



INTERVIEW WITH

Joe Ingraham

by

Maclyn P. Burg  
Oral Historian

on

May 21, 1973

for

Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

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Joe G. Graham  
Donor  
August 4, 1977.  
Date

James B. Rhoads  
Archivist of the United States  
August 26, 1977  
Date



This interview is being conducted with Judge Ingraham in the Judge's chambers in Houston, Texas, on May 21, 1973. Present for the interview Judge Ingraham and Dr. Burg of the Eisenhower Library staff.

DR. BURG: Now, Judge, when we broke off the last time, Mr. Porter had left the interview and you and I talked for some period of time about the letter which you had written--

JUDGE INGRAHAM: Yes.

DR. BURG: --which received national prominence. What I wanted to do is to ask you, from the time of the convention and until the time of the election, what did you do, what kind of role did you play here in the campaign itself?

JUDGE INGRAHAM: From the convention until after the election?

DR. BURG: Well, until the election?

JUDGE INGRAHAM: Until the election--all right. I went to the convention as a Taft delegate. I think I told you that.

DR. BURG: Yes, with the Porter delegation.

JUDGE INGRAHAM: With the Porter delegation as a Taft delegate. I forget the number of delegates we had but Taft had won in five districts. I was named as a delegate from the San Antonio



district, which Taft had carried. The first thing--well, the important thing--that happened at the convention, was what was called the Fair Play Amendment. You're familiar with that?

BURG: That was Arthur Langlie's amendment?

INGRAHAM: Yes. The Eisenhower group won the contest over the Fair Play Amendment; the Eisenhower people were for the amendment, the Taft people were not. It was generally considered that Eisenhower would win the nomination when they won the so-called Fair Play Amendment. I, at that time, was Republican County Chairman in this county, and I told you at that time that we thought, or at least, I thought, that Harris County was important, because Harris County then had a population greater than thirteen individual states.



BURG: Yes.

INGRAHAM: The county has so grown that if you made the comparison now, I'm sure there'd be more states that Harris County would be greater in population than.

BURG: The most populated county in Texas.

INGRAHAM: Yes.

BURG: So there was a tremendous amount of strength here.

INGRAHAM: It was important for me to get back. I was up there, and I had been an Eisenhower witness before the National Committee and the Credentials Committee. I had to get back; we had to set up our next convention. We then had to have two sets of conventions in the county in a Presidential election year. One, the earlier convention in May, was in advance of the national convention, the national nominating convention, which we called the national set-up. The later convention was the state organization, to perfect the state organization and state nominations, and so on. When that was over, I talked to Porter and I said, "Now, I've got to get back to Houston." I was not there for the first ballot. I said, "I will go under one condition; that is that my alternate will cast my first ballot for Robert Taft." I said, "I will not bind him further." I did return to Houston. On the first roll call Taft did get five votes and then we held our--I had to get back to set up our precinct and county conventions preparatory for the so-called state organization. There were some Taft people, not all of them--I still had a lot of supporters among the Taft



people in the county--but there was some Taft people thought that I had betrayed Taft, and I felt I was obligated to do what I did do and go and tell the truth about the things that I knew, personally.

BURG: Right.

INGRAHAM: There was some opposition to me to be elected as county chairman, and no one ever wants to quit under fire, so I did run for county chairman again and was elected by a substantial majority. I'd say I got more votes among the Taft people than those that I--I got all the Eisenhower followers and I got most of the Taft people. I think I got ninety-two percent of the vote. But you do have to contest.

BURG: Do you remember the names of any of those Taft people who remained intransigent on this matter and continued to work against you?

INGRAHAM: Yes, there was then--and I never considered them really the--there was a Taft group that did not consider the Eisenhower people as Republicans. The group I'm ready to speak of now, I really didn't consider them Republicans; it was a



group of women known as the Minutewomen. Do you know about the Minutewomen?

BURG: No, but it sounds very far to the right.

INGRAHAM: It was, and I don't hear of it any more; I think it faded away. The Minutewomen were prominent in that. Also, there was a man, an oil man, named Robert Milner, who was, he was named as delegate from this county for the Taft group and was not seated. And he had not previously been a Republican; he had previously been a Democrat. I mentioned him in my letter. At the Democratic National Convention, four years earlier, Milner had been a delegate to the Democratic National Convention from this county. He had been a delegate to the Democratic State Convention two years earlier, and he had told me in February of that year that he was a Democrat!

BURG: I see.

INGRAHAM: Although he was in Taft politics. I remember his name, he was active in that, and then there was a women named Mrs. Weisinger--





BURG: W-e-i-s--

INGRAHAM: W-e-i-s-i-n-g-e-r.

BURG: And Milner with one l or with two?

INGRAHAM: I'm not--oh, Milner, M-i-l-n-e-r.

BURG: Oh, I see.

INGRAHAM: Milner is now deceased. I don't hear of Mrs. Weisinger any more. She was the leader of the Minutewomen. They are the people that I identify particularly with that. That's the reason I say that I think I got more support from the Republicans supporting Robert Taft than my opposition did. My opposition was a man named John P. Rogge, R-o-g-g-e. He's the man they--Rogge was a Houston lawyer. I don't hear of him any more. I think he's retired. That, generally, is what the opposition was.

BURG: Would the Weisinger group of Minutewomen represent-- we've spoken of a right-wing tendency--did they also represent age and maturity? That is, are we talking about a group of



women who are, say, in their 50s and 60s?

INGRAHAM: Oh, yes, yes.

BURG: Would they also have represented a fair degree of wealth, or would you say they were drawn from--

INGRAHAM: Yes. Yes, they did.

BURG: It was basically from the upper economic strata.

INGRAHAM: Now Mrs. Weisinger, and I could be--I'm relying on my memory now and this could be wrong--but I think her husband owned a chain of stores called U-Tote-Em. They're small stores, stay open nights and Sundays, and carry a line of groceries and sundries, of course. It is not as complete as what we found in the supermarket.

BURG: Very much like the present day Seven-Eleven stores.

INGRAHAM: Yes, yes. Now, I believe that he was the owner; I could be mistaken, but my recollection now tells me that her husband owned the U-Tote-Em stores.

BURG: I see.



INGRAHAM: Yes, she lived in River Oaks, and there was a Mrs. Davis, who I think was in that organization, who also lived in River Oaks, which is the elite residential district in Houston. Younger people are finding new areas but it is still--Jack Porter lives in River Oaks.

BURG: And is not here to defend himself! [Laughter]

INGRAHAM: That's right. I do not live in River Oaks.

BURG: I thought probably not!

INGRAHAM: I wish I did; I envy the people who do. It's a lovely sub-division; lovely, lovely residential area.

BURG: Now, do you remember approximately how much strength that group had? Well, when it came right down to it, only about eight percent.

INGRAHAM: Eight percent, they got eight percent and I got ninety-two percent.

BURG: So it never was a very large group.

INGRAHAM: No, but when you, when you're opposed, you have to fight back.



BURG: Yes, yes. So you then were elected to the Harris County chairmanship?

INGRAHAM: Yes.

BURG: And what was the next step then?

INGRAHAM: Well, following that--oh, yes. In September, they asked me if I would manage the Eisenhower campaign in this county. And I was carrying on a one-man law practice and I said, "Well," I said, "take a lot of time", so I did handle the Eisenhower campaign in Harris County. I was paid from the campaign funds for doing that. I don't know whether it was compensatory or not. I don't think it was, because it took me some time to get--my law practice had fallen off during that time. I was paid a fee of five thousand dollars for two months work. On the face of it, it looked like it was compensatory but really wasn't.

BURG: In terms of the business and legal practice that you had lost during those two months.

INGRAHAM: Yes, I did. You know, when your lawyer is not there, you get somebody else, and then when you go back, you to back to



him, and that sort of thing.

BURG: I understand.

INGRAHAM: I managed the Eisenhower campaign for election in this county. I did something that had never been done before, and they still follow the system now. Previous elections, you had a county headquarters in every county, but I said to myself, and to others, I said, "Here," I said, "we have a greater population--therefore, population was related to votes, more votes--than they have in thirteen individual states." I said, "Do you think that in Rhode Island, or New Hampshire, or Maine, or Montana, that they run the campaign from one headquarters?" Hell, no. I divided the county into fifteen districts for the purposes of the campaign. We had fifteen headquarters, fifteen district headquarters, where we kept in close touch with--then we put on a canvass, door-to-door canvass. We made cards; people would be called on. Most people will respond, some will not, and they were all given instructions. If anyone does not want to respond, why accept it courteously. And do not get into arguments with people.

BURG: Yes.



INGRAHAM: You estrange people when you argue with them. The question there is, "Who do you plan to vote for in November?" Well, the great swing was for Eisenhower; most of the people said Eisenhower. If they were, "Would you want to tell us why?" "Well, yes." And again, they were told never-if they don't want to answer questions, don't press them for an answer.

BURG: Yes, yes.

INGRAHAM: If they're for Stevenson, "Why?" We had card index files every precinct in the county. Then there were some people who were on the fence. Those who were on the fence we had, we'd have committees of two that would call on them and, "Could we talk to you about it?" Well, some would be received and some would not be. Again, you are not to argue with the people. You are to find out who they're for. Then we found that the majority of the people in this county were for Eisenhower, and the people who--and those who were for Stevenson, leave them alone. Don't call on them again.

BURG: I see.

INGRAHAM: What we want to know--we want to assure that those



people, the people who said they're for Eisenhower, that they vote! Well then, at the time of the election they were contacted a few days before, "You will be here." "Are you still for Eisenhower?" "Yes." "Can you get to the polls?" Most people can. If anyone had some difficulty, we'd see that someone would take him. Those people that were sick in hospitals, we had people go out and take their absentee vote. We followed up all the voters in those fifteen districts, which we couldn't have done trying to operate from one central headquarters.

BURG: Yes. So, if I understand this correctly, if I were one of your canvassers, I would be canvassing the blocks assigned to me and making out the questionnaire--

INGRAHAM: Yes.

BURG: --and then I would turn that questionnaire, or that series of questionnaires, in to the local headquarters, whichever one of the fifteen districts it was. There, they would single out all of those who were on the fence, but there would also be a file kept of all of those who had indicated they were Eisenhower people. Now, two different people--



INGRAHAM: The instructions are, if they are for Stevenson, forget 'em!

BURG: Forget it. I see.

INGRAHAM: Whoever contacted them, don't waste your time.

BURG: All right.

INGRAHAM: He's going to get some votes.

BURG: Now, when the two people go out to call on the undecideds, is it likely that I would be one of the two, or would they be two entirely different people, who would call on the undecided people?

INGRAHAM: Oh, just two people in their neighborhood.

BURG: Might be me and it might not.

INGRAHAM: That's right.

BURG: I would have done the original canvass, and I might be used in the second one.

INGRAHAM: That's right.





BURG: Now, the third bit of contact then, just before the election, that would be a telephone call to the Eisenhower people and, I suppose, to the undecideds.

INGRAHAM: Yes. "You told us when we called on you that you were for Eisenhower; we hope you're still for Eisenhower."  
"Oh, yes."



BURG: Yes.

INGRAHAM: And, "We want to be sure that you vote." "Oh, we will vote." And, "Do you have transportation? Do you have any problems?"

BURG: When it came to the actual fact of election day, is it now your impression that all of those who needed transport, for example, did get it--

INGRAHAM: Yes.

BURG: --your people were well organized and they did carry these people to the polls?

INGRAHAM: Yes.

BURG: And they did pick up those who were in the hospitals; they got the--

INGRAHAM: Yes.

BURG: --absentee ballots to them.

INGRAHAM: An absentee ballot has to be before a notary public, so you'd have to send someone out who was a notary public to take their ballot.

BURG: I see. So you have people who were notary publics.

INGRAHAM: We arranged for that. Some people were convalescing at home, some in hospitals. You'd have to have a medical certificate to do that, but they'd have a certificate from their doctor that they were unable to go to the polls.

BURG: Right. So that would be proof of a very sophisticated kind of organization that you had put together here, and it worked.

INGRAHAM: That's right.

BURG: And it worked very well.



INGRAHAM: Yes, we carried the county with, I forget the figure now, but it was a whopping figure, we thought at the time.

BURG: What were perhaps the major problems you faced in directing that campaign here in Harris County? What--another way of putting it would be, what headaches stand out in your mind, now, from that period?

INGRAHAM: The only thing I recall now as headaches were internal squabbles in some of the headquarters; just natural personality conflicts that you'll find with people working closely together.

BURG: But not on political principle, but quarrels simply because personalities rubbed?

INGRAHAM: Yes.

BURG: Someone took upon himself more--

INGRAHAM: People working for a common cause will have differences in the way things ought to be done.

BURG: You didn't run into occasions where former Taft supporters



and Eisenhower supporters, within one of your districts, would get into a knock-down-drag-out on that account?

INGRAHAM: No, matter of fact, we told our workers, and our workers were people who had been both for Eisenhower and Taft before the convention, not to have any of those quarrels. We didn't want quarrels with anybody. And particularly if people who were for Stevenson--and some were--treat them politely and respectfully, and "Thank you."



BURG: Yes.

INGRAHAM: That was the end of it. Spend no more time on them! Don't waste your time with them! Let's work with the people who are for us. Let's see that they vote!

BURG: Yes, yes. Because you knew fairly soon that you had, there, a majority.

INGRAHAM: Oh, yes.

BURG: Just what you had--those who said they were for you--gave you your majority. And your own task, then, was primarily one of soothing down people whose personalities had clashed in

one way or another.

INGRAHAM: Yes.

BURG: Now, was it--

INGRAHAM: Mostly it was among volunteer workers, and they were mostly women that couldn't get along with each other, and so--

[Laughter]

BURG: The men on the campaign seemed to do a little bit better in that respect?

INGRAHAM: Yes, I'm not going to say they were without conflict among men but, usually, if somebody called somebody a son-of-a-bitch it was somebody that was working for his common cause.

[Laughter] If he wasn't close to him, he wouldn't speak of him in that way. [Laughter]

BURG: Was money a problem for you here in Harris County in that campaign?

INGRAHAM: It wasn't a problem for me because I said, "Now, I've never been any good at raising money, and never very good



at making money." I says, "Will I be involved in any money?" "Oh, no, yours is the campaign, the political campaign." We had a man here, head of the financial committee, whose name you probably know; he served in the sub-Cabinet, Dudley Sharp?

BURG: Yes.

INGRAHAM: Have you interrogated him?

BURG: I have not.

INGRAHAM: Yes, well he's a Houston--he lives in Houston, lived here all of his life, I think. Sharp was in charge of the finance committee and, as far as I know, he did a beautiful job. I had no thoughts of money.

BURG: I wonder if Mr. Sharp would still have the financial records of the campaign, do you suppose?

INGRAHAM: I'm sure he would.

BURG: Because we would like to--wherever we can throughout the United States--have these records. I think that this campaign was a rather unique one and I'd like to see it documented fully. I think, sooner or later, scholars are going



to want to look at it as a campaign to see how it was conducted.

INGRAHAM: Sharp served in the sub-Cabinet in the Eisenhower administration. I think he was Assistant Secretary of the Navy. [Editor's note: Mr. Sharp was Assistant Secretary, Under Secretary, and Secretary of the Air Force in the period 1955-1961.] And he is a very sharp and able man.

BURG: Yes. And he now lives right here in Houston?

INGRAHAM: He lives in Houston. I think he's lived in Houston all of his life.

BURG: Right.

INGRAHAM: He's a wealthy man and that's the kind of a man you need heading the finance committee, because poor men, they can't fathom what a certain number of dollars mean.

BURG: Yes. When we're talking about thousands and thousands of dollars, why most of us tend to boggle a bit.

INGRAHAM: That's true.

BURG: Well, it's interesting to know that you had a



responsibility for--

INGRAHAM: I had no money problems.

BURG: Right, just the political aspect.

INGRAHAM: Yes.

BURG: Money was taken care of another way.

INGRAHAM: Yes.

BURG: And when you say "no money problems", you mean that in another sense, too; there was money available to conduct this campaign.

INGRAHAM: Yes.

BURG: All right, fine. Now, after the election was over--

INGRAHAM: Let me tell you this, I told you we had fifteen separate headquarters; you had to have a piece of real estate to have a headquarters--

BURG: Right.





INGRAHAM: --we were able--most of the poeple who owned those properties would give it to you rent free as a campaign contribution. I want to tell you about--I'm not going to mention any names, but this is an interesting story to me--there was one choice property, downtown on Main Street, that was vacant, and I knew who owned the property. It belonged to an estate and I--there were, I think, three brothers and one sister, I went and talked to one of the brothers and he said, "Well, yes, they'd contribute that." He came, he called me back and he said, "Joe," [he] said, "one of my brothers said that we can't do that. We can't afford to give up that income." I can't understand; I think they're wealthy people. But he said, "My other brother and my sister," [he] says, "we've decided to do this." He says, "We make a lease for the property at the fair rental value and my other brother and my sister, and I, will contribute enough, donate enough money, to pay for the lease."

BURG: That was pretty generous to do it that way, and satisfied the other brother.

INGRAHAM, Yeah, so he got his share. He got his one-fourth



the fair rental value, which was paid by his two brothers and his sister.

BURG: That's pretty unusual, isn't it? Well, when that campaign was over, the election was won, what transpired? First of all, what happened to you, personally? Did you then go back to your own law practice?

INGRAHAM: Yes, I did. I was gone from my office only two months, and I wasn't really gone; I went by every day. I still had an overhead going on there and I had to pay the rent, and had to pay my secretary, and telephone, and that sort of thing. But the business, I referred to someone else while I was gone. I didn't try to carry on a law practice; I was out of my office too much.

BURG: Was there anything in prospect for you in the way of patronage because of the enormous amount of work you had done here in a very key and significant area of the United States?

INGRAHAM: I was hopeful that I would be appointed federal judge but I didn't know that I would be, of course. No one can promise you anything like that.



BURG: Had anyone suggested it to you, Judge?

INGRAHAM: No.

BURG: So you were just hoping that that might be something--

INGRAHAM: No. No rewards had been offered me and no one had ever said in express terms, "Oh, you're going to be appointed federal judge." It was--I always thought a federal judge was the finest thing a man can be and, by that time, I thought, well, maybe I can be one.



BURG: Anything change your mind since then about federal judging? [Laughter]

INGRAHAM: No, sir, it has not.

BURG: Good. That's good.

INGRAHAM: I can think of no greater ambition.

BURG: Yes. How long was it before there was any talk with you about this prospect, do you remember?

INGRAHAM: Oh, it might have been discussed with my friends. The situation was that we had--the eldest judge then was Judge

Kennerly, who was a Republican. He was in his eighties, he had been a Hoover appointee, and there was speculation that Judge Kennerly would retire.

BURG: Do you remember his first name, Judge?

INGRAHAM: Yes. Thomas. Thomas M[artin]. Kennerly. I'm sure, from private conversations with friends that came up--and any time it did I, my response, my natural response, would be, "Yes, I would welcome it."

BURG: Yes.

INGRAHAM: However, there was nothing concrete until he did announce his retirement.

BURG: Did that occur in 1953, Judge, or was it later than that?

INGRAHAM: No, I think it was early in '54. Now, I showed you a scrapbook I have; the announcement of his retirement is in that scrapbook with the date, I'm sure. I think it was early in '54.

BURG: Then, how was the approach to you made, when it did come, Judge? How was that done?



INGRAHAM: Jack Porter was then the Republican National Committeeman; we had no Republican Senator. And I'm sure it was just--I can't tell you exactly what was said or when--but Porter did say that he would recommend me for that, to succeed Judge Kennerly. Or he talked to me. We had an office in the same building; I saw him often. We did discuss it; I told him I was interested and he said that he would recommend me.

BURG: Now, is it customary for the local bar association, the Texas Bar Association, to be consulted--

INGRAHAM: Oh, yes.

BURG: --with regard to these affairs?

INGRAHAM: Yes. I want to tell you some things that happened in the interim and then we'll come back to my appointment.

BURG: All right. Good.

INGRAHAM: I'm sure you want to develop that. I continued as Republican County Chairman until, oh, sometime. It had been a pretty hard chore. I was relieved of that and I then became a member of the Republican State Committee from this district.



I continued as a member of the Republican State Committee until I was recommended for appointment to the bench, when I then resigned from the committee, which I and others thought was appropriate. I found this; now, I have long been interested in Republican politics. There is an obligation when you win an election. There's an obligation if you--

[Interruption]

BURG: You were speaking of an obligation when you win.

INGRAHAM: When you win an election there's an obligation to fill the offices. The people have said, "We want you and your partisans to run affairs." I could not find anyone, really, who was qualified who wanted to be United States Attorney. It had actually been--they called the Eisenhower campaign a crusade, a citizens' crusade; it had been a citizens' crusade. I couldn't--there wasn't anyone who wanted to be United States Attorney. There wasn't anyone who wanted to be United States Marshal. There wasn't anyone who wanted to be Postmaster in Houston. Some of the smaller towns, yes; I recommended some postmasters in this county who were appointed. But for the offices I thought were important here, United States



Attorney and U.S. Marshal, I had to go out and find, and re-  
cruit, a man to be U.S. Attorney and a man to be United States  
Marshal. The man I recruited to be United States Attorney--  
I wanted to tell you this because he's now a circuit judge in  
the District of Columbia--he was a young lawyer here with a  
local law firm and I talked to him about it. His name was  
Malcolm [Richard] Wilkey, W-i-l-k-e-y; it's different from  
Wendell Willkie.



BURG: Yes.

INGRAHAM: Wendell Willkie spelled his name with seven letters.  
Well, the man I recruited to be U.S. Marshall was Emmett Smith,  
who is now deceased. Wilkey discussed it with his senior partner  
over in his law firm and he agreed, "Well, yes, it will be some  
good experience for you." So he said yes, he'd be United  
States Attorney. So I gave him this--I said, "Well let me  
give you some advice. If you take this job, you be a one-  
term district attorney." It's a four-year appointment. I  
said, "You can get some good experience." He was a man then  
in his early thirties. I said, "You can get some good experience;  
you'll be the head of a large law office." He had about twenty

some-odd assistants, I think.

BURG: In that position?

INGRAHAM: Yes. I said, "You will, yourself, try some important cases; don't try to try them all." I said, "You will have some experience, yourself, managing a large law office for a very important client, the United States. You will have both criminal and civil business and," I said, "you will gain some prestige; you will get some good experience. But," I said, "if you go into a second four-year term, you'll get into the point of diminishing returns." I said, "You serve one term and then let somebody else take it on." So, after he served about three and a half years, he came to--I was then a judge--he, when his reappointment came up, came down and talked to me about it. He said, "You know you told me to be a one term district attorney and," he said, "I'm going to, six months ahead of time, send and tell the attorney general that I do not want to be reappointed and for him to find someone else for the position." Well, when he did, why he got a call the next day from the attorney general, who was then William Rogers, and Rogers said, "Malcolm," he said, "I want to talk to you."





Can you be here Monday?" Well, when the attorney general tells you to be there Monday, you go. So he went up there and he said, "We want you to come to Washington as Assistant Attorney General." Well, he came back and he discussed that with me, he discussed it with his old partners, and they said, "Well, yes, this is a new challenge and a new job. You can gain some further experience and some further prestige in Washington on the national level." So in Eisenhower's second term, he was Assistant Attorney General. Then he returned here, after he'd been gone about eight years, or about seven years, in the U.S. Attorney's office and in the office up there. And, also, he had married in the meantime. He had married a young South American lady that he'd met on a trip down there. He had gone there as the United States representative in an international law conference for the United Nations in Buenos Aires. His wife was a Chileana, who was residing in--well, she was working in the Chilean Embassy in Buenos Aires.

BURG: I see.

INGRAHAM: I understand that he was a bachelor, and most of those attending that United Nations Conference were accompanied



by their wives, but he somehow met this young lady and she was one--she's a charming woman; I know her very well now. They came back to Houston and for a couple of years here--I don't know what his situation was in the law firm, or whether his wife maybe didn't like living in Houston, but he went to New York as general counsel for Kennicott Copper Company.

BURG: Yes.

INGRAHAM: I'll cut this story short. You know, when Warren [Earl] Burger moved from the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia, he had been an Assistant Attorney General. Then he went to the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia. When Wilkey went to Washington to be an Assistant Attorney General, he was sworn by Warren Burger, who was then a Judge of the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia. When Burger went to the Supreme Court, that created a vacancy on the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia, they appointed Malcolm Wilkey. He's now on the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia. One of your historians might--you may want to talk to him. He was a campaign worker here in the Eisenhower campaign, 1952. The way I first heard of him, people would



call me. He was working for Eisenhower, I was the county chairman and I was for Taft. They'd say, "A young man named Wilkey out here; is he a son of Wendell Willkie?" And I would say, "Well, I don't know. Don't know him." [Laughter]

BURG: Yes.

INGRAHAM: I must have a dozen, or two dozen calls about that. So when I did meet him, I knew who he was. He's now fifty-four years old, and I consider a young man.



BURG: Yes.

INGRAHAM: He's now the junior member of the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia.

BURG: Now when you picked him; that is, when you approached him about being U.S. Attorney here, did you have a list of names, Judge, or was he the only one that you had in mind for that?

INGRAHAM: We had a few names. One, the first man I talked to about it, was Hull Timanus, who--

BURG: How does he spell his last name?

INGRAHAM: T-i-m-a-n-u-s. He was a Democrat who worked for Eisenhower. He's still a Democrat. He was a delegate to the last Democratic Convention supporting George Wallace. He was a Wallace leader. I talked to Timanus about it.

BURG: And he turned you down?

INGRAHAM: He said, "Well, would I have to be a Republican?" I said, "Yes, I think so." "No, I won't be a Republican."

BURG: I see, I see.

INGRAHAM: He's never been one. He was a Democrat for Eisenhower in that campaign. The last two Presidential campaigns, he has been for George Wallace. He was a Wallace leader at the last Democratic Convention.

BURG: Was Wilkey the second man on your list?

INGRAHAM: I called Dillon Anderson. You know that name?

BURG: Yes, I sure do.

INGRAHAM: Have you ever interrogated him?



BURG: The Columbia Oral History Project has.

INGRAHAM: Dillon Anderson was one of the top partners of a leading law firm here, Baker and Botts, and they had a young lawyer there named Billy Harvin. And I said, "I'm looking for a United States Attorney now," and I said, "I've thought about Billy Harvin." "Oh, no, Billy won't be interested," they says, "we've got better things for him here." And I got the 'no' from Dillon Anderson, that Billy Harvin would not be available.

BURG: The firm was Baker and Botts?

INGRAHAM: Yes. It was then called--it used to be a four-man firm, but they've now reduced the name to two names. Then, I think the next man I thought of Wilkey. Now, I first talked to Timanus and he turned it down, and I thought of Billy Harvin and I called Anderson and Anderson scotched that.

BURG: You never did talk to Harvin himself then?

INGRAHAM: No. And then I, on my own, went to see Malcolm Wilkey, or I called him and he came up. We were in the same.



building; he just came down a few floors, he came down to my office.

BURG: In a situation like that, Judge, where you were the county chairman, was it expected of you that you would consult with other people, key leaders, and things like this.

INGRAHAM: I don't know who expected it, but I did it. I was then in politics--that was before I came on the bench--and I realized that having won, we had a responsibility.



[Interruption]

BURG: You were telling me about the fact that you felt it was your duty as a county chairman to make this selection.

INGRAHAM: Yes. I want to say one more thing about Mr. Wilkey. I've probably dwelt too long on him, but I'm particularly proud of that. I'm responsible for getting him in public service and I think I rendered the country, and rendered him, a service. I think he's an outstanding man, an outstanding judge. And of course he's young and he'll be a judge for a long time. I'll become a senior judge in July.

BURG: What is the marking point, Judge? How is that determined?

INGRAHAM: When you're a senior judge?

BURG: Yes.

INGRAHAM: I have been eligible for three years. They used to call senior judgeship, retirement. It's now called senior judgeship, which I think is a better title because, actually, a federal judge never retires. I'll continue to work. What that means is that my, a successor will be appointed. I will not be an active judge. I will not--some pressure will be relieved; some people would call it semi-retirement. I don't want to quit.



BURG: You will keep your chambers here?

INGRAHAM: Yes. Eligibility--you're eligible for retirement or senior judgeship (1), at the age of seventy if you have had ten years service (2), at the age of sixty-five if you've had fifteen years service. In August I will have completed nineteen years, so I'm almost four years past eligibility. I was eligible when I had served fifteen years. I was

eligible to retire when I came on the Court of Appeals. Now, it is not mandatory. Judge [Allen Burroughs] Hannay who is eighty-one, is still an active judge here.

BURG: Let me ask you this, although it's a very blunt kind of question, what determines the actual retirement, Judge? Is there some kind of review board that examines your competency?

INGRAHAM: There is not, no. Oh, there is a procedure that a man can be certified as disabled for either physical or mental disability. But I'm not being certified. [Laughter]

BURG: No! [Laughter] I didn't think that that was the case!

INGRAHAM: My retirement is voluntary. And I've decided that I would retire at the age of seventy. Well, I've requested retirement--I'll be seventy on July 5th--I've requested retirement July 31st, the last day of the month in which I will become seventy.

BURG: And, in effect, this will then give you a reduced case load?





INGRAHAM: Yes, a judge in retirement, a senior judge, can do as much or as little work as he wants to, or none at all.

BURG: Can you request that certain cases be brought before you?

INGRAHAM: Not certain cases, no, and I wouldn't want to do that. That would not be judicial. And I can say, I'll be willing to sit, oh, certain weeks and hear cases.

BURG: I see. I didn't understand how this worked. During that period of time when you are sitting, all cases--

INGRAHAM: Also, an active judge is--we screen all appeals. I understand that a senior circuit judge gets no screening, no school cases, and no administrative matters. Well, those are the things that make up the day to day drudgery of the work. With no screening, no school cases, no administrative matters, I can judge with dignity. [Laughter]

BURG: That's nice. That really sounds very good to me. Let me then ask you, since we've talked about your work with Mr. Wilkey and that situation, the problem of patronage--



INGRAHAM: I claim credit for getting him in public service.

BURG: Right.

INGRAHAM: And I think the country and he are better off because of it.

BURG: But it turned out that you actually had some difficulty finding qualified people. One hears stories that perhaps General Eisenhower was not--how would I put it--did not send as much--



INGRAHAM: There was no clamor for jobs, let me say that. The people who campaigned for Eisenhower didn't do it because they wanted a job; they wanted a change.

BURG: Right. So any published sources, written sources, that indicate not much patronage came to Texas, it's conceivable that not much came this way because not much was demanded here. Is that a fair statement?

INGRAHAM: I think so.

BURG: Now I will put this question to Mr. Porter, too, but let me put it to you to get your observation. Would it be your

observation that Mr. Porter was disappointed in the amount of patronage that came here? Would you say that he felt that he was receiving help--

INGRAHAM: If so, I don't know it.

BURG: You don't know.

INGRAHAM: I don't think he ever expressed any disappointment to me. If so, I don't remember it. But he can tell you about that better than I can.

BURG: Right, he can.

INGRAHAM: A disappointment is his state of mind. I don't recall that he ever complained to me about it.

BURG: To your knowledge, Judge, he had no prospects in mind for himself that he might want?

INGRAHAM: No.

BURG: Well, I will, of course, put this question to him, too. Now, when you became a judge, you ruled yourself out of political activity.



INGRAHAM: I resigned from all political activity when I was recommended, or at least when I was nominated.

BURG: Yes. So you did not take any part in the 1956 campaign?

INGRAHAM: No, my last campaign was '54. Well, no, I didn't really--I had been recommended then. No, I attended my precinct convention in '54, but I did not go to the county convention. I still attend precinct conventions. That is no more than an exercise of the right of suffrage. Your convention at the precinct level is right of suffrage.



BURG: Do you still advise on party affairs?

INGRAHAM: No.

BURG: You stopped that, too.

INGRAHAM: I do not. I think that would be improper.

BURG: So your role in Republican Party politics in the state of Texas is that of the average voter with the right to vote, and that's been about it?

INGRAHAM: That's right. I don't know the Republican County chairman in this county. I held that office seven years. She's a lady by the name of Nancy Palm.

BURG: P-a-l-m.

INGRAHAM: P-a-l-m, Nancy Palm, and some people call her napalm. [Laughter] I've seen her on TV, I've seen her at the speakers' table at dinners, and things like that, but I don't know her. She's been county chairman for a number of years.



BURG: Then let me ask you this. In this intervening span of years since 1952, or since you came on the bench, for you, life is pretty well centered on your judgeship and all the activities that connect with that?

INGRAHAM: Yes, sir. That's a full time job; this is a busy district. I was a district judge for fifteen years and four months.

BURG: And in your life as a judge, a good bit of this is spent in reading the professional journals of your profession, and in

reading--

INGRAHAM: And briefs.

BURG: --briefs for the cases?

INGRAHAM: Yes.

BURG: You said that this is pretty much a full time job--

INGRAHAM: Oh, it is.



BURG: --any particular hobbies that you now follow, or have followed, for any period of time?

INGRAHAM: I do not play golf, I do not fish; we do have a beach house, which we've had built in 1955 on the Gulf. We do like to go there for weekends and we spend the month of August there each year.

BURG: Is this on Padre Island?

INGRAHAM: No, it's on San Luis Island, which is sixty-two miles straight south of Houston. You can drive there in an hour and twenty minutes. I find if I drive fast it takes an

hour and twenty minutes; if I don't drive fast it takes an hour and twenty minutes. All this trying to hurry in traffic does not pay.

BURG: One reason I remarked on it because, as we've not observed on the tape, this office is decorated with some very lovely sea shells and old bottles, and I think that was your wife. She--

INGRAHAM: Yes, my wife decorated these chambers and many people comment on it, and my stock answer is, "She'll decorate anything, if she can find someone to decorate the mahogany". And she did follow out the theme of the beach, seashells and bottles. Now these bottles are all bottles we've picked up on the beach. Most of the shells were picked up on this beach. Now some of these shells--you see the coral there and those baby giant clam shells--they're from Australia; you buy those in shops. But most of those shells came from our beach.

BURG: Yes. And they're very lovely, indeed. Well, the only other thing that I wanted to get down on tape was [in regard to] remarks that you made to me during our luncheon conversation,



the last time I was here. During the war you were an officer assigned to the Strategic Bombing Survey.

INGRAHAM: Yes, sir, and you told me that you wanted to--in a letter I got from you--that you wanted more about it, my work in the Strategic Bombing Survey, and I don't think I should discuss it, for this reason. It was--then, at least--it was highly classified work. I don't know whether it is today or not. But I probably told you more than I should, but I'd rather not discuss that, for that reason.

BURG: Well, if we found that it was O.K., on some future occasion do you suppose you could tell me a little bit about your experiences?

INGRAHAM: Oh, yes.

BURG: O.K. Very good. Why don't we leave it at that then, Judge?

INGRAHAM: All right, good. I can tell you that I was an officer in the Strategic Bombing Survey.

BURG: With a transportation specialization.





INGRAHAM: I was executive officer of the transportation division.

BURG: Studying the effect of bombing on German transportation.

INGRAHAM: Yes.

BURG: Right.

INGRAHAM: Aside from that, I wouldn't want to say anything.

BURG: Right. Now is there anything that I've neglected to cover with regard to General Eisenhower himself? Any reminiscences of him, or contact with him that you might have had that you feel we should get down on tape?

INGRAHAM: Well, I'll mention this. When I was nominated for the district bench, in, that was in May, 1954, I was notified to appear before the senate judiciary sub-committee. I understand everyone recommended for appointment to the bench has to appear before that sub-committee, and they want to see you and talk to you, and maybe they want to see if you have two heads or four arms. I don't know all of the reasons for it, but it's always been the custom that you must appear before the



sub-committee. The sub-committee was one man--he was the chairman of the committee--that was Senator [William] Langer, now deceased. The day I appeared there were four other nominees; two from Michigan, they were [Ralph MacKenzie] Freeman and [William Wallace] Kent, Kent is now a circuit judge; then there was [Albert Sherman] Christensen from Utah; and Charles Evans Whitaker, who went on to the Supreme Court from Missouri. Christenson is now a senior district judge. Whitaker served two years as a district judge, one year as a circuit judge, and then he was appointed to the Supreme Court and took an early retirement. I understand that he didn't like the life there and that it was not good for his health, and on advice of his physician he did retire.



BURG: Yes, I see.

INGRAHAM: There was a gentleman there from the Attorney General's office--Herbert Brownell was then the Attorney General--and when we had completed he said the Attorney General wanted to see us and he took us over to the Attorney General's office, and we had a short visit with him. And he said, "I just talked to the President; he wants me to bring you all

over there." So we went down and got in the Attorney General's limousine and went over to the White House. I had met Eisenhower on two previous occasions; I met him at the national convention in Chicago, and I met him here in Houston when he spoke here on his campaign tour. I had a good visit here, conversation here, in Houston with both Eisenhower and his wife. When the Attorney General took all five of us into his office, he brightened up and came right to me.

BURG: It had been two years, at least two years, since he had seen you?



INGRAHAM: Yes. And he shook hands with me first. I then learned that I was the only one that he knew. The only one that he had ever met before. Now Whitaker was an old and good friend of his brother, Arthur. Whitaker had--but he had never met Dwight Eisenhower before. Whitaker had, for years, been Arthur's lawyer in Kansas City. Arthur was a banker.

BURG: Right.

INGRAHAM: Incidentally, that gets onto another subject, the

Eisenhower family, remarkable family.

BURG: Yes.

INGRAHAM: I'll come back to that, hope to. So he had a little private conversation with me; then I later learned that I was the only one that he had previously known, because when we left, I wondered about it and I'm sure the others did. And I asked, "Had any of you ever met the President before?" "No." That moved me, and it does now.

BURG: When he spoke with you there, was he harking back to your meeting here in Houston and the campaign?

INGRAHAM: Yes. Both our meeting in Chicago and in Houston; he mentioned both. Those were the only two times I had ever met the man personally. Then he did have some conversation with Whitaker, who was a good, old friend of his brother, Arthur. I don't mean to say the others were neglected, but he first came to me, with his hand outstretched. And we had a very nice visit with him at that time.

BURG: How long was the group there in the White House? Were you there about half an hour or so?



INGRAHAM: More or less; fifteen minutes probably. And I remember that during--it was completely informal--he came around and sat on his desk in this manner.

BURG: Just got right up on it and sat down on it.

INGRAHAM: Yes. He came around and sat down on this side. He had asked us all to be seated and we were seated in chairs. He came around and sat down on his desk, in this manner, most of the time we were there. I mean, after he first came around and shook hands with me, and then he came back and took his seat on the desk.

BURG: So this was in the Oval--

INGRAHAM: Now this may be a habit of his, I don't know.

BURG: --was in the Oval Office?

INGRAHAM: Yes, it was.

BURG: [Laughter] And you were like a group of school boys out there in front, in a circle, with--

INGRAHAM: That's right.

BURG: --the President of the United States sitting on his desk top and conversing with you.

INGRAHAM: That's right.



BURG: Now was this conversation--

[Interruption]

BURG: --In this conversation, was he merely telling you that he was happy that you were taking these positions, or--

INGRAHAM: Yes, he did. And he told us all that we had been very closely investigated, and that we could all consider this a signal honor that we had been nominated, because he made no nominations--you asked about approval of the bar. Yes, you had to have the approval of your local bar, and your state bar, and the American Bar Committee, yes.

BURG: Well, I, too, view this as a signal honor for you--

INGRAHAM: Yes.

BURG: --for all of you. And I can see how you would have viewed it in this light, too. Did he then give you the commission that is up here on your wall? Was that handed to you at that time?

INGRAHAM: No, if you read that commission, it says 'the



President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.' By that time, he had nominated me, and these other four gentlemen, for appointment. Each had to be acted on separately, and the commission comes after Senate confirmation, because Senate confirmation is recited in the commission. If the Senate does not confirm, then you do not get a commission. Under the constitution, to be a judge you must be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

BURG: All five of you were confirmed in this position?

INGRAHAM: Yes.

BURG: Did you ever see him again after that, Judge?

INGRAHAM: No, sir.

BURG: Did you ever correspond with him on any occasion, after that, that you recollect? Or receive any correspondence from him?

INGRAHAM: I'm not sure. Tell you what I'll do, I will make a search and if I find any correspondence, I'll send it to you.



BURG: Be delightful if you would. We would really appreciate that, very much.

INGRAHAM: Now, at the opening of our conference this morning, you brought up the matter of my letter to Mr. [William Henry] Worrilow. I suppose the original of that letter would be in his files. Of course, he died some years ago, you know; the office may have destroyed his files.

BURG: Right. And, fortunately, you had a copy of that which you--

INGRAHAM: I had a copy of it which I gave you.

BURG: --which you gave me, right, so we now have that. And I remember that you instructed me that that letter had a Houston dateline on it, because, of course, the letterhead--

INGRAHAM: Yes.

BURG: --was not on the letter, but it was the letterhead, if I remember correctly, of your Houston--

INGRAHAM: My law office.





BURG: --law firm, right. So that was taken care of. Now, you remarked something about Mr. Whitaker and his connection with Arthur Eisenhower and the family itself.

INGRAHAM: Oh, yes.

BURG: Was there a story that you wanted to tell me about that?

INGRAHAM: I wanted to comment on this--I've commented on the subject several times--that it is a remarkable family. I understand that there were five boys; Dwight was the middle one. They were people who--they were all--they were poor people. Being poor is such a great thing now, I doubt if they came along today they'd want to grow out of it. [Laughter] But back in those days--poverty is not new; I grew up in poverty, but by the time I came along, the thing to do was to overcome it. They were poor people. They were people who --his father was a laborer, a man of very limited income. They had five boys, am I correct?

BURG: They had lost--there were actually seven, but they lost one boy [Editor's Note: Paul] when he was very, very young.



INGRAHAM: Dwight was in the middle. Every one of them amounted to something. That is so rare, that five out of five would achieve--that's rare in any family, rich or poor.

BURG: Yes, yes, indeed.

INGRAHAM: Incidentally, on that subject, my father was a minister and all ministers are philosophers, I suppose. And I remember my father said this, he said that we speak of a self-made man. He said, "The meaning of that is that a man who has succeeded in the face of adversity." He said, "Actually, anyone who succeeds is a self-made man." He said, "Sometimes a man born with a silver spoon in his mouth has more to overcome than the man born to adversity." But, the remarkable thing about the Eisenhower family is that five out of five succeeded. And another contradictory thing, the psychologists tell you the middle child is the one--he's the one least likely to succeed; that he gets it from both sides. Dwight Eisenhower contradicted that.

BURG: Did you ever know any of the rest of the family? Edgar, for example, who was a lawyer out in the--



INGRAHAM: No. But I just know of them. I know that Arthur was the oldest one. He went to Kansas City, which is the only city near Abilene, and went to work for a bank, and he ended up as the leading banker in Kansas City.

BURG: Yes, right.

INGRAHAM: And then Edgar was the next one, he studied law and he was an outstanding lawyer in the state of Washington, your state. And then Dwight, whose history we all know. And then there was Milton, going into the education field, and has achieved outstanding and noteworthy success. And the young one, I forget his name.



BURG: Well, there was Roy, who became a pharmacist in Junction City, Kansas.

INGRAHAM: Roy I don't seem to know of. One was in the printing business in Chicago, what was his name? [Editor's Note: Earl Eisenhower] Well, maybe Roy, maybe he is Roy.

BURG: That's probably the one that you're thinking of.

INGRAHAM: He's the one I'm trying to think of.

BURG: He became a pharmacist in Junction City--

INGRAHAM: Yes.

BURG: --about twenty-five miles away from Abilene. Of the group, he would be the one who achieved, let us say, the least, and yet he was successful in his own field, the field he chose.

INGRAHAM: Well, of the five that I know of, all achieved noteworthy success, and that is most unusual. There's some strong character in that family.



BURG: Yes, it causes comment, of course, from everyone who studies the group.

INGRAHAM: Yes.

BURG: When you see the house in which they lived, after they moved--they had a smaller house in Abilene and then moved to this one that became the Mother's home for the rest of her life--you get some remarkable impressions when you realize the amount of talent that came out of that one small house in that one small town. The British, a BBC TV team, remarked on this fact, too. They were shooting shots of Churchill and his home and then,

here they were in Abilene, doing another 20th century leader, and they remarked on the strong contrast between those two homes. Yet these were men who worked closely together and at almost the same level in World War II.

INGRAHAM: Yes.

BURG: Well, I thank you very much, Judge, for this time you've given me this morning.

