



## EDWARD M. KENNEDY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

### **Interviewer's Briefing Materials** **Robert Healy Interview, 08/10/2005**

Robert A. Martin, Research Director

#### **Miller Center Documents<sup>1</sup>**

- Robert Healy Timeline.

#### **Secondary Source Materials**

- Adam Clymer, *Edward M. Kennedy: A Biography* (New York: William Morrow, 1999) pp. 27-42, 73-77, 117-126, 276-320.
- Robert Healy, "Forty-six years in the news business has been a great ride," *The Boston Globe*, 12/23/1988.
- Robert Healy, "How Kennedys Hit Wisconsin With Teas, Skis," *The Boston Globe*, 03/27/1960.
- Robert Healy, "Ted Kennedy on Senate Trail?" *The Boston Globe*, 12/18/1960.
- Robert Healy, "Bay State Race Will Shatter Some Teacups," *The Washington Post*, 10/15/1961.
- Robert Healy, "Ted Kennedy Tells About Harvard Examination Incident," *The Boston Globe*, 03/30/1962.
- Robert Healy, "How Ted Got the Votes," *The Boston Globe*, 06/10/1962.
- Robert Healy, "Ran Here in 1934; Candidacy Raises New Morrissey Issue," *The Boston Globe*, 10/15/1965.
- Robert Healy, "B.C. Law School Records Don't Show Morrissey as a Student," *The Boston Globe*, 10/17/1965.
- Robert Healy, "The Last Trip . . . With Faithful Friends," *The Boston Globe*, 06/09/1968.
- Robert Healy, "Ted team split over v-p role," *The Boston Globe*, 06/10/1968.
- Robert Healy, "Will Ted Permit Genuine Draft?" *The Boston Globe*, 08/27/1968.
- Robert Healy, "Right now it's Kennedy in '72," *The Boston Globe*, 03/16/1969.
- Robert Healy, "Hopes for '72 now postponed," *The Boston Globe*, 07/26/1969.
- Robert Healy, "Kennedy not acting the part," *The Boston Globe*, 06/05/1974.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

- Robert Healy, “A new race now in 1976,” *The Boston Globe*, 09/23/1974.
- Robert Healy, “Carter shies clear of Ted,” *The Boston Globe*, 07/23/1976.
- Robert Healy, “Kennedy’s decision to go for it,” *The Boston Globe*, 09/14/1979.
- Robert Healy, “Some early hurdles for Kennedy,” *The Boston Globe*, 11/09/1979.
- Robert Healy, “Kennedy not shaken off,” *The Boston Globe*, 06/04/1980.
- Robert Healy, “A loser’s impact is felt to the end,” *The Boston Globe*, 08/15/1980.
- Robert Healy and Benjamin Taylor, “Will Kennedy run? The chances are 50-50,” *The Boston Globe*, 11/13/1982.
- Robert Healy, “U.S. Rebuts Kennedy on Divestiture,” *The Washington Post*, 01/09/1985.
- Robert Healy, “Kennedy—and liberalism—won in first debate,” *The Boston Globe*, 10/29/1994.

## ROBERT HEALY TIMELINE

Prepared by Christopher Loomis

Miller Center, University of Virginia, 06/01/2005

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**1942** Robert Healy writes his first news story for *The Boston Globe* on the aftermath of the Cocoanut Grove nightclub fire. (*The Boston Globe*, 12/23/1988)

### 1958

*Summer-Fall* Healy covers congressional hearings investigating Sherman Adams, Eisenhower's chief of staff, who reportedly performed favors for and received gifts from industrialist Bernard Goldfine. Adams resigns in September. The incident is known commonly as the "Vicuna coat" scandal. (*The Boston Globe*, 12/23/1988)

### 1959

*September* Healy reports on Nikita Khrushchev's visit to the United States. He later calls the visit "the most amazing story I ever covered." (*The Boston Globe*, 12/23/1988)

### 1960

*Winter* On the advice of John F. Kennedy (JFK), Healy accompanies Edward M. Kennedy (EMK) as he campaigns in Wisconsin for JFK's 1960 presidential campaign. (Adam Clymer, *Edward M. Kennedy: A Biography*, New York: William Morrow, 1999, pp. 27-28; Burton Hersh, *The Education of Edward Kennedy*, New York: Morrow, 1972, pp. 130-131; *The Boston Globe*, 03/27/1960)

*September* Healy covers the televised debates between Richard M. Nixon and JFK. (*The Boston Globe*, 09/27/1960, 10/08/1960, 10/21/1960, 10/22/1960)

*December* After a conversation with JFK in Palm Beach, Healy writes in *The Boston Globe* on the 18<sup>th</sup> that "backroom word from the Kennedy camp" indicates that EMK might run for the Senate in 1962. According to Clymer, most politicians "did not take that report very seriously." (Clymer, p. 32; *The Boston Globe*, 12/18/1960)

### 1962

*March* The Kennedys decide to publicly disclose EMK's expulsion from Harvard University after it is learned that Healy has picked up reports of the incident. Healy negotiates the placement of the story with JFK, and later confers with EMK. The story runs in *The Boston Globe* on the 30<sup>th</sup> under the headline, "Ted Kennedy Tells About Harvard Examination Incident." (Clymer, pp. 36-37; Hersh, pp. 157-159; James MacGregor Burns, *Edward Kennedy and the Camelot*

*Legacy*, New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1976, pp. 80-81; *The Boston Globe*, 03/30/1962; *Time*, 09/29/1962)

## 1965

*Fall* President Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) nominates Boston Municipal Judge and Kennedy family friend Francis X. Morrissey for a federal judgeship. EMK, who had recommended the nomination to LBJ in 1964, works to build support for Morrissey in the Senate. *The Boston Globe* publishes a series of stories critical of Morrissey, including Healy's report of the nominee's alleged failure to meet the residency requirement during his 1934 run for a seat in the Massachusetts state legislature, as well as discrepancies in Morrissey's law school record. Morrissey's nomination is later withdrawn. *The Boston Globe* wins a Pulitzer Prize, the newspaper's first, for its coverage. (Clymer, pp. 73-77; Burns, pp. 130-132; Hersh, pp. 232-234, 244-245; *The Boston Globe*, 10/15/1965, 10/17/1965)

## 1968

*March* Prior to the Wisconsin primary, Eugene McCarthy asks Healy to run his campaign, which Healy later characterizes as being run like a "switchman's picnic." Healy decides to remain at his post with *The Boston Globe*. (*The Boston Globe*, 12/23/1988)

*June* Healy witnesses the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. He assists former football player Roosevelt Grier in disarming the assassin, Sirhan Sirhan. After the funeral, he writes of EMK, "Sen. Edward Kennedy who has lived in the shadow of both of his brothers for all his public years, is now the leader and the last of the Kennedys. He will hear both." (*The Boston Globe*, 06/10/1968, 06/06/1993)

## 1969

*March* Healy reports that EMK "appears to be the inevitable candidate" to oppose President Richard M. Nixon in 1972. (Clymer, p. 136; *The Boston Globe*, 03/16/1969)

*July* Following the incident at Chappaquiddick, Healy writes that EMK "must at least wait beyond 1972." (*The Boston Globe*, 07/26/1969)

## 1974

*June* Speculating on the likelihood of EMK running for president in 1976, Healy writes, "You come away from a session with Sen. Edward Kennedy these days convinced that he will not run." (Clymer, pp. 209-210; *The Boston Globe*, 06/05/1974)

## **1976**

*July* EMK tells Healy he felt he had received “shabby treatment” at the Democratic Convention in New York. (Clymer, p. 248; *The Boston Globe*, 07/23/1976)

## **1982**

*Fall* According to Clymer, Healy—along with Walter Mondale—is one of the few politicians or reporters who does not think that EMK will run for president in 1984. (Clymer, p. 342; *The Boston Globe*, 11/13/1982)

## **1985**

*January* Healy covers EMK during the senator’s visit to South Africa. (*The Washington Post*, 01/09/1985)

## **1988**

*December* Healy retires from *The Boston Globe* after forty-six years with the paper. He continues to write op-eds for the editorial page. (*The Boston Globe*, 12/23/1988)

## **1993**

*June* Healy gives away Courtney Kennedy, daughter of RFK and Ethel Kennedy, at her wedding to Paul Hill. (*The Washington Post*, 07/03/1993; *The Boston Globe*, 09/29/1993)

## **1997-1998**

Healy spends a year working in the U.S. embassy in Dublin, where he advises Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith and former Senator George Mitchell on the Irish peace process. (*The Washington Post*, 05/21/1997; *The Boston Globe*, 05/30/1998)