

Leonard Ballard

Inspector, United States Capitol Police (1947-1984)

Interview #2

(Friday, August 26, 1983)

Interviewed by Richard A. Baker

BAKER: Today it might be useful to begin by focusing on your years as a private and then following your career up through the various ranks. So we would start by discussing the years 1947 to 1954. That brings to mind the event of July 12, 1947, shortly after you'd arrived--the attempted shooting of Senator John Bricker by a disgruntled former Capitol policeman down in the Senate subway.

BALLARD: In those days, we didn't have a post at the Capitol end of the Senate subway because we didn't have many men. As I've said, there were 157 on the rolls, but only about 100 working. They were policemen, but they were assigned to senators. Even today, you have doormen who are on the doormen's payroll but they are responsible to individual senators.

To go back a little bit--Senator Revercomb came out one day and it was pouring down rain. He was my senator and he had parked right across the street. I went into the Guard Room and got him a raincoat and put it on him and walked to the car with him. He said, "Well, I'd prefer that you were not out in this rain." I knew what he had in mind. I said, "Well senator, I'm out here when the sun shines, too!" So the next day I went up to his office and asked Mr. Reed

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[his assistant], "Does the senator have some idea of putting me on a door [adjacent to the Senate chamber or galleries]?" And he said, "Yes." I said, "Well, I don't want on a door, because the doormen leave when the members leave, regardless." When a member was defeated or died, the doorman left with him because those jobs were at a premium and I thought if I stayed on the police force I could stay here. I'd begun to like it here.

BAKER: What was the comparison in salary between doormen and police officers?

BALLARD: About the same.

BAKER: So one of the advantages of a doorman's job would be the hours. If the Senate was not in session . . .

BALLARD: That's it. The Senate had short sessions in those days. And then, you only worked about six months. The Senate usually went out for the rest of the year in July. And you had another job at home. Half of the men--a lot of them that I knew, and particularly railroad men had this arrangement. A railroader

could work one day a month and keep his rights. Well, they'd go back home and work that one day to establish their rights and come back. Then when the Senate went out, they'd go back to full at their job.

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But I had in mind then of staying on the Capitol Police Force regardless of whether it was patronage or whatever it was. I enjoyed it. I enjoyed the building. I thought I could make myself available and be of need to somebody and I would stay here.

BAKER: When did you begin to have that attitude?

BALLARD: When I was here about two weeks. I told my wife one night to hold up on that transfer back to West Virginia. "This job is a good job, it's an interesting job, it suits me, and I think that I could make a career of it." And I did! I made myself available. I studied the building. I studied the job. I got to be acting sergeant about three months after I arrived.

BAKER: You were about thirty-nine years old at that time.

BALLARD: I was thirty-nine.

BAKER: So you were a lot older than most of the privates on the force.

BALLARD: When I first came here, I wasn't--with the exception of the students. The students were younger. But the average person who wasn't a student was as old as I was and some older. During World War II it was hard to get men for the police force. They had to pick up old retired men who had retired from other jobs. Retired from Metropolitan [Washington Police Department] and other retirees.

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BAKER: Did those other retirees have police skills and police experience?

BALLARD: A lot of them did.

BAKER: They knew what they were doing?

BALLARD: Yes. Well What police work you had, which was very little There was no police work. Even today, at sundown, the Hill (population) is gone. You don't have shops, traffic, stores. The employees have gone. It settles down. Now, we have a patrol detail that chases cars. (Laughter)

BAKER: Well, back then the men carried weapons--revolvers?

BALLARD: Oh, yes.

BAKER: Did they have training in the use of those revolvers?

BALLARD: No, (Laughter) of course not. Now, we weren't allowed to take our weapons home with us [as is permitted today]. We had a rack. When you came in at the end of a tour of duty you had your name, like a mail slot. You put your weapon in there, changed your clothes, and went home. The clerk on the next relief checked those slots to see that all the guns were in and he locked that section. That's how they discovered that I didn't go in my first night [on the force]. My weapon wasn't in and they started hunting me.

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We had no training. Actually, we were better off. We provided a service for the members and that's what we thought we were supposed to do. We didn't know we were supposed to arrest people. If a member was a little under the weather, we took him home, or if a staff member was a little under the weather, [we'd say] "Don't drive that car. Give us the keys. We'll take you home." If a member forgot where he'd put his automobile, we'd look around . . . go downtown . . . we'd find it. We didn't know that we were [supposed to be traditional] policemen.

BAKER: And that attitude continued for how long?

BALLARD: For me for as long as I've been here.

BAKER: And for the force in general?

BALLARD: Up until we got rid of students. Well, they said we had to, because when the riots broke out in 1968 and we were supposed to go out on the street, the students wouldn't go. They'd tell you, "I've got an exam tomorrow and I'm studying." Well, there wasn't anything you could do about it because you couldn't buck the members. That's when Chief Powell went before the Police Board and got permission to do away with the patronage. We then set up recruiting and training programs. We went "police-wise" from then on. Now we still have some patronage positions in the House of Representatives . . . about twenty-two, but none in the Senate.

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BAKER: I'm interested in getting back to our discussion of the doormen and the difference between the police and the doormen. Did the doormen back in the late 1940s and early 1950s feel that they had any responsibility to anyone other than to their own members?

BALLARD: No. They left when the Senate adjourned. A lot of them chauffeured senators. We had a lot of old senators in those days. Joe Duke, who you probably remember as the Sergeant-at-Arms, came here as a chauffeur for Henry Fountain Ashurst, the first senator elected from Arizona. He was on the door. Of course, Senator [Carl] Hayden picked him up, not as a chauffeur, but as an employee and worked him in different places and finally worked him in as Sergeant-at-Arms.

BAKER: Was it common then for doormen to move up as Joe Duke did? Or was he an exception?

BALLARD: No. It wasn't common. Some of them worked in their member's offices. And some police did, as well. Quite a few of them did. And I thought I was maybe not doing what I was supposed to do so I approached Senator Revercomb one time and noted that the majority of the men worked in the offices. He said, "Don't you work eight hours a day, six days a week?" I said, "Yeah, that's my schedule." And he said, "That's enough."

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In those days there were no disturbances around the doors. Oh, we did have one woman who created some trouble. She would go into the gallery with her pass. She was smart, she didn't go into the same gallery every time. She'd get in. She had a dress that opened up . . . purple attire. She'd spread her wings and attract attention. We'd have to take her out.

BAKER: Did she have a special message that she was trying to deliver?

BALLARD: Yeah. She never got it delivered! She'd always get it started and the doorman would run in and bring her out.

BAKER: So the doormen had some security responsibilities?

BALLARD: Yes. That's how the Capitol Police back in the history of how it started . . . a doorman arrested a drunk in the gallery and took him out and took him before a magistrate and they found out that this doorman had no police powers, so the man was discharged. That's when they decided to give police powers to Capitol policemen, not the doormen.

We always have had one man outside the gallery. Back in the days when we had very few people, we [even then] always had one man there.

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I always thought that in working men you had to know as much about them as possible. Their family life, their personal life . . . If you knew that, you knew where to work them, when to work them. For many years, I had a fella--he's a lawyer now--from New Mexico. Bernie worked the gallery. I'd get a new man on my detail and I'd put him up in the gallery with Bernie. Now, in four days time I knew what they had for breakfast every morning. He would pick 'em clean (Laughter).

BAKER: That was the orientation.

BALLARD: That's right. Then I'd take them out of there and I'd assign them according to where they were best suited.

BAKER: This was when you were a captain?

BALLARD: Yes, and when I was a lieutenant, too. When I was in charge of the Capitol detail. They often wondered how I knew so much about them! I knew Bernie would make a great lawyer, because he could find out all about you. I had a man once who had only been there a short time and I said to him one morning, "Has your wife had the baby yet?" He said, "She had it yesterday." I said, "What are you doing in here today." He said, "Well, I don't have any leave." I told him, "You go home because your wife needs you." He's still on the police force. He tells them all about that time. He hasn't forgotten it. It

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certainly helps you if you know your men and you have to know them in a job like the Capitol. Whether they are interested in their work, whether they have a sense of humor. You have to know their background and then you know whether they can approach a congressman in the right manner, or whether they can work out on traffic and with tourists.

The tourists are entitled to courtesy. They've driven for days to come here to the Capitol and they shouldn't be treated with a rattle from a policeman, "Move it on, get going." I used to get my traffic men . . . they liked it better outside than inside. I used to use a system if a fella didn't want to get along with the program . . . in the winter time, I'd go through the locker room and I'd find him back there with undershorts on . . . and he's expecting to go up in the gallery and I'd send him out on the East Front. And the next morning he'd come in . . . he'd have long johns on, well, I'd send him to the gallery. After a couple of days, he'd come back to me and he'd say, "You're going to give me pneumonia." I'd say, well when are you going to fall in line with the program. "Well [he'd say], it would be better wouldn't it." I'd say, "Yeah." He'd fall in line.

BAKER: Which years were you in charge of the Capitol detail?

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BALLARD: I went over there in '54 . . . '55 . . . '56, I went back over to the Capitol in '57 and I stayed over there until I came over here [became an inspector] which was '73. I went into the captain's office when the Democrats took over the Congress in 1955 and I was there four years as Senate clerk. And then I came back over to the Senate detail, and I was on the Senate detail about three or four years and then Mr. [Joe] Duke took me over to the Capitol and kept me there.

BAKER: That's when you became captain in '62.

BALLARD: And I made lieutenant over there [in 1958].

BAKER: At this point, let's go back to the late '40s and early '50s.

BALLARD: You said something a minute or so ago about the Bricker shooting. Senator John Bricker of Ohio . . . as I say, we didn't have a post there . . . a former

Capitol policeman who had lost his patronage . . . he'd been under [Senator James] Huffman of Ohio. Huffman was defeated by Bricker. This fella had some debts and Bricker had been governor and I think in a routine way had passed legislation that didn't help this boy. He went to Bricker and asked him for a patronage job. And, of course, Bricker wouldn't give it to him. He wouldn't pick up another member's patronage. That was routine.

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He [the gunman] lived up on East Capitol Street. I don't think the fella intended to kill Bricker. I think . . . he was just the length of the [subway] car. I think even a trained Capitol policeman, and he didn't have any training, would have done a better job than that. He shot at Bricker three times and, of course, he missed him three times. Bricker got in the car and the motorman took him over to the Capitol Building.

Well, the motorman came back [to the office building] on his routine trip and he picked up Kaiser [the gunman], and took him to the Capitol. But the statement of the day was, the motorman said to Kaiser, "You know you are not supposed to be down in the subway shooting at senators!" (Much Laughter) Kaiser had worked the midnight shift of the Capitol detail. There was a fella [an officer stationed] at the Senate Door [East Front Senate wing of the Capitol] who had worked with Kaiser. The word got out and the captain came down and he got descriptions of Kaiser and he went upstairs . . . when the motorman told him that the fella had gotten off the car and had gone upstairs . . .

BAKER: In the Capitol?

BALLARD: Yes, the Senate Door. When the captain went up there, the man at the door, when he heard the description, "Hell, that's Kaiser, and he just went out of here. He lives up on East Capitol Street." So the policeman got with the captain and a Metropolitan

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detective that was assigned up here, Mike Dowd, and then he stayed . . . They went up East Capitol Street to a rooming house and he was there and they brought him back down . . .

BAKER: He didn't offer any resistance?

BALLARD: No, no, no. They brought him back down to the Capitol and interviewed him, took him down and booked him, then sent him to Saint E's [Elizabeth's Hospital] as a mental case. Now Bricker wouldn't appear against him. They performed a lobotomy on him. He never got out of Saint E's. He lived about a year and died.

I don't have to tell you. The next day there was a post at the Capitol end of the subway--a desk and an officer. We had a new post. You'd be surprised how many new posts have popped up on this Hill through little incidents like that one.

BAKER: Was there another post at the office building end of the subway?

BALLARD: There is always was one there. That was for tourist information and to be sure that the people didn't get on . . . that the senators got a seat on the subway. It wasn't too important on this [Capitol] end. The officer would usually hold the back seat for the senators.

BAKER: Why the back seat?

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BALLARD: It was convenient for them to come down. It was the first seat. We always called it the back seat. We usually stationed a man there who knew the senators.

Senator Gordon Allott of Colorado, the day he was sworn in, I was at the subway--I was a sergeant--[January 3, 1955] I was there just to be sure that the new members got over. Well, after election year, I would study the newspapers and available photographs if I could to know 'em when they hit the Hill. I saw Allott coming down the hall at a trot and I told the operator of the car, "Here comes a new senator, hold it." I said, "Come on senator, he's waiting on you." And the minute he got in the car, I said, "Okay, take him." Well, he came back a little later in the day and he said, "Since I wasn't officially a senator when you put me on that car, how did you know? You said, 'Take a seat senator'." I said, "Yeah, I knew that, but I knew it wasn't going to be but a few minutes until you were one, and that's the treatment you get here." He said, "Will I get used to it?" I said, "It depends on you." We got to be good friends. His wife was a very fine woman--friendly. He was sort of a gun buff. I arranged for him to go out to our range with some of our officers. He enjoyed that.

BAKER: Did he do that a lot?

BALLARD: Oh, yes. Russell of Georgia was a gun buff.

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BAKER: Did he go to the range also?

BALLARD: Oh yeah, yeah. After we got one.

BAKER: When did you get one?

BALLARD: In the '60s, when the Rayburn [House Office] Building opened in 1965. Very modern. In fact the FBI came up and looked it over several times, it was more modern than theirs. We had a lot of members who enjoyed it.

BAKER: They could go over and fire off as much ammunition as they wished?

BALLARD: Oh, yeah. Good public relations. You didn't know when one of them was going to get on the [Appropriations] Committee.

BAKER: Well, it must be one of the most difficult problems for a Capitol policeman to learn to recognize all the members. Particularly on the House side where there are so many more of them, but even here in the Senate.

BALLARD: It's not hard if you work at it, and I worked at it because I wanted to stay here. I studied their pictures; I studied their history.

One day I was standing outside the Senate chamber and the members were coming out and going back to their offices. Senators

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[Philip] Hart, [Daniel] Inouye, and Bob Dole came out. I was standing there and I punched the [elevator] button for them, but there was a little delay. And I said, "When you three fellas were goldbricking up in Battle Creek, Michigan did you ever think you'd be standing here pressing the senators' elevator [button]? They laughed and they said, "We were all in the same ward in Battle Creek [Veteran's Hospital]. How'd you know that?" I said, "Well, it's my business to know all about you fellas."

On the House side, a member has to be there at least fifteen terms before he even gets consideration from the other members, so you don't pay too much attention to them. They don't amount to much. Now, a senator--so many of them come here--they don't demand it, but they expect it. You'd be surprised how many have been governors, and a governor gets a lot of attention in his state. In fact, a lot of former governors come here and they are disappointed, they're ready to go home because nobody pays any attention to them.

BAKER: A very different type job.

BALLARD: That's right. And if you pay a little attention to them, you've got it made. They're going to remember you.

We worked a regular tour of duty on Saturdays up until 1968. One Saturday I was standing outside the Senate chamber. As you come out of the Senate chamber, through the east door by the bank of

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elevators, that light fixture up there is a [model of a] pineapple. Senator Hiram Fong of Hawaii used to go into the Marble Room every Saturday and read the Hawaii papers. He knew that we locked the chamber doors at 12:30. Well, he came out, he was always friendly. And I said, "Well, senator, our forefathers were pretty farsighted, weren't they? When they built this [wing of the Capitol] in 1857, they knew Hawaii would eventually be a state because they put a pineapple up here." He said, "What!"

BAKER: Where is that located?

BALLARD: Just as you come out of that east entrance, it's up there. He said, "Are you going to be here for a few minutes?" And I said yes. He said, "I'll be right back." He wasn't gone to long and he came back with an aide and he had two pineapples. They had the Republican photographer, [Arthur] "Scotty" [Scott], and he said, "You suppose you could get me a ladder?" I called John Price downstairs [chief janitor] and told him to come up with a six-foot stepladder. The senator got up and held one of the pineapples up by the fixture and Scotty took all kinds of pictures, with the pineapple and the senator, and then he got down and he wanted to take a picture of me with the pineapple and him. Then he said, "You like pineapple?" And I said, "I love pineapple," and I do! He said, "Now, you take this home with you." The aide said, "No, you can't do that senator. I borrowed that from Linda." The senator said, "Now you let me make it

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right with Linda. The captain gets his pineapple." And then, a little later on, he sent me a clipping from the Honolulu Bulletin front page with the picture and a story of the pineapple, and there's the senator up with the pineapple.

I made it a point . . . in fact that's one reason I stayed here. I asked a girl . . . now, of course, [Joe] Duke had a guiding hand over me . . . I asked a girl, Evelyn Raper, she came here from North Carolina and was in Duke's office [as chief clerk] for a long time. She had an elderly mother who came up here often and I looked after her. One day I was having coffee with her in the snack bar and she said she was getting ready to leave. She asked me how long I was going to stay and I said I didn't know. I said, "Evelyn, I don't know how I've managed to stay this long." She said, "Well, I'll tell you one way. When they have a meeting of the Patronage Committee, of course, I sit in as secretary. Temporary names are typed in red and they'll start down and they'd come to your name and they'll say 'Well now wait a minute, I don't know, my office said something about him the other day. Let's move down here to this next one.' Now, that's one of the reasons you've stayed here."

BAKER: Who was on the Patronage Committee in those years?

BALLARD: That's the best kept secret in town. On the House side you knew who it was. It was part of the program.

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BAKER: Did it change in the Senate from year to year?

BALLARD: Oh, yes.

BAKER: And how often did they meet?

BALLARD: Well, of course, that's up to them. That was something else you never knew. You weren't going to get it out of Joe Duke's office. I did know that a

fella by the name of [Senator Herman] Welker from Idaho was on it. And [Senator Edward] Martin of Pennsylvania was on it because he had the captain's patronage position. It was hard to find out. There wasn't much reason to find out. If you tended to your business they weren't going to bother you anyhow.

BAKER: If you were there under the patronage of a member, what could the committee do to you anyhow?

BALLARD: Yes. The students had their members and they didn't care who the Patronage Committee was.

BAKER: Was one of the functions of the Patronage Committee to divide up the positions and reassign to various members? To take away, or give?

BALLARD: They gave a member a certain amount of patronage--an elevator, a policeman, a doorman, a post office [employee]. Say a member had a fellow who wanted a job, say as a policeman. The member

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could call the Rules Committee to trade a post office job for a police job. My member didn't have a police job [to offer me in 1947] but he said, "I think I can borrow it for thirty days." But who the members of the Patronage Committee were was the best kept secret.

BAKER: Probably the chairman of the Rules Committee?

BALLARD: Oh, yes. See, the Rules Committee is not much of a committee--it's a housekeeping committee. Over in the House, the Rules Committee is the most powerful on the Hill.

BAKER: But on the Senate side the Rules Committee does have a certain kind of power in its patronage role?

BALLARD: Yes. Among the members. "We can do you a favor."

BAKER: It's probably a thankless job to be chairman of the Rules Committee.

BALLARD: It is. Senator Welker told me once, "Any job is open but the blind lieutenant. Now, that job is not open. It belongs to [Senator Harry] Byrd and we're not going to take it from him."

BAKER: You discussed the galleries and doormen earlier. That raises the question of racial segregation in those early years. Was there sort of a *de facto* kind of segregation in seating in the galleries. I have heard that it occurred earlier in the century.

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BALLARD: No, there wasn't. You always had your Family Gallery. Then, later on, Mr. Duke set aside a "Secretaries Gallery" for members' secretaries. On many occasions, a member would ask his staff to come over and cover the proceedings. Floor privileges were limited. Only administrative assistants could come on the floor, but finally so many of them started coming over, that they limited them. So, he established a gallery for secretaries. And you've always had the Ambassadors' Gallery, but it is used for that purpose so infrequently that the doormen admit special guests [of staff and others]. And [galleries numbered] Five and Six were always used as tour galleries, and in case of summer, Galleries Seven and Eight. But there never was any segregation [in my experience].

The Senate galleries fill up faster than the House galleries. For the simple reason that senators are in the public eye more than the House members. In the day of [Senator Everett] Dirksen, if the word got out that Dirksen was going to make a speech, look out! We're going to fill up the galleries and we'd have to line 'em up down the corridors. We used to have to line them up down the corridor on the second floor and it was a handicap to the public and the members and everyone else. When they extended the [East Front of the] Capitol [in the early 1960s] we used the corridors down there to line them up. We started the rotation of [visitors in] the galleries during the Nixon, Kennedy years in the Senate [1960-61].

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BAKER: There wasn't a rotation system before that?

BALLARD: It wasn't necessary. Nixon, Kennedy, and Johnson—they really attracted the people. There, in the chamber, was the Kennedy and Johnson [presidential] ticket. And then Nixon.

BAKER: So this would have been after the summer of 1960.

BALLARD: Yes. Any person who went in there was going to see a president, regardless of what happened.

BAKER: In that period before 1961, do you recall other senators who were great attractions, they way Dirksen was?

BALLARD: Believe it or not—[Senator] Glen Taylor of Idaho. Glen Taylor was a great orator. And the word got out he was going to make a speech, and he filled it up. He made the famous speech about being jailed in Alabama--he filled up the gallery that day. "I've often heard what a jail in Alabama is like, I can tell you now, I just came from jail in Alabama . . . "

I had a case one time, I had to laugh. We had them lined up. It wasn't anything special. It was just a routine Monday. You see the tourists all come to town on the weekend and Mondays they all come to the Hill. So, look out Monday! You're going to line them up. It was after the wedding of the Johnson girl [Luci, August 6, 1966] in the cathedral [Shrine of the Immaculate

Conception] out here. Of course, there weren't supposed to be any weddings in the cathedral --that's understood--but they did give in for the Johnson girl. About the middle of the afternoon [of that Monday] the Senate got into some political hassle, so they moved to adjourn. Well, I usually went down the corridors to tell them [the tourists] "the Senate has adjourned. The galleries are open now. You may go up if you want to." Well, I made my usual announcement and I walked back up in front of [Room] S-207 and a woman and her family followed me. A woman and two children and a man, but the woman was after me. Well, we got out into the corridor there past 207, under the bust of [Vice President James] Sherman and she got me! And, I'll have to tell you, she unloaded on me.

She told me, "We came into town from Illinois on Friday night. We got a motel room near the cathedral so that we could go over to mass Saturday morning. When we got up and got over there, the Secret Service had it closed. I couldn't even get a souvenir for Father Jenkins! We went down to visit the White House. It was closed!" I'm trying to tell the woman that I don't have anything to do with this--any part of this, that I don't even know what's going on behind me in the Senate chamber. But that wasn't calming the waters. On Sunday, they started to go to Mount Vernon and they got into traffic on the 14th Street Bridge, and I could understand it. "We got to the

gates of Mount Vernon at 5:30 and they were closing it! We came back up to sightsee and we came up to the Capitol to see the Senate in session. We stand in line for thirty minutes," which is wrong, only fifteen, "and you come and tell me that the Senate has adjourned!" I was trying to tell the woman . . . trying to get away from it, but I couldn't do it. There wasn't any of this that was my fault, but I was in uniform, I was the first uniform she saw, and I was going to get it. Boy, what she thought of this town, it was something else!

Well, when the 1968 riots broke out and the town caught on fire, I was on duty--of course twelve hours of duty--I was out in the squad car making the rounds and I saw the flames. And something happened to bring back the memory of that woman in Illinois. And I started laughing. And Dick [companion in the car] said, "I don't see much funny about this." And I said, "Dick, I'm thinking about a woman in Illinois who is sitting in front of her television set watching this town burn down, applauding. (Laughter)

BAKER: I suppose members of the force must have to deal with frustrated tourists all the time.

BALLARD: Of course. You know, the greatest thing you can have up here as a policeman is a sense of humor. You don't, for goodness sake, get upset with the

tourists. They have a question--it's a question to them--try to help them solve it. They're here as visitors and they are entitled to courtesy, I don't care what it is.

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Vandalism. Tourists don't commit vandalism in the Capitol, it's the employees. I've found that to be true since I've been here. They're the ones who throw trash in the corner, not the tourists. The tourists have their mouths open. I used to tell the new men, "If you don't have a sense of humor, develop one. See something funny about it, fella."

BAKER: Or you're not going to last.

BALLARD: Oh, no, they'll wear you down.

BAKER: Thinking about some of the major public events that brought lots of visitors to Washington that you must have been involved in . . .

BALLARD: The first one that sort of surprised me was [General John "Blackjack"] Pershing's funeral in 1948. I'd been here a year--a quiet year, nothing had gone on. You know ten people at a time, and then all at once this state funeral! And they came from everywhere. Especially, we had a lot of work with the old veterans. They came here hardly able to walk. You know, "Blackjack" was a god to them. It was July, 17th and 18th, and you couldn't have had hotter weather. We had to line them up to go in the East Front, and by the time they got into the Capitol Building, they'd collapse. Fortunately, we had a man [on the force] who was a medical student. Of course, we didn't have many men here, but we did have a man inside to

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direct the people around. We put the medical student there and he was busy with first aid. He really had some practical experience when this was over. It was hard work for us. There weren't many of us. We didn't know anything about it. The captain didn't. The captain was a retired Pennsylvania state trooper, but practically all his career his job had been to chauffeur governors, because he was a nice-looking fella, and he didn't know too much. And he admitted he didn't. None of us knew [much]. We got by with it. In a thing like that, nobody knows when you make a mistake anyhow. Because they don't know what you're doing and you don't either. And we got along very well with it.

I lived right here on D Street, and I said, from now on I'll move away from here, because they could get me in a hurry. Just run out the corner of the building and wake me up. I'd been working most of the night when they came to wake me up and say, "Truman has decided to come up to the building." Well, I had to go in. We brought him in the side door--Truman, Eisenhower, General "Moose Jaw" Bradley in the North Door. Of course, we held the public out until Truman visited around, then we took them back out and we did get a little break then.

Sunday night the captain and Gus Cook, the assistant Architect of the Capitol--he was actually the Architect. Mr. [David] Lynn [the Architect] didn't do much--they got a hold of me and told me to meet

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them at the Document Door [of the Capitol] at 7:30. Pershing's sister, his son Warren, and his daughter and Warren's two children and, old Vice President [Charles] Dawes were coming to the building after we closed the building at 9:00 o'clock. They were going up to view the remains and then that would end the program. Well, Gus drank pretty heavily and so did the captain. I smelled whiskey on them when they brought me over to the door, so I wasn't going to be disappointed if they didn't show up. At 9:00 o'clock I was there and the limousines came up. We had a little elevator inside the Law Library Door [to the Capitol] in those days. It just went up one floor. It was the Taft elevator. It was put in there for Supreme Court Chief Justice William Howard Taft because he couldn't walk up the stairs. It 's been taken out now. I took old Vice President Dawes--Truman had come in--and his [Pershing's] sister up on the elevator and sent the family up the stairway. They visited a while. Then I brought them back down and then the limousine [took them away]. Now the captain and Gus never showed up. (Laughter) I knew they wouldn't. After we closed the building, I went downstairs toward the Crypt [on the first floor] and I looked down in their office on the floor below and saw a light on. Well, our office closed at 5:00 o'clock and wasn't open on Sunday anyhow. I went down to see what was wrong and I went back and in a big chair was the captain--he had passed out, and on the sofa Gus had passed out. (Laughter) Well, I rallied some men. Now the captain was a

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tremendous big man. We had a dickens of a time getting him out of the Guard Room to get him to the car to take him home. Gus wasn't very big or heavy. He lived in the Roosevelt Hotel. We took them home.

The next morning, Mr. Cook came in and said, [sotto voce] "Ballard, how'd I get home last night?" (Laughter) I said, "We took you home. He said, "Okay, I just wondered." Gus and I were good friends. He told me one time--he was over eighty years old--"You know, I am the acting member on the Police Board and I'd do anything if I ever thought you were in trouble, but you know, I'm old and am not going to stay here much longer. I'd like for you to have something permanent before I go. They're going to build a new Senate office building and there will be some jobs over there. I'm going to send you over to see Lewey Caraway [Superintendent of the Senate Office Buildings] and you pick out your job, and Lewey's going to help you."

So, I went over and Lewey brought the [list of] jobs out. The best job was air conditioning. Lewey said it paid the most and was the best job. I said, "Lewey, I wouldn't know air conditioning if it walked in this door. I can't put in a light bulb. He said not to worry and he called downstairs and got Kelley. I knew Kelley.

Kelley said, "Oh, yeah, we'd like to have Ballard. He worked over here as a sergeant, I'd like to have him." I said, "I just don't

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have guts like that." "Well, if anything goes wrong, we'll just call the air conditioning man from downtown." (Laughter) I said, "I can't do it Lewey. You tell Mr. Cook that I was over here and that you offered it to me and I turned it down." Lewey says, "Oh, no! You have to tell him. Or he'll believe I've shafted you." I said okay and I told Mr. Cook.

BAKER: Had they started construction of the building at that time?

BALLARD: Yes.

BAKER: So that was in the mid-50s?

BALLARD: Yes.

BAKER: With regard to the Pershing funeral, did you have any help from the Metropolitan force?

BALLARD: No. We had two Metropolitan policemen stationed here. They were here during the war, but they played it pretty sharp. They saw a good thing, so they politicked themselves into staying here as liaison. They made rank--of course they worked the committees--that they wouldn't have made downtown.

BAKER: When you say, "worked the committees," what do you mean?

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BALLARD: Well, they knew who the chairmen of the Appropriations Committees were. They got themselves raised in name. Their actual names were [spelled out] in the Appropriations laws. Carl Schamp was promoted to lieutenant up here, but not downtown.

BAKER: So downtown, held still be a sergeant?

BALLARD: That's right. We had a fellow who ended up as chief of the Capitol Police for little over a year. He died recently at eighty something years old. One day one of our boys had some business downtown. There they had colored photos. They had become popular and they had a board down in police headquarters with captains and above in color. And he came back and said, "I saw pictures down there, but Chief Schamp wasn't on there." I said, "Chief Schamp is a lieutenant down there! And so was Carl and so was Mike. But they drew deputy chief pay up here.

BAKER: And they never went downtown?

BALLARD: No. They never went back downtown.

BAKER: So if there was resentment downtown among their fellow officers . . .

BALLARD: Oh, yes! Certainly, they would have been butchered downtown. Mike even angled himself into an extension on his retirement up here for a year.

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BAKER: What do you mean by that?

BALLARD: You see they have a mandatory retirement age downtown and he got it extended a year up here. No, we didn't have any help . . .

BAKER: So those two men who were assigned from downtown were relatively useless. You couldn't count on them.

BALLARD: Of course they were, except to the members. They made themselves available.

BAKER: Was it possible to exercise discipline over them in any way? They weren't under the control of the chief or the captain?

BALLARD: Oh, no. You had no control over them whatever. Nobody did. They were strictly on their own. Now, like the [1954] Puerto Rican shooting [in the House chamber], Carl was supposed to be up in the gallery. He was over in the gym working out! But what could you do about it? Not a thing. Well, it wasn't our place to do anything about it anyway.

BAKER: During World War II, were there larger details of Metropolitan police . . .

BALLARD: There were fifteen Metropolitan.

BAKER: Were there also military troops here?

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BALLARD: They had military for a while, but it didn't work out. You see, the members come and go as they please and the soldiers would challenge them, so it didn't take them long to get rid of them.

BAKER: I bet! I have heard a story about a gun emplacement up on top of the Old Senate Office Building.

BALLARD: Yeah, but that was straw . . . a dummy.

BAKER: Was that supposed to be a dummy, or was it someone's idea of a joke?

BALLARD: They had a straw man.

BAKER: What was the purpose?

BALLARD: I suppose they thought maybe somebody would think it was "protection." (Laughter)

As I've said time and again, this place is built on a bluff and run on the same plain. And it always will be as long as it's here. And that's one of the bluffs they had.

[End of Interview #2]

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