

*SOUTH CAROLINA POLITICAL COLLECTIONS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT*

Interview

with

Charles E. Boineau

Interviewer:

Wilma M. Woods

Dates:

April 6, 12, 14, & 18, 1995

Location:

South Carolina Political Collections
University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C.

Topics:

Republican Party in South Carolina and Mr. Boineau's role in the early Republican movement

Transcribers:

Andrew Daniels and Phil Warf, August 1995

[Tape 1, April 6, 1995, Begins]

Woods: Why don't we begin simply by a brief biographical background, your family history? Now I understand that you were born in Columbia, South Carolina, to Charles and Bessie Trippett Boineau. Could you describe your early life and childhood?

Boineau: My father was in the brokerage and storage business here in Columbia and in 1931, went out on his own and started Boineau's Moving and Storage. We were living in Columbia at that time, until my mother, Bessie Trippett Boineau, was asked by her mother, my maternal grandmother, to move to Boykin, which was outside of Camden, to help save the plantation which my grandmother had inherited. It was [located] part in Kershaw County and part in Sumter County.

Woods: Was that the Midfield...?

Boineau: Midfield's Plantation, right. It was quite an undertaking and my mother had no knowledge of farming, but when Mamma, as we called...she was Bessie Cash Irby. Incidentally, my grandmother was the daughter of Colonel Ellerbe Bogan Crawford Cash, who fought the last legal duel in South Carolina. I often joke that since Colonel Cash was successful and was the winner of the duel, I was around to be the first Republican. So we were off to Boykin, which is ten miles outside of Camden. We went to school in Camden, grammar school and high school.

My father continued his business here and commuted, which was a heck of a commute in those days because there was an actual ferry across the Wateree River outside of Camden, and Daddy often teased that he wanted on his obituary that he died because of all the detours that he was involved with. South Carolina was just coming out of the mud, and the highway system was being developed. This was in the early Thirties.

As to my family being involved in politics, of course my grandmother, Mamma, Bessie Cash Irby, they were still blaming the Republicans and Abraham Lincoln on the situation that we found ourselves in.

Woods: And what situation was that?

Boineau: Well, Reconstruction after the Civil War, and then, I guess, my first notice of this was that Herbert Hoover was a Republican, and we were in a depression, the heavy Depression. So when

Roosevelt came along as a Democrat, I think we all gravitated toward Roosevelt, thought he was going to save the country.

But my father, for whatever reason, strayed from that, because I found out after his death that he was one of probably a hundred people — I was told this, and I never have looked it up — that in 1936 voted for Alfred Landon, and in 1940, I guess, for Wendell Willkie. So there were just a couple hundred votes in South Carolina, and how they did this...because there was no Republican Party. You just couldn't go in and say, "I want a Republican ballot."

Question number two, "Describe education," the Camden schools were very good, and as I said, I graduated from there [High School] in 1941.

Woods: So when did you move to Boykin?

Boineau: We must have left Columbia in 1929 or '30, and I'm not clear about this. Daddy continued to have his business here, and commuted. He would come over on Monday, and come back to the plantation on Thursday.

And Mother, who had no experience farming as I said before, killed herself, because we got there just in time for the Depression and five-cent cotton. Cotton was selling for five cents a pound. And, as I recall, there was some hundred and eighty...we called them colored at the time. We grew up with them. They were on the place. Some of them were sharecroppers, and some of them were field hands. And Mother just set about learning how to farm, and with all this acreage she was able to save the plantation.

Woods: Even during the Depression era?

Boineau: Right, yeah. And there's a question here, subsequent, about Daddy's beginning his business at the height of the Depression. So they were just hard-working people, a lot of drive.

Woods: Let's drop down to that question about your father starting this business in 1931.

Boineau: 1931, at the height of the Depression.

Woods: How did this business fare during those economically depressed years?

Boineau: I found his books, from his accountant, many years after his death. He turned a profit, in this business, in his second year in this endeavor.

Woods: How did he do it?

Boineau: I don't know. Daddy was just a very hard-working, enterprising person. And, I guess Columbia was growing, and there was no moving business in Columbia. He had been in the food brokerage and storage business, and it worked into the moving business because, in addition to moving, he was offering storage of household goods to people who had that need. And also storage of commodities, such as sugar, appliances, and things of that type. So he established a bonded warehouse.

Woods: Now you mentioned that Columbia was growing at this time. Do you have any idea why? You know, it seems like with the Depression...?

Boineau: I don't know. It was not growing like it's growing today. When I joined the company in 1945, we were on Gervais Street down near the Seaboard Railway Depot.

In my service in the Navy, I had seen the revolution that was going on in material handling with forked trucks and I said, "Daddy, we've got to get out of this downtown location because we just can't get tractors and trailers backed up to our warehouse with the trains coming through all the time." And he said — "Listen, son, I was in Columbia after World War I and I saw Camp Jackson," which is now Fort Jackson, "close down and Columbia sunk back into almost oblivion business-wise. I was President of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce the year that you were born, and we were doing everything that we could to grow Columbia and to make it more attractive." I said, "Well, Daddy, what about all these cars that are driving up and down Gervais Street?" He said, "I have no idea. I'm going out there and stop them and ask them where they're going, or where they're coming from." And I said, "Well, Daddy, the future of Columbia in my opinion is bright, and we need to build a modern, one-story building outside of this congested area." He said — after we had had many fights over it — "Well, I'll look down on you folks and see this big building that you are undertaking. It's probably going to be empty." So, he never lived to see the completion of the building, although he finally agreed and said, "Let's do it."

The other principal in the business was his youngest brother, my uncle Ed Boineau, who incidentally is in the Athletic Hall of Fame at the Carolina Coliseum. He was quite an athlete, and quite a wonderful person to work with. Daddy was the first child and "Bru" as they called him — because

they couldn't pronounce Boineau on the football team, they called him "Bruno" — anyhow, Bru was the last and Daddy was the first of all of these children. I think there were ten or eleven Boineau children. So, there was almost as much difference between mine and Daddy's age and Bru and Daddy's age, so he was almost like my brother, an older brother. But, he was a wonderful person to be in business with and we succeeded in growing the business when Daddy died in 1949.

We had started the warehouse and the warehouse eventually became an eighty-four thousand square foot facility down near Owens Field, the in-town airport. The family owned business, Daddy was one of the incorporators. There were very few, it was just a family corporation — when Bru finished school and did a stint in coaching and came back into Columbia, my Grandmother Boineau gave her share of the business to Bru Boineau. I'll refer to him as Ed sometimes, and sometimes I'll refer to him as Bru. It was just remarkable how Daddy was able to turn this into a profitable business, and those records, I still have them.

[Reading from question sheet] "Who was the president of the company at the time of your 1961 election?" When Daddy died in 1949, Ed Boineau (Bru) became president and I became vice president.

Woods: Before we go on, let's kind of go back to your education. You graduated from Camden School. The other day when you dropped by, you mentioned that you had an appointment to the Naval Academy, and I'd like you to kind of explain that a little bit.

Boineau: In those days, and this may still be the same, you received an appointment to West Point or to the Naval Academy from the members of Congress or members of the Senate. Daddy was close to these folks and wanted very much for me to follow his brother, who had finished West Point.

Woods: Which brother was that?

Boineau: His name was Calhoun Boineau. He was one of these eleven or twelve children. He's deceased. Everybody in that family is deceased now. I, of course, was always interested in flying, and I had been accepted...a friend of mine, my roommate at The Citadel and I had gone to Atlanta to take a test for the Naval Aviation cadet program. I'm sure I expounded on that...

Woods: You could have expounded earlier; we're just glad to have it on tape here. Now, first of all, did you enter The Citadel prior to going to take the test?

Boineau: Yes. We were cadets at The Citadel.

Woods: Were you studying Naval Aviation?

Boineau: No. I was still thinking about trying to please Daddy. I remember my biggest stumbling block in my freshman and sophomore year was calculus, which I knew that I would need at the Naval Academy or at West Point. It just was defeating to me. I just could not absorb it.

So, we were freshmen at The Citadel. Our freshman year, along came Pearl Harbor in 1941, December the seventh. So, we finished our freshman year, and I guess it was 1942, that's right, we went back and the war was escalating. The Navy was running a program on enlisting Naval Aviation cadets, and my roommate, Eli Walker, said, "Why don't we go to Atlanta? You know, we're restricted to The Citadel campus, but if we can get our parents to sign off on our going to Atlanta to take the Naval Aviation Cadet exam, it would give us a free weekend in Atlanta." We never believed that either one of us would be able to pass this rigid physical. But, as I may have said the other day, unbeknownst to us, the Navy Department apparently said, "We've had some terrible losses in the Pacific. Take anything that walks in there this morning." I had a high school football injury, had fractured my pelvis and had one leg longer than the other. That's when the scoliosis thing I talked about...

But we were lucky. They did take both of us and sent us back to The Citadel to await orders. And it was during this time, right almost I think to the day, when we received orders to report to flight training in Georgia, that Daddy called and excitedly told me that he had the appointment. And I said, "Well, I'm going to have to turn it down, Daddy." He said, "How are you going to make a living after the war? If you live through the war, you'll just be a reserve officer, and your Uncle Calhoun, he's got a permanent commission." He subsequently went on to become a brigadier general, but, anyway, I said, "Well, I think that I can make a living. I hope I can." So he acquiesced.

Woods: Did you say the other day that you received this appointment through Burnet Maybank?

Boineau: Burnet Maybank may have been the senator who had the appointment for me. I'm not sure about this, because Daddy was familiar with all of the politicians of that period. It could have been Burnet Maybank or it could have been "Cotton Ed" Smith. I've just forgotten; I really don't know. And I don't know how I'd find out. I guess in their archives somewhere is a list, but they probably wouldn't list somebody who turned them down.

Burnet Maybank's son was one of my roommates at The Citadel. There were four of us during

the war. They pushed us together and we had four cadets to a room. All four of us got through World War II alive. Burnet Maybank and my roommate Beach [Beacham O.] Brooker joined the Army Air Corps and Eli Walker and myself joined the Naval Air Corps. All four of us went through flight training. Burnet Maybank was the only one that flunked out of flight training, but he has continued to fly, whereas the others of us...Beach Brooker, who was president of Weston-Brooker Quarry here in West Columbia. He died four or five years ago. He was a fighter pilot with the Army Air Corps in Europe.

We left The Citadel midway through our sophomore year to report to flight training. [Reading] "Any other formal education?" No. I did not. I took a correspondence course after I was back and out of the Navy and had then been married. I got married in March of 1945.

Woods: Maybe you answered this, but what were your career goals when you entered The Citadel?

Boineau: No, I don't think that I had any career goals. I see young people now and they say, "You know, Charlie, I don't know what I want to do." And I say, "I don't think that you really know. I think you're the exception rather than the rule when you enter college knowing exactly where you're going." So, I guess in the back of my head, it was either the farming that Mother was doing or the moving and storage business that Daddy was engaged in, but I didn't have any idea of career goals.

Woods: I guess World War II interrupted your studies and you needed to...?

Boineau: Yes. So, then when I was married and lived through the war — as Daddy said, "If you live through this darn thing, you're not going to have anything" — and was married to my childhood sweetheart, he said, "Now you need to get back and get a degree." And I said, "Daddy, I'm married and hope to have a family and I don't need a degree to run the moving and storage business. Just a strong back and putting into use some of these things I've seen, the revolution in material handling, the fork trucks." He said, "Why are you going to have a fork truck? Those things cost big bucks and we've got these people out here that can lift just as well." At any rate, I won that battle after a long time.

Woods: Okay. So you were in The Citadel from approximately 19...?

Boineau: '41 until the beginning of '43.

Woods: Oh, the beginning of '43?

Boineau: Right. We finished our first semester of '42 and we went to flight training in January or February of '43. Then the flight training took us all over the United States. You said, "Where did you serve?" Well, the preliminary flight training was in Macon, Georgia. We moved from Macon, Georgia, to Pre-Flight school in Chapel Hill, at the University of North Carolina. In Pre-Flight, the war was really tuning up then.

We had some of the world's greatest athletes that were in our class, like Ted Williams, the baseball player, and Johnny Pesky, who could not learn to swim and they washed him out. Here was this marvelous athlete that was a shortstop for the New York Yankees, I think, but he couldn't learn to swim. But Ted Williams went on to serve as a fighter pilot in World War II and again in Korea.

All right, from Chapel Hill we went to primary training, or elimination training (as they called it), at Glenview Naval Air Station outside of Chicago. We moved from Chicago to Corpus Christi, and at Corpus Christi we were transferred from basic training at Cudahy Field to advanced training at Kingsville, Texas, to gunnery school somewhere else down near the Mexican border, and then were commissioned. I was commissioned in March or April of 1944. From there we went to operational training at Daytona Naval Air Station in Florida, and this is where we began flying the first-line fighters and learning to land aboard a carrier. From operational training in Daytona we went back to Glenview to qualify aboard an aircraft carrier, which every Navy pilot had to do before they went to the fleet. So, we went out as replacement pilots.

Woods: And by that...?

Boineau: By that, just meant that we were in a pool and as the attrition rate rose, they would feed us in. I went aboard the Hornet in the Pacific as a replacement pilot, but before I got there we saw duty in San Diego, we saw duty in Oahu in the Hawaiian Islands, and then in the Admiralty Islands. We were staged up to this as replacement pilots. We weren't flying a whole lot because they were just positioning us for duty.

In September of 1944, when I had my twenty-first birthday, I went aboard the Hornet in the Caroline Islands. I misplaced my log book, which was very interesting. It showed all of my hops aboard the carrier, carrier landings.

Now, you have [Reading] "Describe your duties and activities as a fighter pilot." It's nothing...it's like being a Republican politician — staying alive. Flying and trying to keep from getting shot up.

Woods: Did you serve on any other aircraft carriers?

Boineau: No, this was the only carrier. Now I landed aboard a number of others in training. [Reading] "What characteristics made a good fighter pilot?" Crazy. Young. Not having any idea that you could get killed.

Woods: It's interesting to me that you were only twenty-one years old and you had such an awesome responsibility. I wonder could you comment, the people today that are twenty-one years old, do you think that they could do the same thing you did? Maybe they already have in Desert Storm.

Boineau: Yeah. I don't know, but I know that The Citadel certainly did prepare us for the war, and anybody with military training. And of course, Wilma, I think the whole tenor of our growing up during the Depression, the tenor of the country, that we were all together. There was no backsliding. There was no draft dodging. Everybody went to war. Just an entirely different thing. [Reading] "Any particular battle or maneuver stand out in your mind?" I've already told you about that.

[Reading] "List your commendations and medals." Well, I've got lots of ribbons, and as far as medals, I've got one medal for shooting down this fighter plane and a Gold Star, or Silver Star, I've forgotten which it was, in lieu of a second Air Medal. If you had so many combat hops, you were entitled to get an Air Medal. If you really had heavy stuff, like some of the people I flew with, who had ten or twelve planes, you got the Distinguished Flying Cross. And you could get the Navy Cross, which was the highest decoration. I don't know of any Congressional Medal of Honor fighter pilot other than Butch O'Hare, who saved the fleet back in the early part of the war.

[Tape 1, Side 1 Ends. Side 2 Begins]

Woods: We were discussing your World War II service and we were just about ready to go on to something from there.

Boineau: Right. [Reading] "In 1961, you were vice president of Boineau's Allied." I touched on

that before. My father's death elevated me to vice president and Ed Boineau to president. I don't have any present position with the company because there was a hostile takeover in 1988. This was a tragic event in my life and I won't go into that.

I returned to Boineau's after the 1962 and the 1964 elections, because the group that ran me, that I mentioned before.... We had a political action committee. I was actually out of town when this vacancy for the South Carolina House became open, and when my wife and I got back into town on this particular Sunday night, Gayle Averyt and Howard Love and Tucker Weston said, "Oh, we've got a candidate to run for this vacancy." I said, "Who in the world is crazy enough to do that?" They said, "You are. We drew the short straw for you." And I said, "Well, that's ridiculous. I can't even spell 'precinct'." They said, "You'll learn, but we want to get together tomorrow night and talk it over." So they all came over to the house and put the big sweat on me. So we got into it, and it was a special election. It was August of 1961, July and August.

Woods: When did you first become interested in politics?

Boineau: I guess it was a slow transition. I was always interested in different facets. I don't think Daddy shoved any politics down our throat, even though, as I said earlier, he'd voted for Willkie and for Alf Landon, and was only one of a hundred South Carolinians that did this back in 1936 and 1940. I don't think that as a loyal South Carolinian, I got too excited about Strom Thurmond's bolting from the Democrat Party and running as the Dixiecrat in 1948. I knew Strom as a governor and I admired him as a governor. He was a good governor. Then my other involvement was with Fritz Hollings, who was two or three classes ahead of us at The Citadel, in the same class as John West, and both became governors of South Carolina. The group at The Citadel became known as "The Citadel Mafia," and we worked very hard for Fritz to become lieutenant governor and then to become governor.

On the national level about this time, I became a South Carolinian for Eisenhower, because we didn't have any other vehicle. Many of the people that were in business with me and in the state followed this course. We were South Carolinians for Eisenhower when he ran in 1952 and again in 1956. So, then along comes 1960....

Woods: I'd like to ask just a little bit about 1952. Were you vocal here in South Carolina?

Boineau: Yes, we were. We had an organization. I ran across some of that. Some of the leaders of that group, a few of them are still living and active in Columbia. I ran across some — and I don't

know where this was — newspaper articles on those in Columbia who formed the committee to help Eisenhower in 1952.

Woods: And the Republican Party was not in South Carolina at this...?

Boineau: It was not formal. There was no formal organization, although there was a patronage party. There was a party here, but it was controlled by the blacks. The grandfather of I. S. Leevy Johnson, who was I. S. Leevy, who was a black undertaker, he was chairman of the Republican Party in the Fifties, and they existed in South Carolina only to handle patronage. On the rare occasion when we had a Republican president, they would have the power to appoint postmasters and the few other federal jobs that the South enjoyed. This may be when Roger Milliken, "Duck" Wannamaker, W.T.C. Bates — I guess it was in 1956, or it may have been as late as 1960 — went to the national Republican Party convention and there was a black delegation and a white delegation and there was a tussle over who they were going to seat at this convention.

This was, of course, before my time, because in 1960, for that election, I may have still been a South Carolinian for Nixon. I don't know, because although this was only eight months before I got elected, the furthest thing from my mind was that I was going to be a candidate. I was interested in a two-party system, but as I said, I didn't know how to spell 'precinct' and didn't understand it. Now Greg Shorey was chairman of the South Carolina Republican Party. Didn't Herb [Hartsook, Curator of Modern Political Collections] say that you all had written Greg Shorey and you have some of his material? [*At this time, the Library was speaking with Mr. Shorey about receiving his papers. Later during 1995, Mr. Shorey indeed donated his papers to the Library.*]

He was followed by Bob Chapman and Bob Chapman was chairman when I was elected. Having seen Bob Chapman at a funeral in the last four or five months, he reminded me that he was at our nominating convention, and you have that speech in that pamphlet, "Boineau, Conservatism, and You" that Dolly Hamby put together when I was nominated in July of 1961.

Woods: So, you were involved with the South Carolinians for Eisenhower. Was it the Dixiecrats for Eisenhower?

Boineau: I don't think it was the Dixiecrats. The Dixiecrats were 1948 with Strom Thurmond, and they were still trying to save the Democrat Party from taking in colored folks, as we were calling them then. We didn't start calling them blacks until after World War II, and now Afro-American. There

were a lot of those Dixiecrats that, when they bolted the national Democrat Party, it was simply a black and white issue. Just clearly a black and white issue, including Strom Thurmond. But he's grown up since then. At ninety-two years old, he's changed.

Woods: Now you were involved in the 1960 South Carolinians for Nixon, is that correct?

Boineau: Right.

Woods: Just curious, was a Mason Gibbes involved in that also and then later in the Goldwater campaign?

Boineau: Mason Gibbes didn't become a card-carrying Republican, but he was very instrumental in the 1960, the 1956, maybe as early as 1952. We were voting for national Republicans, but on the local level. This question, "What influenced your decisions..." — I was first active in the Democrat Party and worked for all of the local House candidates. Senator Walter Bristow, I attended his first campaign party when he ran for the House. He subsequently served in the Senate for a long time. He's now a retired circuit judge. We were all active, because since there was only one party, the Democrat primary was tantamount to being elected. It occurred to us that with just one party, there wasn't the proper competition. That's one of the....

Woods: So that's what basically motivated you. You were wanting to see a two-party system emerge in South Carolina.

Boineau: Sure did. Because we were sort of convoluted. Here we were going for Eisenhower and Nixon and yet -- this may not be a proper analogy -- but we were in the pocket of the national Democrat Party just as much as the blacks are in the pocket of the Democrat Party right now in the South Carolina House and the South Carolina Senate, and nationally, because the Democrat Party just leads them down the road with a ring in their nose and really doesn't do anything for them. Just uses them. Ninety-six to ninety-eight per cent of the Afro-Americans vote straight Democrat.

[Reading] "Did you make a formal announcement of this switch?" No. It was a gradual transition.

Woods: You said something the other day, and I like this quote. It was saying that in 1960 you

"came out of the closet" as a Republican.

Boineau: Yeah. [laughter]

Woods: Did you have any Republican mentors that were encouraging you to...?

Boineau: Oh, yes. Well, I don't know that they were encouraging me, but we just saw what was happening nationally. Barry Goldwater was my biggest mentor. And we certainly admired some national Republican leaders; there weren't any Southern Republican leaders, but people like Howard Baker and his father-in-law Everett Dirksen. I came to know many of these on a national level, know them and admire them and see what they were trying to do and what they were accomplishing to some extent.

[Reading] "How were you first approached to run for the special election in 1961?" I've covered that.

Woods: Was that through businessmen and Gayle Averyt?

Boineau: Gayle Averyt and Tucker Weston and I were on that committee.

Woods: Which committee was that?

Boineau: Well, we didn't have a formal name. It was a committee to choose a candidate and run for the first local office that opened up. We didn't have a candidate and they drew a straw for me and mine was the short straw, when the race opened up. The vacancy was caused by Tom Elliott, who was then a member of the South Carolina House, and Joe Berry, Sr., was the Richland County Treasurer.

This was, we felt, a manipulation by the Richland County Democrat Executive Committee to just take care of their own. So, when Joe Berry, Sr., died suddenly as the treasurer, they said, "Well, we'll just take Tom Elliott and make him the treasurer, and then we'll take Joe Berry's son, who's in his late twenties, and appoint him," the executive committee had this within their power, "to fill the seat of Tom Elliott." So, this was our opportunity. We said, "No, you can't do that. You've got to submit this to the people." And they said, "Well, maybe so, maybe not." It was like Strom Thurmond when he ran for the U.S. Senate in '54 on a write-in ballot. So, at any rate, we came out swinging, and this was the thrust of our campaign, "You have to submit this to the voters." The big hue and cry over, "Well, what

do these Republicans think they're doing?"

But the committee did not have any name; it was just a political action group of business people: Tucker Weston, an orthopedic surgeon; Gayle Averyt, an insurance company executive; Howard Love, an architect; and Quitman Marshall, a CPA. So we just said, "Now this is what we're going to do," and we had marvelous leadership from the Republican women.

The Republican Women of Richland County were probably more active than the men at this juncture. I remember the first precinct meeting that I went to was a Republican women's club. I hadn't thought about the women who would still be active, but Drake Edens' sister, who is Martha Edens — she's taken her name back; she was Martha Edens Helms, so she's now Martha Edens — she's been a national Republican Committeewoman. She's still active with the South Carolina Republican Party. She is Drake's sister.

Woods: What about Mrs. A. Dabney Barnes?

Boineau: Yes, she was active. She was a Republican national committeewoman from Greenville. I don't know whether she's living. I talked about them when we were together before. Her name was Pat Barnes. His name was A. Dabney Barnes. Where did you run across that name, in some of this material?

Woods: In some of your papers. I think you had something like the Republican Party makeup, who the chairman and who the people were.

Boineau: [Reading] "Outline your 1961 campaign strategy." How was I approached to run? I just finished that. It really was a short straw, but they convinced me that it should be done, and since I was more or less in business for myself that I should give it a shot. In other words, I should either put up or shut up.

Woods: Do you think that you ran in a response to J.F.K.'s "New Frontier?" I think one time I saw in a quote in a newspaper, or maybe it was even in your brochure, that you felt like J.F.K.'s administration was leading the nation "down the road to socialism."

Boineau: Right.

Woods: So, were you running in response to that or were you running to start...?

Boineau: A two-party system in South Carolina in 1961. It's hard to believe, J.F.K. had just been elected in November of 1960 by a ten thousand vote margin. He came into office under a cloud bigger than "Slick Willie" Clinton, I guess, he and the Kennedy clan!

Dolly Hamby had enough political awareness to use this as a vehicle. We didn't run against Joe Berry, because Joe Berry was probably as well liked, and his father having been a state senator, having been the county treasurer, it was going to be an automatic win, even if he had to have an election. And the Democrat Party executive committee didn't even want to have an election, they just wanted to appoint him. So, Dolly Hamby realized that Charlie Boineau could not beat Joe Berry, but Charlie Boineau could beat Jack Kennedy, and the catch-phrase was that we were going down the road to socialism, we were sending a dollar of tax money to Washington and they were using about forty cents of it through the bureaucracy and sending back the sixty cents.

But the thing that really caught fire that was used in my campaign was — "And if I'm elected, I will stop the Kennedy clan" — the Kennedy clan was that group which included Peter Lawford and Sammy Davis Jr., and the all of the "rat pack" as they called themselves — "from having cocktail parties on the lawn of Mt. Vernon." Mt. Vernon was dear to all South Carolinians because Pamela Cunningham, a South Carolinian, had saved Mt. Vernon. And these older South Carolinians, older Richland County people said, "Charlie Boineau can do that?" Of course, I couldn't do it, but they thought I could.

Even Tom Elliott told me within the last two years, he said, "I went to that debate between you and Joe Berry in the old Columbia Hotel" — it's been destroyed now — "and when you made that statement about the Kennedy clan on the lawn of Mt. Vernon, all of these little old ladies in tennis shoes jumped up and applauded." I said, "Do you reckon that they are going to believe that?" Well, they did.

Woods: And they voted for you.

Boineau: Yeah. This was before the days of districts, so we were running county-wide, and I see that you've got the vote reported in here, which was alarming. We won going away, and it was supposed to be a one-sided race for Berry. But, the vote came out, as you have, 7,300 to 5,900, which was unheard of.

Woods: Now you made a comment about Joe Berry was a very personable person and it was

probably a shoo-in that he would be elected, but I've also seen reference in some of the news clips that the newspapers said that you could probably "charm the ballot out of the South Carolinian." So, how do you comment...?

Boineau: I guess I had the newspaper with me. I think they were a little flowery.

Woods: What about in 1961, I found reference that Governor Hollings criticized you, or I think the words were "took you to task," for bringing Goldwater and John Tower into this local race. He was saying that this was a local race and that the national party should not be infused into this race. What are your comments on that?

Boineau: Well, that's always used when somebody tries to bring in an outsider, because the standard fare is, "Oh, we're not going to let John Tower or Barry Goldwater tell the people of Richland County how to vote." It's a political tool. Fritz had fallen out with our group because our group, in many instances, were the people who had gotten him elected as lieutenant governor and then governor, and he was going out of office in 1962. He was aware...we had said, "Fritz, please don't align yourself with the national Democrat Kennedy clan now that we have gotten you elected governor." In 1960, he made one of the seconding speeches at the national Democrat Party for Jack Kennedy. And Tucker Weston and all of us said, "Good grief, he just turned his back on us. Just turned his back on us. Why did he do that?"

[Reading] "Did you feel that you or any Republican had a chance at winning this election?" I didn't, but the Republican women did, and some of the — [reading] "people who worked with you in this campaign" — the people I've mentioned, plus Drake Edens. Drake Edens was very helpful. His father had merged his company with Winn-Dixie, and so Drake had all the money that he needed to continue his lifestyle and also to give full time to the campaign. He just became a full-time worker, and he was the logical person after my election to take over the party. And he became chairman.

Woods: Did your wife play a big role in your campaign?

Boineau: Yes, she was very active and worked very hard. I couldn't have done it without her, as a matter of fact.

Woods: Also, in the 1961 special election, there was Joe Berry, who was running in the

Democratic Party and...?

Boineau: Just the two of us.

Woods: But I thought James Hanahan was a States' Rights write-in candidate, and he received seventy-something votes, something like that.

Boineau: Obviously, it was a two man race, but when we would have a television debate, Hanahan was there with us; it was a three-way thing. He is now deceased, and I guess he was following the path of Strom Thurmond — States' Rights, Dixiecrat — "We don't need a Republican Party. That's the party of Sherman. That's the party that burned Columbia. What we need is somebody like Strom Thurmond."

Woods: I'd like to ask you a little bit more about your 1961 campaign strategy, or possibly your campaign finances. I think you said the other day you were not aware of how much was spent...?

Boineau: I had no idea. Had no idea until the morning of the election. I said, "How much have we spent on this campaign?" And the answer was, "Close to \$10,000." For a House race in South Carolina in 1961, it's like, "Where did all that money come from?" They had a finance committee and Tucker Weston, Gayle Averyt, but they said \$1,000 came from Roger Milliken. I said, "My Lord." So, 10% of the money came from him. He was dedicated money-wise to building a two-party system in South Carolina.

I think I threw a lot of these letters away, I don't think they came down with the rest of my stuff, where I was thanking people for contributions. I ran across one the other day for "Thank you so much for your generous contribution," and I had penciled in on my copy what it was. It was \$15 and so I tried to find this friend of mine, who is a Greek, Greg Hitopolous, and I asked where he was because I was going to tease him about having bought my election for \$15 in 1961. But, there weren't any big contributions, \$2 and \$3 in some instances because....

Woods: That's what people could afford.

Boineau: Yeah. That's all they could afford, that's right. I found out later that Joe Berry's campaign was more than \$10,000, which made us feel good.

[Tape 1 Ends. Tape 2, April 12, 1995, Begins]

Woods: I'd like to clarify some things from last week and also ask a couple of questions that we skipped over regarding your civic activities. I understand that you were involved with the Chamber of Commerce in the early 1960s and still are. Could you describe your association with the Chamber of Commerce?

Boineau: Sure. I'd be glad to. One of the things that my father said back when I was in the Pacific, he said, "If you live through this, there's some things I want you to do. I want you to be active in the Chamber of Commerce because I was president of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce the year you were born, in 1923. And I want you to be a Rotarian because I just think that's the leading civic club that we have in Columbia. And I want you to be a member of the Cotillion Club," which is a debutante thing; the Cotillion is now a hundred years old. And I said, "Well, that's all just fine, and ---- but who is going to pay for all of this?" He jokingly said, "I'll get you started."

So, this reference, this question of the Chamber of Commerce, was the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, and I'm now presently selling for the state Chamber of Commerce. Our firm, Boineau's, Inc., Boineau's Moving and Storage, were members of both the Columbia chamber and state Chamber of Commerce over the years.

Woods: What is the difference?

Boineau: The state chamber, which I'm doing now, is primarily the function of helping the state industrially and with labor relations, whereas the Columbia chamber is more localized. I was a member of the board of directors of the Columbia chamber; I think the term was three or four years in the late Fifties. As such, as a board member, you usually head up committees. I remember being on a transportation committee with respect to the Columbia airport and some of the interstates that were then being built. Now with the state chamber, I only joined them last August, August of 1994, in a selling capacity.

Woods: And what are you selling?

Boineau: I'm selling memberships to the state chamber. Prior to that, I was with the Better Business Bureau, because when the Better Business Bureau was started in the Fifties, the Columbia

division of the Better Business Bureau, I was on the original board of the Better Business Bureau. So, when I found myself in this bad position in 1988 with my brother doing a hostile takeover of the moving company, I had to find something to do to produce some income. For a short period of time, I represented a moving firm out of North Carolina, but they didn't have a local office, and so it didn't work out, and we mutually discontinued our association.

Woods: I just wanted you to talk a little bit about your Better Business Bureau days and your Rotary Club. What were some of the key...?

Boineau: [Reading] "I understand you were active in the Rotary Club and the Columbia Better Business Bureau" — oh, I didn't see that. That was on the next page. Well, similarly to the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, I hit the ground running with the Columbia Rotary Club and became a member in 1947, so this July I will have been a member of the Columbia Rotary Club for 48 years. I think there are only three or four of us who have been members for that long of a time. I was a director of the Columbia Rotary Club for a number of years and was program chairman in my early years in the late Forties. As program chairman, you're responsible for the programs for the year.

Woods: What kinds of activities, did you sponsor?

Boineau: Well, the Rotary Club, we think, is the best civic club. It's similar to the Kiwanis, Optimist, Sertoma, but it's the oldest service club. We do all the civic things that civic clubs do. The Lion's Club sells light bulbs and brooms, and we have national scholarships and local scholarships. We have had fund raisers ranging from horse shows in the late Fifties and Sixties. We now have three hundred and four members in the Columbia Rotary Club, and the Columbia Rotary Club was the only Rotary Club in Columbia until 1955 when, as we branched out, we formed the Five Points Rotary Club, the Forest Acres Rotary Club...we now have about eight clubs in the Columbia area.

[Tape stopped, then restarts.]

Boineau:The Better Business Bureau. As a member of the board, we tried to build a similar situation. But, when I worked full time for the Better Business Bureau after getting out of the moving business in '91, and '92, and '93, I was selling memberships to the Better Business Bureau. Of course, it's just exactly what it says. It's a bureau that has as its members the better businesses in the area. You

pay a fee to join and conduct yourself in the proper way. It primarily consists of small businesses, but there are some large businesses, too. For example, I think when I was with them we had fourteen hundred firms that were members of the Columbia Better Business Bureau. But the state Chamber of Commerce has three thousand members, and the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, since I'm not daily in touch with them, I don't know how many the Columbia chamber has. But I would say probably more than the Better Business Bureau.

Woods: Now we were talking a little bit about the Rotary Club and the civic responsibilities that they have, so is it safe to assume that the Rotary Club supported education and possibly economic growth, development of individuals...?

Boineau: Probably more of assistance to young people, in a scholarship way. We have foreign exchange students that go to foreign countries and Rotarians from foreign countries who come to America in an exchange-student capacity. The Columbia club, and I'm sure to some degree the other clubs, of course ours being the largest in the state, sponsor five college scholarships, full scholarships. Then on the national level, the Rotary Club has been the leading proponent in the abolition of polio. Rotary International has eradicated polio in the Western Hemisphere and in so doing has spent a staggering number of millions of dollars in doing it. From what we have been told, even in the Third World countries, the eradication of polio has been almost total, almost complete. So, I would say that if there's one thing Rotary has done internationally, that would be the leading thing I that can think of.

Woods: So, you were active in the Rotary Club and the Better Business Bureau and the Chamber of Commerce and all these at the time of the 1961 election?

Boineau: And before.

Woods: And before. I'm curious, other than the fact that your father suggested that you might want to get involved in this, what motivated you? A sense of civic responsibility?

Boineau: A sense of civic responsibility and, I guess, coming out of World War II...I was just thinking about today is the fiftieth anniversary of Roosevelt's death, and they always say you will remember exactly what you were doing, where you were when Jack Kennedy was assassinated, and when Roosevelt died; it was just like yesterday. But, anyhow, fifty years ago, I was in the service. I

had been married a month and two days. March the tenth was our wedding date and we were reforming a squadron in Cape May, New Jersey, and we were in Atlantic City, my bride and I, when we heard the terrible news. It was just like the Kennedy assassination. Roosevelt was just a tremendous father figure to all of us, in spite of the fact that subsequently I learned, as I told you last week, my father had broken with him in 1936 and in 1940 when he was one of less than two hundred South Carolinians who voted for Alf Landon, the Republican nominee, in 1936, and in 1940 for Wendell Willkie, the Republican nominee. But, there's no doubt about it, Daddy was a dedicated Roosevelt person. Everybody in the South, when Roosevelt came into office in 1932 — and I think I went into some depth last time — we were in Boykin, South Carolina, where my mother was trying to save our farm, plantation, from the Federal Land Bank for our grandmother, her mother, who was Bessie Cash Irby, who was the daughter of Colonel Ellerbee Bogan Crawford Cash, who fought the last duel in South Carolina.

Woods: I think that is really interesting.

Boineau: It really is interesting and it's fascinating because, as I mentioned at some point, they still had the anti-dueling oath that legislators had to take when I was sworn into office. But, they didn't make much of it, and I certainly wasn't going to remind them that I was the great-grandson of the last duelist.

I'm wandering, but I think that everybody that came out World War II are what we would say now are "over-achievers." You were motivated. I know that I was motivated to build a new warehouse, to have the best moving and storage company in Columbia and in South Carolina, to make a lot of money, and to do everything that I could civically. It didn't include politics, but politics were just part of the mix. We worked hard, we played hard, and such things as, well I was a member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the most outstanding man was chosen as Jaycee Young Man of the Year. I never made that, but we all were just hustling. We were very involved. Columbia was an all-American city on two occasions, I believe, or one occasion.

Woods: So, you had a concern to see the growth of people individually and of the city?

Boineau: Yes. And when good people ran and we didn't have but one party, Walter Bristow was our candidate. I went to his first campaign organizational meeting and his brother-in-law was Eston Marchant, who ended up as the Adjutant General. General Marchant didn't run in '94 for reelection, but he headed up the campaign when Walter was running for the South Carolina House of Representatives

in the 1950s. 1956 maybe. Maybe 1952. Two-year offices. And of course, he had opposition. He was one of the last to finally admit that we needed two parties. Walter would say, "We've got competition within the Democrat Party." The Democrat primary in June was tantamount to the election, so there was no general election. If you won the Democrat primary, the only opposition you'd have would be from somebody running as a petition candidate or write-in candidate.

Woods: Can describe a little bit more about the competition within the Democratic Party just before the emergence of...?

Boineau: Well, Walter and some others would have you believe that there was enough competition and their stock in trade was, "We don't need a second party. We've got competition right here among the Democrats." And they waged very fierce battles, but we felt — we being this organizing group — that we had to have competition. This is what our campaign revolved around, two-party politics, because although on the surface there was competition, once you were in the bag you were part of the good old boys system. And that was not right. The theme of our campaign was, "I'm in the moving and storage business, and if I didn't have any competition, I could run rough-shod over the people that I'm moving or my employees. But when there's competition, you've got to better than...and so it works out to the best of everyone involved." There were a lot of — I don't think that any of them are left now, unless Walter Bristow still hangs on — but a lot of South Carolinians, many nights, we'd stay up all night, drinking and arguing about the two-party system. One of the candidates in 1962, who's now deceased, killed with his wife and child flying a private plane, Alan Reyner, and somewhere along here — who are the people...I'd have to refer to that folder I gave you, because there were ten of us that were running — but Alan, and Walter Bristow, who by this time had become a state senator, and our three families lived within a hundred feet of each other out on West Buchanan...

Woods: This is the 1961...?

Boineau: 1961, 1962. We were all close. We had worked for Walter when he started to run for the House. After he served two or three terms in the House, we helped to get him elected to the South Carolina state Senate. But we all remained friends. And he would say, "Charlie and Alan, you all are just messing things up. We don't need a two-party system in Richland County." And that's when we would argue and argue, late into the night. But we convinced him that we did, and in 1962, we were wiped out, because in 1961 the race that I ran was one-on-one, me against Joe Berry.

Woods: And that was in a special election.

Boineau: A special election. August the eighth of '61. But we so alarmed the Democrats by my victory that they said — Walter was leading the charge — "This will not happen again in our lifetime. We will not let the Republicans win another race."

Our chief worker was Drake Edens, who I think I told you about last week, had inherited a lot of money and became chairman of the party following Robert Chapman. In talking to Hoover Blanton, two days ago, he said, "You know, Charlie, since Drake's death and over the years, I really realize now how much work he gave to the Republican Party. He was just obsessed with establishing a vigorous Republican party, and spent every waking hour organizing." First getting Bill Workman to change from a newspaper man to a Republican. And of course it didn't do any good unless you had an organization to support him. Starting in 1961 people said, "Oh, well Drake Edens was your campaign manager." He was not, but it wasn't because he didn't have the qualifications. He was a friend, and was vital in getting out the few votes that we got down in the lower part of the county, which was the bailiwick of Tom Elliott, who created the vacancy that I ran for.

Woods: So you're saying that Drake Edens...?

Boineau: Drake Edens worked on the campaign, but then, as soon as I got elected, he just became full-time, like I was telling Hoover. I remember our first meeting after August the eighth, 1961. We met at Lester Bates's, who was the Mayor of Columbia. He had started this supper club called Laurel Hill Supper Club, and had some of the name entertainers in America that would come through. It's now a Salvation Army motel. It's up on Assembly Street. But we sat and looked at each other, and they said, "Well, Charlie, now that we've won, what are you going to do?" I said, "Well, I don't know. What are we going to do?" I can remember going around the table, and Drake was there. And I probably, along with a lot of others, said, "You know, we are all up to our neck in business and Drake is fortunate enough to have his insurance." He became a general insurance agent with Bill Turbeville, who will appear later on. Edens-Turbeville Insurance Agency. "And he is the logical one to continue our fight."

Woods: At the state level, or...?

Boineau: At the county level. And from there he moved to the state level, just overnight, because

he said, "Hey! If we can elect you, Charlie, we can go big-time." And I said, "Fine." So our first job was to change Floyd Spence into a Republican, which we did. To get Bill Workman to agree to run for the U.S. Senate, and then to start organizing the state, and as such, we went all over the state. One of the first places that we organized in Charleston was — and I may have mentioned this, and excuse me for being so redundant — in Jim Edwards's chicken house. The man who became the first Republican governor since Reconstruction. He became governor in 1974.

Woods: I'm still interested in some of the issues around your 1961 election. Actually, you started talking about Drake Edens, and that he was involved in your campaign. After you were elected, did you have much contact with him?

Boineau: Daily. There was a group of us. Gayle Averyt was one of them. Howard Love was another. We traveled together; to the upper part of the state, to the Pee Dee, to Charleston. I remember so well the Charleston trip at James Island, because at that time Dr. James Edwards was an oral surgeon, and was interested in politics like us, but had not done anything about it. And didn't, for some years. But he was one of the organizing people in the Charleston area, to organize that precinct. And we'd do this traveling at night, after we got through work.

Woods: Is this after you were elected, or before?

Boineau: This is after I was elected. Because it was just a whirlwind, whirling dervish thing, from August of 1961 until the election of 1962. In addition to the people that I've mentioned, we had to find nine candidates in addition to me to run a full slate for the House of Representatives in November of 1962. This was before the full slate lawsuit, before we petitioned the Supreme Court. When we had our session, probably the first part of '62, or whenever, making plans for the 1962 elections, I said, "Now what is our thinking?" They said, "Well, we feel that the rate we are going, and in view of your stunning victory of last August, that Bill Workman can beat Olin Johnston." And I said, "You're wrong. That's impossible."

Woods: Why did you say that?

Boineau: Because I knew how entrenched the Democrat Party was, and Olin Johnston was one of the greatest constituent-serving office-holders. He had been governor of the state, and if you did

somebody a favor, then you've got them, unless you insult them or forget who they are. Olin Johnston came on the political scene in the early Thirties. He was governor; then he'd been [U.S.] senator for years and years and years. I said, "We cannot beat Olin Johnston." And they said, "Well, you said that we couldn't win with you." I said, "We're talking about a statewide race. And we don't have a Republican Party." We had a bunch of dedicated little old ladies in tennis shoes, and me, that didn't know what the hell we were doing, and so we won going away. We didn't know how it was going to work out. We had Dolly Hamby of the Bradley, Graham, and Hamby Advertising Agency. She was just wonderful. She just wrote the right speeches. It was her phrase, little old ladies in tennis shoes. I don't know whether she got it from a national thing or not.

But, at any rate, everybody was saying, "We can capture the Second District congressional race, because Charlie, your name has become so well known in the state and nationally, that you could run successfully against the incumbent, Albert Watson, who is a Democrat. He's talking like a Republican, but he's still a Democrat. But we're going to take Floyd Spence, and change him into a Republican, and run him against Albert Watson, because he's from Lexington County." And I said, "Well, what am I going to do?" Like, "I've had enough politics. I need to get back to the moving business." I had this wonderful business partner, Ed Boineau. They said, "You're going to lead the House slate back in." I said, "Oh, boy. We are not going to be able to win. We'll be lucky if we win one or two seats." They said, "Oh, no. Gosh, look how you beat Joe Berry. We can certainly win with ten full candidates."

Well, it was growing pains. But as Hoover Blanton said, Drake was obsessed, and he was successful. He was like a holy roller preacher. He would conduct these meetings, and tears would come to his eyes. And he wasn't putting on, he was serious about it. His wife was a Marine — they met during World War II — she was a female Marine. They just were on fire to start a second party. His father had come up the hard way, and scratched his way up, and become a millionaire through hard work. Subsequently I found out that the hard work was caused because he started this little grocery store down in the mill village down here. It was called Edens Food Store. He had terrible rheumatoid arthritis in his middle years, right after he got the company started. By the time he died, he was old-looking. And Drake inherited it. The outward appearance was like Dick Riley. You know how stooped Dick Riley is. Probably the same family of diseases, but Dick doesn't have the pain. And I don't know whether Drake had that much pain, but Mr. Edens, Drake Edens Sr., they said he couldn't sleep the pain was so bad. So he would go down to his little grocery store in the middle of the night and mark down the prices and mark up the prices.

He had a friend named Ed Ebert, and he saw competition, so he started a store right across the street in the mill village called the Dixie Home Store. And they fought like the two-party system. They

were so successful that they formed a grocery chain that went statewide. Dixie Home Store and Edens Food Store. And somewhere in the Fifties they merged, and became Winn-Lovitt first, and then from Winn-Lovitt became Winn-Dixie. So this is where their money came from. But he never threw his money around. He was never ostentatious.

[Tape 2, Side 1 Ends. Side 2 Begins]

Woods: When did you first meet him? Was it in 1961?

Boineau: I think as a businessman in a small town, we knew each other. We were not members of the same civic club that I can recall, but of course you knew everybody practically in town. Our paths crossed back and forth with the work that we did for the Columbia Chamber and the Better Business Bureau. I didn't remember Drake being as active as I was with the Democrat candidates, but as I'd mentioned earlier, we evolved from the Dixiecrat party. I was not an active member of the Dixiecrats.

Woods: You were not?

Boineau: No. Although we supported Strom Thurmond for the Presidency, like everybody in South Carolina, because they didn't know any better. He'd been a good governor. He really had been a good governor, and he and the other Southern Democrats walked out of the national Democrat convention in 1948.

Woods: And that's when he created the States' Rights Party?

Boineau: That's right, yeah. Which was called the Dixiecrats. Then in '52 we had the South Carolinians for Eisenhower. In '56 it may have been....

Up until that time we had never had a national candidate from the Democrat or the national Republican Party — nominee from either party — really pay much attention to South Carolina. Because the Democrats considered, "South Carolina is in our pocket. We don't need to spend money and time in South Carolina." And of course the Republicans knowing that...until Eisenhower came along in 1952; he came to South Carolina. And we watched him from the old Columbia Hotel, where the AT&T building now stands. And they had fifty or sixty thousand people all over the...they spoke from the State House steps, in 1952. And he was elected over Adlai Stevenson. And Adlai Stevenson

in 1956 was another sacrificial lamb for the Democrats, because "I Like Ike" and he was such a popular World War II hero. So we were still not Republicans until 1960, when Greg Shorey was the chairman of the Republican Party.

Woods: Is 1960 about the year when the Republican Party came into their own here in South Carolina?

Boineau: Right.

Woods: And Drake Edens was involved in that also...?

Boineau: Drake Edens was involved. He was ahead of me. He was involved. Greg Shorey was involved. Bob Chapman was involved. Tucker Weston, I don't think...we were "The Citadel Mafia" about that time, helping Fritz. So in 1960, Frank Sloan, who was Attorney General here in South Carolina, was able to deliver South Carolina to Jack Kennedy. As I recall, they defeated Nixon in 1960 in South Carolina by less than fifteen thousand votes. So it was that close. And it was close in other places. Supposedly, John Daley, who was then the mayor of Chicago, voted all these dead bodies, and just squeaked through for Jack Kennedy in 1960 in Illinois.

Woods: You said that after you were elected in your special election in August, that you and Drake Edens and a number of other people toured the state. Were you trying to build Republican parties in all the counties?

Boineau: To organize them, right. It was virtually impossible to organize some of them, because the lingering feeling was still there.

In my election, in July, which was a special six weeks election, Drake Edens on one occasion on a Saturday afternoon said, "Charlie, we've got to go down to the lower part of the county. On Saturday afternoon we're going down there, because all these farmers, they don't work on Saturday afternoon, and they congregate in these little country stores." And so Drake and I headed out. I never will forget; we came to this little store in Eastover. Country store. Typical store, with a gas pump out front. And all these farmers were sitting around in this country store.

Drake knew them, but we paused at the door and overheard one of them say — I'm going to use some bad words here — "If that g-d- Republican shows his face down here, we'll kill him." I said,

"Drake, what now?" He said, "I don't know, Charlie." So I just burst in, and I said, "I'm that g-d-Republican." And it broke the ice. And I said, "All this stuff that you're hearing about me being the great-grandson of the slave-owner, Colonel Ellerbee Bogan Crawford Cash, who killed his slaves and ate them for breakfast, it just ain't so." My great-grandfather did have slaves and lived in Cheraw, and had a very wonderful record as a general in the Civil War. When he got back he freed all of his slaves. There was a great body of land. I think he had over a hundred slaves, and ten thousand acres of land.

And then this place that we went to in Camden, that was part of the Cash and Ellerbee fortune, where my grandmother inherited another great big plantation. She just ran through with everything. But, so I say, if my great-grandfather had not been successful in this duel, I wouldn't be living. And if my grandmother hadn't spent all the money, I probably wouldn't have ever gotten into politics. I'd of been clipping coupons, or riding horses on the farm.

But everybody lost everything during the Civil War. The War Between the States. Anytime I would say "Civil" in school, "What was civil about it? There was nothing civil. It was the War of Northern Aggression. It was blah, blah, blah." And my grandmother...the word Abraham Lincoln, and Sherman, were just such an ----. When I was running in '61, and when I was elected, so many people said, "Lord. Your forbearers are spinning in their graves that you're a Republican." So that's the way it was.

But, at any rate, we were trying to organize the state. You organized a precinct, and then from the precinct you organized the county. Of the forty-six counties, in 1962 — and these are in some records I'm sure — we didn't have organizations in half of them when Bill Workman was running statewide against Olin Johnston.

Woods: So when you say you were trying to organize the Republican Party in the counties, were you trying to set up the rules and by-laws and committee people...?

Boineau: Right. County chairmen. Precinct chairmen. Executive committeemen. It was just slow-going, because of the things that I've mentioned. So by 1962, the most remarkable thing was Drake in all of his fervor, with the help of Roger Milliken's money, we did the impossible when Bill Workman garnered forty-three per cent of the vote against Olin Johnston. In that same year, in the Democrat primary, Fritz Hollings, running against Olin Johnston, got about twenty-four or five per cent of the vote. He lost badly to Olin Johnston. This was another reason that I said, "Drake, we can't win this race, but I think it's wonderful and this is the only way we're going to get the thing started." Bill Workman was just a fabulous candidate. You have some of his papers don't you?

Woods: Yes, we do. But was your 1962 campaign and Workman's and Spence's, all tied together as...?

Boineau: Right. We ran as a team. So the people who were voting for Bill Workman also, in the Second District, were voting for Floyd Spence. We had the most Republican district in the state at that time, because of my election in '61.

Albert Watson, who subsequently, in '64, resigned — he was elected in '62 over Floyd Spence — his seat and changed parties, and ran as a Republican. He had told the folks if they voted for him in '62 as a Democrat, he would give up his seat and come back and run as a Republican. That had tremendous appeal. A lot of people said, "Well, he's an opportunist. He hasn't got guts enough to do what Floyd Spence and Charlie Boineau have done. He's not going to run as a Republican. He's going to see how this thing comes out, and then he's going to change parties." But the national Democrat Party, when he got to Washington and was making noises about resigning his seat to become a Republican, they said, "You're losing all of your committee assignments. You're not going to serve with us in Washington as a Republican-talking Democrat." So that's when he resigned.

And you see it was in 1964 that Strom saw the tide going. So three years after my election, he became a Republican and endorsed Barry Goldwater, in '64.

Woods: Wasn't Strom Thurmond...he was very conservative. Weren't you somehow admiring of him in 1961?

Boineau: I guess I used the States' Rights, the conservative pitch, of Strom Thurmond. Because Strom Thurmond's successful 1954 race had been engineered by the same Dolly Hamby. This was her first foray into managing a political campaign.

Woods: And this is Dolly Hamby of Bradley...?

Boineau: Of Bradley, Graham, and Hamby. And to my knowledge, is the only survivor of that firm.

Woods: And this is an advertising firm?

Boineau: Advertising agency. She's the one that Gayle Averyt and Howard Love, two of my people — and I don't mean they were my people, they were associates of mine, who encouraged me to run — had been talking to Dolly about writing a book. And when I last talked to Dolly — I was talking to her about coming down here, six months ago — I said, "Do you have any of the material on the Boineau-Berry race?" And she said, "You know, we had it all packed up and labeled 'Boineau Race.' And your movers, when they moved our office, apparently thought that it was trash or something, and we lost it all."

Woods: The Richland County Republicans, or even the Republican Party, met in March, possibly, of 1961, and then somehow approached you in June to run as a candidate for special election?

Boineau: Right. July. The office didn't become open until Joe Berry Sr., who was the Richland County Treasurer, died in office. And Tom Elliott, who was a Richland County House member and was power in the Richland County Democrat Party, in the executive committee said, "Hey! This is a chance for us to not even have an election. The executive committee will" — and did — "appoint Tom Elliott to fill out the rest of the term of Joe Berry Sr." And they said, "What a natural it would be to have Joe Berry Jr. If we have to have a race, we'll run him."

You reminded me that there was a man that stepped forward, Hanahan, and ran as an Independent. It was then that the little Republican group that I was in said, "Hey, this is our chance." My wife and I were on vacation, and they drew a short straw for me. And I said, "No, I can't run. Good grief." They said, "Yeah, well, we'll come around to your house, and by the time we liquor you up, you'll agree." So they came, and they kept saying, "We've all been talking, talking, talking about two-party politics, about the Republican Party. Now it's time for you to put up or shut up."

And I said, "Well, I've got to ask some of the people that I'm close to who are Democrats. I've got to ask my internist because I've got high blood pressure. And then I've got to ask my roommate at The Citadel, who went through the Naval Air Corps with me, Eli Walker, who's a sitting House member." So I made these calls that very night, and I said, "Eli, we're going to run against Joe Berry." And I'll never forget it, he said, "Who is 'we,' Charlie?" And I said, "We've got a Republican group here." He said, "There's nobody in the state of South Carolina, not even Jimmy Byrnes, who could run successfully against Joe Berry." And by that time I'd had two or three drinks. He said, "Who is the candidate?" I said, "I am." And he just went into hysterics. So when we won, it was just unbelievable.

Woods: When did Dolly Hamby get involved in your campaign?

Boineau: After they got me to agree. We sat down with Dolly and we said, "We don't know what to do about this." The Richland County Republican Women, I think, took us to Dolly Hamby. The first precinct meeting I went to was the Richland County Republican Women. And, as I said, I didn't know how to spell "precinct." But it was only a six-week race. So the first thing that happened was we laid out how we were going to work this, and Dolly engineered the whole thing, and told us what to do and how to come across in the media. It became more than a little local House race, we were on television. And that's when I didn't know where all the money came from, the morning of the race, on August the eighth, when I heard that we had spent \$10,000. It scared me to death.

Woods: What was her plan to promote you and Republican...?

Boineau: Conservatism, two-party politics, and the speech that she wrote for us to deliver at the nominating convention that's entitled, "Boineau, Conservatism, and You."

Woods: Did you have any input into that speech?

Boineau: Right. Because she just put in a captivating fashion. We had been saying this; that we needed two parties; that it was ridiculous that the Kennedy clan was acting as they were. At Mount Vernon, having cocktail parties with Frank Sinatra and Peter Lawford and Sammy Davis Jr., the "Rat Pack." They were just running amok. This was right before the Bay of Pigs fiasco in '62.

We were saying, "What sense does it make to send our tax money to Washington, and they put it through all of this bureaucracy, and South Carolina gets it back in diminished amount? We're working in the wrong direction. And here the Freedom Riders are coming into the South to tell us what to do." This hawked against Martin Luther King, which all came about in 1962. Selma. 1964.

Dolly Hamby...and this is where I think it would be so advantageous to talk to her about the nuts and bolts. Some of the ads that you have categorized...Joe Berry, his firm was using an advertising agency, and I think they fired the first shot by saying, "Who's kidding who? Joe Berry is a conservative. What's this upstart Republican Party with Charlie Boineau? Who is kidding who?" And Dolly's fertile mind came out with a rebuttal. I didn't even understand the nuances, but she said, "You know, what they are saying is... 'who' is wrong. That's the wrong tense of the word." So our ad said, "Whom is kidding whom?" And I said, "Well, you know, Dolly, maybe that's going to fly with some of our Forest Lake Country Club group, but it doesn't mean a damn thing to me. 'Who is kidding who'

seems all right." But anyhow, little nuances like that.

I remember our first television appearance; it was a three-way debate. We had a critique at her house. The three of them were together, Dolly Hamby, and Cora Graham, and our group. We didn't have the tape facilities, but they were going to critique what happened. They'd say, "Charlie, you have got to learn to look at the camera. Now if you don't look at the camera...we got beat tonight by Hanahan. Joe Berry didn't know how to look at the camera. All you've got to do is when the red light comes on, you look right at the camera and smile." So little things like that, where she had been successful, from 1954 on, in running successful political campaigns. And she gathered so much momentum in 1961 with my race that she signed on with Fritz Hollings and defeated Donald Russell in the primary. Then she took Donald Russell and defeated everybody in sight when he became governor. So she could do Democrats, Republicans, and it's fascinating what she was able to do. She's a very bright person. Cora Graham and Jane Bradley are both deceased.

Woods: You said that Joe Berry used the argument that he was a conservative. Didn't you counter-charge with, "What is a conservative? He says he's a conservative, but in essence he's not"?

Boineau: Right. "He's part of the liberal establishment. He may say he's a conservative. He may say that we don't need two parties in South Carolina, but we do. We need competition. I have competition in my moving business. We have competition in retail stores. So, what is wrong with having competition? It makes for better government."

But I think the real thing was — and I hate to be flip about it — the dedicated women. There were a lot of older, Democrat women that came over to our side of this campaign. There were those who said, "Oh, it's just a personality race between Charlie and Joe, and Charlie is a little savvy because he's been off as a famous World War II hero, and he's thirty-seven years old. Poor Joe is in his twenties. It's a personality thing." I didn't buy that.

We [Boineau and Joe Berry] would have a drink to celebrate August the eighth each year, because we remained friends. As a matter of fact, during the campaign, Joe was then married to a Canadian girl who just thought this was terrible that Joe had gotten into politics as a young attorney. She wouldn't come to the studio with him as my wife, Beverley, would. Beverley would help put on makeup for the television cameras and then make Joe up. [At one of Boineau's and Berry's reunions years later] Joe said, "I would have been nothing more than a lowly Democrat hack had I won that race. I'd be in the House, but being the first Democrat defeated in this century, just like you were the first Republican to win, I got the inordinate amount of publicity. And my law practice...I am making so

much money I can't believe it. I became more famous than you."

[Tape 2 ends. Tape 3, Side 1 begins]

Woods: I found a quote in a letter by Colonel Gus A. Shattenburg, who was Second Vice-Chairman of the Richland County Republicans in the Sixties. It's in your papers, and actually the letter was addressed to Dolly Hamby and it was copied to you. In it, he wanted to thank Dolly Hamby for "running a successful and clean campaign for Charles Boineau." What do you think he meant by "clean campaign"?

Boineau: Well, we just kept it on a high plane. The one thing that was interesting about politics in the South in one-party times was since they could not emphasize competition as such party-wise — they couldn't say, "Now the Democrat Party can do this and these are our beliefs" — in one-party politics you had to attack the candidate for something that he had personally done. You had to draw a big distinction between what his past had been and your past.

It became almost, before the days of television... You've probably heard of the Gallivant's stump meeting, that's now a hundred years old; that was held every year at Gallivant's Ferry near Myrtle Beach. And it's still held. These stump meetings, or campaign appearances, really took on the aura of a religious campground meeting, where the politicians got up and lambasted each other. Because they couldn't say, "I'm a Republican" or "I'm a Democrat," they'd just say, "His father was so-and-so and so-and-so."

In our campaign, there was none of this. Shattenburg was probably alluding to the fact that we did not have to say about Joe Berry, that his father was part of the good old boys system, that Tom Elliott was a "Boss Hogg," which he was called later on. We were running against the national Democrat Party and Jack Kennedy. Joe Berry didn't have a comparable platform to run with, and that was probably why Fritz Hollings, in an effort to help him, said, "We don't need Charlie Boineau being endorsed by Barry Goldwater, a Republican out of Arizona, or John Tower, a Republican out of Texas. This is a race against a great, young man, Joe Berry Jr., son of a state senator, son of our county treasurer, who died in office. What is Charlie Boineau? What kind of basis does he run on? All he's talking about is Sammy Davis Jr. and cocktail parties on the lawn of Mount Vernon."

So that was a high-type campaign, and I don't think that it ever entered our head that that was necessary. We got great support, a groundswell, and the campaign lasted only six weeks. So it began, and there's a date on that speech that I made at the nominating convention in July, "Boineau,

Conservatism, and You." So from July the seventeenth, when we officially kicked off the campaign, until August the eighth. It was a whirlwind campaign.

Woods: So your 1961 campaign could probably be summed up in running against the Kennedys, big spending, big government...?

Boineau: Big Brother. Federal spending. Intrusion into states' rights.

Woods: I was wondering about some of the local issues, maybe. Did those come up?

Boineau: Local issues did not come up in '61.

Woods: Did you follow the 1960 Republican platform, favoring...?

Boineau: I don't know that we did in '61. '61 was just a hybrid, sort of special election. Special in every way. Special because it was the first race for the House that a Republican had run in South Carolina. I think we subsequently found out that there was a local race in Clemson, where a Mr. Leon Crawford, a Republican, was elected as mayor of Clemson. Well, Clemson, the university, is a town of probably three or four hundred people. And he was probably the first recorded elected Republican official in this century. Of course, I was touted as the first elected to the House of Representatives. And that is documented by the historians. That other, previous Republican House member was elected from Beaufort, South Carolina, in 1898. Served into 1900 or 1901. He was an African-American.

Woods: I had one other question of 1961. Was there any argument or campaign rhetoric or anything regarding the 1961 Residency Requirement Bill for voting?

Boineau: It was talked about, and it was part of our platform. I feel — and this is a recollection — it wasn't the thing that turned the issue. Because I think at that time there was a three-year residency requirement. Or a year, or two. It was absurd, because here we were getting all this industry into South Carolina, thanks to Fritz Hollings, who was governor, and they were disfranchised for the first couple of years. They couldn't participate. By and large, the majority of them were coming from two-party states, and wanted to vote Republican. But they were disfranchised. You couldn't go into a polling booth...because if you said, "I want a Republican ballot," everybody would jump up and said, "Oh, look

at that. Oh, he's a carpetbagger."

Woods: Your 1961 victory attracted national attention, and...?

Boineau: All out of proportion.

Woods: Well, I found a letter in 1961 that Senator Barry Goldwater wrote. He wrote, "You did it! You will go down in history as the first Republican to crack the solid ranks of Democrats in South Carolina, and some day, whether you know it or not, your victory will mark the turning point in not only the political, but the economic direction of your state." Now what is your assessment...?

Boineau: Oh, he was my hero. You have in here, "Who was your mentor?" Well, he had become my mentor, because in 1960, at the Republican National Convention...the race down to the wire, which we watched on television, because these were the first years that the national conventions were televised. Never will forget it. Beverley and I were watching it, and it was so emotional. Richard Nixon won the nomination at that convention, and the conservative wing of the party was pushing Barry Goldwater. And he went to the podium, and said, "This is not our year. I'm going to ask all of the delegates who voted for me in the first ballot..."

[Tape stopped, then restarts.]

Woods: We were interrupted here. We were talking about Goldwater at the 1960 national convention, in that he made a speech...?

Boineau: I was saying that he was certainly an early mentor, and the most outstanding Republican that I knew. At the national Republican Convention of 1960, Hoover Blanton, who I've just talked to on the telephone, who had come into the Republican Party at the same time, reminded me that the fledgling Richland County Richland County Republican Party had, as their keynote speaker, Barry Goldwater in 1960. It may have been a state convention, or it may have been a county convention — but the executive committee in 1960 said, "You're going to be our candidate in 1964. We pledge you our undying support."

Woods: The Richland County...?

Boineau: It may have been the Richland County, or it may have been the South Carolina Republican Party. This was under the chairmanship of Greg Shorey. And so I said, "When did Greg Shorey cease to be the Republican chairman, and Robert Chapman, who we have speeches on, become the chairman?" Because Robert Chapman was the chairman of the South Carolina party when I ran in '61. "When did the office change?" And Hoover was saying there were two or three entities. Like the Democrats for Nixon-Lodge, and then there was the Republican Party, and they were all vying for the same thing, but they were not unified. Roger Milliken was in the midst of this, to try to convert these Democrats for Nixon-Lodge into a viable South Carolina Republican Party.

Probably that was the reason that Barry Goldwater came to South Carolina, to speak to either the state convention or the county convention. And then when he said, "I'm releasing my votes" at the national convention, "We conservatives will come back another time. We will make our stand. Let's all work for the election of Richard Nixon." So in 1960, it was the Nixon-Kennedy race, and of course the great televised debate which made Nixon look so bad and Kennedy so youthful and vibrant.

But out of that...you had mentioned on the tape that Barry Goldwater had written me a letter, which I'm very proud of. Before he wrote that letter, Dolly Hamby and Gayle Averyt and Howard Love and Bill Cassells...I hadn't mentioned Bill Cassells. He's the Chairman of the Board of Southeastern Motor Freight Line. He arranged for he and myself to go to Washington, and had pictures made of me with Senator Goldwater and newly-elected senator John Tower. Dolly Hamby was instrumental in doing this, because Harry Dent was then on the staff of Strom Thurmond in Washington, and it was just amazing that Bill and I flew up to Washington and were able to have these pictures made, to even have a photo op with Barry Goldwater and John Tower in their respective offices, on such short notice, on the same day, within two or three hours of each other.

Woods: Was that the first time you met Goldwater?

Boineau: First time that I had met Goldwater, and John Tower. That's where those pictures came from. We used those pictures prominently in '61, and in my campaign folder in '62, and in my campaign folder in '64. We used Goldwater, because Goldwater was the candidate of the Confederate states in '64, when he got the twenty-five million votes.

Woods: What do you think about his statement that your victory will mark the turning point in the political direction of the state?

Boineau: Well, the amazing thing to me, Wilma, is that thirty-four years after the fact, I had people -- some that I'd known -- who remember this election. It's absolutely astounding to me when they will say, for whatever reason, "Oh, you were the first Republican elected in this state. You're in all the history books." Of course, it's very ego-inflating that they would remember. It seemed that the more important the people were on the national scene, the more down-to-earth they were. I met little state office holders in other states, because I was on the Speakers' Bureau for the Republican National Committee. And then on the national scene, to be on a first-name basis with people like Barry Goldwater and John Tower, and on the other side, the liberal side, with Nelson Rockefeller, and Howard Baker's father-in-law, Everett Dirksen — some of those great, big, towering national figures — it was just a revelation and quite a privilege to come to know them.

Woods: How is it that Barry Goldwater sent you a letter in August [1961] when you...?

Boineau: When I won, right. And the night that I was elected, I got a telephone call from John Tower. It was just astounding, it really was. Of course Barry Goldwater and John Tower knew exactly what I was running for, so there wasn't this distortion, which I mentioned. In the national news media, there was some distortion. In *U.S. News & World Report*, there's a little blurb in there about "Republican Wins in South Carolina." I really think that they thought that I had won a national office, and not just a local office. Some of the papers, the A.P. wire and the United Press wire, that ran the pictures of us, I think there was some confusion. Somebody told me subsequently, they said, "You know, there wasn't anything going on in the world, Charlie, on August the eighth." It was a week a before they put up the Berlin Wall. There was just a lull in the news. This was a catchy thing: "White Republican Wins in South Carolina." "Republican Wins in South Carolina. First Time in This Century." It made news. The Coker family, who were going around the world, and bought this newspaper in Delhi, India, and it was on the front page of the Paris edition of the *New York Times*. And they clipped it and sent it to me.

Woods: Do you feel that your election to the South Carolina House truly marked the emergence of the two-party system in South Carolina?

Boineau: Yes, I do. Egotistically, or whatever, I do. I think that we really turned the corner. Not because of me, but because the movement was born, and the people that made this possible carried the

Republican Party into the modern era. We had some setbacks in the Sixties. We had Tom Turnipseed, who came out of Alabama as a fund-raiser for George Wallace. He tried to insinuate himself into the Republican Party. That was a setback for us, but we were able to ward him off. Strom Thurmond saw the tide moving and joined the party in 1964. That gave us a lot of growth.

Woods: So, basically, the time was right.

Boineau: The time was right. I was in the right place at the right time, and was lucky to be chosen. And, egotistically, I was an adept pupil of Dolly Hamby, in how to become a television personality, and made the most of it.

Woods: I found this quote in the *Columbia State* newspaper, August tenth, '61. In that, Representative Joe Hart of Union, South Carolina, stated that there were "many Republicans in the legislature masquerading as Democrats. Perhaps some of these camouflaged Republicans will have the courage to fly their true colors." This was in response to your election. Did you find that essentially to be true?

Boineau: Sure did. Once I was elected, it became easier for them to say. Joe Hart was probably one of the last hold-outs. He did not come over to the Republican Party. We didn't have any mass exodus in the House of Representatives. Six months after I was elected — I was elected in August; maybe it wasn't six months — Fred Worsham, from Charleston, was elected as the second Republican. So our growth was....

Woods: It doubled!

Boineau: Doubled, right. We didn't have any mass exodus, but the people, in the Richland County delegation, that I sat with — many who are deceased now — voted exactly the same way that I did. They were conservative South Carolina Jeffersonian Democrats. They were saying, "We don't need two parties." They were like Walter Bristow: "Why are you upsetting the apple cart? We need to keep this in our own bailiwick." This was a mindset that came about because of the bad name that the Republican Party gained when they raped the South after the War Between the States, what made my grandmother just absolutely abhor everything Republican. Abraham Lincoln was the focal point...Sherman and Abraham Lincoln were on a level as two devils.

[Tape 3, Side 1 ends Side 2 is blank. Tape 4, Side 1, April 14, 1995 begins]

Woods: We were beginning to talk about your activities in the House of Representatives...Joe Hart had stated that there were many Republicans in the legislature masquerading as Democrats.

Boineau: Joe Hart, despite what he said, remained a Democrat his entire political life, I think. I don't know how long he served in the House after '61. Like so many Democrats, he termed himself as a Jeffersonian Democrat, and that made all of them vote in a very conservative fashion. There were few, if any, liberals in the South Carolina House of Representatives or the South Carolina State Senate in 1961 and '62, when I was there.

Woods: How do you define "liberal?" Were there many people in the state legislature that supported Kennedy?

Boineau: Oh yes, I think there were quite a few. But Kennedy didn't come across as a screaming liberal. As a matter of fact, from my limited knowledge of the Kennedy family, Ambassador Joe Kennedy was a Republican, a very staunch Republican, and had a falling-out with somebody. It may have been Roosevelt. They tussled somewhere along the line. Joe Kennedy Sr. was, from my limited knowledge of history, ambassador to the Court of Saint James during World War II, right at the beginning of World War II. From the little bit that I've read, he was a Nazi sympathizer and had a real tough go with Roosevelt, who I think pulled him back as an ambassador. When he was sympathizing with the Nazis, I understand that he was very sympathetic to the isolationist movement. It was peopled by a great many Republicans, national Republicans. But I'm wandering away.

I would think that a great many senators and House members in South Carolina were Kennedy supporters. So, my definition of a "liberal" is what we have there now, who is entirely in favor of all of the welfare programs, who is against the "three strikes and you're out," and who just feels that people should not be punished when they perform improperly. The fights that are going on there now are...well, I just can't express myself.

Woods: Maybe part of your definition of a liberal — and you can correct me if I'm wrong — is that too much government intervention in the lives of the people...?

Boineau: Correct. That government can do it, and that the people don't have sense enough to do it for themselves: "If government collects the taxes and runs it through the bureaucracy, and doles it out to the people; that's preferable." It's the exact opposite of the Republican credo that believes that the less government we have will give you the initiative to help yourself; the better off we are.

Woods: I found a news clip in your papers about your first day on the job, as the lone Republican in the South Carolina House. In it, you said something to the effect that you thought you were in a fishbowl and that actually you were very quiet your first day on the job. You basically said five words, and that was in response to some votes. Can you comment? Is that your impression of your first day?

Boineau: Absolutely. I tried to be very quiet and not flamboyant. I was sworn in by then-Secretary of State Frank Thorton, and this is an interesting sidelight. The day that I was sworn in, in late August or early September — of course, the General Assembly was not in session — and in the halls of the House the day I was sworn in... there were four of us: the Secretary of State, my then-wife, and my eleven-year-old daughter, and State Senator Joe Wilson, who was fourteen at the time, who is my cousin, and who is now a very outstanding state senator from Lexington County. And he said to me, then, "Cousin Charlie, I hope to be the first Republican governor in this state." He probably would have been had things not taken such a turn, because he is now a state senator.

This past February, he was kind enough to invite me to come into the halls of the House, which I hadn't been back into since I was there in '61 and '62, for the swearing in of the Lexington delegation. When he introduced me — the chamber was filled, the gallery was filled, because they were swearing in the entire Lexington delegation — he introduced me on the basis of, "The last time Charlie and I were in here, I was fourteen, and there weren't but three or four of us. Now this place is filled with families, and friends, and daughters, and fathers of all of the Republican House members." David Wilkins, the new Speaker of the House, was there and was swearing in the delegation. So, it really was interesting. They made a picture of me and Wilkins and Joe.

Woods: Now you said that you remained basically quiet while you were in the legislature. Why is that?

Boineau: I feel that we made more headway by being quiet than being flamboyant and boisterous. The day I entered...and I know that account, because it was written by Bert Loonan, who I ran into the other day. There are two pictures: one of me hanging up my coat, and one of me talking with a seat

mate. There was so much publicity about my winning that when I went into the House that day — and I think this is reported in that article — there were camera people...not to the extent that we have now, because they didn't have tape machines. There were noisy cameras, and all the attendant flash bulbs. Back about thirty-four years ago the cameras were these great, big news photographer things. And all of the hoopla, and I just realized that the quicker I could get to my assigned place, and get there quietly...it would have offended anyone to have somebody come in strutting around like a Carolina gamecock, with his chest all stuck out.

As a consequence, the reception that I had was overwhelming. I've often wondered how genuine this was, whether they were motivated by saying, "Hey! This is the Republican tide coming. We'd better cozy up to Charlie Boineau" or whether it was because I was trying to act in a respectable way. So, to further answer your question, why was I quiet, we didn't feel...and I was being guided, because, you understand, my involvement with politics up until this race was what I observed in the newspaper. I didn't even know how to spell "precinct," as I've repeated. But it served us well. ~~The~~ were a few diehards that would have liked for me to get to the podium, stand up on my desk, holler "bloody murder," but the things that we did, I thought, were very responsible.

Like the loyalty oath. The loyalty oath was designed, like so many other things, to maintain the one-party state. In talking to the attorney the other day, Hoover Blanton, who was also a 1962 candidate, he said, "Charlie, you know I can't remember whether it died a natural death or what." But it was designed to maintain the one-party state. When he learned that Hoover was running for the House as a Republican in 1962, Gus Black, came to him and said, "Hoover, you know I would like to vote for you. We have been closely associated legally, as fellow lawyers and members of the Bar. If it weren't this damn loyalty oath, I would vote for you." Hoover said, "Oh, that's all right, Gus. I understand."

But

it wasn't all right, because what it said was, you took an oath when you went into the primary, saying, "I will support the nominees of this party in any subsequent run-offs and elections." So, if you took the loyalty oath, you had to support the party of that candidate in the general election. You couldn't change and vote for Eisenhower if you had voted for Kennedy in the primary, because we were a one-party state. So the loyalty oath was one of the things that was responsible. As Hoover said, "Charlie, I really don't know. Maybe with the advent of the Republican Party, it just died a natural death. They didn't want to force it."

Just like I was asked by somebody recently, "Charlie, I understand you voted for putting the flag up in 1962. Tell me about that." I said, "Well, I have no recollection of it, and you can call half a dozen members and they probably won't remember it either." It was a concurrent resolution, introduced

by great Colonel May, who was a member of the House at that time, asking that it be hoisted as recognition of the one hundred years since 1862. We didn't actually vote on it. It was one of those things, like so many — they had a name for them: "rabbits" — that just silently went through.

Woods: Was there no opposition?

Boineau: No. It was not even referred to a committee. The usual thing is if somebody introduces a resolution, it's referred by the Speaker to the proper committee. The two committees that I served on, as you have noted, were Agriculture and Labor, Commerce, and Industry. It could even be killed when it's introduced, when it's read, by ten members standing and objecting. Then, it doesn't even move from there. And, of course, most certainly that would happen on anything as controversial today. But the tenor of the times... and Colonel John May, I'm sure the last thing he thought about was that he was hurting the dedicated colored people, which we called them then.

Woods: I understand that in 1962 you proposed an amendment to the state's loyalty oath?

Boineau: Yeah. Now that's what I asked Hoover about, and he couldn't help me.

Woods: I wasn't quite sure about the ramifications and what-not myself, but I was hoping for clarification here.

Boineau: I can't help you. The people who drafted the bills were the Legislative Council, headed up a Marine pilot, General Merritt. You would just tell him in plain English what you wanted to you, and he would prepare the legislation for you. Now this was apparently the amendment to the loyalty oath. He was a state employee, and he was part of the apparatus of the House and the Senate. The office still remains there. He was a retired Marine general. Lewis Merritt. I'm sure that he was a Democrat, but he was very sympathetic. He was non-partisan. Us laymen, we would say, "General Merritt, I want you to draft something about this so-and-so and so-and-so." And, of course, he had lawyers on his staff that would draft it properly. If you need to look that up, the person who followed him, and who has just retired, was a young man at the time, and I saw him the other day and we reminisced about the '61 and '62...He was on General Merritt's staff; Tom Linton. He held that job, as legislative draftsman, from the time Lewis Merritt retired, until two or three years ago. Thomas Linton. So, that's how the amendment was done, but as Hoover said, "Charlie, I don't remember what ever

happened to it."

Woods: I think that it did not pass. If I remember correctly from what I read, not as much was accomplished in the 1962 legislature that even the Democrats had hoped.

Boineau: It was Fritz Hollings' last year. I was there for his State-of-the-State Address in January of '62. I ran across a picture taken from the gallery, and I'm in that particular picture. I'll bring that down here to put with the other things.

Woods: At the time you donated your papers, you made a comment that when you were in office, and if a constituent called you and asked you what you had done for him that day, you stated that you said, "I've survived." I thought that was interesting, since you were the lone Republican in the House. Did you feel overwhelmed?

Boineau: No, I think that was just a catch-phrase that they liked to hear. As I say, some of my constituents would say, "Why didn't you jump up and down and scream?" As a business person, by 1961, I had a member of the business community of the county and of the state for sixteen years, I knew these people. I was a constituent of theirs and had asked many of them to help our industry, the moving and storage and trucking industry, in legislation. I would see them socially. I did go into the House before I was elected, as just a John Q. Citizen. So I knew a great many of these. South Carolina, being a small state, I had been at The Citadel with some of them. I had served in the war with some of them.

So, to make the statement, "I've survived," was to connote that, as the only Republican among one hundred and sixty-nine Democrats — and, of course, that's the Senate and the House, for a total of one hundred and seventy — it was an awesome, one-sided thing. But these people were not out to destroy me.

It was so much better working with them when I wasn't cock-sure, and, "Look at me. Look at us. You'd better get on the bandwagon, because this state is going to flip-flop and you don't stand a chance. The Democrat Party is a thing of the past." Maybe I was more of a diplomat than I was a House member. But I was a diplomat for the Republican Party, because we needed all the help we could get. And some of those members did come over and change parties.

Woods: Could you describe a typical day in the House? What was your schedule? What kinds of issues/concerns did your constituents contact you about?

Boineau: We met Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and I was a full-time officer in the moving and storage company. If I hadn't had such a sympathetic partner, I don't know what would have happened. Because I know that from 1961 until 1964, I was virtually only in that company to pick up my paycheck. I had so much correspondence, I had to use the company's secretaries to answer some of the mail that the Republican Party secretary couldn't handle. I've got some pictures of the stacks of correspondence from when I was interviewed in my office. It's just unbelievable, the amount of correspondence that I tried to answer, which was good for the party I thought.

Woods: And you received correspondence from all over the nation?

Boineau: All over the nation, right. And there's a question, who did I help? [Reading] "If so, who were they and how did they help you? Did you have anyone you could rely on for support and guidance?" Yes. I had the whole party. I was just a standard-bearer. Anything that I needed, the attorneys that were members of the party, the business people who were members of the party, Drake Edens, who was the leader of the party....

And, of course, at the same time this was going on, we were borning [sic] the whole gizmo of the party by trying to organize in the different counties, which I have alluded to in the past. We were traveling in that direction.

Woods: Do you think that it wasn't any one particular person that you relied on primarily?

Boineau: No. My seat mate was Heyward Belser, who has died in the last couple of years. My roommate at college was another House member, Eli Walker, who said Jimmy Byrnes couldn't beat Joe Berry. So, we ended up together, and he made a lot of fun about me being a Republican.

I had to make a speech on one occasion in Florida, and asked for a leave of absence. I got weathered-in down there, and called him and asked him to ask the Speaker of the House to record that I was absent but that I'd called in. And he took to the podium, I understand, and he said, "That great Republican is at the Lincoln Day Women's Club in Daytona Beach, and we're going to be without his counsel today. I don't know how we're going to survive." He's my good buddy. So, it was that sort of thing.

[Tape 4, Side 1 Ends, Side 2 Begins]

Woods: You were the lone Republican until, I think, February of '62, when G. Fred Worsham was elected from Charleston. How did you vote? Did you have a tendency to vote with the Richland County delegation Democrats?

Boineau: Absolutely. They voted like I did! I didn't vote like them, they voted like me. They were Jeffersonian Democrats, and this is why it was not such an oddball thing. I can't think of one instance where we were separated until 1962, when there was some partisanship. It was sort of in fun partisanship, like Eli Walker saying that Representative Boineau was at the Lincoln Day Republican Women's Club in Daytona.

Woods: So are you telling me that it was difficult to distinguish between a Republican and a Democrat?

Boineau: Absolutely. Thirty-four years ago, it certainly was. We didn't have any labels.

Woods: And so the main reason...?

Boineau: The main reason was so that we would have competition.

Woods: That's exactly what I was going to ask you.

Boineau: Yeah, and that's proved to be the case, because there's been a polarization of the parties. Even then, there was, in the national parties...in the South, all of the southern office holders would talk conservative on the home front. The best person at this was, and still is, Fritz Hollings. Then when he would get to Washington, he would just get with the liberal Kennedys. He was enamored of the Kennedys. I feel that they hurt him a great deal. They hurt him with his constituents in South Carolina. He would come back to South Carolina at election time and would woo the people, and they would reelect him. I don't know how much Herb [*Hartsook, Curator of Modern Political Collections, conducting an extensive interview with Senator Hollings*] is going to get from him on one of the low parts of his...when he went out as governor, in 1962, for whatever reason they handled it very poorly.

Woods: Who handled...?

Boineau: Well, Fritz, in dismantling the Governor's Mansion. It was alleged that, well, it wasn't alleged; they ran newspaper articles on it, they had the prison trustees do the moving. Of course, I was very sensitive about that, because they had some very fine china and crystal and glassware that had been given to the governor. And it got all broken up. There were some allegations that furniture from the Governor's Mansion was taken to...Fritz's first wife had an alcohol problem. Her name was Pat. They blamed it on her. But there was a commission set up in '62 to do an investigation of this. The whole state was just up in arms.

I never will forget somebody saying, "This is the end of Fritz's political career. The people of South Carolina wouldn't elect him dogcatcher after this." And the other person said...he was on the commission that was doing the investigation. I saw him last Sunday. Walter B. Brown. He's still a lobbyist, or maybe he retired. A wonderful lobbyist. He said, "Don't you believe it, because the public's memory is so short that in less than two years they'll forget about these Dowdy birds." They were like \$1800 apiece, and they had been given to the governor. And I think they were entitled to them. He didn't steal them or anything. But they went so far, the stories were so rife, that they were saying, "Well, you know, Pat told the trustees to take the wicker furniture out of the Governor's Mansion, and to take the water cooler off of the wall, and they took that to their beach house at the Isle of Palms." And, you know, what was fact and what was fiction?

But the point being is the public's memory is short and Fritz was able to be a Kennedy Democrat in Washington and a Jeffersonian Democrat in South Carolina, from the time he went to the capital. He was an outstanding governor. He was our first industrial governor, and under his aegis we established the tech program.

Woods: Your papers reflect that once you were elected to the South Carolina House other Republican office seekers in the South sought your advice for their own election campaigns. How did you assist them?

Boineau: I wrote them and copied in Bradley, Graham, and Hamby, and told them essentially how and what she had done. Then asked them if either one wanted to pursue it...you know, put them in touch with each other. There were some in Georgia. I made some speeches in Georgia.

Woods: Were you more concerned with getting precinct or party organizations established in the county and in the state, rather than, possibly, helping any one particular...?

Boineau: Right. In trying to maintain contact with the moving and storage business, doing my legislative duties, and what I mentioned when you asked about a typical day...Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday were the legislative days. Each night, there was one or more legislative receptions, given by the Teachers' Association, the blah blah, the blah blah — I never attended any of those, I guess, in my entire time — which were cocktail parties, is what they turned out to be. I hate to say it, but a lot of the legislators in those days from outlying areas...this was the highlight of their serving in the legislature. It was party time, and there were a lot of party girls.

[Tape stops, then restarts.]

Woods: In February of 1962, G. Fred Worsham, a Republican from Charleston, was elected to the House. Therefore, you were no longer the lone Republican. Would you describe your working relationship with him?

Boineau: Oh, we were very close even before his election. In mounting his campaign, we gave them all the assistance we could to get him elected, because this was the whole birth of the Republican Party. Fred's race was a special election, like mine was. After he was sworn in, and became a sitting member of the House, he, like me, was very circumspect about not being boisterous.

We were both treated very cordially. I remember, particularly, the Speaker of the House then was Sol Blatt. We never called him "Sr.," Sol Blatt was Sol Blatt. He was one of the Barnwell ring. He was one of the strongest Speakers of the House that South Carolina ever had. He would gavel the House to order, and he would say, "Now the Democrats will caucus here in the halls of the House, and Minority Leader Boineau and his Whip, Fred Worsham, can caucus in the phone booth, which is just outside the House." It was a friendly working arrangement.

All of these people that we're talking about, the Barnwell ring...as you stay in South Carolina, you'll learn about all of the bad things about the Barnwell ring, but there were also some great things about the Barnwell ring. Sol Blatt and Edgar Brown did a great many good things for the Barnwell ring. I think you were telling me, Wilma, about Rembert Dennis's papers recently. One of the things that he was criticized for back in those days — and I don't remember if I was in the House — was he got state money to extend the railroad spur. They called it "Rembert's Railroad." There was a lot of derision and a lot of criticism, but he was foresighted enough to know that this would open up this industrial area down there. It was just last year...right after David Beasley took office, he was able to

persuade Nucor Steel to put a plant down there, and they chose that mainly because Rembert's railroad was going to serve that plant. The point being whether you're a Democrat or a Republican, your duties were first and foremost to the state.

Woods: You were a member of the Agriculture and Conservation Committee and also the Labor, Commerce, and Industry Committee. Were these the committees that you wanted?

Boineau: No, they were the committees that Tom Elliott had. At one point, the then-state party chairman, Bob Chapman said — "As a member of the Republican Party, if you had really wanted to make a stink over it, it's possible, depending on how the Constitution was written, that you could have demanded to be on every committee that the House had." I took exception to that. I said, "Good grief, I've got my hands full running around here with Drake Edens at night, and organizing precincts and county parties, and trying to console my business partner, because I'm just going by there to pick up my paycheck. There's just so much that I couldn't serve on every committee in the House. It'd be ridiculous." He said, "Well, I just brought it up, because this is the way the national system works."

But as far as committee functions in the State House, the Labor, Commerce, and Industry Committee met more frequently than the Agriculture Committee. Of course, being in commerce, being in the moving industry, I gravitated more to that than the Agriculture Committee. Frankly, the Agriculture Committee...I can't isolate a time when we met with any frequency, and whether the Agriculture Committee did anything in the two years 1961 and 1962.

You see, the legislature didn't convene until 1962, so my duties were primarily as a representative of Richland County. We had delegation meetings weekly. I don't know whether any of the newspaper articles that you have report that to any degree, about my first delegation meeting, but there was a whole hoopla about that, which was right after my election, when I attended my first Richland County delegation meeting.

There were some amusing things that happened as the two parties grew. Because of my election, the local news media were bringing up cameras and lights to the delegation meeting, right at the first. The delegation chairman was Senator Walter Bristow. It was not the custom to have television coverage. But when they'd turn on the lights, Albert Watson — we always teased him because he wore, like Huey Long wore, a white suit — he would rise to the occasion and pontificate and make speeches. His favorite phrase, sounded so much like Fritz, was, "It's passing strange, Chairman Bristow, that Representative Boineau has brought all of the news media here to report these proceedings. We were getting along so well without all this attendant publicity and here we are, just

like we're in a fishbowl." You know, carrying on and on. He was grand-standing; I wasn't saying a word.

Woods: You were just sitting there listening.

Boineau: Yeah, punching my fellow House members, saying, "Gosh, how do we get him to shut up?"

Woods: Do you recall anything coming from the Labor, Commerce, and Industry Committee?

Boineau: Of course, we were very pro-business. We worked to maintain the "right to work" laws of the state. I don't think that they were ever threatened in my short time, and we still have the "right to work" law in South Carolina, which has meant so much over the years. We had virtually no unions in South Carolina. We have had some union organizing in the last three or four years. I run into that in my work with the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce. The South Carolina state Chamber of Commerce has folks in employee relations, working to maintain the "right to work" laws, and to help firms counter unionization.

Woods: I found brief reference in your papers to the "Black Bottom" in Columbia, and it described the issues involved. I understand that the Richland County delegation looked for solutions, and even formed a committee to investigate this. I think you were on the committee. Representative Raymond McElveen and Representative Ellison Walker were...?

Boineau: Eli Walker. We had a committee to look into it. There was this deplorable slum area that had gotten the name "Black Bottom" out off of what is now Broad River Road, at a subdivision called Arden Capel. It was just deplorable, and somebody called our attention to it. The Democrats felt that the Republicans were trying to make a campaign issue of it. The whole delegation, we were urged, and the cameras were present, to go into this area, which as I recall was owned by a slum lord who just did not do anything for the people who he rented to. He didn't run any water or anything. It was all black, I think, or ninety-eight per cent black. So the cameras and the delegations went out there, and it made the newspaper, it made the television cameras. And in the election that year, "Black Bottom" became a catch-all, a catch-phrase.

Woods: This is for the November election.

Boineau: November of '62. I can remember Bill Turbeville making this campaign speech, exhorting the people, it was at Satchel Ford School or something, and we would all make two or three minute speeches, and Bill said, "Now folks, we are running a full slate. We've got ten great candidates here. If you all will vote for us, I will guarantee you that will we clean up Charlie Boineau's 'Black Bottom'." He didn't mean to say it that way, but it is one of the things that all of the voters remembered. I was tagged with, "Charlie, let's see your black bottom."

Woods: Was there any resolution to this?

Boineau: I think that the delegation was able, in publicizing it, to get the owner to begin to clean it up. Then he offered part of the property to the government for public housing. But I think it slid back in to where it was.

[Tape 4 Ends. Tape 5, Side 1, April 18, 1995, begins]

Woods: How would you assess your record as a representative in the House?

Boineau: I co-sponsored some legislation, having to do with the Milk Bill [?], and some other things. But they don't jump out at me, and they were certainly of no great moment. But I don't think that I would have done anything differently. I think I had mentioned to you, in answering earlier questions that I felt that I was most effective in the House by being low-key, discreet, friendly, not obnoxious, and not partisan. By the time my short service in the House was over, I guess I knew on a first-name basis all one hundred and twenty-four House members, and practically all forty-six of the senators. In that fashion, the Republican Party made a positive impact instead of one that was an "in-your-face" type of thing. We were received in a nonpartisan fashion, really.

[Reading] "Describe your 1962 campaign for reelection." Well, this, of course, was mentioned earlier. I differed with Drake Edens, who by this time had become chairman of the South Carolina party...

Woods: May I interrupt there? I thought that he became chairman in '63.

Boineau: Maybe he didn't have the title, but he was the man running the party. He was the one working twenty-four hours a day to get the Workman campaign going, the Spence campaign going, and our campaign going. As I've indicated before, Drake felt that we should mount a full slate in Richland County. At the time, we were running at-large. It was before the days of districts. So it meant that we had to find, and qualify, and enthruse, ten potential candidates. And after they became potential, we had to make sure that they would go through the necessary business of running, because of the time involved and because of the money that they each had to commit. Not a great amount of money, but there was money to finance our campaigns. We ran as a team.

Woods: So each member of the slate had to contribute some money?

Boineau: Well, it was probably more time than money. But it was an expensive thing, because you were giving up your business to some extent, you were buying clothes, you were paying filing fees. No, the money was secondary, because we were raising money as a team. We had a campaign coordinator; we had a campaign treasurer; that took the onus off of raising the money for the campaign.

Woods: Do you remember who those people were? Who the campaign treasurer was?

Boineau: The campaign coordinator and treasurer was a man who is now deceased. He headed up the Blue Cross/Blue Shield office here. His name was Bill Sandow. He was very effective and very helpful. This was the House campaign. Workman had a different campaign treasurer — and I don't know who that was — and campaign manager. And Floyd Spence had someone different. I can't recall. And some of these people that I've talked to...oh, I want to add Howard Love's name. After my election, he took more of a personal interest in Bill Workman's race. If he was not the campaign treasurer or manager of the Workman race, he would remember who. Howard is a semi-retired architect living in St. Matthews.

I never will forget the night of the returns, when we all had to make concession speeches in the hotel. Drake figured that we were going to sweep the whole kit-and-caboodle, because I had been successful the year before. And I told him. He said, "Yeah, but Charlie, if we can elect you, we can elect anybody." And it wasn't that way.

[Reading] "What were the issues?" Primarily, the issues were two-party politics; establishing a Republican party; competition in government; conservative government, as espoused by our platforms.

Woods: So, in essence, it's a continuation of your 1961...?

Boineau: An absolute continuation. Nothing much changed. [Reading] "Were the issues overshadowed by the full slate laws?" Yes, that was a big problem, because we absolutely — as we proved in 1964, the next election cycle — we were hamstrung by this full slate law. There were people in 1962 that had voted for me in '61, and voted for me again in '62, but said, "You know, Charlie, I'm not a Republican yet. I don't like all of these Republican candidates. I'd like to vote for you, and some of these other outstanding Democrats on the other side. But I'm hemmed in. We've got the loyalty oath to contend with, and then, in addition to that, we've got this full slate thing. So, if I don't vote for ten candidates, my vote's going to be thrown out. I have got to vote for ten or none. So what do I do? I'd rather throw away my votes on the Democrat side than on the Republican side, because I don't even know whether you all are going to be here next time." So that was a problem in 1962.

This was a team effort as far as our campaign, because this brochure [referring to a campaign brochure present in the collection] has Bill Workman and Floyd Spence also on this particular brochure. We had Hoover Blanton; and me -- so this is alphabetical — Devant Bostick is now deceased; Philip Chappell; ---- Cox; Bobby Desports; T.J. Harrelson; Alan Reyner was killed with his wife and his son; he was flying their private plane — I never had noticed the juxtaposition of these two — and Bill Turbeville was killed. So, out of the ten, there are three that are deceased: Turbeville, Reyner, and Devant Bostick. Which is pretty amazing, that two had met a violent death, and one just from old age. And Robert Wilkins, who started and published the Sandlapper magazine for some years.

Woods: So, according to the full slate law, if you had won, all of you would be in the South Carolina House?

Boineau: Right. In 1962. Naturally, I was the leading Republican vote-getter, but even the lowest Democrat vote-getter, the person who trailed the Democrat ticket, out-pollled me substantially. Whereas in 1961, the year before, I out-pollled my opponent, because it was a one-on-one race, by fifty-nine hundred to thirty-eight hundred — I've forgotten the numbers — in the Boineau-Berry race. Then the year after, when Turbeville and I ran to test the full slate requirement...

Woods: That was in '64.

Boineau: '64. I showed you the mathematical impossibility. I was told that I got 68% of the vote that year, but I ran eleventh on the full slate, because of the full slate requirement.

Woods: Could you explain just a little bit about the full slate law?

Boineau: It's very complicated. It's been thirty-two years, and I don't know that I can. It was designed, in my understanding, in the 1895 Constitution. And some of the laws promulgated after that 1895 Constitution were for the sole purpose of keeping the Democrat Party in control...they call themselves the "Democratic" Party, and when we started calling them the "Democrat" Party, they just felt like we were insulting them.

But along the way, the blacks were not even given the vote until well into the twentieth century, and then, to further stifle their participation...the loyalty oath was one impediment, because the original Republican Party was all black. So, the full slate voting requirement, and the loyalty oath, were designed to hold down participation by other than the Democrat Party.

Woods: So that was anyone that professed to be Republican and blacks.

Boineau: Right. But it was a diabolically clever thing, on this full slate voting requirement. It was before the Supreme Court found for "one vote, one man," and we went to district elections. In our case, in 1964, in order to show how absurd this was, we tested it in court. And, as I mentioned, Hemphill Pride, who was the attorney for the blacks two or three years later, took this exact pleading, or brief, or whatever the legalese is that they call these things, petition, and without changing a word except for the people....

Ralph Becker, the Washington attorney for the national Republican Party advised the executive committee. He said, "You've got all these other fellows listed in here as petitioners, but you have got to have a black petitioner, or the courts are not going to even consider it." And, sure enough, they didn't. They remanded it back to the state courts. The three federal judges are in here. They were Clement Haynesworth, Robert Martin, and Robert Hemphill. Clement Haynesworth was in a fire storm because he was nominated for the U.S. Supreme Court in the Fifties by the Eisenhower administration. He was the logical person to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. He was defeated because in his background was something having to do with he being a member of an all-white country club. [*Clement F. Haynesworth was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals in 1957. President Richard M. Nixon's later appointment of Haynesworth to the Supreme Court was rejected in Congress.*] Something ridiculous, but they really

clobbered him over the head with it. It was during the emergence of political correctness. Subsequently, they had a Democrat nominee for the Supreme Court who the Republicans found — I can't think of his name — had smoked marijuana when he was in school. And they defeated him. There was another one under Lyndon Baines Johnson who was a very brilliant jurist, and he was of the Jewish faith. He was clobbered and driven out. So, Haynesworth was treated badly, but he was not the only one that was treated badly. He was a staunch Democrat, and he was nominated by a Republican administration. But he was one of the people that sat on this and couldn't help us, because as it turns out, Hoover Blanton says that we didn't get out of the starting block because we didn't have a black petitioner. We had a white female, white males, and all listed down here in the pleading. But, Becker said, "You have to have a black." And the Charleston delegation said, "Oh, no. We're not going to have a black petitioner."

Woods: Do you think that as a result of your 1962 election and subsequent loss, you started thinking about challenging this full slate law in '64?

Boineau: Right. Because we had been walled off by our complete defeat in '62. Of course, Floyd Spence and Bill Workman, running in entirely different races, did not have to suffer this indignity. But as I had told Drake in '61 after my election, when he and Howard Love said, "You know, Charlie, Bill Workman, with his years of newspaper experience, he can certainly tackle and defeat Olin Johnston." I said, "No he can't. You don't beat an incumbent who's been a U.S. senator for the length of time that he has been." A former governor...he was chairman of the Post Office Committee. He had more constituent power than anybody that South Carolina had had in years.

But even with that uphill battle, Bill Workman, as we've talked before, got 43% of the vote. Olin Johnston had just mopped up Fritz Hollings in that primary in 1962. And Fritz was right out of office and had big name recognition, because he had been governor, and before that he had been lieutenant governor. So he'd had eight years before the public. And he'd been a good governor, except for dismantling the mansion, with the Dowdy birds. And I don't think a lot of people knew about that, not, by and large, the voter out in the precincts.

Woods: Just to sum up here, do you think that you lost the 1962 election because of this full slate...?

Boineau: I lost it because we had alerted the Democrats and they had seen the impossible happen.

They had seen a Republican take on a very popular Democrat in a man-to-man race and get beat. And the powers-that-be said, "This hasn't happened since 1954, when Strom Thurmond, with his write-in campaign..." And both of these races, incidentally, were run by Dolly Hamby.

Woods: We've talked a little bit about the Workman and Spence campaigns. Did you have any particular responsibility at all in their campaigns?

Boineau: Well, in the first part, from 1961, organizing the precincts, and getting around...and I made joint appearances with Workman in Greenville and Charleston and other areas where he was campaigning and where we would both speak. I would be introduced as the first Republican.

Woods: How well did you know Workman?

Boineau: Very well. I'd known him over the years as a newspaper man. I'd known him over the years because he was active in the Richland County Citadel Club, and I was the vice president of the Richland County Citadel Club. We saw each other, but we did not share political views, because up until he became a candidate in, maybe, late '61 — I've forgotten when we announced him; Howard Love could give you this information — or early '62, he was a newspaper man, and was completely neutral. He was a conservative newspaper person, and the editorials and the columns that he wrote, including books that he wrote -- the Barnwell ring back here -- since we didn't have two parties, he was espousing the one-party system, the Democrat Party; that it wasn't all bad. I don't know that he ever publicly spoke against having two-party government in South Carolina. If he did, he certainly did change in '62, when he started to run as a Republican.

I think in my case, and in Bill's case, Floyd Spence's case — these other candidates — we were led because of what the Republican Party stood for, the national Republican Party, as opposed to the national Democrat Party. Now our Democrat friends would say, "But we are not anything like the national Democrat Party." And we would counter by saying, "Well, you may not think you are, but you are part-and-parcel. You can't separate yourself. You can't be a conservative in South Carolina and a member of the Democrat establishment in Washington." And we were able to sell that completely, all through the years. And it was so; Fritz Hollings was a great example of it. As soon as he got to Washington, he was in the Kennedy camp, and voting with the liberal Democrats.

But, why we lost the campaign. Because they were alerted, and they came out full force. As I told Drake, "We haven't got a prayer of sweeping this slate. Under the best of conditions, we might

elect one or two."

Woods: How well did you know Floyd Spence?

Boineau: Very well.

Woods: You've already talked a little bit about your involvement with the Workman and Spence campaigns. To sum up, basically your campaign was tied to Workman's campaign. I actually have a brochure that put you all on the same...?

Boineau: Right. I think my first day in the House, Floyd Spence said, "Charlie, come go to lunch with me. I'm really interested in what you all are doing." And I said, "Fine, Floyd. And we're interested in what you're doing." Right from that point on, we started talking about his changing parties.

Woods: So this is as early as 1961?

Boineau: When the legislature convened in January of '62, really. It was that first day in the House that was I in. You read that article about my first day in the House. That's when Floyd and I had lunch together over at the old Columbia Hotel.

Woods: Just out of curiosity, did you speak with Floyd on the various issues before the House? Were you down together debating the issues and maybe agreeing on the same votes?

Boineau: I would say so. Well, most of the Democrats were agreeing on the same votes. As I said before, it was a very conservative Richland County delegation. There were a few liberals outside of Richland County, but by and large the whole South Carolina House voted the conservative ticket.

Woods: I thought I saw some reference in your papers that in 1963, you were considered for chairman of the state Republican Party. However, you chose not to become a candidate, and you threw your support to Drake Edens?

Boineau: There was certainly no contest. We were elected on August the eighth, and we must

have met at Lester Bates' Laurel Hill Supper Club the following week — we sat down and we said, "Okay, what do we do now?" And I said, "Well, Drake Edens is going to run this from now on. I'm the titular head of this party, but I have a moving business to run, and Drake has the financial facilities, the enthusiasm, the time, and he is our man."

[Tape 5, Side 1 Ends, Side 2 Begins]

Woods: What about Robert Chapman? I found copies of his speeches in your papers. What was your association/relationship with him?

Boineau: Oh, very friendly. He was the chairman when I became a Republican. He followed Greg Shorey, so Greg Shorey was actually chairman of the party in 1960. Although I knew him and we had a strong personal relationship, I never served under Shorey when he was chairman of the party. It was always under Robert Chapman. Robert attended our nominating convention and our special election in 1961, and made speeches, the copies of which you've seen, during that time. He was a very effective state chairman. His family was close to the Millikens, and like Roger Milliken, his family had extensive textile mills. I don't know who brought who into active participation, whether it was Roger or the other way around, whether Robert Chapman brought Roger Milliken. Roger Milliken came to South Carolina from Connecticut or somewhere in the East, and became active in the Republican Party, but not in the fashion of a scalawag or a carpetbagger: "I've come here with all of my money and I'm going to take over." So he was very effective by letting Robert Chapman be the point man.

Woods: Did you use some of Robert Chapman's speeches?

Boineau: No, I didn't. I don't recall using any of Chapman's talk, although what we were espousing was so similar that it may have sounded...we were all singing off the same page in the hymnal book, as they say.

Woods: I'm going to deviate just a little bit from our little prepared set of questions here, and ask you about the Human Events conferences. Did you attend in 1961 and in '62?

Boineau: Yes. The Human Events Conference was sort of a political convention. There's a publication out of Washington called the *Human Events* newspaper. After we decided on the race,

several things were done which were very effective. One of them was arranging for me to go to Washington and have my picture made with John Tower, who had just been elected to the U.S. Senate in a special election in Texas. The special election, interestingly enough, was for the vacancy that was created when Lyndon Baines Johnson ran as Vice President. That vacant seat was created, and John Tower was a university professor and was the first Republican elected in Texas in the twentieth century.

The other thing was the Human Events. There was a group of people, political activists that I was associated with that said, "We need to get you up to the Human Events Political Action Conference, because we can use that for publicity." So I went, and I attended, and I was introduced as a hopeful candidate for the special election in South Carolina on August the eighth. And then, by George, when we won, we were just flooded with all of these congratulatory letters and telegrams. The publishers of the newspaper, *Human Events*, ran volumes on our election. So the following year, they asked me to come and speak to the conference. So that's how that worked. It was a very interesting thing.

Woods: What do you speak about?

Boineau: About my election. It was the same outline as the speech that I made to this industrial council in Naugatuck, Connecticut, I never had even heard of Naugatuck. It was the same speech, same outline, that I made to many Republican groups in Georgia, Augusta; Aiken; Goldsboro, North Carolina; Atlanta, to a Southern Leadership conference; and as far away as Daytona.

Woods: What do you think that you learned from the Human Events Political Action Conference?

Boineau: They didn't teach you how to run campaigns. That came with some of these Southern Leadership conferences that the Republicans put on, and workshops, where the nuts and bolts of running campaigns were addressed in minute detail. The Human Events Conference is sort of like a pep rally for people with the same desires and thoughts, politically, to get together and swap ideas: "This is how we're doing in our state." Networking, for lack of a better term. *Human Events* has been successful, the newspaper publication.

Woods: Describe your 1964 campaign for reelection. Who approached you to run again?

Boineau: Well, we were on a crusade, and it was a given that we would make another try, because we needed to test this full slate election law. We were building all the time, because we now had three years of organization under our belt. We felt that, and we were, getting stronger. The South Carolina Republican Party had elected — and this is maybe what Chapman can help you with — candidates to county councils, to city councils. In Georgetown, I've run into people since, who say, "Oh, yeah. About a year after you were elected, I got elected as the first Republican to the Georgetown City Council." Or mayor of Clemson, or blah, blah, blah. So, we were making headway.

Even my business partner was just such a kind, understanding person, and he was in complete accord with what we were doing, building a two-party state. From a selfish standpoint, the notoriety of my election...we couldn't have paid for that kind of publicity. I was aligned with Boineau's Allied: "Allied Van Lines is Charlie Boineau's." I was introduced as "young trucking executive from Richland County."

Woods: In your 1964 election, why is it that there were only two of you on the slate? There was you and William Turbeville. Why not another eight people?

Boineau: Because we wanted to prove without a shadow of a doubt that we could not get elected under the full slate voting requirement. If you run one candidate against ten, one against three, it's numerically impossible to beat the full slate requirement. This is a mathematical theory. But out there on the hustings[?], we were proving it with bodies.

Even the night before the election, we threw in a gimmick. We distributed a circular saying, "Tomorrow when you go to the polls, vote for Boineau and Turbeville." We distributed marked ballots: "Vote for Boineau and Turbeville, but in order for them to run successfully, you've got to drop off the same two Democrats, or they can't win." This is the mathematical thing. I'm such a poor teacher, but here's Boineau and Turbeville, and over on this side is, let's say, Jones and Brown. And if Jones and Brown weren't dropped off when you voted for Boineau and Turbeville, if you just went in and spread your vote around, there was no way...and this is pointed out far better than I can explain it to you, in this petition.

Boineau: So if they voted for Boineau and Turbeville, they had to vote for eight Democrats. But unless they dropped the exact same Democrats, our vote would be spread over the width, and we couldn't prevail. And that's what we were trying to....

Okay, [reading from his petition] "Two candidates versus ten candidates. The case of two

candidates, Party A, versus ten candidates, Party B, with the requirement for voting for ten candidates."

That's what I didn't explain to you. "With ten to be elected, can be considered in a similar manner. In this case, it can be demonstrated arithmetically that even if 72% of the voters voted for each of the A candidates" — let's call them the Republicans — "they would lose to the B candidates. Again assuming a thousand voters, this means that ten thousand candidate votes must be cast, a thousand voters each voting for ten candidates." I didn't know that I could turn to it, right that page. So leave that open, right there. That's thirty-one, or whatever. And you can read that far better than I can explain it.

[Reading] "How did you know Turbeville?" He was a business partner of Drake Edens, Edens-Turbeville Insurance Company. "Do you think your challenge to the election law had an adverse affect on your campaign?" Well, it didn't do anything. It just proved what we were stating in our legal briefs, that we couldn't get elected.

Woods: So, actually, in the 1964 election, you had no hope of winning. You were just out to prove a point.

Boineau: Right. Had no hope of winning unless we could sell to the voter, "You vote for Turbeville or Boineau or both of us" — and that's why we distributed the information the day before the election — "but in order for you to do us any good, before you vote for the other eight you've got to drop off the same two. Each voter has to do the same." And they said, "Oh, no. I can't do that. You can't get down to that detail."

[Reading] "In 1964, you petitioned the class case of Charles E. Boineau...Frank Thornton...Describe the purpose, arguments for and against, and the final judgment in the case. What was your response to the final judgment?" Disappointment, but it was a growing thing. The blacks prevailed because they were insistent on naming a black petitioner, and Charleston...I found out from Hoover Blanton last month, or last week, that we may have succeeded. I said, "Suppose we had had a black on there, and suppose we had won this case that the blacks subsequently won. What do you think?" He said, "You know, I never thought of it that way. I don't know how much it would have enhanced our growth."

The growth of the Republican Party — and I'm getting down to that about right now — I think, was enhanced in many different ways. The setback that we had in 1964, when Barry Goldwater only took the Confederate states, was a severe defeat. Lyndon Baines Johnson beat him to death because he scared the American public into believing that if Barry Goldwater were elected, he would get us into a nuclear war. Even the ad that Lyndon Baines Johnson ran, of the little baby...they pulled that ad. It was

only run one time. It was the most negative ad in the world. I think in my papers is a letter from Barry after his defeat saying when he got back to Arizona he would be in touch and blah, blah, blah. It was a lovely letter.

Strom Thurmond realized that what we had started in '61 was popular in South Carolina, that South Carolina was in fact becoming a two-party state. He saw the way the wind was blowing and got out in front and said, "I'm changing parties," and became a Republican and endorsed Barry Goldwater in 1964.

Woods: Do you consider that as a boon to the Republican Party, that he did that?

Boineau: It came with mixed feelings by the people that I was associated with by this time, the old-time Republicans who had slaved in the vineyard day and night for three years. They thought, "Strom wants to take over the South Carolina Republican Party and do what he wants to do." I wasn't that vehement. I felt we needed all the help that we could get, from any place that we could get it. I was much against Tom Turnipseed, who came in from Alabama, where he had been a fund-raiser of some sort for George Wallace. He tried to do a power play with the South Carolina Republican Party, and fortunately he was snubbed. He's become a very liberal anti-Republican. He's run for Congress as a Democrat in South Carolina. He's a plaintiffs' attorney here; Tom Turnipseed and Associates.

But, other prominent Democrats that changed parties. I guess Strom was the biggest. There was certainly a mixed feeling. I feel that Drake Edens was probably the most unselfish person, because he'd done all the work, and he didn't begrudge Strom Thurmond from coming over and saying, "Hey," you know. We felt that Thurmond needed the Republican Party. There was a group that thought the Republican Party needed Strom. But we've made the accommodation over the years, and it's worked to our benefit.

Woods: What did you hope to do after the '64 election?

Boineau: I'd had — for lack of a better word — my Andy Warhol fifteen minutes of fame. When Drake decided that — which was entirely all right with me — after winning the 1961 race, and I had been so prominently recognized, that I could have run against Albert Watson for Congress in 1962 instead of having Floyd Spence change parties....

Anybody changing parties draws a negative: "Oh, he's an opportunist. He's changing parties." Although the Republican tide was running real strong in South Carolina and in the Second District in

1962, when Floyd changed parties, and our polls showed that he was ahead of Democrat Albert Watson, Albert was the better campaigner, a better speaker, and just overcame that lead. So by the time November came, Albert defeated Floyd, and Olin Johnston defeated Bill Workman.

We were all in the old Jefferson Hotel — which has been demolished — and I was the spokesman for the House. The party had rented the ballroom, which was the largest ballroom in the state. And they put all these television sets around for this victory party and my then-wife and I took a room up there, as did the Workmans and the Spences. We were, as I remember, on the same floor. I had known from the polls and everything else that this was wrong, because we were going to lose. And we did. And it didn't take long; they didn't count the votes up into the evening. The House race was lost and decided — the polls closed at 7:00 — by 8:30.

I was the spokesman that had to make the concession speech. It was real sad, because...why in the world they rented all the televisions. I'm probably exaggerating, there may not have been more than five or six, but they had everything catered, and there was nobody in that room. I went down there for some news people. And then we all went over with Workman...they conceded in their room; they didn't come down to the ballroom. But I had had my day of glory, and I needed to get back into the moving business.

Woods: So, you had no desire to go any further in politics?

Boineau: No, I did not. I was really worn out. And then, as I've mentioned...my being in politics did not destroy my marriage, but it was very hard on my wife and we divorced in '65.

Woods: When the delegates went to San Francisco, you had all determined that you were going to pledge to Goldwater. I found a newspaper quote here, from August 11, 1964, and you said of the convention, "This was the first convention of either party where the precincts of America were heard from and, more important, listened to." And then you went on to say that you went to this convention and that, "Southerners went to this convention to show we were American Republicans. We weren't sectionalists, racist, or rabble-rousers. There were no Confederate flags or any of that sort of thing. We were there to show we were in the mainstream of Republicanism, and we succeeded." Do you have any comment on that?

Boineau: That's exactly how I felt. I don't know whether somebody put those words in my mouth, but I'm certainly appreciative that I'm given credit for them. Because we were. Since then the

Confederate flag, the radical right, the Christian right have gotten sort of mixed up with the southern Republicans. And the white/black issue. They say, "Oh, you southern white Republicans are nothing except segregationists. You fled the Democrat Party only because of race." And that was the last thing on our mind in 1961. We weren't fleeing the Democrat Party; the Democrat Party was leaving us. The southern Republican Party was the Jeffersonian Democrats. When we got to the Cow Palace out there, as delegates, where the convention was held, I saw my first hippie. They were picketing out there in San Francisco. They picketed the delegates as they came in. And I couldn't believe these people, with long hair, and smoking pot, and wearing sandals. That was before the Vietnam War. They had to put a guard around us to get us in and out of the Cow Palace.

[Tape 5 Ends. Tape 6 Begins]

Woods: Did you remain active in the Republican Party after 1964?

Boineau: Not as an office holder. In campaigns, in finances...we started the Silver Elephant Club, where each member contributed X number of dollars per month to the party. I was one of the original twelve members of that, and have continued to be a member of the Silver Elephant...

Woods: When did you form this Silver Elephant...?

Boineau: Right after I was elected, early Sixties. Jim Edwards, who was our first Republican governor, in a speech to the Silver Elephant Club in the past two months here in Columbia, where all the presidential candidates except Dole came and where they had the straw vote, said, "I can remember when we had twelve members of this Silver Elephant Club, and here these two buildings at the State Fairgrounds are filled." We had two thousand people.

Woods: Is it just an ad-hoc, informal club?

Boineau: It's part of the party structure, and in addition to the Silver Elephant...that's the lowest contributor, which I am, which is \$10 a month, \$120 a year. Then they have other gradations; they've got a Gold Elephant, I think, which is a thousand dollars a month. And of course, Roger Milliken is on that level. But there are levels in between, and I don't have the information in front of me as to what these different categories are called, but it's all for the operation of the state party. The state party uses it to help the county parties during election years, in research, training...and it's where I'm going this

afternoon to get my Dole ticket.

Woods: In what other capacity did you work behind the scenes?

Boineau: Compared to what I did from '61 until '64, I was almost like retired. I was active in the campaigns from a poll-watching standpoint — I still do that — in election times. I volunteer to watch polls, to help re-organize precincts, lick envelopes, ring doorbells...just anything that's required.

One of the strengths of the growth of our party has been getting the people to vote. You know, there's a disturbing amount of apathy in South Carolina about actually voting. I think it's changed a great deal in the last two or three years, but we had the most miserable turnouts of registered voters in South Carolina. We were right down at the bottom with Mississippi and Arkansas. But we've improved a great deal. A friend of mine, Rusty DePass, is now chairman of the election commission, and he's doing a marvelous job of organizing voter registrations and getting people active.

The Republican Party in South Carolina, as we sit here today, is the stronger of the parties, and this is the remarkable thing. People said over the years, when we first got started, "It will never happen. The Republican Party has the stigma of destroying the South, from Lincoln's time until all of the Reconstruction days, until 1895. We had thirty years of Republican havoc in this state. Although none of them are alive, their children are alive. That's a scourge that will not wear off lightly."

[End of interview]