruition and it was built and it was operating and everything and doing the good work it was doing.

I was looking here at this sketch that they did in order to make the statue on the folder. He, for a man--we were talking about Proctor always trying to get him to tell him how much

money he had--he was very closed-mouthed about his money. We knew--well Babs always handled his personal effects and his personal transactions and he never, as I understood--now Babs can confirm this or might confirm this--he placed--The majority of his money was in stocks and things like this and mainly in Georgia companies--Coca Cola, Georgia Pacific. When Georgia Pacific first came here, he invested in them and was very pleased. He always was telling us how he thought that they were going to be a good company and he had bought when they first located the first plant here and how his stock had multiplied and divided and he was very pleased and he was always proud of Georgia companies. So he did invest heavily in larger Georgia companies, but he also, one of the quirks because I suppose, having gone through the depression, he never put any more money in savings accounts, in a savings bank then the FDIC [Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation] covered. He had more savings accounts books scattered around, and Lord knows where, because he didn't want his savings to be more than what was covered by the insurance. But he always when--looking at this coat; this was a black cashmere coat that he wore and he loved that coat because it was--well, it was nice plus it was warm but--that hat, that dumpy hat--I don't know, he must have sat on it a couple of times, but he would put that thing on and wrap his scarf around his neck so he wouldn't get pneumonia or something going out into the snow, but he never would buy--he refused--in fact, Bill Jordan told the story about the fact that he refused to buy a new bed for the longest. He wouldn't buy--I don't know when the last suit he bought because his suits were always--he was always very clean, always had them dry cleaned--Miss Ina or Miss Pat would have them dry cleaned--but he was always wearing the same clothes. He never would buy anything. He didn't like to buy clothes for himself, although he always--and the reason I was thinking about this--he always took notice of ladies dresses and flashy outfits and of men's coats and when men would come in.

In fact, Carl Sanders came to see him one time during 1970 and, of course, having the background on Carl, the Senator greeted him graciously, talked to him, and as he walked in Carl Sanders had on a tremendously loud Madras sports coat. And the Senator looked at him and said, "Carl, you are a picture of sartorial splendor." Of course--and then to top it all, he said, "You look like a hot-shot from Zaydee." Well, Carl took that as a great compliment. Well, little did Carl Sanders know that the first part was, but the second part was the Senator's own way of putting him down? Zaydee, most people thought it was some college fraternity, and they were referring to how the college frats always dressed so snappily. But Zaydee is a little hole in the road between--down around--between Claxton, Georgia, and up around Statesboro, It's just a tiny little--you go through it in two seconds. So the Senator when he gave you that compliment, if you didn't know what he was saying, he'd just put you down, (laughs) because a hot-shot from Zaydee, I'm not sure how they dress down there, but--

But the senator could never accuse himself of being a hot-shot from Zaydee with that crumpled hat, and that old cashmere coat which he dearly loved and had all the pockets full of every kind of paper in the world. I don't know--they should have emptied the pockets--I'm sure it would have filled a file cabinet itself when he died. But he carried something in there--I don't know why he never emptied his pockets because they were always bulging out with--

I was thinking back; we were talking about the sisters and how, the relationships from a staffer watching the sisters and brothers--The Senator, as he realized or as he became more unable to physically get around and as he felt himself slipping, he began to want the companionship of his sisters and his brothers more. In fact, he--one of the other of the sisters or brothers was generally in Washington during that last year. He hardly ever stayed in his condominium by himself. He enjoyed the company of Ina and of Pat Peterson because both of

them generally left him alone and let him do whatever he wanted to. Pat would push him a little more than Miss Ina, but they would come, one or the other, and they would swap off. If one had been there for weeks, the other one would come and relieve--because he didn't want to be by himself--he didn't want to be alone at night. And he wouldn't eat if he was in the apartment by himself--he refused to eat.

In fact, we went back in February of 1970, we went into the apartment one night with him--he had asked us to come and ride with him home. He wanted to talk about something, but anyway, we called John Wardlaw and had the limousine brought around and then we all piled in and rode down, and he didn't really want to talk about anything--he just wanted to have company and we watched the news with him and then one or the other of us would take our car, and we'd follow the limousine so we'd have a way to--John would go on back and we'd go home. But he had fruit cakes stacked up. In fact, he gave me one. He said, "Here. Take this home with you." And he would just--people would send him all this food and he just stacked it away, and he just had it. But he never would eat. He refused to eat at home because he didn't want to be by himself and eat alone. So therefore, the sisters and brothers provided an incentive, and they--he would sometimes take them out to dinner. You know, "Come on. I'm going to take you out to dinner." But they would cook for him and that more than anything provided him with companionship during that time because I think when you're sick, you do--and you're alone, that's even worse.

So--Fielding Russell--I think Dr. Jeb, of course, had a family--his wife and couldn't get away from Memphis like--Fielding had a wife, Miss Virginia [Wilson Russell] in Statesboro, but she had a life of her own and didn't mind Fielding coming up and staying several weeks at a time with the Senator--especially during the summer because she would always visit with some of the children--her own children. Fielding Russell was quite a contrast to the Senator in that where the Senator at age sixty-four or sixty-five had had pneumonia and was on his way down in declining health, Fielding Russell was a vigorous--smaller man--but vigorous and was a great tennis player and the Senator would go out--three of us lived in a complex called the River House that had tennis courts behind it and everything. And Dr. Fielding would come and play tennis with us in the summer, and the Senator would come out--have John Wardlaw drive the limousine out and he would sit there. He would bring Fielding Russell out to the tennis courts where we were to play, and then the Senator would sit in the air conditioned comfort and watch us play. But, and it was sad in a way because the heat got to him too, sapped his strength so he would stay in the car, but there he was, wanting I'm sure, wishing that he was out there playing instead of Fielding out there playing, and yet, you know, he enjoyed getting Fielding out there so that Fielding would have companionship and play and getting his exercise. So Dr. Fielding was a favorite, a favorite guest, a favorite brother to come up. Of course, Dick [Richard B. III], Judge Russell now who is an attorney there in Winder came up often, and Dr. [George] Parkerson came up.

The Senator had the best care in the world there in Washington with all of the best pulmonary specialists that Walter Reed could provide and they had some of the best. The was in a wonderful VIP suite up there on the top floor of the east end--the east wing of the Walter Reed Hospital. And each of the rooms had a sitting room off and then there was a huge reception area out front. There was a guard at the door and closed circuit TV because from time to time, Mamie [Doud] Eisenhower was there, Kitsie [Katherine Van Deusen] Westmoreland, General Westmoreland's wife, was there from time to time, and it was all--When they were up there and other senators and senator's wives would be there from time to time in the hospital and when the Senator was there, he--generally there was someone there at the same time when they were always visiting. So he had good care in the hospital and interesting company of other patients.

But he always wanted a family member and he always had Dr. Parkerson come up when he would get sick even though George Parkerson could not do anything but confirm what he already had. He felt better that his own home physician from Winder, Georgia, was there to oversee what those army doctors were doing to him. And George would come trudging up there every time the Senator would call and say--He'd call up and say, "Get me George--I want to talk to George. Tell George to come." And George would come and Dick would come and both would consult with the doctors and they would tell them and us what they were doing for him. But, basically all they were doing was performing handholding operations and yet, it was a comfort to the Senator because he felt like somebody other than--not a stranger, but somebody who was more personal, was there and helping him.

He--in fact, one of the things--toward the end you were asking whether he had facilities [sic], full facilities, yes. At that time, from the very first--from January, when I first arrived there in Washington, they had--the Russell family had, as well as some of the other friends in various businesses had been urging him to set up the Russell Foundation to take care of his papers. They had drawn up--in fact, Hugh Peterson Jr. had drawn up the Foundation, articles for the Foundation, the actual incorporation of the Foundation and all. All they needed him to do was to have him sign off on that and approve it. And he looked over the membership of the Foundation--those members of the board and approved those, and he said, "Those are fine" and then he added one or two, and things like this, but he never would sign over--he never did sign over the papers to the Foundation. And I think it was because that would have been the last physical sign that he was on the decline--which he refused. In fact, one week before he died, I pulled the Foundation papers out of a drawer in a desk where he usually signed his mail there in the hospital and showed it to him. He had been up that day and I said, "Senator, you still haven't taken care of these Foundation papers and he said, "Well, I just don't want to bother with that right now."

And he--that was in contrast to the fact that during this period of time--from time to time they were feeding him intravenously because he was losing strength and refusing to eat--he was feeding very little. He called--Dick Russell was there, Dick IV which is Dick Russell of Winder's son was there, and the Senator called Ina and myself and Dick and little Dick in--there are so many of the Dick Russell's that you have to differentiate because of Fielding's Dick--and made a gift to Dick's son and said, "I am in sound mind and am very capable of disposing of my assets, and I want you as witnesses to know that I'm giving to little Dick these articles," and he named off what he wanted to give him. And that was--in contrast he was disposing of some of his personal property but would refuse--totally refused to sign off on those papers to dispose of all of his papers to give them to the Foundation. He continued to not want to admit that he was in his declining days.

And at the same time, he insisted--in fact--insisted on paying for some of his sisters and brothers, all of whom came to visit him during his last hospital stay before he died, but insisted that they all come, and offered to pay them if they couldn't afford to come. Of course, they all could afford to come but he wanted to pay them for coming and of course they declined. But, they did come, and some of his nephews, including a nephew who's a preacher who had worked with the Senator for a while and had become--come into disfavor with the Senator because he was a very liberal young fellow and had--Rusty [Lewis Russell Nelson] had demonstrated with the civil rights people there in Washington and the Senator was very unhappy with him for a while. But Rusty came to see the Senator one Sunday and spent all morning with him talking about God and religion and things because--and the Senator was very interested and talked to him and talking about religion and life after life and things like this, and gave an indication to us

that he was, he realized that he was dying and that the time was near and was trying--he was wrapping up.

He refused--it almost seemed like he refused until he had wrapped up all his family personal affairs where he took care of little gifts that he wanted to give to someone who was named after him; took care of talking to a minister about religion; took care of seeing and saying goodbye, basically saying goodbye to all of his sisters and brothers who were living, saying, "Come up here and see me. I want to talk to you; I want to see you; I want to be with you." And then giving up. It was amazing that a man in life, who was in control of everything seemed to be in control even to his death of when he was going to die, which, of course, was ironic, in some ways that if he had--

Well, the doctor had told me later, one of the pulmonary doctors told me, that if he had simply given up smoking or never smoked the tremendous amount that he did, and if he had exercised and taken care of himself in his later years--the Senator hated to do the exercises necessary to keep the--The pulmonary specialist told him that if he would exercise everyday on his exercise which he had in his hideaway office and if he would walk, that that would reduce the amount of invasion of the emphysema into the upper part of his respiratory tract. But the Senator, because he was busy and because he really didn't like to do that, he refused to get up there and he, from time to time said, "Well, I can't do it. I just can't do it. I don't feel like it--you all don't make me do this." And you know when you're working for a man who* a powerful man and he says he's not going to do something, you don't really argue with him much. But it was sad because at age--in his early seventies, seventy-two or whatever, you don't think of that as being old now, and yet he died when most men are still very vigorous, and he died the most powerful man in the Senate, and yet he felt like--seemed to feel like and seemed to act like he had nothing else to live for--that he had done all he could do. He'd done everything that was important to him, and he was ready to die. And he simply likes the old Indians, they simply walked out and quit eating, and he just quit eating and died.

Looking over at his desk reminded me, I think I told you but I don't think we have it on tape about Bo [Howard Hollis] Callaway. We've talked about Carl Sanders but Bo Callaway came to see the Senator one day and said in a meeting--they were meeting on something else, and Bo looked at the Senator and said, "You know, Senator, I'm not going to run against you in the next year's campaign." And the Senator looked him straight in the eye and said, "Bo, I appreciate your saying that, but if you had run, I would beat you anyway." (laughs) So that--he was, in contrast, and the reason I thought of that--at that time, which was in the fall of 1970 he was still vigorous and still planned to run. In fact, he had made some indications about "Well, we've got to start thinking about the campaign and doing this and doing that" and yet, at the same time, by December when he had another attack of pneumonia and in January when he had been debilitated by pneumonia and ravages of emphysema, he was then making peace with his brothers and sisters and relatives and seeing them and saying goodbye. So it was quite a contrast how quickly he went down.

VOGT: Going back to the gubernatorial campaign in Georgia in 1970, you discussed a little bit about Carter and Sanders and the Democratic side. By the same token, Hal Suit was running against Jimmy Carter in 1970 and Hal Suit had conducted the interviews with Russell on the "Georgia Giant" documentary. Several times during that campaign, Suit made comments along the line that he had Russell's support and Carter was also giving the same sort of comment. Would you like to--

WILLIAMS: I think the Senator--well, for one thing, the Senator realized full well that Hal Suit had been able to capitalize on his activities with Senator Russell in making this documentary film from the standpoint that Hal then was able to get name recognition and things of this nature. But the Senator had a--well, he always spoke very highly of Hal Suit. I never remember or recall him saying anything whatsoever derogatory about Hal Suit, and was also always very cordial to him, and appreciated what he had done. But he attempted, even though he did have some problems with Governor Sanders, he attempted to remain neutral during that campaign and he got dragged into tentative support of Carter because of newspaper reports and things of this nature. As far as I know, he always remained neutral and didn't say anything one way or the other against either of them or for them. And just by the relationship of the two men--Carter having come to meet him and talk with him and Suit having done the documentary--it provided them with a nexus but never a platform or a support, an endorsement or anointment of the support from Senator Russell, and so he attempted to remain neutral--he was only caught up by the events and became less neutral as time went along.

CASTRONIS: When you were talking about wrapping, how he seemed to tie up all the loose ends of his life toward the end, I wonder if he ever expressed anything of his past friendship or past close friendship with Lyndon Johnson, or--I don't know if there was any bitterness there or if they--

WILLIAMS: I don't--well, during see Lyndon Johnson was still alive at the time, and Lyndon Johnson--the Senator, I think realized Lyndon Johnson had maybe sometimes used him because he always said, "That Lyndon!" You know, when he would start to do something, "That Lyndon!" But he, I think at the same time, he was proud of Lyndon Johnson because Lyndon Johnson always attributed his rise to the Senator's tutelage. And, of course, Lyndon Johnson always courted Senator Russell. Earl Leonard--I don't know, well, these are stories that go down in history and Earl Leonard tells a story and I only tell it from the standpoint of Leonard's telling it to me, but Leonard was there. Lyndon Johnson was a very gross man from the standpoint that he was bawdy and I'd say a little less than couth many times, and Earl tells the story of Lyndon Johnson when he was the majority leader just before he was selected as the vice-presidential candidate with Teddy--I mean with Jack Kennedy, coming into the Senator with a list of committee appointments that he was going to make and he--my reason for telling this story is that Johnson always--

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Lyndon Johnson, just like Richard Nixon, always stroked the Senator during the period of time that they were in office, or before. And Lyndon came in and said, "Dick, I want you to look over the members of these committees I'm going to appoint them to," because at that time the majority leader had total control over appointment to Senate committees. And Earl was standing in there and the Senator's office--the long, big office and off to right from the Senator's desk over between our office and the Senator's office was a restroom; and Lyndon Johnson went into the restroom. He said, "I'm going in here to the restroom, and you just check off the ones, the names, you don't want on there." And Earl said that the Senator sat there at his desk and took his pen and

started scratching through a name saying, "No, no, no!" And Johnson would yell, "Dick, who was that Dick? Boy, bring me that list!" (laughs) So Earl went back and forth between the bathroom and the Senator's desk every time the Senator would say, "No, no, no"--"Dick, who was that? Boy, bring me that list!" And so--

But then Johnson, of course, the story goes that Johnson, when he was running for reelection, the Senator took off and went to Spain after Johnson, in 1964, the Senator was in Spain and wasn't going to campaign for Johnson. And Johnson sent for Bobby [Robert Lee Jr.] Russell, the judge at that time, the circuit court judge, asked him to come to Washington and had him call the Senator on the phone from the White House over in Spain to convince the Senator to come back and campaign for him, and the Senator loved Judge Russell. And, I understand, it was better than--almost like a son. And so, after his call, the Senator came back and campaigned out in Texas and several other places for Johnson, but the--

You asked about whether they talked about him or whether they remained friends. The only thing I can say is that there was a strained relation because of this fact: during the entire time I was with Senator Russell, and of course that was fourteen months there in Washington--when Lyndon Johnson would come back to Washington, he of course stayed either at the White House or at--over in the--either used the offices provided for him across the street from the White House. He would call the Senator or would have one of his aides call the Senator, but he rarely ever talked to the Senator himself, and a couple of times, Johnson was in town when the Senator was in the hospital. In fact, in the fall of 1970, I remember once when Tommy [Wyatt Thomas] Johnson called out--Tommy Johnson was from Macon and had been Lyndon Johnson's press aide at the end of his term as president and had gone back to Texas with Lyndon Johnson. Tommy called and said that the president, or the former president, was in town and wanted to know how the Senator was. And the Senator was, at that time, had had pneumonia. But Lyndon Johnson never came to see him, and never talked to him personally during that period of time. So--and at the Senator's death, Lyndon Johnson didn't make an effort to come to the funeral which tended to indicate to me that when Johnson left the White House, he and the Senator were no longer as close. It was evidenced by the fact that you would have thought that a man who was dying--especially a man who supposedly had helped Lyndon Johnson become president, would have come to his funeral, or would have come to see him, being there in Washington over across the street ensconced in his office and could have had every White House car at his disposal to go and see the senator at Walter Reed, did not come. So I would say that their relationship at the end was strained.

We were talking about his family and Bobby Russell, about the fact that Bobby Russell was almost like a son and the way he treated us, and the fact that the staffers, those men on the staff were treated almost like grandchildren or children. One time the Senator--for some reason I was in his office and we were chatting and the subject came up of why he never did get married. And he--I think he was asking me. He said, "Are you dating anybody here," you know. "You're not going to get married on me, are you?" Because Proctor was dating a young lady who he subsequently married in February after the Senator's death in January, and Proctor had announced to the senator in August that he was getting married. Well, this really upset Senator Russell because Proctor had been sort of like his traveling butler. Proctor did everything for him from handling calls to handling messages from the White House. Basically he was the Senator's right-hand man and the Senator didn't want Proctor to leave his side. Well, that put a tremendous strain on Proctor, and Proctor did a yeoman's job of taking care of the Senator's needs and yet at the same time, having a life of his own and trying to date and everything. So I don't know how

Mary Virginia [Langston Jones] put up with his being away so much, but--or how they ever decided to get married, but they went to the Senator and told him that they were planning to get married, and they hoped to get married in February. And the Senator gave them his blessings, of course, but it was after that time he was asking me whether I was planning to get married or something, and the question came up why he never got married or did he ever seriously--and although there was the story about, in the thirties, that he was engaged to someone and then had broken the engagement off when the newspapers spread it around.

He said, he told me the story, he said, "You know," he said, "I always told everybody who asked me," he said, "I'll marry the woman that you can find me who can afford for me not to work." And so he said, "I made the mistake of telling that to Marjorie Meriwether Post," who, millionaires that she was from the Post fortunes, she called him up one day about--he said, "Two weeks later she called me up." She said, "Dick, I've got her." And he said, "Marjorie, what do you mean?" And she said, "I've got the woman you wanted." He said, "What do you mean?" She said, "You said that you wanted a wife that could afford for you not to work." She said, "I've got her." And he named off the woman. I've forgotten her name, but who was equally as wealthy and very attractive woman there from outside Washington who--Marjorie Meriwether Post was going to make the match. And he told her, "Forget that, Marjorie. I'm not going to do it." But that was his response to every one of them, "You find me a wife that can afford for me not to work." (laughs)

VOGT: You were involved in the fund raising project of the Russell Foundation following the senator's death.

WILLIAMS: Right.

VOGT: Could you tell us about your work with that?

WILLIAMS: Well, after the Senator died, we--those of us on the staff remained --You were allowed from the date of the Senator's death until, I think it was, sixty days you are allowed to remain on the staff, so we--to close up the office. That was a very sad situation because we had to--we were basically--the senior senators there who were still living wanted to get on with the business of the Senate, and they wanted the offices and they immediately, Senator Ellender took over the Senator's hideaway office over in the Capitol, and Senator Stennis--one of the Senator's best friends, of course, was eligible for taking over Senator Russell's office, but told us to take the time and to get everything done and wrap it up.

So we--I stayed on there to do that and then worked for Dave Gambrell until July and then went to work with Savannah Foods for the chairman of the board at that time, who was Lawton Calhoun, who was a good friend of the Senator's and who had been asked to be chairman of the Finance Committee to raise the money for the Foundation. During that period of about a year, while Mr. Calhoun was involved in the fund raising effort, I helped him coordinate into the districts the fund raising, the various fund raising districts and to pinpoint various large corporate donors who could possibly be sources for donations to the Foundation based on their former friendship with the Senator. So we acted sort of as a coordination for the Foundation's fund raising efforts, and I worked hand in glove with Mr. Calhoun on the fund raising. The difficulty in any situation, and this was one reason that the approach had been made to the Senator while he was still living was that it is only human nature that when people--a person of immense power

is alive, most people in order to curry favor would be willing to give a larger donation than when the man dies, and it was a difficult time even though we were grateful and we did--Mr. Calhoun was successful in raising over a million and a half dollars for the Foundation. It was--the task was made difficult by the fact that the Senator was dead and could no longer be of benefit to those larger corporations who had maybe had benefitted greatly from the Senator's activities during his life. That's the general thing of "what can you do for me tomorrow" type attitude of some of the givers, but we were--those who did make donations made substantial donations. Those who were his friends in life were also his friends in death in that they did respond and responded magnificently. But it took a longer time in organizing and getting it going. If the Senator had still been living and he had approved the Foundation and the actions of the Foundation during his life, it would have been very easy.

But I think that was--the Senator maybe refused to sign the thing, the Foundation papers knowing that immediately after initiating the Foundation that those who were going to raise the money would immediately start. Because until he signed those things, no one was going to take action to raise money for a Foundation that he had not authorized, so he, just as we talked earlier, being a man of the old school of high honor felt a little embarrassed about having people running around raising money for him. He was always self-effacing about people naming buildings or dedicating something in his honor. But to have people going around raising money, he felt, I think, a little hesitant about it. That there might be some conflict of interest if, while he was still in office, for someone to raise money for him. So he refused. He just, even that last week, continued to say, "I'll talk about that tomorrow" when the question was raised about signing the Foundation papers. But we were successful Mr. Calhoun and those who were in charge of the various congressional districts in fund raising for the different congressional districts worked hard and did yeoman's work and were successful in getting together the money for the Foundation which was a tribute both to them and to Senator Russell.

One of the things, thinking back about the time toward the end, Senator Russell during the last days after his stroke, as I indicated we were always in there at the hospital every day, one of us would go see him during the earlier hospital visits, and the routine was generally, we'd bring in the mail and we'd let him sign the mail and tell him what was going on over in the Senate and things like this. And he would ask questions about the events of the day and activities. But he once--once he had the stroke, he, of course, was in a debilitated situation, he was still able to talk somewhat, and one of the last things--showing the humanity of the man--one of the last things that I remember was that on Wednesday afternoon before he died on Thursday, the colonel who was a pulmonary specialist came in, who had been treating him for several years there, came in to see him and the Senator wanted to sit up on the edge of the bed. And he couldn't talk because his speech had been impaired somewhat, but he took the colonel's hand and kissed the man's hand and the man knew that the Senator was trying to thank him for all he'd done. I mean, even in that last twenty-four hours, he was thanking people for what they had done for him. And the colonel, sadly enough, on the Sunday of the funeral when we had some difficulty getting the planes out of Washington in because of the fog in Atlanta, so the colonel and the captain, who was the nurse, a female nurse there who had been helping and treating him in the VIP section; they were on the plane that was unable to land, so they weren't able to come. It was sad for us on our part in that many of the people that worked with him and had known him at the last were unable--the orderly who had pushed him around in a wheelchair and taken him to various therapy sessions and things like that was also on the plane, the air force plane coming down, and they were unable to land. We had--the senior staffers and several

members of the family had flown down. The president, as a last gesture, of course, next to the last gesture, he came down and laid a wreath on Saturday when the Senator's body lay in state at the Capitol. But the president-- President Nixon--had offered Air Force One and even on that day, it was ironic--a little irony. We flew into Atlanta in Air Force One. Of course, the family and the staffers had full run of Air Force One. The Senator's casket was up front and it was very sad in a way, but also it relieved the sadness of the event by the fact that we were--it was an exciting time too to be on Air Force One and have the real run of it and could use the communication center and call anybody in the United States you wanted to from Air Force One. And it was a thoughtful gesture on the part of the president. But we landed in Atlanta in order to get everything ready in the cars and the hearse ready for us to disembark. Then Governor Carter walked on Air Force One for the first time, and walked in and gave his condolences first to the family and then to the staffers, and looked around and looked at Air Force One, and millions of times I've sat and watched Air Force One take off from Andrews /Air Force Base/ with now President Carter on it and thought of the fact that the first time that Jimmy Carter saw Air Force One was when Senator Russell came home for the last time, but it was a day filled with irony even then.

VOGT: Thinking back about his liking to have young people around him, could you give us some insight into areas of your life in which you feel he influenced you--his character, his personality, any advice or counseling he might have given you while you worked with him.

WILLIAMS: Well, I think, his thoughts on the press. If the press called you, or someone called you and the fact's a fact, don't try to hide it. Just say, "Sure, it's a fact. It happened." If you try to hide something, I thought back about to Nixon, if you try to hide something, you'd only get yourself deeper and deeper into problems. If you just face it and the truth is a fact and the Senator faced off on everything that way. If it happened, it happened. If you have to deal with it, deal with it honestly. If it's--at the same time, don't try to let your ego get in the way of dealing with it. He never did; dealing with staffers, dealing with presidents, he never let--he dealt with people, even who are presidents as people--rather than--as someone equal rather than someone who was better than he was. He always dealt with them--treated everyone equally. Even Modine, his cook, was treated with the same treatment as he treated his brothers and sisters. In fact, she, of course, lives in a house that he bequeathed her because he treated her like he did his brothers and sisters and I think treating others as equals and not as below you or above you. The one thing that he said, of course--we were talking one day, and I asked him. I said, "Senator, if I ever thought about running for office, what office I should run for?" And it was sort of ironic. Of course, he had been governor. But he said, "Don't run for state office. Run for federal office." He said, "You can get a lot more done up here than you can run for the state house, or the state legislature." He didn't talk in terms of governor, he sort of--we avoided that issue. But he said--I said, "If I thought about going back home and running for a state representative's seat, what would you think?" He said, "No. Run for federal office." He said, "You get more done. You could get elected, get elected to federal office." You were asking what kind of advice he ever gave me personally that was one of the pieces of advice. I've never taken him tip on it, but at least that was his advice on that subject.

VOGT: Can you think of any other areas you'd like to talk about at this time that you haven't touched oh perhaps or--

WILLIAMS: Let's look--just cut off that a second and let's look through here. I wanted to see what--(tape stops and starts again) we were talking about friends a while ago of the Senator's and the fact that they were always--there was always someone around the house when he was home. Cliff Rutledge and Clair Harris were two of his closest friends, and Clair Harris doing the dedication of the Russell Research Center in May drove the senator over with Cliff Rutledge and they--Clair was in good health at that time--apparent good health. Subsequently developed cancer which would rapidly take away his vitality, and by fall, had certainly gone down quite a bit. In fact, I notice on the day sheet on October 20, Cliff Rutledge called and said that Clair was in a great deal of pain, sedated due to pain, and was not totally paralyzed, but was greatly so. And I remember the Senator--during this time, any of his friends or any of the congressmen who either had died--he took it very personally. And he worried about people. I had a--he worried about Clair Harris, and the fact that Clair was dying.

[Felix] Edward Hebert, who was chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, died during this period of time when the Senator was in the hospital there in the fall, and the Senator--that even more pointed up his mortality. Anyway he began to worry about it. I had a problem of having a growth taken off and the Senator worried for four days until I had gotten the results back. He was very worried about cancer and thought "Oh!" But this was on his mind and he didn't--he took things very personally thinking, "Oh, my friend is dying. Oh, my friend Eddy Hebert who I served on many conferences with, is now gone." It was very, I think, maybe depressing when he learned these news [items], but at the same time, he needed it; he wanted to know about it. (Tape stops and starts again)

I notice here October 5 Anne Campbell, Anne Pritchard had sent a note into him that a committee for the National League of Families, who were concerned about prisoners of war, missing in action in Vietnam, brought a pledge card by. It said: "As a member of the United States Senate I pledge as long as I occupy my present position of trust and responsibility, I shall do everything within my power to secure protection under the Geneva Convention for those United States citizens who are missing in prisons or war in Southeast Asia." And his signature, they used the signature machine to sign his name, and then .my own writing is here on it saying, "File. Do not respond." And my recollection of that was that his response to it was we don't--this is something for President Nixon and this is a policy situation for the president. I'm--and going back to his thing on separation of powers that he should not get involved in something that the state department and the executive department was within the parameter of their leadership and action. And so he told me, "Just file it. I don't want to sign that because of that." So that was just an example of what he--how he felt about those things even though he was concerned about the POWS and the MIAs, yet he felt that that type of action on his part might hurt the chances rather than help the chances of the MIAs.

During that time--during the last part of the Senate session in 1970, we had--we had two things happen. One, Golda Meir came and met--in fact, requested a meeting with Senator Russell and a couple of other senators. The Senator said after the meeting, he had a luncheon meeting with her, and I asked him what he thought about her, and he said she was probably one of the greatest living individual leaders of countries at that time, and he had great respect for her and he didn't consider her in terms of a woman. He didn't say one of the greatest women living; he said one of the greatest individuals living and one of the greatest leaders of a country at that time. And I don't know what they discussed. We didn't ask him, but apparently it was during the period of time when we were beginning negotiations and attempting a settlement and shuttle diplomacy-

-before shuttle diplomacy. But she apparently impressed him greatly because he kept talking about her for quite some time.

The other thing that happened--the Senator was on the policy committee that appointed--made the appointments of senators to committee assignments when the new Congress came in. Senator Fritz [Ernest Frederick] Hollings was--that was one regret that the Senator had, was that Fritz Hollings wanted to be on the Appropriations Committee, and the Senator couldn't appoint him to the Appropriations Committee at the previous session because he had already made a promise to Mike Mansfield or one of the other members of leadership that another individual would be on the Appropriations Committee since Strom Thurmond was a Republican and was on Appropriations, he didn't feel that he should appoint Fritz Hollings. Subsequently, Fritz Hollings is now on the Appropriations Committee. But, in fact, I believe that if I'm not mistaken, that it was /Walter Frederick/ Mondale that had been line to be appointed to replace, or edged out Hollings for the slot on the Appropriations Committee

VOGT: Joel, we want to thank you for coming over today. We've interview and it's really covered some areas that we've not had interviews. Thank you very much.

WILLIAMS: Thank you.

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