South Carolina Political Collections
Oral History Project

Interview
with

Sallie Scott

University Libraries
University of South Carolina
Interviewer:

Herbert J. Hartsook

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Mrs. Scott's home in Santee, South Carolina

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Synopsis:

Mrs. Scott, the elder daughter of Olin D. and Gladys Atkinson Johnston, recounts her recollections of life in the Governor’s Mansion and in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C., her father’s political campaigns, and her mother’s active role in Johnston’s campaigns and career in government.
[Tape 1, Side 1 begins]

Hartsook: Could you provide us with some biographical information? Just where you were born, where you were educated?

Scott: I was born in Columbia, South Carolina, in 1937, on my father's fortieth birthday. He was governor at the time. We moved to Spartanburg when I was a little over a year old. I came back to Columbia when I was five, when he was elected governor for the second time. I went to kindergarten at Miss Boinesst's Kindergarten on Wheat Street in Columbia, in the Shandon area. Then, the next fall, I started the first grade at Logan Elementary School. I walked to Logan from the Governor's Mansion; someone walked with me. I had the first grade and the second grade under the same teacher, Miss Tot Buchanan. At that time, it was customary that your first grade teacher followed you into the second grade.

When I was in the middle of the second grade year, we went to Washington, my father having been elected to the Senate. We arrived in Washington on a very cold day in January, and I can remember moving into the house in Kensington and starting the second grade at Kensington Elementary School after the January holidays. I finished my high school schooling in Maryland, Kensington being in Maryland, at Bethesda Chevy Chase High School, and returned to South Carolina to go to the University of South Carolina in 1955. I graduated from the University of South Carolina with a B.A. in education.

Hartsook: When you were going to Logan School, did people treat you differently? Was there any sense that this was the governor's daughter?

Scott: I can't remember that anybody treated me differently. I remember that, I think, the first few weeks we didn't stay for lunch, and other people would have friends going home with them and I asked if I could bring someone home at noon for lunch, and several times I brought friends with me. I don't remember then, even, being very impressed or startled that I lived in the Governor's Mansion. I think my parents arranged that it was very low key for them. I mean, we ate on the back porch. It was a screened-in, family-type eating area. And we played on the swing-sets and that kind of thing. But I don't remember that they treated me differently.
I remember my first birthday party after we had moved back, my sister, who was in kindergarten, had her whole kindergarten class and I had my whole first grade class come to the birthday party, and we had quite a crowd. I can remember making paper crowns for all the children. The lady that lived with us, that helped take care of Elizabeth and me, Grace McGuinn, we sat on the floor and made these paper crowns. It wasn't anything fancy. It was a normal birthday party.

Hartsook: And did it really feel like a house as opposed to a...?

Scott: Yes. It really felt like a house. I mean, we ran all over the house. We weren't supposed to bother them in the kitchen, but we'd go down the back stairs and through the kitchen, and that type of thing. The grounds were nowhere near as formal as they are today. They were beautiful. I remember the huge magnolia trees and azaleas and the fish pond out front. But it was not as formal a setting. We had a victory garden, and we helped till the garden and that kind of thing. It was very much still just like the Spartanburg home life.

Hartsook: Who would escort you to school?

Scott: Grace usually walked us to school after I started to Logan. While we were at kindergarten, one of the men that worked at the mansion drove us back and forth. I know Grace would always be there when I got out of school and walk back with me. It was four or five blocks, so it wasn't like it was just across the street. But I think that would have been for any child at that age, in the first and second grade.

Hartsook: When we talked with [your younger sister] Liz [Patterson], she was talking about how low key the entertaining was. She said it was very rare to entertain a large group; it was more often two or four couples. Is that your memory?

Scott: It was very low key. Of course, it was during the war, so I think most people had scaled down. I remember Sunday afternoons after church, we would bring home young men from the fort [Fort Jackson, located in Columbia], and there would be several of them that afternoon. My mother and father were older parents, and most of their friends in Columbia,
their children were already at the university. They were eighteen to twenty-five years old. And so Mother would always, after church, invite one or two of her friends' daughters to come by for afternoon tea or whatever. And the young men from the fort would have Sunday dinner with us, and then they would play the piano and...it was just like home. If they entertained, it was very low key.

My mother was a perfectionist as far as setting a table. She would have everything just right. She would write out little menus with special things. Of course, I guess the most famous menus are the ones she had when President Roosevelt had breakfast with us. She named everything from the "Congaree cocktail," which was water, right down to the grits and other things on the menu. She enjoyed entertaining, but it was not fancy entertaining. It was very personal entertaining. Of course, my family were tea-totalers. They made no big thing about this, but we just never had alcohol in the family or in the home. If they did anything, they might have a lemonade party for somebody, and that sort of thing.

I remember that they gave a party, it must have been just before we left to go to Washington, because a lot of things I cannot remember about the mansion. But their good friends, Colonel and Mrs. Wilson, he was the superintendent of the corrections facility down on Broad River Road. Colonel Wilson and his wife had an anniversary and my mother and father gave them an anniversary party. This was just the kind of thing they did. They entertained more for their friends, and their friends were their political friends. But for the Wilsons, they had all of their children. It was like a reception. Mother went into the yard and picked all of the flowers. I can remember her fixing the vases and things. It wasn't anything from the florist.

**Hartsook:** That "Congaree cocktail" seems to show a good sense of humor.

**Scott:** Oh, my mother had a terrific sense of humor. As a matter of fact, her nickname, and part of it was from her name of course, when she was in college was "Happy." Even Senator Sparkman called her "Happy."

**Hartsook:** What did your father call her?
Scott: Gladys. Or "Ole Lady."

Hartsook: What did she call him?

Scott: "Ole Manny." Olin in public. But, "Ole Manny, what are you doing?" This sort of thing.

Hartsook: When he would have the soldiers over, would he talk about his experiences in the First World War?

Scott: My daddy never talked about his experiences in the first war, except he had several little things that he had saved. I can remember looking at a book with him, and we now have the little book, about the places he went and the people he met while he was in France and that sort of thing. And he stayed there, afterwards, to help with the army of occupation in Germany, and he made friends with the family that he lived with.

But, no, they talked about where the boys were from, and, of course, a lot of them were not from South Carolina. I can just remember that there were several that were from New York or other places. They would talk about family and that sort of thing.

Hartsook: When he did talk about the war, did he refer to it as a shaping experience for him?

Scott: Oh, yes. He, of course, had not had many opportunities as a young child for schooling or learning, and when the war came along, he realized that, first of all, he wanted to join the Army, and he joined the Rainbow Division under Colonel Monroe Johnson. And he went around helping subscript people into the Rainbow Division. He appreciated the experience, even though it was such a horrible time; that it really did give him a chance to get out of his environment, where he couldn't go to school, and was looking forward to trying to advance himself.

He said that he learned so much. He did talk a little bit about the troop ship going over, and the people he met, and that sort of thing. And while he was over there, he would, not being a
drinker and while others were going to the taverns and this sort of thing -- it's funny, because it's in his little book -- he collected the bottles around and saved them until he had enough to sell them back to the bottlers. He actually was saving, so that when he came home, he could go back to school. So it allowed him -- if you want to use the word "escape" -- an avenue into higher education.

**Hartsook:** Where do you think he got his drive? I mean, that's just incredible.

**Scott:** Oh, it amazes you. You did see people come out of situations like he was in, and you wonder. He was very interested in people, and I don't know what it was. His mother wanted him to be a preacher, and I think he listened to his mother. He loved his mother very much. He used to tell us little stories, not a lot, because she died long before they had children, so I don't remember her at all. But it was like he, from very early childhood, knew that he wanted to help. And it was, at first, to help his brothers and sisters, because he could listen to and tell stories about how he took care of his little sisters and how close he was to his own family. And some of the first things he ever did was to see that his brothers had an opportunity to go to school, and whatever they needed. And he never forgot them, right to the end.

But he just had this innate feeling for other people, and he realized, I think, when people listened to him, that he had the ability to lead others. And he used it. But it wasn't until my mother came along that I think he started talking about political office. In her scrapbooks and in her stories, from the very beginning, right after she met him, she said, "I'm going to marry, and he's going to be a governor of South Carolina." I don't think that she had such great expectations for him, but she recognized in him the ability to succeed.

**Hartsook:** So you'd suggest that she didn't push him into public life. She just helped enable him and encourage him [to go] where he naturally would have gone.

**Scott:** Exactly. No, I don't think she ever pushed him. I don't think anybody could have ever pushed him. But I think when they first met, it was just like this was the perfect couple to succeed in anything they had decided to do. But my mother was very interested in social issues, and really -- she wouldn't have said "politics" at that time -- in what was going on
in the world. She was a leader in college, and it just was automatic for her to go on.

When she met my father -- and I'm sure others have told you the story of that -- she was working at Blue Ridge in North Carolina, at the Y.M.C.A. camp that summer, as a waitress. My father was attending a session up there, having been sent from Wofford College. Mother had actually already met -- it's ironic how people go around in circles -- one group of young men from Alabama, and among those was John Sparkman. And John Sparkman, of course, forty years later or something, appeared again in their life as the senator from Alabama. But she was "keeping company" with John Sparkman at that time, and John Sparkman was there when Daddy came up the steps one day, and he introduced her as "Happy," "This is Happy Atkinson." From then on, Mother said, after she talked to Daddy once, it was just like, "This is the man I am going to marry." And they got to know each other at Blue Ridge.

But that was a Y.M.C.A. camp. The whole atmosphere of their life, it seems to me -- and it sounds so corny -- but it just was around their church, which in effect took them to this camp, and the way they felt about religion in their life, and social issues. From then on, they wrote to each other, and there's a series of letters I think that you now have. It would take you years to read all of them. But they corresponded, and when they were together, they talked, about everything. To me, very few people ever have the relationship that my mother and daddy did.

Hartsook: So many people that know her, in describing her to me, the first characteristic they want to bring out is how brilliant she was. And that's the word you hear, time after time after time. They don't say she was "smart," they don't say she was "well-read," they don't say she was an "intellectual." They just say she was absolutely brilliant. Is that...?

Scott: See, I have never said that about her, but, yes, she was. She was brilliant, but she had so much common sense, tempered with a feeling toward people. I mean, using all of her resources and her energy. It's amazing to me, the energy that my mother had. And she used it in all phases of her life. My mother read to us almost every night, unless she wasn't at the house. And not because she thought that was the thing to do, but because she wanted to.

Hartsook: And she drew children's stories.
Scott: Oh yeah, from the time we were able to sit in her lap. Books and books and books and books. And she shared just everything with us. And she taught us. After we went to Washington and we were old enough, [and] of course, when we were in Columbia, we made our own beds and things like that, too. We were always taught that we were responsible for ourselves, so we took care of our own things. But when we got to Washington, my mother, involved as she was in everything, from the Congressional Wives, to the Democratic National Speakers' Bureau, and my father's office, and everything else, she saw that we learned everything about a house.

On Wednesday nights, she started this where Liz and I had to do everything. We had to decide what you were supposed to have for supper, see that it was bought at the grocery store, prepare it, and clean up. And I think our first meal was peanut butter sandwiches and hot chocolate. But, following her example, when you sit down and think about it and start to talk, after six or eight weeks into this thing, Liz and I became a little more adventuresome. We made up menus and put on the table, just like Mother would have done, and that sort of thing. We started doing place cards. But she taught us through her example, but also [by] requiring us to do it. But she did that with everything.

Hartsook: It seems like an interesting dichotomy. You have her so active during the day, and then it seems like once she got home, she was a very private, family person.

Scott: Oh, yeah. See, that's the way she was. It's hard for people to understand that my mother and father socialized in Washington. And, certainly, if you go through the scrapbooks and other things, they were at everything at the White House and all kinds of dinners and that sort of thing. But they didn't party. They were home at dinner time, unless the Senate was in session late and Daddy didn't get there until after we had finished eating. We had family dinner, and then after that, it was family time. And of course, you did your homework or whatever was going on. But we were just a normal family after work.

Hartsook: When did you first realize that your father was not a typical nine-to-five office worker? You know, when did you realize he was someone notable in South Carolina?
Scott: Well, they say that when Daddy was elected to the governor's office the second time, and I guess I was five years old, and they came home and told us we were going back, that I turned to Liz and told her, "Now you'll be a government baby, too." But I think that was just that I understood that we had to go back to Columbia. I don't think I had any conceptions that he had any kind of power or that he was a big man in politics, until a very sad time.

We were in Washington when Roosevelt died. That's fifty-something years ago, isn't it? So I was about eight years old. I was practicing piano -- and here we go back to how involved my mother was -- we were taking piano lessons, and our teacher was a former congressman's wife. We were very involved socially, on a low plane, with other congressional families, just like Mrs. Burke's husband had been in Congress, and that was my music teacher. But I never understood that.

But I was practicing at the piano -- and this story really hurts me, but I think all children do this sooner or later -- and I wanted to do something else. And my mother came into the living room, and she sat down by me, and she was trying to show me something on the piece I was playing. And Haskell [Mackey], the man that worked for us, came in to tell her that my father was on the phone, that Roosevelt had died. And my mother was just absolutely still and quiet, and then she just told me that I had to finish whatever I was doing. I didn't want to do it. And I stood up, and when I stood up and said, "No!" the piano bench turned over, and it broke her toes.

Well, of course, she was so upset anyway, but she was not able to go with Daddy to -- and I don't remember where they were supposed to go -- to meet Roosevelt's train, to ride on the train to come up. And all of a sudden, I realized, "Do you mean he is so important that he was going to go down and be part of funeral procession for the President?" And we listened on the radio, and I think that's the first time that I realized, "Daddy's really a part of all of this." And Mother should have gone.

Hartsook: And he did go?

Scott: He did. I don't remember whether Mother even got to go down to the funeral
procession. I think Haskell drove her down and she just sat in the car, on Pennsylvania Avenue. But I remember feeling so guilty, because it had taken her out of that, and then realizing that my mother and father really were supposed to be a part of that. From then on, I listened more, but still I don't think I ever realized exactly his position in Washington. I just thought he was one of the senators, you know?

But, later, I had so many of them tell me...and I went back just before Hubert Humphrey became real sick, after he went back to the Senate. I was talking to a group of my friends from Charleston and we were in the gallery. There was nobody on the floor, I don't know why. And he looked up, and he said, "Who is that?" I was standing in the family gallery, and I said, "Senator, it's Sallie." And he said, "Oh, come down here." And when I got down, he started telling me how he missed my father. Up until that time, I knew they were friends, and close friends, and that they admired each other and tried to work together, but, it's after the fact that you realize things. Or maybe I was a slow learner, or took so much for granted.

**Hartsook:** That's interesting. I can see how they would like one another.

**Scott:** Oh, they were very close. You know, my father made a seconding speech for him at Atlantic City [at the Democratic National Convention, 1964] for the Vice Presidential nomination, standing in his bedroom shoes. That morning when we left the hotel, his legs were hurting. See, he was already sick. They were hurting so bad, he could hardly stand up. I know I carried his shoes to the convention center. I was a delegate at the convention, also. I was sitting there, and he wore his bedroom shoes, and he said, "I don't think I can change." I said, "It doesn't make any difference." But he went to the podium in his bedroom shoes, to make Hubert Humphrey's seconding speech.

**Hartsook:** Do you think people out in the audience knew that he was ill?

**Scott:** No.

**Hartsook:** What is your most lasting impression of your father as a family man?
Scott: Oh, that's really difficult. I just know that he was always there for us. I know the family came first with him. He loved us so much, and when he asked us to do something, it was just a natural to do it.

Hartsook: Is your most lasting impression of your mother the reading, the stories at night?

Scott: That's certainly one of the first impressions, yes. I know that she was very...I keep using the word "energetic." It's just that I was amazed, after I had children and saw what it took to run a family, that she was able to do everything she did and be so organized. Totally organized.

Hartsook: What are your memories of the family homes, in Spartanburg and in Maryland?

Scott: The first time we went back to Spartanburg, I was so small, I barely remember the last year or so, playing in the back yard. It was a very large, old, country home. It was out on a farm, so it was out away from everybody. We kept chickens; they had a chicken coup and a chicken yard. There were two barns, so we had cows and not any real "horses" horses, there were two or three mules -- and a cotton barn. It was an old cotton farm. And Liz and I played in the back yard. They built us a doll house. I think we were bare-footed most of the time, if it was warm enough. Every picture we have in the back yard, we have dirty knees and dirty feet. But [I remember] just playing out in the yard, under those huge trees, building doll houses with acorns and leaves and that sort of thing.

The house was not well-heated. When they first moved back from Columbia, see, they had two little children. My brother was eighteen months older. A three-year-old and a one-year-old, and we all slept in one room. It was a two-story, Southern farm house. On the first floor, they had a bedroom and a room that they had made into a bathroom, that Dad said had been added. I mean, the house was that old.

All four of us slept in that one bedroom. I can barely remember that room, but my brother's bed was over on the side of their bed and I was at the foot of their bed. I can barely remember that. And then, when they brought Liz home, five of us were in that room for a little while. Then they
moved two of us upstairs with a lady that stayed in with them after that. But Mother didn't want us upstairs, because the house was so big, and she didn't want to be downstairs and us upstairs. But there was no central heat. They put in the coal furnace. I remember them dumping the coal down the chute in the back.

I can remember the day that we left Spartanburg from that house, to go back to Columbia. My brother was about six years old, and it was January and it was very cold. Mother and Daddy were getting dressed back in their bedroom and the lady that helped them was getting us ready. The heat had evidently gone off, and so they were dressing us in the kitchen. We had a big tin tub and we washed right there in front of an old open black stove. They bathed Liz, and they bathed me, and we put back on our little flannel night gown things. Then they bathed Bubba, and put [his pajamas] back on.

And there was a table with a table cloth in the middle of the room, and so we ran under there to play house while she dumped the bath water and did all this, that, and the other. And my brother pulled the table cloth off, and there was a candle on it, and it caught fire. It caught his pajamas, and she very quickly threw one of those old rag rugs over him. But he was badly burned that morning, and my mother and daddy had to go through taking Bubba to the hospital and, the burn was on the upper right-hand side of his body and one arm, really, and being with him all day while they were supposed to be on the road to Columbia for the inauguration. I can remember that experience, I think, because it was just so startling and I was so scared for him. But we left that big old house and went back to Columbia.

I can remember getting to Columbia. That's when Mother had decided that she knew she was going to be so busy, she needed more help. So we had two people; it was Mrs. [Addie F.] Garvin, who had been my father's friend when he was at Wofford College. She ran a boarding house by Wofford College, and he had lived there. She was a widow. And Mrs. Garvin went back with us as a housekeeper. I called her "Mother Garvin," and later "Grandmother Garvin." Then the lady that Mother got to stay with us had just finished Winthrop College, Grace McGuinn. So Grace slept in the room with Liz and me. We just thought this was wonderful. So we had our three beds in there, and Mother Garvin was in the next bedroom, and Bubba slept on the back sleeping porch next to Mother and Daddy's bedroom....
[Tape 1, Side 1 ends, Side 2 begins]

Hartsook: How about the Maryland house?

Scott: I can remember, as I said, when we got to Washington, it was cold again. It was January. Going out there, the house seemed so huge to me. It was a white house. It sat on a hill, and it had a stone wall all the way around it. Daddy had bought the lot next door, thinking he was going to have a garden, which he did later.

Hartsook: Was that important to him?

Scott: Oh, yeah. He always loved to garden. He needed to have something that he could work in the dirt, I guess, and grow something.

Hartsook: And you're talking about produce, not flowers?

Scott: Produce. We did that at the mansion. A lot of that was for the victory garden, but Daddy really enjoyed...he had chickens at the mansion, too. Right up until the time we left, we had our own chickens, and eggs, and a billy goat at one time, right there outside the back door.

But in Washington, that house was a white brick house. Liz and I still had to have the same room, though. We were glad that Grace had her own bedroom, and then Bubba, and Mother and Daddy. There were four bedrooms in that house, and two bathrooms. It was not as big as I remember it. I've been back, later, and it's not nearly as big.

Haskell Mackey and Sallie McFarland, who were two of the trustees at the mansion, went to Washington with us. Sallie was the cook, and Haskell helped around the house and drove the car for us. Big Sallie never had a birth certificate. She was from a family, I guess, that didn't keep records. They couldn't read and write. But when she went to get her Social Security card, and Daddy started trying to figure out her birth date and everything, they finally got something
out of somebody's Bible. But she only had one name, and it was Sallie. And she said oh no, that wasn't right. It was Sallie Elizabeth. And so from then on, she was Sallie Elizabeth McFarland. Of course, I'm Sallie and my sister is Elizabeth. But she became Sallie Elizabeth McFarland, and very, very much a part of the family.

And Haskell the same. He was from Yemassee. Haskell was very close. I can remember Haskell coming to school at Kensington Elementary to pick me up. I had gotten real sick, and had a high fever. Mother was downtown at a meeting, and she told Haskell to go out there and pick me up. Well, he came and not only picked me up, he brought blankets, and he wrapped me up and carried me to the car. To me, all that was natural. I don't know if the other children thought that having somebody bring you to school every morning like that, or taking you home, was different, but Haskell was just like a member of the family.

Hartsook: Did he drive for your father later, during the campaigns and all?

Scott: Haskell drove us back and forth and that sort of thing. Usually when Daddy was campaigning, somebody locally would drive him. You know, he had so many friends that wanted to do so much for him, that during the campaign, it was usually somebody from South Carolina that was driving him around. And of course, any of us that were available, he would call on. I didn't do that much. Liz drove him around some.

But there was always somebody that would say, "I'm going to come take you down around Colleton County," or whatever county. I think that's what made the difference, and when we get to the "machine" part of the Johnston history here, people were the machine, out in the field. And they came to him. If they knew that he needed to come to Charleston, he had not one but six or eight people. If he said to O.T. Wallace or J.C. Long or any of those, "I'm coming down there," [they would reply] "I'm going to come get you and carry you around all day long." Well, that made a world of difference. You had a local person taking you around who knew everybody. And he did that from the very beginning, so what built up was that he was part of each county that he went into. But you know, he didn't hire somebody to drive him around.

Hartsook: So the machine wasn't anything formal. It was just a natural outgrowth of his
personality and his steadfastness?

Scott: Absolutely. That's exactly right. I think it's what Mother and Daddy built over the years with friendship. And the machine kind of went from generation to generation. That campaign that Liz and I were involved with, with Fritz [Hollings] and [Bill] Workman [1962 Senate Campaign in which Johnston was opposed by Governor Ernest F. Hollings in the Democratic primary, and Republican journalist William D. Workman, Jr. in the general election.] a lot of them were the children of the people who had helped him back in the Thirties and Forties. But they came to us. I mean, you'd start a campaign, and you'd have the telephone ringing so much--"I want to do so-and-so for you in this county," or wherever it is.

Hartsook: We've heard a lot about your mother's role in the campaigns. How would you characterize her role in general in his political career? We've already talked a little bit about her being an enabler.

Scott: Well, she was, in the political career, part of it. They were a team. And I'm sure that my father would have carried on and done a lot if he had never met my mother, but together, it was just absolutely amazing. She did, like I say, almost all of the organization work. He just let her handle it. She would know what needed to be scheduled and who needed to be seen, and all that sort of thing. He did it just naturally, and he would roll -- that's "Roll In With Olin," in that last campaign, also. But he would roll from one thing to next thing, knowing, naturally, that's what's supposed to be done. But she was like an office manager.

They didn't fight about it, but my mother was also an English major, and she was very particular about how you used the English language. And Daddy, of course, came from the country, and even though he had been educated, he'd fall back into his natural ways, which I think was very good and why he related with people. He very seldom wrote out speeches, but if he needed to write out a speech with this, that, and the other, and he had it out there, she would criticize it. Or she would criticize the way he pronounced a word. And, "Oh, I'll do that," but then when he got up to do it, he would do it his way usually. But, no, she saw that he at least knew what was proper. But her role was probably manager.
Hartsook: Was she like an office manager, or was she really the office manager in the Washington office?

Scott: She was. Oh, not in the office. My mother was very careful about how she worked with my father in the office. I mean, I suppose from the governor's office right on, my mother never interfered with what went on in the office. She had her itinerary, and Daddy had his itinerary. I'm sure, was very helpful in who was employed in the office. And once that office was together, it ran. But she did all her organizing from home. And if she saw something that needed to be done, she might advise him, or tell him--"I think you need to do so-and-so at the office," or, "Somebody needs this, that, and the other."

And a lot of the office things were done on our family time. We had the office people at our house regularly. And she would have Sunday dinners with the husbands and wives and children. So we were very close to the office, as far as knowing them and them knowing us, and that sort of thing. We always had a Christmas party, and it almost always was right there at the house. But if my mother did anything with the office, she did it at home, quietly, told Daddy, maybe, so-and-so needed to be done, and that sort of thing. But everybody at the office knew what she was doing, and respected her, and so there was never any friction that I knew of. She knew what was going on down there, and how she knew I don't know, but she knew everything that was going on.

But what my mother did, when I say she had her own itinerary, she was very, very active in a lot of things around the Washington area. She stayed very active in the Democratic National Committee, and she made speeches for them everywhere. Of course, she was on Eleanor Roosevelt's speaking tours. She took Liz with her, as a baby, on the train, because she didn't want to leave her home.

Hartsook: Do you think she enjoyed public speaking?

Scott: Oh, yes. And she was an excellent public speaker. I have a couple of things which I was going to bring to your attention, where they're asking her, after she'd won a speaking contest, she won every speaking contest, I think, in Washington, because at the Congressional
Club, annually, they had them, and I think finally they told Mother, you know, "You're retired from this contest." And there's a letter in there asking her to teach public speaking for them. They said, "Will you use your speech and teach public speaking?" She was an excellent public speaker.

But that's the main thing that she was doing up there. The Senate wives have a club called the Red Cross Club, and Mother was very active in that. She eventually became president. And that's why I think Daddy, on one of those things [short film clips presenting news on issues being considered in Washington, prepared in Washington and aired on South Carolina television stations], [says]--"I hear you were elected president," and she's correcting him, because the Vice President's wife is actually the president.

Hartsook: That's a wonderful clip. I mean, it really comes across how much he cared for her and how proud he was.

Scott: Well, it was a big thing at the house. Every time that they met, the Senate wives, they wore these white uniforms with the white hats and the red cross and all this, that, and the other. And he'd say, "Well, I see, Ole Lady, today is your Red Cross day." But I think that they actually worked when they were there, too. But that's where she made her close friends.

Hartsook: Who were her close friends among the wives?

Scott: See, it's so hard for me to go back. The earliest memories that I have of their closest friends...Senator Allen Ellender, from Louisiana, had been up there for some time when Daddy went up. And I don't know how they got...whether they were on a committee together or what, but Mother made friends with Mrs. Ellender, and Mrs. Ellender was her very best friend there for a while that I know of. They did a lot together. The Ellenders actually would come out to the house, and they took Liz and me to the circus and things like that. But Mrs. Ellender died in the early Fifties, and by that time, Mother was involved with so much, it's hard to remember.

What she did with them was almost separate and apart from what we did as a family. I mean, I
can remember the Trumans coming to the house. She made friends with Bess Truman. And they came for Sunday dinner, and he actually played tunes on the piano. And they were friends, but I think both of them were too busy with whatever they were doing to be that close. I know towards the end, Mrs. George Miller, from California, was a good friend of my mother's, but I never met her. The last eight or ten years in Washington, I was not there. I came back to Carolina. I know that she would write about these people. Mrs. [John C.] Stennis...

**Hartsook:** Is that Natalie [Mrs. Rembert Dennis]?

**Scott:** No. Natalie worked for my father. I'm talking about Senator Stennis.

**Hartsook:** Oh, Stennis. I'm sorry.

**Scott:** All of them were her friends. I think they ate lunch together, and they had things at the Congressional Club, and that sort of thing, but my mother, she was busy, her closest friends were still those from South Carolina. That's the reason that my father had decided to retire in Columbia. Mother's and Daddy's closest friends became a group in Columbia, and I think that was partly because Liz and I had both come back there and gone to school, so they'd stayed in Columbia more on weekends. They had lived in Columbia those two times. The First Baptist Church in Columbia was very close to them. The Bagnels, and the Nettles, and the Seastrunks had become their closest friends. And any personal, social, time that my mother and daddy had, it was usually back in Columbia.

**Hartsook:** How would you characterize your uncle's role?

**Scott:** Uncle Bill [William C. Johnston] wasn't an adviser. Daddy always knew where he was going and what he was doing. But he'd say--“Bill is my brother, and I can trust him to get this done.” So he knew that if he told Bill to do something, it was done. And Uncle Bill was very willing to do it. He loved Daddy very much. They had been close since way back in Honea Path. I mean, their whole family was close. It was just a brother/brother relationship.

**Hartsook:** Historians are always interested in the relationships among different people.
That's why I keep asking you who were close friends and things like that. Who among South Carolina's public figures was your father particularly close to? I'm thinking of other members of the delegation, governors, behind-the-scenes powers like J.C. Long, who I know was a very, very close friend...?

Scott: Yeah. If you go back, most of the people that were closest to my father were not elected officials, except for members of the South Carolina Senate, and he had some of the closest, best friends...like Wilbur Grant, from Chester. But J.C. Long was his life-long close friend.

Daddy's best friend, and the only time I ever saw my father just totally break down and cry, and couldn't stop crying, was when I went to the funeral home when he died, Andy Faucette. Andy Faucette and Daddy made friends in college. Andy became Daddy's law partner, and stayed in Columbia later, and then Andy gave up his own time and ran the office there for a little while for Daddy, in Columbia, the home office, when the Senate office needed somebody to run the Columbia office. But Andy Faucette was probably Daddy's closest friend in the world.

Then Roy Powell, who came to work for Daddy the first time he was governor. I think Roy was in law school, a young man. And then, the second time, he was working for him and was called up and had to go overseas. And we have letters from Roy from England during World War II. And when Roy came back, Roy stayed in Columbia and opened a law practice, but remained really close to Daddy, but he was the next generation. I know I spoke of O.T. Wallace in Charleston. There were just so many people all around the state. John Williams in Spartanburg, Daddy's law partner from the beginning in Spartanburg, that I call Uncle John, because they were almost like brothers in Spartanburg. John Williams is still living.

Daddy was friends with all the political.... You hear about the Barnwell ring and the differences different people had, but Sol Blatt and his wife, for some reason, were very personal friends of Mother's more than Daddy's, I guess. Or maybe Mother had more time. I can just remember Mrs. Blatt coming to the Governor's Mansion to visit us during the war, and then one Christmas bringing us Christmas presents. And it was shoes, because you couldn't buy shoes. They brought shoes to Liz, and to me, and Bubba. And we would visit the Blatts in Barnwell and stay
in their home. I know Ethel and Mother were very good friends. I have to think of counties and places and people, and so many of them are gone, and I haven't even thought of the names in years. I should.

Hartsook: That's fine. I think we're really interested in the names that just automatically...?

Scott: Pop out. That's what comes out. And, of course, Wilton Hall in Anderson. I'm sure you've come across his name. When my father was actually in law school at Carolina, Wilton paid Daddy's entrance fee into the House race from Anderson County, and then told him--"You're running for the House, Olin." Of course, they'd talked about this, and he knew Daddy was interested. He was the publisher of the Anderson Independent newspaper.

Hartsook: Right. And later radio stations and television. An interesting person in his own right.

Scott: A very interesting person. I think he had some hard times there toward the end, and I know it broke my father's heart when he saw that Wilton had some problems, I think tax problems. Because my uncle ran a furniture company downtown and we used to go to Anderson for holidays and stay with Uncle Bill. That's how close Daddy and Bill were, and our two families. That's the part of the family that we would spend Christmas with. But I remember somebody saying, "Oh, you ought to go by to see Wilton," and somebody else saying, "You can't do that. That's not good for your political image. He's in bad trouble. You can't." And Daddy said, "He's my friend." And he went on and visited with him. I know that Daddy did not condone anything that was unethical or illegal, but he always looked at people as individuals and he realized that that was still a man. And whatever had happened, I think, just about killed Wilton. But Daddy said, "He's my friend."

Hartsook: How about in the Senate itself? You've mentioned Humphrey.

Scott: When we first went to Washington -- I didn't pay it that much attention, of course, because I was so young -- we very seldom went into the office as kids. If we went down it was on a Saturday. We always had family day on Saturday. That was another thing my mother did.
They set aside Saturday. But we would go, if Daddy had to go to the office, go down and meet him and then have lunch, go to the movies, go shopping, whatever we had to do, buy the groceries, and go home. That was just all the way through until I finished high school. But, as I mentioned, I can remember the Ellenders as the earliest, and John Sparkman, because they had a "history" together, as Mother used to call it. And I know they were good friends with the Stennis and the Humphreys, and Bob Kerr, from Oklahoma.

Besides political issues, Bob Kerr had other interests that were similar, and that was through the Baptist Church. And, of course, Daddy was very active. He was a deacon, and my mother and father actually helped start a Baptist church in Kensington because there was not one. Bob Kerr was very active in the Baptist Church. He had been, I think, president of the National Baptist Convention, and Daddy had gone out to speak for him, and that sort of thing. So they had a lot of similar interests that were outside of their Senate business. And the Talmadges from Georgia. Like I said, I know they had a lot of good friends, and they did things on adult levels that we weren't involved with, but I think since my mother and father didn't do all the social cocktail circuit, there weren't that many times that people were mentioned to us.

Hartsook: Did he act as a mentor for any more junior members of Congress?

Scott: The only person I can remember is Bob Hemphill. Bob Hemphill came up there as a young congressman. Now that family was at our home frequently, Isabel and Bob Hemphill. They were very close, as were the [Joseph R.] Brysons during that time, from Greenville. They had a daughter my age, Judy, so Judy and I were friends, and we did things at the Congressional Club together. But Hemphill is probably the only one that I can remember. I can remember Bob Hemphill at the house, sitting and talking to Daddy, asking him how this, that, and the other. Then later, of course, I think that my father actually nominated him for the federal judgeship. So it was just a good friendship, and Daddy helped him to develop his potential. I'm sure Bob Hemphill would have told you that.

Hartsook: We have his papers, by the way.

Scott: Do you? See, I would think you would find that. I wasn't involved in
Washington at that time, but just watching them personally.

**Hartsook:** When you were talking about Mr. Dowling and his hunting, that's one of the real interesting things out of the Hemphill papers. We don't have really very much from his days in Congress, and we don't have a tremendous amount about his judicial career. We've got a good bit, but not reams and reams. But there's wonderful letters talking about that whole hunting camaraderie and the socialization and the friendships. It's just intriguing, especially for somebody like me; I don't hunt, I don't fish, and to read that, you get that sense of these small groups of fairly elite men going out to the wild and the camaraderie that develops and the close friendships. It's just interesting.

**Scott:** My father went hunting. We have one or two pictures of him about the time that we were in Columbia at the Governor's Mansion. He went hunting somewhere down in Hampton County, and came back with a baby deer. They had found a fawn that was left alone or something, and we had that little deer at the mansion for a long time. But Daddy went hunting with the [William L., Jr.] Rhodes. He had hunting buddies. He didn't get to go hunting as often as he would've liked to have, but that evidently is a very special time, with, like you said, the camaraderie and the whatever.

The other person that my father, I don't think sought advice from, but he wanted to listen to, and who listened to him -- was Bernard Baruch. They were very close. Later, especially after my father was gone, I wished I had asked him, "How did you two, from such different backgrounds, become attracted to each other?" But we would go to New York, as a family, and go up to Bernard Baruch's home. And he had a lady who would take my sister Liz and I to Central Park. We'd walk across the street and go to the zoo and do whatever, while Mother and Daddy stayed to discuss whatever it was. And then Bernard Baruch would come over and sit on the bench and talk to us. And Daddy went down to Georgetown several times. And then when I was married, Bernard Baruch sent me a mahogany buffet for a wedding gift. I mean, not a little wedding gift, a wonderful wedding gift.

**Hartsook:** That's interesting, because I had not heard that, and you wouldn't think they would be natural...?
Scott: No. I know when I received the wedding gift, I just thought it was wonderful. And I should have, right then, taken time with my father and said, you know, "I know you all are close and this, that, and other, but what is it?" And I didn't do it.

Hartsook: And is that something that you've passed along to one of your children?

Scott: That's something that got washed away, I think, in one of the storms on Sullivan's Island.

Hartsook: Who else would he go to for counsel if he had some particularly tough issue? Were there any people that just automatically pop to mind?

Scott: No. The few times that I know that he would have things that he would try to work out, if they were specific things, he would go to whoever that individual was that would know the most about that. This is double-talk, but if it was a local thing, he would go straight to whoever. If something was happening in Richland County, and he didn't understand why and who needed what, he'd call Lester Bates or somebody, and say, "Lester, I just really need to talk to you." And he'd try to get all the facts from both sides if there were two sides to something.

The few times I remember him talking about hard issues there at the table, at some of that civil rights period when he was trying to decide how was the best way to act for all the people of South Carolina, he and my mother talked a lot at the table. I didn't understand totally where they were coming from. But I think they used each other as sounding boards if it was just an issue like that. But if he needed to know facts about something, he'd go to the president of the AFL-CIO, if it was a labor issue, and just get it. But he didn't have one person.

Hartsook: Do you recall his personal feelings towards other leaders in the state? The people I think of are people like "Cotton Ed" Smith.

Scott: See, he talked about "Cotton Ed," but I don't know what his personal feelings were. I know Jimmy Byrnes, they were not close. I don't know why, but I think from the
generation before, Jimmy Byrnes came from a different type and a different mind-set than my father. I mean, he never talked disparagingly about Jimmy Byrnes, but they were not close.

Hartsook: How about Burnet Maybank?

Scott: Burnet Maybank was his friend.

[Tape 1 ends, Tape 2, Side 1 begins]

Hartsook: Strom Thurmond?

Scott: Of course, the most bitter campaign my father ever ran was against Strom Thurmond in [1950]. They all but came to blows, I think. That was the closest Daddy ever came to losing his temper, because a lot of things were said that were not true. And he couldn't believe that this is the way people were going to campaign. I don't think he ever hated anybody in his life. I'm sure my father never did. He would always take one step back and look at them, and say--"Well, they have a reason for being that way" or "that sore." But he had no respect for Strom Thurmond. And my mother even less [respect for Thurmond]. Daddy forgave people, too readily sometimes. My mother would forgive them, but she would remember the injustices or the hurts that had been caused, especially to my father. She watched that campaign, and she never forgave Strom Thurmond.

One example, and there were several people that were at the house that day that couldn't believe it and would tell you the same thing, but when my father died, on Easter Sunday, the following day, at my mother's new home on Rockbridge Road in Columbia, we were all there. My uncle Bill and Aunt Sarah, Roy Powell, I can't remember all the people, but there were twenty or more at the house, in the living room and the den, family room, and Strom Thurmond drove up. Bubba Meng, I believe, was there and opened the door. I know the Southern way would be that the senator called on the widow of the deceased senator, but Strom Thurmond knew the feelings my mother had, and I think the proper thing at that time might have been to call the house. But he came, and he drove up and came in the door. She was sitting in the living room, and she didn't even want to see him, so she excused herself. Strom Thurmond turned to us and
said--"Well, I hope everything is going to go okay with everybody." Then he turned, and I think the remark was directed straight to my uncle Bill--"Oh, while I'm here. I see the Senator's car is in the yard. I'd like the 'U.S. I' license plate." And you talk about feelings in that room, people could not believe that this man would even be thinking that, much less stand there in the living room and voice it, I mean and very deliberately voice it. So I'm sure other people have told you this, but this was the perfect example of the way we felt he acted. And he acted it out in our living room. He had no feelings for people as people there. I mean, there was my mother, whom Strom Thurmond had to know was totally crushed by the loss of her husband, it wasn't the loss of a senator, it was the loss of her husband, and he was there asking for the license plates. Well, somebody went out and took them off the car, I don't who did it, and they tootled off merrily. But that's the kind of thing that is remembered in our family. And it's things that have been done directly, I mean just overt, out in public, that are diametrically opposed to the way we feel about people and would act towards anybody. I know my mother had very strong feelings after that especially. My father never was rude, or I don't think he ever spoke ill of Strom Thurmond out in public to anybody, but everybody just knew that they were two totally different factions.

Hartsook: How did he feel about Senator Hollings? I mean, you talked about the 1950 campaign being very bitter, certainly 1962 was close.

Scott: It was. It was a little bit different in that I guess my father looked at Fritz and knew he was a young man, he was governor, had all this background. Daddy could read people just perfectly. And he knew that here a young man who was trying to do something that he wasn't quite up to doing. But Daddy did not run against him directly on issues. Daddy ran on his record, and he tried to keep it that way, and hopefully that's the way people perceived him. You know, seniority counts. He tried not to run against Fritz. Of course, then you'd get up, and Fritz would bring up something, and Daddy would answer it. Those were the last courthouse stump meetings. Now they were wonderful. But Daddy did not have to, on a personal level, get to the same degree of fighting, or whatever, with Fritz.

That night we were all at the Wade Hampton Hotel. Daddy was sitting there waiting for the telephone call. Then he heard he'd won. And there wasn't any--"Oh, boy, I've done this, that,
and the other. I'm going to be senator still, and I'm so-and-so." I remember when Fritz came up the elevator, Uncle Bill said--"Brother Olin, here comes so-and-so from the textile workers' union. They really helped you." Have you heard this?

Hartsook: Hollings tells that story all the time. It's one of my favorite stories.

Scott: And it really happened! We were all there. And we hear all of this, and, then--"No. Here comes the young man who beat himself," when Fritz got the elevator. But Daddy really felt that way all along. "Let him run the way he's running," he said. You know, you cannot get up and tear somebody down the way Fritz was trying to tear Daddy down, when Daddy had such a good background, and a strong, solid rock background. But he said, "Just give him enough rope; he's going to hang himself and lose this race." And he did. And Fritz knew it. Like you said, when he came up off the elevator. Oh, dear.

Hartsook: He says as he walked in, Bill was whispering in Olin's ear, "Don't forget so-and-so," and Olin would say, "Oh yes, and thank you to the textile workers." When Fritz came through the back of the crowd, he [Senator Johnston] said, "And here's Fritz. Let's not forget Fritz. He did his part, too."

Scott: That's right. Daddy said, "Here's the young man that really did it," or something like that. And that's the way he felt. He felt like Fritz was going to have a future. He wanted him to, but just not at that time. Which I think played a part when Fritz came along and ran later, because we understood where Daddy's feelings would have been coming from if we decided to back Fritz. And Fritz helped us in that one, too, because Fritz went to my mother and said, "I've come a long way. I've learned a lot, and your husband taught it to me."

Hartsook: Do you think that's a quote?

Scott: Oh, yeah. That's what my mother used to say. My mother told us that he said, "I've really learned a lesson, and your husband taught it to me." And Fritz came too. At that time, I was living in Charleston. My husband was a lawyer and had an office on Broad Street. And I was helping [husband] Vernon [Scott] in his office, and Fritz came to the office and sat
down with Vernon and myself to ask [for] our help and support and this, that, and the other. And he humbled himself. He said, "I really have learned a lot. I learned a lot in that campaign." And Vernon and I, supported him. I think we would have supported him anyway. Of course, Donald Russell had, not totally alienated himself from us, but had disappointed us when he did not appoint Mother to the Senate.

Hartsook: Did he come to the house to pay his respects?

Scott: Yes. I think Mrs. Russell sent dinner the second night. They had come to the hospital, and I think this is personally what really, on a one-to-one, really hurt was the whole week there that Daddy was sick, they had been calling. And they had come up to the hospital. The hospital had given us a room just adjacent to Daddy's, and they brought a most beautiful dinner Saturday and left it. You know, with the silver covers and the whole thing. And they had expressed all their feelings for us, and let us know what's going on and all this, that, and the other. And we thought it was because they were personally caring about us.

And then...it wasn't an assumption that my mother had, but it was a justifiable belief I think. I mean, all of us, from everybody up there, from Uncle Bill to Liz to myself, that had been so close all of that last four or five years, working with and around these people, [believed] that the one person that was the most qualified to fill that seat was my mother. She knew everything that was going on, she knew the people, she knew how my father would handle certain issues or matters, and she was familiar with the office. There would have been no changeover in the office. If Donald Russell had appointed my mother, just to fill out that unexpired term, he would have had everybody, certainly that was up there around that hospital that I talked to, on his side, and probably most of those people who were out in the field. I mean, I can't talk for all of them, because some of them might have had personal reasons if who-knows-who would have run against Donald Russell at that time. I mean, if it had been Fritz, which way they'd go.

But most of the Johnston people would probably have voted for Donald Russell if he had.... To us, it was so politically unreal that he would turn around and appoint himself. I mean get Bob McNair to appoint him, or whatever. That was like committing political suicide. They had all the background on Mother and Daddy and the political forces or machine behind them. It wasn't
a machine, but the people. That could have just picked up and just gone with that. But it was unreal that they were up there, they saw us, they talked to all the friends that were in the halls, and then turn around and one, two, three? I think Mother couldn't believe it at first.

**Hartsook:** If she would have been asked, do you think she would have taken [the appointment]?

**Scott:** Yes, I do. Oh, I know she would have.

**Hartsook:** Were you there when she heard the news? Do you remember her reaction?

**Scott:** I think I was at my house. I lived in Columbia at that time. My husband had finished law school, and we were living four or five miles from where my mother had built her house, so I had gone home. But I just know it was one of disbelief. She never said, "It was due me." I mean, she didn't feel like that at all. But she was like, "I can't understand this. He doesn't understand what he's doing." I mean, if he hadn't asked her, somebody within my father's circle of close friends that was active. But it was one of disbelief. Of course, at that time my mother had been, not "ill" ill, but she had not been real physically active for about six months or more. And she was crushed by Daddy's passing, and that was the most important thing to her. It was like half of her was gone. So she was more, I think, heart-torn than worried about politics at that point. But it was like she couldn't believe it. But she pulled in the reins and went to Washington and closed up that office. And she did it right. Every letter of thanks was written, and I'm sure [Johnston staff member] Tom Chadwick could help you as to what [else] went on. We went up with her when she went up. I did not stay the whole time that she went into the office and did all the closing up.

**Hartsook:** I think Tom did imply that there wasn't much of an effort by the Russell people to seek a friendly transition, that they didn't draw on the Johnston people for information.

**Scott:** No. It was like, "Well, we're coming up there. You all, good-bye." I mean, they did not come in [and ask--] "Now what do we need to do? Are there things that we need to
follow up on?" or anything else. And Mother thought there would be. Mother, I'm sure, in her organized mind, looked at those files and thought, "Who's going to finish up with so-and-so over in Rock Hill and here, there, and yonder?"

I know that Mother was very concerned about the office staff and where they were going. They were in Washington with families, and some of them had been up there twenty-something years. She tried to help find them positions and would recommend them and that type of thing. She talked to me a lot--"I'm so worried because so-and-so's child in is in the second grade and they need to stay up here so they'll be in that school district.” As people, she was worried about them.

She really thought that somebody would come in and say--"What can we do so that we will know what's pending?" And I don't think there was any of that. I mean, Donald Russell, he was just going to Washington. And that's the way it was, but my mother really spent her time putting everything together. Even every telegram was answered. And she herself typed, and she did a lot of it. She brought boxes and boxes and boxes back to the house, to Columbia, and finished work.

Hartsook: So Donald Russell goes to Washington, everybody says he's a fine freshman senator, Fritz Hollings announces that he's going to seek the seat, and what does your mother do?

Scott: The first time that I knew that she'd had any contact with him, and I don't know if he went to the house or whether he talked to her on the phone. My mother may have called him. Fritz could probably tell you. I had moved to Charleston. I came back to Columbia, and she was still very interested in what was going on. And she told me that Fritz had in some way communicated with her and that she was going to talk to Bill [Johnston]. At that point, I think Fritz had already been by the office on Broad Street, so we knew what.... And Mother was--"That's fine. He is a smart young man, and he's learned his way." So it wasn't a vindictive campaign against Donald Russell, but I think she just decided, just like all of us did, that--"Here's the person that we want to support."

Hartsook: How did you get that word out? If I were a Johnston man in Oconee, how would
I know?

**Scott:** Well, people were still calling my mother. It was amazing. I mean, you'd sit there and the phone would ring, and it would be somebody from Oconee or Pickens or somewhere, and--"Gladys, I just heard that Fritz has announced. What are we going to do about this thing?" And they'd ask her. Most of it went out like that. She'd tell one or two people, whoever called that morning, and several that afternoon, and it just kind of spread out. We never organized anything as a Johnston machine for Fritz Hollings. Daddy's lieutenants in the field loved him so much as a person that a slap at my mother, which they considered what Don Russell did a slap, was enough to set them off to work for anybody else.

**Hartsook:** Bubba Meng told me that she called him to the house and told him that she wanted him to go to work in the Hollings campaign as a signal.

**Scott:** See, I'm sure that that's what she did with Bubba. I'd forgotten about Bubba Meng. Bubba was very close to my mother, and he was still around that area and that sort of thing, so she...yeah, I'm sure she told Bubba to go to work for him. And people knew that Bubba had worked for Daddy, so--"Go to work for Fritz." And I know when I told her that Fritz had been by to talk to Vernon and me and that we were going to support him, she said--"That's fine. Who's going to be his campaign...?" She wanted to know everything that was going on down there. So we actually had signs in the office window for him, and did whatever we could.

**Hartsook:** I'm just going to jump around a little bit. Who set the agenda for the work in the Washington office? How personal a role did your father play in determining the place of constituent service, and things like that?

**Scott:** Baxter Funderburk was supposed to be the manager of the office. Now Baxter managed, I think, the day-to-day workings of the office and staff assignments, if something came in and Daddy wasn't there. But my father ran that office. The little bit that I was in the office, if somebody called in and it came in through the main switchboard, and they told them that they wanted to speak to the Senator, Dorace Gayden was on the telephone there, at the end, and Dorace would just ask them--"Who are you? Where are you from?" and this, that, and the other.
And my father answered, personally, the telephone, unless he was in some kind of meeting or he was already on the phone, and he'd always call them back. That office had been running so long that a lot of people knew--"I want to talk to Bob Alexander on a certain thing," or Tom Chadwick for this, that, and the other, and Jess Bullard on the veterans' affairs, and that sort of thing. But Daddy managed the office.

**Hartsook:** So a real personal, hands-on...?

**Scott:** A real personal, hands-on managing the office. And I know Tom, if he needed to talk to Daddy, he just walked in there and talked to him, or told him--"Somebody's here," or this, that, and the other. It's sounds crazy, but they ran a very easy-going office, at least to what I could see. And they worked well together, all of them. It just seemed to me they were all busy, all the time, and everybody shared whatever it was.

**Hartsook:** Was [Johnston] good at delegating?

**Scott:** Yes. But when he'd get a call in, he'd listen to every bit of whatever the problem was, and then he would tell them--"Well, Tom Chadwick can handle that for you. You let Tom do it, and I'm going to check with Tom." So then it would go on down the line.

**Hartsook:** What are your memories of some of the key staff? You've talked a little bit about Baxter Funderburk. How about Bob Alexander?

**Scott:** Bob Alexander came up there while I was in high school, so I wasn't in the office that much. But Bob and his wife, Betty, they were out at the house a lot, to eat meals or for the parties that Mother gave for the families. She was always concerned when these young people came up from South Carolina, that they could handle the transition to Washington, so Mother would help them do everything, I think. They had their son while they were up there, and he came, as a baby, to our house. Bob was a bright young man. But he seemed like he was always busy at something, every time you'd go in the office. I think he did a lot of constituent work, going back and forth to South Carolina.
**Hartsook:** How about Bill Bullard, who was a legislative aide?

**Scott:** Bill and Betty Bullard. When I think of all of them, I think of their wives and their families. I don't even know what Bill Bullard's expertise is. Bill Bullard is still living, and I don't know if you've had an opportunity to talk to him, but he was just part of the office staff.

**Hartsook:** How about Tom Chadwick? It certainly sounds like your father relied on him a lot at the end.

**Scott:** Yeah. Well, Tom was very energetic and very smart. He came up to Washington with a background with the *News and Courier* and Santee-Cooper and public relations. I think I saw and heard more of [Tom] because it was a public relations-type job, dealing with the press. He would call about--"We need to do a press release on this, that, and the other. I've got this ready." But after I was married and in Columbia, Tom was in Columbia a lot. Not every time, but when Daddy would be in South Carolina, Tom would more than likely be down to follow up on anything that was going on. Tom was very active in that campaign with Fritz. That was the first big campaign with TV, and all the new media, so it kept Tom hopping.

**Hartsook:** Did your dad rely on him a good bit?

**Scott:** Oh, yes. A good bit.

**Hartsook:** And Virginia Perrott?

**Scott:** I would call her Virginia Bobo, the reason [being that] she didn't marry Perrott until after I was in college. Virginia Bobo was a young girl in Spartanburg when my father first opened his law office in the late Twenties. So Daddy knew Virginia way back then. She worked for him and went to Columbia when he was governor. And then when he went to Washington, Virginia went up and had been working for him, so Virginia became his personal secretary. Virginia was really the only person in the outside office there for a long time. The staff was nowhere as large as they are now. But Virginia did everything. She handled all the
telephone, and the personal schedules and appointments. And she was right there until Daddy died.

**Hartsook:** Was she a gatekeeper? Did you have to go through her to get to your father?

**Scott:** I guess that's what she was. You would say she was a gatekeeper.

**Hartsook:** I think everybody needs one if they have that kind of demand on their time.

**Scott:** And Virginia was excellent at whatever she did, because Virginia knew him, and knew everybody that he knew, from years and years and years.

**Hartsook:** How about Roy Ashley, who was here in the state office?

**Scott:** Roy was a good friend of Daddy's from the Honea Path area. So Roy had worked for Daddy. Now, Roy was somebody that would drive Daddy around. Roy just did more things in the state.

**Hartsook:** Was that the key for your father for the in-state people, to have people that he could really trust? Was that one of the key considerations, do you think?

**Scott:** I think so, yeah.

**Hartsook:** Because really, here in-state, don't they actually pretty much represent him totally?

**Scott:** Right. And that's why he turned to Bill at the end. They were still looking for somebody who would carry the home office. My husband was practicing law with my father, but Daddy never did practice with him. He was too busy. But they had a law office right next door to the Senate office. And there for a while, Scotty was fielding the telephone calls and that sort of thing. But they really needed somebody. When Andy Faucette died, Daddy lost his best friend and his best home manager. Without Andy, that was just a void. He used different people, and there at the end, Uncle Bill had kind of stepped in. It sounds funny to have your
brother work for you, and people accuse you of this, that, and the other, but Uncle Bill knew everybody. He knew everything that was going on, and Daddy could trust him. And so Uncle Bill had kind of stepped in to help.

**Hartsook:** Do you think he had to hold down his own ambitions in order to take that role for the Senator?

**Scott:** I think Uncle Bill had some ambitions. I think Uncle Bill realized his limitations. Uncle Bill was a wonderful person. He was very personable, and as mayor of Anderson, that was his niche. But Uncle Bill realized after he ran for governor that he really did not have the strength of personality to hold a statewide office. But he loved Daddy so, and he loved all these people. And the people loved him, but it was just like they knew he wasn't quite the person they needed in a statewide office. But he tried.

**Hartsook:** Relative to his era and region, your dad was remarkably liberal. His biographer, John Huss, wrote, "The Negro on a segregated basis has not a better friend than Olin D. Johnston." Do you think that's an accurate appraisal?

**Scott:** Yes. I think my father came through a very difficult era. Of course, we have, too. The best example I can tell you is when I moved to Charleston, I was twenty-eight years old. My husband was an attorney and I was a school teacher. And I got involved, just naturally, into politics down there, on my precinct level. At our first county convention, a big black man came over to me. His name is John Chisholm, and he's very large.

*Tape 2, Side 1 ends, Side 2 begins*

**Scott:** We went to the county convention, and I didn't really know anybody in Charleston yet, except a few people that we had worked with in Daddy's campaigns, like the chairman of the party, O.T. Wallace, and some others. But not the "local" locals. And John Chisholm walked up to me, and he said--"I just found out who you are, little girl." And I said--"Yes?" He said--"If you’re Olin's daughter, you’re my friend." And he put his arm around me, and he took me around and introduced [me] to all the black leaders that were at that convention. That was
thirty years ago, and it hasn't been more than two months since I've seen John, and John is still exactly that way with me.

But as I got to know him, I found out why. John told me. Daddy was their friend. He said the door was never closed to them, if you wanted to talk to him about anything. John Chisholm ran the biggest black ward in Charleston County. And he helped, of course, our interests were the same, [with] that campaign, all the way down. I ended up being the executive committeeman from Charleston County, and John supported me. But John tried to express to me for years back, and this is an older man, when they needed anything, they knew they could call Daddy and sit down and talk to him one-to-one. And if it wasn't something that Daddy could do, and it's hard to explain to people, out in the open, which would offend some of our white South Carolinians, Daddy would tell John how to do it. And it would get done. Daddy's philosophy to John was--"We're going to get these things done, and things are going to be different."

I think Daddy had to grow with the times, and help change the times. And I never understood that. Because I was a child of the Fifties and the Sixties, I was watching them change, part of them, but I was doing what I'd been taught and doing it like--"We're all individuals. We all have the same rights. I respect you, and you respect me." And taking for granted that everybody else felt the same way. And not realizing until I saw some of the trouble that happened that everybody didn't feel that way. I think a lot of that tore my father, it really did, when some of the civil rights legislation came up. He would try to figure out--"How am I going to handle this? Because I know it's only right that everybody have equal opportunities." And back then, we didn't even think about women's opportunities. To me, I had every opportunity there was. And it was really through some of the civil rights things until I realized that women weren't treated quite equal, either. And I think I got more interested in women's rights, at the same time thinking-- "We're all working together towards the same goal." And I think Daddy tried to do that.

But John was, and it's hard for me to express that, John was a living example to me that my father really tried to work for everybody equally. And sometimes John and Olin realized--"There's a right way to do this now. It may not be the way that we really want to do it, but we've got to do this step so we can get to this step and that step." What they worked on
mostly were wages, and like you’re talking about, some of the social...I know out at the shipyard, and other issues like that. But the respect that John Chisholm had for my father was amazing to me. He also taught me that you don't go out and fling everything at everybody's face and scream and holler--"This is the way you've got to do it," but you have to work together. And I think that's why he respected Daddy. I wish I had been still living at home when they had a lot of that legislation going through in Washington, so I'd understand who did what and why. But I know he was very concerned about every working man and their conditions and their rights. And women. And [he] never told me--"Hey, Sallie, your rights are equal with the boy's down the street," or whatever. It was almost like they expected...I think because of my mother’s example, too, we just were expected to do things.

Hartsook: Coming at that same thing from a different point of view, blacks did support him at the polls in his later campaigns. Do you think that support was basically the result of his advocacy of social legislation that benefitted them, or do you think there were deeper or more direct causes for that support?

Scott: I think there were deep, direct causes for that support. Just as I've talked about this one individual man, I think they saw in him somebody who was going to help with their legislation down the line. I think it was based on a respect for what he had done in the past for all the social issues. I think that they knew that they had a friend in Olin Johnston that was not going to just close doors to them, but who was going to try to open them for them.

I think my father came from an era when it was very difficult just to fling that door open, because he had to be a mediator between one generation and the next generation. I mean, I saw them come to the house. Some that were not segregationists totally, but they would say--"Oh, we're going to this, that, and the other for them," but maybe they wouldn't invite them into their home. But I know that my father could sit in the middle of the table and have them on the right and have them on the left. And then the next day, sit down there and go down to Eastover. I have a friend down at Eastover who sat on the A.B.C. Commission with me, Julius Murray, who's a young black man from the Eastover area that tells stories of my father coming down to Eastover. But Daddy could go in both groups of people, and then have them both at the table with him. And those groups would respect him, whether they were there together or whether they were
there individually.

So I think the black people that I know that were around in South Carolina felt like that he was somebody who could work for them. And they knew him on an individual basis. Like John told me--"I could call him. I could go up there and sit in his office." It was almost like he was amazed that that happened twenty years before then.

**Hartsook:** One of the rare public relations nightmares of his career was the [Nicolo] Impostato affair. Do you recall anything about that?

**Scott:** I don't. That doesn't ring a bell in any way. I don't know what that was.

**Hartsook:** If he's to be remembered for any handful of actions or initiatives, what should we recall?

**Scott:** That's funny, because ten or fifteen years ago, certainly, and even now, but if you asked anybody on the state level, it was always the license plates, that he lowered the license plates [fees]. That seems so insignificant, but I think it was just one thing that he saw that needed to be done for people and did it. And then there were those who said that he changed the working conditions in the mills. It's been such a long time since he instituted those things which are so important, until it's hard for me to pinpoint them.

I know that he came along with Roosevelt during the beginning. He admired Roosevelt so much, and he went down to Warm Springs and visited with him. When I finally went to Warm Springs, and I had listened to my daddy talk about sitting by the fireplace and talking about this, that, and the other, and spending the night, and having breakfast, I thought the place would be large. And it's so tiny. In that little living room, I just think, you know, there were two men sitting there like that. But the issues that were important to Roosevelt on the economic and social levels were so important to my father until he let Roosevelt actually come into South Carolina and help defeat him on that first run for governor. Everybody says that if Roosevelt had not come through and stopped in Greenville, Daddy would have carried the upstate.
The institution of the workmen's compensation and the Employment Security Commission in South Carolina were very important. Of course, he did not get to vote directly for it, but he supported Social Security. All those were developing. The South Carolina Employment Commission was actually established under him. I mean, he did it. And workmen's compensation was passed in South Carolina because of him. So I think those types of legislation, which we take for granted. And I never think about him having done it. But they were things that had to be done for us to get to the point [where] we are today. Some folks would say we're in a bad place, but I don't think so. Some of us have failed to keep growing and keep tabs on some things that have gotten out of hand, but, basically, the programs that were started in the Thirties and Forties are good programs. I think that the legislation in the Forties was more important in some ways than the Fifties and Sixties.

In Washington, of course, the postal service has changed so now, but there was a time there when they said he was "Mr. Post Office." He passed more postal legislation than any senator ever had. There was a little postmistress out in the country here in Sumter County who was telling me how much he did for the postal service.

There's some [legislation] that's even national that I've failed to think about. But he touched a lot of lives through these different groups.

Hartsook: Let me go back and ask you two more about your mother. Do you think her influence was unusual among congressional wives?

Scott: Yes. There were several that were very active, but I think she made quite an impression when she got to Washington. She, like Daddy, was very friendly with the Roosevelts. She admired Eleanor, and I think was already very active on the national scene when she got to Washington, and very few of the congressional wives were. When my mother went to the Congressional Club, she very quickly became a leading member of the Congressional Club. Not just with her speaking abilities, but she was one of their favorite speakers. She was even asked by them, and also the Democratic National Committee, to teach a course in public speaking. So Mother stood out because she used the abilities that she had. And she was quite often called on to be a leader in many of those groups in Washington.
Hartsook: In today's environment, what do you think she might have done? Would she have been content to be a senator's wife?

Scott: She would have been content to be a senator's wife and played the role that she did if she had met my father. I think they would have been content today in that role, because she was very active and did everything anyway. If she had not met him and had not been a senator's wife, my mother would have maybe been President of the United States. Who knows? I mean, she had the abilities and she used them, so it would have depended on what opportunities were there. She grasped it and went ahead with anything that she saw to do.

Hartsook: Can you go over the sequence of events when he grew ill? How early did you know that it was that serious an illness?

Scott: Well, you have to start at the Democratic Convention [of 1964]. My sister was on a work mission in Europe, she worked for the Peace Corps, and I was a delegate from South Carolina. And Mother and Daddy were delegates, so we were all in Atlantic City. And I realized while we were there that he couldn't walk a great distance. Oh, we used to have the best time out on the boardwalk. We used to take family vacations up there. And he couldn't really walk, and he would puff and pant.

The night that he was supposed to nominate Hubert Humphrey as Vice President, his legs had started to swell, and I didn't realize that. My bedroom was next to his and Mother's and I went in there to get something and he was putting on his shoes. And he couldn't put on his shoes, so he put on his bedroom shoes. He talked about it, said--"I think I'll just wear these until we get over to the Convention Center." I picked up his formal shoes and was carrying them. We went over. He said he was going to change when we took our seats. And when we sat down, he said--"I don't think I can get those shoes on." So we decided--"Oh, nobody is going to notice your shoes in here, it's so crowded anyway. Just wear your bedroom shoes."

But I knew if your legs hurt that bad and your feet hurt that bad, it had to be something that was circulatory. He went to Europe on a fact-finding meeting sometime in November, I guess.
After the convention, we went to New York to pick up my sister. She was flying into Kennedy. Everybody had to take different flights back to wherever you were going. We all went. We got to Kennedy, and Mother and Daddy and I were standing there, and the man from customs came to help. And Daddy said--"I can't walk down that corridor. You all go get her and come back. I'll just sit here." And that was right at the gate, when we first got into the airport. We all went and got Liz and came back. And I knew something was really bad, because he was an awful color and sweating. So he promised that he was going to go to the doctor. Well, he didn't go to the doctor.

He went off on business sometime later, and he had pneumonia when he came back, because the plane had broken down in Greenland and they sat at some Air Force base. And when he got home, he was very sick. So he was home for two or three days with pneumonia and then some kind of flu. So we all thought when he recovered from that, that he had also rested from whatever else was wrong with him. He promised us that he would go to Bethesda Naval Medical Hospital and have a check-up. And he went over there, but we never knew what they told him. They evidently told him that he had an aneurysm, because when he died, in his wallet he had a cardiology tape showing the problem. It was all folded up in the back of his wallet. And, also, there was a little thing in there about DeBakey and his heart transplants and other things, like the heart by-passes, that he was doing down in Texas.

He came home. He told Mother that he wasn't well and he needed to go to a doctor in South Carolina. That's all he said. So he came back to Columbia, because Mother had finished their house and they were getting ready to move everything in. He came back to Columbia and went to the doctors at Columbia and was told that he had an aneurysm, that fall, but that he needed to rest a little bit. They said--"O.K. When can we do this, Senator? We'll do this at Christmas, between the break or something, and you'll be back on your feet. The lower abdomen, as soon as that heals, you'll be fine."

So he came home at Christmas, looking terrible. He had the abdominal surgery. Liz, I don't think, was there. I'm trying to remember. This was the first surgery after Christmas. I have to stop and think. The two surgeries really get messed up in my head. When he came down from Washington, Dr. Leon Khoury was his general doctor, and then his heart surgeon admitted him to
Providence Hospital to put a shunt in his abdomen.

Mother and, I think, Liz...anyway, I know I was there, and Scotty. We were sitting there, and Dr. Khoury came out first and told us that when they had opened Daddy up, they found a cancerous tumor on his intestines, and they were trying to decide to what to do. When all the doctors came out, they said--"We think what we ought to do is to take off the cancerous tumor and part of his intestines and sew him back up, and after he's well, he can come back and have his aneurysm repaired. It doesn't look like it's that dangerous." So that's what they did. They only took out a cancerous tumor. But it was a major operation, and we didn't realize how worn out he was, I don't think. He hadn't let anybody know. He had worked so hard that fall in the campaign.

He made a comeback from that. He lost a lot of weight, and he looked real drawn, but he went back to Washington, and was doing fairly well. When he came home for the Easter break from Congress, my husband and I met Mother and Daddy at the old train station in Columbia, where California Dreaming [a restaurant] is now. When I saw him get off the train...first of all, he'd lost so much weight, and he had on a gray tweed suit that just hung on him. He looked awful. But there were photographers there. The State newspaper and some other people were taking pictures. You know--"Senator comes home for heart surgery." They went out to my house, and he had to lie straight down. They went on out to their house after we had eaten. [Later,] he checked in with the doctors, and they said--"That's fine. You can wait until the week after Easter, and come in and have your surgery."

Hartsook: For the aneurysm.

Scott: For the aneurysm. They did all the work up that week before Easter. So Easter [Palm] Sunday, we went to First Baptist Church, Mother and Daddy and my family, my two children. We were walking out of the main church after the eleven o'clock service, and Daddy kind of stumbled and grabbed my arm. I said--"What's wrong?" He said--"Something's wrong." My husband took him by the arm and helped him to the car, and they decided that he should go to the hospital. When he went to the hospital, Dan Davis was his heart surgeon, Dr. Davis came and he said--"Senator, what we need to do is go right on with this thing. This is
about to burst." That was Palm Sunday. And so they prepped him and operated on him the next day. That's when Liz and my aunt Gladys and everybody came down from Washington.

But they assured him and us that he needed it done, and he needed it done, and he needed it done right then, but it was no critical emergency. So that afternoon, when we left his house on Rock Ridge Road, my mother didn't go to the hospital. My husband and I took Daddy to the hospital. And he put in the trunk of the car two big boxes of the book Dr. [John] Huss wrote [Senator for the South], and said--"I'm going to sign these tonight up there." And he took his briefcase, and all that kind of thing. When we got to the hospital, we checked into a regular room up on the...I guess it was the surgery floor, but a regular room. And he was doing fine.

My husband left to go take care of our two children, and I stayed with him that evening until about eleven o'clock, because he wasn't sleepy. He signed books and he talked and he gave me a set of keys, said--"Here's the set of keys that go to my dresser. You might need them if you need something." He had a drawer in his dresser that he kept papers in, I guess everything about the household. And I didn't think anything about that, but, of course, when you're going in for a big heart surgery, you are thinking about whatever.

And we called Mother at the house, and we talked to Mother, but Mother really didn't feel good. Like I said, the last few weeks there before Daddy had this surgery, she wasn't feeling good either. She didn't come up there that evening, but the next morning, we were all up there bright and early. And he went in thinking everything was fine. And he came through the surgery. Nobody had to stay up there that first or second night with him at all. And Wednesday, I went up to see him in the afternoon, and, I was sitting there with him. Don Russell's daughter-in-law was his nurse. I'd forgotten that, but Don Russell's wife was nursing at Providence Hospital and she was the afternoon nurse.

But all of a sudden...they brought him something to eat, and he was sitting there. He was in the chair. He was getting up and sitting there. All of a sudden, his body was just racked, and he just gave a big shiver. I said--"What is wrong?" He said--"Something's wrong." And he grabbed his stomach. "Something's wrong." So I rang for the nurse, and we put him in the bed, and as he got in the bed, I noticed there was blood on the sheet. The nurse called for the doctor,
and Dan Davis wasn't there, so I ran around to the back of the hospital where Dan Davis's office was, in the adjacent building. Somebody in his office let me in the back door, because that afternoon he was closed. And they called him at home, and he came. He told me to go back to our room and sit, and he'd be right there.

Well, he came back. He thought, at first, Daddy had some kind of infection, and said--"It might be a viral infection. We'd better give him certain drugs." I think they were mycin, or penicillin. And so they started him on high-acting drugs to combat whatever kind of infection he had gotten. And he wasn't really bleeding any more, that was fine. But his temperature went higher and higher, and they couldn't get whatever infection it was under control. It's like pneumonia. And Thursday, he was really sick. Friday night, he went into like a coma, and that's when we all started staying up there. They gave us a room adjacent to him, and we were there. So all day Saturday, he was in a coma, then he died Easter Sunday morning. Everything just broke loose. The shunt, or whatever you call it, that they had put in did not hold, and he started bleeding. He lost so much blood. They'd put blood in, and he'd lose the blood.

But what happened, when we go back afterwards and looking at it, my father had hepatitis when he was in World War I. And it was on nothing except, I think, on some papers with his discharge papers. Nobody had ever looked at that medically. And then when one of his doctors was going through everything, they looked at something and they said--"He should never have been given penicillin," I believe it was, or one of the mycins. If you've had hepatitis, you can't take it. Your liver can't take it, even though it's that many years gone. But, anyway, the medicine just had the wrong reaction. So he actually died of pneumonia. I think that's what they put on the death certificate. But the pneumonia came secondary to the surgery, and then the surgery didn't hold.

But he wasn't strong...if he had gone into the hospital a year before and had that done, and they'd done both at one time, he probably would have been fine. But he wanted to hold off to campaign that fall for his friend Hubert Humphrey and [Lyndon Baines] Johnson. And that's what he did.

Hartsook: It's interesting, when we went back to start processing the collection, we had two briefcases filled with work. And they were locked. They hadn't been opened since....
Scott: Probably since we took them out of his room. One of them of kind of yellow-colored. I can't remember.

Hartsook: One was a real dark brown and one was a medium brown with big straps.

Scott: Yeah, with straps over it. That was his, kind of, everything. I know we took stuff up there. Scotty carried the boxes of books and the briefcases and everything. Because he just thought he was going to be up there. And he did sign a bunch of books that night. That was really funny. He kept on--"I'm going to sign one more."

Hartsook: Well, we're running out of tape and I've asked all my questions. Do you have anything you want to add?

Scott: No. I'm just real pleased that you are doing this.

[End of interview]