



Suite 412
444 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001
202/737-3220

August 28, 1987

Name
Newspaper
Street Address
City, State Zip

Dear:

This Labor Day, C-SPAN's "American Profiles" series features hour-long interviews with Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-IN) and Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), two Members fresh from the Iran-Contra hearings.

Throughout the year, C-SPAN conducts interviews with prominent Americans for telecasts on national holidays. Our "American Profiles" interview series is an opportunity for C-SPAN viewers to see an in-depth, personal portrait of public figures.

Sen. Orrin Hatch was chosen this holiday for his key Senate Judiciary Committee assignment in the 100th Congress. Mr. Hatch offers personal reflections on his life and career, as well as insights into the American political process.

For your review, I have excerpted lengthy quotes on three different topics of discussion: 1) the impact of Mormonism on his life and political career, 2) his initial decision to enter politics and 3) the forthcoming Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on the Supreme Court nomination of Judge Robert Bork.

The following excerpts may be used for publication; however, they should be held for release until September 7th (am papers). I think you and your readers will be interested in tuning-in to the interview with Sen. Orrin Hatch which airs at 9:00 am, 7:00 pm, and 2:00 am (overnight) ET on Monday, September 7.

Sincerely,

Rosemarie M. Colao
Press Liaison



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HOLD FOR RELEASE
September 7, 1987

CONTACT: Rosemarie M. Colao
Nan Gibson

Excerpts from a C-SPAN interview with Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah). Airs Monday, September 7, 1987 at 9:00am, 7:00pm and 2:00am ET.

What about Mormonism and the impact on your life? How important was it?

"My dad was a Mormon. My mother was a Methodist, but she joined the Mormon Church after studying it for two years. There were the young Mormon missionaries who taught her, and because of that, our home became a haven for young Mormon missionaries. I can't tell you all the times I slept on the floor so a Mormon missionary could take my bed, as bad as it was. I didn't have a very expensive bed, but it was at least better than the floor. I attribute my bad back to that as of today because I must have slept on the floor so much that it affected me. But, it also had a tremendous effect on us because we had these wonderful, young, spiritual Mormon missionaries in and out of our house all the time, and they just had a tremendous influence on me.

"It's [Mormonism] been the single most important impact, outside of family, because my folks raised us as very religious children. We were always taken to Church. No matter how poor we were, we got into the old family car and we made it to Church. It would take us about a half-hour to get to Church one way and a half-hour back. We'd go in the morning, then we'd go in the evening again, every Sunday. I have hundreds, if not thousands of Mormon missionaries having an imprint and influence on my life as they would come out and eat with us, poor food that we had. My mother always had enough for them to eat. When I became twenty years of age, after two years at the Brigham Young University, I went on a mission for the Church for two solid years to Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. What young Mormon missionaries do is they give two years of their own time, at their own expense - which is what I did, I worked in the building construction trades unions and helped to pay my own way and my folks subsidized the rest of the mission. And, for two years, you just give of yourself to help people. It's basically helping people, helping them to understand about our beliefs, helping people in distress, helping the poor, the sick, and the needy. It was a terrific influence on my life as it is for the thirty-thousand young Mormon missionaries who go out every year in the Mormon Church."

You went to Brigham Young University out of high school, out of Pittsburgh. What impact did Brigham Young University have on you?

"Well, as you know, Brigham Young University is the largest private-owned institution in America and it's completely owned by the Mormon Church and it's a remarkable institution. I think that it's the finest environment for an undergraduate student in America today, or in the world today. Because, as you go to Brigham Young University, you're expected to live dress standards, moral standards, health standards, all of which are easy to live, really, if you think about it, and they're the right way to live. They're the way to having less problems in life. But in addition to that, every student at the Brigham Young University, whether they are Mormons or non-Mormons, took two credits of religion courses every quarter or semester. It was just a tremendously powerful and wonderful influence on my life. It was in the middle of my college years that I went on a mission for two years for the Mormon Church and, of course, that was to me the greatest education I've ever received anywhere, anytime, including law school

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or including post-law school and some of the post-graduate things I've done."

What's the first moment you remember saying, 'I want to do that. I want to go for the United States Senate.'?

"It was odd. I didn't like our then-Senator. I didn't dislike him personally, but I didn't like his politics. ... Frank Moss, Ted Moss was his name. He's a nice man, but I felt he would have represented Massachusetts well, but not the state of Utah, a very liberal democrat. They had four Republicans already in the race, but I did not believe any of them could beat him. He had won, to begin with, on what really was a fluke. ... I anguished about it, and I was trying to figure out which one I could support, and finally some of my friends said, 'Why don't you do it? Why don't you quit mouthing off about it and get into the fray?' For two weeks I thought about it, it was the last two weeks before you could file. I went and I saw everybody in the party and frankly, most of them patted me on the back and said, 'Gee, you're a fine young man and we'd love to see you in politics, but this is a little more than you can chew. You should not try this right off the bat.'

"I was forty-two at that time and only been in the state for a little over six years. And so, really, when I look back on it, it was preposterous to do what I did. ... I got into it on the last day. Literally, five o'clock I think was the deadline for filing, and I filed just before that.

"... I was a pretty solid person, I thought I could take almost anything, but I filed that and I turned around and there was the media there. I had not had anything like that experience before. My knees just buckled on me. I almost fell down, I was so shaken by it. But, from that point on, I just, to use a Biblical phrase, girded up my loins and took off and did what I could. ... In the pre-convention, what you do is go out and try to get delegates, get people to go to the mass meetings where they can be elected as your delegates. Well, I filed seven days before the mass meetings, so there was no way I could get that done. But, something very interesting happened. What you do, is you get people at your mass meetings to be elected. Well, it usually takes six months to a year to do that.

"The evening of the mass meetings I had sixty-four former Pittsburghers, who were missionaries who served in Pittsburgh, call me and tell me they were delegates. I was just absolutely flabbergasted! They said they were going to support me because they loved my mother and dad, and a number of them knew me and said they loved me. I just asked each of them to go out and get ten delegates for me. I knew that if I could get ten delegates at the State Convention from each of them, there'd be 640 delegates and with five people in the race, there were only 2,048 delegates. I could come in second. And if you could come in second, and nobody got seventy-percent, then the top two ran-off in the primary and that's exactly what happened."

You mentioned sixty-four folks from Pittsburgh. Why Pittsburgh?

"Well, these were former missionaries who lived in Utah, who'd come back to do missionary work in Pennsylvania. And they'd gone home to go to school, to finish school and work and raise families out in Utah. They were just people who'd known my mother and father and me back there in Pittsburgh. And it was just amazing. And when they started telling people, 'I know this man and I know who he is and what he does and I know that he'd make a great Senator.' People believed them."

Let me just say the name Robert Bork and let you react to that. We're not too far away from the [Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation] hearings.

"Well, Bob Bork, in my opinion, is the quintessential, finest Circuit Court of Appeals judge in the country. I think many people would subscribe to that viewpoint, even those who disagree with him. Bork has written, I think, something like 138 opinions

on the Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, probably, and I think most people would agree, the top Circuit Court in this country - the most influential of all. Of those 138 opinions, he's never been reversed. As a matter of fact, when he's dissented from the majority on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, a number of his dissents have been upheld by the Supreme Court, which has reversed the majority of the lower court. He's got a tremendous reputation."

How do you judge someone as being the best [candidate for the Supreme Court]?

"... Rating his opinions, knowing the man personally, knowing his ethics, his honesty, his capacity to serve, his legal ability. Knowing him as a law school professor - he really was considered one of the great law school professors in the country. Knowing his academic background all the way through - outstanding academic background. Then, of course, reading his writings. Bork, of course, has been one of the most prolific writers through all of the academic years as he taught. Then, looking at what he did in government - Bork was Solicitor General. He handled a very tough situation in the firing of [Special Prosecutor] Archibald Cox and did it with honor and dignity. He did it to keep the Justice Department together, then wanted to resign, but realized if he didn't stay, they might have [a] catastrophe there. ... You've got to give the man credit - he's really got a reputation that's impeccable."

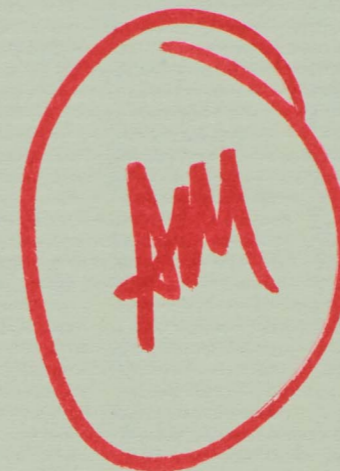
What was your reaction to the Wall Street Journal editorial that said that in the event that he [Bork] is not approved, the Administration's strategy is to come right on the heels with Orrin Hatch?

"Well, I feel pretty much the same as Bork, my philosophy is very similar to his. It's interesting; we were both liberals in our youth, both Democrats in our youth, both came from the Pittsburgh area, but that's where we become diverted. He went into teaching and government, I went into private practice. But you know, it's nice to be mentioned in that kind of company. I didn't mind the editorial. I think what they were pointing out is that Bork will be there ten to twenty years, they said I would be there twenty to thirty years and that I'd probably be tougher than Bork with regard to conservative matters. I don't know that that's true. I have a lot of compassion for people. I have great belief in rights and especially First Amendment rights and privileges, by the way, and I think it's tough to say how anybody's going to be until they have to face those great issues."

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HOLD FOR RELEASE
September 7, 1987

CONTACT: ^{CONTACT} Nan Gibson
Rosemarie M. Colao

Excerpts from a C-SPAN interview with Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-Indiana). Airs Monday, September 7, 1987 at 8:00am, 6:00pm and 1:00am ET.

What does it mean to you to be a Hoosier?

"I think the word 'Hoosier' is a very popular one with anyone from Indiana. I think it means a down-to-earthness, a lack of pretense, a friendliness. It has its roots, I guess, in our rural heritage and background, but it always signifies warm feelings about people and personalities."

"... Everybody in Indiana has to be interested in basketball. I grew up playing basketball in grade school. In high school, my team went to the state finals. It was kind of the center of life for me as a boy."

Why does everyone in Indiana have to be interested in basketball? Why is it such a big thing in that state?

"I don't know that I can fully understand that, except that it's the major form of activity for young boys, and more recently now, young girls as well, as girls' athletics becomes more prominent. It doesn't take a lot of money to play basketball or to learn to play basketball well. It doesn't take a lot of equipment - all you need is a hoop and a basketball. You can play it in small rural areas as well as in the large cities, that may be part of it."

When you went to the state [basketball] finals [in high school], did that have an impact on you as a boy? Was that an important part of your life?

"Oh yes, I really grew up eating, sleeping and thinking basketball. My major goal as a high school student was to win the state championship, which is kind of the ultimate achievement in Indiana. I played on very good teams in my sophomore, junior and senior years. In my senior year, we went all the way to the state finals and the state final game. I was injured in the afternoon game and only played for a few minutes that night. I received a very bad knee injury, tore a cartilage in my knee, so I was not able to complete the game. And, of course, that ranks, I guess, as the biggest disappointment of my life."

Does it [athletics] impart to you a sort of sense of self, or a value system, or even a disciplinary way of starting out life?

"I think it does. I remember very clearly the emphasis on discipline in athletics and the need to set a goal and work towards that goal. I was very fortunate that I had really high quality coaches who emphasized not only winning, but fairness in competition. They were men of really high caliber, from a moral standpoint, I think, and they had a great impact on me as a young person."

"Well, I think athletics does impart a kind of value system, as it were, if you have the right people. There are risks to athletics. One, certainly, is that

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you can overemphasize them. I fell prey to that risk. I certainly overemphasized athletics when I was in high school - it was almost exclusively my concern and not enough on academics and other matters. If put in proper perspective, I think athletics can be a very meaningful experience."

Do you think, when we look at other people in Congress - like [Sen.] Bill Bradley, for example, or even Congressman Jack Kemp - do you think that basketball helped you in getting elected?

"I think it probably did. Among other things, it instills a competitive attitude in you - that, too, can get out of bounds. But, by and large, I think it's a very, very good quality and you can carry over the competitive instincts that you have on the basketball court to the world of politics. Politics is a very competitive game - more than a game, I guess - but the competitive aspects are very similar."

... Is life in small town America different?

"Well, it's very different from Washington. If I were to describe it, I think small town America, the Midwest, is a very stabilizing influence. You don't have these hyper reactions that you have in a town like Washington. Obviously, you don't have the intense interest in politics in Indiana that you have in Washington - this is a very political town. But, it's a marvelous thing for a politician who lives in the hyperactivity and extremely sensitive political town of Washington to go back to Indiana for weekends and for recesses because it adds a stabilizing influence, a perspective, that you don't get, I think, in Washington."

Do you think television has had an impact on the process of legislating?

"No question about it. I can't make up my mind about television. I grew up as a politician in a kind of pre-television period, given my district, given my own inclinations, I guess, and I'm not a television politician. The Members [of Congress] coming in today are television politicians. They're very good on television, they are trained for television, they watch the television news much more closely than I watch it - some Members have three television sets in their offices, for example, so they can watch all three news programs in the evening. They've been schooled in television, they've taken lessons in television. Those of us who are a little older in the Congress don't quite qualify that well and I don't think in television terms as much as politicians do today. Television's had an enormous impact on politics, some of which is exceedingly good. It puts very great emphasis on the thirty-second, or even fifteen-second, statement. Few frustrations here have matched my frustrations of working on a bill for six months and going before a camera and trying to describe it in thirty seconds. That's an exceedingly hard thing to do and you only lapse into kinds of platitudes and generalities. But, television is here to stay and the problem is to turn it, I think, into constructive ways and to use its magnificent potential more effectively."

What did you learn about yourself from the Iran/Contra hearings?

"I learned a lot about the way the big time media operates here and that I'm not very good, I guess, in handling that big time media. I learned that my approach to it [the media] was very different than many people in the public [life]. The public, partially I think, because of the media, tends to view so many of our events here [in Washington] in a confrontational perspective. They pick winners and losers, they define everything in terms of sports terminology, which you'd expect me to do with my background. But, I never really viewed the hearings as a confrontation between the Committee and the witness. Rather, I viewed it as an effort to find the facts. I

certainly didn't think that the Congress won or lost any particular engagement with witnesses and I really don't think that perspective helped our task. So, I learned that I approached those hearings in a very different cast of mind than many people did."

Up here on Capitol Hill, is it possible to be political adversaries and friends?

"Oh yes. As a matter of fact, I think politicians are pretty good at that. I think they're better than most people are at that, if I may brag on politicians for a moment. We live in an adversarial world here, we live in a world where issues are intensely fought. We also live in a world where majorities are constantly shifting and a person who's your adversary today is your partner tomorrow. You just have to learn that and you know that you cannot alienate a Member permanently because you're going to need his help in another week or two. I think politicians are pretty good at that, by and large. There are some exceptions to that. There are some personal animosities that develop, but I think they're relatively few. One of the vivid impressions I have is the deep friendship between [former Sen.] Hubert Humphrey [D-MN] and [former Sen.] Barry Goldwater [R-AZ] - two men who represented the poles in American politics in recent years. But, one could not but be impressed by the deep personal affection between those two men when you saw them, and I can repeat that a hundred times up here."

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