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Place of Interview: Falls Church, Virginia

Interviewer: Dr. H. W. Kamp

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Approved: ~~Alla~~

Date: Alla Clary

June 29, 1970

Oral History Collection

Miss Alla Clary

Interviewer: Dr. H. W. Kamp

Place of Interview: Falls Church, Virginia Date: August 12, 1969

Dr. Kamp: This is H. W. Kamp. The date is August 12, 1969. The location is in Falls Church, Virginia. Miss Alla Clary and I are seated in her home at 604 Greenwich Street in Falls Church, Virginia. This is the first of a series of conversations with Miss Clary concerning her life in Washington, D.C. and particularly the reminiscences that she has of Mr. Sam Rayburn.

Miss Clary: This is Alla Dephia Clary. I was born in McKinney, Texas, on August 26, 1889. I was the daughter of Mr. Benjamin F. Clary and Mrs. Margaret Jane Clary. My father was from North Carolina; my mother from Tennessee. Moved to Texas in 1883. I lived in McKinney until I was less than two years old and then my father moved to a farm northwest of McKinney where we five children and my mother and father lived . . . in a very small house on an 80 acre farm. . . . I did not start to school until I was eight years old. But my mother taught me to read, and I could read by the time I went to school. And we had a country school that was three miles from our farm. And we walked to that school every day . . . unless it had rained and it was very muddy. Then we rode horseback. The black waxy mud of North Texas was very sticky and hard . . . to walk through. I went to this school until 1902

when the railroad was built through our community. Then we had a small town; Prosper, where I finished high school in 1907. My brother sent me to college. I went to North Texas State Normal School at Denton, Texas, now North Texas State University. I started there the fall of 1907. Dr. Bruce was president of the college. The course we had at that college at that time was only three years. I attended school 1907 and '08 and '08 and '09. Then stayed out one year and taught in a country school of Good Hope in the eastern edge of Denton County. The next year I went back to finish my course at North Texas State Normal College. Degrees were not given then. At the end of the three-year course you got a diploma and a permanent certificate, supposedly, to teach school in Texas. But later when the curriculum was raised, I could not have taught in Texas, because after they gave degrees I would have had to get a degree to have taught in Texas. My first school after I graduated, was in my home town of Prosper. I taught in Celina for one year. Went to Petty in Lamar County not far from Bonham, Texas, where I got $60 a month instead of $50 a month that I had been getting. Then I went down to Lometa, Texas, in Lampasas County between Temple and Brownwood and was teaching there in 1918 when I took a Civil Service Examination. One of the reasons for that was in the government I would work all year-round and get more than $50 a month. I worked in the bank in Prosper while I waited for my appointment. I was called to Washington in 1918 in July, and I came on that Civil Service appointment. At that time,

or all my life I think, I was interested in who our presidents were, and in our government. I always asked my father about it, as my father and my brother took an active part in politics. I always had wanted to vote. I knew who my representative was when I came to Washington. When I reported to the War Department, and they asked me who my representative was, I said Mr. Sam Rayburn, and he was. The work that I did in the War Department for a year was routine. I had learned to type the touch system while I was teaching, and I told them I could type. So I sat and typed cards all day long. I'll go back of that. When I got my wire to come to Washington, my brother said to me, "Political influence is not supposed to have anything to do with a Civil Service position, but it won't hurt to know your Congressman." So I went to Mr. Rayburn's office two or three times during the first few months I was here but missed him every time. Finally, he sent me a note where I was rooming and came and took me to dinner. And that was the first time I had met him.

Dr. Kamp: Miss Clary, I believe . . .

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: . . . that you said that Mr. Rayburn had attempted to meet you at the train station.

Miss Clary: That's right.

Dr. Kamp: Could you recount that event?

Miss Clary: I mentioned that my brother had sent him a wire. And Mr. Rayburn told me afterwards that he went to the station to meet me and

spent three hours trying to meet me and missed me. I didn't come in on the train from St. Louis that he usually met. I came around by Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I don't know why I went that way. Maybe because it didn't cost as much because I didn't have very much money.

Dr. Kamp: Thank you.

Miss Clary: When Mr. Rayburn came to where I was rooming and took me to dinner, he took me to the Washington Hotel where he was living. He was a person who was very nice to his constituents, and he wanted to be very nice to me. But having been brought up 400 miles from the coast and never having eaten oysters--only the canned ones from which my mother made oyster stew--he ordered oysters on the half shell. He didn't know I had never eaten them that way, and he never knew how hard it was to get them down. But I didn't say a word. I ate the oysters on the half shell. That was in October of 1918 because I came here in July of 1918. The flu epidemic was raging. Mr. Rayburn had a car, but the movie houses were closed because of the flu epidemic, and he said if they hadn't been closed we would have gone to a movie. However, it was a beautiful moonlight night, and he took me for a ride all over Washington. That was my first ride around Washington, and I shall never forget when we went up Connecticut Avenue and passed the Chevy Chase Country Club and that great big club house, he said, "When I get married, I want a house that big." I asked, "Why do you want a house that big?" And he said, "To have room

for my children to play." And the tragedy of it is he never had any children. He was married, of course, one time, 1927. He married Miss Metzie Jones who was the sister of Congressman Marvin Jones. The marriage lasted a little less than three months when she went back to Texas, and they were divorced the next year. Years after that we in the office never mentioned anything about the marriage. Not that there was any scandal connected with it, but he often said he was married such a short time, and it was so long ago that it didn't seem like he'd ever been married. Then later when I bought a car, I got a two-seated car. He asked me why I got a car with a back seat, and I said, "To have room for all my children to ride." And I have never been married and have never had any children (chuckle). But . . . I'll go on . . . When I reported for work in the War Department July 29, 1918, they put me to typing cards which were a record of the boys that were in service. I worked in a big office of about 100 people. At the end of that year I resigned as I did not like typing cards all day. It didn't occur to me to go to Mr. Rayburn's office for him to help me get a better place where I wouldn't have such monotonous work. I believed in getting it on my own. However, I went to his office to tell him goodbye. The next week he called me to his office and said he and Gober Gibson, who was his secretary, had talked it over, and they would like for me to come and work <u>with</u> them. He didn't say <u>for</u> him; he said <u>with</u> them. That was the kind of a man he was. So I went back to Texas and stayed for six

weeks and then came back. And on the first of October, 1919, I started my work with him. He was then 37 years old, and I was 30 years old. When he first came to Congress, with the help of Mr. Garner who was on the Ways and Means Committee--and the Ways and Means Committee in the House is the one that assigns the Democrats to the committees--he was assigned to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. He served on that committee until he was made majority leader in the House, December, 1937.

Dr. Kamp: Miss Clary, I wonder why the assignment to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. Was Mr. Rayburn particularly interested in the work of that committee?

Miss Clary: I think he was because when he was in the state legislature he had worked on railroad legislation. And that committee had charge of all transportation legislation. And one of the first bills I think he introduced had to do with the railroad stocks and bonds--regulating them.

Dr. Kamp: In those days most congressmen did serve on more than one committee, did they not?

Miss Clary: Not if it was an important committee they didn't . . . . There were about five or six committees I think in the House--that were exclusive committees and if they were on those committees they couldn't serve on any other. Now they serve on . . . more than *one committee. After the reorganization of the House in 1947*, they have so many sub-committees they serve on. They cut down on the number of committees, but they have more sub-committees. He

served on that committee from 1913, when he came here until, 1937 when he was made majority leader in the House. And he served on that committee eighteen years before he was chairman of it, because of the ones ahead of him. He had to wait until they either went out of Congress or died or resigned or something like that. And that's seniority. But I believe in the seniority system because in any walk of life whether you're a business man or whether you're a professional man you don't get to the top until you have some seniority. And that's the same way in Congress.

Dr. Kamp: Do you recall who was the chairman of the committee?

Miss Clary: When he went on it?

Dr. Kamp: Right.

Miss Clary: A man by the name of Adamson, I think. I don't know where he was from.

Dr. Kamp: Would he have been a Democrat or a Republican? Do you recall?

Miss Clary: He would have been a Democrat. That was the beginning of the Woodrow Wilson administration.

Dr. Kamp: Right.

Miss Clary: He would have been a Democrat. Where are we going to go from here (chuckle)?

Dr. Kamp: Miss Clary, we were talking about Mr. Rayburn's earlier life, prior to his going for Congress, and I'd like for you to remember some of those things, if you would.

Miss Clary: Mr. Rayburn was born in East Tennessee on a farm on the Clinch River January 6, 1882. That farm was about halfway between Rockford and Kingston. That is, not too far from Knoxville in East Tennessee. I always thought it was unusual that that part of Tennessee normally is Republican. They even have had Republican representatives from there for a long time. At the present time they have a Republican senator from that part of Tennessee. Mr. Rayburn being such a staunch Democrat to have come from that part of Tennessee was unusual. But his father and mother were staunch Democrats. He often said his father considered his citizenship as a sacred trust. He got that from his father. His mother was very interested in public affairs and who the congressman was and who was in office. When Mr. Rayburn was five years old, they moved to Texas. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Rayburn--William Marion Rayburn and Martha Waller Rayburn--had ten children. Mr. Sam was the eighth. An uncle went with them. I think the uncle was Mr. Charles Rayburn, Mr. Rayburn's father's brother who never married. He had two brothers. One of them married and lived in middle Tennessee and had seven children by his first wife and seven children by his second wife. So the Rayburns in middle Tennessee are kin to Mr. Sam. Some of the writers have said, in fact a few days ago I read an article where they said they went to Texas in a covered wagon. They did not. They went on a train. Mr. Rayburn was five years old, and the first time he had ever ridden on a train was when they went to Texas. I have heard him say that . . . one of the

things he remembers about where they lived on that farm was going through the fence and going down to the boat landing when the boats came along 'cause on that Clinch River they shipped stuff up and down the river.

Dr. Kamp: I wonder why the decision to move to Texas? Did he ever talk about that?

Miss Clary: They thought they could make more money, probably. His father was farming and he bought a farm south of Windom, Texas. Windom is a little town just east of Bonham. They later moved to Bonham. The country school he attended was Flagg Springs. That was where he went to school, and from there he went to Commerce. Professor Mayo Private School--later East Texas State Normal.

Dr. Kamp: That's an interesting name, Flagg Springs.

Miss Clary: Flagg Springs.

Dr. Kamp: I wonder where that name came from.

Miss Clary: I don't know. After the Rayburn's moved to Texas, they had another child. So in family they had eleven children, eight boys and three girls. One of Mr. Rayburn's older brothers, he was the oldest one in the family, John Franklin, and they called him Frank, went to school, in Tennessee, and became a doctor. And he was a general practitioner in Bonham.

Dr. Kamp: Did any of the other boys in the family go into politics?

Miss Clary: No. None of them. One of them worked for an insurance company; he had twin brothers, Will and Jim. They were older than he. Mr. Will Rayburn worked for an insurance company, and Mr. Jim Rayburn

was a Rural Carrier, at Dodd City east of Bonham, and Mr. Dick Rayburn, just younger than Mr. Sam, worked for Cotton Oil companies. Tom, the youngest one next to the baby, was a farmer. He lived at home and worked on the farm. The second boy in the family, Mr. Charles Rayburn, died when he was in his late twenties or early thirties. I don't know just when he died. But the youngest boy Abner the one that was born in Texas, was a page in Austin when Mr. Rayburn was a member of the legislature, when he was speaker. He died when he was about twenty-four or twenty-five of typhoid fever.

Dr. Kamp: Now, didn't one of Mr. Sam's brothers work in the Veteran's Administration at one time?

Miss Clary: That was his nephew.

Dr. Kamp: I see.

Miss Clary: Mr. Dick Rayburn's son. He only had three nephews; out of eleven children there were only eight grandchildren. There were two nephews named Rayburn. There was Charles Rayburn, Mr. Jim Rayburn's son, and Tom Dick, Mr. Dick Rayburn's son. The other nephew was Robert T. Bartley; he's the son of Mr. Rayburn's youngest sister who was Meddie Rayburn Bartley, who just died this past March, the 4th of March. Robert T. Bartley is a member of the Federal Communications Commission in Washington.

Dr. Kamp: Did Mr. Rayburn assist in that appointment?

Miss Clary: Yes, I don't know whether he's the only one--but he's one Democrat that was reappointed to a commission during the Eisenhower

administration. But I'll go back to when Mr. Rayburn finished school at Flagg Springs. He didn't ask his father to send him to college. He asked his father to let him go. And his father took him to the train. The story is that Mr. Sam had probably about $5 in his pocket that he had saved when he had worked. His father gave him $25. And Mr. Sam said, "I don't know where he got it. I don't know what he and my mother did without in order to give me that $25." But he said, "That's all I have to give you. But remember, Sam, be a man." He went to what was then Professor Mayo's School in Commerce, Texas. He trained boys and girls for teaching. It was a normal school. Later it became a state school; East Texas State College.

Dr. Kamp: I believe it's a university, East Texas State University.

Miss Clary: Is it a university?

Dr. Kamp: Yes, they changed the name.

Miss Clary: East Texas State University. The Student Union Building there is a memorial to Mr. Rayburn. When he finished there--got his degree--he started into politics soon after then. Anyhow, when they lived down at Windom, and Mr. Sam, I have always understood, was about ten. Joseph Weldon Bailey was the representative from that district. And Mrs. Rayburn, Mr. Rayburn's mother, admired him very much. Well, he was making a speech in Bonham under a tent. Mr. Sam rode a horse up to that tent and stood at the edge of the tent because all the seats were taken. It was raining and the rain came down the back of his neck. He heard Joseph Weldon

Bailey make that speech. And then was when he said, "One day I'm going to the national House of Representatives and be Speaker." He never deviated from that. There were people who wanted to sidetrack him and have him running for governor of Texas--he would have made a wonderful governor or senator from Texas. But all he wanted to do was be in the House of Representatives.

Dr. Kamp: He loved the House.

Miss Clary: That was his life. He ran when he was twenty-four years old for the State House of Representatives. The day of the election, the story is that he and some of his brothers were in the back of the store sitting around and getting the returns and when the clock on the courthouse claimed seven o'clock and the polls closed, Mr. Sam jumped up and said, "Now, nobody else can scratch me." (Chuckle)

Dr. Kamp: (Chuckle) Miss Clary, there have been some statements made that Mr. Sam was a great admirer of Woodrow Wilson.

Miss Clary: He was.

Dr. Kamp: Did you find this to be true as you knew him?

Miss Clary: That's true, yes. In his sizing-up of the presidents that he worked with, he said "President Wilson was the greatest scholar." If anybody said to Mr. Rayburn anything about the presidents he worked under he reminded them, "No, not under. I worked with them." And he worked with eight different presidents. But Woodrow Wilson, I think, was his ideal, probably. He always said not all of our presidents measured up, some of them more than others. But he had a great respect for the office of president, which I think a lot of

people in the United States do not have. I hope the majority of them do.

Dr. Kamp: What was it about President Wilson, or what thing can you remember that Mr. Sam so greatly admired in him?

Miss Clary: You have to remember when I started working for him was when Wilson was going out.

Dr. Kamp: Right.

Miss Clary: Well, I think he admired his ability, although he's the one president that he disagreed with. Remember he was just thirty-one when he was sworn in and when he introduced that railroad stock and bond bill, he went to the White House to confer with President Wilson about it. President Wilson was not for it, and didn't approve it. He didn't want Mr. Rayburn to push it. Mr. Rayburn said, "Well, Mr. President, I'm sorry, but I'm going to push that bill through." And got his hat and walked out of the White House. Then later he realized how brash he was in doing that (chuckle). Like when he offered me the position in his office, I'd been away from home thirteen months. My father was sitting in a wheelchair and he was getting towards eighty years old. And I had to go back to Texas and see him. Mr. Rayburn wanted me to start working on the first of September. The way I'd planned to go to Texas, I wouldn't get there until about the middle of August. And I didn't want to stay just two weeks. So I went back to see Mr. Rayburn the next week and I said, "I'll take your position if I can wait until the first of October to start." He said, "That's perfectly

all right. And you can wait until the first of September to let me know whether you're coming . . . I came back. He said that he never thought I would come back. When I met him and I was working in the War Department, I hadn't the slightest idea that I would work for him, until he called me to his office and asked me if I would be willing to work in a small office instead of a large office like the one I was in. I didn't know shorthand then. He said, "Will you be willing to study shorthand if you had a position that required it?" I told him, "Yes." And that's when he told me he and Gober would be glad to have me work with them.

Dr. Kamp: How many people were in Mr. Sam's office?

Miss Clary: Just his secretary, Gober Gibson. Just one person then. Then there were two of us for a whole year. Then Mr. Gibson left and went back to Texas. And for seven years I worked in the office by myself. We didn't get very much money in those days. Remember a congressman's salary in those days was $7,500 a year. And his office allowance was . . . I don't know whether it was $3,000 or not. It probably was. I know that when I started working in the War Department after I had taught school, I had . . . never gotten more than $60 a month, and that was just for one year. I started in the War Department at $90 a month. Things were high in Washington because that was during the First World War. At the end of three months I was automatically raised to $100 a month. After six months I was raised to $120 a year. And that's what I got in Mr. Rayburn's office--$120 a month.

Dr. Kamp: Did a congressman in those days have any travel expenses? Now they do, of course.

Miss Clary: Yes. They were allowed one trip a year. It was twenty cents a mile. They didn't travel back to their districts like they do now. It's important to do that because, from my observation, for a man to stay in the House or the Senate, two things are important, answer the mail that comes from your district, but not all the propaganda that comes in the office. Mr. Rayburn didn't answer all that propaganda. And go back to the district and see the people. Because the rank and file, uneducated person--unfortunately, I think that's the most of the voters in the United States--they are not too interested in the laws that are passed. They are not too interested in the fact that Mr. Rayburn was Speaker. But they are interested in whether they did something for them, and visit with them often.

Dr. Kamp: How could you discriminate between the letter which needed to be answered and the propaganda? Now when you say propaganda, much of this would also have been in the form of letters.

Miss Clary: Well, you could distinguish that because the propaganda letters were usually all alike and they came from outside the district and all over the country.

Dr. Kamp: And I suppose, at least when you began work for him, there were not many organized interest groups in the district anyhow.

Miss Clary: No. The Farmer's Union organized in our district and they were working against Mr. Rayburn the first year I worked for him. 1920

was the first campaign that I worked in. We went to the district in June. And, of course, our primary was the last Saturday in July. I worked sending out campaign letters. He had them multigraphed or mimeographed, and I addressed envelopes. We had some of them addressed before we went to Texas. I remember that June, one Monday morning, I started sticking stamps on envelopes, and I finished Saturday (chuckle).

Dr. Kamp: (Chuckle) I bet you had a taste in your mouth, didn't you? (Chuckle)

Miss Clary: Yes. Oh, I had a wet sponge to put them on with (chuckle). But I was asked some years ago what was the first thing I did in Mr. Rayburn's office. I said I addressed franks and envelopes to send out farmer's bulletins, yearbooks, and seed. At that time they made an appropriation, and we'd circularize the district with a list among the farmers. If they wanted seed, they selected the ones they wanted and sent the list back. We'd have the Agriculture Department send them to them. We didn't have too many. A friend who was interviewing me said something about grass seed. I said, "George, we didn't send out grass seed. It was just garden seed and flower seed." They discontinued that in 1924. I don't know when they inaugurated it, how many years it ran.

Dr. Kamp: But there wasn't corn or oats or wheat or anything like that?

Miss Clary: No. But he kept talking about grass seed. And he quoted me in that article that I sent out so much grass seed that now I hate

grass. I did not say it (chuckle). That goes to show you that a lot of people in public life are quoted as saying something that they didn't say. But people who read it think they said it.

Dr. Kamp: I wonder if we might talk a little bit about the 1920 campaign when you and Mr. Sam went back to the district. Do you recall any interesting facets of that campaign? I don't remember who his opponent was, for instance.

Miss Clary: Wait a minute. His opponent was . . . a man named Rainwater. He was a farmer I think. He was supported by the Farmer's Union that was trying to get him in. But Mr. Rayburn stood high with the farmers and he went around and made speeches, because he was a farmer before he went into politics. I think Mr. Rayburn won by about 1,100 votes. That was about the closest one we ever had. But the only unions we had in our district then were at Denison. That was the railroad unions because that was a railroad junction.

Dr. Kamp: Did they participate in politics actively?

Miss Clary: Yes. And the railroad unions and also the oil companies, they thought they could dictate to Mr. Sam Rayburn how he was going to vote. And for several years Denison never went for Mr. Rayburn. But the other part of the district went so strong for him that he was always elected. But every two years he had an opponent. A very good friend of his, Mr. Handy, that lived in Denison, worked hard for Mr. Rayburn. I shall never forget how happy he was the first time Denison gave Mr. Rayburn a majority. That was probably . . . six or eight years after I started working for him.

Dr. Kamp: I've often wondered why Mr. Rayburn consistently had opposition in the Democratic primary. There's hardly an election year when he didn't.

Miss Clary: That's right.

Dr. Kamp: And yet, after so many terms many congressmen don't have that kind of opposition, but Mr. Sam did.

Miss Clary: Yes he did. Because they still thought they could defeat him. Even after he was made Speaker, he had to go out and make speeches at every crossroads.

Dr. Kamp: Well, who were they? You mentioned the railroad unions.

Miss Clary: The railroads. And the oil companies were later.

Dr. Kamp: And the oil companies?

Miss Clary: Yes. A lot of "fat cats" in Dallas thought they could dictate how he would vote. He did a lot for Dallas. He cooperated with the congressman from Dallas in getting things for Dallas.

Dr. Kamp: I believe that he and Mr. Hatton Summers went to the House at the same time, did they not?

Miss Clary: They did. They went on the same train. And their offices were side by each.

Dr. Kamp: Were they close friends?

Miss Clary: Yes, they were. Well, when Mr. Rayburn came to Washington they did not have a House office building, nor a Senate office building for Representatives and Senators. They had to get their offices wherever they could.

Dr. Kamp: Where was it?

Miss Clary: On Capitol Hill, or in their apartments. He had one, in one of the private office buildings on Capitol Hill. There weren't very many there. Now a lot of the congressmen and senators who had families and had apartments had their offices in their apartments.

Dr. Kamp: Well, that was very inconvenient.

Miss Clary: Yes. And when Uncle Joe Cannon, who was Speaker in the House of Representatives, proposed an appropriation to build the first office building, as newspapers and writers do, there was a howl went up about it. "Spend all that money? They don't need those offices." But the wives of the ones who had their offices in their apartments and had all those mail sacks and everything in their apartments were tickled to death about it.

Dr. Kamp: I bet they were.

Miss Clary: Yes. And it went through, and they built the office building and Mr. Sam's office was on the fifth floor of that building, 543.

Dr. Kamp: Well, when was that building occupied? Was Mr. Sam in this office building when you joined him?

Miss Clary: When I started working for him? Yes.

Dr. Kamp: Yes.

Miss Clary: I don't remember offhand when it opened. I came in 1919 to work for him. But he came in 1913. It was probably right along about 1915 or '16, somewhere along in there.

Dr. Kamp: Miss Clary, we were talking about Mr. Sam's evaluation of the eight presidents with whom he served.

Miss Clary: He was asked that about a year before he died. Of course, the

first one was Woodrow Wilson as you were asking about. This is his quote on Woodrow Wilson. "I've always thought that President Wilson was one of the greatest intellects that ever sat in the White House. He was a great statesman." Warren G. Harding. "I never thought that Mr. Harding was a dishonest man. He was too trusting, and some people that weren't exactly right imposed upon him." Calvin Coolidge. "I rather liked him. I think Coolidge said one of the smartest things that was ever said, 'I found out early in life that you don't have to explain something you hadn't said.'" Then for Herbert Hoover. Before quoting him, I have heard Mr. Rayburn say that Herbert Hoover was a fine man but a very weak leader. This is a quote on him: "I also thought that Mr. Hoover was a very efficient man. I like him. I think he is a grand man. But I always thought Mr. Hoover was a better man to be on the team than to be a captain." Franklin D. Roosevelt. "His inaugural address, 1933, was one of the most inspiring things that I think the American people ever had. He had a program, and he had the courage to stand by it and give a good reason for it. He had an appeal to the American people that very few men in the history of this country have had." I heard Mr. Rayburn say if he had kept on living longer than he did, he could still have been elected president. Harry Truman. "He made some of the biggest decisions that any man made who was ever president. I think history is going to be kind to Mr. Truman. I think it is going to put him way up among our great presidents." Dwight D. Eisenhower. "He was a

great general. He is a great patriot. I think he wanted to serve his day and generation well. I think history will be just to him." President John F. Kennedy. "I think he's going to make a good president and really be a man of destiny." Of course, this was made before President Kennedy was killed.

Dr. Kamp: Miss Clary, those quotations are from a book which you have there. What is the book, and do you know the source of those quotes?

Miss Clary: Yes. These quotes were given when Mr. Rayburn was interviewed by Paul Nevin. Mr. Rayburn would never be on a program like "Meet the Press." Lawrence Spivak tried his best to get Mr. Rayburn on that. He was interviewed by Martin Agronsky just sitting, talking like you and I are. He would do that. David Nevin interviewed him. He would ask Mr. Rayburn questions, and he would sit back and talk. He said, "Now, Mr. Speaker, you have served <u>under</u> eight presidents." Mr. Rayburn said, "No, Mr. Nevin, I served with them." Then Paul Nevin asked him to evaluate them. And this quote was from that interview. This was in the memorial book that was printed after Mr. Rayburn died. When a member of the House or Senate dies, at a future time the House or Senate . . . will set aside a certain day for other members to eulogize them. They did the same thing with Mr. Rayburn. The book is usually not very thick. Mr. Rayburn's is a big, thick book because all of the eulogies from the members of the House and Senate and also the tributes that was given to him by the man who preached his funeral, Elder Ball--H. G. Ball, from Tioga.

Dr. Kamp: I was going to ask you who he was.

Miss Clary: Yes. He was pastor--they don't call them pastors--of the Primitive Baptist Church in Tioga, Texas, . . . that Mr. Rayburn joined five years before he died. He joined in 1956. Mrs. Bartley told me that on a certain Sunday morning there was something doing in Bonham that Mr. Rayburn . . . was supposed to attend and she thought he was going to. And that morning she said, "Are you going to Bonham today?" He said, "No, I'm going to Tioga and join the church." Mrs. Bartley said, "Sam, you've done a lot of great things in your life, but this is the greatest thing that you have ever done."

Dr. Kamp: I wonder why he delayed joining any church so long?

Miss Clary: Of course, his was a very close-knit family. And he had a great respect for Miss Lou. In fact, Miss Lou was really the matriarch of that family after the father and mother died. Miss Lou belonged to the First Baptist Church in Bonham. Mr. Rayburn didn't want to join that church. He said the Primitive Baptist Church was the one his father belonged to. I think out of respect, maybe, to Miss Lou was one of the reasons he put it off. I never heard him say anything about it because I didn't discuss this with him. But she died in May of 1956. And this was in probably October of '56 that he joined the church.

Dr. Kamp: But his parents were Baptist, were they not?

Miss Clary: Yes, they were Baptist.

Dr. Kamp: And his father was Primitive Baptist.

Miss Clary: They all, I guess, stayed in the Baptist Church except Mrs. Bartley. She married into the Christian Church, and joined that church. Miss Lou was a faithful member of the First Baptist Church in Bonham.

Dr. Kamp: Miss Clary, moving to a policy matter for a moment, would you say that Mr. Sam underwent a gradual change in his attitude towards civil rights legislation? Would you care to comment on that?

Miss Clary: Well, I would say that he did although Mr. Rayburn was a very fair person and believed everybody should have their rights. Of course, having been brought up in the South he naturally had, I guess, a different attitude toward the ethnic groups. But I remember one thing, that at the time that the congressman from Harlem, Mr. Adam Clayton Powell, served on the Education and Labor Committee, and when he had attained the seniority to become chairman of that committee, some of the Southern members on that committee, naturally, did not want him to be chairman. Mr. Sam Rayburn said, "He has the seniority, and he has the ability, and he's going to be chairman." And he was fair about that. I think he, like a lot of others in the South, got more liberal on civil rights. Because I think he was a lot like his father. He believed in everybody . . . exercising their citizenship as it was a sacred honor. I remember Congressman William Dawson, who is from Chicago and who has represented the district for years, and he is a Negro. When he became chairman of the Government Operations Committee in the House, I heard Mr. Rayburn say that the Southern members on that committee worked right along with him without any trouble at all.

And that ten years before that they wouldn't have done it. But he has now been chairman of that committee for more than twenty years, I'm sure. And everybody respects him.

Dr. Kamp: I would think that Mr. Sam had to be rather careful about his attitudes towards this in the Fourth District.

Miss Clary: Yes, I'm sure he did. Because Mr. Sam did not make a lot of statements to get in the paper, (chuckle) . . . just to get publicity like some of them do. He was supposed to be conservative. But he was also liberal. He always said, "I'm a Democrat with no ifs, ands, or buts. I'm not conservative. I'm not liberal. I'm not left. I'm not right. I'm a Democrat." And he was. Although when President Roosevelt came in and he proposed legislation that was far-reaching and very liberal, Mr. Rayburn fought to get it through the House, always.

Dr. Kamp: Did he support the major civil rights bills that were in the Congress of the, say, 1950's?

Miss Clary: Well . . . yes. He supported them in getting them passed. Of course, the Speaker of the House does not vote. He can vote if he asks to, but it's not normally that he votes.

Dr. Kamp: And Mr. Rayburn ordinarily did not.

Miss Clary: No.

Dr. Kamp: . . . cast his vote.

Miss Clary: No, that's right. An interesting thing about the Speaker of the House. Now some people don't realize what that is. But that came from the English Parliament.

Dr. Kamp: House of Commons.

Miss Clary: House of Commons, when they sent the man that was designated as their president to the king to tell him they were ready to carry on business, or for a report to the king, they started referring to him as their speaker. And that's how it came about. And one time after Mr. Rayburn was made Speaker, the Speaker in London was a man named Brown, and a telephone hook-up was made so that Mr. Rayburn in Washington spoke to Speaker Brown in London. That was a long time ago--1940.

Dr. Kamp: I wonder what they talked about.

Miss Clary: I (chuckle) don't remember. I did know what they talked about, but I don't remember (chuckle).

Of course, Mr. Rayburn, after he came to Congress, his goal and his ambition was to be Speaker. And in the House a Speaker is elected like you are elected president of your club. The man that gets the most votes is elected. The first Democratic speaker after I started working for Mr. Rayburn was Mr. Garner. Because Mr. Garner succeeded Nicholas Longworth and that was because Republicans were in the majority until 1931.

Dr. Kamp: No, the Republicans . . .

Miss Clary: The Republicans organized the House in 1921.

Dr. Kamp: Yes.

Miss Clary: That was when Mr. Longworth was made speaker.

Dr. Kamp: Yes.

Miss Clary: Then in 1931 was when Mr. Garner came in as Speaker. At that time

the Democrats only had three more members in the House than the Republicans. I sat in the gallery that morning. It was very exciting because if three members had been out sick, it would have been a tie. If four members had been out the Republicans could have elected a Speaker.

Dr. Kamp: That's always pretty much a straight party vote isn't it?

Miss Clary: Yes. Both parties caucus and decide who's going to nominate the candidate for Speaker. The minority party always puts up a candidate. Mr. Lee who represented the district north of San Francisco and later was chairman of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee succeeded Mr. Rayburn when he was made majority leader, was very crippled up with arthritis. They brought him into the House chamber on a stretcher. And he voted. And Mr. Garner was elected.

Dr. Kamp: Going back . . .

Miss Clary: Now Mr. Jack Garner only served two years because that was '31, and in '33 he was Vice President.

Dr. Kamp: That's right. And then I believe Mr. Bankhead . . .

Miss Clary: No. Rainey. Mr. Henry T. Rainey from Illinois was elected Speaker. He was way up about seventy before he was elected Speaker and he didn't live out a term. Then Joseph Byrns of Tennessee was made Speaker, . . . but they wanted Mr. Rayburn to take the place as majority leader under Mr. Byrns. Mr. Rayburn wouldn't have it. Mr. Bankhead took it. Then when Mr. Byrns died, he didn't serve too long--less than two years, then Mr.

Bankhead came in. When Mr. Bankhead was majority leader before Mr. Byrns died, he had a heart condition. Then when Mr. Bankhead was made Speaker, Mr. Rayburn took the place as Majority Leader under Mr. Bankhead. But he carried a heavy load because Mr. Bankhead was out an awful lot. When Mr. Bankhead died and they had Mr. Bankhead's funeral in the House Chamber, they announced they could not carry on any business until they elected the Speaker. And Mr. Sabath, of Illinois who was chairman of the Rules Committee nominated Mr. Rayburn and swore him in. The Republicans did not nominate anyone. Mr. Rayburn was elected unanimously.

Dr. Kamp: Do you recall why it was that Mr. Sam preferred not to be majority floor leader . . .

Miss Clary: Under Mr. Byrns.

Dr. Kamp: . . . while Mr. Byrns was Speaker?

Miss Clary: I don't know. I heard him say that he didn't want to serve under Joe Byrns. Now I don't know what he had against Mr. Joe Byrns, I really don't.

Dr. Kamp: Of course, by this time Mr. Sam was chairman of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Miss Clary: He was chairman of the caucus, too, before he was elected the majority leader. When he was made majority leader in the House, someone asked me who was going to represent the district. And I said, "You don't get out of your club when you're elected secretary in your club. You have to still be a member. There's nothing in the Constitution that says a man has to be a resident

of his district in order to be elected to the House. But people wouldn't vote for him if he wasn't a resident. Only in rare instances . . . Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., didn't live in his district. But New York is different (chuckle).

Dr. Kamp: It sure is. Miss Clary, while we're talking about that, I wonder if we could turn to the topic of Mr. Sam's campaign expenses back in his home district. I always understood that he felt very strongly about paying his own expenses.

Miss Clary: He did.

Dr. Kamp: But it takes money to campaign.

Miss Clary: Right.

Dr. Kamp: Well, where did the money come from, and what kind of organization did he have? Could you talk a little bit about that? How did he handle that?

Miss Clary: Well, he usually had a campaign manager, and I didn't manage that. People donated if they wanted to. I know when I first started working for him, $2,500 was the most they could spend. And later, I guess, they could spend a little more. That is a problem . . . raising money to make campaigns.

Dr. Kamp: Well, I would think it would be, particularly in a district like that where there were no large organized interest groups to . . .

Miss Clary: No.

Dr. Kamp: . . . put money in the campaign and where the oil people weren't putting money into his campaign.

Miss Clary: That's right. . . . Just his friends that donated money for him.

Dr. Kamp: Another thing that I'd like to ask you about was his . . . you mentioned his great admiration for Joe Bailey.

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: Now I believe that Mr. Bailey later became senator . . .

Miss Clary: He did.

Dr. Kamp: . . . from Texas.

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: I'm sure they got to know each other, then, when Mr. Sam joined the Congress.

Miss Clary: Mr. Bailey resigned from the Senate, you know, and I'm not sure about my dates. But it seems to me like he resigned from the Senate before Mr. Rayburn went to the House.

Dr. Kamp: Oh, did he?

Miss Clary: Because when I first started working for him, . . . Senator Sheppard and Senator Culberson were the senators from Texas.

Dr. Kamp: And Senator Bailey preceeded them.

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: Well, I just seem to recall that in Mr. Sam's early years in the House, or maybe even in his campaign or two, Prohibition and Baileyism were two big issues. And I often wondered what the Baileyism part of that was. I know about Prohibition, but I never really understood what that was all about.

Miss Clary: As you know Joe Bailey was noted, of course, for being an orator. I have been told, of course, I never knew him, only just what I have heard about it, that he could not be a political enemy of

anyone and not be a personal enemy. And if you're in public life or if you're in politics, you can't let your personal likes and dislikes come into it too much. Because a lot of people can't understand that members on the House floor can fight each other in legislation and then go off arm-in-arm and have lunch together, as a Republican and a Democrat (chuckle).

Dr. Kamp: But I suppose they really must. They're working in the same organization . . .

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: Or at least they should.

Miss Clary: Mr. Rayburn was fair in his presiding. And he always said the Democrats know how to run the government and the Republicans don't (chuckle).

Miss Clary: Saying, "They don't know how to run the government, and they never have known how to run the government." But, when he was presiding in the House, he was not partisan, and the Republicans will tell you that. Mr. Ben Jensen from Iowa tells about when there was a bill up, when he first went to the House and he presented an amendment to it. And Mr. Sam Rayburn came down out of the chair and told him . . . he said, "Don't present your amendment to this part of the bill. Wait until we get down to a certain section and present it then." He withdrew his amendment and put it down in another section of the bill, and it went through. That impressed him so, that a Democratic speaker would come to a Republican new member and guide him legislatively. But that's the way he did. He was very

fair. And he wasn't partisan when he was presiding. He always said, "Some districts make a mistake when they send their members to the House, but that's the only voice they have. And he has a right to be heard." But when he came down out of that chair and had party conferences, then he was a Democrat (chuckle).

Dr. Kamp: Yes. I believe they called those meetings the . . . the Board of Education.

Miss Clary: Board of Education. He never did like that too well (chuckle).

Dr. Kamp: You mean he didn't like the name?

Miss Clary: No. He didn't . . . like that applied to it. I think it was applied to Mr. Garner's meetings before and then Mr. Garner went out, and Mr. Rayburn still had those meetings in the afternoon.

Dr. Kamp: Yes. Miss Clary, I wonder if we could talk about Mr. Sam, the man, a little bit more. I believe he loved baseball, and even played some baseball, didn't he, in his younger years?

Miss Clary: He might have when he was in college. He didn't have too much time to play baseball because he worked his way through. He rang bells swept floors and waited on tables. Mr. Tom Rayburn was the one that played baseball with the Oklahoma-Texas League.

Dr. Kamp: Oh, did he?

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: I didn't know that. Well, did Mr. Sam go see the Washington baseball games as a fan?

Miss Clary: Oh, yes. And even after the Washington team was moved to Minneapolis, he still talked . . . <u>of</u> the boys on that team as <u>our</u> team.

Dr. Kamp: And I believe he was quite a fisherman.

Miss Clary: He was. That he liked to do. And he could catch them, too. George Donovan was the chauffeur for the Speaker who was a Rhode Islander and an Irishman and one of the finest men in the world. He and George used to go fishing. He didn't go deep-sea fishing, but he fished in the fresh-water lakes in Virginia and Maryland and around there. Once in a while, I guess, he'd fish in the Chesapeake Bay, but more often in Virginia and Maryland. There was a friend, Mr. Barnes, who had a place down in Maryland on a . . . big lake . . . and he went down there real often. And Mr. Marvin Jones went with him. He and Mr. Rayburn were very, very good friends.

Dr. Kamp: Did he bait-cast, fly-fish, or still-fish, or did he ever talk about it?

Miss Clary: I can't say. They fished from a little boat.

Dr. Kamp: Yes.

Miss Clary: I bet it must have been a lot of fly-fishing because he had lures.

Dr. Kamp: And then there are several lakes in the Fourth District.

Miss Clary: Yes. I suppose he fished on Lake Texoma. I don't know.

Dr. Kamp: Never went with him, fishing?

Miss Clary: (Chuckle) No, I didn't go with him.

He was a long, long time, a lot of years, getting that dam built at Denison . . . up north of Denison, across Red River that formed Lake Texoma. The engineers had to make a survey of it, you know, and they had to have an appropriation for that. A fellow

that I knew in Sherman asked me if the dam would be built? He said that he didn't think that dam would ever be built. That was after Mr. Rayburn had been working on it for several years. I said, "Well, why do you say that?" He said, "Well, I've always thought that other than the politics that goes with the office that Mr. Sam Rayburn was more of a politician than a statesman." And I said, "You don't know what you're talking about." "What's your definition of a politician and a statesman?" Webster says a statesman is a man who is skilled in the science of government, and that's Mr. Sam Rayburn. He's skilled in the science of government. A politician is a man who is skilled in the science of government more from a party standpoint. But this memorial book, I read a quote in that that said, "Mr. Sam Rayburn"--I think President Truman was the one that said this--"he is a man who doesn't have to die to be known as a statesman."

Dr. Kamp: Getting back again, and I want to return to this in a later part, about the dilemma which a congressman sometimes faces when he knows the people back in his district want him to vote one way and yet the congressman is convinced this is not the way the vote should go. But you mentioned a fascinating little note about Mr. Sam's conservatism in his shoes, and I would love for you to relate that.

Miss Clary: (Chuckle) Well, he was very conservative in his dress. One of the boys in Bonham, Texas, Dan English, worked in our office for a while. When Mr. Rayburn went to Texas, and that was Dan's home, too, he took him down there and going around the district Dan drove the car for him. He went out to Mr. Rayburn's home dressed

in cowboy boots and a big hat and a loud shirt. Mr. Rayburn said, "Go right back home and take that outfit off." (Chuckle) He wore Texas hats not very large ones, but he didn't believe in any flare. And back when he was minority leader, in the Eightieth Congress and the Eighty-Second Congress when the Republicans organized the House and Mr. Joe Martin was Speaker, Mr. Rayburn was really the minority leader. He bought a pair of brown shoes. I don't know whether he noticed it when he bought them or not, but when he came to the office with them on, part of the stitching on them was in white. That was too flashy for him. So he said "Does anybody have any brown polish? And we looked all around our office and we didn't have any brown polish. I kept a lot of things in that office, but I didn't have any brown polish. Mr. Halleck, Charles Halleck from Indiana was the majority leader under the Republicans; we went to his office and asked about it. He had some brown polish, and he loaned it to us and we put it on the white stitching to make Mr. Rayburn's shoes more conservative. I have an interesting story, too, about the morning that Mr. Rayburn was made Speaker. He had shaved himself that morning, and he had cut a place on his neck. When he got to the office he found out he had two spots of blood on his collar. The House was going to meet at 12:00. At twenty minutes of twelve he said, "Miss Clary, send George to my apartment to get me a clean collar." I said, "Mr. Rayburn, nobody could get to your apartment and back to this capitol in twenty minutes." A friend had taken a wet towel and

tried to wash it off and just smeared it. So one of the friends who came to see him sworn in took one of our franks with Mr. Rayburn's name on it and went out and got a taxi and went to a men's store in the next block from the capitol and bought a collar. They weren't going to let her in the capitol grounds, but she waved the frank and told the guard it was for Mr. Rayburn and she got back in time, and he had a clean collar to be sworn in (chuckle).

Dr. Kamp: (Chuckle) Miss Clary, in looking at some of those earlier years and some of the legislation, and I made a note that the original Walridge (?) Insurance Act was actually authored by Mr. Sam.

Miss Clary: That's right.

Dr. Kamp: And I hadn't known that.

Miss Clary: He and Mr. Sweet of Iowa. Mr. Sweet was on the committee. He and Mr. Sweet worked together on it. They put that legislation through the House while the war was still going on, before the boys started to come back. It all went through the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Dr. Kamp: Oh, I see. I was going to ask you why his interest in the veteran's legislation.

Miss Clary: Yes. Veteran's bills went through the Interstate. . . . I have been very careful to mention that that was the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce because Mr. Rayburn always corrected me if I said the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. You know, it's the Committee <u>on</u> Interstate and Foreign Commerce (chuckle). They handled communications legislation and trans-

portation legislation. And they had veterans legislation as they did not have a veteran's committee in the House. They established a Veteran's Affairs Committee later.

Dr. Kamp: Do you recall whether or not Mr. Rayburn campaigned for the Democratic presidential candidate in 1920? That would have been Mr. Cox, the Cox-Harding campaign in 1920. I assume that he did.

Miss Clary: I imagine he did. I don't know. Whether he went outside the state of Texas and made any speeches, I'm not positive.

Dr. Kamp: I seem to recall some place where I saw that he campaigned in the state of Ohio.

Miss Clary: Well, he might have.

Dr. Kamp: For Cox?

Miss Clary: I believe he did.

Dr. Kamp: Well, let's see, Cox and Harding were both from Ohio.

Miss Clary: Right.

Dr. Kamp: I know Harding was.

Miss Clary: Yes, Marian, Ohio.

Dr. Kamp: Also, in the early 1920's there was a revival of protectionist tariff legislation coming in, and as I recall, Mr. Sam had been very much opposed to . . .

Miss Clary: The high tariff.

Dr. Kamp: . . . protective tariff legislation . . .

Miss Clary: Yes, he was.

Dr. Kamp: . . . in his early years.

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: And I suppose . . .

Miss Clary: That was the years of isolation of the United States.

Dr. Kamp: Then in 1922 . . . we were talking a while ago about his refusal to really run for anything except his seat in the House of Representatives. In 1922 wasn't he urged to run for the United States Senate and turned it down? Do you recall the story of that?

Miss Clary: Who was running at that time? Do you remember?

Dr. Kamp: Oh, my goodness, I don't know.

Miss Clary: I don't either.

Dr. Kamp: I ought to, but I don't.

Miss Clary: Well, I think there probably were two reasons why somebody would want him to be United States Senator. And that brings up his attitude towards the Senate and the House. Not one time did he ever refer to the United States Senate as the upper body. He didn't consider it was. He considered the House ranked just as high as the Senate. But somebody was always promoting him. They thought it would be a promotion to go to the United States Senate. I always said, "Well, you want to demote him if you send him to the Senate." (Chuckle) When you're in the House you represent just, roughly, then, around 250,000 or 300,000 people. If you're in the Senate, you represent the whole state. And you're closer to the people because every two years you have to run again. And I think our founding fathers set it up that way purposely.

Dr. Kamp: Sure.

Miss Clary: Then another thing, there were some ambitious young men in our district that probably wanted to run for his place. There was G. C. Morris who lived in Greenville in later years ran twice against Mr. Rayburn. He was a state senator. And announcements that Mr. Rayburn was going to take a Cabinet place, or he was going to run for the Senate would come out of Austin.

Dr. Kamp: I don't imagine . . .

Miss Clary: And Mr. Morris wanted to run for Representative. Wanted to get that place. That's the reason.

Dr. Kamp: Then in 1922 a man by the name of Westbrook, I believe Ed Westbrook, ran against Mr. Sam Rayburn.

Miss Clary: Yes. The first one after I started to work for him was this man Rainwater and then the next two years it was Westbrook.

Dr. Kamp: Who was he?

Miss Clary: It seems to me he was a state senator, I'm not sure. And I think he lived in Sherman. I'm not sure where he lived. But, anyhow, there never was a man that ran against Mr. Rayburn that didn't later vote for him. And I know Mr. Westbrook ran against him in 1922. And in 1924 right after the polls opened Mr. Rayburn got a wire from Mr. Westbrook advising him that he and all his family had just cast their votes for Sam Rayburn.

Dr. Kamp: I wonder why men like Mr. Westbrook would have thought he would even have had a chance to defeat Mr. Sam.

Miss Clary: Well, a lot of times they didn't think they had a chance, but in that way they became known in the district just in case Mr. Rayburn

was elected to something else or something happened to him then they would be better known.

Dr. Kamp: Then I wanted to come back to the problem which sometimes faces a congressman, particularly a man who is conscientious, concerning the desires of most of the people in his district about a particular piece of legislation. When the congressman knows that, say, most of the people in his district are for the bill, and, yet, since the congressman has studied the bill and knows a great deal more about it, probably, than anybody in his home district but is convinced that the bill is not desirable. How did Mr. Sam handle situations like this? I'm sure that they came up.

Miss Clary: Well, they came up. But he always told the people that when a bill is introduced, it's not the same as it is when it finally gets passed. And he'd have to study the bill before he would make a commitment which way he was going to vote. Because our district was largely agricultural we didn't have any large city in it. And the people that are on the farm don't write you too much. And besides the people that are for things don't write you as much as the people that are against. The ones that are against are the ones that would write. But he would very diplomatically tell them that. I remember a letter he wrote when somebody wrote him one--President John F. Kennedy was running--against Mr. Kennedy because he was Catholic. And Mr. Rayburn said, "I've served with probably 3,000 members in the House of Representatives and when they came to be sworn in they were not asked whether they were Catholic or whether

they were Protestant." And that's right. He had no prejudices in that line, none whatever.

Dr. Kamp: Do you recall any particular issues that may have caused Mr. Rayburn difficulty back in his home district when he had voted, say, for something and this was brought up in the campaign where he had to answer those charges?

Miss Clary: I don't believe I do.

Dr. Kamp: I don't either (chuckle), so don't worry about it.

Miss Clary, we were talking about Mr. Rayburn's maiden speech in his first term in the House of Representatives. And I'd like for you to comment on that if you would.

Miss Clary: Well, it was customary, usually, for the new members to sit and learn about the workings of the House and not make a speech for some months after they come in. But Mr. Rayburn made his first speech on May 6, 1913, just one day before serving a month in the body. And what he spoke on was the Underwood Tariff Bill, low tariff, which he was against. That was for repealing the Paine-Aldrich type tariff law. And an amendment to the Underwood Bill provided for an income tax in accordance with the adoption of the Sixteenth Amendment. This is a quote from what Mr. Rayburn said. "As a new member of this body, I, of course, feel that I should have a regard for the long established custom of the House which in a measure demands that discussion of questions should be left to the more mature members. But I feel that as a representative of more than 200,000 citizens of the Fourth Congressional District of

Texas I should be allowed to break in a measure whatever of this custom remains and exercise my constitutional rights to speak my sentiment on this floor and refuse to be relegated to that lock-jawed ostracism typical of the dead past." And this is also an excerpt from his speech. "I came to this body a few weeks ago with childlike enthusiasm and confidence. It has always been my ambition to live such a life that one day my fellow citizens would call me to membership in this popular branch of the greatest lawmaking body in the world. Out of that partiality and confidence they have done it. It is my sole purpose here to help enact such wise and just laws that our common country by virtue of these laws will be a happier and more prosperous country. I have always dreamed of a country which I believe this to be, and will be, one in which the citizenship is an educated and patriotic people not swayed by passion or prejudice and a country that shall know no East, no West, no North, no South, but inhabited by a people liberty-loving, patriotic, happy, and prosperous with law-makers having no other purpose than to write such just laws as shall in the years to come be of service to mankind yet unborn." And Mr. Rayburn was 31 years old when he wrote that. And that's quoted from his maiden speech a lot.

Dr. Kamp: Unusual judgement for a young congressman.

Miss Clary: Yes. And this quote from his maiden speech, majority leader Lyndon Johnson in the Senate took this excerpt from the speech and made a large picture of Mr. Rayburn with this on it. A lot of

people have those. I think there's one in the Rayburn Library in Bonham. And when you think of how . . . of Mr. Rayburn's qualities when he came to Congress. From his father, I think, I have said, he inherited a love of politics. Because he said, "Pa" --and they always called him "Pa"--"took his citizenship as a sacred honor." And I think a lot like that because I say it's the duty of the people in the United States to vote. I think it's a privilege and a duty to vote, and I never miss an opportunity to vote whenever I can. From his mother he inherited judgement and patience. He had infinite patience in a lot of things he did. If he had a project he was working on, he would keep on working on it until it worked out. And a lot of people don't have enough patience for that. And, of course, from both parents he inherited a deep sense of honor. He said you can have the finest education in the world, but if you don't have judgement it doesn't amount to much. Also, one other quote was, "There are no degrees of honesty. You either are or you're not honest."

Dr. Kamp: I'd always heard that Mr. Sam could forgive almost anything in a man except dishonesty.

Miss Clary: That's right. And another thing I don't think he ever forgave in a man, and I'm talking now about some of the Texans that we all know who were elected to office in their state by the Democratic Party and then worked against their own party. And they might have thought that Mr. Sam Rayburn forgave them for that, but he <u>never</u> did. He treated them all right, but he didn't forgive them

for it. Which, I think, in his eyes was an unpardonable sin (chuckle).

Dr. Kamp: Miss Clary, I wonder if we could go now to the 1928 presidential campaign when the Democratic nominee was Governor Smith from New York. And I wonder if you would talk a bit about Mr. Sam's role in that campaign?

Miss Clary: Well, he campaigned for Al Smith as he did for most . . . all of the Democratic nominees. And he was not prejudiced by the fact that Al Smith was a Catholic, where so many people in Texas, certainly were. But he worked for him and made speeches for him. Right now I don't remember just where he went because I was working in the office taking care of the mail that came, not out on the campaign trail.

Dr. Kamp: Well, I suspect that again he had opposition in his own district in 1928.

Miss Clary: Yes, he did. And I don't think he attended the convention in Houston. Because the primary was the last Saturday in July, and the convention was usually held in July. I don't remember that he went to a convention until in the '30's. Then he didn't go to all of them. I don't think he was ever a delegate to the convention. He might have been.

Dr. Kamp: You don't recall that his opponent or opponents in the Fourth District used his support of Governor Smith against Mr. Rayburn in this particular race?

Miss Clary: No, I don't think they did because, you see, the primary was over before he would go out and campaign for Governor Smith because the

national campaign didn't start until after the primary and was in the fall.

Dr. Kamp: Well, I imagine that he was rather disappointed that Texas went for the Republican presidential candidate in 1928.

Miss Clary: He certainly was, terribly disappointed.

Dr. Kamp: Then we were going to go on to Mr. Rayburn's service as chairman of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce in the House. I'm sure that changed his life as a congressman quite a bit and you probably saw some of those changes.

Miss Clary: Yes, yes. It made a lot more work I know in the committee and in the congressional office. Mr. Rayburn was always very punctual about things. He didn't like for people to be late and he didn't like to be late himself. He was on that committee eighteen years before he was chairman of it. But they would set a hearing for 10:00 or 10:30 a.m. I have heard him as he left the office he was so disgusted because he'd go down to the committee hearings and it would be set for 10:00 and they'd fool around, and it would be maybe 10:30 before they'd call it to order. They'd come strolling in. After he became chairman one of the reporters said to me one day that he runs that committee just like a general runs his army. If he set a hearing for 10:00 and nobody was there but he and the janitor, he'd bang the gavel and start the hearing. He became chairman in 1931, and that was just before Roosevelt came in. Of course, he had a big role in legislation in the '30's when Roosevelt gave him the bills that he wanted introduced in the New

Deal. Right now I don't have a copy of those bills, but I have them in here.

Dr. Kamp: Are those the bills that . . .

Miss Clary: That was the bill to curb trading on the stock exchange. And then the people from the stock exchange came down and said the market would be ruined. It would just ruin everything. And it didn't. It curbed it. And the holding company bill. And, of course, the bill that he was, I think, proudest of was the bill setting up the rural electrification . . . the rural electrification bill. He said that would do more to take the burden off the backs of the farm women in this United States, also the men, than anything else. But an interesting thing is that Senator Norris of Nebraska, who was a very fine liberal Republican, introduced the first rural electrification bill. And Mr. Rayburn introduced it in the House. And it has done wonders for the farm people in the country. Another one of his pets and which he did a lot for was farm-to-market roads. Wright Patman, . . . said he happened to be in Mr. Rayburn's office when the chairman of the Committee on Roads came in with the appropriation bill for roads. Mr. Rayburn asked "How much of that bill takes care of farm roads?" He said, "Not anything is specially named in the bill for farm roads." And he said, "Well, take it back and put 30 per cent of it for farm-to-market roads and then I'll approve." And that's what they did. That was the start of building farm roads in the country.

Dr. Kamp: That was an important step.

Miss Clary: Right.

Dr. Kamp: I suppose that as chairman of the committee then he had additional staff to help him in that capacity.

Miss Clary: Yes, he did. They had about four clerks in the committee then. And now they have a lot more. They have a professional staff now. And there were only four of us in the congressional office. What I did was take care of the mail and the people and the telephone calls that came to the congressional office . . . not in the committee. But it was very interesting.

Dr. Kamp: Did Mr. Rayburn in those days as chairman of the committee have any particular difficulty in getting the committee's bills on the floor through the committee on rules? Later on I know there was some controversy about that after he became speaker.

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: But while he was chairman did he have any . . .

Miss Clary: While he was chairman I don't think he had too much difficulty because he had a way of persuasion that would get it through. After he was Speaker, he had more trouble with the Rules Committee.

Dr. Kamp: Then I wanted to ask you, oh, a bit more about the Texoma Project. And you've mentioned that briefly earlier.

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: I know that that was one of his major contributions to the north central part of Texas, anyhow.

Miss Clary: Yes, it was. And he . . . got an appropriation, but . . . he had a hard time getting that, the first appropriation . . . allowing

the Army Engineers to make a survey on it. You have to start that a long time before it finally goes through because the wheels of government grind slowly. That's where he had a lot of patience.

Dr. Kamp: Did Mr. Rayburn have a pretty good working relationship with the Corps of Engineers?

Miss Clary: Yes, he did.

Dr. Kamp: Well, I think there are three or four other smaller lakes in his district.

Miss Clary: Yes, there are. There's Lavon down at Lavon, Texas, in the southeastern part of the district. And one in Kaufman County. Is it Tawakoni?

Dr. Kamp: I think so.

Miss Clary: That's what I thought.

Dr. Kamp: Yes, now those were much later.

Miss Clary: Well, yes, it must have been. And it wasn't as hard to get them because of Denison dam. And Lake Texoma was more or less a pond here, but in that part of the country, it is a big lake.

Dr. Kamp: That's fine. Did you recall that any congressman or senator from Oklahoma helped with the Texoma project?

Miss Clary: Yes, they did. Right off hand I don't know who represented the district right across. Now I think it was Congressman Albert. But they worked with Mr. Rayburn very well on that.

Dr. Kamp: Thank you. Then we had started to talk a little bit about his participation in the Democratic national conventions, and you said that he didn't participate very actively, really, until the 1932 convention.

Miss Clary: I don't think he attended one until then. I'm not sure it was the 1932. I know at one time he was going to one, and he had an opponent and couldn't go. He had to go on to Texas and campaign. But I believe he went in '32.

Dr. Kamp: I seem to recall having read some place that he worked rather closely with Mr. Farley.

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: Concerning the presidential nomination and Mr. Garner's role.

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: Who at that time, I believe, was being supported by the Texas delegation . . .

Miss Clary: And the California delegation.

Dr. Kamp: . . . and the California delegation, right.

Miss Clary: And Mr. Rayburn was keeping in touch . . . it was '32 when he was at that convention . . . and he was keeping in touch with Mr. Garner all the time. Then they saw for one thing President Roosevelt didn't have enough votes to put him over. Finally Mr. Rayburn called Mr. Garner, and he released Texas and California that were pledged to him. That put President Roosevelt over. He was nominated.

Dr. Kamp: Of course, it would have been very difficult for Mr. Garner to have gotten the presidential nomination.

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: In those years Texas was much a one-party state.

Miss Clary: Well, I don't think Mr. Garner ever got over that because he wanted

to be president. I noticed when Mr. Rayburn first came to Congress and in later years writers referred to him as a protege of John Nance Garner. I never felt that was exactly right. Mr. Garner had been in Congress for several years, and he was on the Ways and Means Committee. He, of course, helped Mr. Rayburn to get on that major committee. And he gave Mr. Rayburn advice about the workings of the Congress just like Mr. Rayburn did the young ones after he got to the top.

Dr. Kamp: I suppose they remained quite good friends.

Miss Clary: Yes, they did.

Dr. Kamp: . . . all through the 1930's.

Miss Clary: When Mr. Rayburn was made Speaker, Mr. Garner was Vice President. And that was the second time in history that the Speaker and the Vice President came from the same state. The other time was when Speaker Gillett of Massachusetts, a Republican, was Speaker and Mr. Coolidge was Vice President. They were both from Massachusetts.

Dr. Kamp: Mr. Garner used to like to strike a few blows for liberty (chuckle).

Miss Clary: Yes (chuckle). Mr. Garner was a great bourbon and branch water drinker (chuckle).

Dr. Kamp: Well, he must have thrived on it.

Miss Clary: I think he did. He didn't quite make 100 years, but he was way up in the 90's.

Dr. Kamp: He was pretty close. Then I wanted to ask you about your recollection of the personal relationship between Mr. Sam and

President Roosevelt, particularly during the New Deal days or anything thereafter. I'm sure he had many conferences with President Roosevelt.

Miss Clary: Yes, he did. It was a very good working arrangement because they got along fine. I think a lot of times Mr. Rayburn probably was not 100 per cent for those programs because they were rather far reaching. Something that never had been done. But he . . . thought enough of the country to . . . push them and put them through. Because, you know, he always told the new members when they came, "In order to get along you have to go along." Some people interpret that as meaning having a brass collar around your neck and being led around and not voting the way you want to. He never pressured any member of the House to vote for a bill if it was against his principles. He would persuade them sometimes that this would be better. And any of them would tell you that he never did do that. It's sensible for . . . if you're on the team, play with team or get off in order to get along and go along. And President Harry Truman put it another way. "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen." (Chuckle)

Dr. Kamp: President Roosevelt had a sort of personal affect upon many people, I know.

Miss Clary: Yes, he did.

Dr. Kamp: They seemed to either like him tremendously or dislike him tremendously. I wonder if Mr. Sam . . .

Miss Clary: Well, I think anybody that's a strong leader, they usually do that.

Dr. Kamp: That's true.

Miss Clary: Of course, there are a lot of people, especially among the isolationists in this country, who think that President Roosevelt did a lot of harm to the country. But I can't see it that way, and I don't think Mr. Rayburn saw it that way. We have him to thank for a lot . . . the older people in this country and the people that are getting social security and Medicare and all that have him to thank for pioneering those things. And another thing, when the Republicans voted against a lot of that--legislation--some of them didn't but the majority of them did--when they came into power in '47, and '53, they didn't repeal any of those measures.

Dr. Kamp: That's right. We were all New Dealers by that time.

Miss Clary: Right (chuckle).

Dr. Kamp: Well, I wanted to ask you about Mr. Sam and oil and gas legislation. In . . . in 1934, or around 1934, I know that there was a bill . . . I believe it was called the Ickes Bill. Yes, that was introduced to provide federal control of oil production. And I'm sure that that caused quite a furor within the Texas delegation.

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: And I suppose that bill went to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Miss Clary: I don't remember too much about it, . . .

Dr. Kamp: Well, I was just wondering if Mr. Rayburn--and you may not recall this--if he supported that legislation, or what his role was in it. . . . you don't recall?

Miss Clary: I have an idea he wouldn't support it. I don't know.

Dr. Kamp: Well, I know that he believed strongly in strong state governments, in state control over many things like that.

Miss Clary: And, of course, he never wavered on that 27-1/2 per cent depletion that they get.

Dr. Kamp: Yes. Was very instrumental in keeping it, sure.

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: That's right. That's something that's difficult for me to understand, Miss Clary. With the strong and successful support that Mr. Sam gave to legislation that was helpful to the oil and gas industry, how those people . . . well, really, quite often worked against Mr. Rayburn politically.

Miss Clary: Yes, yes.

Dr. Kamp: Could you help a little bit with that?

Miss Clary: I can't understand that myself (chuckle). Because they did.

Dr. Kamp: I wonder why?

Miss Clary: You see, if D. B. Hardeman, research assistant to Mr. Rayburn were here, he probably could tell you more about that than I (chuckle).

Dr. Kamp: Well, we'll have to ask him.

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: But that's one of the dilemmas of national and of Texas state politics, really.

Miss Clary: That's right. Well, they say that politics makes strange bedfellows.

Dr. Kamp: But you never heard Mr. Sam analyze that in any way?

Miss Clary: No.

Dr. Kamp: Why these people . . . were not supporting him. He supported them 100 per cent. It looks like they would have supported him.

Miss Clary: It does look like it, but they . . . didn't.

Dr. Kamp: Maybe they thought he was too much of a New Dealer.

Miss Clary: They probably did.

Dr. Kamp: Let's see. You had mentioned that he dealt with the Federal Securities Act of 1933 and then with the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934.

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: He always had quite a concern for the small businessman, did he not?

Miss Clary: Yes, he did.

Dr. Kamp: And I suppose . . . this legislation really gave assistance to the small investor.

Miss Clary: Yes, it did.

Dr. Kamp: I'm sure it protected . . . and then in 1935 there was a Public Utilities Holding Company Act.

Miss Clary: In the committee he had an investigation made of holding companies in the utilities field and then introduced the legislation. Then is when he got mail sacks, sometimes five or six at one time, into our office, propaganda letters against this. We took out all of the ones that came from our district and he answered them. We got back bundles saying these people had moved away or died years ago. And that's what I mean about propaganda mail you get. They took old telephone books and addressed letters to send to him from that.

Dr. Kamp: I suppose that propaganda would have come from the privately owned utilities.

Miss Clary: Yes. Texas Power and Light. And I know when he was making a speech on the floor of the House in favor of that legislation, and John W. Carpenter was president of Texas Power and Light. He was sitting in the gallery. Mr. Rayburn called him an errand boy for the holding companies (chuckle).

Dr. Kamp: I suppose they got some, I am sure, of the same opposition from the same quarters with the rural electrification program, too.

Miss Clary: Yes, because they went in and got the cream of a lot of communities, you know, to put their lines in . . . Mr. Rayburn himself . . . his home place was two miles from town. And years ago when they decided to put electricity in the house, I don't remember how much he had to pay to the Texas Power and Light to step down the current . . . to put it in his house, probably $500 or so. And rural electrification . . . doesn't cost them that much to put it in their houses.

Dr. Kamp: Texas Power and Light is still a very huge lobbying and special interest organization in the state of Texas.

Miss Clary: Yes, very much.

Dr. Kamp: One of the most powerful.

Miss Clary: I think the organization in the United States that probably has the biggest lobby is American Medical Association. I think they spend more money than anyone I ever knew of.

Dr. Kamp: Did Mr. Sam run into them?

Miss Clary: Yes. And he wasn't for them either. Of course, he didn't have any legislation in his committee having to do with Medicare.

Dr. Kamp: You didn't ever hear Mr. Sam express an opinion about the relative desirability of public owned electric systems and privately owned?

Miss Clary: No, I never did.

Dr. Kamp: He wasn't a dyed-in-the-wool public power man?

Miss Clary: No.

Dr. Kamp: Well, the next thing that I wanted to ask you about is the next national convention, the 1936 Democratic convention. That was, of course, . . . President Roosevelt's second nomination, and I believe it's also the convention where they did away with the two-thirds rule.

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: Did Mr. Sam play any role in that? Do you recall? Would he have been chairman of that convention?

Miss Clary: No.

Dr. Kamp: You don't believe so?

Miss Clary: No. I don't remember who was chairman that year.

Dr. Kamp: Well, I don't either. But it . . .

Miss Clary: It might have been Mr. Barkley because he was chairman of one.

Dr. Kamp: I wonder if Mr. Sam supported abolishing the two-thirds rule or not.

Miss Clary: I couldn't say. I don't know.

Dr. Kamp: The old system had given the Southern delegation a sort of a veto power.

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: Over the nomination.

Miss Clary: I don't know whether he was against it or not.

Dr. Kamp: Then let's see. He was selected by his party as floor leader, majority floor leader, in January of 1937.

Miss Clary: Yes, it was in the House.

Dr. Kamp: In the House, yes.

Miss Clary: Yes, he was majority leader in 1937. He had become chairman of the committee in 1931. He was chairman of that committee then for six years.

Dr. Kamp: Yes. That is, he remained . . . he did not remain chairman of the committee once he took the job as floor leader.

Miss Clary: No. That would be too big a job for both of them. While he was chairman of the committee, I think he really worked harder than even while he was Majority Leader or Speaker because when you're chairman of that committee and all that legislation he had to put through, that entails hours of hard work going through every phase of the bill and working out the details.

Dr. Kamp: How did he see his role as majority floor leader? As a spokesman for the White House as it was a Democratic administration?

Miss Clary: No, not especially. He would be . . . for the administration. But also he had to look after what legislation came up. The whip is more or less under the majority leader and he polls the members as to how they're going to vote on certain legislation. As a matter of fact, the Speaker, the Majority Leader, and whip work together

and the chairman of the Rules Committee if he works with them (chuckle).

Dr. Kamp: If he does.

Miss Clary: If he works with them (chuckle).

Dr. Kamp: I wonder if President Roosevelt played any part at all in the selection of Mr. Sam as Floor Leader?

Miss Clary: No, that's an entirely different branch of the government.

Dr. Kamp: Well, the reason I asked the question . . . I believe it was right that a Congressman O'Connor from New York was . . .

Miss Clary: Well, President Roosevelt didn't say a word about that. John O'Connor from New York did run against Mr. Rayburn. And the vote was not too far apart. I think it was 187 for Mr. Rayburn and 130-some for Mr. O'Connor. And after the votes were taken, Mr. Rayburn said that he was glad it wasn't too one-sided, that it would make for better feelings. Now John O'Connor's brother was President Roosevelt's law partner, and some of the writers might have intimated that Roosevelt worked for O'Connor, but he didn't . . . he didn't say a word about it. In the House Mr. Rayburn had Congressman Vinson from Kentucky as his campaign manager to get him elected as floor leader.

Dr. Kamp: Now that's Fred Vinson who later . . .

Miss Clary: Later became Chief Justice, yes. And Mr. O'Connor had Jack Nichols from Oklahoma as his leader. It was a hot race, really it was. . . . Of course, we were very pleased with the way it came out (chuckle).

Dr. Kamp: Oh, I'm sure this was good news.

Miss Clary: But I was told by one of the boys who was on the floor a lot that after the vote that Mr. O'Connor was not too good a loser, although he didn't say too much. But said when Mr. Rayburn would have a hard time on the floor getting something through, O'Connor would sit back and, under his breath, criticize him (chuckle). No, that's the reason Mr. Rayburn says he didn't serve under a president. He served with them because it was two different branches of the government.

Dr. Kamp: And he was a great believer in the United States Constitution, I know.

Miss Clary: Yes, he was. And he never forgave anybody that said that he put his party ahead of his country. The Republican Representative from Dallas, Mr. Bruce Alger, after he was nominated, made the statement that Mr. Rayburn put his party ahead of his country. Mr. Rayburn never had anything to do with him. He didn't help him out in the House in any way.

Dr. Kamp: And Mr. Alger's no longer in the House representing Dallas.

Miss Clary: No, and he wasn't very much of a heavyweight when he was there.

Dr. Kamp: About that time, and I don't have the date right in mind, but it was around 1937 or 1938 that the famous court packing bill came before the House. Do you recall Mr. Rayburn's part in that or his attitude toward it?

Miss Clary: Not too much. I think that he was for it though, I'm not sure.

Dr. Kamp: I've seen the statement someplace, and I don't remember where,

that intimated that a rift resulted from this court-packing plan between Mr. Sam and Hatton Sumners over that.

Miss Clary: Yes, I think that's right.

Dr. Kamp: What was that about?

Miss Clary: I read something about that in this book the other day, but right now I don't recall it.

Dr. Kamp: Don't recall exactly what the issue was?

Miss Clary: Mr. Sumners was a good lawyer and Mr. Rayburn and Mr. Sumners were good friends . . . and Mr. Rayburn had helped Mr. Sumners out an awful lot in legislation affecting Dallas.

Dr. Kamp: Well, I guess that bill would have gone before Mr. Sumners' committee.

Miss Clary: It would have because he was chairman of the Judiciary.

Dr. Kamp: But you don't recall that that broke up the friendship.

Miss Clary: No, I don't think it did.

Dr. Kamp: I wouldn't have thought so. Changing the subject away from legislation for just a moment, you know, Mr. Sam had the reputation for heading home right after a session of Congress adjourned.

Miss Clary: Always.

Dr. Kamp: Didn't wait very long to get back home.

Miss Clary: No, he didn't. And he was only out of the country one time. He went to Panama one time on a trip when he first came to the Congress. I don't remember what year it was, but it was before I started working for him. Then later when Mr. Barkley, I guess, and Mr. Garner and some of them were working for the independence

for the Philippines, and they persuaded Mr. Rayburn to go with them. He had his passage and everything ready to go. Just before they were to sail, since he was in Texas, he wired me to cancel his reservation. He said, "I couldn't stand the idea of being in the middle of the Pacific and something happening to my mother." So he didn't go. He went to Mexico City, I think, once because his good friend Judge Emmett McMahon (?) lived down there. He was from Bonham and a good friend of Mr. Rayburn's always. And that was two times he was out of the country. He had a great way, of dealing with other countries, but I think he would have had a better understanding of the countries and of the people if he had visited them. But he didn't want to travel. And he didn't tarry here very long. After the Congress adjourned, he was on the way down to Bonham.

Dr. Kamp: Of course, many congressmen have been criticized, rightly or wrongly, about taking junkets abroad.

Miss Clary: Well, he was against them, although when he had to approve one he always did. I don't think he turned any down. While I think it's criticism unjustly of those trips because, of course, they spend a lot of money. But I still say they have a better understanding of those countries when they visit them. I really think so. I don't think they know all about the country. For instance, if anybody came into Texas at Texarkana and visited around there, and then stopped in Dallas and visited around Dallas, and maybe went to San Antonio and then on to El Paso and visited around, how much would they know about Texas?

Dr. Kamp: Not very much. They wouldn't be experts.

Miss Clary: No.

Dr. Kamp: Well, maybe Mr. Sam just didn't like to travel.

Miss Clary: He didn't. He wanted to go down to Bonham. He always said that when he went out of the House, he was going to sit on the porch and watch the rest of the world go by. He wanted to die with his boots on, which he did.

Dr. Kamp: Miss Clary, that takes us pretty close up to World War II. And I'm sure there were important considerations to Mr. Sam about the various military preparedness bills.

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: During those years.

Miss Clary: He approved them. In fact, they had a bill up in the House to fortify Guam, and that was the latter part of the '30's. He took the floor and pled with them to make the appropriation to fortify Guam. That must have been probably '39 . . . '38 or '39 because it was just before the second world war.

Dr. Kamp: Now then, Mr. Sam must have changed his ideas about military preparedness, I think probably to his credit. But wasn't he opposed to similar preparedness bills just prior to World War I, or am I asking about something that you wouldn't know about?

Miss Clary: I wouldn't know about that.

Dr. Kamp: There's just a hazy recollection that I have that he wasn't enthusiastic about preparedness bills prior to World War I. I know he was prior to World War II.

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: Oh, you mentioned Mr. Vinson, Fred Vinson. I guess Mr. Sam had a close friendship, didn't he, with him?

Miss Clary: He did, yes, with Mr. Vinson.

Dr. Kamp: . . . Mr. Fred Vinson.

Miss Clary: They were very close. When he was Chief Justice is when he visited Bonham and was in Mr. Rayburn's home, he and Mrs. Vinson. Mr. Rayburn had open house and people came in and met him. He was a very fine person, a good Chief Justice.

Dr. Kamp: Yes, he was. He certainly was. So they were both political friends and social friends.

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: And then I believe that Mr. Sam also thought very highly--and maybe I'm incorrect about this, straighten me out if I am--but had a friendship with Mr. La Guardia, Mr. Fiorello La Guardia.

Miss Clary: Fiorello La Guardia, yes, I think he did. You see, he served in the House with Mr. Rayburn and his office was not very far from ours.

Dr. Kamp: You had a Texan and a New Yorker.

Miss Clary: New Yorker (chuckle). He was good friends to a lot of the Pennsylvania people, too. Mr. Walter, Francis Walter from Pennsylvania, was a very close friend of his. He always said, "Pennsylvania people and Texas people are a lot alike." I never did ask him in what way he thought they were alike. He just thought they were an awful lot alike.

Dr. Kamp: I believe also that Mr. Sam and Mr. Joe Martin were . . .

Miss Clary: Oh, they were very close. Yes. There's a picture in that book of them. It was Sam and Joe. He was a fine man.

Dr. Kamp: This is sort of a mean question, but I'm sure you don't mind talking about it. There seems to have been a closeness and an understanding between Mr. Rayburn and Mr. Martin that was quite different from the relationship between Mr. Rayburn and Mr. Halleck.

Miss Clary: Oh, yes.

Dr. Kamp: Later on.

Miss Clary: Oh, yes.

Dr. Kamp: Well . . .

Miss Clary: Mr. Halleck, of course, came from Indiana. From the time he came into the House I think he had his eye on the leadership. He wanted to be Speaker of the House more than almost anyone I know of. Well, Mr. Rayburn had his eye on it when he came here (chuckle). But Mr. Martin was one of the finest men but not dynamic. I mean, he was . . . a very calm leader, but not anyone that would set the world on fire. Mr. Halleck was gunning for him all the time and working with the . . . the younger members. When Mr. Halleck unseated Mr. Martin, it was a great blow to Mr. Rayburn. When Mr. Martin was the Speaker, Mr. Halleck was the majority leader. And Mr. Rayburn attended every session. He was always out there on the floor to keep Charlie Halleck from putting anything over . . . I think he'd bring a bill up that he hadn't conferred with Mr.

Rayburn about at all. I've heard Mr. Rayburn announce on the floor that never did he bring a bill up that he hadn't first conferred with the minority leader. But Mr. Halleck admired him lots as a good Speaker. Then Mr. Gerald Ford unseated Mr. Halleck.

Dr. Kamp: Did Mr. Rayburn and Mr. Ford get along better?

Miss Clary: That was after Mr. Rayburn died.

Dr. Kamp: Oh, yes.

Miss Clary: I remember I told a very good friend in Mr. Halleck's office force that they come home to roost sometimes. (chuckle).

Dr. Kamp: Miss Clary, I wonder if we could talk a little bit about some of the Texas delegation participation in the national conventions about that time. I believe Mr. Rayburn was chairman of the Texas delegation to the Democratic Convention in 1940. And I suppose that delegation was pledged to Garner. This was the convention when President Roosevelt wanted to stand for a third term. Do you recall any of Mr. Sam's participation in that or any of the stories about it?

Miss Clary: No, I don't believe I do.

Dr. Kamp: I think it was after that convention that Mr. Garner retired from politics wasn't it?

Miss Clary: I guess it was.

Dr. Kamp: And went back to Uvalde.

Miss Clary: Yes. He went back to Uvalde. He was down in Uvalde the day Mr. Rayburn was sworn in as Speaker because he was looking after his

property down there. And he was vice president. I said I couldn't imagine Mr. Rayburn not being here if he'd been vice president.

Dr. Kamp: Well, I believe in 1940 the Texas delegation supported Mr. Rayburn for the vice presidential nomination.

Miss Clary: Yes, they did.

Dr. Kamp: Did he want that office?

Miss Clary: He would have taken it. Now '44 was when he really would have taken it, but then that's when President Roosevelt chose Mr. Truman. Well, then in '40 is when Mr. Roosevelt chose . . .

Dr. Kamp: Wallace.

Miss Clary: . . . Henry Wallace.

Dr. Kamp: Well, of course, there's not much of any way you can campaign for that. That's pretty much the presidential nominee's pick.

Miss Clary: Right.

Dr. Kamp: And I suppose Mr. Sam withdrew his . . .

Miss Clary: But you see in the case of '44 . . . he withdrew his name. They sent two sets of delegates from Texas to the convention.

Dr. Kamp: This was in '44.

Miss Clary: One set was backing the administration and the other was backing Mr. Shivers, I guess (chuckle). Anyway, he led them. At least they weren't backing the administration . . . and Mr. Rayburn wouldn't let his name be presented. In later years some of the Texans said, "Oh, he should be president." I said, "Why didn't you work for him when he could have been nominated?" If they'd have worked against that outfit and sent one delegation that

would have been strongly backing the administration, Mr. Rayburn would have let his name be presented.

Dr. Kamp: Then he became speaker in September of 1940.

Miss Clary: September 16, 1941.

Dr. Kamp: 1940, wasn't it 1940?

Miss Clary: 1940, yes.

Dr. Kamp: Yes, and let's see. Mr. Bankhead had been speaker, and he died.

Miss Clary: Yes. And Mr. Rayburn was elected and Mr. McCormack was elected majority leader.

Dr. Kamp: Did he have any competition?

Miss Clary: No. That was just before Mr. Bankhead's funeral and it was unanimous.

Dr. Kamp: For that?

Miss Clary: At the Democratic caucus they decide they want to . . . nominate . . . it was more or less precedent that the majority leader would go in as speaker. So you see Mr. Rainey, I think, had been majority leader, and Mr. Byrns, and Mr. Bankhead, and Mr. Rayburn. And, you see, when Mr. Rayburn died, Mr. McCormack went in because he had been majority leader for seventeen years since Mr. Rayburn had been speaker for seventeen years.

Dr. Kamp: Miss Clary, did you see an almost immediate impact in the change in the office responsibilities from your point of view where you were working in Mr. Sam's office when he became speaker?

Miss Clary: Yes, the work was . . . our mail was doubled and the callers . . . you know we had more people and more mail.

Dr. Kamp: You had all kinds of more people, I imagine, didn't you?

Miss Clary: We had more people. When he became majority leader in '37, he took one of the boys from the committee and we hired two stenographers. So there were four of us instead of just two. The majority leader and minority leaders have a legislative office. They have a legislative clerk and one man working with them. And it's the duty of the legislative clerk to brief private bills that are introduced. Now I think Mr. Rayburn more or less inaugurated that because heretofore, you see, they'd have an important bill up on the floor and then somebody would have a private bill who would want to break in . . . to consider that. It would take up the time. So they set aside a Monday, I think it was the third Monday in each month, when they'd bring up those private bills. And they were brought up under unanimous consent. And the clerk had briefed them as to what they were and whether they had any merit and would advise the majority leader whether they had any merit. They have what they call official objectors. And if the majority leader thinks that bill doesn't have much merit he'll tell one of those fellows and when the bill is called up they'll object to it and that kills it. Of course, there are a lot of private bills that will not go through, but if there's not an objection they automatically go through because they've been considered in committee and the legislative clerk has gone over them. And that really increased our office force. The legislative clerk was part of our office force.

Dr. Kamp: But the other members, in a case like that when there is a bill that is objectionable for some reason, they pretty much take the word of the floor leader on that bill.

Miss Clary: Yes. Of course, they could reintroduce the bill at a later time if they wanted to, probably.

Dr. Kamp: Well, that's interesting. I didn't know that the floor leader played that role.

Miss Clary: I didn't until Mr. Rayburn became floor leader. (Chuckle)

Dr. Kamp: Well, maybe he started it.

Miss Clary: Yes, our legislative clerk was from Greenville, and had been a clerk in the committee.

Dr. Kamp: Do you recall his name?

Miss Clary: Yes. William Cantrell from Greenville.

Dr. Kamp: C-A-N-T-R-E-L-L?

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: And what was his first name?

Miss Clary: William.

Dr. Kamp: William.

Miss Clary: Bill . . . we called him Bill Cantrell.

Dr. Kamp: Now Mr. McCormack was elected floor leader in 1940. Did he and Mr. Sam have a close working relationship?

Miss Clary: Very. Of course, there was lots of prejudice against him because Mr. McCormack is a staunch Catholic. And he never let anybody forget that he was a Catholic. I often said I didn't think he'd ever be Speaker because of that, but he mellowed on that as we all

do, as we have more experience. But he is a fine man. He's one of the most kind, considerate men I've ever known and as honest as the days are long.

Dr. Kamp: And I'm sure Mr. Sam appreciated that characteristic.

Miss Clary: He did. And I know when President Kennedy was killed, Vice-President Johnson became President, then the Speaker is next in line. President Johnson, if anything had happened to him, Mr. McCormack would have been President. A lot of people said to me, "Wouldn't that be terrible?" I said, "No, it wouldn't." Mr. McCormack has the qualities. Now I don't think he's as dynamic a leader as Mr. Rayburn. I think leaders are born with that quality. But he does a good job whatever he is.

Dr. Kamp: Well, I wanted to ask you at some point and this is as good a point as any.

Miss Clary: As good a point as any. (Chuckle)

Dr. Kamp: About the job that all congressmen have of running errands for people back home.

Miss Clary: (Chuckle)

Dr. Kamp: And I'm sure you saw a lot of that coming through the office.

Miss Clary: The congressman always . . . is doing things for people back home and the staff does most of it, I mean a lot of it.

Dr. Kamp: Right.

Miss Clary: I know when I first started working for Mr. Rayburn and there wasn't too much work . . . I know one of the congressmen from Texas, Mr. Claude Hudspeth from El Paso. When he had a request for something

from one of the departments he'd go down to the department himself. Well, he had more influence, I suppose, to get what he wanted, but I heard Mr. Rayburn say he was just going to wear himself out doing that. After all he had a secretary to do that. And you do have a lot of requests from a lot of people.

Dr. Kamp: From all sources and a lot of different kinds?

Miss Clary: Yes. The most unusual request, we had and this wasn't one of our constituents, an Indian woman from Oklahoma who wrote Mr. Rayburn to find out if she couldn't have a blood test made to find out if she had Indian blood--she was not sure about it--so she could get some of the Indian money in Oklahoma. (Chuckle) You see, you get all kinds of requests.

Dr. Kamp: Yes.

Miss Clary: And, of course, Mr. Rayburn got letters all the time from somebody that admired him and wanted to marry him. (Chuckle)

Dr. Kamp: Oh, well, now you *didn't short circuit any of those letters, did* you? (Chuckle)

Miss Clary: No, (chuckle) I gave them to him. There was one woman from Georgia, I think it was Bishop, Georgia. She used to send him fruit cakes. She wrote, oh, the most ardent letters to him. And one day a fruitcake was delivered to the office from here in Washington. It seems to me that she called up that she was in Washington. And I went in and told him, "Your girl friend from Bishop, Georgia, is in Washington." "Well, tell her to come up." So she came up. She was a schoolteacher. She was nicely dressed, made a nice

appearance, and talked very sensibly, and didn't talk at all like she wrote. (Chuckle)

Dr. Kamp: (Chuckle) Well, Mr. Sam . . .

Miss Clary: Mr. Sam received her and was nice to her and even took her around and showed her around . . . the speaker's office.

Dr. Kamp: Well, what . . .

Miss Clary: And then when she was ready to go, he told her good-bye and she wasn't hardly gone until she came back to the office and expected him to come out of the chair he was presiding in the House, and come on out and tell her good-bye again. He didn't. (Chuckle) I've even forgotten her name.

Dr. Kamp: Well, she was pretty serious, then.

Miss Clary: Yes, she was.

Dr. Kamp: Miss Clary, we were talking about Mr. Rayburn's personality. And many people thought he was a rather stern person, but, evidently, that wasn't a true picture.

Miss Clary: No. It was not. He was serious. And when he was presiding over the House of Representatives he took his job seriously, but he had a keen sense of humor and was always kidding his office force about something. In fact, in lots and lots of times in the forty-two years I worked for him, he threatened to fire me but he never did. And when he presided over the conventions, a lot of people never had heard of Mr. Rayburn much or hadn't seen him until he was permanent chairman of the convention in 1948, and again in '52, and in '56. A friend of mine said that . . . she was a very staunch Democrat,

said, "People made her mad asking her doesn't he ever smile." But he did. But he took his job seriously at the conventions. And he was very pleasant to people and always was cracking jokes of some sort.

Dr. Kamp: Not a practical joker, though.

Miss Clary: No, not a practical joker. He said he told a joke one time when he first started out and the joke was on him and so he didn't tell any more. One that he did tell was about this old farmer who was going to get married. He was going to marry at six o'clock in the afternoon. He worked in the cotton field 'til noon and then he came in and took a bath and cleaned up and fixed himself all up. One of the groomsmen came in and said, "If you don't hurry you're going to be late to your wedding." The old man said . . . I don't know how old he was, but he said, "Wal, they can't do any business 'til I get there." (Chuckle)

Dr. Kamp: (Chuckle) He would have a story about something on the farm wouldn't he?

Miss Clary: Yes, because he loved the farm and always went back to it. In later years he bought a ranch northeast of Bonham. He loved that ranch. The county agent in Fannin County was Mr. V. J. Young. He worked with Mr. Rayburn on that ranch. He wrote a small book about Mr. Rayburn entitled <u>The Speaker's Agent</u>. It's a very fine book on him as a farmer and as a rancher. Mr. Rayburn always said that he got very lonesome when he was a child on the farm south of Windom. I can't imagine anybody in a family of eleven children getting

lonesome. But on Sundays particularly he said he would sit on the fence and wish for somebody to come by. It was just his disposition, I guess. After I started working for him he said Sunday had never ceased to be a long tiresome day to him. I said, "There's not enough hours in it for me." I think probably one of the reasons was that he did not go to church.

Dr. Kamp: Did he start attending church after he joined the Baptist Church in Tioga?

Miss Clary: Some. But he never did go very much. I mean, I suppose that was just habit. Once a year in Washington at St. Patricks Catholic Church they have what they call the Red Mass and they invite the members of Congress to that. He would go to that. Special occasions he went to church.

Dr. Kamp: Well, I suspect he had a very deep religious set of beliefs, though.

Miss Clary: Oh, he did. Yes, he was a religious man. A man came up here and interviewed me not too many years ago, since he died. He was writing a thesis on him and he asked me if I thought Mr. Rayburn was a Christian. I said, "Certainly. You don't have to go to church to be a Christian." He said, "Well, that wasn't what one of the old natives of Flagg Springs said." He said he asked him, and he said, "No. He was a heathen just like I am."

Dr. Kamp: That sounds like one of his little jokes.

Miss Clary: Right.

Dr. Kamp: Miss Clary, we were talking about Maury Maverick, and you were about to relate an incident on that.

Miss Clary: Mr. Maverick was very honest and outspoken. He came into the office one day. That was when we were in the Majority Leader's office. He came into the long corridor. My desk sat right at the end of that corridor. Mr. Maverick talked very loud. He saw how much work I had on my desk and people were coming in and the telephone was ringing. He called out, "Sam, why don't you double this woman's salary?" (Chuckle) That made a hit with me, of course (chuckle). But I think I told you earlier in the conversation that when I started working for him I got $120 a month. Then after his secretary left, he called me in one day and raised my salary to $170 a month. That was the day I became rich. Fifty dollars a month's raise. That was as much as I had ever gotten teaching school, only one year, out of eight I got $60 a month.

Dr. Kamp: Miss Clary, we were talking about Mr. Sam as he became Speaker of the House. And I wonder if you would like to relate some of the usual activities in a normal day as Speaker, his routine and how he went about his work.

Miss Clary: He usually came to the capitol around about, . . . between nine and ten, I'd say, and would check in, usually, at the Speaker's rooms to find out what the schedule was during the day, but not always. Sometimes he came to the office I was in, which was the congressional office and would read his mail and find out what was coming in and if any callers were coming in, then go around to the

Speaker's rooms just before the House met at twelve. Nearly every day he had a press conference just before twelve. He also had a lot of callers at that office. He would usually wait until, probably about ten minutes of twelve and then he'd call a press conference. Then he didn't have to talk to them very long (chuckle). He got along fine with the press. They all liked him. Then he'd go in and call the House to order. After the House meets . . . they first have a prayer by the Chaplain and then the Journal of the day before is read. Then if they had an important bill that was coming up to be debated, they resolved themselves into what they called the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union. Then the Speaker comes out of the chair and whoever's designated to have charge of the bill for the committee chairman takes over.

Dr. Kamp: And the Speaker himself usually designates the chairmen when they're in a Committee of the Whole.

Miss Clary: The chairman of the committee designates them then. The Speaker can see people after that or dictate his mail and have lunch. I heard him say one time that the . . . the hardest decision he had to make during the day was what he was going to eat for lunch (chuckle).

Dr. Kamp: Did he usually eat lunch in the House Restaurant?

Miss Clary: Yes. Sometimes, a lot of times in his private office. Then he wasn't disturbed too much, you know, with members always coming in. But if he had guests from the district, and he'd usually invite somebody. I ate with them a lot when he had guests from the district. But he ate in the big dining room.

Dr. Kamp: And then he would return to the floor . . .

Miss Clary: Yes, after they finished debating, they'd say, "The committee has risen." That's when they resolve themselves back into the House instead of a committee. Then he presided. Then he'd come back to our office and sign his mail and then go down to the Board of Education, sometimes, sometimes not.

Dr. Kamp: This would be on, oh, five or five-thirty in the afternoon . . .

Miss Clary: Yes, something like that.

Dr. Kamp: What about this Board of Education? That's a famous phrase.

Miss Clary: Well, he had . . . a private room that was the Board of Education. When they gave it to him, on one wall they put the seal of the State of Texas. Occasionally he had private luncheons there. He was a great fisherman. I guess we've touched on that already.

Dr. Kamp: We did.

Miss Clary: But one time he caught a large mouth, a good-sized bass. He had it cooked in the House Restaurant. He had the table set up in his private room for a luncheon and invited all of the office force to eat lunch with him. When he was cutting it and serving it, he said fish was good brain food and that was the reason he invited his office force to eat fish with him (chuckle).

Dr. Kamp: Where was this room?

Miss Clary: It was on the ground floor of the House side of the Capitol where the Sergeant-At-Arms' office is. You go in under the big steps and turn left down the first corridor and then right a little farther down. It was right back in the back. The Parliamentarian has it now.

Dr. Kamp: I wonder if the seal of the State of Texas is still upon the finish.

Miss Clary: I think it is. It's on one wall. Then when a new Speaker is elected, a certain amount of money is provided for having an official portrait painted. Mr. Rayburn had his painted in, I guess, about 1942 is when it was made, '41 or '42, '42 maybe. And Douglas Chandor who was an Englishman . . .

Dr. Kamp: Excuse me. How do you spell that? Chandor?

Miss Clary: It was C-H-A-N-D-O-R?

Dr. Kamp: Sounds right.

Miss Clary: That's right. C-H-A-N-D-O-R, Chandor, . . . he was a wonderful portrait painter, artist I should say, and had painted the Prince of Wales in England, and Churchill, and a lot of the prominent men in government in England before he came over here. He married Ina Kuteman, was her name, from Weatherford, Texas.

Dr. Kamp: Shootman?

Miss Clary: Its Kuteman. Anyway, he went to Weatherford, Texas, after he came over here. He had painted Roosevelt's mother, and he painted Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and put several different poses of her hands along at the bottom of the picture. He was perfect in painting hands. He painted President Roosevelt's picture, also. Mr. Rayburn said, "It's hard enough to sit for a portrait when you like the artist, and it's doubly hard when you don't like the artist." He and Douglas Chandor were friends before he was selected. Mr. Rayburn sat for him at the Mayflower Hotel. Mr. Chandor said he

was very difficult to paint because he said, "He'd come by, and he'd sit down and I'd get my paints and my easel and be ready to start painting and in just a little while he'd say 'I've got to go.'" So he didn't stay very long. He was a pill to paint (chuckle). But it's a perfect portrait. He took it to his studio in New York and made two copies of that official portrait. One of them hangs in the House of Representatives in Austin, Texas, and the other one hangs at the East Texas State University in Commerce. The official portrait that's made of the Speaker is not hung in the halls of Congress, until after he is out as Speaker--whether he resigns or whether he dies--and that portrait hung down in the Bureau of Education with a light over it and everybody could go down and see it.

Dr. Kamp: But there is no official portrait of Mr. Sam in the Capitol Building now?

Miss Clary: Yes. There is. It was moved from the Board of Education after Speaker Rayburn died.

Dr. Kamp: Well, now, you said that one of them was hanging in Austin and one in Commerce.

Miss Clary: And one here. There were three made.

Dr. Kamp: Oh, there are three. I see.

Miss Clary: He made the original and then he made two copies.

Dr. Kamp: Oh, I see, the original and two copies.

Miss Clary: But no one knows which is the original and which are the two copies. They're exactly alike. After he had finished painting

Mr. Rayburn's portrait and it was in the room at the Mayflower, he invited the office force to come and look at it. The next morning I said, "Mr. Rayburn, that is so much like you that if it were in the office, and I came in, I'd say, 'Good morning, Boss.'" That was a pet name we had for him. We all called him Boss, but he was not bossy. He was the Boss, and we recognized that, but he was not a slave driver by any sense of the imagination. He was very fond of his staff and he worried about what would happen to them when he was gone. Some of them he had maybe didn't measure up too much, but then they were the minority and not the majority. It was a privilege to work for him.

Dr. Kamp: Well, he was a man of such loyalty I suppose he would have had a difficult time ever relieving someone.

Miss Clary: Yes. He didn't. He and one or two boys that didn't work too well, but he'd get them a good job in the government and make them think they were promoted.

Dr. Kamp: I remember that I had a student at one time who graduated from North Texas State University. His name was Glenn Savage.

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: And Glenn came to Washington to work for Congressman Ikard . . .

Miss Clary: I remember that.

Dr. Kamp: . . . and Glenn didn't have any place to stay. And Mr. Sam helped Glenn find a room, or I believe it was an apartment, in Washington, D. C.

Miss Clary: Wonderful. Yes, I remember that boy.

Dr. Kamp: He wasn't here very long, but he thought the world of Mr. Sam.

We were talking about some letters that you have from Mr. Sam in his own handwriting, and I'd like for you to read those into the record.

Miss Clary: All right. Now the first one that I have is typed, but it was written to my brother, U. M. Clary at Prosper, Texas, after he had worked for Mr. Rayburn in his first campaign to come to the national House of Representatives. It's Bonham, Texas, August 1, 1912, Mr. U. M. Clary, Prosper, Texas.

My dear friend:

Allow me to thank you from the bottom of a grateful heart for your kind letter congratulating me on my victory of last Saturday. The friendship and loyalty of such men as yourself made my success possible, and it shall be my constant purpose to so conduct myself, that you nor any other friend of mine shall ever have cause to regret having supported me in this contest. With the exception of a few boxes in Fannin County, Prosper was a banner Rayburn box in the district. And I owe it all to such generous friends as yourself. Do not forget to thank Dr. Mathers, Mr. Chapman, and my many other friends for me. With all good wishes and hoping to see you soon when I can personally thank you for the great service rendered me, I am, sincerely yours, Sam Rayburn."

And . . .

Dr. Kamp: Miss Clary, excuse me. There was a name there that we will need to type and I want to get the spelling correctly. That was , "Do not forget to thank Dr. Matthews . . .

Miss Clary: It's Mathers. Wait a minute. M-A-T-H-E-R-S is his name. I'll write it on there.

Dr. Kamp: Oh. And the Chapman is C-H-A-P-M-A-N?

Miss Clary: Yes. C-H-A-P-M-A-N, Chapman. And, I'll read this one too. I also have a letter from Mr. Rayburn when I was at my home in Prosper after my father had passed away in July and my younger brother in October of 1922. And this is written on "Dr. J. F. Rayburn, Physician and Surgeon, Bonham, Texas," you see, his brother.

Dear Miss Clary:

It seems you and your family are having more than your share of bereavement this year. My whole heart goes out to you all in your grief. Sincerely yours, Sam Rayburn.

That was in his own handwriting. Then October 1, 1940. He was elected Speaker November 16, 1940. This was when he was still Majority Leader then.

My dear Miss Clary:

This marks the twenty-first anniversary of our association as a member of Congress and secretary. During all of these years you have been faithful and fine and I send this note to acknowledge my gratitude to you and to express the hope that we may continue this

association as long as I am privileged to serve as a Representative from Texas. With assurances of my esteem, I am your friend and co-worker, Sam Rayburn.

And I prize that very highly. We were co-workers. Then October 1, 1956.

Dear Miss Clary:

It has come to my attention that today is an anniversary in our association being the thirty-eighth year of your coming into my office. I want you to know how much I appreciate your loyalty and efficiency throughout all these years and express the hope that you will remain with me as long as I am around here. Thanking you and with every good wish for you during the coming years, I am, sincerely your friend, Sam Rayburn.

And I stayed with him until he died.

Dr. Kamp: Well, those are valuable letters.

Miss Clary: Yes, they are.

Dr. Kamp: Be sure to take good care of them.

Miss Clary: I will.

Dr. Kamp: Miss Clary has called attention to an article in the Newsweek magazine dated January 10, 1955, on Mr. Sam Rayburn which she thinks is a good article and, particularly, has some of Mr. Rayburn's advice for freshmen in there which she thinks are quite appropriate and are accurate. Miss Clary, the Texas Regulars Organization in 1944 was an interesting phenomenon in Texas

politics and I know that Mr. Rayburn was interested in this and I'd like for you to talk about that a little while and also the vice presidential nomination situation for 1944 when Mr. Rayburn was being considered.

Miss Clary: Well, Mr. Rayburn didn't have much use for the Texas Regulars because they branched off from the regular administration forces and they worked against him. Some of them bragged after they had a meeting that they "got" Sam Rayburn. That meant that they didn't want him to be the vice presidential nominee, I'm pretty sure. When they went to Chicago to the convention in 1944 they sent two sets of delegates. One the Texas Regulars sent, and the other set of delegates were from . . . the administration. And at that time there was a movement for presenting Mr. Rayburn's name for vice president. He would not let it be presented because of the fact that there were two sets of delegates. I always felt that if they had sent a strong delegation backing the administration like the Missouri delegation did Mr. Truman, Mr. Rayburn probably would have let his name be presented and would have been the vice presidential nominee instead of Mr. Truman.

Dr. Kamp: Who were some of those people in the Texas Regulars Organization? Was Mr. Shivers involved in that at that time?

Miss Clary: Mr. Shivers was involved in it, yes, and Jesse Jones. And Jesse Jones' nephew. I think it was his niece's husband. What was his name? His niece was a daughter of former Congressman Dan Garrett from Houston who was a brother-in-law of Mr. Jones'. George . . .

what was George's name? I can't remember now. But he was a lawyer and they worked against the regular administration. It's funny about Texans. They have to hate somebody, a whole lot of them. And they hated Roosevelt. They didn't want anything to do with him. And my brother was one of them. He was a Texas Regular. He was brought up a Democrat. But Mr. Sam Rayburn always said when Democrats made a lot of money, then they start acting like Republicans. (Chuckle) And my brother, Uncas, never made too much money . . . he made a lot of money but not too much until after 1933 when President Roosevelt came in. He was a small town banker and a hard worker. Then when he made all that money then he became . . . a Republican. He votes for the Republican nominee in a presidential election and says he's still a Democrat. I always say, "Not in my book." (Chuckle)

Dr. Kamp: Miss Clary, former Congressman Gossett, Ed Gossett . . .

Miss Clary: Ed Gossett.

Dr. Kamp: . . . has recently said in one of these Oral History Collections that he also felt that if Mr. Rayburn had not had a very hard campaign in his own district in 1944, that Mr. Sam would have been a more serious contender for the vice presidential nomination.

Miss Clary: That's probably true.

Dr. Kamp: Is there anything in that?

Miss Clary: Yes. Of course, he did have an opponent and had to work to get the nomination. And to people who don't know, they'll say, "Oh, he never had any hard time being elected." They're thinking in terms of the general election and not the primary for a nomination.

Dr. Kamp: Right.

Miss Clary: That's where he had his fight.

Dr. Kamp: This man's name, I believe, was G. C. Morris. And, evidently, spent heavily in that campaign.

Miss Clary: Yes, I heard Mr. Rayburn say that his opposition in that campaign alone spent more money than had been spent by him and his opponents in all the campaigns he had before then.

Dr. Kamp: I wonder where the money came from.

Miss Clary: Your guess is as good as mine. (Chuckle)

Dr. Kamp: Well, I could do some guessing, and I bet you could too.

Miss Clary: But you see Morris had run against him two years before that. There was a man in Greenville, a man named Jess Morris. He ran against Mr. Rayburn some years before G. C. Morris. But he was not as strong and wasn't as well known. He had a print shop, in Greenville. He ran twice. Then it so happened that G. C. Morris was from Greenville. But they were no kin. G. C. Morris, of course, was already in politics. He was in the state legislature. He was a . . . state senator.

Dr. Kamp: Well, we've talked a bit about his party leadership during the Eightieth Congress and that he got along well with Mr. Joe Martin, particularly.

Miss Clary: Yes. Very well. He got along well with President Eisenhower, but he didn't think he should have been president. (Chuckle) Because he said, "I've been in the government forty years and I wouldn't know how to run an army."

Dr. Kamp: Right.

Miss Clary: I haven't said in this discussion what he said about President Nixon when he came to the House.

Dr. Kamp: I wish you would.

Miss Clary: (Chuckle) "That evil looking man with the chinquapin eyes." And I have never seen a chinquapin but they tell me it's a little tiny nut that looks like an acorn.

Dr. Kamp: That's true.

Miss Clary: And Earl Mazo, one of the writers in Washington, wrote a book about Mr. Nixon and he put that in his book. That in 1952 . . . when was President Nixon running for vice president.

Dr. Kamp: As the vice presidential nominee with . . .

Miss Clary: With Eisenhower.

Dr. Kamp: Yes.

Miss Clary: Mr. Rayburn told the workers in the Fourth Congressional District, "I didn't like his face when he came to Congress, and I don't like his face now." But when Mr. Nixon was vice president, he had a hideaway office not too far from ours. Occasionally when I'd be going down the corridor, I would meet him. He always spoke to me very kindly . . . very friendly, and reminded me that when he first came to the House of Representatives he had some constituents from California. He brought them to the Capitol for them to meet the Speaker and, also, show them the Capitol. He came in the office and Mr. Rayburn was not there. He thanked me for being so nice to them and giving them cards to the gallery. I didn't even remember that.

Dr. Kamp: I wonder if Mr. Rayburn's assessment of Mr. Nixon improved any with the years.

Miss Clary: (Chuckle) I doubt it. (Chuckle) I doubt it.

Dr. Kamp: Well, turning then to a man that Mr. Sam did greatly admire, President Truman.

Miss Clary: Oh, yes.

Dr. Kamp: They did get along well.

Miss Clary: Very well.

Dr. Kamp: And Mr. Sam, in fact . . .

Miss Clary: It was when Mr. Truman first came . . . or ran for the Senate and he had the backing of the organization in Missouri. One of the members from Missouri was Mr. Milligan, J. L. Milligan. They called him Tuck. He and Mr. Rayburn were very good friends. He was on the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. And he ran for the Senate when Mr. Truman did. I, myself, didn't know Mr. Truman, and I thought, "Well, I'm sorry that our good friend, Mr. Milligan, wasn't elected." But later on I got to know Mr. Truman and I always liked him very much. Mr. Truman was over in Mr. Rayburn's hideaway office having a conference with him when the call came into our office that President Roosevelt had died. Mr. Truman went from that little office to the White House and then he was President. Mr. Truman in his book on being a private citizen after he came out of office, mentioned the fact that how quick it is when one president goes out and another one comes in. Because you have all the power of the presidency, and then the

minute the new president is sworn in, you are a private citizen. But that's the way it works.

Dr. Kamp: I imagine it was a great advantage to President Truman to have such capable leadership in the House?

Miss Clary: Oh yes.

Dr. Kamp: And, I suppose, in the Senate, too.

Miss Clary: And, don't forget, it was an advantage to President Eisenhower to have that leadership for eight years. Except two of those years he had a Democratic Congress, and it was a great asset as they helped him very much. Senator Lyndon Johnson in the Senate and Mr. Sam Rayburn in the House. Of course, Mr. Rayburn said, "When we think it's good legislation and it's all right, we'll back it. If we think it isn't, then we won't."

Dr. Kamp: Miss Clary, I'd like to ask you a little bit about the Tidelands issue. That's a big thing back in Texas, and I'm sure it was in Washington, at least for the Texas delegation.

Miss Clary: Well, Mr. Rayburn worked on it a long time.

Dr. Kamp: He worked for it and supported it?

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: And gave it all of his backing that he could, I suppose.

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: Well, from that, I'm sure he thought it was a good idea then.

Miss Clary: Yes. He sure did.

Dr. Kamp: And I wonder if . . . well, I'm sure he did think that it was in the national interest . . .

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: . . . as well as in the state . . . state of Texas interest. Well, that gets us to that year 1952, the presidential year 1952, and the actions of the so-called Texas Regulars under Governor Shivers' leadership in the state of Texas. I recall that very vividly. By that time we had moved to Denton and I remember there was practically no Democratic Party organization going at all.

Miss Clary: Right.

Dr. Kamp: And I believe Mr. Sam came and took a personal role in that, didn't he?

Miss Clary: I think he did. He helped out the red-headed boy who served in the State House of Representatives for years.

Dr. Kamp: Is he in the House now?

Miss Clary: No, he's out now, but he worked there for a long time. He's from Denton, in the State House.

Dr. Kamp: Oh, Alonzo Jamison?

Miss Clary: Alonzo Jamison. I guess he didn't take too much of a part in the Democratic organization then.

Dr. Kamp: Well, he probably would have but he was so thankful that Mr. Sam came on down to Texas to help get things going.

Miss Clary: Yes, because he was a good party man.

Dr. Kamp: Yes, yes, he sure is. Alonzo is not in the legislature . . .

Miss Clary: Now.

Dr. Kamp: . . . now. No, he is teaching government at Texas Woman's University now.

Miss Clary: Some one told me that. Well, his father, you know, was in the bank in Prosper with my brother for years.

Dr. Kamp: Mr. Jamison?

Miss Clary: Alonzo Jamison, Sr.

Dr. Kamp: Well, I didn't know that.

Miss Clary: Oh yes. And he married late in life and his wife came from Valley View. They had this boy, Alonzo, Jr., and a girl. Then he went out of the bank and moved to Denton. Guess that was at the time when his boy was ready for college as a lot of them in that country do.

Dr. Kamp: That must have been an interesting national convention. Now Mr. Rayburn presided over the convention in 1948.

Miss Clary: '48?

Dr. Kamp: I was thinking about '52.

Miss Clary: 1952, yes. Wasn't that held in Philadelphia, or was it?

Dr. Kamp: I don't remember where the convention was held. He must have found himself in an interesting situation with the Texas delegation, his own home state, being in revolt, as it were, against the regular Democratic Party candidate?

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: Do you recall any remarks that he might have made about the convention?

Miss Clary: (Chuckle) No, not about the convention. I recall the pigeon flying onto his head. (Chuckle) They released the pigeon. That was in Philadelphia.

Dr. Kamp: Yes, yes, I think it was.

Miss Clary: But he could give them some salty conversation about it I'm sure. (Chuckle)

Dr. Kamp: Oh, I'm sure that he did. Now he came down to Dallas, I believe, didn't he?

Miss Clary: Yes, he did.

Dr. Kamp: . . . and took a hotel suite there in Dallas and began to get the campaign going.

Miss Clary: In '52? Yes.

Dr. Kamp: In '52, yes, and began to get the state party organization going.

Miss Clary: He was fighting against overwhelming odds. One of his good friends in Bonham said to me that I'd be surprised at the people that knifed him in the back, not only knifed him in the back but turned the knife after they got it in.

Dr. Kamp: Yes.

Miss Clary: The people that are supposed to have supported the party all these years and didn't do it.

Dr. Kamp: Right. Did Mr. Sam think quite highly of Adlai Stevenson?

Miss Clary: I was just going to say that. He certainly did, very highly. And you see Mr. Rayburn was at the convention and I was in D. C. Then I went on to Texas. And I said to him, "Isn't Governor Stevenson terrific?" And he said, "He's Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt rolled up into one." You know, having had the brains and the scholarship above Roosevelt . . . Wilson, and the appeal that Roosevelt had. But he didn't have that infectious grin and

that aura of being a hero that President Eisenhower had and that's the reason the rank and file of the people didn't vote for him. That's one of the tragedies of the twentieth century that he was not elected. That's one of the great tragedies. And another one is having our wonderful young president killed, President Kennedy.

Dr. Kamp: But you did return to Texas during the latter part of the summer and early fall in 1952?

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: Did you work for Mr. Sam while you were down there?

Miss Clary: No, I was just down there . . . I was working for Mr. Sam but I didn't work in the campaign. From 1920 to 1944 I went to Bonham every summer when the Congress adjourned. Mr. Rayburn had an office there. Before he was chairman of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce he didn't open up an office in Bonham. I went down and did the work in his home. Then he opened up an office. The first twenty-four years I had to go down and work. We had no air-conditioning, no office. Sharing offices with some lawyer in town, and it was not very pleasant working because I'm very allergic to heat. But I never complained because that was my job and I did it.

Dr. Kamp: And he opened an office in Bonham when?

Miss Clary: Well, he opened an office in Bonham along about 19 . . . in the '30's, I guess. He just had it when Congress was not in session here.

Dr. Kamp: Oh, he didn't keep it . . .

Miss Clary: He didn't keep it all year round.

Dr. Kamp: Some congressmen are doing that now, you know?

Miss Clary: Yes, they do now. He had an office in the Peeler Building that they fixed for him. In the last several years of his life we had a woman in that office, probably five or six years before he died. But in '44 right after the election I almost collapsed because of the heat. He never asked me to go to Texas in the summertime anymore. He was very considerate like that. Back in the '20's I remember very well, and--there's one in a thousand, I think, that will do that, maybe not a thousand, but then a lot of them--he called me into the office one day and told me if I wanted to take six months off or a year off, why, go ahead and do it, that the work in that office didn't mean anything in comparison to your health. That was so different from some people. Hatton Sumners had a woman working for him one time and she was sick. He said if she didn't get better he was going to have to send her back to Dallas. I said, "In other words, it doesn't make any difference how sick they are, your work has to go on?" He said, "Yes."

Dr. Kamp: Well, let's see. Then in 1956 Stevenson was re-nominated and ran against Eisenhower and I don't remember if Mr. Sam came back to Texas and campaigned in the state for Stevenson, then. I suppose that he did.

Miss Clary: I think he did, but I don't remember.

Dr. Kamp: Some people regard the 1952 Stevenson campaign as a much better and more responsible campaign on Stevenson's part than in 1956.

Miss Clary: In 1956. It probably was.

Dr. Kamp: I wonder if Mr. Rayburn had any opinions about that that he ever expressed?

Miss Clary: No.

Dr. Kamp: Well, then one of the famous struggles within the House of Representatives, of course, came after President Kennedy's election in 1960.

Miss Clary: Yes.

Dr. Kamp: Over the expansion of the Rules Committee.

Miss Clary: That's when they say Mr. Rayburn laid his prestige on the line.

Dr. Kamp: Yes, he did.

Miss Clary: I know I went on the floor of the House and stood by the rail back when they were voting. I got so mad every time those Texans . . . many of the Texans didn't vote with him, but most of them did.

Dr. Kamp: Yes. It was a close vote.

Miss Clary: Yes, very close. Only about four or five votes, I think. I've forgotten just how many.

Dr. Kamp: And I believe Mr. Rayburn stepped down from the Speaker's rostrum and made a speech on the floor.

Miss Clary: He did. Yes.

Dr. Kamp: And wasn't that quite unusual for him to do that?

Miss Clary: Once in a while he'd do that, but not too often. Mr. McCormack does once in a while when it's something he's vitally interested in. Mr Rayburn would too.

Dr. Kamp: I wonder why Mr. Rayburn felt so strongly about the need to expand the membership of the Rules Committee?

Miss Clary: To get bills referred out because that balanced more the vote. It wasn't as one-sided. You see, Mr. Howard Smith of Virginia was the chairman. And one time there was a bill supposed to be voted out and he went off to his farm. He didn't want to face Mr. Rayburn, I guess, to try to get the bill out to come onto the floor. You see, the Rules Committee just serves as a, you might say, a police committee because the bills they consider are the ones that have already been reported favorably from the committee that really considered them.

Dr. Kamp: Did they, Judge Smith and Mr. Sam, have any kind of a personal falling out about that?

Miss Clary: No, I don't think they did.

Dr. Kamp: Just had a different point of view.

Miss Clary: Yes. (Chuckle)

Dr. Kamp: Now, Miss Clary, I wanted to ask you a little bit earlier about the Board of Education.

Miss Clary: (Chuckle)

Dr. Kamp: And, of course, that's one of the informal institutions around the speakership for some time. But, who were the . . . well, who were the members of the Board of Education?

Miss Clary: Different ones. Mr. Fred Vinson was, as long as he was in the House. . . . Well, you know, some of them. D. B. Hardeman went to the meetings. And, offhand, I don't remember who all. You see, I usually left the Capitol about five o'clock.

Dr. Kamp: And the board met after five.

Miss Clary: And the board met after that. Oh, occasionally, I guess, he'd have . . . some of the Republicans. Joe Martin, I don't know whether Joe Martin went or not. But I know that when Mr. Garner started this, Mr. Garner and Speaker Longworth were very good friends and they always met in the afternoon. I heard Mr. Rayburn say that Speaker Longworth was a very popular Speaker, that he was admired by both parties and he said he was very democratic and very fair and very friendly. When he could have been a snob, because he made his own record in the House of Representatives and, I suppose, had some money and then married Theodore Roosevelt's daughter. She's a character. I like her.

Dr. Kamp: She must be.

Miss Clary: She's a wonderful person really. I saw her down at the Corcoran Art Gallery, when some of my neighbors and I were there. I introduced her to them. I told her Mrs. Bradford in our party was from Massachusetts; that her husband was descended from the first governor of Massachusetts. She said, "Yes, came over on the Mayflower." "My family came over steerage." (Chuckle) She has a keen sense of humor.

Dr. Kamp: Miss Clary, there's a great deal of interest back in Texas about the state conventions, and Mr. Sam's role in those state conventions.

Miss Clary: Yes, he had a time in those state conventions.

Dr. Kamp: Yes, he did.

Miss Clary: People down there were constantly writing him such and such ought to be done and these people, they're doing this way and this way.

I've heard him say, "I can't make people cooperate." They thought if he had anything to do with it, it would all be smoothed out and they'd all cooperate. But they didn't. He helped a lot, of course.

Dr. Kamp: Well, I know many of the people in the so-called liberal faction of the Democratic Party in Texas quite often felt, justly or unjustly, that Mr. Sam was working against their interests.

Miss Clary: As a matter of fact, he wasn't, I don't think.

Dr. Kamp: Well, I never really knew about that, but it didn't ring quite true.

Miss Clary: I don't think it's true.

Dr. Kamp: It certainly wouldn't have been true in 1952 and 1956.

Miss Clary: No, it wasn't.

Dr. Kamp: Well, we haven't talked about the long and close relationship between Mr. Sam and President Lyndon Johnson.

Miss Clary: Well, that was a very close relationship. When Mr. Sam Rayburn was a member of the House of Representatives in Austin, one Mr. Sam Johnson was a member. He was President Lyndon Johnson's father. When Mr. Rayburn ran for Speaker in the Texas House of Representatives, Mr. Sam Johnson worked for him. And I understand that was a close race. I don't remember who else was running for Speaker in Texas. Mr. Rayburn was always grateful for his help and he never forgot anything like that. Mr. Lyndon Johnson came to Washington when he was twenty-four. I read somewhere where he at one time was here before then and was a page. But I never heard of

it until somebody said that. I don't believe that's true.

Dr. Kamp: You're talking about Lyndon Johnson now?

Miss Clary: Yes, Lyndon Johnson. But he came up here as secretary to Congressman Dick Kleberg, 1931 . . . I can't remember whether it's '31 or '32. I think it probably would be one of those, either 1931 or 1932. And I had a friend in Houston. Mr. Johnson was then teaching public speaking and government in the schools in Houston--public schools. She sent a letter of introduction to me, and Mr. Johnson came in. That's when I met him. Of course then he wasn't a member of the House. He was just Mr. Kleberg's secretary and Mr. Rayburn became fond of him; then President Roosevelt appointed him head of the Youth Administration in Texas and he went back down there. When Congressman Buchanan, who had represented the Austin district for years and years--he was chairman of the Appropriations Committee--died, Mr. Johnson ran and was elected. Then Mr. Rayburn gave him a lot of advice and steered him in the House. He always realized the ability that he had. When he became a leader in the Senate, Mr. Rayburn said, "He's the best leader the Senate has ever had." I never heard him say this, but I have had people tell me that he said, "That boy's going to be president some day." And it turned out that way. He was a good one. He worked at it harder, I think, than any president we've ever had. These various writers who downgraded him before he went out of office, I don't think they know what they were talking about. I think it's too bad that there are too few Texans who seem to be

proud of the fact that we had such a wonderful president from Texas.

Dr. Kamp: Mr. Rayburn, also, was a great admirer of President Kennedy.

Miss Clary: Yes. You see he came to the House after he had his service in the Navy. He was a very slight, quiet somebody, but I think Mr. Rayburn recognized his ability. I'm sure he did.

Some years before Mr. Rayburn died, he bought a ranch northeast of Bonham, and that was his hideaway. He had, I think, about a section of land--640 acres--and he didn't have a telephone. He could completely rest while he was out there. At the end of the sessions of Congress I've heard him invite the members to come to see him. He reminded them that they would get a perfect rest out at that ranch and not be bothered too much. But he was a very sociable man and loved to have company and he invited people to come out to the ranch. When they would have somebody down there that he wanted to go out and show the ranch to which was very often, Miss Lu and Mrs. Barkley and Bobbie the cook would pack a lunch and go out to the ranch. And we'd have a picnic. It was a lot of fun to do that, and he got a lot of recreation on the ranch. He had a man who was the keeper, and then his brothers before their deaths, Mr. Will and Mr. Jim Rayburn, stayed out there a lot and looked after it. Mr. Will Rayburn had a perfect eye for building things. He laid out the fence around that ranch with no instruments at all. It's just eye, to make that perfect fence around his ranch. After Mr. Rayburn's death the ranch was sold.

The home place where he lived, two miles from Bonham, is to be a museum since Mrs. Barkley's death. The farm is a model farm under the Extension Service of A & M College in Texas.

One of the things that I enjoyed in my association with Mr. Rayburn was being in the home in Bonham, and sitting back in the family room around the fireplace and his brothers and sisters sitting around with him. He just talked. It was an inspiration to just sit and visit with him. I think I'm probably the only person in the world that had the Speaker of the House come out of the kitchen into the breakfast room with a plate in his hand and hand it to me and say, "Here's your breakfast."

Dr. Kamp: (Chuckle) I bet you are.

Miss Clary: He liked to go in the kitchen just a little before Mrs. Barkley and help fix breakfast. That was before the cook would come out from Bonham. He puttered around and helped them make breakfast. He made the toast. It would be bacon and a fried egg and toast and coffee. And they always had honey on the table. Of course, some people thought he was a cook, but he wasn't. One time when they said he served fried chicken, Miss Lu said, "I wondered when he learned to cook fried chicken because at home he never did that." But he had a reputation for it. One of the things that I'd like to say about him as we go along is that he was a leader and also a great citizen. I think that's why it stands out as a model for younger men, because coming from low beginnings, he, you might say, hitched his wagon to a star and never deviated from that. And,

also, there are a lot of young boys--we had had them in our office --who looked to him and seemed to have ambitions to start where it took him fifty years to get. Because we had one boy in our office who had the congressional bug. I asked him if he thought Mr. Rayburn came to Washington when he started out in politics. He didn't. He rode a horse around the Fourth District and was elected to the state legislature in 1907. I didn't remind them, but Mr. Rayburn had had thirty-three years service as a legislator before he was elected Speaker. And he was well versed in that because he was six years in the state legislature and he'd been in the Congress since '13 when he was made Speaker. Another thing, although he was a very busy man, he was never too busy to stop and talk to people and have a kind word, especially for the new members and give them his advice. The members appreciated that. One member sums up four different reasons why the Speaker is a success in the House. One was that the members trusted him. When he said a certain thing they knew he was not going to change, that that would be the way it was. And then another reason was that he respected the members and he respected their right to their opinions and, also, what they thought they should do for their own districts. He never questioned their convictions, but sometimes he questioned their judgement. He'd persuade them. Also he lent a helping hand and his advice to the new members. He was a plain, unadorned Democrat. He put his country first and his party second. Although he had a stern visage sometimes, he had a courtly manner.

He had a firm hand. But, best of all, I think he was fair. I heard Mr. Tom Rayburn, his younger brother, say one time that Sam was the fairest man he ever knew. I think that was true. When he would discuss different things and problems that were coming up, one of his wise sayings was, "A little applied Christianity will help." He had magnificent judgement. And that goes a long way because he often said, as I have said before, that you can be very well educated and not have judgement, and you don't get very far. Like the poet says, "He walked with kings, but he never lost the common touch." He always wanted to go back and be with the common people. He always went back to Bonham, Texas as soon as Congress adjourned. One of the little things that he did that showed his greatness was when the Congress adjourned and he was ready to go back home, before he left Washington to go to Bonham--and that's where he always went--he would call the chief operator on the telephone switchboard at the Capitol and thank her for the good service that she and her helpers had given to him.

Dr. Kamp: Just wonderful.

Miss Clary: That was very thoughtful.

Dr. Kamp: It certainly was.

Miss Clary: He did that. Also, one of his sayings was, "If a man has common sense, he has all the sense there is." And Mr. Rayburn had plenty of common sense. I think I was very fortunate and I considered it a privilege to have worked for him all these years. When he wrote those letters to me, that was when I told him, I said, "Mr. Rayburn,

I just consider it a privilege to have worked for you all these years." And I did. I don't know whether I said in this review or not, but he was always "Mr. Rayburn" to me, and I was always "Miss Clary" to him. And we had a wonderful working association. As I was his secretary for forty-two years, from the first of October, 1919, until he died, that was a wonderful experience. He was my beloved chief and he was my good friend.

Dr. Kamp: Miss Clary, Mr. Rayburn was a wonderful man and one of the great men of our country.

Miss Clary: Yes, he was. In fact that's the way I can sum him up. That he was the greatest. Also, you have to stop and think that no man is indispensible.

Dr. Kamp: Right. And no man is perfect. I think you remarked, I remember, once, that he was a great man but he was no saint.

Miss Clary: That's right.

Dr. Kamp: No man is a saint.

Miss Clary: A man in the district told me last year that Mr. Rayburn was a saint. I said, "No, he wasn't. We, who worked with him, knew." But he was just wonderful.

Dr. Kamp: He followed that advice that his father gave him a long time ago when he put him on the train to go to college.

Miss Clary: Yes, he did.

Dr. Kamp: To be a man.

Miss Clary: To be a man.

Dr. Kamp: Well, for the record, I want to thank you very much for your

time and the effort that you've put in on this. And history is going to be indebted to you and to people like you who make certain that people like Speaker Sam Rayburn appear in the history of this country as they really were. And I want to thank you so very much.

Miss Clary: Well, it was a pleasure to do it and I'm glad to be a part of history.

Dr. Kamp: Thank you.