



EDWARD M. KENNEDY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewer's Briefing Materials **Anne Strauss Interview, 04/10/2008**

Robert A. Martin, Research Director

Miller Center Documents¹

- Anne Strauss Timeline.

Oral History Interviews

- David Burke interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 06/19/2007.
- Eddy Martin interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 04/20/2005.

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ANNE STRAUSS TIMELINE (1963-1980)

Prepared by Rob Martin

Miller Center, University of Virginia, 03/28/2008

- 1962** EMK is elected to the U.S. Senate.
- 1963** Anne Strauss joins EMK's Senate staff. She serves as an assistant for EMK's legislative assistant, John Culver, who had also worked on EMK's campaign since 1961 while finishing law school at Harvard University.
- September* Culver leaves EMK's Senate office to return to Iowa after passing the bar. Strauss continues working as an assistant in EMK's Senate office. Culver goes on to win election to the U.S. House of Representatives from Iowa in 1964 and is elected to the Senate from Iowa in 1974.
- November* JFK is assassinated in Dallas, Texas.
- 1964**
- April* EMK gives his maiden speech in the Senate on the civil rights bill.
- June* EMK's back is broken in a plane crash in Massachusetts.
- 1965** Important issues EMK works on this year includes the Voting Rights Act and repeal of the poll tax, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and other education programs, Medicare, the elderly and immigration reform.
- David Burke joins EMK's Senate staff as EMK's administrative assistant. Strauss subsequently begins working as Burke's assistant. Burke reportedly relies heavily on Strauss while he adapts to his new job in the Senate.
- January* EMK and RFK are sworn into the Senate together. RFK serves with EMK on the Labor and Public Welfare Committee. EMK becomes Chairman of the Judiciary's Subcommittee on Refugees and Escapees.
- Spring* In his first legislative initiative, EMK takes on the poll tax, coming up just a few votes short despite facing strong opposition from Mansfield and Dirksen.
- September* EMK cosponsors and manages LBJ's 1965 immigration bill, ending the quota system.
- Fall* The Morrissey nomination.
- October* EMK leads his first inspection tour of Vietnam.

- 1966** Important issues EMK works on this year includes the civil rights bill, Vietnamese and Cuban refugees, draft reform, neighborhood health centers, the Economic Opportunity Act, the Clean Water Act, the Partnership for Health Act, disabled children, patents, and desegregation with RFK.
- 1967** Burke is named EMK's administrative assistant. Strauss reportedly serves as Burke's assistant.
- Important issues EMK works on this year include the civil rights bill, crime control, the mentally challenged, Teacher Corps funding, neighborhood health centers, congressional redistricting, draft reform and Vietnamese refugees.
- After visiting a neighborhood health center in the Columbia Point public housing project in Boston in 1966, EMK sponsors legislation creating a nation-wide network of neighborhood health centers, providing medical care for mostly low-income families. EMK later expands the program to include neighborhood mental health centers. Strauss would later work on legislation to create Indian health centers.
- 1968** Important issues EMK works on this year include the Civil Rights Act, Vietnamese refugees, draft reform, gun control/crime, the Fortas nomination, and RFK's presidential campaign.
- January* EMK leads his second inspection tour of Vietnam.
- March* RFK announces he is running for president.
- June* RFK is assassinated in Los Angeles, California.
- Summer* EMK resists heavy pressure to accept either the Democratic nomination for the presidency or vice presidency.
- 1969** Important issues EMK works on this year include the Philadelphia Plan, draft reform, Indian education, United Farm Workers, Biafra, the ABM treaty, national health insurance, the Hill-Burton Act, tax reform, and the Haysnworth nomination.
- January* EMK is elected Senate Majority Whip. EMK also becomes chairman of the Indian Education Subcommittee, a position previously occupied by his brother, Senator Robert F. Kennedy.
- April* EMK travels to Alaska to study Indian education in impoverished villages.
- July* Chappaquiddick.

- 1970** Important issues EMK works on this year include the VRA extension and 18 year-old vote, Indian education, Indian manpower services amendment, home heating, draft reform, Cambodia invasion, OSHA, family medicine, the elderly, the Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Act, and the Carswell nomination.
- November* EMK defeats Josiah Spaulding to be reelected to the Senate with 61% of the vote.
- 1971** Important issues EMK works on this year include ending the war in Vietnam, draft reform, national health insurance, funding for health/medical programs including cancer research, Public Health Service Hospitals, refugees in India and East Pakistan, Rhodesian chrome, northern Ireland, voter registration, Indian education, off-shore drilling, gun control/crime, and the Rehnquist nomination.
- January* EMK loses his position as Senate Majority Whip to Byrd.
- EMK becomes chairman of the Senate Health Subcommittee.
- February* Burke leaves EMK's staff to become vice president of the Dreyfus Corporation. He is replaced as EMK's AA by Eddy Martin. **Strauss** reportedly stays on as Martin's assistant. During this time, **Strauss** works with Martin on Indian Health Centers. According to Rick Burke, Martin and **Strauss** "coordinated every phase of the Senator's professional and political life. Anne was in constant motion, chattering at Eddy, "Do this now. Sign this paper. You've got to call California." The Senator's private life was the domain of personal secretary Angelique Voutselas." (Richard Burke, *The Senator: My Ten Years with Ted Kennedy*, New York: St. Martin's Press, 1992, p. 6)
- 1972** Important issues EMK works on this year includes the Equal Rights Amendment, Title IX of 1972 Education Amendments, amnesty hearings, Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, ITT investigation, the Kleindienst nomination and Watergate, creation of the OTA, Bangladesh and Sahel, northern Ireland, Indian education, health programs for seniors and families, HMOs, as well as the beginning of many years of fighting anti-busing legislation.
- Summer* EMK declines George McGovern's offer to be his running-mate in the 1972 presidential election. McGovern goes on to select Sargent Shriver.
- 1973** Important issues EMK works on this year include ending the war in Vietnam, the War Powers Act, emergency health services, ethics in medical experiments, aid for the handicapped, Watergate, and human rights in Chile.
- Strauss** replaces Ellis Mottur as EMK's professional staff member on Labor's National Science Foundation (NSF) subcommittee, serving as staff director. The NSF subcommittee had been created in the 1960s for EMK to consider legislation specific to the NSF. It became a permanent subcommittee in 1969, after which

EMK is named the subcommittee's chairman. Mottur leaves the NSF subcommittee to work for the congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA), after working with EMK on the creation of the new OTA.

November Teddy Kennedy Jr. is diagnosed with cancer in his leg.

1974 Important issues EMK works on during this year include the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, ending funding for the war in Vietnam, Kennedy-Mills national health insurance bill, health manpower act, Health Planning and Resources Development Act, campaign finance, consumer protection, an anti-recession tax cut, FOIA, Vietnam clemency, airline deregulation, and the situations in Cyprus, Nicaragua and Chile.

1975 Important issues EMK works on this year include Migrant Health Care, the VRA extension, airline deregulation, filibuster reform, defense spending, oil, criminal law, and Portugal, as well as family, and senior health issues.

1976 In 1976 EMK works on tax reform, election reform, medical and clinic issues, and humanitarian situations in Italy and South Korea.

Strauss is accused of harassing a scientist who had received a grant from the NSF after it is disclosed that the scientist had also accepted funding from the oil industry. Martin defends **Strauss** and says that she behaved appropriately.

Ending a three year bipartisan campaign, Congress passes Indian health care legislation. The bill had been passed by the Senate in both 1974 and 1975. (1976 *CQ Almanac*, pp. 555-557)

1977 Ken Feinberg replaces Martin as EMK's administrative assistant.

The NSF subcommittee is dissolved into the full Labor Committee when Congress reorganizes its committee structure. **Strauss** continues working on the committee staff until 1980.

Important issues that EMK works on during this year include NSF reauthorization, criminal law and sentencing reform, lobbying and voter reform, anti-recession jobs program, minimum wage, and the situations in Argentina and Northern Ireland.

1978 Important issues that EMK works on during this year include airline deregulation, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, labor law reform, Vietnamese family reunification, hospital cost containment, Nurse Training Act, capital gains tax reform, Community Mental Health Centers, biomedical ethics, D.C. representation, military sales to Arab nations, Soviet trip, Soviet emigration, F-18 budget cut, Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, and the Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy.

1979 Rick Burke replaces Feinberg as EMK's administrative assistant. Feinberg returns to the Judiciary Committee, where he had first started working for EMK in 1975.

Important issues that EMK works on during this year include judicial nominations for women and minorities, judicial reform, capital punishment, regulatory reform, Illinois Brick Antitrust reform, conglomerate and oil company mergers, higher education student loan reform, Three Mile Island, FBI charter, women in science, offshore drilling, FDA reform, Cambodian refugees and Taiwan Security Act.

January EMK becomes chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

November EMK announces he will challenge Carter for the Democratic presidential nomination.

1980 Strauss leaves her position working for EMK on the Labor Committee staff.

Important issues that EMK works on during this year include trucking deregulation, Cuban and Haitian refugees, Refugee Act, Low Income Energy Assistance, biomedical research authorization, Mental Health Services Bill of Rights, Fair Housing, and the Breyer nomination.

August EMK withdraws his bid for the presidency in a powerful speech to the Democratic National Convention.

November Reagan wins the 1980 presidential election. The Republicans win control of the Senate and EMK loses chairmanship of the Judiciary Committee.