

Leonard Ballard

Inspector, United States Capitol Police (1947-1984)

Interview #3

(Thursday, September 1, 1983)
Interviewed by Richard A. Baker

BALLARD: Speaking of the story of Senator Fong and the pineapple light fixture, there's another pertaining to a senator [in connection with the Senate chamber area]. In the Marble Room [located just outside the chamber to the north] itself, when you enter on the east side, there's a chair there. If you'll sit down in the chair and look at the ceiling, you'll see an outline of George Washington in natural marble, in the marble beam. I had some friends in their one day showing it to them. Senator Wayne Morse came in. We were standing near his chair and he asked what we were looking at. When I showed him, he said, "You know, that's funny. I have snoozed in that chair for twenty-four years and I have never seen that." I said, "That's because you always fall asleep too soon."

BAKER: How'd you find out about it?

BALLARD: A janitor told me about it many years ago. They used to go back there and take their naps. I used it as a capper if I had somebody important to take back there. For the rest of the time he was here, Wayne Morse took guests back there to show them.

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BAKER: Last time we spent a lot of time talking about the late 40s and early 50s . . . the Pershing funeral, and so forth. That brings to mind other major public events such as Truman's inaugural in January 1949. I was wondering how that went, particularly with regard to relations with the Secret Service and the Metropolitan Police.

BALLARD: Truman's inauguration was the first one televised. We didn't have the elaborate build up that we have now. We had a flatbed truck on the East Front with, I think, eight cameras on it. That was all. It was a beautiful day, a cold day, bitter cold. A lieutenant and I worked together and somebody had given us tickets and he brought his wife and I brought my wife. They were good seats right on the press section. But I've never been able to get my wife back to another one. She said, "That's the coldest day I've ever spent in my life and that's all for me!" I worked the door from the Rotunda out to the platform for the simple reason that it was all new to everyone. The captain had never been there before. Of course, there hadn't been one for a while.

BAKER: FDR's [1945] inaugural was held at the White House.

BALLARD: That's right. There were actually very few people [who'd had relevant experience]. It was just hit and miss. Everyone was lucky. I knew a lot of faces and the captain knew that. He placed me on the door from the Rotunda leading out because the people

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who go out there are people as a rule who don't want to be asked for a pass. That's very touchy. There was actually no real crowd. You didn't have the pushing and the shoving and the grab for passes and the people who have to be out there the way it has been /in recent times/. It was a nice calm day.

They had the inaugural luncheon in the office of the Secretary of the Senate, Truman's personal friend Leslie Biffle.

BAKER: In his conference room, S-224?

BALLARD: Yes. Well, after it was over the captain came and got me and took me up around to work the luncheon door because I knew faces. At the luncheon you don't check anybody 's [passes]. You have to take a little risk there, but you don't check 'em. It got to be a boisterous affair. There's one thing about Truman's inauguration, everybody was jolly. I've forgotten who sang the Star Spangled Banner . . . Phil somebody. He had passed out on the sofa right inside the door. Some man came out and said to me, "Have you had a drink yet?" And I said, "No, no, I can't take one yet." Well, he went back in and he brought back a bottle wrapped up in a brown envelope and he said, "This is for afterwards." I thanked him. Well, I just raised up Phil and stuck it under him. (Laughter) 'Cause, I couldn't hold it in my hand!

BAKER: That's true.

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BALLARD: I knew nobody would find it.

BAKER: He was going to be there for a while.

BALLARD: When the luncheon was over, I had three bottles under Phil! After the luncheon had broken up and they went downstairs to get into the parade, I took the bottles over to the guard room, put them in my locker and went back over to the [Capitol] building. In those days the parade started on the other side of the Hill, around by the House office buildings and came across the front of the Capitol. I went out on the platform and watched most of the parade. It was a quiet inauguration.

BAKER: So then your responsibilities were over at that point.

BALLARD: When the luncheon was over, all those people left the building and went to their vehicles downstairs. And the building was opened to the public. It

was back to its everyday business. There was no security. Of course, for inaugurations nowadays, you have security out into the drives.

BAKER: And storm fences surrounding the entire Capitol grounds.

BALLARD: Yes.

BAKER: There was none of that at that point?
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BALLARD: No, no. I suppose nobody ever thought of it.

BAKER: Was the force augmented with Metropolitan police at all?

BALLARD: No. We had the usual Secret Service, but not a big contingent. You had the Secret Service with the president, which was a small detail. It wasn't anything like it is now. There might have been three or four [agents], but you see the vice president didn't have secret service; the cabinet had no secret service. The president was the only one who had it. You get acquainted first thing with the secret service and they usually play your game. Of course, they're on strange territory. There was no hassle. It was the quietest inauguration we've ever had since I've been here.

BAKER: Then, several years after that inauguration, there was another major public event when Princess Elizabeth [of Great Britain] came to town [in 1951].

BALLARD: Now, I escorted them that time through the building with Fishbait Miller [Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives]. And then they came back in 1957 when they had the luncheon in the old Supreme Court Room now restored as the Old Senate Chamber].

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When they came in 1951, Fishbait was going to meet me in the center of the Rotunda . . . you know that old routine [where a Senate official's jurisdiction ends and a House official takes over], the House side and the Senate side.

BAKER: You were coming from the Senate side?

BALLARD: Yes. We had to wait a little there and I was with the Prince [Phillip] and I've forgotten the name of the woman who was with the Princess, but I didn't want to show him any [of the murals depicting U.S. Revolutionary War victories over Great Britain] of that. Because that wasn't, you know, in his pocket. The "Signing of the Declaration of Independence," the "Surrender of Burgoyne," . . . Cornwallis [at Yorktown]. So I directed his attention to the "Baptism of Pocahontas" because he was a direct descendent of John Rolfe [who married Pocahontas in 1614].

BAKER: (Laughing) "Forget this stuff over here on the right."

BALLARD: We just didn't look that way. I pointed out the painting of the Indian with the six toes. We walked over and I showed him. He was very happy with that . . . he was impressed. He didn't even ask to see anything on the other side. Of course, by that time, Fishbait was there and we moved to the House side. He took over there.

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Another incident with Fishbait . . . when they came back as Prince and Queen in 1957 they had the luncheon and, to go to the House side, Fishbait picked us up. The Queen had two Royal Canadian Mounted Police with her--red jackets and the whole business--and I mean they were as tall as Canadian Mountains. I had to keep looking up. Well, Fishbait's a very southern, gallant So we go into the House chamber and down the aisle. She's to sit in the Speaker's chair.

BAKER: The House wasn't in session? The chamber was empty?

BALLARD: It was not in session. We went down the aisle and of course there are steps [going up to the rostrum] and Fishbait naturally . . . he just gets her by the elbow to assist Well, this Mountie hits him . . . never looked down, "Commoners don't touch the Queen!" Fishbait's arm was moving the next morning when he came in. It was still moving. I used to kid Fishbait about it. He didn't like it.

BAKER: I bet he didn't.

BALLARD: Every once in a while, I'd say, "Commoners don't touch the Queen." At the 1957 luncheon they had the tableware from the Mayflower Hotel. The hotel sent its own security up. They inventoried it and apparently nobody stuck any in their shirt.

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BAKER: But the point being the name "Mayflower."

BALLARD: That's right.

BAKER: On the 1951 occasion, was there any formal ceremony in the Rotunda?

BALLARD: No.

BAKER: I had heard a story about the Queen's podium being set up facing the Revolutionary War murals. But that apparently is not a true story.

BALLARD: No, sir. I was there.

I knew I could entertain the Prince with the "Baptism of Pocahontas" because it was his relative. I knew I was going to take him and I did a little research to find out about it, so that I wouldn't be at a loss if he asked me any questions.

BAKER: A couple of years later was Eisenhower's inaugural, in 1953.

BALLARD: That was a big inauguration . . . a crowd, but without incident. They had more press than ever before. That was when they built special press facilities in front of the inaugural platform. It was maybe Kennedy's inauguration [in 1961] when the "Today Show" moved in. That was the first completely covered inauguration.

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BAKER: That opens up a whole new range of questions on the subject of relations between the police and the press. I imagine that that has been an increasingly more difficult relationship as the number of press members assigned to the Capitol has grown so dramatically. Press people tend to be pretty pushy and assertive and want to overstep boundaries.

BALLARD: The press grew. Originally, you might have had two at a press conference, it wasn't very long before you had twenty-two. Of course, it was more trouble to handle them. The trouble in the Capitol is the narrow corridor. You *have* to keep the corridors open. Not only for the tourists, but for the members. Of course, they're hunting a story. They couldn't care less. You *do* have some trouble with them.

[Robert] Dunphy hadn't been in as Sergeant at Arms too long. He had been with the Rules Committee for many years . . . while he was going to law school. Johnny Lacovara was his deputy. He fell heir under Joe Duke. Lacovara came under Duke. Well, Paul Duke [no relation] won't stop anywhere for a story. We had a meeting of the Foreign Relations Committee. They were in session and the press was lolling around [outside the Committee's suite on the first floor of the Capitol] and Paul was standing up and he saw a senator coming out of the Senate dining room [nearby]. He went out in the corridor and approached him to bring him around and I said, "Paul, you can't

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interview him here." And he says, "Why can't I, he's a senator." I said, "Paul, he's not a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee." And he says, "Well, he's a senator." And I said, "That's beside the point." So Paul said, "Well, I'm going upstairs and see the Sergeant at Arms." I said, "Well, all right." He came back down with Johnny Lacovara. And Johnny said, "Well, Leonard, I think you kind of overstepped yourself this time."

I said, "Johnny, go upstairs. Your boss just came from a meeting of the Rules Committee and he should be pretty familiar. The rules say that you can't make a studio out of the halls of Congress. You can only interview those who are a

member of that particular committee." So Johnny goes out and he comes back in a minute and he says, "Paul, he's right. You can't do it." Johnny and I always got along well. Johnny favored the press.

I always got along well with the press. When I got transferred over here, the press wrote several good stories that I was internationally known in the Capitol. I didn't fight 'em. I knew they had a job to do. But I always let them know that *I* had a job to do, too. So, let's meet on an even ground and don't hassle each other.

I've forgotten that fella that was on . . . little black book. He's dead, he died of cancer. He was of Channel 4 at 11:00 o'clock. He and I were sitting in front of Foreign Relations, he was strictly a gentleman, and one of the fellows was unpacking his gear and he had

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it blocking the stairway as you go down to the basement. I hollered at him, "Would you please move that box out of the way in case someone's coming up the stairs or trying to go down." He said, "I didn't notice it, I'm sorry." So he moved it. Well, this fellow who was sitting beside me, he said, "Well, I'll tell you, I think I better get away from here. The captain just said, 'Would you *please*" And he said, "That's not right." (Laughing) Because I usually yelled at them.

BAKER: But that's an ongoing war.

BALLARD: Yes, it is, but it shouldn't be. They know the rules better than our men. See, our men, a lot of them are new. They [the press] know the rules, but they are going to push 'em. Anything to get a story. Sam Donaldson [of ABC] . . . I'll give Sam credit. Now Sam will come up with a story, but he'll probably break your leg getting it, so just watch your leg! And he'll ask embarrassing questions. Of course, that's no concern of yours [the police] what he asks, but he's a good newsman.

Now I had a case there one day . . . I was out in front of the Capitol early in the morning . . . that's when they were extending the [East] front [of the Capitol, late 1950s to early 1960s]. George Tames, a photographer for the *New York Times* who's been with them since old man Adolph Ochs took it over I think in the 1800s. (Laughter) Anyhow, George came up to take an early picture, you know

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the sun [rising] and that bit. He pulled up in a space that belonged to a woman who came in fairly early and always wanted her space open, which she's entitled to. I said, "George, don't park in here. Back over there, that fellow's on vacation. You can stay as long as you want to. [He said,] "I'm not going to be but a minute." I said, "George, get over there." He gets in his car and he takes off. Well, I didn't pay any attention to it. About noon I got a call from the Deputy Sergeant at Arms. The superintendent of the press photographers gallery wanted me to go out and see where I had asked George to park, and so forth. So I went along.

The next morning, I was standing at the Senate door and a couple of photographers came in and they said, "Joe Duke's going to fire you today." And I

said, "Well, he's the only fella I know of who can." And another one came in [who said], "I talked to Joe Duke last night, I begged him last night not to fire you, but he said he's going to today." And I said, "Well, I've heard that." I happened to be outside the building talking to the man on traffic there and Mr. Duke drove up. He parked his car against the curb, walked out on the outside, and called me over. He said, "What's George Tames' space up here?" And I said, "George doesn't have a space up here. George has space available." "What?" I said, "Just like all the photographers. They have space available. We put them in anywhere." He said, "What?" And I said, "No." You see, again, it had been just about two weeks before this that the local *Daily News*. had served a subpoena

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on Mr. Duke forcing them to open [information on] the Senate payroll to the public. Now, he'd been ducking that subpoena for four months, I knew that, cause we were watching for them. And I knew that he was teed at the press. So he said to me, "Do you have any trouble with my staff?" And I said, "No, you don't have enough staff to create any trouble." Well, he didn't then. He had three people. He said, "Who do you have the trouble with." I said [to myself], "Well, here's where I unload, baby!" I said, "It's the press. They're the ones that give you the problem. I wish there was some way we could keep 'em off the Hill. He said, "Aren't you right! Aren't you right!" I says, "Now I tried to get George to take a place, but he took off." He said, "Isn't that right! You try to do 'em a favor . . . and they want to kick you in the rear." I said, "Well, I don't know what he wanted to do . . . " He said, "What kind of car does George Tames have?" I said, "He has a little green Nash Ambassador." So he called the officer on the front who he knew very well and he said, "Ralph, I don't want to find George Tames' car on the Senate side of the Capitol Building [parking lot]. I don't want to look out and see it." Ralph says, "All right." A little later on (Laughing), George came up. [He said,] "Where ya going to put me this morning, Ralph?" You know, space available. Ralph says, "On the House side, George. Joe Duke told me not to park you on the Senate side of the Capitol." "Well [responded

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George], what am I gonna do?" Ralph says, "Trade cars, George!" (Laughter) "Cause he knows what this one looks like!" So he took off. Later in the day, they called me up in the press gallery . . . photographers gallery. "Would you go in and see Joe Duke and get him to lay off George Tames. He's [Duke] threatened to pull his pass, you know if he pulls it . . . " I said, "Let me tell you something, Bill [Forsythe, the gallery superintendent] if you think I'm going to make a move, you're crazy. I hope he f ires you and George Tames and anyone else involved. You had me down the road this morning . . . you told me I was fired this morning when you came in. But after Mr. Duke came out there and got the truth . . . I wouldn't lift a finger for you." And I didn't. And George walked on light feet around there for a long time. Because Joe Duke was that type. Now, he'd do anything in the world for you, but don't *lie* to him, or don't try to outfox him.

BAKER: Held never forget it.

BALLARD: No, he wouldn't. He'd kill you eventually. And that's the reason I got along so well with Duke. I never told him a lie regardless of who it hurt. He was very fine to me, he promoted me right to the top.

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Paul Duke . . . now I was glad to see him go to PBS. And get off the Hill. Because he was a pain. I was standing up on the platform outside the Senate wing one day and I saw Paul down there and he had Congressman [James] Scheuer of New York. They had their car there unloading their TV gear and I hollered down to Paul, "Paul, don't set up your gear. You can't interview him here!" And Paul says, "Why can't I?" I says, "Because he's a congressman. Take him across on the other [House] side and help yourself." The congressman spoke up and said, "Why can't I be interviewed here?" I said, "Sorry, it's a rule congressman."

BAKER: There's an actual rule?

BALLARD: There is. Now, you can get permission. He could have called upstairs to get permission, but he couldn't just stop. Well, he said, "I want a letter on my desk by 5:00 o'clock telling me why I can't be interviewed on the Senate steps." I said, "Well, congressman, you can't be interviewed, but you won't get a letter on your desk either at 5:00 o'clock." The cameraman was hollering up at me, "Not me, Ballard, not me." (Laughing) He was wrapping up his gear. (Laughing) I saw Lodi [Mr. Lodovitch] the next day and I said, "I wasn't blaming you Lodi, it was damn Paul" . . . I know Paul.

BAKER: Does that rule work the other way around? Senators cannot be interviewed over on the House side?

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BALLARD: That's right. Now they can go into the Speaker and get permission. There's no problem, it's just a question of permission. I don't know why the rule is, but that's it. The press know it, but they won't pay any attention. Most of them work on base pay and so much on each story they get. That was true of Roger Mudd. During the 1964 Civil Rights Act debate, Roger was working for WTOP [in Washington]. CBS contacted him and had him broadcast from the Senate steps every hour on the hour for five minutes. And, of course, CBS paid him. In April when that was over, *Time* magazine carried a story on Roger, "From Mudd to Gold." He went from \$100 a week to \$2,000 a week because he got \$50 for the first time, \$75 for the next time, \$100 the next time . . . daily! And that's the reason they buck you to get a story. If they can get on twice a day, they've got it made. Of course, not all of the newsmen are under a contract like that. And it may be just when they're starting.

I used to sit up there [in the radio-TV gallery suite] because, at night I had to stay, and it was a good place to loaf. They had a TV up there, and there was nobody else up there and I'd sit and visit with Roger. He was having trouble meeting his house payments, of course he's not anymore. (Laughter)

BAKER: Restrictions on photography around the Capitol . . . I know you have to have a "tripod pass" What's the background of all that?

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BALLARD: It used to be that pictures were taken on tripods. Very few hand cameras in the early days, and that's when these rules were made. It is just that they didn't have the space to set up a tripod. All the corridors are narrow. Even out on the front of the building, you have to have special permission to set up there.

BAKER: And that was only because of the space problem inside the building.

BALLARD: That's right.

BAKER: So there was an effort at consistency even though it didn't make any sense on the outside?

BALLARD: No tripods without special permission. There's actually no rule against taking pictures, but there's a vague rule about flashbulbs inside the building. Flashes tend to distract people. And then sometimes people take pictures of senators. And senators [sometimes] don't want them. They get in trouble sometimes. So you say "No pictures" if you see somebody with a camera. Let's say there's this family going down the corridor. They're just taking a picture. They don't know who they're taking a picture of. Well, maybe they've been over to see the senator, and have been told "the senator is out of town." Well, they go home and have the

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picture developed and somebody says, "By gosh, you were lucky, you got a picture of Senator So and So." (Laughter) He's [the elusive senator] ruined [in his constituents' eyes].

BAKER: Right. He wasn't out of town at all.

BALLARD: Those things are to protect the members, which is right. Bill Wannall, you remember Bill [Sergeant at Arms, 1972-75], a dickens of a nice fella. One day the Senate galleries were filled up, I've forgotten what the specific issue was . . . we had 'em lined up. I had a new fella on . . . sometimes a new fella on the [interior Senate] steps checking [gallery] passes is better than an old one . . . an old one knows a lot of people . . . a new one doesn't know anybody. It was pretty pushy and I was helping him, standing on the steps. Well Senator [Jack] Miller of Iowa came out of the Senate Reception Room with a family . . . a man, a woman, and a girl about twelve. I thought he was taking them up to the Family Gallery, which they do. So I stepped aside to let them go by. But he stopped. And the girl down at the foot of the stairs started taking pictures.

Well, about that time Bill Wannall came around by what was then Majority Leader Mike] Mansfield's office--it's Robert Byrd's now--and he said, "No pictures in the corridors, senator!" Well, the

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senator said, "What?" and flushed. Miller of Iowa would, you know. And he [Wannall] said, "No pictures in the corridor." So Miller said, "Let's go out on the porch. Maybe they won't bother us out there. " [After they left, Bill came over and said,] "Well, didn't you see that!" And I said, "No, somebody hollered down there and I looked down to see . . ." you know what I mean? Well, about a half an hour later, a page came down and said Mr. Wannall wants to see me in the Reception Room. I went in. He said, "Bal, I can see now why you keep those damn glasses so dirty." (Laughter) I said, "Bill, I was surprised. As long as you've been on this Hill," you know he was on the Hill for years [before becoming Sergeant at Arms in 1972] down at the printing shop, "that you would say anything to a senator about a family taking a picture. You know damned well that I saw it. I had to step over to keep out of the picture" and I did. I knew they didn't want me! And he says, "Boy, I just came from upstairs [in the Office of then-Sergeant at Arms Robert Dunphy]. He kept me up there for thirty minutes. [Senator] Miller is raising sand." I said, "Well, I don't doubt it a bit." He said, "Well, if I'm ever around you again, I'm going to wait until you move.

BAKER: At that time Wannall was Dunphy's deputy?

BALLARD: He was Deputy Sergeant at Arms! Had been deputy for about three or four months. I told him, "You just don't say anything to 'em, Bill, regardless of what they [senators] are doing." Wannall

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and I were friends for years. I used to park him in the Northeast Drive [adjacent to the Capitol]. He didn't have a permit because [in those earlier years] he wasn't a Senate employee. He was a Government Printing Office employee [on detail to the Senate], but I worked the Drive and always had a space. I knew he had to work, so I'd always stick him in somewhere.

No, it's better if you just play along with the press. It'll save you a lot of irritation. Leroy Anderson, a very well known NBC photographer . . . he did a lot of specials for NBC. He did the special on the Capitol several years ago. There was not a soul in the entire film, but Raymond Massey did the comment. And that 's where they made their mistake. Raymond Massey sounded like he was reading it. They should have gotten Everett Dirksen to do it, because he felt the Capitol. It lived to him. But, Leroy was a good photographer. And I was standing there in front of Foreign Relations [committee room in the Capitol] one day and the Senate was going to go out [adjourn] in a couple days, and he said, "What are you going to do?" I said, "Well, we're going to Colorado. We're going to Manitou Springs, Pike's Peak, and that area." He said, "If you go to Manitou . . . Colorado Springs, be sure that you go to the Garden of the Gods." So we were out there visiting my

wife's relatives who had a cottage up at Ute Pass. I said, "I've got to go to the Garden of

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the Gods, because Leroy recommended it . . ." So, we drove through it. It didn't impress me as much, maybe as it did Leroy, but it was beautiful scenery. Natural formations.

Sunday morning, we were in the cottages. And in the Denver Post there was a story about a man and his wife on Saturday night had been in the Garden of the Gods, heard a movement in the bush . . . she did, and he thought it was a yoker or a mugger or something, so he took a tire tool out of the car and goes around into the bush . . . and it was a bear! And the bear tore the hell out of him. He had to be hospitalized . . . Well, I clipped that out and mailed it back to Leroy (Laughter) and I wrote on top of it, "Leroy, you tried to set me up with that damn bear!" (Laughter) He put it on the bulletin board and it was there for months. Leroy never forgot it, because we always fought. (Laughter)

BAKER: We talked a little of the 1953 Eisenhower inaugural and, of course, that also marked the return of the Republicans to control of the Senate. There must have been a lot of changes . . . changes in staff, patronage throughout the Senate. What was the mood?

BALLARD: Well, actually it changed the Senate staff, the doormen changed. They all came in new. The employees were all Republicans [in the support offices], but it didn't bother us much. We weren't affected. It didn't bother us much.

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BAKER: Shortly afterwards, on March 1, 1954, there was the shooting by the four Puerto Rican terrorists from the gallery of the House chamber. Did you have any involvement in that?

BALLARD: Oh, yeah. I was on duty.

BAKER: Where were you?

BALLARD: In the Capitol Building. The minute that the word got out . . of course, we all went to the House side. We closed off the building. The rumor we got was that there were 250 [of them] at Union Station on their way up! Well, we didn't know how many had already got up and got in the building. So we closed off the Building and we searched the Capitol from dome to bottom. Of course, we didn't find another one. There was just the four that we had [in custody], the three men and the woman. They walked out.

In those days we only had one man in either gallery. Buck was on duty. Buck got a couple of them. Now, they walked out and threw their weapons down and said,

"Shoot us!" Well, nobody shot 'em, naturally. There was excitement on that side of the building, I can tell you that! The ambulances came . . .

BAKER: There were about 140 members of the House on the floor at the time.
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BALLARD: Well, there were 119 standing up. They were voting on the "Mexican wetback" bill. And that meant a lot to the southwest and it meant a lot to the unions, because they didn't want it. They were having a vote and there were 119 standing up when they fired down in there. They called the ambulances. We'd put the terrorists in an ambulance and threw a towel over their faces. The photographers were trying to get in there to take pictures of them. We threw one photographer out; broke up his camera. We got in a little trouble over that, but he had no business in there. The captain kinda put us in the middle there. He wouldn't defend us on that. It was an Associated Press photographer. We got in a little correspondence over that. But anyhow, we got it cleared out.

BAKER: The photographer was outside as you were trying to put them in the ambulance?

BALLARD: He got up in the ambulance to take the picture and that's when a squad car driver, a big boy, he pulled up beside the photographer and got him and tossed him . . . camera, and photographer, and all. Broke his camera, there's no doubt about that. The one he threw out was Al Muto . . .

BAKER: One of the Muto brothers [later employed as official photographers for the Senate Democrats] . . .

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BALLARD: He got cut off and his brother got him put on [the payroll] over there.

BAKER: He got cut off from where?

BALLARD: Associated Press . . . later on . . . reduction in force. He did get a break. He had his film and he had some film he'd taken. They picked him up and flew him to New York and had those pictures developed and he was on TV that night with his pictures, which made a name for himself. And they flew Douglas Edwards down from New York and he made his TV newscast right from the seat next to where the Puerto Ricans sat . . . broadcast the news that night. That's the first time [anything like] that's ever happened. And the last time!

BAKER: Right. How on earth did they ever allow him to do that?

BALLARD: He got permission from somebody, the Speaker, I suppose. Had to be from the Speaker. The Speaker can tell you to do anything if he wants to.

They were, of course, arrested. Now, of course, homicide came up. Naturally, when there's a shooting.

BAKER: From the Metropolitan police?

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BALLARD: That's right. They were the first on the scene. They arrested 'em. They were tried and convicted. Now the woman was sentenced to the woman's federal reformatory in my home town.

BAKER: Alderson.

BALLARD: Yes. We used to go back there. We'd usually go there for a meal. One of the staff would invite us down there for a dinner. Lolita Lebron [one of the terrorists] was a waitress in the staff dining room. Of course, [my friends] would say, "There's your girl." She never did find out who I was . . . that I was on the Capitol Police.

BAKER: She was released just a short while ago?

BALLARD: Not too long ago. Went back to Puerto Rico, waving their flags.

BAKER: What happened within the force as a result of that shooting?

BALLARD: Well, now actually, nothing. (Laughter) The result was that we got what we call the "crash phones." We had no communications whatsoever. So we got a small switchboard and the crash phones to connect with the office into the different posts. In other words, on the posts there was, of course, a telephone, but half the time it was busy. So we put in the red phones and if you wanted to

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reach that House door in a hurry, you "crashed" it through our own switchboard. Now, that's the only thing that ever came out of it. We didn't get an increase in men. We nearly lost our jobs. They introduced legislation to do away with the Capitol Police Force. . . bring in the military, or bring in Marines. It passed the House, but it didn't pass the Senate. Of course, the Senate never did smell the gunpowder. But the House smelled the gunpowder for a long time. They passed it. But, we kept it out of the Senate.

BAKER: How did you do that?

BALLARD: Well, a little bit of politics. Now the captain was a fella . . . now he hit the bottle often, but he thought he'd set himself up to be captain under the new legislation. And that captain was to draw \$20,000 a year! He was only getting \$5,000. I had been in his office at one time, so they decided that I was the fella to go back and see him. I asked him if in this legislation, if he would put in one section to automatically blanket in any person on the [police] roll on the day

of [the bill's] enactment. We just asked him to do that. He said, "No. I don't need you." I said, "Well, captain, you're in for a fight." He said, "I've never run from one." I said, "All right, then, that's your choice." He lost the fight. He lost the battle, he lost the war, he lost his job! And we survived.

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Now, we couldn't do much politicking on the House side. There were too many [members]. And you can't get to 'em. Now, when it got to the Senate, that was right in our corner. We dealt with the women [Senate wives] all the time. They came in every Tuesday to roll Red Cross bandages in Room 154. We made it a point to see that they got every comfort . . .

BAKER: (Laughing) They must have wondered what was happening.

BALLARD: In other words, if they wanted to park in the courtyard [of the Senate Office Building] I had a fella there with an umbrella . . . that ran out with the umbrella and brought them back. The chairman of the Senate Rules Committee subcommittee handling this particular legislation, his wife was not well . . . Frank Barrett of Wyoming . . . Now, of course, I gave Mrs. Barrett special attention and every time they had a meeting [the Rules subcommittee], she would tell me every word of what went on about that police meeting. We got the money [appropriation] killed by helping an old senator's son out of trouble. One day Mrs. Barrett asked me when I was going on vacation. I said, "Well, I can't go until this bill is done away with." One Tuesday, after the Red Cross meeting, she came down to the Guard Room and motioned me out, and said, "Go ahead and put in your application for leave. The bill is in his hip pocket and won't be out this session." Well, I thanked her. Senator Olin Johnston's wife came up with Jane Tippitt, Lawrence Tippitt's wife, to the

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[Army-] McCarthy hearings. And I took them in. It was crowded and naturally there were lines, but I took them in and put them behind the committee . . .

BAKER: Over in the Caucus Room?

BALLARD: Yeah. And I said, "You can watch yourself tonight on TV." And they thought that was great. Mrs. Johnston couldn't get over it. And I said, "I'm doing it now, but come January the 1st, there will be "professionals" booting you around. She said, "What?" I said, "Well, they are going to do away with us." The next couple of days, I was out in front of 318 [the Caucus Room] and Olin came by and stopped me and said, "What's this legislation my wife was telling me about?" I said, "Well, I just happen to have a copy of it," and I did, I pulled it out of my shirt and he went on down, and he saw me a few days later and he said, "Don't worry about that! You know, if I'd voted for that, I'd be afraid to drink coffee at home. That's the last thing I hear every morning. 'Don't you let anything happen to those nice boys up there!'" (Laughter) That afternoon, after Mrs.

Barrett [assured me that no action would be taken] the captain came over the see me.

BAKER: The captain was in charge of the entire force?
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BALLARD: Yes. We only had one captain. And he said, "I came over. . . . the last chance to get on the bandwagon." And I said, "Well, captain, I'm going to give you a short answer now. I don't want you to take it this way, but, I'm driving the bandwagon. I know where the bill is. You don ' t. If you knew where it was, you wouldn't be over here talking to me. He said, "Well, if it was passed, you'd make lieutenant." I was a sergeant then. I said, "My name is not in that bill anywhere." He had a copy of the bill. I said, "You might as well toss it, because it's through. It's over, I can tell you that." And, sure enough, that's the last we've ever heard of it. But we killed it with the women, not the men. You know, the average senator, if you stop him, he'll say, "See John or Mary or whomever." So we went to where we knew the power was--their wives. And we could work on them because every Tuesday we had 'em.

BAKER: How did the captain fare?

BALLARD: A change of administration. The Democrats came back [in control of the Senate] in 1955, and took him out.
[End of Interview #3]

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