

Processed by: VJA
Date: 12/14/06

TAMES

TAMES, GEORGE

OH-547

198 pp. w/index

OPEN

Washington, D.C. photographer for the *New York Times*, 1945-1985.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1: Childhood in Washington, D.C.; early experience with news photography before World War II; differences in the way Capitol Hill was covered then and now by photojournalists; civil rights debate in the Senate in the 1940s; growing up in the depression; his family's high regard for Franklin Roosevelt; early experience on the Hill; anecdote regarding Dwight D. Eisenhower; Everett Dirksen; covering Senate hearings; differences in radio and television coverage; some thoughts on national security; covering Lyndon B. Johnson; minorities and immigrant communities; childhood experiences; working as an office boy for Harold J. T. Herran from *Time*; more childhood remembrances; J. Willard Marriott; Joseph McCarthy; working for the *Time-Life* Washington bureau; covering Douglas MacArthur's farewell speech; Harry Truman.

Interview #2: Appearance on the David Letterman show; Jacqueline Kennedy; high demand for photographers during World War II; *New York Times*; covering the war; importance of knowing the political 'end of life' in order to cover political events; difficulties in covering Congress; how politicians want to be photographed; how changes in media have affected coverage of politicians; move to New York in 1945 to work for the *Times*; differences in working for a newspaper instead of a magazine; setting up a work routine; prestige in working for the *New York Times*; anecdotes about the job; Camp David and covering the Presidents.

Interview #3: Growing up in south west Washington, D.C.; Sam Lyons; young photographers he has worked with; anecdotes about various political figures; selecting the best photograph among many taken; role of the photo editor; unflattering photographs; anecdote about LBJ; photographers that LBJ preferred; official White House photographers; how photographers covered the White House; feelings of reporters toward photographers; accommodations in Capitol building for photographers and reporters; picking up gossip in the gallery; Tames' work routine; importance of knowledge in Washington.

Interview #4: Changes in photography; growing importance and influence of television coverage; competition for news coverage between television and newspapers; photography more informal than television coverage; problems with having an open microphone constantly present; group stakeouts necessary for television but not still photographers; sharing his knowledge of photographic techniques; confidence in his work; solemn photo of Hubert Humphrey taken after the Martin Luther King assassination; Jimmy Carter had no official photographer; Ronald Reagan; some observations about Hubert Humphrey; Jesse Jackson; Michael Dukakis; digital photography and editing techniques; role of an official presidential photographer; working the corridors of the Capitol; lobbyists and special interests.

Interview #5: Women who strongly influenced his life; 'A Day with the President' photos of JFK; breakfast interview with Richard Nixon before the 1952 convention; anecdotes of photographing Nixon in Congress; later impressions of Nixon; anecdote about Frank Church; limits on places that photographers could shoot in the Capitol; what makes a great photographer; Congress becoming more 'show biz;' influence of the constant presence of microphones on the Senate floor; anecdote about Eisenhower; need for more press access to the President as during the Eisenhower administration; selective coverage of committee meetings; thoughts on some Congressional reporters; some thoughts on politics.

[Senate Historical Office, interview by Donald A. Ritchie, January 13, 20, March 8, April 27, and May 16, 1988]