



EDWARD M. KENNEDY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewer's Briefing Materials **Edmund and Doris Reggie Interviews, 08/12/2005, 12/17/2008**

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Miller Center Documents¹

- Edmund and Doris Reggie Timeline.

Secondary Source Materials

- John F. Stewart interview with Edmund Reggie, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, 05/24/1967, pp. 1-15, 21-61, 76-103.
- Charles M. Hargroder, "The Rise of La. Boy to Governor's Counsel," *The Times-Picayune*, 09/16/1979.
- Jua Nyla Hutcheson, "Judge Reggie is 'Mr. Democrat' behind the scenes," *The Times-Picayune*, 05/09/1982.
- Charles M. Hargroder, "Reggie's Voice Loudest of All?" *The Times-Picayune*, 09/16/1979.
- Iris Kelso, "Judge Reggie Plans Draft Kennedy Move," *The Times-Picayune*, 08/28/1979.
- Fox Butterfield, "At Home With: Ted and Vicki Kennedy; Crossed Paths, A Second Chance," *The New York Times*, 10/01/1992.
- Ben Bradlee, Jr., and Daniel Golden, "Special Report: Inside the Kennedy-Romney Race, Election 94," *The Boston Globe*, 11/10/1994.

¹ These are original documents created by Miller Center researchers for the Edward M. Kennedy Oral History Project. Please acknowledge credit for any use of these materials.

EDMUND AND DORIS REGGIE TIMELINE

Prepared by Ethan Sribnick

Miller Center, University of Virginia, 07/28/2005

- 1926** Edmund Reggie is born in Crowley, Louisiana. His parents are immigrants from Lebanon. (*The Times-Picayune*, 09/15/1979)
- 1930**
- July* Doris Boustany is born on the 18th in Lafayette, Louisiana. (*Who's Who in American Politics*, Vol. 1., New Providence, New Jersey: Marquis Who's Who, 2003, p. 792)
- 1949** Edmund Reggie graduates from Tulane Law School. (*The Times-Picayune*, 05/09/1982)
- 1950** Doris Boustany graduates from the University of Southwest Louisiana. (*Who's Who in American Politics*, p. 792)
- Edmund Reggie is appointed Crowley City Judge, a position he would hold for over 25 years. Only 24 years old, he is Louisiana's youngest city judge. (*The Crowley Post-Signal*, 02/01/2004; *The Times-Picayune*, 05/09/1982)
- 1951** Doris Boustany marries Edmund Reggie. (*Who's Who in American Politics*, p. 792)
- 1955** Edmund Reggie assists Earl Long in his campaign for governor. (*The Times-Picayune*, 05/09/1982)
- 1956**
- August* Edmund Reggie maneuvers to have the Louisiana delegation to the Democratic National Convention support John F. Kennedy (JFK) for the vice presidential nomination over Estes Kefauver. When Louisiana Governor Earl Long leaves the convention, Reggie invites JFK to speak to the Louisiana delegation convincing them to switch their support from Kefauver to JFK. Kefauver eventually wins the nomination for vice president from the convention. (*The New York Times*, 10/01/1992; *The Boston Globe*, 07/06/1992)
- 1959** JFK and Jacqueline Kennedy visit the Reggies' hometown of Crowley, Louisiana for the annual rice festival. In an interview 35 years later, Edmund Reggie recalled that 135,000 people attended the event in the town with a population of 15,000. Reggie remembered that Jacqueline "blew the lid off" the rice festival when she addressed the crowd in French. (*The Times-Picayune*, 05/21/1994)

- 1960** Edmund Reggie serves as co-campaign director in Louisiana for JFK's presidential race. (*The Times-Picayune*, 08/28/1979)
- August* Edmund Reggie and Frank B. Ellis, a former Democratic National Committeeman, lead a successful fight in the Louisiana Democratic State Central Committee to ensure that electors pledged to Democratic nominee JFK are on the ballot in the state. Others had supported a resolution placing unpledged electors on the ballot. (*The Washington Post*, 08/12/1960)
- 1961** Edmund Reggie serves as a special envoy to the Middle East for JFK. (*The Times-Picayune*, 08/28/1979)
- 1968** Edmund Reggie serves as Louisiana campaign co-coordinator for RFK's presidential campaign. (*The Times-Picayune*, 08/28/1979)
- 1972** Edwin W. Edwards, a personal friend of Edmund Reggie's, is elected governor of Louisiana. Reggie serves as an advisor to Edwards. (*The New York Times*, 02/14/1974)
- 1975** Doris Reggie becomes a member of the Louisiana State Democratic Central Committee. She serves on the central committee until 1992. (*Who's Who in American Politics*, p. 792)
- July* Along with other long-time Kennedy supporters, Edmund Reggie refuses to support Sargent Shriver's presidential campaign. Instead, he is "waiting for Teddy," despite EMK's statements that he will not run. As Reggie explains, "It seems to be one of those times when people want the genuine thing, not the in-law imitation." (*The New York Times*, 07/22/1975)
- 1976** Doris Reggie serves as a district chairman in the Louisiana Democratic Presidential Primary. (*Who's Who in American Politics*, p. 792)
- Doris Reggie serves as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. (*Who's Who in American Politics*, p. 792)
- Edmund Reggie steps down from the bench after more than 25 years as Crowley city judge. (*The Times-Picayune*, 09/11/1979)
- Edmund and Doris daughter Victoria (Vicki) Reggie graduates from Sophie Newcomb College of Tulane University. (Clymer, p. 492)
- Vicki Reggie spends the summer working as an intern in EMK's mail room. (Adam Clymer, *Edward M. Kennedy: A Biography*, New York: William Morrow, 1999, p. 492)

- 1977** Edmund Reggie is appointed by his friend Governor Edwin Edwards as chairman of a blue-ribbon commission on reorganizing the state executive branch. (*The Times-Picayune*, 05/09/1982)
- 1979** Vicki Reggie graduates summa cum laude from Tulane University Law School. ("Victoria Reggie Kennedy," Common Sense About Kids and Guns Website, www.kidsandguns.org/familyroom/bios.asp)
- August* Edmund Reggie announces that he is forming a Louisiana "Draft Kennedy" committee to encourage EMK to challenge Carter for the Democratic presidential nomination. "I have nothing against President Carter," Reggie explained. "It's just that don't think he represents the kind of politics that the Democratic party represents." (*The Times-Picayune*, 08/28/1979)
- September* Following the resignation of executive counsel Camille Gravel, Louisiana Governor Edwin Edwards announces that his friend Edmund Reggie will serve as the next executive counsel to the governor effective October 1. Edmunds and Reggie are both from the town of Crowley, Louisiana. Edmunds emphasizes that Reggie's "coming on board" should not be viewed as support for the draft Kennedy movement in which Reggie has been active. Reggie says the appointment will not curb his actions on EMK's behalf and that he hopes to be able to lobby the governor to support EMK. (*The Times-Picayune*, 09/15/1979)
- 1980**
- August* Doris Reggie serves as one of twelve Louisiana delegates to the Democratic National Convention pledged to support EMK. After EMK releases his delegates on the 13th, Doris Reggie casts the only Louisiana vote to nominate EMK as the party's presidential candidate. She also serves on the convention's platform committee. (Clymer, p. 492; *Who's Who in American Politics*, p. 792; *The Times-Picayune*, 08/09/1980, 08/10/1980, *The New York Times*, 08/14/1980)
- 1982** The Reggies buy a summer house on Nantucket. (*The New York Times*, 10/01/1992)
- 1984**
- May* Edmund Reggie, working as an advisor to Governor Edwin W. Edwards, and the governor's brother, Marion Edwards, campaign for Walter Mondale in the upcoming Louisiana presidential primary. Governor Edwards, however, does not officially endorse any of the candidates. (*The Times-Picayune*, 05/03/1984)
- Doris Reggie is selected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention and as a member of the platform committee. (*Who's Who in American Politics*, p. 792)

1988 Doris Reggie is a delegate to the Democratic National Convention for the fourth time. She also is a member of the platform committee. (*Who's Who in American Politics*, p. 792)

1991

June EMK attends a dinner to celebrate the Reggies' fortieth wedding anniversary at the Washington home of Vicki Reggie. After meeting again at the party, EMK and Vicki begin dating. (Clymer, pp. 492-493)

October EMK and Vicki Reggie go to Hyannis Port, where Vicki Reggie first meets Rose Kennedy. (*Her Grace Above Gold*, pp. 246-248)

1992

January EMK proposes to Vicki Reggie at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. (Clymer, p. 511)

March EMK and Victoria Reggie's engagement is revealed in the press after they share the news with their children. (Clymer, p. 511-512)

April EMK and Vicki visit EMK's sister, Patricia Kennedy Lawford, in St. Croix over the Easter holiday. While snorkeling, EMK gives Vicki Kennedy her engagement ring. (Clymer, p. 512)

July EMK and Vicki Reggie are married on the 3rd at EMK's house in McLean. (Clymer, p. 512)

Doris Reggie is a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in New York City. EMK and Vicki Reggie Kennedy make their first public appearance as a married couple at the convention. (*Who's Who in American Politics*, p. 792; Clymer, p. 512; *The New York Times*, 07/15/1992)

1993

Summer EMK names his nephew, Michael Kennedy, chairman of Citizens Energy Co. in Boston, as the manager of his 1994 senate campaign. EMK decides that his campaign will highlight his fight for the middle class and working families in his home state, and that his senate work will concentrate on Massachusetts. He plans to be in Massachusetts for more than 100 days in 1992, 1993 and 1994. (*The Boston Globe*, 11/10/1994)

September Edmund Reggie is sentenced to four months of confinement at home and fined \$30,000 for bank fraud and misapplication of funds. In addition, he receives three years probation. (*The Associated Press*, 09/24/1993)

October W. Mitt Romney, the son of former GOP presidential hopeful George Romney of Michigan and head of a Boston business consulting firm, tells state Republican party members that he is "seriously considering" running for Senator Kennedy's seat. Romney formally becomes a Republican, changing his party affiliation from Independent. (*The Boston Globe*, 10/29/1993, 11/10/1994)

1994

Spring At Vicki Kennedy's urging, the EMK campaign investigates Romney's business. (Clymer, p. 550)

May A survey suggests over 60% of Massachusetts respondents think EMK should not run for reelection. (*The Guardian*, 09/12/1994)

Romney wins a substantial victory at the Republican State Party Convention. John Lakian, who cleared the 15 percent threshold of convention delegates, will also appear on the primary ballot in September. (*The Boston Globe*, 05/16/1994)

June Romney challenges EMK to a series of debates. (*The Boston Herald*, 06/02/1994)

EMK accepts the Democratic State Party Convention nomination. (*The Washington Post*, 06/05/1994)

July Vicki Kennedy resigns from her law firm over its decision to represent Libya in a wrongful death suit. (*The Times-Picayune*, 07/22/1994)

Ampad Corp. buys a Marion, Indiana paper products plant and fires all the workers, offering to hire them back at reduced wages. Romney is chairman of Bain & Co., which owns Ampad Corp. (*The Boston Globe*, 11/10/1994)

August Romney launches a series of ads focusing on welfare, healthcare and crime. Two weeks later, EMK's pollster finds that Romney has gained over ten points. Near the end of the month, EMK airs an ad on his role in passing the crime bill. Romney counters with an ad mocking the idea of EMK as tough on crime. (*The Boston Globe*, 11/10/1994; *The Boston Herald*, 08/03/1994)

September EMK's nephew, Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II, runs a column in *The Boston Herald* criticizing Mormons including charges that Mormons treated African-Americans and women as "second-class citizens." Despite his June promise not to raise the issue of religion, EMK says it is proper to ask Romney about the issue of blacks in the church. This is followed by a drop in the polls for EMK. (Clymer, p. 550-551; *The Nation*, 10/14/1994)

On the 18th, Edmund Reggie meets with EMK and other advisors including Vicki Kennedy, Michael Kennedy, John Sasso, and Robert Shrum at EMK's

condominium in Boston's Back Bay. The meeting addresses the threat of likely GOP challenger Mitt Romney. EMK is trailing Romney in some polls. (*The Boston Globe*, 11/10/1994)

Romney wins the Republican state primary on the 20th defeating John Lakian. EMK is unopposed for the Democratic nomination. Romney pulls even with EMK in the polls. (*The Boston Globe*, 09/21/94, 11/10/1994)

Vicki Kennedy campaigns with EMK and is seen as a great political asset by EMK and others. "I reject strongly the label of my husband as a womanizer," Vicki Kennedy explains, "I know the tremendous respect he has for me, and for his daughters, and for his mother. I think that says it all." (*The New York Times*, 09/24/1994)

The EMK campaign interviews Ampad workers on strike from a plant in Marion, Indiana and produces ads depicting Romney as a heartless businessman. Although currently on leave of absence, Romney is chairman of the company that owns Ampad. The commercials are effective in driving up Romney's negative ratings. (*The Boston Globe*, 11/10/94)

October

The United Paperworkers union sends a "truth squad" of Ampad strikers to Massachusetts to decry Romney. Publicity of their Massachusetts tour further hurts Romney. (*The Nation*, 10/14/1994)

Joan Kennedy announces that she will wait to re-open her divorce settlement until after the election. (*The New York Times*, 10/06/1994)

An invitation-only rally at Faneuil Hall marks a new start for EMK's campaign in which former Democratic National Committee chairman Paul Kirk and EMK's former chiefs of staff David Burke and Ranny Cooper take over from Michael Kennedy. (*The Nation*, 10/14/1994)

On the 12th, *The Boston Globe* and *The Boston Herald* jointly invite the candidates to two debates. EMK and Romney agree to the two debates. (*The Boston Globe*, 11/10/1994)

Prior to the first debate, *The Boston Herald* conducts a poll showing EMK with an 18 percent lead on Romney. (*The New York Times*, 10/26/1994)

In their first debate at Faneuil Hall, Romney pits his "skill and experience in the private sector" against EMK's seniority in the Senate to argue that he knows how to create jobs. EMK gets Romney to concede that he does not know how much his plans for health care would cost, and accuses Romney of not giving medical care to part-time workers he employs. Romney counters with similar accusations about employees at the Kennedy's Merchandise Mart in Chicago. Romney also charges

that EMK is “soft on crime.” Commentators call the debate a draw. (*The New York Times*, 10/26/1994)

In a second debate in Holyoke, Romney promises to oppose increasing taxes and spending, though he distinguishes himself from other Republicans by saying he does not support cutting money for student loans or reducing the federal tax on capital gains. EMK emphasizes his accomplishments and his ability to build coalitions, which he plans to do next for health care legislation. He also challenges Romney on the issue of banning cheap handguns. A telephone survey completed before the debate finds EMK leading 52 to 38 percent. The debate is not expected to significantly alter EMK’s lead. (*The New York Times*, 10/28/1994)

November Doris and Edmund Reggie join EMK, Victoria Kennedy and other Kennedy family members in Boston to celebrate EMK’s victory over Romney in his Senate race. (*The Boston Herald*, 11/09/1994)

1996 Doris Reggie is selected as a Louisiana delegate to the Democratic National Convention. (*Who’s Who in American Politics*, p. 792)

1999 Vicki Kennedy helps found Common Sense About Kids and Guns, a group that brings together opposing sides of the gun control debate to encourage parents follow precautionary measures to keep guns out of the hands of children. The coalition includes “gun manufacturers, the nation’s mayors, child safety advocates, crime prevention activists and pediatricians.” (*USA Today*, 10/07/1999)

2000

July *The Boston Globe* reports that members of EMK’s campaign working through Edmund Reggie “coordinated efforts” to have Jack E. Robinson removed from the Republican primary ballot for missing 14 valid signatures. Robinson appeals the ruling by the Massachusetts Ballot Law Commission. (*The Boston Globe*, 06/07/2000)

2001

February Analysis of the spending of EMK’s 2000 Senate Campaign by *The Boston Herald* reveals, among other expenses, that the campaign paid for an apartment in Boston for Edmund Reggie. Aides report to the *Herald* that Reggie was a close advisor to EMK during the campaign and that the campaign paid the rent for the apartment “in lieu of compensation.” (*The Boston Herald*, 02/23/2001)

2004

- February* Edmund Reggie is inducted into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame in Winnfield, Louisiana. EMK attends the ceremony explaining, “Usually, I’m either drawn here by Cajun cooking or by family, tonight it’s family.” (*The Associated Press State and Local Wire*, 02/01/2004)
- July* Edmund Reggie negotiates an agreement for the governance of the Rose Kennedy Greenway, an area of parkland and open space created by the demolition of the Central Artery in downtown Boston. EMK, Governor Mitt Romney, Mayor Thomas M. Menino, and Turnpike Authority Chairman Mathew J. Amorello sign the agreement creating the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, an independent, nonprofit organization that will raise money to maintain and run the space. The Kennedy family will appoint one of the conservancy board members with the city, state, and Turnpike Authority appointing nine others. (*The Associated Press State and Local Wire*, 07/12/2004)