EDWARD M. KENNEDY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewer’s Briefing Materials
Robert Healy Interview, 08/10/2005

Robert A. Martin, Research Director

Miller Center Documents¹
- Robert Healy Timeline.

Secondary Source Materials

¹ These are original documents created by Miller Center researchers for the Edward M. Kennedy Oral History Project. Please acknowledge credit for any use of these materials.
• Robert Healy, “Kennedy’s decision to go for it,” The Boston Globe, 09/14/1979.
### ROBERT HEALY TIMELINE

*Prepared by Christopher Loomis  
Miller Center, University of Virginia, 06/01/2005*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>1958</td>
<td>Summer-Fall Healy covers congressional hearings investigating Sherman Adams, Eisenhower’s chief of staff, who reportedly performed favors for and received gifts from industrialist Bernard Goldfine. Adams resigns in September. The incident is known commonly as the “Vicuna coat” scandal. (<em>The Boston Globe</em>, 12/23/1988)</td>
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<td>1959</td>
<td>September Healy reports on Nikita Khrushchev’s visit to the United States. He later calls the visit “the most amazing story I ever covered.” (<em>The Boston Globe</em>, 12/23/1988)</td>
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<td>December After a conversation with JFK in Palm Beach, Healy writes in <em>The Boston Globe</em> on the 18th that “backroom word from the Kennedy camp” indicates that EMK might run for the Senate in 1962. According to Clymer, most politicians “did not take that report very seriously.” (Clymer, p. 32; <em>The Boston Globe</em>, 12/18/1960)</td>
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<td>1962</td>
<td>March The Kennedys decide to publicly disclose EMK’s expulsion from Harvard University after it is learned that Healy has picked up reports of the incident. Healy negotiates the placement of the story with JFK, and later confers with EMK. The story runs in <em>The Boston Globe</em> on the 30th under the headline, “Ted Kennedy Tells About Harvard Examination Incident.” (Clymer, pp. 36-37; Hersh, pp. 157-159; James MacGregor Burns, <em>Edward Kennedy and the Camelot</em></td>
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1965

Fall

President Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) nominates Boston Municipal Judge and Kennedy family friend Francis X. Morrissey for a federal judgeship. EMK, who had recommended the nomination to LBJ in 1964, works to build support for Morrissey in the Senate. The Boston Globe publishes a series of stories critical of Morrissey, including Healy’s report of the nominee’s alleged failure to meet the residency requirement during his 1934 run for a seat in the Massachusetts state legislature, as well as discrepancies in Morrissey’s law school record. Morrissey’s nomination is later withdrawn. The Boston Globe wins a Pulitzer Prize, the newspaper’s first, for its coverage. (Clymer, pp. 73-77; Burns, pp. 130-132; Hersh, pp. 232-234, 244-245; The Boston Globe, 10/15/1965, 10/17/1965)

1968

March

Prior to the Wisconsin primary, Eugene McCarthy asks Healy to run his campaign, which Healy later characterizes as being run like a “switchman’s picnic.” Healy decides to remain at his post with The Boston Globe. (The Boston Globe, 12/23/1988)

June

Healy witnesses the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. He assists former football player Roosevelt Grier in disarming the assassin, Sirhan Sirhan. After the funeral, he writes of EMK, “Sen. Edward Kennedy who has lived in the shadow of both of his brothers for all his public years, is now the leader and the last of the Kennedys. He will hear both.” (The Boston Globe, 06/10/1968, 06/06/1993)

1969

March

Healy reports that EMK “appears to be the inevitable candidate” to oppose President Richard M. Nixon in 1972. (Clymer, p. 136; The Boston Globe, 03/16/1969)

July

Following the incident at Chappaquiddick, Healy writes that EMK “must at least wait beyond 1972.” (The Boston Globe, 07/26/1969)

1974

June

Speculating on the likelihood of EMK running for president in 1976, Healy writes, “You come away from a session with Sen. Edward Kennedy these days convinced that he will not run.” (Clymer, pp. 209-210; The Boston Globe, 06/05/1974)
1976

July  EMK tells Healy he felt he had received “shabby treatment” at the Democratic Convention in New York. (Clymer, p. 248; The Boston Globe, 07/23/1976)

1982

Fall  According to Clymer, Healy—along with Walter Mondale—is one of the few politicians or reporters who does not think that EMK will run for president in 1984. (Clymer, p. 342; The Boston Globe, 11/13/1982)

1985

January  Healy covers EMK during the senator’s visit to South Africa. (The Washington Post, 01/09/1985)

1988

December  Healy retires from The Boston Globe after forty-six years with the paper. He continues to write op-eds for the editorial page. (The Boston Globe, 12/23/1988)

1993

June  Healy gives away Courtney Kennedy, daughter of RFK and Ethel Kennedy, at her wedding to Paul Hill. (The Washington Post, 07/03/1993; The Boston Globe, 09/29/1993)