

**Jane Andrews Hinds**

Daughter of the Honorable George and Elizabeth Andrews of Alabama

**Oral History Interview  
Final Edited Transcript**

July 21, 2017

Office of the Historian  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

“She was so close to my father. She knew every thought that he had had...she was with him, you know, every step of the way. She knew his thoughts, she knew his goals, because she was part of it. I don't think there was as much transition as you might think. It was not, “Oh my god, what will I do?” I mean, she had grown up. She knew the legislative process. I think she really enjoyed that year.”

**Jane Andrews Hinds**

**July 21, 2017**

## Table of Contents

Interview Abstract	i
Interviewee Biography	i
Editing Practices	ii
Citation Information	ii
Interviewer Biography	iii
Interview	1
Notes	42

## **Abstract**

In this interview, Jane Andrews Hinds reflects on her parents' political experience from the 1940s to the 1970s. As the daughter of Representative George Andrews of Alabama, Hinds describes growing up in a political family, splitting time between Washington and Alabama. She also focuses on the life and political career of her mother, Elizabeth Andrews, who spent decades in Washington as the wife of a Member of Congress who later won a special election to fill her husband's seat after his death in 1971 during the 92nd Congress (1971–1973). Using historic newspapers and insights from her mother's diary, Hinds discusses her mother's motivations to run for Congress, including advice from her friend, Texas Congresswoman Lera Thomas, who had also filled her late husband's House seat. Andrews became the first woman elected to Congress from Alabama, and found the House a welcoming place as she worked for the remainder of the 92nd Congress on her husband's appropriation projects.

Throughout the interview, Hinds recalls trips she took with her family across the country and around the world, meeting political figures who knew her father, and the life-long friendships she made with her parents' congressional staff. Her memories of her mother's transition from serving in the Congressional Club, an organization for the wives of Representatives, to being a Member of Congress sheds light on the experience of congressional widows—a unique aspect of the story of women in Congress.

## **Biography**

Jane Andrews Hinds was born in Union Springs, Alabama, in 1939. Her father, George Andrews, served 15 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives until his death in 1971. Her mother, Elizabeth Andrews, succeeded her father by winning a special election, becoming the first woman elected to Congress from Alabama. After her father's election to the House in 1942, Hinds and her family moved to DC where she attended the National Cathedral School, returning to Alabama every summer. As a student in DC, she played on the tennis team and participated in theater productions. After graduating from high school in 1956, Hinds attended Sweet Briar College in Sweet Briar, Virginia, and University of Virginia before graduating in 1961 with degrees in English and history from Salem College, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

In 1959, Jane Andrews married Thomas Hinds and moved to Greensboro, North Carolina. The couple had two children, Elizabeth and Thomas. Hinds worked in advertising, museums, and several other jobs while raising her children. Now retired, Hinds continues to live in Greensboro.

## Editing Practices

In preparing interview transcripts for publication, the editors sought to balance several priorities:

- As a primary rule, the editors aimed for fidelity to the spoken word and the conversational style in accord with generally accepted oral history practices.
- The editors made minor editorial changes to the transcripts in instances where they believed such changes would make interviews more accessible to readers. For instance, excessive false starts and filler words were removed when they did not materially affect the meaning of the ideas expressed by the interviewee.
- In accord with standard oral history practices, interviewees were allowed to review their transcripts, although they were encouraged to avoid making substantial editorial revisions and deletions that would change the conversational style of the transcripts or the ideas expressed therein.
- The editors welcomed additional notes, comments, or written observations that the interviewees wished to insert into the record and noted any substantial changes or redactions to the transcript.
- Copy-editing of the transcripts was based on the standards set forth in *The Chicago Manual of Style*.

The first reference to a Member of Congress (House or Senate) is underlined in the oral history transcript. For more information about individuals who served in the House or Senate, please refer to the online *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*, <http://bioguide.congress.gov> and the “People Search” section of the History, Art & Archives website, <http://history.house.gov>.

For more information about the U.S. House of Representatives oral history program contact the Office of House Historian at (202) 226-1300, or via email at [history@mail.house.gov](mailto:history@mail.house.gov).

## Citation Information

When citing this oral history interview, please use the format below:

“Jane Andrews Hinds Oral History Interview,” Office of the Historian, U.S. House of Representatives, July 21, 2017.

## Interviewer Biography

**V. Grace Ethier** is a researcher, writer, and oral historian for the Office of the Historian, U.S. House of Representatives. She earned her B.A. in history from Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina. She has been with the office since 2014 and leads the web production for the oral history team.

— JANE ANDREWS HINDS —  
A CENTURY OF WOMEN IN CONGRESS

**ETHIER:** This is Grace Ethier with the Office of the Historian, U.S. House of Representatives. Today, I am speaking [over the phone] with Jane Andrews Hinds, daughter of two former Members from Alabama, George [William] Andrews and Elizabeth [Bullock] Andrews. The date is July 21, 2017, and I am in the House Recording Studio in the Rayburn House Office Building, and Jane is in her home in Greensboro, North Carolina. This interview is part of an ongoing project to recognize the 100th anniversary of the election and swearing-in of Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin of Montana, the first woman elected to Congress.

Jane, thank you so much for agreeing to talk with me today and being part of this project.

**HINDS:** Thank you for inviting me.

**ETHIER:** I want to start today with your mother's background. Where did your mother grow up?

**HINDS:** Mother grew up in Geneva, Alabama. Her father was in business. Unfortunately, he died when she was only one year old. She attended public schools in Geneva, and then she entered the University of Montevallo to pursue a career in education. She wanted to teach. One of her advisors said to Mother, "You should think of home economics because they pay more than regular teachers' salaries." So Mother graduated with a home economics degree and went to Union Springs to teach. When she discovered that she was making \$30 or \$40 more per month than other teachers, she realized

that her advisor had been very savvy. She was glad she had majored in home economics, and she adored every aspect of her curriculum.

Mother met my father when she moved to Union Springs. She noticed the handsome deacon at the First Baptist Church. Somehow, they started talking, and Dad asked her for a date. I think it was love from the very first. But after months of dating, Mother did not think things were progressing, so she accepted a teaching position in another part of the state. Dad said, “No, you don’t—we are getting married.” Since Mother’s father had died when she was a baby, Dad went to her supervisor and said, “I would like to marry Elizabeth Bullock.”

They were married in 1936. Mother continued to teach until she fulfilled her contract with the public schools, and Dad continued to practice law until he chose to run for Congress.

**ETHIER:** You checked off all of the questions that I have next.

**HINDS:** Oh! {laughter} Sorry.

**ETHIER:** No, no! How did she describe her hometown to you?

**HINDS:** Well, I know Geneva. I used to go there when I was little. It was just a very small town. It had a marvelous library, which I used to go to. Miss Rebecca was the librarian, and she always let me help her or browse for as long as I wanted to. [There was] a post office, a movie theater, a drugstore, probably three streetlights, beautiful homes. Just a very small, wonderful town.

**ETHIER:** How did the Depression affect her and her family?

**HINDS:** Well, I think Dad, as an attorney, was making enough money, and then Mother made the most that a woman could make in education at the time. I

think they were very comfortable. They built our home in 1939, and I arrived one month later.

I think it was very hard for my grandmother in Geneva. My mother's sister taught at Livingston College, but she went back to Geneva to look after her mother.<sup>1</sup> They saved—and Mother—to the last breath, would always save things. I think that's ingrained when the supply is not adequate. I think you are afraid to let something go by because you might not have it when you needed it in the future.

**ETHIER:** Transitioning into your background now, when were you born?

**HINDS:** I was born January 19, 1939. I was born on Robert E. Lee's birthday. I was four and a half when my father was elected to Congress in 1944. He was sworn in March 14, 1944. Dad had always wanted to run for Congress. He told us that to be a Member of Congress was the epitome for a lawyer—that was a lawyer's goal. We had a wonderful Congressman representing the Third District, Henry B. [Bascom] Steagall from Ozark, Alabama. You have heard of the Glass-Steagall Act. Senator [Carter] Glass from Virginia and Henry Steagall from Alabama sponsored and wrote that bill. It is referred to often.

Henry Steagall was running for another term when Dad decided to challenge him. He had been a DA [district attorney] for about 12 years. This election took place, I think, in 1941 or 1942.<sup>2</sup> Steagall won, and Dad knew that he would, but Dad wanted his name known to the public. As county solicitor, Dad knew most everyone in the Third District but not enough. The race was very close.

After losing the election, Dad joined the Navy and served as lieutenant JG [junior grade] in Hawaii. After a year into his term of office, Steagall

suddenly died—heart attack. Winton Blount, Red Blount’s father, called my mother, feeling that if Dad was ever elected, it had to be now.<sup>3</sup> My uncle joined, and they thought, well, if George runs, we need to run him. Winton Blount had checked to find that if you are in the military service, you may run—have your name on the ballot—but you cannot campaign. Together, they organized a staff and launched a campaign to send Dad to Congress. He was elected.

I have a huge picture on my wall of Dad in his military whites pointing to a map of Alabama, the Third District. When he was elected in Hawaii, this picture was taken. Dad said the admirals who had never spoken to him before began to invite him for drinks. It was quite a change once he became a Member of Congress. He was 34.

**ETHIER:**

I want to talk more about your father’s campaign because it’s very unique that he won even though he wasn’t in the state. But around the same time, can you describe where you grew up and what schools you attended to prior to moving to DC?

**HINDS:**

I had not started school. I was born in ’39, January. Dad was sworn in in the spring of ’44. So in the fall of ’44, we go to Washington as a family. We arrived in September, and in January, I entered the first grade in Arlington, Virginia. When the school year was over in June, Mother and I returned to Alabama. I stayed in Union Springs for the second, third, and fourth grades. My little brother was born, so it was not until I entered the fifth grade that we returned to Washington as a family.<sup>4</sup>

When we did, Dad had put my name down to go to Holton-Arms [School], but when he called and said, “We are here. When will Jane start?” or something to that effect, they said, “Oh! Well, we are just going into exams.

It will be several weeks.” So he called National Cathedral [School]. I could start the next day.

So I went to Cathedral. I have loved every minute of being there. I graduated in 1956. I met so many friends. Anne Thomas was from Texas. Her father [Albert Thomas] was a Member of Congress serving on the Appropriations Committee. Then we met the Fraziers [Elizabeth and James Beriah Frazier Jr.] from Tennessee. Their daughter, Elizabeth Frazier, now living in Chattanooga, married Tom McCallie, whose grandfather founded the McCallie School, was a good friend. Our families traveled to the Panama Canal Zone as well as to Europe. We lived at The Fairfax [at Embassy Row] together, and then Elizabeth chose Sweet Briar College, my alma mater.

**ETHIER:** Did you have any female role models as a young girl?

**HINDS:** Well, at Cathedral, all of our teachers were women, so I had quite a few. We were just encouraged to be the best that we could and to achieve. But I didn’t look up to—well, [Franklin Delano] Roosevelt was President, and I know Eleanor Roosevelt was quite outstanding. But no, I really didn’t have a specific role model.

Mother was a homemaker. Mother was very active in Washington, particularly in the Congressional Club. She was on the founding committee of what’s now known as the Congressional Cookbook. That was started in 1955. She spent a great many hours at the Congressional Club. Am I going too fast for you?

**ETHIER:** No. You are doing good.

**HINDS:**

Okay. They have what's called the First Lady's Luncheon, the yearly highlight of the club. Every year the First Lady, the Cabinet wives, and all the Members of the club are invited to a very special luncheon.

Mother was always very active. She arranged flowers beautifully for the club. One year, several Members' wives from North Carolina were on the decorating committee. They were friends of Joe Morton, who owned Grandfather Mountain. The luncheon was to begin at the Shoreham Ballroom. When they contacted Joe Morton to ask if he could bring flora and fauna up, he flew azaleas and rhododendron to Washington. Anything you can imagine growing in the mountains of North Carolina, he brought to the Shoreham Hotel. I have pictures of Mother arranging azaleas along the runway.

The First Lady, the Cabinet wives, and the officers of the Congressional Club walk out on a high walkway through the center of the ballroom to the head table. Each is escorted by a marine in fancy dress. When guests entered the ballroom, the Marine Band would be playing songs from Broadway, or just wonderful, wonderful music. They would always have a special guest perform. After the First Lady was introduced and said a few words to the Representatives' wives and Cabinet, then we had fabulous entertainment. Helen Hayes, Ethel Merman, who was starring in *Call Me Madam* on Broadway, and Dinah Shore were just three of the guest entertainers. It was always very special.

I think that's changed now. The invitations used to be engraved, and now they are printed. The number of guests has increased, and there don't seem to be great stars to entertain us as before. When the luncheon was first held, guests filed into the Mayflower [Hotel] Ballroom, and then it was moved to the Wardman Park [Hotel] Ballroom. After many years and for most of my

years growing up, the luncheon was held in the Shoreham [Hotel] Ballroom. Today most events are held at the Washington Hilton. That's where [President Ronald] Reagan was shot when he went—I am not sure what the occasion was. It may have been for a prayer breakfast.<sup>5</sup> But he was shot at the Hilton when he was first in office. The First Lady's Luncheon has been held in the Washington Hilton Ballroom since Reagan was in office.

**ETHIER:**

I have more questions about your mother's involvement with that club, but I want to get back to your time growing up. We talked about this beforehand, in a previous conversation. What were your potential career paths as a woman growing up, and what did you want to do?

**HINDS:**

I did not know. I loved every minute [at school]. I had the best time playing tennis. I loved English. I loved history. I loved studying.

We had a players club at Cathedral. In my senior year, I was president of that. We would put on a play. One funny thing, when I joined players club, we had a Christmas pageant with St. Albans [School]. We met at the cathedral, and at that time, we—Mother, Dad, my brother, and I—lived at Cathedral Court, which is right across the street from St. Albans. We would walk through this marvelous park. My school was at the other side of the park, and the cathedral was right in the middle. Now the park has changed dramatically because they have built the cathedral out into probably half of what used to be the park. It looks totally different now, but there used to be beautiful, huge trees when I was growing up.

We had about 15 inches of snow on the ground this particular Christmas as we walked to the cathedral. George had been told that I was a train bearer, and oddly enough, Lister Hill, Senator [Joseph Lister] Hill's son, young Lister, a senior at St. Albans, was one of the Wise Men. And I, as the

youngest member in players club, was to carry his train, to proceed through the cathedral down to the nave. My brother was so disappointed that he did not see a locomotive—that I was not driving a real train—but I was carrying young Lister Hill’s train. It was a beautiful pageant. Afterward, we walked back through the park. It was just magical because the limbs on the trees had been covered with ice, the ice would tinkle when the wind blew, and the deep snow everywhere. It was just one of those magical moments that you don’t forget.

I know Mother looked at me after my freshman year at Sweet Briar, and she said, “What do you want to do?” I said, “Well, I just have no idea.” I am one of those people. I just never thought that I would have a career other than marriage and children.

**ETHIER:**

Did she continue to work after you and your brother were born?

**HINDS:**

No. Mother never worked again. She always had a wonderful home for us to grow up in, and she was a marvelous cook. We had Pinky. Mother taught Pinky to do everything in the kitchen. Together, they always had beautiful dinners for us. Flowers were always in the house. Mother was very active in Union Springs as well as in Washington. She played lots of bridge. She was in a Twentieth Century Club and gave reviews of books.<sup>6</sup> They took turns doing that. She quite often taught Sunday school.

Then, of course, she was very active in the Congressional Wives Club in Washington. The club would have teas and receptions for different dignitaries. She was vice president the last year of my father’s life and would have been president had Dad not died. [Corinne Claiborne] Lindy Boggs was president of the club that year.<sup>7</sup>

Mother was a good friend of my father's and knew everything that was going on. She was a great strength for my father. She gave good advice. She was as smart as she could be. I have been reading a couple of speeches that she made after his death. She was chosen Alumna of the Year at Montevallo after she had served the last of Dad's term in Congress and had returned to Alabama. The president of Montevallo invited Mother to come to the college to address the students. Her speech was wonderful. I read it at the time, but I can't put my hands on it now. When they dedicated a dam to honor my father, she also spoke beautifully.

By serving as a Member of Congress, Mother was able to keep money allotted by Congress for Dad's projects. Each Representative would have loved to have had that money to go into their own district, but they compromised and worked together. They were very close-knit—Congressman [Daniel John] Flood from Pennsylvania, Bob [Robert Lee Fulton] Sykes from Florida, just to name a few. They were very interested in what was going on in Dad's district because they thought so highly of him. They were good friends. They were close, Republicans and Democrats. It was an unusual time.

Congress, during Dad's tenure, was not a suitcase Congress. Speaker [Paul D.] Ryan goes to Washington possibly on Mondays, leaves on Fridays, allowing maybe three days to devote to the nation's responsibilities. It was not like that when Dad was elected. Congress convened in January, and you would not leave until Congress adjourned in August or September. People did not go home on the weekends. You had homes in Washington. You lived in Washington.

**ETHIER:**

Did Washington, DC, ever feel like home for you, or was Alabama always home?

**HINDS:**

I really felt that Washington was my home. Union Springs was so small. I would go home, and there would be only one or two girls that were my age. And of course, I had not gone to school in Union Springs, so I really did not know young people that well.

I still go back for Cathedral reunions, and I am very close to my classmates. In fact, one of my good friends—Jan Holderness’ father was an admiral in the Navy [George Allen Holderness Jr.]. In Washington, they lived on Cleveland Avenue near the Cathedral. They became good friends of my parents. Admiral Holderness’ family was from Tarboro, North Carolina. Now most of the Holdernesses live in Greensboro. I am very fortunate to have had this tie because some of Jan’s first cousins are my best friends in Greensboro.

Admiral Holderness would visit Dad almost once a week. After he retired from commanding the naval base at Norfolk, Admiral [Hyman G.] Rickover would also go to visit Dad almost weekly. Dad served on the Appropriations Defense Committee and was a huge backer of the military.<sup>8</sup> Dad felt that our country was safe as long as we had a strong military defense, and he did everything he could to see that that was maintained. Admiral Rickover was the father of nuclear warfare, the nuclear submarines. The USS *Greenling* was the first nuclear submarine, in 1944, and it saw heavy duty in and around Japan. The USS *Greenling* number two was launched and christened November 3, 1967.<sup>9</sup>

I am holding the program, and it says, “The Honorable George W. Andrews, U.S. House of Representatives,” gave the major address.

One of Dad’s close friends growing up in Alabama was Tom [Thomas Hinman] Moorer. Tom became the Chief of the Navy, and then he became

the Chief of Staff. He was in charge of the entire military force. I wrote down his dates, and now I can't find them. But he was the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs in 1967, I believe, and then President [Richard Milhous] Nixon extended Moorer's term into 1972.<sup>10</sup>

One of Dad's constituents was Red Blount, Postmaster General under Richard Nixon. Red used to slip away from high school to go to court to hear my father try cases in Union Springs. So you had Red as Postmaster General, and you had Tom Moorer, Chief of Staff of the military, and Dad, each a long-time friend from Alabama. Admiral [Elmo] Zumwalt was another close friend of Dad's. He succeeded Tom Moorer as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. When Mother was in Congress and in Washington, the Zumwalts would always include her in some of their dinner parties, which was so nice.

I found the guest list for a "dinner in the honor of Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Mrs. Thomas H. Moorer, on Friday the second"—that would have been April 1971—"at the admiral's house. Civilian black tie. Admiral and Mrs. Elmo Zumwalt, guest of honor. Admiral and Mrs. Tom H. Moorer. The Honorable George Andrews and Mrs. Andrews. Mr. and Mrs. John Russell Blandford." He was Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.<sup>11</sup> "Vice Admiral and Mrs. Francis"—I don't know their last name—B-L-O-U-I-N. Blouin? He was deputy chief of Naval Operations. "The Honorable Winton M. Blount and Mrs. Blount."

It was just a wonderful time for Dad, I think, in Washington. He had reached the point that he was number three on the Appropriations Committee, as Albert Thomas had been when he died. George [Herman] Mahon, who was chairman of the Appropriations Committee, would walk out and say, "George, take over." Dad was chairman of the defense subcommittee, but in addition to his own committees, Dad would run Mr.

Mahon's committee quite often. Mahon was not well during most of 1970-1971. As a result, the responsibility on Dad's shoulders was huge.

**ETHIER:** I have a couple more questions about your father's first campaign, and then I want to go into a little bit of your life in Washington with your father in Congress, and then move into your mother in Congress, just so you have an idea of where I'm trying to go. But all of this is great. It sounds like you have quite the archive at your fingertips right now.

**HINDS:** I feel like I am dwelling on my father most of all, but he was up there for 30 years.

**ETHIER:** Well, that's what brought your mother into Congress, too, so it makes a lot of sense why you would be talking about your father. But I am wondering what your mother's role in your father's first campaign was.

**HINDS:** Well, I was little, like three and a half or whatever. But she had help to look after me. I'm certain she went to all meetings. But they didn't talk about it to me. I haven't found anything in her diary. She quite often would write in her diary at night.

I have just gotten back from a trip. I came down the Rhine on a boat. I have some good friends with Washington and Lee University. I sometimes go on their trips. We came down the Rhine, and I thought, well, that was relaxing. Then we went to Zermatt, Switzerland, and we went up to the Matterhorn. We were 13,000 feet above sea level in Switzerland. The Matterhorn view was breathtaking. That, to me, was the trip.

But I was reading in Mother's diary from 1955. Dad had talked to the Fraziers from Tennessee and to the Shufords—George [Adams] Shuford—from Asheville, North Carolina. Our three families decided to travel to

Europe on an MSTS [Military Sea Transportation Service], a military ship that had about 5,000 troops below, and we were on the top deck. We visited several countries. Dad, always close to the military, was checking the military bases in every country we entered.<sup>12</sup>

I was reading in Mother's diary, looking to see if I could find something about our trip in 1955. Mother wrote that we boarded an admiral's yacht, motored down the Rhine for maybe 30 or 40 miles, and enjoyed a picnic.

**[A 22-second segment of this interview has been redacted.]**<sup>13</sup>

But no, I didn't find anything about the early years. I did have Dad's letters from Hawaii. I know that he was in intelligence, and Mother commented sometimes that he would have to go out at night, and sometimes they would go out up under houses and try to listen, and set up different equipment to be able to tap into some of the Japanese conversations. I don't know. But no, I just know that Dad's good friends elected him.<sup>14</sup>

**ETHIER:** That's fine. It's remarkable that he won while he was in Hawaii, and won a seat in Alabama.

**HINDS:** It is!

**ETHIER:** It's a cool story. So you moved permanently to Washington when you were—or you spent the school year in Washington starting in the fifth grade, is what you said.

**HINDS:** Yes.

**ETHIER:** How often did you travel back to the district when your father was in Congress?

**HINDS:** Well, we would go up in September and not go home until June. Dad was the same way. I know he spent time down in the district during the fall months. We were at Cathedral Courts—it was the year that I mentioned the Christmas pageant when I carried Lister Hill’s train—Dad was coming back from the district in the snow. It began snowing on him on his way up, and he had a terrible time getting into Washington for Christmas. But the second grade, third grade, fourth grade, when we stayed in Union Springs, Dad would not go to Washington until January and then not come home until the summer. You know, people didn’t fly like they do today.<sup>15</sup>

**ETHIER:** I’m wondering how your summers in Union Springs differed from your time in Washington, DC, and if you experienced any sort of culture shock from going from the capital to—

**HINDS:** No, it was like being at camp. I know that several times, I applied to go to camp, but when it came right down to it, the summer was not long enough. NCS [National Cathedral School] was not out until the 15th of June, so we would leave within the next two or three days, get to Alabama, go to the beach in Florida, anywhere from Pensacola to Panama City for a couple of weeks, and then just relax in Alabama with Pinky’s wonderful food and time to read books. It was just great going home. We had some wonderful friends in Union Springs, Mother and Dad’s friends.

So it was not a culture shock. It was just home. I’m glad I had the opportunity to grow up in Washington, but I certainly did love Alabama, and Mother liked it so much that after Congress she returned.

Mother traveled a great deal, particularly with Lera [Millard] Thomas. They returned to Washington for congressional reunions of former Members of Congress. They traveled to England with retired Congressmen. They had

access to Parliament and to Westminster Abbey and to different wonderful treats in London. She traveled to Charleston [South Carolina] with some of her friends as well as to Florida for several weeks' stay at the beach. I think she loved being at home. She resumed teaching Sunday school, and she had the Twentieth Century Club. She also loved to play bridge.

**ETHIER:** When you were living in Washington, DC, and your father was in Congress, would he ever bring home political debates with him? Or did your family talk about politics at the dinner table?

**HINDS:** No, no, we didn't. At dinner we talked about, usually, what I had done or what my brother had done. Dad would mention a few funny things that had happened, but no, we didn't. Somebody said, "Well, you probably know every—" And I said, "No, I did not know." My brother went to Page School, and so he knew the workings of the House and knew so many Congressmen personally. But I did not.<sup>16</sup>

**ETHIER:** Did you have an interest in politics outside of your father's career?

**HINDS:** No. No.

**ETHIER:** That was Dad's job. Leave it to Dad.

**HINDS:** Well, that was Dad's job. He was a very strong person. I remember when I was talking about the First Lady's Luncheon—if I can go back to that—when Jack [John Fitzgerald] Kennedy was assassinated [in 1963]. I have a topiary tree. The wives on the Decorating Committee from the First Lady's Luncheon that year got together to make topiary trees quickly because their theme for Jacqueline Kennedy had to be scratched. The Frito Company from Texas donated lots of bluebonnets, bluebell, artificial flowers that they piled on top of these topiary trees, and they were absolutely beautiful.

Mother said that Betty Ford was so helpful. She was one of the few that had a station wagon at the time, but she was not very active in Congressional Club affairs. However, this year she came, making many trips to the Shoreham from the Congressional Club to deliver over 200 topiary trees for table centerpieces.

Gerald [Rudolph] Ford [Jr.] was on the Appropriations Committee with Dad. I remember I have a picture of the *Nautilus*, which was one of the first nuclear submarines. They took a maiden voyage on the *Nautilus*—Dad, Gerald Ford, Charlie [Charles Raper] Jonas from North Carolina, and Mel [Melvin Robert] Laird. Mel was on the Appropriations Committee and then became Secretary of Defense in Nixon's administration. Armistead [Inge] Selden [Jr.] was from Alabama. He decided to leave Congress to run for the Senate, but he was not elected. Dad, however, with Mel Laird worked to see that Armistead Selden became Ambassador to New Zealand. Gerald Ford was President at the time. I have a good friend from New Zealand. She is coming over in two weeks with her husband. They were in New Zealand when the Seldens were there. Louise said everybody in New Zealand was so fond of Mary Jane and Armistead, that they really appreciated their time there.

So I go back to this time when Zumwalt was an admiral, and his father lived in California. This is before Zumwalt became Chief of Staff because I don't think Dad was living then, but Zumwalt would always have my father to lunch with his father. When Dad died, Zumwalt's father wrote—it was on stationery, but it was the size of a yellow legal pad—he wrote by hand two full pages expressing how much he thought of Dad.

And, you know, Zumwalt is the admiral who had to make the terrible decision to use Agent Orange. His son was in the Mekong Delta at the time

and developed cancer as a result of this chemical. His son went to Seattle for a bone marrow transplant, but he was too ill to survive. Zumwalt thereafter was very active in research, medical research, trying to find new ways to respond to cancer.

**ETHIER:** This is all great.

**HINDS:** I have jumped all around. I'm so sorry.

**ETHIER:** No, it's so good. It's a lot of information. I'm wondering if you spent much time on the Capitol campus, like in the Capitol building or in the office buildings, and if you had a favorite place to be.

**HINDS:** No, I really didn't. Dad would take me to school every morning, drop me off at 8:15. We had chapel, and then classes started at 9:00, and I did not leave when classes stopped at 4:00 p.m. I was on the tennis team and stayed probably until 5:00 p.m. every afternoon and then came home and had homework. So no, I didn't.

He took me on the floor of the House back when I was in the fifth grade, I think, at the opening of Congress. Then in the seventh or eighth grade, he had a luncheon for my entire class in the Speaker's Dining Room, and that was exciting. He would walk my classmates around the Capitol—that was his tour. But Mother would take constituents throughout the Capitol, and she called them her "Elizabethan Tours," and she would walk them all around. But Dad was interested in Cathedral and delighted that I loved being a student at NCS.

I would go to Dad's office occasionally, and of course, they would get The Hardy Boys books and the Nancy Drew books for me from the Congressional Library, and I think I am guilty of having a couple of term

papers written for me by the Library staff. I used the library for research. I wrote my own paper, but I know Thomas Mann's *Magic Mountain*, the summaries from this library, enhanced my term paper. I feel guilty about having the Library of Congress do my work.

**ETHIER:** No, that's awesome.

**HINDS:** When I would go to Washington with my children, we would walk with Mother and Dad on Sunday afternoons. The Marine Band sometimes would play on the steps of the Capitol. I did go to hear [General Douglas] MacArthur make his talk when he came to Congress after being fired by [Harry S.] Truman. That was unbelievable. He made his "Soldiers never die, they just fade away" speech, and I heard that.

I went to one or two inaugurations. Eisenhower's was the first inauguration I went to with Mother and Dad. The Blounts came up from Union Springs—that's when Red was involved with Blount Brothers—and Dad had a friend from Clayton, Alabama, who went to Washington and did very, very well. Tom McGregor invited many people from Alabama. At the time, there were three inauguration balls, three armories with balls, so we went to all three, and I came in at 3:00 in the morning. It was the first time I had ever stayed up so late. It was a lot of fun, and I staggered to class {laughter} at 8:30 the next morning.

But, no, Dad did not babysit. I suppose I just had my own life. We each were busy, going our different ways.

One thing growing up that was fun were the Congressional trips to New York City. I had forgotten those. In the spring, we would go up. I was probably in the seventh grade, or earlier. *South Pacific* was big. And that particular time, we would go up Friday on the train, see a play Friday night,

then we'd do things on Saturday, going to another play that night. I know we went to the United Nations. I know Henry Cabot Lodge [Jr.], walked us all around, and there were maybe 15 kids, and the rest were adults. We played around the United Nations podium while the parents listened to heavy stuff.

Later, Mother was sitting at a luncheon at LaGuardia Airport next to the CEO of the B&O Railroad. I think that's who it was. The gentleman asked, "Elizabeth, what are you and Jane doing tonight?" And Mother replied, "Oh, I am so hoping that we can get tickets to *South Pacific*. I put a request in at the hotel when we left this morning. I have been trying to get two tickets, but so far, no luck." He said, "Well, what would you be willing to be pay for those tickets?" Mother looked at him and smiled, and she said, "I would be willing to pay just as much as you would like your wife to pay."

That night when we came back to the New Yorker hotel, where everybody in Congress stayed for this particular trip, we had a message that the president of the hotel—his name was Andrews—wanted Mother to bring me up to their penthouse. It was his daughter's birthday, and her name was Jane Andrews. He wanted us to come up for a drink. So we took the elevator to the 30th floor. The elevator door opened, and there was marble everywhere and this huge marble stairwell in the hall went up and up. We walked through to the back library and I met Jane Andrews, who was celebrating her 37th birthday. That was fun, plus they gave us tickets. Mother paid \$13 apiece for two tickets to *South Pacific*.

**ETHIER:** Your mom went on this trip with you as part of—

**HINDS:** Yes. We would go to New York every spring. Mother and I would also go to the Army-Navy game the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

**[A 17-second segment of this interview has been redacted]<sup>17</sup>**

**ETHIER:** Was this through a congressional organization?

**HINDS:** Just Members of Congress and their families as well as a few staff.

**ETHIER:** Did your father ever go?

**HINDS:** [A 1-minute, 10-second segment has been redacted]<sup>18</sup>

**ETHIER:** It sounds fun. Did you interact with your father's staff at all?

**HINDS:** I did. I would sometimes go to spend weekends with Eva Hammond and her mother. Eva lived in Arlington [Virginia]. We would go down to the giant newspaper building, which is huge. All these red and black buses would line up—I mean thousands, and so many people. I would board the bus with Eva, and we would ride for 30 or 40 minutes. Her mother was a wonderful cook. She always baked cakes for me, and Eva played the piano. We would have picnics in her backyard. Across the street, down a block or two was the home where Warren Beatty and Shirley McLain grew up. Their parents were Eva's friends. Do you remember them?

**ETHIER:** I don't.

**HINDS:** Oh! You don't know what she was.

**ETHIER:** I don't know.

**HINDS:** I was very close friends with Clara Belle Blount. After Winton's death, six months after Dad's election to Congress, Clara Belle was with my parents at a cocktail party in Union Springs. She asked Dad if there was anything she could do in Washington. Dad replied that he would love to have her help entertain people from the district who come to DC. So Clara Belle Blount was in my father's office for about 20 years. She was a close friend of my

former husband's family, particularly Tom's mother, Rita, who grew up in Union Springs. My grandparents had been the first to sign their guest book at the Hinds wedding reception. Clara Belle and Rita Hinds wanted me to meet some girls in Montgomery who planned to go to Sweet Briar College. I also met Tom Hinds. We dated, then married in August 1959.

So the Blounts and the Andrews were intertwined. Clara Belle even taught my father in the fifth grade before she married Winton. Dad helped Red Blount get out of the Army when Winton died. He helped Red buy four or five great big Army surplus Caterpillar tractors or equipment. That's how Blount Brothers started. In 1959, I stayed with Clara Belle. I went to Washington to look for my trousseau. Clara Belle shopped with me since Mother was in Alabama. I stayed with Clara Belle at The Fairfax Hotel.

In 1949, we had lived at The Fairfax Hotel, which is right off Dupont Circle. The Gores lived there. As I waited in the lobby for my NCS bus to pick me up, little Albert [Arnold] Gore [Jr.] would come in with his nanny. He would be dressed in a little overcoat with velvet collar, his little Fauntleroy outfit. He was adorable.

In 1959, Clara Belle was living at The Fairfax. I loved being back. The phone rang about 10:00 p.m. one night. Clara Belle answered and said, "Well, Houston, you really need to follow your instincts, and you want to do as well as you can and as much as you can. Blount Brothers will be fine without you." Houston [Blount] was trying to decide whether or not to go with Vulcan Materials [Company], and Clara Belle encouraged him to follow his heart, do what he wanted to do. Houston left Blount Brothers. He became president, chairman of the board of Vulcan. At this time, Blount Brothers had become huge. They were building pipelines in Saudi Arabia. They were building universities in Saudi Arabia. One of the first things Blount Brothers

had built was the airport in Atlanta. Now they had become major players worldwide. So Red and Houston had quite a team between Blount Brothers and Vulcan Iron in Birmingham.

**ETHIER:** Can you talk a little bit more about Clara Belle and Eva's role in your father's office, and any other women that you can remember, what their role in the office was?

**HINDS:** Well, Eva wrote the best letters. She really seemed to know people. She had a marvelous personality. Dad gave her a lot of responsibility and freedom to do as she saw best. The people in the district always thought so much of Eva. They knew their request or problem would be solved with Eva. Eva loved her career. She never married. She was from Elba, Alabama, and after Dad and Mother left Washington, Eva returned to Elba to live with her sister. Clara Belle lived in one of the most beautiful homes in Union Springs. She was a great asset to Dad when he first went to Congress. His office was 1724 Longworth [House Office] Building. When he died, Mother could not occupy his office in the Rayburn [House Office] Building. She was assigned 1724 Longworth. It was just an accident that she went back to Dad's first office.

**ETHIER:** We are about an hour in, so we should probably switch to your Mother's time in Congress. {laughter} We could spend hours and hours on your father's time. But I'm wondering if, from your perspective, you can describe your Mother's path to Congress, and why she decided to run.

**HINDS:** I have spoken of the Thomases from Houston. When Albert Thomas died, Lera Thomas ran to fill his unexpired term. Every other office in our government has appointments—you can be appointed if anything happens—but not for the House. You must be elected. So Lera Thomas drove to Union

Springs and saw Mother, and said, “Elizabeth, you need to fill George’s unexpired term. It would mean so much to you, but more than that, it will mean a great deal to the district, because the proposals that George has before Congress that he has pretty much secured the money for might easily be transferred to another district. George won’t be there to protect it.”

Mother checked, and the Democrats—as long as Mother said that she did not want a career but just wanted to fill his unexpired term—the Democrats said they would not oppose her. The Republicans—Red Blount said, “There is no way that any Republican will oppose you.” The Republican Party started, back with the inauguration of [President Dwight D.] Eisenhower—that’s when the Republicans began to group together. Red Blount had said to my father, “George, you really should be a Republican. That’s the way you vote.” Dad said, “Well, you forget that I have seniority, and I would not have any if I started over as a freshman Congressman. I have the ability to do more for Alabama where I am.”

So to Mother—Red Blount said, “You will not have any opposition.” Mother ran unopposed and filled Dad’s term. I was very proud of her. She was sworn in [on April 4, 1972]. Tom Moorer and other close friends raised toasts to Mother on that day. She was placed on the Postal [Post Office & Civil Service] Committee. That was her duty. She was keenly interested, and she said, “It’s hard to believe that they would put the money into a post office to be built but have no road going to the post office.” That was just unbelievable to her. But the Resolution H.R. 949 on the 92nd Congress [1971–1973] in the House of Representatives, “Mr. [Wilbur Daigh] Mills of Arkansas submitted the following resolution, which was considered and agreed to. Resolution—” and it goes down and says, “Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, Elizabeth Andrews from Alabama.”

Then she would appear before the committees to keep money for the forestry program at Auburn University, the science and study of forestry. She kept money for the rivers, the Columbia Lock and Dam later named for my father. That river raise system was most important to the Third District. Dad had worked tirelessly to see that river system developed.

**ETHIER:** I read a lot about that. Before we get to her legislative goals, I want to ask a little bit more about her campaign. I know that you weren't living in Alabama at the time, so if you don't know, that's totally all right.

**HINDS:** Well, I was there when Dad died, and I remember the next day she had a meeting with several strong supporters throughout the district. They drove to Union Springs to talk to her. They felt that it would be great to have Mother fill his unexpired term.

**ETHIER:** Were they considering anyone else at the time to run for his seat?

**HINDS:** No. No. They weren't.

**ETHIER:** Did she have the support of the community and the constituents? Did you get a sense of how they would react to her running for Congress?

**HINDS:** They were absolutely delighted. Yes. You know, I can't remember, and I was not there, but they all were just as friendly and nice and supportive as they could be. But that's all I know.

**ETHIER:** I know that George Wallace endorsed your mother's campaign.

**HINDS:** He did, yes.

**ETHIER:** Do you remember what that meant for her, or what it did for the campaign?

**HINDS:**

Well, as I said, you have to run. You have to be elected to the House. So George Wallace made a statement that was in the paper that he supported Elizabeth Andrews. Red Blount said no Republican—he was head of the Republican Party—no Republican would oppose her. The men in the district said, “We feel that the person that is elected, to run full-time and forever and ever is important.” But as long as Mother would fill Dad’s unexpired term, they would support her. I think she explained that Dad had just obtained a lot of money for the cancer center in Alabama. Of course, it had to be named Lurleen Wallace. But Dad is the one who obtained it, and Mother could prevent another Congressman from transferring the money to another district.

There were wonderful men like Flood from Pennsylvania, but he was rather eccentric. A freshman could go to Congress and, with an innocent remark, just irritate somebody, and they would vote the money away and not have it go where Dad had hoped it would go. So I think Mother did a great service to the district, and then the district had time to select a candidate that would be there for several years.

I know a friend said just two days ago, “I think they should get rid of term limits.”

[A 1-minute, 47-second segment has been redacted]<sup>19</sup>

**ETHIER:**

Piggybacking off of this idea of seniority, you said that Red Blount tried to convince your father to switch to Republican, but he didn’t want to give up his seniority. What about your father and his legislative goals or his voting records made him more Republican than Democratic at that time?

**HINDS:**

Well, he was fiscally conservative. I have seen some notes that he had. He was concerned about the Vietnam War most of all. Generals would come and go

before the Appropriations Committee. In the very beginning, [William] Westmoreland testified of the struggle in Vietnam and said, "Our boys will be home by Christmas." The next year, he came to report to Congress, to the defense committee, and he said, "Our boys will be home by Christmas." The next year in September or October, "Our boys will be home by Christmas." Dad said, "Well, just which Christmas are you referring to, General?"

Dad believed you should go in and fight to win. He spoke to the Gastonia, North Carolina, chamber of commerce, and he received a standing ovation. There was an article that I have that was in the Charlotte paper quoting Dad from a speech that he made on the floor of the House. Dad said that America should fight to win, or we should bring our boys home.

Dad thought that Truman had made a courageous decision to drop the atom bomb. The bomb was dropped in the first part of the summer, April or June.<sup>20</sup> But that following November, one of the bloodiest battles ever was going to take place in Japan had we not dropped the atomic bomb.

Dad compared Israel, to that small country, how Israel opposed the Russians, and they won the war in five days. He said, "I just don't understand. Vietnam is the tiniest country. We are fighting. We are either not fighting to win, or we cannot win. It's the longest war in our history, and against the weakest enemy we have ever fought." He was very frustrated by the war.

I think the Republicans are so much more conservative. The less government, the more the individual has the authority. Dad just thinks that way. He is not for foreign aid. He is not for spending trillions because he doesn't think you can buy friendships. Most of the time, he voted against foreign aid.

Crime. Crime in Washington. They had had the riot in April or May in Washington. He was concerned about that and wanted to see stricter law

enforcement. He was just very fiscally conservative, and he didn't believe in welfare or food stamps unless you were destitute.

**ETHIER:** I want to ask later on about how your mother built off of your father's political views. But I just have a couple more questions about her campaign. Did you get the sense that she would have run even if she didn't have the support from the Alabama Democratic Executive Committee? Did you think she would have run as an Independent? Or was it mostly because they supported her that she ran?

**HINDS:** I think after talking to Lera and thinking about it, knowing that the office staff would have time to find new careers, new jobs, the money that was held for Auburn, for the river projects, for the cancer center, I think she realized, knowing the personalities in Congress that could easily be offended or if anything they didn't like, they would take the money back in a heartbeat. I think for all those reasons, she really wanted to run. I think if she had had opposition, I believe she still would have run. But Dad was just so well loved. She was lucky. She didn't have opposition.

**ETHIER:** Your mother was the first woman from Alabama elected to Congress, and I am wondering if gender was an issue or a topic at all in the election process for your mother.

**HINDS:** Not at all. Not at all. No, I mean, I was there when she made her decision to run. We drove back with Tommy Gilbert, Dad's office supervisor. They dropped me off in Greensboro and then drove on to Washington. Mother's staff was just smooth and so supportive. They loved Mother as much as they did Dad. I think the entire district felt that way. But as I said, I don't know. We never talked about it.

**ETHIER:** Your mother makes this shift from being in the Congressional Wives Club, sort of behind the scenes, getting to know the institution that way. What do you think helped her make this switch from being a congressional wife to being the Member of Congress? What do you think helped make this transition?

**HINDS:** Well, she was so close to my father. She knew every thought that he had had. I am looking at the speech that she made at the dam—George Andrews Dam—dedication, May 26, 1972. “My gratitude is as deep and wide as the Chattahoochee today because I know how much this project meant to George. It meant so much that in order to obtain the initial funds, George bucked his committee chairman and became a crusader among the committee members, and only managed to get the project approved by one vote. He came home that night chuckling as he announced, “We got our nose under the tent.””

So she was with him, you know, every step of the way. She knew his thoughts, she knew his goals, because she was part of it. I don’t think there was as much transition as you might think. It was not, “Oh my God, what will I do?” I mean, she had grown up with the legislative process. I think she really enjoyed being in the House that year.

**ETHIER:** Again, I know that you were living in Greensboro at this time, but I have a couple of questions about the political atmosphere that your mother entered as a Member of Congress. I am wondering if she was welcomed by her colleagues in the House.

**HINDS:** Yes. They were wonderful to her. They changed the voting process to an electronic system during her first months in the House. You didn’t vote orally. You didn’t have to go and wait and wait and wait to vote. She said, “It

was just so thrilling to see your Dad's name go up, 'Andrews'" for that first vote.

I have something right here—it was in the write-up in the *Montevallo Today*—that looks like it might be apropos to why she ran. “I decided, though, that I would only run to finish George's term. Someone younger should run to replace him after that. Tom Gilbert, who had been an administrative assistant with Lister Hill and Armistead Selden before going to work for George, was a big help to me during that time.” A special election was held a few months after Andrews's death, and she ran unopposed. While unexpired Senate seats can be filled by appointment, House seats must be filled by election. Therefore, she became the first woman from Alabama elected to Congress.

“Among the things she worked hard to complete were her husband's efforts to secure funding for the Lurleen B. Wallace Cancer Institute, for the Andrews Forest Research Facility at Auburn University, and the development of the Chattahoochee River waterway. She was also able to secure a major water system grant for Bullock County.” Quoting Mother, “The hardest vote for me was voting against revenue sharing,’ she said. ‘I just didn't think the country could afford it. My conscience wouldn't let me do otherwise. I had to call the mayors in my district who had supported my election and tell them of my decision.’”

Back to Dad's funeral, December 1971. Mother wrote, “When we returned to the house after the funeral, Lera Thomas, the widow of Texas Representative Albert Thomas, got me away from everybody else. She said, ‘Elizabeth, I am going to tell you something now that others are going to tell you in the next few days. I know, because I have been there. You should complete his term. You know more about what George was doing than

anyone else. You have got to be thinking about this ahead of time.’ Sure enough, the next day United Press International called wanting to know if I would run to finish George’s term. I’ll never know how I would have reacted to that if Lera had not prepared me for it.” So in her own words, that’s why she ran.

**ETHIER:** Was that from her journal?

**HINDS:** No. This was from the “Class Notes, Alumna, Only Elected Alabama Congressman.” It’s in the *Montevallo Today*, September 1985. This is their alumni magazine called *Montevallo Today*.

**ETHIER:** Did your mother already have an established relationship with the Alabama delegation?

**HINDS:** Yes, yes. They were very close, husbands and wives. They met, they did things together. They were very close. One funny thing, Dad was coming home one time from Congress—I shouldn’t tell this because I can’t remember it too well. Kenneth Roberts, George Grant, and Dad were driving from Washington to Alabama one fall. Roberts had been shot by the Puerto Ricans when they were in the gallery of the House shooting down at House Members. Roberts was just two rows ahead of Dad, so it could have been quite bad for us. But I remember walking home from Cathedral wondering, and being frightened, thinking, “I hope my dad is okay.” But this was several years later when Roberts would walk around the district with his cane and say, {laughter} “You know, I’ve almost given all for my country.”

When Grant, Roberts, and Dad arrived in Union Springs about 1:00 a.m., Grant and Roberts decided instead of driving on to Montgomery to spend the night. The only problem was that the Andrews just had one guest room.

So Grant and Roberts had to share the same bed, and George Grant snored heavily.

Our home was built on a cliff on the foothill of the Blue Ridge Mountains. We had forest all around this corner across the road. Mother would have holes cut in the trees so you could see. In the wintertime, it was so easy to see the lights of Tuskegee, 21 miles away. It's a beautiful view, but we had little rodents and things that would sometimes appear. So George Grant was snoring so heavily that Roberts gets up in the middle of the night and goes in to sleep on a sofa in our sunroom. He looks, and there was this little mouse making noise in the corner of the room. Roberts jumps up and runs back to try to sleep in bed with George Grant. He said that was the lesser of two evils. They laughed about it for months. All the men were very, very close, and the wives were as well.

**ETHIER:** So they sort of welcomed her into being a Member of Congress?

**HINDS:** Yes. Yes. Yes. Oh! One thing I have to tell you about. It was a treat for me. I was 34, I had two children, we were in Greensboro, and this envelope came, embossed in gold, and I thought, "God, what have I bought at the White House?" I glanced through ugly bills, and here was this—so I opened it. It was to attend a supper dance at the White House, to be given the 17th of July by Miss Patricia Nixon and Mr. and Mrs. Dwight David Eisenhower II, and a smaller card said that it was to honor His Royal Highness Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, and Her Royal Highness Princess Anne. Red Blount was still Postmaster General. Red and Kay had a beautiful home in Georgetown cared for by Mary and Sam, both from Union Springs. Red called George and Tommy to have drinks with his kids and the other Cabinet children, and then I went from their home to the White House in a

black limousine. I must admit that I gave the royal wave as we entered the White House grounds.

That was one of the most exciting times for me. I met John Mitchell's children, Jack and Jackie Mitchell, and also, there was a young boy named Jay Jennings. It was Martha Mitchell's son from her previous marriage. Mitt Romney and his brother were there with their wives. We entered the White House through the front portico and walked through the Green Room as well as the Blue Room to meet the Prince and the Princess as they stood on the outside balcony to greet us. Then we went down the steps to the lawn. Beautiful round tables with gold bamboo Chippendale chairs were grouped around a gazebo covered with little white lights. We danced in the gazebo and listened to Gary Puckett & the Union Cap. Gary sang "Young Girl" just a foot away, and it seemed that he was singing to me.

At midnight, they had a pyrotechnical display that was awesome. You'd see the white monument towering into the sky, this great big moon, this full orange moon up in the sky with all of these fireworks. Somebody's arm pressed mine. I was standing next to Princess Anne who wore long, dangling diamond earrings.

When we left around 3:00 a.m., we went back through the White House. We climbed the steps and went into the dining room to go through to the hall to leave. The screens, the black lacquered screens, that covered the doorways to the kitchen were sort of propped open so you could hear the tinkle of china and glass, you could hear the help cleaning up inside. It was just like being in somebody's home. That's how we left. But I don't know how I got onto that.

**ETHIER:** No, I mean, it's a memory, and it sounds like a treat. It sounds very special.

**HINDS:** Well, I think we were so lucky to be alive and to be in Washington at that time. My father's position made it all possible. Then Mother was there, and it was really great. It was just great.

**ETHIER:** Your mother came to Congress in the early 70s—'72.

**HINDS:** Dad died on Christmas Day 1971, so she went to Washington, and she was up there by January 1972.

**ETHIER:** At this time some of the women Members who were also in Congress were facing some resistance and institutional obstacles because of their gender—because they were women. Did you get a sense that your Mother was facing the same?

**HINDS:** No, no. She was not. She was not facing that at all. The men were just very supportive. I know—well, let me see. There was a speech. She had a “digest of legislation introduced by Honorable Elizabeth Andrews, the 92nd Congress.” One was a vegetable garden. One was protection of territorial arrangements. That was a bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act “to provide that under certain circumstances, exclusive territorial arrangements shall not be deemed unlawful.” It protects, for example, the territorial arrangements of small soft drink bottling franchises.”

Then number three was the protection of welfare recipients from cuts due to Social Security increase. Number four, she was permitting more outside earnings for Social Security recipients. Number five, Metacredit National Health Insurance Proposal. I found this through some stuff. Then number six, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution relative to neighborhood schools. It states that “no public school student shall, because of his race, creed, or color, be assigned to attend a particular school.”

Number seven, “protection of compensation for veterans, and widows, and dependent parents of deceased veterans. A bill to prevent a decrease in the dependency and indemnity compensation of any dependent parent of a deceased veteran, or in the pension of any veteran or widow of a veteran, due to any increase in Social Security benefits or railroad retirement benefits, provided by law enacted on or after January 1, 1971.”

So, I mean, she did a great deal. She went with the Subcommittee on Census and Statistics to Europe, and to the Middle East. They went to Rome. They left from Dulles. In Rome they were met by the embassy control officer, and they were briefed by the embassy in Rome with a tour of the facilities of the *Instituto Centrale di Statistica*. They went to Ankara, Turkey. They were met again by the embassy, and they were briefed by Yasar Yaser, president, State Institute of Statistics. Reception at the embassy. Sightseeing. They left Ankara for Istanbul, and I know from Istanbul they went to Tel Aviv, Israel, and then to Jerusalem. All of this was briefing and demonstration program at the Central Bureau of Statistics—military briefing.

**ETHIER:** Along the same lines of these legislative goals, you said that your father was fiscally conservative, and he also took a conservative stance on social issues like civil rights. Did your mother take the same—was she taking the same stances on her own, or did she feel pressure by the Alabama delegation to take those stances?

**HINDS:** No. As far as I know, there was no pressure. But she did vote as Dad would have. Let me read a little bit. This was from a paper that she wrote Friday, November 22. This was right after Kennedy had been shot.

I have to say this, when they first went to Washington, they met Helen Keller at the White House, and then they were there when [Franklin] Roosevelt had

his third inauguration. Because we were in World War II, we were at war, he did not want to have a ball or any festivities, but to very quietly invite the House and the Senate to come to the lawn of the White House, and that's where he was inaugurated for the third time. He stood up, and Mother and Dad were fairly close to the podium, and she said, "I was so shocked to see how ill Roosevelt really was, the pain that the man endured just to stand up, and he wanted to stand up to deliver his inaugural address."

So this leads into Friday, November 22, right after Kennedy's assassination. "For the second time since we have been in Washington, I was called today by the office to tell me the President is dead. Such a shock. It was just impossible to believe Roosevelt was gone for he'd been President so long, and in wartime. It just seemed impossible to go on without him, even though he was an older, very sick man. Today's tragedy was even harder to believe because of President Kennedy's youth and vigor. But even more than that, how could an assassination happen in our beloved country? Everyone's reaction is, 'I'll wake up. This just couldn't be true.'"

We first heard of the proposed trip to Texas through Lera and Albert Thomas. I was in Washington. Lera always took me to lunch with Mother. Lera said—this was in June—"Albert and I are going to be in Texas, and Kennedy is coming down." The people in Houston were having a dinner for Albert Thomas. He was in the midst of a hard campaign, and they thought it would be great for Kennedy to come to encourage voters to vote for Albert. So after Lera left Washington and Mother learned that Mrs. Kennedy was going also, she thought how surprised Lera would be because she just thought Kennedy was going and not Jackie.

"But of course, we were glued to the TV for the rest of the day, as was all the world, in disbelief. We watched the plane land at Andrews Field. We saw the

President's body placed in an ambulance rather than a helicopter, as is his usual practice. Instead, the Johnsons [President Lyndon Baines Johnson and Lady Bird Johnson] entered the helicopter, and we, still at our window, watched the helicopter go by and land at the White House. We could see the helicopters land, pick up the President, and leave.”

Mother and Dad's apartment was at the Congressional Hotel. It was up on top of a hill next to the Russell [Senate] Office Building, and you could look out and see where the White House was. You knew when a helicopter dropped and landed.

Mother went on to say that Kennedy—this is to your question on how she voted. “Chief Justice Warren was quoted as saying he was sure it was an extremist on the right, and I've heard criticism of a Chief Justice being sure before he had any evidence. Of course, we southerners are so glad it was not a conservative, but rather a Communist who did it. George has often said the Supreme Court is much too lenient with Communists, and our prayer is that this will awaken them to the danger.”

That Kennedy was so smart, that his brain—that the people from the South are conservative, and unless you are from the South, it's hard to know how we feel. She thought that Kennedy, if he had remained in office, would have become more conservative.

“But his love of the President's power probably caused him to make decisions that the South could not accept. I can't help believing that age would have given a man of his integrity a tolerance so that he could see the South's viewpoint. I also wish he could have been President without his brother Robert [Francis Kennedy] in the Attorney General's office. I feel that their physical closeness was not good for the two offices.

“I think he could have been a great President. Of course, it is too soon to evaluate him. History will have to do that. But his love of the presidential power probably caused him to make decisions that the South could not accept.”

**ETHIER:** Did you want to say anything else about the legislative agenda for her?

**HINDS:** No, I don't think I know anything else. There were some resolutions that I read that she did, and she took a trip to learn more with her committee to Europe. She appeared before all of the committees where Dad had money tied up, so I think she accomplished her goals. She secured my father's legacy.

**ETHIER:** I have just a couple more questions left because we are running out of time. But you shared with me this story about the ending of World War II, and I am wondering if you can share that now also.

**HINDS:** The lights on the Capitol have quite a history. The lights were on in days before telephones existed to indicate that Congress was in session. If wives could see the lights shining from the Capitol, they knew that their husbands would be late. When World War II broke out, America was so aware of targets which could be bombed that many lights on the eastern coast went dark. The Capitol went dark.

Not until the war ended did the lights come on again. Mother and I took the bus from Arlington to the Hill to meet Dad. We drove in Dad's car from his office to the Capitol to wait in total darkness. Suddenly, the lights came on. The Capitol was snowy white against the black sky. It was just really a spectacular moment. Mother had tears rolling down her cheeks. Horns were blowing, people were cheering.

**ETHIER:** Thank you. I have a few more questions. During your mother's time in Congress, how did you view the House's attitude towards women Members at the time? How do you think that they were treated by male Members?

**HINDS:** Well, I know men respected and were just as nice to Mother as they could be. I did not sit in the gallery, I did not listen to their arguments. I would have no knowledge of that. As far as my mother was concerned, Members of Congress were friends. I don't think she felt any discrimination whatsoever, and I wouldn't know about the other women. I know Lera Thomas never felt that there was discrimination that I was aware of. I think they were treated equally, just as another man.

**ETHIER:** Historically, it was a common path for women to gain election through their husband's spot if they passed away. What role do you think that these widows played in the institution, and what kind of effect did they have on the House?

**HINDS:** Well, they were more aware of how difficult it is for women to—well, I suppose you are talking about wages and opportunities, that a man could be paid more for a certain job than a woman would be simply because she was a woman. But Mother's salary was not lowered. I just don't know. I have no firsthand knowledge, and I never heard any discussion of that.

**ETHIER:** That's okay. What did your mother's time in Congress mean to you—to have your mother have been a Congresswoman?

**HINDS:** Well, I was very proud of her because she was very capable. She did some great things for the district. She continued to have the honor and respect that my father had always received. It is quite a thrill to know that both your mother and your father were in Congress. I have a letter to Mother. It was written in 1972. It was a thank-you note from Richard Nixon for her vote on

Vietnam. Nixon had written my father in '71 to say thank you for a vote. I have those letters back to back, and it's just a thrill for me to have had two parents who were unselfish and did for others.

**ETHIER:** Along those lines, what do you think your mother's legacy in terms of her House service has been?

**HINDS:** Well, we go back, she preserved those things: the waterway, the forestry center, the cancer [research center] probably was the biggest, although it was not named for them. But it's a thrill to her to see that my father's projects succeeded.

I found, I think, what I was looking for, if I could go back. This pertains to the Vietnam War. "Detailing a recent conversation with a very high-ranking U.S. officer, the Alabama Congressman—" meaning my dad. Dad: "I asked, 'Do you have enough equipment?' His answer was, 'Yes, sir.' I asked, 'Do you have enough planes?' He said, 'Yes, sir.' I asked, 'Do you have enough guns and ammunition?' He said, 'Yes, sir.' I asked, 'Well, why can you not whip that little country of North Vietnam? What do you need to do it?' And his answer was 'Targets. Targets.'"

Dad described that country as a snake. It comes down and its mouth is open. He just felt that it was tragic that we did not go in to fight to win. Again, he quoted MacArthur, he quoted Admiral [David] Farragut, and he said—and with Israel, he used the words of Admiral Farragut. "Damn the Russians! Full speed ahead!" Israel came out victorious. He said, "This little tiny country is the size of maybe New Jersey. I consider it to be one of the worst wars, or the worst war, this country has ever been involved in. And unfortunately, it seems that only those who have relatives in the jungles of South Vietnam are

concerned. The man on the street—and the Members of the House know—has an attitude of I couldn't care less.”

That's when, in this speech, he praised Harry Truman for “the most courageous decision ever made in the nation's history when he ordered the use of atomic weapons at Hiroshima.” Andrews went on, ‘That courageous action brought the cruel World War II to an end, and literally thousands of lives were saved, because we were planning for November 1945 what would have been the bloodiest invasion in world history. I told the Secretary of Defense when he was before our committee that we have to get tough to win this war. Power is the only thing the Communists understand. Never send troops into battle unless you are willing to back them up with every resource at your command. And not to do that for these kids in South Vietnam is a criminal shame and an injustice.

“Let us win this war. Let us pick up the telephone and tell those people in Hanoi we will give them 30 days to get out of South Vietnam, or bring them to their knees. We think we can do it with conventional weapons, but frankly, I would have no compunction about using the big weapon to bring this war to an end and thus save the lives of young Americans. This is a war, and we all should share the burden, and I am thinking of that kid in the snake-infested, malaria-infested, sniper-infested jungle whose life is in danger 24 hours a day. I hope we can follow the courage of Israel and Harry Truman, and bring this nasty, dirty war to an early conclusion.” There. That's it.

**ETHIER:**

Thank you. I have, you know, a ton more questions, but that's all the time we have for today. Is there anything that you wanted to add about either of your parents' careers that we didn't touch on?

**HINDS:** No, I don't think so. Dad was such an admirer of Richard [Brevard] Russell [r.]. The Democrats at that time were so close. They all were conservative fiscally and socially. It was a wonderful time to be in Washington, so I'm very grateful.<sup>21</sup>

**ETHIER:** Thank you so much for these memories.

**HINDS:** Thank you.

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Now the University of West Alabama, the school's name was Livingston State Teachers College from 1929 to 1957.

<sup>2</sup> George Andrews was an unsuccessful candidate for election to the Seventy-seventh Congress in 1940.

<sup>3</sup> The Blounts were a prominent family in Alabama politics. Accumulating wealth from their construction businesses, they financially supported Republican candidates and aided the rise of the Republican Party in Alabama.

<sup>4</sup> The Office of the House Historian conducted a series of oral histories with George W. Andrews III:

<http://history.house.gov/Oral-History/People/George-W--Andrews-III/>

<sup>5</sup> Reagan delivered a luncheon address to AFL-CIO at the Washington Hilton Hotel on March 30, 1981. The hotel was considered a safe venue because of the enclosed "President's Walk" passageway. He was not wearing a bulletproof vest because he was only exposed for 30 feet. John Hinckley Jr. attempted the assassination.

<sup>6</sup> The Twentieth Century Club, founded in the 1890s, is a women's social club.

<sup>7</sup> The interviewee requested that the following statement be included as part of her response: "When Mother succeeded Dad and went to the House, coming back from the House after a 2:00 a.m. vote, Mother shared the trolley with [Thomas] Hale Boggs [Sr.]. Hale left saying, "Elizabeth, I'll see you Monday morning. I am catching a plane to Alaska in two hours. Lindy filled Hale's unfinished term."

<sup>8</sup> The Subcommittee on Defense is a subcommittee for the Committee on Appropriations.

<sup>9</sup> The USS *Greenling* (SS-213) launched in 1941 and was the first ship named Greenling. The second ship named USS *Greenling* (SS-614) was commissioned on November 3, 1967.

<sup>10</sup> Thomas Hinman Moorer served as Chief of Naval Operations from 1967 to 1970 and as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1970 to 1974.

<sup>11</sup> Russel Blandford was chief counsel to the House Armed Services Committee

<sup>12</sup> The interviewee requested that the following statement be included as part of her response: "When we visited the cemetery at Omaha Beach, Dad requested a photograph of every grave site occupied by a soldier from the 3rd district of Alabama. He sent the photographs as well as a letter to each family represented."

<sup>13</sup> The interviewee requested that the following statement replace the redacted segment: "...then returned to our starting point on the Rhine. We saw castles and vineyards along the river. Arriving in the Admiral's yacht was more fun than my trip down the Rhine."

<sup>14</sup> The interviewee requested that the following statement be included as part of her response: "There is a cute story about election night. Dad, in Hawaii, was listening to the election returns on the radio, as were a few of his buddies. Mr. Blount would announce that Mr. Andrews was ahead by 5,000 votes. Later, Mr. Blount would announce that Mr. Andrews was ahead by 3,000 votes. Later, Mr. Blount would announce that Mr. Andrews was ahead by 1,500 votes. One of the buddies said, 'If Mr. Blount doesn't stop talking soon, Mr. Andrews won't have any votes.'"

<sup>15</sup> The interviewee requested that the following statement be included as part of her response: "Dad stayed in Washington when Congress was in session. When he made speeches in the district, he never accepted money. Dad felt that speaking engagements were part of his responsibilities as a Congressman."

<sup>16</sup> The interviewee requested that the following statement be included as part of her response: "Once I was on the floor of the House with Dad, and he said, 'Come on, sister. I want to show you where I go when I have big decisions to make.' He led me through the French doors outside the columned terrace which overlooked the Mall and the monument. That was one of my special moments as we stood quietly."

<sup>17</sup> The interviewee requested that the following statement replace the redacted segment: "We would board a train with several cars reserved for Congressional families, leaving Washington in the early morning to arrive

---

in Philadelphia for the Army-Navy noon kickoff. After the game, we hopped across the railroad tracks connecting the stadium with our train to go back to DC. Dad was usually in the District making speech after speech. But the fall of 1944, our first in Washington, Mother, Dad and I drove to Philadelphia with several of the office staff. That was our first Army-Navy game, and I have loved Army-Navy football since.”

<sup>18</sup> The interviewee requested that the following statement replace the redacted segment: “Once Dad went with Tom and me to New York when the Congressional families planned to go to the World’s Fair. From the train station, buses took us to City Hall. Dad delivered a speech to the policemen. The Members of Congress and their families were then invited to brunch at Gracie Mansion, a beautiful sprawling home on the banks of the river. [John Vliet] Lindsay was mayor at the time. After his warm welcome, we all went to the fair.”

<sup>19</sup> The interviewee requested that the following statement replace the redacted segment: “Dad felt so strongly against term limits. My father chose to have a career in Congress to legislate over time to make a difference in people’s lives. He did not want to interrupt his law career for four or six years. The longer you remained in the House, the greater seniority you acquired, the greater your authority became, the wiser vote you cast, the better chairman of committees you became through the years, the greater perspective you had. Term limits to stunt a Congressman’s career and a suitcase Congress to travel the world and to vacation constantly would be the antithesis of my father’s heartfelt concept of Congress.”

<sup>20</sup> The atomic bombings of Japan occurred on August 6 and 9, 1945.

<sup>21</sup> The interviewee requested that the following statement be included as part of her response: “Yes, there is one more anecdote I treasure. Dad had a good friend from Clayton, Alabama, named Jamie Winn. They had played together when Dad visited his grandparents. Jamie sought a career in the military, becoming a U.S. Army Major as well as aide to General George C. Marshall. Jamie also married Marshall’s stepdaughter Molly. In 1964, I went with my two-year-old son Tommy to Washington to visit Mother and Dad. Dad entered the apartment shortly after Tommy and I had arrived with the news that the four of us would drive to Leesburg on Sunday to have lunch with Jamie, Molly, and Mrs. Marshall. Molly and Mrs. Marshall were leaving the day afterward to go to Germany for an event dedicated to General Marshall. The Marshall home was so lovely. The Marshalls have lived in Dadona Manor over forty years. It had been one of the earliest Virginia homes with the kitchen separated from the house. Sitting around the dining room table laden with delicious food, Dad told stories about George Marshall, and Mrs. Marshall joined in with several more. Unfortunately, Tommy spilled his Coke on Mrs. Marshall’s black lace dress which she had planned to take to Germany. In spite of that *faux pas*, we had a wonderful day. Dadona Manor is now open to the public in Leesburg, Virginia. It is incredible that so many of Dad’s childhood friends from Alabama were with him when he was at the top of his game in Washington, DC, and when they, in turn, were at their best. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to remember Dad and Mother and our incredible years in Washington. Both my parents worked their way through college, embraced life, and endeavored to better mankind.”