

accountants." Of course, he pushed the fact that to bring anybody from the outside would be to make the office political. Now, my own thinking in this was this was probably what Senator Hayden and Senator Bridges were thinking about when they

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decided no. That's really what they said: No, promote from within. I was moved into that position from Chief Bookkeeper at the time. So this is where I came in.

Of course, I had some other dealings with Senator Bridges because he was on our Appropriations Subcommittee, the Legislative Subcommittee, and I used to go down to the hearings with Bob to assist him however I could. I got to know him and I respected the man very much. His first impression made a good impression on me, even though I was a young fellow at the time and he was older and certainly more in tune with the political arena that is here in the Senate. He impressed me in the decision that was made then. For me, I say it was good, but I think for the Senate it was good. It did keep the office in a non-partisan, non-patronage situation. And that's the way it ought to be.

RITCHIE: Well, you pointed out that the Financial Clerks had a string of tragedies, but it seems to me that you spent a long career there and came out doing pretty well. Whatever the curse of the others was you seem to have broken it.

RIDGELY: I don't know what it is, but I have to say that I've never had any yen to die with my boots on. I've always said that I walked out of there in sound mind and good health, and I'm grateful.

RITCHIE: Well, I think that's a real tribute to you.

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RIDGELY: It was just a tremendous experience, from the first day that I came to work here to the day I left. It's always been interesting because never do you get one day that is a shadow of another day. They just don't work that way. It always kept the job that interesting.

End of Interview #3

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