

John E. Amos Oral History Interview – 8/6/1965
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Biographical Note

Amos, Democratic National Committeeman from West Virginia and delegate to the Democratic National Convention comments upon his activities in these roles, along with discussing West Virginia politics and the reaction to the Kennedy Administration, and offers reflections on John F. Kennedy as a candidate and as a President, among other issues.

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By John E. Amos

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JOHN E. AMOS

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Oral History Interview

with

John E. Amos

August 6, 1965
Charleston, West Virginia

By William L. Young

For the John F. Kennedy Library

YOUNG: This is an interview with Mr. John E. Amos of Charleston, West Virginia. The interview is taking place on August 6, 1965, in Mr. Amos' office in the Kanawha Valley Building in Charleston, Room 1020. Mr. Amos, I wonder if we might begin with your telling me a little bit about your activities in West Virginia politics prior to the 1960 primary.

AMOS: I was active here in Kanawha County in elections until 1934 when I became a candidate for the House of Delegates representing Kanawha County. I was elected in 1934 and served in the sessions of '35, '39, '41, '43, '45, '47, and the extraordinary sessions during that time. I was Speaker of the House in the sessions of '43, '45, and '47. I was elected to the State Senate from this district in 1948 for a four-year term, and at its expiration for a second four-year term which ended in 1956. I was Majority Leader for the Senate and Chairman of the Judiciary Committee there.

In 1958 I was asked by our two Democratic senatorial candidates, Byrd [Robert C. Byrd] and Randolph [Jennings Randolph], to manage the state campaign in the off year election against Senators Chapman Revercomb [William C. Revercomb] and John D. Hoblitzell, Jr., two Republicans. I did so. We won that election, and Byrd and Randolph took their seats in the United States Senate in 1959. In the spring, 1959, the late Mr. Arthur B. Koontz, who had long been National Committeeman, resigned, and I was elected by the State Executive Committee to the post of National Committeeman from West Virginia. I served in that position for about six years, or until after the nomination of Vice President

Johnson in 1964. This led me to the seat of a delegate in the 1960 convention held in Los Angeles at which President Kennedy was nominated, and the 1964 convention in Atlantic City.

YOUNG: Mr. Amos, would you give me a little bit about your background interest in the presidential candidates and your interest in the 1958 West Virginia senatorial race leading up to the presidential primary.

AMOS: In 1958 the Republicans had the governor of this state and both US senators from West Virginia. The Democratic Party was financially very weak. This made the 1958 campaign a very difficult one to manage and run. That campaign was really run on a shoe string. The Democrats in the state were disenchanted with our Republican Governor, Mr. [Cecil H. Underwood] Underwood, with our Republican senators, and with President Eisenhower because of the fact there was a feeling all of these people had forgotten that West Virginia even existed. It was impossible to get President Eisenhower to recognize that the economy of West Virginia was going downhill very rapidly and that we needed help badly. It was very difficult to get any aid from the federal government in West Virginia. Plants were being located in all other states, but none in West Virginia. We had no military installations, no governmental offices located here that were of any importance in the matter of employment. We entered the campaign with what I felt was a ground swell in our favor, but no finances at all with which to run the election.

Needing help as badly as we did, I went to Washington and had conferences with Democratic leaders in the House and the Senate. I had known Senator Johnson who was then Minority Leader in the Senate, the Senate being Republican. I went to see him on several occasions. A friendship grew between us. He was very anxious to see us elect two Democratic senators which would give a Democratic majority in the Senate. He helped us greatly in the campaign. He came to Welch, West Virginia, and made a speech there at my insistence. He appeared at Bluefield on another occasion. He came to Clarksburg and made a speech there for us. He made two or three other appearances in West Virginia as Minority Leader of the Senate and was very helpful to us in other ways in the campaign of 1958. We elected two Democratic senators from West Virginia. After they were elected, the US Senate had a majority of Democrats. Then, Senator Johnson ran for Majority Leader of the Senate and was elected with the support of Senators Byrd and Randolph.

Our friendship continued down to the election of 1960. I was frequently in Washington and visited Senator Johnson's office on several occasions when he was Majority Leader of the Senate during that period. I grew to like him. He was, as leaders of the government frequently are, a man of great personal magnetism. He was, of course, a staunch Democrat, and he had a soft spot in his heart for the state of West Virginia, which meant a lot to me.

In late '59 and early '60, speculation began as to whether or not Johnson would run for the presidency. I never discussed this with him although I discussed it with some of the people who were around him. They didn't know if he would stand for the presidency or not. There was speculation about [Adlai E. Stevenson] Stevenson, Senator Symington [W.

Stuart Symington], Senator [Hubert H. Humphrey] Humphrey and Senator Kennedy. In the fall of 1959 or spring of 1960, Senator Kennedy sent word that he would like to see me on one of my visits to Washington. I went to see him--I can't remember the exact date--I believe it was the spring of 1960. We chatted briefly in his office. The meeting was ended with the statement from the Senator that he supposed political thinking in West Virginia had not jelled to the point where any one of the persons mentioned for the presidency was in popular demand and ahead of any one of the candidates. I agreed that this was the case. The conversation ended there with a parting statement by each of us that we would get together at a later date. This was not done.

I felt an obligation to Senator Johnson because of his great aid to us in the 1958 election, because of the important committee appointments he gave our two senators which was very helpful to the state of West Virginia, and because I liked him personally and thought he was a great leader. I did not, at that time, consider Senator Kennedy as a very serious presidential candidate. I did think that Senator Humphrey would run for the presidency.

You know the history of the primary campaign in Wisconsin in which Senator Kennedy trounced Senator Humphrey. Senator Kennedy sent his people to West Virginia to talk about entering the primary here. I don't recall whether it was O'Brien [Lawrence F. O'Brien] or some other of his people that came to see me at his insistence to ask that I thought about getting into a presidential primary race in West Virginia. I told him at that time that I didn't think it was a good idea because it couldn't help but present to the nation the very worst picture of West Virginia, that it would accomplish no purpose as far as delegates were concerned since the winning or losing of a presidential primary in West Virginia wouldn't control how delegates would vote in the Convention. In other words, the result of the primary did not bind our Convention delegates. I told them that I felt obligated to support Senator Johnson at the Convention because of the great help he had loaned us in the elections and because of the great aid he had been to West Virginia. I had not made such a statement to Senator Johnson at that time. Senator Kennedy did enter the primary against Senator Humphrey and won that primary overwhelmingly. I was very sorry for, and sympathetic toward, Senator Humphrey because he was so much the underdog from the standpoint of finances and from the standpoint of other aid. He had a most difficult time running for the presidency in the presidential primary in 1960 here in West Virginia. He made a fine, clean fight of it. He had such resources in people and money against him that his cause was hopeless. The presidential primary which resulted here was detrimental to the picture of West Virginia which is held by the nation and the world. We received a lot of bad publicity; our worst side was publicized. It is true that the presidential primary did not control the delegates since both Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Johnson got votes from West Virginia.

As for my role in the presidential primary in West Virginia, it was a role of non-participation you might say. I was besieged every day by reporters who came to West Virginia representing the *New York Herald Tribune*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, some of the weeklies, *Life*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, etc. All were very much interested in publicizing the campaign in West Virginia. I took no part in the presidential primary campaign.

During these days the Kennedy people set up their own organizations. They had one called the Citizens for Kennedy and others, the names of which I have forgotten. These organizations carried the burden of the work for Kennedy's cause. After the primary was over and they had won handsomely, and after the Senator had been nominated as presidential candidate, the campaign was continued in West Virginia by these groups who were given authority and recognized to a greater degree than the regular Democratic organization in the state in my opinion.

YOUNG: Mr. Amos, how possible would it have been for either candidate in the presidential primary to get the support of any regularly organized Democratic organization in the state, and would you comment on the condition of the state Democratic organization at that time?

AMOS: There wasn't any effective statewide organization at that time because we had a Republican governor and because all the patronage was controlled by the Republicans. The state organization, which is the big organizations in politics, was Republican. The use of the regular Democratic organization in that primary would have been helpful, but not as helpful as in usual times when the organization of the state government was Democratic, such as now.

YOUNG: Mr. Amos, before we move on to the convention, if you don't mind, I'd like to ask you some questions again about the primary. Do you think there were some discernible differences in terms of policy, in terms of program platform -- left, right, that sort of thing in terms of Senator Humphrey and Senator Kennedy in their battle in the primary.

AMOS: There were none that I recall. Their platforms and public utterances were just about the same.

YOUNG: Then, would you list the things that you regard as most successful in terms of Senator Kennedy's victory.

AMOS: The things I regard as most helpful to the Senator were his great personal magnetism, his friendliness, his genuine-concern for the plight of West Virginia, particularly the coal fields; the help he got from so many of his supporters, including his wife and his immediate family the great financial resources he had with which to carry on an effective campaign. Those are the things that were most helpful to him. Of course, Senator Humphrey was a powerful speaker. His rallies were well attended. People like him; they liked what he had to say, but, by and large, the Kennedy people had a political organization which got through to the various county organizations in southern West Virginia. This was most effective in the primary. Senator Humphrey just didn't have the people or the finances to make an impression on the various county organizations which, of course, took over in the absence of any Democratic state administration.

YOUNG: Mr. Amos, it is not a part of this tape but when we were talking before we started the interview, you used the term, "political hindsight." I wonder if we might use political hindsight now. Had the Humphrey forces had an equality with the Kennedy forces in terms of family and financing, etc., how much do you think it might have changed the outcome of the election? Would it have made any difference?

AMOS: This is very difficult to say. Senator Humphrey, as you know, is a very personable man. This is an area on which he commented very frequently in public during the campaign. He talked about the fact that he didn't have sufficient finances, and that the other side had all they wanted, that he didn't have as large a family as the Kennedys, that the Kennedy's had all the people that they needed. Although he did it in a joking way, you could tell that both of these were areas where he was being hurt pretty badly.

YOUNG: In other words, a little more resources might have made a difference in the outcome you think.

AMOS: It certainly would have made a difference in the majority. A little more resources and some people who knew how to use them, an organization that knew what to do with them.

YOUNG: I'd like to go on to one of the issues of the campaign. West Virginia presumably was selected because it was a Protestant state. Do you believe that religion was an issue, or was it an exaggerated issue? Could you just evaluate the issue of religion in the primary?

AMOS: Nearly all of the newspaper people that came here tried to make it an issue. In their interviews with me that was usually the first topic which was mentioned. I don't think it was a great issue in this state, and I don't think that there was ever any indication that it would be a great issue in this state. I don't think it had any great effect on the election. While West Virginia may be a state which has often been described as poor, we do not have a great deal of religious bigotry here. We never have had any great difficulty between the Protestant and Catholic groups. In a way it was helpful to him because a great many people of the Catholic faith, who had never participated to my knowledge in elections, became greatly interested in Senator Kennedy's election and were very helpful to him among the independent groups who hadn't been involved much in organized politics up to this time. Of course, by and large, Catholics in West Virginia are predominantly Democratic. While they weren't segregated as to religion in our organizations, there were quite a few Catholics who held office in West Virginia. I never noticed any resentment toward political candidates in the state because of their religion. We had Catholics on our Supreme Court and nothing was ever said about it. We had Catholics in other offices in the state and nothing was ever said about it, until this election. I mean nothing of any real moment. There was never any controversy or any public contest on account of religion. Does that answer your question?

YOUNG: It leads to another one. Do you think that any Protestants felt that, if they didn't vote for Kennedy, they were bigots; that Kennedy was the recipient of kind of a double backlash, and the underdog principle was at work? I'm not sure whether I have stated the question very clearly. Were the Kennedy forces deliberately taken advantage of, or were they the recipients of kind of a bigotry in reverse? "I will vote for this man to prove that I am broad-minded."

AMOS: I suppose that there were some people who followed that line of reasoning. Nobody knows what happens to a man's thinking when he enters a voting booth, and what he does there in privacy is his own business. It could be that that had some influence. It made our people here angry when the press carried stories about certain sections being anti-Kennedy because of his religion. I do know that.

YOUNG: Mr. Amos, how widespread was the feeling as the primary dates approached that a vote for Senator Humphrey might indeed be a vote for Senator Johnson, or did this exist at all?

AMOS: It did exist to some extent. People inquired of me about it. It was thought that Senator Humphrey had Senator Johnson's support although it never became manifest in any public utterance or in anything done here in West Virginia prior to the primary. It certainly didn't help him very much.

YOUNG: In terms of political effectiveness much has been made of the support of Mrs. Roosevelt [Eleanor Roosevelt] and Franklin Roosevelt, Jr [Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr.]. Would you comment on that as you saw it?

AMOS: Their support helped Senator Kennedy a great deal. Mrs. Roosevelt had been very active in West Virginia during the depression. She has a village in Putnam County named for her, Eleanor, West Virginia. She had tried a thing in Randolph County, just outside of Elkin, which helped our situation there to a great extent, the building of a community to house homeless folk. She had been many times to Charleston and to southern West Virginia and was greatly loved by our people. Her support of Kennedy certainly had a marked effect. One of the sons, of course, went to Logan County and appeared there. I think that was effective in aiding Senator Kennedy as far as public acceptance was concerned. The Roosevelt name is a good name in West Virginia. All these appearances made by the Roosevelts were helpful to him, although I still think that the greatest help he got at that time was through his acceptance by Democratic county organizations in West Virginia, and particularly in southern West Virginia.

YOUNG: Mr. Amos, before we move on to the National Convention and then the fall election, do you have any other observations at all on the primary that you think might be interesting or valuable?

AMOS: Just that looking back on it, we seem to lose sight of the fact that Senator Kennedy wasn't very well known when he entered the Wisconsin primary and when he entered the West Virginia primary. As he became better known, people grew to love him. As I say, he had great personal magnetism; he met people well. He had a way about him that was most attractive to people. In talking about these other things, I am fearful we detract from the man's own ability as a campaigner and the public image he created for himself. As the campaign went on, there's no denying that he presented a picture of reality, vim, vigor, health, honesty, and integrity that was difficult for any candidate to match. I don't want the remarks that I've made to detract from those personal qualities which Senator Kennedy had at that time. They just weren't well known to us.

YOUNG: Mr. Amos, would you like to go on and discuss your role at the Convention in 1960 and any observations or memories you may have of the Convention.

AMOS: The first memory that strikes me about the Convention is the poor quarters we had in Los Angeles. [Laughter] We were housed there in a hotel along with Kentucky which didn't afford us the very best accommodations, and our delegates complained a good bit about it. Of course, it is the duty of the National Committeeman to try to get for his delegation the very best quarters he can. Governor Combs [Bert T. Combs] of Kentucky, who was their National Committeeman, had the same difficulty with his people, although since he was governor they didn't say as much about it.

YOUNG: You got more heat.

AMOS: Yes, sir, I did. The Convention was at the outset a runaway for Senator Kennedy. I had thought that the Texas people would do a good bit for Senator Johnson, but this support didn't materialize. Of course, it was Senator Kennedy, Senator Johnson, and Mr. Stevenson. We had some people locally who liked Mr. Stevenson very much. One of them was Ned Chilton and another one was W. T. "Suey" Brotherton, Jr., both of whom were delegates. We had some people who liked Senator Johnson very much, and, of course, we had a greater number who liked Senator Kennedy.

I organized meetings of our delegation at which the candidates were invited to appear. Mr. Stevenson sent his son; Mr. Symington sent his son to one of those meetings; Mr. Johnson came to one of those meetings, and Mr. Kennedy sent Robert Kennedy [Robert F. Kennedy] and possibly one other of his brothers -- I don't recall at the moment. Anyway, the matter was pursued with a thought to giving each an opportunity to appear before the full delegation.

As I said before, the outcome of the presidential primary in West Virginia did not control or bind in any way the delegates from West Virginia to the National Convention. I had committed myself to Senator Johnson, and so had some others in the delegation,

although I did not actively seek the support of delegates for Senator Johnson. I sought support for Senator Johnson from some delegates in this way; that is, by telling them what I was going to do and what Senator Johnson had done for the state of West Virginia in the election of 1958, and what he had done for our two senators in the way of committee appointments after they got to Washington. This was impressive to some of our people. Partially because of this and partially for other reasons, Senator Johnson got about seven or eight votes from West Virginia.

YOUNG: Mr. Amos, would you answer this in the best way you can. Do you think any votes were effectively changed at the Convention or did everybody go there with their minds pretty well made up?

AMOS: Everybody went there with their minds pretty well made up. I don't know of any vote that might have been changed at the Convention, except one, and I'll not go into that. One of our people was undecided and, I think, remained honestly undecided until the voting took place at the Convention. This vote, you might say, was changed, or perhaps a better way to put it is that it was not decided until the voting started at the Convention.

YOUNG: Mr. Amos, since you obviously were the only Democratic National Committeeman at that time, would you say a word about President Kennedy's use of, or lack of use of, cooperation with the Democratic National Committee, and then compare this with the National Committee during the Eisenhower years and then under any Democratic president you may know about?

AMOS: The National Committee was given more recognition and was used more by President Truman than any other Democratic president during my time. This is a matter of observation and a result of conversations I have had with Mr.

Koontz who preceded me on the National Committee from West Virginia. It's one of the facts of life that the people on the National Committee are political leaders when the opposite party is in power. This is true because the elected people, such as the President on the national scene and the Governor on the state scene, are actually the political leaders. When the country has elected people of their own political flavor, the Committee loses a good deal of its leadership. It is transferred to the elected officials. After Senator Kennedy was elected President, the Committee decreased in political importance because practically all of the patronage was handled by those people who had surrounded Senator Kennedy during the campaign and by his brother, Robert Kennedy, who passed on most of his political appointments from the state of West Virginia. I know that I, as National Committeeman, was never consulted about any political appointment from West Virginia. This is true of the Johnson Administration so far. I don't think they're consulting the people on the National Committee about appointees. The National Committee is fairly ineffective when the President and the Governor are of their party.

YOUNG: Mr. Amos, I wonder if we might turn, then, to your evaluation of President Kennedy's commitments to West Virginia. and West Virginia's reaction to the Kennedy Administration.

AMOS: President Kennedy tried his very best to keep all of his commitments to West Virginia; and, I think, insofar as the Congress supported him, he did keep those commitments. His heart was in trying to help West Virginia, and I think that he did help West Virginia, as he had promised to do. The second part of your question was....

YOUNG: I wondered if we might go on to something you and I were talking about privately a few minutes ago, having an ear to the White House and your own feelings about who would be in a position in West Virginia to make the contacts in Washington.

AMOS. Under President Kennedy--under that Administration--McDonough [Robert P. McDonough] Bob, a West Virginian who had supported President Kennedy in an all-out fashion even before the Presidential primary in 1960, had the ear of the White House and the ear of Robert Kennedy, who became Attorney General, and was "very effective in helping West Virginia with the national administration.

YOUNG: I guess the second part of that question was, in West Virginia reaction to Kennedy was there any feeling of disappointment, any criticism of the Kennedy Administration as well as praise?

AMOS: By and large, our citizens felt that President Kennedy was keeping his promises to West Virginia and their opinion of him as President was the highest. You have asked me about the effect on the national, or perhaps international public image of West Virginia as a result of the presidential primary being held here -this state to some extent being thought of as a factory for Presidents, or at least one President. I have already touched on the fact that I think that the publicity West Virginia got out of the presidential primary campaign was one that I would rather the state had not had. Our areas of unemployment are not unlike those in Pennsylvania, east Kentucky, east Tennessee and western Virginia. They have areas that are just as depressed as any areas that we have. Yet our areas were blown up out of all proportion. We were given a bad public image nationally, whereas the other places equally as bad were hardly talked of at all. I don't think it helped us at all in this area. I think it made industry more reluctant to come into West Virginia than they had been. Industries don't move in through sympathy; at least this is my opinion. I don't think it helped our public image at all; I think it hurt it.

The second part of your question was, if I get it clearly, what effect this campaign -had on the Democratic political organization in West Virginia. Of course, it has made the political organization much stronger than it was prior to the election because before the election this state and the nation were Republican. The Democrats in West Virginia

had no statewide patronage, no statewide officers around with which to build an effective political organization. The election changed all that. The Democratic party in West Virginia is much stronger, many times stronger, from a standpoint of being effectively organized than it was prior to the election. This comes about because the Democrats hold important state offices and because they have programs which, I feel, they are effectively pursuing. Winning the election gave them the strength and the officers with which to pursue these programs. These programs have public acceptance. On the organizational side, they have more county officers. More counties are Democratic. All of these things lend themselves to a stronger local and state organization than existed prior to the 1960 election.

YOUNG: Mr. Amos, I wonder if you would say a word about the Democratic party between the primary and the general election, and the result of the general election in West Virginia in the fall of 1960, and your role in it.

AMOS: I worked very hard, as hard as I was permitted to, for the election of the whole Democratic ticket in the general election in the fall of 1960. As you know, we were successful. We elected Governor Barron [William W. Barron] and the Democratic senators again, both of whom had been elected in '58 to fill unexpired terms and of course gave Senator Kennedy a majority for the presidency. As I recall, his majority was not as much as the governor's and possibly other statewide officers such as the two senators'. You ask me to what I attribute this. I could just speculate and say that in the primary where he did so well he was running in a two-horse race where he ran with great support financially. He had the support of people who knew how to make the most of his strength. Senator Humphrey was the underdog in both of those categories. That really made for a one-sided result.

In the fall he had different things to contend with. He was running on the same ticket with people running for sheriff, people running for governor, and people running for state senate, county court--all the other statewide and countywide offices. His campaign wasn't pinpointed to the same extent that it had been in the primary. Many of those who helped him in the primary were looking out for themselves in the general election. The support was for the general ticket rather than for him exclusively. Although his people came in the fall in the general election and supported him very strongly, he was thinner spread when he got himself into the election all over the United States than he had been in the primary. He wasn't able to concentrate on West Virginia as he had been able to do in that primary.

I don't know how much of this you attribute to religion. There were, of course, some people, some Protestants, who would not vote for Senator Kennedy because he was a Catholic. In the general election, they had a choice of voting for him or Nixon [Richard M. Nixon]. On the other hand, there were many Catholics who voted the Democratic ticket because Senator Kennedy was a Catholic. This might have leveled off -- it certainly didn't hurt him in the primary which would be indicative of what happened in the general election. You have to remember that, except for his campaigning in West Virginia in the primary, Senator Kennedy had no political background in West Virginia; he wasn't well known in West Virginia at all. It's true that he had made quite an exciting race for the vice presidency four years before, but he was unsuccessful in that. Only a few working

politicians remembered it when he came to West Virginia to campaign in 1960. Does that answer your question?

YOUNG: Yes. This is the end of the first side of the reel of an interview with Mr. John Amos. The second side will follow on the other edge of the tape.

[END SIDE 1, TAPE 1]

[BEGIN SIDE 2, TAPE 1]

YOUNG: This is the second side of a tape of an interview with Mr. John E. Amos of Charleston, West Virginia, in his office in the Kanawha Valley Building, Room 1020. The interview is on August 6, 1965. Mr. Amos, as we bring our discussion of the late President Kennedy to a close, do you have any further observations?

AMOS: It was my impression back in the fall of 1959 that there was a great indecision in the Senate, and among politicians generally, about the kind of candidate Senator Kennedy would make; whether he would be able to win or not. I think that the campaigns in Wisconsin and in West Virginia helped convince those people in the Senate who later supported him and knowledgeable politicians like Matt McCloskey [Matthew H. McCloskey], Governor Lawrence [David L. Lawrence] of Pennsylvania, and many others who are astute politicians, that he had the vim, vigor, vitality, the campaigning ability, and the personality to make as good a race as any Democrat possibly could. I've been stating quite a few opinions at your insistence. Looking, back on it, I don't think that Johnson could have won as a presidential candidate in the election in the fall of 1960. I don't think Kennedy could have won without Johnson on the ticket. It was most difficult for the Republicans to combat a ticket made up of a New England Catholic and a southern Protestant. This was a combination which proved successful, although by a very small margin.

Senator Kennedy made a very fine President. He probably would have had a better record had he been able to get more of his programs through the Congress. He was, and must be remembered, as somewhat of a newcomer in the Senate. The same tactics that those who surrounded him used in pressing his political fortunes in elections weren't the tactics to be used in approaching members of Congress. Maybe that's an unfair commentary, but, in any event, for whatever reason, I think that those who represented him in his senatorial and House efforts didn't do as good a job as they did in the election. I think if he'd had probably a little different, a little better representation, that more of his program would have been passed. In any event, he made a wonderful President while he was in office, much better than I thought he would make.

YOUNG: Mr. Amos, a few minutes ago when we were talking between changing the reels, you said a word about President Kennedy's program on race, civil rights, and any reaction you noticed in West Virginia. Could you make a brief comment on that?

AMOS: Yes, I think the racial aspect hurt President Kennedy in the general election. Of course, there's not much difference between the position Senator Kennedy had and the position Senator Humphrey had on the race question, and so there was not much for people to choose between, as between Kennedy and Humphrey, in the presidential primary. Both of them were very liberal in this area. This may have had something to do with the fact that Senator Kennedy ran somewhat behind the ticket although he won the election in the fall in 1960.

YOUNG: This has been an interview with Mr. John E. Amos of Charleston, West Virginia. The interview was conducted in Mr. Amos' office, 1020 Kanawha Valley Building, Charleston, West Virginia. The interview was conducted on 6 August, 1965 by William L. Young. This is the end of the second side of the tape and the end of the interview.

[END OF INTERVIEW]

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