



EDWARD M. KENNEDY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewer's Briefing Materials James Manley Interview, 09/28/2009

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Miller Center Documents¹

- James Manley Timeline.
- James Manley Fact Sheet.

Secondary Source Materials

- James Manley bio, <http://whorunsgov.com>.
- "Senate Education Press Secretary Jim Manley (D): How Parity plays in Committee," *National Journal*, 02/21/2001.
- Bree Hocking, "Making Coffee, Copies Pays Off, Hill Vets Says," *Roll Call*, 01/22/2007.

Oral History Interviews

- David Sutphen interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 03/29/2007.
- Nick Littlefield interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 05/03/2008, 05/04/2008, 02/14/2009.

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JAMES P. MANLEY TIMELINE

Prepared by Bryan Craig; revised by Janet E. Heininger, Ph.D., 9/21/09

Miller Center, University of Virginia, 09/15/2009

- 1983** James P. Manley graduates from the University of St. Thomas.
- 1984** Manley becomes a temporary aide to Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-ME). (“James P. Manley,” <http://www.whorunsgov.com>)
- 1990** Manley becomes a press assistant to Mitchell.
- 1993** Important issues EMK works on this year include national health care, NIH reauthorization, family and medical leave, abortion access, Stephen Breyer nomination to the Supreme Court and national service legislation.
- September* Manley is hired as assistant press secretary to work with EMK’s new spokeswoman, Pamela Hughes. (*The Boston Globe*, 09/12/1993)
- 1994** Important issues EMK works on this year include the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Reauthorization, the Goals 2000: Educate America Act, the Clinton health care plan and abortion clinic access.
- 1995** Important issues EMK works on in 1995 include raising the minimum wage, budget reconciliation (EMK tries to restore funding for education and limit spending reductions) and health insurance portability.
- 1996** Important issues that EMK works on include the Kennedy-Kassebaum Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA) and minimum wage.
- January* Manley begins serving as EMK’s press secretary on the Labor Committee, replacing Theresa Bourgeois. Manley continues to serve as assistant press secretary in EMK’s Senate office. Jeannie Kedas replaces Pam Hughes as EMK’s press secretary in the Senate office.
- Spring-Summer* Senators John Kerry (D-MA), Tom Daschle (D-SD), and EMK fight to raise the minimum wage. EMK holds a major press conference with Labor Secretary Robert Reich, Rep. Richard Gephardt (D-MO), Vice President Al Gore, and Daschle on the inadequacy of the present wage. EMK and Daschle also add wage amendments to bills and filibuster until Dole agrees to a vote on an increase. By August, Congress passes an increase in the wage to \$5.15/hr. by 1997. (Adam Clymer, *Edward M. Kennedy: A Biography*, New York: William Morrow & Co., 1999, pp. 573-574, 583-584; *1996 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, Washington D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 1996, pp. 7-3 to 7-11; *The Washington Post*, 04/25/1996)

- August* The EMK-Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS)-cosponsored HIPPA legislation is passed, protecting health insurance coverage for workers and their families when they change or lose their jobs. HIPPA is part of EMK's efforts to keep health insurance reform moving forward after the collapse of NHI by refocusing on a smaller initiative that can gain bipartisan support. It is passed after EMK battles Dole over Medical Savings Accounts, which EMK is able to keep limited to a small, temporarily pilot program.
- 1997** Important issues EMK works on in 1997 include the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) reauthorization, Patients' Bill of Rights, the Presidential Race Initiative and affirmative action, the tobacco case, reauthorization of religious worker visas, amending the Teamwork for Employees and Managers (TEAM) Act, FDA overhaul and the nomination of Bill Lee to the Civil Rights Commission.
- EMK works with Orin Hatch (R-UT) and Hillary Clinton (D-NY) to pass the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) creating federal coverage of children's health care. The bill is passed as part of the Balanced Budget Amendment and is funded in part by a cigarette tax increase. CHIP, along with HIPPA, is one of the proposals that EMK pulls from various failed attempts to enact systemic change to keep health care reform moving forward.
- EMK sponsors the first in a series of unsuccessful bills over the next several years to enact a patients' Bill of Rights. EMK's bill includes giving patients the right to sue their HMOs to hold their health plans accountable for harm done.
- Jan./Feb.* Manley replaces Jeannie Kedas as press secretary in EMK's Senate office. Will Keyser serves as Communications Director. Manley continues to serve as EMK's press secretary on the Labor Committee.
- May* EMK co-sponsors the Senate IDEA reauthorization, which includes some revisions, including disciplinary action against disabled students. After negotiations between Senator James Jeffords (R-VT) and Rep. Bill Goodling (R-PA) and their committee staffs, the two introduce virtually identical bills, which pass the House and Senate on May 13th and 14th respectively. Clinton signs the reauthorization on June 4th (PL 105-17). Manley later says that his most significant achievement working with EMK was to help pass IDEA reauthorization. Manley helps to enact subsequent IDEA reauthorization in 2004 as well. ("James P. Manley," <http://www.whorungov.com>; 1997 CQ Almanac, pp. 7-3-7-4)
- 1998** Important issues EMK works on in 1998 include the new teacher legislation, Children's Firearm Safety Act, opposition to Crime Victims' Constitutional Amendment, baseball anti-trust bill and increasing the minimum wage,

reauthorization of Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Clinton impeachment and trial.

- 1999** Important issues EMK works on in 1999 include new teacher legislation, Patients' Bill of Rights, managed care, the Juvenile Justice Act, post-Columbine gun control measures, increasing in the minimum wage and the tobacco lawsuit.
- 2000** Important issues EMK works on in 2000 include the Religious Liberty Protection Act, managed care, increase in the minimum wage and reauthorization of the Older Americans Act and ESEA.
- April* EMK successfully adds an amendment the Fiscal 2001 Budget Resolution to raise the minimum wage to \$6.15/hr. in two years, but a subsequent amendment striking EMK's amendment is passed. There is no further movement on minimum wage until 2006.
- 2001** Important issues EMK works on in 2001 include No Child Left Behind, Patients' Bill of Rights, opposition to the Bush judicial nominations and the Ashcroft attorney general nomination, Uniting and Strengthening America Act (Patriot Act), Immigration Reform/INS reorganization, military tribunals and indefinite detentions and Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice.
- January* The Democrats regain control of the Senate for 17 days until Gore, who has been the tie-breaking vote in the evenly split Senate as Vice President, is replaced by Dick Cheney, giving the GOP control of the House, Senate and White House.
- May* The Democrats regain control of the Senate when Jeffords leaves the Republican Party to caucus with the Democrats as an Independent. EMK regains chairmanship of the HELP Committee for a year and a half, until the GOP retakes the Senate in the 2002 midterm elections.
- Summer* The Senate passes the McCain-Edwards-Kennedy Patients' Bill of Rights (S 1052) by a vote of 59-36. However, in a reversal from 2000, the Senate bill now contains stronger protections for patients than the House bill. Negotiations with the Bush White House continue in 2002, but both sides are unable to resolve the issue of damages and no legislation is enacted.
- July* Stephanie Cutter is named to EMK's staff as Communications Director. She replaces Keyser. (*The Boston Globe*, 07/10/2001)
- December* The Senate passes (87 to 10) a landmark Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization bill (No Child Left Behind Act) that for the first time ties federal education aid to improvements in student test scores. It requires statewide student testing and schools to set and meet "academic proficiency" standards. Schools who fail to meet the standards stand to lose federal funding. The bill contains the bulk of President George Bush's education proposals. But EMK

works closely with Bush on the bill, shepherds the bill through the Senate, and leaves his own mark on it. EMK wins more targeting of federal education spending and more money for teachers. He also helps to thwart private school vouchers and limit open-ended block grants to pilot programs. During floor debate on the bill, Jeffords switches parties, putting the Democrats in the majority and making EMK bill manager for the majority. The 9-11 terrorist attacks occur during the debate, but Bush and the bill's main supporters - - EMK, Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), Rep. John Boehner (R-OH) and Rep. George Miller (D-CA) -- press on with their negotiations. (2001 CQ Almanac, pp. 8-3 to 8-10)

2002 Important issues EMK works on in 2002 include pension reform, opposition to the Bush judicial nominations, Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act, Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act, extension of Section 245(i) of immigration law, Prison Rape Reduction Act and creation of the Department of Homeland Security.

November The Republicans regain control of the Senate in the midterm elections, giving the GOP control of the House, Senate and White House. EMK loses chairmanship of the HELP Committee.

2003 Important issues EMK works on in 2003 include Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), Head Start bill, Medicare prescription drug bill, opposition to the Bush judicial nominations and updating the overtime rules, brief submitted in the SCOTUS affirmative action case, opposition to medical malpractice reform, Amber Alert Bill, Military Naturalization Bill and renewal of Undetectable Firearms Act.

After several years of failed attempts to pass his Medicare prescription drug bill, EMK supports Baucus-Grassley compromise legislation in 2003. EMK works to bring Democrats on board to gain passage in the Senate, but changes made in conference lead EMK to oppose the conference report. EMK's attempted filibuster fails and the legislation is passed and signed by Bush into law.

January EMK's daughter, Kara, is treated for lung cancer. She had been diagnosed in late 2002.

October The Help Committee unanimously approves a Head Start bill written by EMK and Judd Gregg (R-NH). Senate Democrats prevent the bill from coming to the floor in 2003 and 2004, fearing Republicans would add an early childhood pilot program in conference. (2004 CQ Almanac, p. 7-4)

2004 Important issues EMK works on in 2004 include IDEA reauthorization, opposition to the recess appointments of Charles Pickering and William Pryor, opposition to Federal Marriage Amendment, opposition to Bush judicial nominations and overtime rules, theft of confidential computer files related to judicial nominations, increase in H-2B visa cap, resettlement for Vietnamese

refugees in the Philippines, asbestos legislation, Crime Victims' Rights Act, Safe, Orderly, Legal Visas and Enforcement Act, hate crimes, abuse at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay and expiration of the Assault Weapons Ban.

May On the 13th, the Senate passes the EMK-Gregg IDEA reauthorization bill, which had failed to reach the Senate floor before the end of the 2003 session. (*2004 CQ Almanac*, pp. 7-3-7-5)

November Despite House passage in April 2003, Senate Democrats delayed the conference on the IDEA reauthorization until EMK is able to secure greater influence for conferees. The conference report clears both the House and Senate on the 19th, and is signed by Bush on December 3rd. (*2003 CQ Almanac*, pp. 8-5-8-7; *2004 CQ Almanac*, pp. 7-3-7-5)

2005

January Manley steps down to become staff director of the Senate Democratic Communications Center (SDCC) for Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV). (*The Washington Post*, 12/01/2004)

2006

November The Democrats regain control of the House and Senate in the mid-term elections. EMK regains chairmanship of the HELP Committee in January and Reid becomes Majority Leader.

2008

January EMK announces his support for Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama.

May EMK is diagnosed with a brain tumor. Manley releases this statement: "Senator Reid will leave the diagnosing to doctors. But he does look forward to the prospect of Senator Kennedy's return to the Senate as soon as he is able." (*The Boston Globe*, 05/20/2008)

August EMK makes a surprise appearance and speech at the Democratic National Convention. Manley responds: "He is a man of enormous courage who still has the ability to rally people to the causes he believes in." (*The Washington Times*, 08/26/2008)

2009 At the beginning of the 111th Congress, Manley says in an interview that his main goals will be helping "end the war in Iraq and repair the economy." ("James Manley," <http://www.whorunsgov.com>) Manley goes on to say that he and his staff failed to broadcast the right message on the 2008 \$700 billion bailout. He

also says he remains close to EMK's press secretary, Melissa Waggoner. ("James Manley," [http: //www.whorunsgov.com](http://www.whorunsgov.com))

August

EMK dies at his home in Hyannis Port. When asked by a reporter what attracted people to work on EMK's staff, Manley responds: "He got things done. People come to Capitol Hill trying to effect change and you always knew that once you worked for Senator Kennedy, you were going to be in the midst of every major battle facing the country." (*The Washington Post*, 08/28/2009)

JAMES P. MANLEY FACT SHEET

Prepared by Rob Martin and Bryan Craig; revised by Janet E. Heininger, 09/21/09

Miller Center, University of Virginia, 09/15/2009

Positions w/ EMK:

- **1993-1996:** Assistant press secretary on EMK's Senate office staff.
- **1996-2004:** Press secretary on Labor Committee staff.
- **1997-2004:** Press secretary on EMK's Senate office staff.

Other positions:

- **1984-1989:** Temporary aide to Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-ME).
- **1990-1993:** Press assistant to George Mitchell.
- **2005-2006:** Staff director of the Senate Democratic Communications Center for Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV).
- **2006-Present:** Senior communications adviser to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

Important issues EMK worked on during Manley's time:

- Manley said his most significant achievement with EMK was IDEA reauthorization (in 1997 and/or 2004).
- **1994:** Reelection campaign against Romney, Clinton health care plan, Elementary and Secondary Education Act Reauthorization, the Goals 2000: Educate America Act.
- **1995:** Minimum wage, budget reconciliation (EMK fights GOP Revolution to restore funding for education and limit spending reductions) and health insurance portability.
- **1996:** Health insurance portability and increasing the minimum wage.
- **1997:** SCHIP, affirmative action, the tobacco case, reauthorization of religious worker visas, amending the Teamwork for Employees and Managers (TEAM) Act, FDA overhaul, nomination of Bill Lee to the Civil Rights Commission.
- **1998:** Clinton impeachment, Children's Firearm Safety Act, minimum wage, LIHEAP, opposition to Crime Victims' Constitutional Amendment, baseball antitrust bill.
- **1999:** Juvenile Justice Act, gun control, minimum wage, Patients' Bill of Rights, tobacco lawsuit
- **2000:** Religious Liberty Protection Act, minimum wage, Older Americans Act.
- **2001:** No Child Left Behind, Patients' Bill of Rights, opposition to Bush judicial nominations/Ashcroft AG nomination, RFK Department of Justice, post-9/11 legislation including Patriot Act, Immigration Reform/INS reorganization, military tribunals, indefinite detentions.
- **2002:** Opposition to Bush judicial nominations, Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act, Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act, extension of Section 245(i) of immigration law, creation of the Department of Homeland Security, pension reform.
- **2003:** Head Start bill, opposition to the Bush judicial nominations and overtime rules, SCOTUS affirmative action case, opposition to medical malpractice reform, Amber Alert Bill, Military Naturalization Bill, renewal of Undetectable Firearms Act.
- **2004:** IDEA reauthorization, minimum wage, opposition to Bush nominations including recess appointments of Charles Pickering and William Pryor, opposition to Federal Marriage Amendment, increase in H-2B visa cap, resettlement for Vietnamese refugees

in the Philippines, asbestos legislation, Crime Victims' Rights Act, Safe, Orderly, Legal Visas and Enforcement Act, hate crimes, abuse at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay.