

Interview with Joan Talley

VRK-A-L-2007-033

Interview # 1: November 28, 2007.

Interviewer: Mark DePue

COPYRIGHT

The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955

DePue: This is Mark DePue. I'm the Director of Oral History of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. I'm here with Joan Talley, who is the sister of Allen Dulles. We're here in her home in Santa Fe. She's graciously allowed us to do that. Today is Wednesday, November 28, 2007. Joan, it's a real pleasure to talk with you today; I think it's important. We just talked with your brother this morning and heard about his experiences in the Korean War, and especially about his brain injury, although he wasn't able to talk about that very much, because of the nature of it. He has only vague long-term memory, and not much short-term memory. So the reason for doing this is to fill out the rest of the record for Allen's particular interview, but I'm going to treat this just I do any other, and start with the beginning. So, when and where were you born?

Talley: I was born in December 28, 1923, in Washington, DC.

DePue: Tell us a little bit about Washington, DC. Your father was working in DC at the time?

Talley: My father was in the State Department. He was in the diplomatic service, and he was, I think, head of the Near East desk at the time when I was born. Having decided that you can't be a diplomat and get any higher position if you're not rich he had decided to leave the diplomatic service, so he was studying law at night. When I was four we left Washington, and he was, by that time, a lawyer, and planning to go to Sullivan and Cromwell in New York, where his brother was a partner.

DePue: It's probably worth saying on the record here that your father was Allen W. Dulles?

Talley: Allen Welsh Dulles, yes.

DePue: He certainly became very well known, famous, if you will, but that was a couple of decades later when he became Director of the CIA.

Talley: That was well later. I mean, I was twenty, so that was—yes.

DePue: And your uncle, John Foster Dulles, was also in the State Department at that time?

Talley: No, no. He was a lawyer, and he was at Sullivan and Cromwell in New York. I think he was a partner already. And he was saying to my father, “Come on down,” you know.

DePue: Okay. But your family has a long history of involvement in diplomacy, and involvement in being statesmen as well.

Talley: That’s right. My great-grandfather, John W. Foster, was Secretary of State, I believe, for Harrison. And then my great-uncle, I guess he would be, Robert Lansing, was Woodrow Wilson’s Secretary of State, went with him to Paris.

DePue: And you have an aunt who became rather well known in her own right, later on.

Talley: Yes. I have a wonderful aunt—I *had* a wonderful aunt, who lived to be a hundred or 101, and she did a lot of different things. She worked on social security, on the creation and the financing of social security. And then at the end of World War II, the State Department needed many new officers, and so she was very interested and was made an officer, and went to Austria as financial advisor to the American ambassador-designate to Austria, because of course Austria was still really militarily organized.

DePue: Okay. Now, Joan, I’m going to ask you if you can fix your microphone; it looks like it flipped over.

Talley: Where is it?

DePue: It’s right here.

Talley: Okay.

DePue: We’re just going to have to keep an eye on that to make sure it’s—

Talley: I’d rather talk into it. How’s that?

DePue: You mean hold it?

Talley: Yeah. Not good? Okay, I’ll do it. Just so you watch what’s happening.

DePue: Okay. We’re going to be just fine. Why don’t you tell me a little bit about your mother, because we hear so much about your father, but not nearly as much about your mom.

Talley: Well, my mother was wonderful. She came from a Baltimore family.

DePue: The name?

Talley: Gilman. And John Stratton Gilman, her grandfather, was in the ironworks that made the iron for the first iron-clad ship, the *Monitor*. They did the *Monitor*, and the *Monitor* won the battle of the ironclad ships in the civil war. And many, many fine people on that side of the family.

DePue: What was her maiden name, then?

Talley: Her maiden name was Todd, and her grandfather was Gilman.

DePue: Okay. Her first name?

Talley: Well, as my brother said, she was named after Martha Clover somebody or other, and she only used the name Clover, and my sister was named Clover, and her daughter was named Clover. And Clover's actually a last name; George Clover was a family member.

DePue: You mention your sister. That's an older sister?

Talley: An older sister. Sixteen months older, named Clover.

DePue: And any other siblings, other than Allen?

Talley: No. No other siblings. Just the three of us.

DePue: And he came along quite a few years later.

Talley: And he was six years younger than I, yes.

DePue: If you could describe your mother's personality, just a very quick thumbnail for me.

Talley: Let's see. My mother was introverted, and an artist. Loved nature. Nature, religion, art and people, I think, were her main interests. She never went to college. I remember writing her once as a child, and I asked her—let's see, I'm forgetting exactly the words, but I asked her to not talk to me about Socrates or something like that, but just to tell me what was going on. (laughter) Because she was very... A lovely soul. And soulful, and...

DePue: Now, I know that your grandfather on your father's side was a Presbyterian minister?

Talley: He was a Presbyterian minister. He died when I was six, so I remember him quite well, because we have a country place on Lake Ontario. The houses actually stand in the lake. They were created by my father's father and mother, and we still go there, so it's now a hundred, give or take, years that the family has been going every single summer to this place, at Henderson Harbor, on Lake Ontario.

DePue: Did your mother come from a Presbyterian background as well?

Talley: My mother came from a very religious background, and it was Presbyterian also, yes.

DePue: So you were raised as a Presbyterian?

Talley: I was raised as a Presbyterian, and my mother's father was a scholar and a professor at Columbia in Romance languages. And when my father went to ask for my mother's hand in marriage, what he had to do was read in Latin and Greek. They didn't ask him how much money he was making, but (laughter) was he educated.

DePue: Well, again, so much has been written about your brother and your uncle, but I wonder if we could hear about your father – not your brother – about your father's personality from you, from the perspective of his daughter.

Talley: Right. Right. Well, my father was very charming, very handsome, and very... I don't know... well rounded. I mean, he was interested in literature, and arts, and history, and played tennis and played golf, and I think—I don't know that I ever saw him playing chess, but a lot of backgammon. Wonderful at tennis. All those things.

DePue: So would it be fair to say that whatever your father set his mind to, he was going to be successful in it?

Talley: It seems like that. My father, and in a very much more minor way, in my life, too, there are people who are where the action is. It's hard to say why. They just are there. And my father was that way. He seemed to be where there was something to be done, and to be appreciated.

DePue: And you described him earlier as being charismatic. He was the kind of person that people were drawn to?

Talley: I think charismatic is a little too—I think I used that word, but it's a little... He didn't do that. How to put it? He just was very charming, and present, and appealing. He didn't present that charismatic—you know. He didn't present that way.

DePue: So he wouldn't be the kind of person that you would think, "if he's there, he's going to dominate the room?"

Talley: No, but when the party's over, he's the one who knows what's what. But he wouldn't dominate.

DePue: Talk about growing up with your brother. Now, he was quite a bit younger than you, so were the two older sisters kind of protective of him?

Talley: Yes. We were very protective of him. We were very excited to have a little boy, and we taught him everything. The family story, which can't be completely true, was that he read *Gone With the Wind* at age four. People would stop his baby carriage in the street and say, "Oh, what a cute baby." He was very appealing, and we spent a lot of time with him.

DePue: Did he show his brilliance at a pretty early age, as well?

Talley: Yeah. Yeah, he was just brilliant from the word go.

DePue: And how did he exhibit that?

Talley: Well, we taught him to read, and as I say, we say he read *Gone With the Wind* at age four. That was the main thing. It was that kind of intellect.

DePue: So it wasn't that he was a musical prodigy or some kind of a budding artist, it's just that had a very sharp mind, even at an early age?

Talley: Yes, at a very early age. It's funny. I don't remember him being sort of——what's the word for it – grossly precocious. He just was. It's a little bit like my father. He was just successful, all the way round, but he wasn't making a big scene about it.

DePue: Well, you mention your father was something of the extrovert, and your mother was an introvert. What was Allen?

Talley: Introverted. Very introverted.

DePue: So he took after your mother in that respect?

rTalley: He took after my mother in that respect, right. And he was someone who wasn't that aware of people. I mean, he would walk ahead of you on the street, and he wouldn't even know that he—you'd go out in New York walking with him, and he'd be ten feet ahead.

DePue: So he didn't have a lot of close friends growing up then, or—?

Talley: Well, he did. He always had friends. He was slightly detached, but he always had friends. But he wasn't the buddy-buddy with millions of friends and groupy-groupy.

DePue: More of the type that has his close circle of friends that he—

Talley: Yes.

DePue: Was he better with individuals than with groups of people?

Talley: I imagine. I imagine. But what I have to say here is that he was six years younger than me, and the war started, and I went to college in '41. He was eleven. He had been gone to this Russell Ranch School for a year, so from the time he was ten, I was away at college, and so I wasn't intimately with him from the time he was ten at all, because then he went to boarding school. I was in college. I went to Europe. And so...

DePue: And from what we talked about this morning, he went to a series of boarding schools.

Talley: Well, he went to two: Russell Ranch School then Buckley, which was a day school, a good day school in New York, a private day school. And then he went probably—I think three years—to Exeter. So he was away all that time, and so I didn't really see him grow up.

DePue: And from what he told us, he really liked his experience at Exeter. He obviously did *not* at Princeton.

Talley: Yeah. He loved Exeter. Because in the next generation, more people went to Exeter, and they found Exeter better than college. It was a sort of college-type boarding school.

DePue: How would you describe Allen's relationship with your mom and your dad at least for the time period that you observed it??

Talley: Well, I thought it was fine. It was fine. Later he said my mother wasn't interested enough in science, and he had excuses later, but no, I thought it was fine.

DePue: Your father, even at that time, though, and even in the 1930s, was very successful and ambitious. Did he have much opportunity to spend time with the family?

Talley: My sense, apart from traveling, because my father—in fact, the whole family – went to France in 1930 for a peace conference. There were a lot of disarmament conferences and peace conferences and my father was a part of that. But that time, we were more or less together, and he didn't travel that much, but when he was home, he was home. And as I've said, he was one of those fathers who was present, and charming, and nice, but children were not his—he didn't know exactly what to do with us. But he was home. He was home. He was definitely present.

DePue: I certainly don't want to draw any conclusions here, but would you say that his father wasn't a real powerful influence on Allen's life, then?

Talley: Well, I think the negative part of it, or the non-child-oriented part is a very big influence on a young man, especially, as I was saying to you today, the fact that he was following the family tradition of enormous talent. I would have liked to have seen my father really recognize—both my sister and I would have liked my father to recognize him and tell him that he saw that here was this generation producing special people.

DePue: But from my conversation with Allen earlier today, and our brief conversation today, I don't get any sense that Allen was ever resentful that his father didn't pay more attention to him.

Talley: No. Whether that has some aspect of why his paranoia included his father, I can't say.

DePue: And you're referring—

Talley: I'm referring—

DePue: –to what's been exhibited as abnormal, after he had his brain injury?

Talley: We'll get into the brain injury later, but I think you wanted me to say something about what he said in his interview, right? About my father being—

DePue: Yeah. I mean, I don't want to have this too disjointed here, so I apologize for that.

Talley: Yeah. Yeah.

DePue: How about his relationship with your mom?

Talley: I think it was very good. I think it was very good.

DePue: Okay. And supportive?

Talley: And supportive, oh, yes. Very. My mother was great.

DePue: The way you grew up in an age when a lot was going on in Europe, and you're in a family that's very involved with diplomacy, with foreign affairs, what was the mood in the family? What was your impression of those storm clouds building in Europe in the late thirties?

Talley: Well, I remember hearing Hitler ranting and raving, and it was so other than what we could imagine that it was sort of an anomaly. My father also didn't—he was not a talker in the family. We didn't sit down at table and discuss things. Of course, I was in school and everything, so I would say that I was more or less figuring out on my own what was going on. When the war broke out, I was in college. When France fell, my father cried. That's the only time I've ever—you know. That was really pretty amazing.

DePue: Amazing because you understood that—

Talley: Yes, because you don't expect men to cry, and because that was very moving.

DePue: Do you remember Pearl Harbor, then, too, I'm sure?

Talley: I was on the train going back to college. I'd had a coming out party the night before Pearl Harbor, and I was going back to college, and the people on the train were talking about it. I hadn't heard it.

DePue: What did you think at that time? What were you feeling, at the time that you heard that news?

Talley: Well, I mean, it was just—unbelievable. I was sixteen, and you just didn't know what to think. Everybody in the train was talking about it. There were actually some soldiers on the train. I don't know how come that was.

DePue: Did you have a sense of what that meant for the United States' immediate future, that we would be at war, and that this would be a war that would involve everyone?

Talley: No, I think I was not cognizant at all, no.

DePue: Okay. Okay. Let's kind of fast-forward here a little bit. World War II is over. Allen's at Exeter, and then he went to Princeton, and apparently didn't like Princeton too

much, from everything he's told us. He spent a year at Oxford, and about the time where he's going from Princeton to going overseas to Oxford, during that whole time, he had been involved with the Marines. Do you know what your father thought about him being in the Marine Platoon Leaders Course, and possibly looking at a military career?

Talley: No. I don't know that. I have to go back. This is '50, '51.

DePue: Yeah. I guess what I'm asking is prior to the time of the North Korean invasion, which was June of 1950, Allen was already involved with Marine Corps Platoon Leaders training, with the assumption, I'm sure, in his mind, that that might be something that he would do after he graduated: spend a little bit of time in the Marine Corps. And so that's what I'm asking.

Talley: I know you're asking, and what's confusing me is that I don't know how to answer that, and I suddenly can't think where I was in '50, as to why I don't know what was felt about that. I don't know.

DePue: Do you recall June of 1950 when the North Koreans attacked?

Talley: No, it's strange. I'm drawing a blank about the Korean War. It's interesting that Allen claims that he, you know, saw it brewing, and knew he wanted in. And I am absolutely just drawing a blank about his going into the military. I think my father was very supportive, and felt that people should do what they wanted to do.

DePue: Well, again, I don't want to read too much into this, but my sense is that your father came from that society where service to your country, obligations and duties were taken very seriously, and seriously for himself, obviously for his brother, and for his son, as well.

Talley: Right.

DePue: That that was just expected, and it was the normal course of affairs, if you will.

Talley: I think so. I mean, yes. That was very much the family where your country was like a brother or sister. It was just where your life was, was your country.

DePue: And by that time, he had spent a lot of his years serving the country.

Talley: Yes, he had.

DePue: But you don't know what your parents' reactions were when the Korean War started, because certainly they could have understood that meant that Allen was going to go on active service, and possibly be sent to Korea.

Talley: Right. No, I'm sure there was qualms. I'm sure they had qualms, but I didn't know of it.

DePue: Okay. Later on, as the Korean War started to develop and you, perhaps, were paying a little bit more attention to it, did you have any opinions about whether or not we were there for the right reasons?

Talley: You see, I'm drawing a complete blank on these years, now. I'd like you to give me a few moments to figure this out.

DePue: Okay. Let's go ahead and pause for a minute. Well, I guess I have to figure that out myself. (laughter)

(pause in recording)

DePue: Okay, Joan, we're back on record here. What I was trying to establish was how your parents felt about the beginning of the Korean War, and what your feelings were, as well, about the Korean War, and how that might apply to Allen's being in the Marine Corps. That's where it took a little time for you to figure out exactly where you were at the time, so why don't you tell us where you were in 1950 and the next couple years.

Talley: Right. So I believe that I was in Austria, in Vienna, with my husband, who was Austrian, who had been in the underground against the Nazis during World War II, and that made his life very dangerous for being in Austria with the Russians, especially in Vienna, that is completely surrounded by the Russian Zone. And so we were thinking about how we would escape if the Russians should occupy the rest of Austria because of the events in Korea. And it was an interesting time, because when you start to think whose house you could go to to escape, you find that it's mostly the simple people, not your fancy friends, but your very simple people, the servants that you knew, the farmers along the way, who will take you in when you're on the run. So Korea was, for me, a Russian problem in Austria.

DePue: So it had very real and important challenges presented to you, that it had—

Talley: Yes. Really fascinating, yeah.

DePue: —very little to do with what was going on in Korea, and I'm sure you spent most of your time worried about your own immediate concerns, and certainly your husband.

Talley: Yeah.

DePue: Did you have any children by that time?

Talley: No, we had no children.

DePue: So how long were you in Austria?

Talley: About two years at that time. One year before, and then my husband came to the Austrian information office in New York. So we were in New York a year and a half or so, and then we went back to Austria.

DePue: So do you recall where you were when you got the news that Allen had been injured?

Talley: I was in Austria. And my mother was in Switzerland.

DePue: Well, let's get to that point, then, and his injury. Now, we talked quite a bit about the nature of injury when we interviewed him, and I read an account that Robert Abboud had written about it; it's certainly a story of courage, and honor and sacrifice. Allen had done things that weren't necessary, that he had never settled for what was okay or expected, he had always challenged himself and found most dangerous circumstances. Was that the Allen Dulles that you remember from childhood?

Talley: I think so, yes. I think so. Yes. Because as we were saying, he had always had the ability to accomplish what was there to be accomplished, and now this was a whole different kettle of fish over there in the military. But still, that was what needed to be accomplished. According to letters the Chinese were—or the Koreans, the North Koreans, the Chin—well, you say it was most Chinese – were digging ditches. You could hear them digging the ditches, and digging right up to your own trenches, and they had less people to dig. The Marines had less people to dig than the Chinese.

DePue: One of the things that strikes me in hearing the stories from both you and Allen about the important years at Exeter, and then at Princeton and Oxford, he liked Exeter. I mean, these are all elite institutions, where you're dealing with some of the most prominent people in American society. He didn't like Princeton, because he didn't find it nearly challenging enough, and he really resented that, apparently. And then he ends up in the Marine Corps, and he deals with a completely different kind of American, I guess is the main point. But apparently, he thrived on that.

Talley: Yes. Yes, as far as I know, that was the life for him. The intellectual challenges—because wherever he went, he was the top dog, so here was a whole new challenge, the challenge of men together, and of being the commander of his small group. So that was the new challenge, and that was very inspiring to him. And as far as we can gather, the men really liked it.

DePue: I don't know that we've mentioned it on tape, so it's worth mentioning. He was Summa Cum Laude [*Latin*: in academe, the highest honor] at Princeton.

Talley: Phi Beta Kappa [academic honor society] and Summa Cum Laude at Princeton.

DePue: And that's astounding in its own right, I think. But he also was successful when he went to Quantico in the Platoon Leaders Course.

Talley: Yes, he was, whatever you call it, first rank of 300 men. So it's a completely different thing. I mean, intelligence would be brain work, but shooting and crawling around on your stomach is not...

DePue: And from everything that you've told me, and what I've heard from him, certainly, this morning, he had no pretensions at all about these things.

Talley: What is—? Well, how did you—?

DePue: Pretensions.

Talley: Yes, what do you mean there?

DePue: Well, he didn't carry any airs. He didn't...

Talley: No, no, no. No, no, no. We don't do that. We don't go there. (laughs)

DePue: "We" as in we the Dulles clan?

Talley: We in the Dulles clan. We really like all kinds of people, and all kinds of situations.

DePue: That was just something that you grew up with?

Talley: Yeah.

DePue: That was assumed?

Talley: Yes, that was assumed. That was part of being somebody, was to be diverse. Yeah.

DePue: To respect everybody in—

Talley: Oh, yes. And my mother especially. I don't know my father, but—my father was very extroverted, and he liked social events. But my mother and I normally didn't care that much about...

DePue: But being an extrovert, he could find himself comfortable in any kind of environment.

Talley: Yes. Well, any kind of situation, but he also liked social situations. You know, sitting around the swimming pool with a martini. And my brother was not interested in that, nor I. My sister was. So it's temperament.

DePue: But apparently, your brother was comfortable. He enjoyed the camaraderie of his fellow Marines.

Talley: And of course, why did he become a Marine? That's considered the top thing, if you're not trying to get into the air or under the water, or something, the Marines are the top, so he just went for the top.

DePue: Well, one thing the Marines do better than almost any other branch of the service is inculcate this sense of camaraderie among fellow Marines.

Talley: Really?

DePue: It is very deep.

Talley: Well, I'm sure that was important to him, because there he was with 300 people. I mean, what a different kind of situation.

DePue: And then when you get out, actually, into a unit itself, you're with the common man, if you will. You're with Everyman America.

Talley: Right, and that's what he wanted. No question.

DePue: And again, going back to the incidents that we heard about, he eventually was nominated for the Navy Cross, which is the second highest award that you can be awarded, only behind the Medal of Honor. I'm not surprised. These things oftentimes get downgraded. He was given a Silver Star, which is a very prestigious medal—

Talley: Is it?

DePue: —for the bravery that he exhibited in both those two days where he actually was injured three times.

Talley: Right.

DePue: That amazes me itself.

Talley: Yeah, it is.

DePue: And yet he is so reluctant to even discuss how that was a courageous act that he was doing.

Talley: Right. Right. It doesn't seem to him just to do it, and—he had no opportunity to reflect on the courage of it, because he was knocked out. I mean, he was unconscious for a month. And when he came to, he was so disoriented in his mind that he didn't know how he had gotten wounded, so he didn't have the satisfaction in knowing what he had done. He just read it in the newspapers, or it was told it, but all he was concerned with was that he hadn't done something dishonorable. But he didn't have satisfaction.

DePue: Maybe I'm going into this too much with you, because you weren't there, and it's not fair for you to answer these things, but he also professed not to have any fear in those kinds of circumstances.

Talley: I think so. I imagine that that's possible. That's a bit naïve, I think.

DePue: Yeah, I mean, the normal human reaction would be to be scared to death, and the courage means that you still perform in such admirable ways.

Talley: I think the reason is that he hadn't been at the front long enough, and hadn't seen people wounded in—you know. He was there a week, and he heard the enemy digging in, digging closer, closer, so he...

DePue: Well, let's get back to your experiences with this. Do you recall when you got the news that Allen had been injured?

Talley: Yes. I was in Austria, and the phone rang. My mother was staying with a good friend of hers that I knew well, in Zurich, and she was on the phone, telling me that we'd gotten a... telegram. The undesirable telegram. So my mother was going to fly back to America, so I flew from Vienna to Zurich and joined her there, and then we flew home together.

DePue: I would assume at this time your father was in Washington, DC?

Talley: Yeah.

DePue: And he would have been in Washington, DC, because Eisenhower had just been elected and was probably deep into the process of selecting his cabinet and his senior officers.

Talley: Well, my father had been involved, had been Deputy Director of the CIA for some years, so that's why he was there.

DePue: If you don't want to go here, I understand. Obviously, this was quite a blow to you, and I'm sure to your mother and your father as well. Can you explain how they coped with it? What their reaction was?

Talley: I don't know. You just do what there is to do, and for my father it was to keep abreast of the news. I think Allen was maybe a whole week on the *Consolation*, the hospital ship. I'm not sure. So you do what you do. You just... My mother had the right to go, my father arranged that she could go to Japan when he got to the hospital there, so she was planning that trip. So you just do what you do. It's terrible. Terrible.

DePue: Well, maybe your mother had the worst of it, because your father would have been—I'm assuming now – so involved with what he knows his future is going to be. I don't know when in this process he found out he was going to be Director of the CIA, but I would assume somewhere in December or January he would have found out about that. And that's just a huge burden to bear. But your mother, I'm sure, had a lot more time and opportunity to think about what just happened to her son.

Talley: Yes. Yes, and of course we were told that anybody who has a brain injury is considered critical. So that gave us a little hope that it wasn't as critical as it turned out to be. But of course a mother always—I don't know. It can't be always, a mother, but it is hard. Very hard.

DePue: She got over to Korea, or to Japan, then, to see him?

Talley: Japan. She went to Japan fairly soon, and I had gotten sick on the plane. I had the not-nicely-named illness of trench mouth, I got on the plane, on the Pan American plane. So when I got home, it had been planned that I would go with her to Japan, but I was just too sick to go. So her brother went with her, and I believe that she was able to go

within ten days or so of our return, of the telegram coming. I'm not sure exactly the timing of that.

DePue: Well, I know that in reading one of the accounts here, it was the second of December when she saw your brother at the Yokosuko—

Talley: Yokosuka—

DePue: Yokosuka Naval Hospital.

Talley: Then he was injured in the seventeenth, so that's right away. That's two weeks.

DePue: Yeah. Very quick.

Talley: Yeah.

DePue: And your father got over there in fairly short order.

Talley: Christmas, yeah.

DePue: And it was probably about that time, or early January, that Allen was returned to the States. Was he returned on ship or was he flown back?

Talley: Flown back. Flown back.

DePue: Landed at Travis Air Force Base, and I know while he was at Travis, John S. D. Eisenhower, Major Eisenhower, who of course is President Eisenhower's son, visited him.

Talley: I knew him in Vienna. I've forgotten how.

DePue: Were they friends? Were John and Allen friends?

Talley: Oh, no. No. They're different ages, I think. I'm not sure.

DePue: Yes, he would have been quite a bit older. But it was just the significance of the President's son meeting Allen.

Talley: Where did he meet him?

DePue: The article I saw was January thirtieth, at Travis Air Force Base, and that immediately after that—

Talley: Oh, that's in California. Yes. Right.

DePue: But immediately after that, he was moved to Bethesda.

Talley: That's right. Eisenhower, John Eisenhower, just saw him when he came through. Yeah, that was just because of the family connection.

DePue: When is the first time you got to see your brother?

Talley: When he landed. I'm in that picture at the airport.

DePue: At Travis Air Force Base?

Talley: No, no. What's the one in Washington?

DePue: Bethesda, in Washington, DC?

Talley: Well, what's the military airport there? Andrews. Andrews Air Force Base.

DePue: Andrews Air Force Base.

Talley: Yeah. I was there. I was there.

DePue: What were you feeling at that time? What was your reaction?

Talley: Oh, I don't know. I don't know. I still cry. I don't know.

DePue: How long was he in Bethesda?

Talley: Now, I visited him every day in Bethesda, and I don't think he was terribly long there. Three weeks, maybe? He still had shrapnel in his head, and I think they were thinking about what to do, but they knew they didn't want to do any more at the time. He went back again several years later to have them look at that, but they still decided not to do it. But they closed up his head later.

DePue: Did he receive any other major injuries, other than the head wound? I know he had a couple of minor injuries to the wrist, in particular.

Talley: I don't think anything was important. I don't remember anything important.

DePue: When you did see him, can you describe his condition?

Talley: Yes. He was very present, and very happy to be back, and quite normal. He couldn't tie his tie, or get into his shirt. His mind wasn't coordinating that, but he seemed to be very much the same, but of course very soon we found out that his recent memory was—he couldn't remember what he'd done ten minutes before.

DePue: So the first couple days, the first couple times you saw him in the hospital, apparently you and the rest of the family were very hopeful.

Talley: Very hopeful, yes. Yes.

DePue: Do we know what the doctors were telling your mom and your dad? His prognosis?

Talley: No, I think they didn't know. They didn't know either. They didn't know either. I'm trying to think—Dr. Wildebush was a doctor who was in Japan. He was back in

America later, and we saw him, and he saw Allen, and Allen liked him a lot. I don't know what they were saying. They were saying, "This is a serious brain injury, but we'll have to see what it does."

DePue: What was Allen's mood at that point?

Talley: Very questioning. We talked together about what he might be able to do. He was hesitant, but he was, I guess, optimistic. Like, you see somebody who's just come out of being lost in the desert. Like they thought they were going to die, and here they're alive. So that was the mood when he first got back. "Who am I? Where am I? What's going to happen now in this life of mine?"

DePue: But everything up to that point in time, he was expected—

Talley: Yeah. Yes.

DePue: But he was expected to be optimistic, that whatever challenges are thrown at you, you're going to be successful at it.

Talley: That's right. That's right. Let's see—wounded on the seventeenth of November, and unconscious maybe four weeks. He'd had a hard time coming out, and back, and up. But I think being flown home and feeling good, he was—yeah, we were all hopeful.

DePue: And he's stable to see, and the rest of the family's able to see some slow but steady improvement, and hopefully that was going to continue.

Talley: Right. In the sense that I think he did get able to put on his clothes, and tie his tie. I heard him not describing to you too well. He has what's called keyhole vision. That is, he doesn't see on the sides, and he doesn't see up. But he does see down, which is more practical. You don't trip on things. But you have to turn your head to get the whole vision that somebody else would have. And he's completely deaf in one ear, and half deaf in the other ear.

DePue: Is he blind in one eye, completely?

Talley: No. No. Just both eyes this way.

DePue: But he's able to read.

Talley: Oh, yes. Oh, he's an avid reader.

DePue: How long was he in Bethesda, then, before he was released to your parents' care?

Talley: I have no idea, but it was, I'm thinking, three weeks. It could have been six weeks. But he was really okay when he got back. They were just wanting to watch him.

DePue: Okay they were still hopeful that he would continue to improve and—

Talley: Well, you see, wouldn't even know what that meant, because he had just—from hardly being able to talk—yeah. They saw that he was sort of together when he got home. And I'm sure that they knew that big problems were ahead, but they didn't know exactly what they would be.

DePue: So was it later, then, that they saw some things, or was it just a gradual acceptance that he would be severely limited in many ways?

Talley: Well, yes. We just didn't know. And then he went and lived at home in Washington, and had a very nice young man—actually, I have a letter from him, so he must have been in the military, too—who probably lived at home with him, or maybe came every morning, with the thought of him finding out who he was, and what he could do. I don't know. I don't know why he didn't start to study, because he wanted to go to law school. So I think deficiencies must have been very present from the start.

DePue: When you say he was living at home, he was living with your parents?

Talley: Yes.

DePue: Okay. And somewhere along here, the decision was made to go on his own in New York City.

Talley: Well, yes. We had a very nice room in a lovely old brownstone house that was lived in by an older lady, and that was a room that my parents kept for when they came to New York. Mostly my mother. My father didn't come much. And so Allen, then—because he loved New York. He always loved New York. So he would come up there, and sometimes he'd stay a couple of days, and then he'd stay longer. But the problem was he couldn't grab life. He couldn't really think, and he couldn't really put two and two together. And so he began to get really depressed, and crazy.

DePue: You mentioned that while he was in Washington, DC living in your parents' home, that he also had a young man there helping him cope with the everyday things of life.

Talley: Yeah.

DePue: Did he also have somebody with him up in New York City, or—?

Talley: No, he went alone. I guess the feeling was that in New York that he knew so well he could orient himself. One of the main things that he couldn't do in places he was unfamiliar with was orient himself. That's the main thing. He couldn't find his way around Washington. If he went two blocks away, he wouldn't necessarily come back. That was the main thing. Even in an apartment, one of the reasons that where he's living now is so simple is because he would get completely lost in a house. He wouldn't know where the rooms were. So along with no recent memory, there was no learning of geography.

DePue: Do you know the background to that decision? Was that primarily his decision? Was it a joint decision with him and your parents?

Talley: To go to New York?

DePue: To go to New York.

Talley: No, I think they found out that places he had been before, he knew his way around. So, no. If he wanted to do something, they would—it got progressively more complicated, but in the beginning, maybe his friend Rudy Albachten went with him to New York a couple of times, and then it was felt he could go alone.

DePue: Rudy... What was the last name?

Talley: Albachten. A-l-b-a-c-h-t-e-n, I think. I believe that's who it was.

DePue: I seem to be doing a lot of this in this interview, but do you think part of the rationale for making that decision on your parents' part, maybe on Allen's part as well, is that he gets on his own, and because of those challenges, that he'll begin to progress more?

Talley: I think so. I think so. I mean, yes. The thing was to see where this was going to go, and it wasn't going anywhere.

DePue: Do you recall, roughly, the year that he would have done this?

Talley: I don't know, but I think that he stayed home probably about a year and three quarters or two years. I'm no good on timeframes, but I think two years.

DePue: Living on his own in New York City?

Talley: No, no. No. No, I don't think he was ever in New York more than a week at a time.

DePue: Oh! Okay.

Talley: No, he was not really living in New York, as I remember.

DePue: So these were fairly short experiments.

Talley: I think so.

DePue: And it was this timeframe, also, from what I can gather—the 1950s, maybe into the 1960s—that he spent a lot of time in the sanatorium, Sanatorium Bellevue in Kressling?

Talley: Kreuzlingen.

DePue: Kreuzlingen.

Talley: [No, he did not go to the sanatorium in Switzerland until we had tried many hospitals in the U. S. He was at different times in two veterans' hospitals: Payne Whitney which is New York Hospital; Presbyterian, both facilities, New York City and

Westchester; and Chestnut Lodge in Maryland. This time frame would be from the fall of 1954 to 1962. Then he went to Switzerland where he was in the Sanatorium Bellevue until 1973. This makes nineteen years of hospitalization.]

But what the much later final diagnosis was that he had lost the “executive ability.” They talk a lot about that in brain stuff now: “executive ability”, which means to have a thought, and then to put together the complementary thoughts that make this turn into a plan, and then the ability to put your plan in action. [So that damage to his brain was apparently limiting him from the start.] He couldn’t have a plan that he could plan around and bring to completion, and that was driving him [literally] crazy.

DePue: It was driving him crazy because he was so brilliant and such—

Talley: Well, just any human being. Any human being wants to be able to do *something*.

DePue: How did your parents, once they get to that realization, how did they cope with that?

Talley: Well, I think it was horrendous. It was horrendous, because he must have been... I was, again, somewhere else after the first months that he was home, but it must have been horrible, horrible for them to watch him not able to grab life. He was twenty-three years old.

DePue: Awfully young.

Talley: So I’ll just follow the hospital line a little bit, if you like.

DePue: Yes, please.

Talley: When he was at Presbyterian Hospital he had young men who came and took him out every day, and sort of the same thing that they’d been doing in Washington, but out of the hospital. Because he didn’t need to be just locked up all the time. So the hospital just thought what they thought, and at the time, everybody was called schizophrenic, and *maybe* my brother was already starting to be paranoid, which is a well-known aspect of brain injury. But that came a bit later.

Then that hospital didn't really know what to say or do, so he went to another one. They didn't know what to say or do. And then he went to another one, and they didn't know what to say or do. I mean, they all said he was paranoid; that's a form of psychosis. So they ended up with that. And then he wanted to go to a veterans' hospital, so we found a veterans' hospital in Montrose, NY, I think, and visited him there. And one thing or another, it wasn't working.

So we had connections in Switzerland; we looked around to find a place where he could be happy with some care, and that was Bellevue Hospital in Kreuzlingen, which is on the German border of Switzerland, by Lake Constance. That's a beautiful, great, huge, old estate, with all different kinds of people with

mental problems. It was very lovely. And he stayed there until I took him out, and I think he may have been there about ten years.

DePue: Okay. And while he's at Bellevue, the assumption is that it's not going to be so much focused on treatment as it's just the right kind of care for him?

Talley: It was focused on that if they could see any signs, they would grab them and run, and make him well, but if he wasn't, then that was where he could be.

DePue: Of all of the hospital experiences he had in the United States, the expectation was that if you're not making some kind of improvement, then eventually you can't stay in the hospital?

Talley: Well, it's not that, except it doesn't have that leisurely sort of European grace about your situation. Of course you can, if you go on paying. Because he went to another fancy hospital in Rockville, Maryland. I suddenly can't think of the name of it. It's very famous. It's like, you can stay there if you pay huge sums of money, but it's a different mentality. America is, "You've got to be doing something, buddy," whereas in Europe, you can just "be." (laughs)

DePue: This is quite a financial burden. I assume that your parents are bearing all of that.

Talley: I think so, yeah. And I think in Switzerland it was a bearable price, and a lovely place. After he'd been there about ten years—I think it was that long—then after I had finished my psychological training in a mental hospital, I realized he didn't have to be in a hospital at all. And I realized that when I was already in private practice here in Santa Fe, and I sent my daughter, who was about eighteen, to get my brother. Of course the hospital over there didn't want to let him go, and said, "What's this?" But I knew it was all right. So he came back, and I told him that I would only let him out if he would come and live with me for three months, so that I could really see what was what. So he didn't think Santa Fe was a proper place for him, but he would agree to come and stay with me.

DePue: Well, you mentioned your private practice, your training in psychiatric care. Can you go into that?

Talley: Yes. My father, when he was in Switzerland, had been interested in the very famous Swiss psychiatrist, Carl Gustav Jung, and he consulted with him about German psychology. So my whole family was very interested in Jungian psychology. And I knew that when I joined my father in Switzerland, in 1945, right after the end of the war. So I was very much sort of a part of a... My mother had always been interested in psychology, so she was very much into meeting and talking with the different ones there, and actually having Jungian analysis. But that wasn't at all what I was thinking about at that time, so that was 1945, and I didn't go to study until '64, so that's twenty years later. My life turned around in directions, and I decided to study psychology. So I went to Switzerland.

DePue: And you received your degree in Jungian psychology?

Talley: Yes. I didn't have an American degree, but it wasn't necessary to be licensed in New Mexico, and I knew I was getting the best education I could get in the hospital there, so I just decided to wing it.

DePue: I guess I'm very rusty on what it means to be a—and I'm probably butchering the pronunciation. Is it Jungian?

Talley: Yes, Jungian. Yes.

DePue: Psychologist.

Talley: It was training in psychoanalysis, in psychoanalyzing people, which only means that presumably, you're qualified to really dig down into their psyches, and not mess it up. Counseling is more general, you know, "How is your life going today?" and psychoanalysis, presumably, is that you won't mess it up if you go a little deeper.

DePue: So you decided, or the family jointly decided, to take on the responsibility of more active involvement and oversight of Allen's treatment?

Talley: Well, it was that I felt he could just live outside, that he could just have an apartment and a life. I mean, not life, (laughs) but living. My father died in '69, so Allen came out of the hospital in '72 or '73, so my father was dead, and my mother knew that I knew what I was doing, so she was delighted.

DePue: Before that time, were your parents the legal guardians for Allen?

Talley: No. They never did that, and that was wonderful. I'm now his guardian, only because I had to go to court because the lady who was taking care of him was taking on too much. She was pretending she was the boss. Otherwise, he would never have had a guardian, because they just didn't want to do that to him. So we never did.

DePue: And you say that was wonderful because...

Talley: Yes, because he never was treated that way. It's a small matter, actually, but they didn't ever do it. And his money, he never had a guardian for his money, either.

DePue: So he was able to retain more dignity in that respect?

Talley: More dignity, yeah. Yeah.

DePue: Did he have to agree, then, when you became guardian? Did he sign off on that?

Talley: Yes, he must have signed off on—well, I don't know. We went to court, and the judge was so glad, because we ended up there with myself, my doctor husband and my cousin, and we got this whole family, and the judge was so thrilled to see that there was somebody who had a whole family who wanted to take care of him. (laughs) He just made me custodian so that I had the right to fire this lady. She was claiming that he wanted to marry her.

DePue: Now, again, he's not able to earn any kind of income. I assume he's getting some kind of social security or pension.

Talley: No, he doesn't get social security, but he gets one hundred percent veterans' disability pay, so he gets, now, about \$3,200 per month.

DePue: And did he get something of your parents' estate to make sure that he would be comfortable for the rest of his life?

Talley: Yes. Yes. Yes.

DePue: Can you tell us a little bit about his life once he arrived here in Santa Fe?

Talley: Yeah, so he arrived here in Santa Fe, and—

DePue: And that was when, approximately?

Talley: Seventy-two or three. And actually, I had an ex-patient of mine from the hospital where I'd trained, who came at the same time, because I was working many hours a day, locked behind my door, so I couldn't really watch what was happening. So she watched out for him while I was working, and he couldn't find his way around the house for the *longest* time. And it was clear—this was now '72, from '52. This is twenty years. It's just sickening to think of it. Twenty years. And it was clear that he was younger—he was whatever he was. He was forty. He was young, and healthy, and all those things, but it was perfectly clear that there was no way to make a life. There's no way for him to have a life, and there was nothing to do about it. So he stayed with me for three months, and then I got, for him, a companion in New York, a wonderful young man who I found through the Catholic Church, I think it was, actually. And he had an apartment in an apartment hotel on the Upper West Side, near Columbia. And he went to New York, and liked this guy. The guy was wonderful. And that's where he lived, then, for I think it was about four years in all.

Then that young man needed to get on with his own life, and so he got a friend of his to take his place, and then that friend had to leave, and the friend got a friend, but by this time, Allen was disoriented by the changes. And one thing led to another.

My brother-in-law tried to help, and one other thing—he came to our place on Lake Ontario with my sister and brother-in-law, and Allen had an idea in his head, he wanted to go talk to some professor at Harvard. And that's all he would talk about. That's all he wanted to do. And so sometimes when you don't know what to do, you've got to do nothing. It's very important to know when you've got to do nothing. So we put him on a plane to Cambridge, to Boston. And we knew that in no time at all, he would not know what to do next, and the police would inquire about him, and know that he was a veteran, and within hours, he'd be in a veterans' hospital. So that's exactly what happened. He didn't know, when he got to the airport, what to do, or where to go, or anything about it, so the police put him in a veterans' hospital. And he didn't want to come to Santa Fe, because he was a New Yorker and whatnot. So he was in the hospital quite a long time.

DePue: Had you notified the police up in Boston area that this might be something they should be looking for?

Talley: That *he* would be looking? That they would—?

DePue: No, that...

Talley: Oh, yes. If you're in an airport and you don't know whether to go left or right, and after a while, somebody's going to stop and ask you. I mean, we knew.

DePue: But the family hadn't notified the police?

Talley: No, no, no. No, sometimes, when you don't know what to do, you must really do nothing. So we did nothing. We put him on the plane. And so then he was in the hospital about three months, and I talked to him a lot. They do all kinds of things. They get all kinds of medicines, and whatever, whatever. So finally he said he'd come to Santa Fe. So he came, and he's been here ever since. I don't know how many years that is, now –thirty five since he left Zurich.

DePue: Well, it sounds like, if doing any kind of math here, this might have been about 1977?

Talley: He's seventy-seven, and he was twenty-three, so it's fifty-four years.

DePue: But in 1977, when he would have come here, maybe, or somewhere around that time?

Talley: Yeah, somewhere around then, because it was '73 he got out, and he was three and a half years, surely, in—yeah -about '77, yeah, seventy-eight. Yeah.

DePue: And what kind of life have—between yourself, and your care givers, and Allen himself—have you been able to put together for him?

Talley: Well, he has his own house, and he has good caregivers, and I wouldn't call it a life, but Allen has *never* complained once about, "How could this happen to *me*?" That's just not the way he is. With his latest companion of twelve years he has taken trips in small guided groups to Alaska, the Panama Canal, even China.

DePue: Well, that in itself shows remarkable courage.

Talley: Yeah, this is just what happened, you know? But I've left out the whole paranoid thing, which started, already, in Washington. And that's a well-known thing for brain injury. You know? He starts off on the Jews, he said, "My father was a Nazi spy." He had actually been left-handed, and we changed his hands, and a whole litany of paranoid ideas. That paranoia lasted until he had been here in Santa Fe some while. So that would be like '77. These new—called atypical anti-psychotic –medicines were invented, and we tried them all on Allen, and the first one—oh, I'm going to forget the names right now – worked immediately, almost immediately, on his

paranoia. His paranoia was reduced by eighty percent. Also that whole thing that he told you about the mistranslation of the Bible was one of his paranoid things. So that cut that in half—oh, by eighty percent. And so that was a great blessing, I think, to him, and certainly to everybody around him. Then we tried a variety of other medicines.

Then his friend Peter Mueller, a neuropsychiatrist in Princeton, New Jersey that I told you I talked to on the phone, he tried a whole bunch of medicines on him to enable him to concentrate. Peter Mueller had been in both Exeter and Princeton with Allen, and was a great admirer of his. And he did everything under the sun to see if he couldn't focus his mind, and he really wasn't able to. But one of the things that Allen had been doing was he would... Once he took a chair outside, naked, and sat on the street outside his apartment. That lasted about half an hour, before the police came and picked him up, and he would wander away, or he'd call the police and tell them that he was being forcibly controlled. And so we had the police come all the time. Peter Mueller gave him a medicine; he felt that he maybe had temporal lobe epilepsy, which is not an epileptic kind of a thing, but it's different. And he gave him a medicine, and all that strange behavior stopped. So Peter Mueller was very helpful, but he was not able to do what he had hoped he could do, which was to give Allen concentration.

DePue: Apparently Allen wrote the article I read, and it talked about his early life. He talked about his time in the military. But he also talked in a very brief, thumbnail fashion about his life after the injury: he mentioned the time in Switzerland, he mentioned living at home, he mentioned the time in New York City, and obviously out here. And his description of his life out here included things like going to concerts, getting out, apparently going to religious services occasionally. That has been something he's been able to do?

Talley: Right. He has done that. In the beginning, he did quite a lot, and Bob Belknap, who was great friend of his in New York, was a professor of Russian at Columbia University, so he got interested in learning Russian. But he found he couldn't do these things, so he wouldn't try. He'd go to concerts, he would go—even went with one of his ambitious companions to where music was discussed. Because of course Allen knew a lot about music.

But he just wouldn't keep up with any of them, because he couldn't remember what he'd done the day before. So he has been in no danger, he's always been well taken care of, but it's very hard to see how he ever accumulated the patience that he's had to do this, to live this life.

DePue: How does he spend his days, then? Reading?

Talley: He reads a lot, and, I presume, can't remember what he reads. It isn't really learning. So he gets up very early in the morning, makes his own breakfast. Oh, that's one thing I wanted to say. During that period in New York, he was alone for weekends, because in New York, his memory would take him everywhere. It's he couldn't learn

new geography, but he could know old geography. And when he told you that he was mugged, the date he gave was wrong. He was mugged on one of those weekends, when he was going down somewhere to buy the *New York Times* on a Sunday morning. So it was quite different when he was in New York. But then he ran downhill just a little bit, because of not being able to really undertake it.

DePue: Does he ever occupy himself with watching TV or listening to the radio?

Talley: Yeah, he watches TV, and he reads a lot. He has endless magazines. We go to the library, and all the magazines that anybody else has left, he picks up and brings home. And then they go out, mostly, for lunch, and then he likes to shop. And they go to the store, and they just say, "Don't leave the store." He wanders around, looks at things.

DePue: Okay. So he *does* get out of the house quite a bit?

Talley: Oh, yes. He gets out of the house every day.

DePue: And he gets exercise?

Talley: And he doesn't like exercise, as he told you. Sports were not his thing, but they try and force him, because all these medicines do make you very fat. And that's why we left off some of the medicines, because they make you fat. And he's not on very much medicine now, but some.

DePue: Well, I'm sure he's much healthier by virtue of getting that exercise, too.

Talley: Oh, yes. Yes.

DePue: Okay. Anything else you'd like to say about the nature of his treatment or his conditions over the last...

Talley: Let's see. What would I like to say?

DePue: I mean, we have some closing questions that I want to finish up with, but...

Talley: All right. I would like to say that I think there must be more creative ways to create life for people like Allen, but it would take a very creative person to have... There's a village somewhere in Belgium where there are all kinds of people who are not completely normal, who live and manage their lives, so there *has* to be something more creative than sitting with a companion in a nice apartment, and eating your meals, and shopping. But I was not able to create it.

DePue: He's been blessed that he's had this family though.

Talley: Well, when I think of what other soldiers and other families would go through without the additional finances and connections, it's just heartbreaking.

DePue: And that's very much in the news right now, with the nature of some of these injuries that are coming out of Iraq, these traumatic brain injuries that are not uncommon.

Talley: Oh, I'm just beside myself in what that is for the family. I mean, it's just...

DePue: Because you, better than almost anybody else, have an appreciation for what that means.

Talley: Right, and of course Allen was never violent. Well, I mean, yes he was, sometimes, but he was endlessly patient in general. In the beginning, when he couldn't believe that this really was going as badly as it was, when he went to the first hospital, it would take three people to hold him down when he would get really angry—not wanting to go back to the hospital.

DePue: So he was just trying to get away?

Talley: He just couldn't believe that—yes, he didn't want to go back to the hospital, but he also couldn't live at home, because he was too lost. So I just can't believe what families are enduring now. I think that's all I want to say, that we must be more creative.

DePue: Well, let's take a different tack, if you will. As we've mentioned before, and anybody who reads American history knows full well, your family has an incredibly long tradition in the diplomatic service of statesmen and stateswomen. Two parts to this question: their view, and then your view on what happened in Vietnam.

Talley: Well, you know what? I was in Europe for virtually all of the Vietnam War, and nobody over there cared about it. And I was in training, I was visiting Allen. I had two small children as a single mom, and so Vietnam... I know more about Vietnam now from reading books about it than I knew at the time.

DePue: So this wasn't part of your...

Talley: This was not part of my... I mean, I was aware of what was happening, because I came home in the summers for a month with the children—but basically, that one passed me by.

DePue: And I don't know that you can answer this as far as the rest of your family, but for yourself, then, what's going on in Iraq today? There've been similarities drawn between Iraq and Vietnam, and Korea as well.

Talley: Right. Well, there's no words to describe how hard it is in Iraq, and how tragic, and how badly planned. I don't know. I mean, I just feel terrible. Terrible, terrible, terrible. Because I think the nature of the war is really going to scar people.

DePue: Let's get, again, some closing questions here, and these might be the kind of questions that you don't want to answer, and I would certainly understand. This has dramatically changed Allen's life, and everybody else in the family as well. Do you

think that Allen's sacrifice was justified? Was it worth it? Was the Korean War worth the cost?

Talley: That's something which I presumed at the time was, and I don't know where we're going to—in ten, fifteen years from now—how we're going to see all those efforts. I certainly saw the beginning of the Cold War in Austria, because I was in Austria '45 to the middle of '47, and I saw the Russians. Because my husband had been in the underground, I know that the Russians really looked with great suspicion on anybody who'd worked with the Allies, so I saw the whole beginning of the Cold War in actuality—the kidnapping of people who had been in the underground, Austrians who'd been in the underground or allied to the Americans. With my own husband, we never could say on the telephone where he was going or anything like that, because the Russians might pick him up. So I saw the Cold War. But I also think we overdid the Cold War, and my own sense is that whenever a country is really terrified for their security, they do ridiculous things. Overdo things. So that's sort of what I think.

DePue: I'd like to have you take your perspective on this. What happened to Allen obviously tragically changed his life forever after. But it also had incredible impact on your life. How did it change your life, and maybe not so much in the obvious ways, but in ways that, looking back at today, surprise you, or change your outlook on things?

Talley: I don't know. I think that one of the ways that I cope with the difficulties of life is to undertake to manage them, and I've been caretaker to my brother. I had all the excitements and obligations of being a mother, and having a profession. So life went on, and as you can see when I start to cry, the emotional part of this is buried under the efficiency of taking care of him.

DePue: Well, that seems to be a Dulles family trait as well. This has obviously been an important experience for you, to have the opportunity to have Allen interviewed, and all. What do you want people to know today about Allen, and about what he has done, and about his challenges after his injury?

Talley: I think more than anything, what I just said before is that we have to do better. We have to find more creative and more diverse ways of living, and finding alternative ways to cope with—if we're not going to get rid of war, we've got to do better with the victims of war. And I see no sign anywhere on the horizon that we're going to stop war. So I want something better and different, and I don't know what you do. They say we have—what do we say—thirty, forty thousand wounded from Iraq?

DePue: I don't know the numbers, but that certainly sounds like it could be.

Talley: Yeah. And I don't know how you deal with that number, but that's what I would say I want people to learn from Allen, is can't we do better? Can't we do better than returning people to this conventional life when they are unconventional people?

DePue: Your whole family has lived exemplary lives. Certainly Allen has, the tragedy of his life, but certainly his early life, and even how he's borne with the incredible

circumstances that he's been faced with, and you as well. So what wisdom or advice would you offer to future generations?

Talley: Well, I guess... I don't know. People sometimes ask me what is different about now and when I was growing up. When I was growing up, America was wonderful, and now, it's a lucky place to live, but there seems to be a lot to question. Actually, what's happening now is that the secrecy that used to cover everything about the way life was done. The way *I* lived, everything—that's what money does for you. It gives you security, and beauty, and this, and that, and the other, and you don't have to worry.

DePue: It kind of insulates you?

Talley: Insulates you from what's really going on. Now people can't stop telling you about what's wrong, and it's very hard to evaluate how wrong it really is. So we're in a turmoil of negativity now, and people don't believe in America the same way. Certainly they don't see America the way they saw it before. That's the biggest difference. And what would I say about that? I think we have to take from the reality. We have to have a new idea about the reality of life as being quite different than we thought it was, and to live with it.

DePue: Any final closing comments on your part?

Talley: No, I don't think so. (laughs)

DePue: Well, I know this hasn't always been easy for you, and I very much appreciate your taking the time to ask the questions, and to be very sincere and open with how you went through this whole process. And I want to thank you, especially, for your hospitality with me, as well—

Talley: Yes.

DePue: —in coming here. It's been my honor and privilege to do this.

Talley: Right. Well, I do want to say one more thing, which is that I haven't been able to ... make life easy for my brother, but I *really* am happy that there will be this tiny bit of him in Korea, for people to read and see, because this has meant a *lot* to me.

DePue: With that, thank you very much.

Talley: Yeah. Thank you.

(end of interview)

NB: Text changes in brackets [] were provided by Joan Talley.