EDWARD M. KENNEDY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewer’s Briefing Materials
Nancy Pelosi Interview, 04/30/2010

Robert A. Martin, Research Director

Miller Center Documents

- Nancy Pelosi Fact Sheet.

Secondary Source Materials

- “Democrats Nix Kennedy Withdrawal Scheme,” UPI, 02/01/2005.

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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.
Oral History Interviews

• Joel Packer interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 05/20/2008.
• George Mitchell interview, Clinton Presidential History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 03/05/2007.
**NANCY PELOSI (D-CA) FACT SHEET (1987-PRESENT)**

*Prepared by Rob Martin*

*Miller Center, University of Virginia, 09/11/2009*

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**House Service:** 1987-Present  
**Speaker of the House:** 2007-Present  
**House Minority Leader:** 2003-2007

**Committee Service:** Appropriations Committee, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (was ranking Democrat when she became Speaker), Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, Banking and Financial Services Committee; Pelosi has also chaired the Congressional Working Group on China and served on the Executive Committee of the Democratic Study Group

**Key Legislative Issues:**

- Labor (minimum wage, spearheaded Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007; appeared at news conference with EMK on 2002 minimum wage bill and 2004 affordable housing bill)
- Health care (expanding health insurance for disabled, women’s health, studying environmental causes of chronic disease, NIH funding; attends rally to oppose Medicare Prescription Drug bill with EMK – Pelosi consistently opposed the House version, which the ultimate conference bill ended up mirroring, Clymer, p. 604)
- AIDS (increasing Ryan White funding, expand Medicare access and housing opportunities for AIDS patients, funding for HIV vaccine, Minority HIV/AIDS initiative)
- Intelligence (reviews of U.S. intelligence community, terrorist and WMD threats)
- Human rights (China, Tibet)
- Education (attends College Cost Reduction and Access Act Enrollment Ceremony and Head Start Enrollment Ceremony in 2007 with EMK and Miller; voted for No Child Left Behind)
- Environmental issues
- Helped defeat Bush’s push to privatize social security
- Blocked impeachment proceedings against Bush
- War in Iraq (Pelosi was an early critic of Bush’s policies, voting against 2002 Iraq resolution authorizing use of force, but at times differed with EMK on tactics – generally Pelosi takes more middle-of-the-road positions within the opposition in an effort to maintain party unity; for example Pelosi did not back EMK’s calls to set a timetable for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq)
- Member of the Friends of Ireland Executive Committee (issues statement in 2006 on Robert McCartney murder and importance of adhering to the Good Friday Agreement).  
- EMK’s new book, *True Compass*, has one reference to Pelosi. Just before undergoing brain surgery in 2008, EMK made three phone calls to put his legislative affairs in order - two were to Mikulski and Dodd, the other was to Pelosi to discuss some of the issues he was working on with the House. (Kennedy, p. 8)
References to Pelosi in KOHP Timelines:

2003
January EMK introduces a resolution in the Senate requiring Bush to seek congressional approval before commencing military action in Iraq. Byrd proposes a separate resolution calling for a vote in the U.N. Security Council before any attack.

February Byrd and EMK continue to call for a second Iraq war resolution. This tactic is opposed by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD), who declare a lack of Democratic unity on the issue. Pelosi and Daschle fear a second legislative defeat for the Democrats that would only serve to reinforce the first. *(The New York Times, 02/15/2003)*

March On the 19th, Bush orders the commencement of the war in Iraq.

2006
March In a statement issued on the eve of St. Patrick’s Day, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), EMK, and other members of the Friends of Ireland Executive Committee reiterate the importance to the peace process of the Good Friday Agreement and call for justice in the case of Robert McCartney. EMK meets with the McCartney’s mother and promises to raise the issue of pursuing his murderers with Gerry Adams while the latter is in Washington for St. Patrick’s Day festivities. EMK had refused to meet with Adams in March, 2005 to protest the IRA’s murder of McCartney. *(Capitol Hill Press Releases, 03/16/07)*

Pelosi’s Background:
- 2007: elected as first woman Speaker of the House; reelected in 2009
- 2002: elected House Minority Leader to succeed Dick Gephardt
- 2001: elected House Minority Whip
- 1987: defeated Harriet Ross in special election to represent San Francisco in House
- 1985: lost bitter fight for chairmanship of Democratic National Committee to Paul Kirk
- 1977: elected Party Chairwoman for Northern California
- 1962: graduated from Trinity College, Washington, D.C.
- Pelosi’s father, Thomas D’Alesandro, Jr., served as Mayor of Baltimore for 12 years after representing the city in Congress; her brother, Thomas D’Alesandro III also served as Mayor of Baltimore