

11-1995

Interview no. 884

Richard C. White

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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

INTERVIEWEE: Richard C. White (1923-)

INTERVIEWER: Terrie Cornell

PROJECT: _____

DATE OF INTERVIEW: September 2, 9, October 21, 28, November 4, 11, 1995

TERMS OF USE: Unrestricted

TAPE NO: 884

TRANSCRIPT NO: _____

TRANSCRIBER: _____

BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Born in El Paso, Texas, April 29, 1923; third generation El Pasoan; attended El Paso High and Texas College of Mines; served as a Marine in WWII in Pacific Theater; received LL.B. from University of Texas law school in 1949; trial lawyer in El Paso, 1949-1964; began political career as Democratic precinct chairman and won first election to Texas House of Representatives in 1954; member of Texas House of Representatives, 1955-1958; won election to U.S. House of Representatives, 16th Congressional District, 1964; re-elected and served three more terms until decision to retire from Congress in 1981 when he resumed law practice in El Paso.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

Discusses three generations of family history in El Paso, childhood experiences, memories of the Depression; fully details his combat experiences in the U.S. Marine Corps in Pacific Theater in WWII; recounts his political campaigns; discusses opponents; details political career (Democrat- Texas House of Representatives, 1954-1958, U.S. House of Representatives, 16th Congressional District, 1964-1981; offers personal anecdotes about Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson and John Kennedy, Mexican Presidents Adolfo López Mateos and Gustavo Díaz Ordaz, and Speaker of the House, Sam Rayburn; discusses major accomplishments while in Congress as member of House Interior Committee (Chamizal National Memorial, Border Highway, Castner Range, William Beaumont Army Medical Center, Guadalupe Mountains National Park) and as member of House Armed Services Committee; describes congressional trips and personal meetings with world leaders Anwar Sadat, King Faisal, Indira Gandhi. (A complete outline accompanies tapes)

Length of Interview: 12 hours, 30 min. **Length of Transcript:** _____