Reflecting on the Senate Career of Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr.
Interviews conducted by Dr. David Welborn 1992-2002

Nissa Dahlin-Brown, Associate Director, 2015

David M. Welborn was a political science professor at the University of Tennessee (1973-1996). He earned a PhD from University of Texas-Austin and served on the faculties at Indiana University, Texas Tech University, Northern Illinois University and the University of Kansas, before joining UTK. He created this project focused on party leadership in the US Senate during Sen. Baker’s time as the Republican leader. The project was funded by the University of Tennessee and includes more than 100 interviews with various government officials, staffers and friends. The interviews took place from 1992-2002 and included U.S. Governors, Senators, Congressmen, employees of federal agencies, journalists, staff members of the U.S. House and Senate, and one U.S. President. Presented in alphabetical order are those whose interviews have been transcribed and are now available for use by researchers via our website http://bakercenter.utk.edu

Rudy Abramson – Washington, DC correspondent for the Nashville Tennessean and the Los Angeles Times (1965-1993). Helped to found the Institute for Rural Journalism at the University of Kentucky and the Daily Yonder. He was a committed advocate for rural communities, especially in Appalachia.


Michael Adams – President of the University of Georgia from 1997 to 2013. He now serves as the President Emeritus. Before entering higher education, he served as Chief of Staff for then Senate Minority Leader Howard Baker (1975-1979) and as an aide to Governor Lamar Alexander (1980-1982). (Adams Tape 1) (Adams Tape 2)


Alvin “Al” Alm - Assistant Administrator for Planning Management for the Environmental Protection Agency and a leading proponent for environmental regulation in the United States. He served as Ronald Reagan’s Deputy EPA Administrator from 1983 to 1985.
Susan Alvarado - Served on the US Postal Service Board of Governors (1988-97), as a legislative assistant in the office of Vice President George H.W. Bush (1981-89), and as a floor assistant in the Senate. She currently serves as Treasurer of the National Postal Forum Board of Directors.

John (Jack) Anderson - Former Republican Congressman from Illinois, where he served ten terms from 1961 to 1981, and Independent Presidential Candidate in the 1980 Presidential Election.


Leslye Arsht - Former Senior Advisor to the Ministry of Education in Iraq in the George W. Bush administration, Counselor to Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander (1991-1993), and Vice Chancellor for News and Public Affairs at Vanderbilt University. (Arsht Tape 1), (Arsht Tape 2), (Arsht Tape 3)

Douglas Bailey - American political consultant and founder of The Hotline in 1987, a bipartisan daily briefing on American politics. Worked for Senator Howard Baker.


Hugh Branson - Former Chief Administrative Assistant to Sen. Howard Baker. Campaign advisor to Mayor Victor Ashe and Governor Winfield Dunn. First announcer on air for WVLT- TV in 1953. (Branson Tape 1) (Branson Tape 2)

Zbigniew Brzezinski – Polish American political scientist, geostrategist, and statesman who served as a counsellor to Lyndon B. Johnson from 1966–1968 and held the position of United States National Security Advisor to President Carter from 1977 to 1981.


Dale Bumpers – Served as the 38th Governor of Arkansas from 1971 to 1975. United States Senator from Arkansas (1975-1999). (Bumper Tape 1) (Bumper Tape 2)

Larry Burton – Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, CVS Health, 2012-present, formerly with British Petroleum (1987-2004). Previously a Special Assistant and Associate Director in the Office of Management and Budget, where he was the senior liaison to the U.S. Senate on budget and regulatory matters. He worked in the offices of U.S. Representative Don Young and U.S. Senate Assistant Majority Leader Ted Stevens, 1981-85.

Pat Butler – President and CEO, Association of Public Television Stations (2011-present) and 20 years as Senior VP of Washington Post. Previously special assistant to Senator Baker and advisor to the White House Chief of Staff during Baker’s service with President Reagan (1981-1989). Speechwriter and Associate Editor of the White House Editorial Office for President Gerald R. Ford (1974-1977). Chairman of the impeachment task force for US Representative Lawrence J. Hogan (R-MD). Member of the House Judiciary Committee during its consideration of articles of impeachment against President Nixon.


John Carbaugh - Adviser to Sen. Jesse Helms and a foreign policy adviser from 1974 to 1982. (Carbaugh Tape 1) (Carbaugh Tape 2)


John Chafee - U.S. Senator from Rhode Island (1976-1999). U.S. Secretary of the Navy (1969-

**Mary J. Checchi** - U.S. Senate January 1975 – December 1987. Legislative Assistance to U.S. Senator Birch Bayh; Deputy Chief Counsel, Senate Budget Committee; Counsel to the Majority Leader at the Senate Judiciary Committee; Chief Counsel and Staff Director at the Senate Democratic Policy Committee; Executive Director of the Senate Committee investigating the Iran-Contra affair.

**James Cicconi** - Special assistant to President Ronald Reagan and White House Chief of Staff James Baker III (1981-1989). Deputy Chief of Staff to President George H.W. Bush (1989-1993). Senior Executive Vice President for External and Legislative Affairs - AT&T.

**William Cohen** – Served as Republican Congressman and Senator from Maine (1973-1997), and served as Secretary of Defense under President Clinton (1997-2001).

**Scott Cohen** – Press secretary and foreign relations advisor to Senator Charles Percy (1981-1985). Assistant to the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Staff Director of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

**Dan Crippen** – Executive Director of the National Governor’s Association. Former Director of the Congressional Budget Office and Assistant to the President for President Reagan (1981-1989). (Crippen Tape 1), (Crippen Tape 2), (Crippen Tape 3), (Crippen Tape 4)

**Katherine Cudlipp** – Minority Chief Counsel to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, and participated in the landmark reauthorization of the Clean Air Act of 1990. She joined the Environment and Public Works Committee in 1971 and, from 1979 to 1981, served as general counsel to the National Commission on Air Quality.


**Rhett Dawson** – Assistant to President Reagan for Operations, recruited by Chief of Staff Howard Baker. Staff Director and Chief Counsel to the Senate Armed Services Committee (1976-1982).


Tom Donnelly – Research Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. Director, Policy Group (1996-1999); Professional Staff Member (1995), Committee on Armed Services, U.S. House of Representatives. (Donnelly Tape 1) (Donnelly Tape 2)

Robert Dove – Former Parliamentarian of the United States Senate (1995-2001) and Professor of Political Science at George Washington University. (Dove Tape 1) (Dove Tape 2)


Dr. James Edwards – Politician and administrator from South Carolina. Former Governor of South Carolina (1975-1979) and U.S. Secretary of Energy (1981-1982).


Roger Fontaine - Former Director of Latin American Affairs, National Security Council (1981-1983). (Fontaine Tape 1) (Fontaine Tape 2)


Max Friedersdorf – Assistant for Congressional Relations during the Ford Administration. Served in the Office of Economic Opportunity and the Congressional Relations staff under President Nixon, Federal Election Commission Chairman under President Carter, and Ambassador to Bermuda and Switzerland during the Reagan administration (1981).

William Gribben – White House Deputy Director for Legislative Affairs (1981-1982). Chief of Staff to President of the Senate Dan Quayle. Staff Director for Senator Trent Lott. (Gribben Tape 1) (Gribben Tape 2)

Tom Griscom - Executive Editor and Publisher of the Chattanooga Times Free Press (1999-2010), former director of Communications for President Ronald Reagan and Sen. Howard Baker staffer.

Tom Hart – Chief Counsel and Staff Director, Democratic Policy Committee. Majority staff member on Senate Judiciary Committee (1971-1976). (Hart Tape 1) (Hart Tape 2)

Orrin Hatch – President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate (2015). Republican U.S. Senator from Utah. Former Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Served as Chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee from 1981 to 1987 and now serves as Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. (Hatch Tape 1) (Hatch Tape 2)

Mark Hatfield – Served as U.S. Senator from Oregon and also as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee (1967-1997).

Michael Hathaway – Staff director of the Senate Energy Committee during President Reagan’s administration. Legislative director and administrative assistant to Senator Jim McClure (1979-1981). Special assistant for energy and environment and the Middle East for Senator Jim McClure (1973-1979). (Hathaway Tape 1) (Hathaway Tape 2)

Robert Hunter – Attorney for the Senate Labor Committee during the 1978 filibuster to block changes to labor relations legislation. Previously an attorney for the National Labor Relations Board.


Gerald Kovach – Chief of Staff and Chief Counsel of the U.S. Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee – 1980s. Senior Vice President of External Affairs for Neustar, Inc., and formerly MCI (2001-2011). (Kovach Tape 1) (Kovach Tape 2)

James Kuhn – White House Advance and Special Assistant to President Ronald Reagan. Campaign Advance for Governor Reagan during the 1976 and 1980 Presidential Elections. (Kuhn Tape 1) (Kuhn Tape 2)


Howard Liebengood - Assistant to Minority Counsel Fred Thompson on the Senate Watergate Committee. Chief of Staff to Senators Fred Thompson and Bill Frist, as well as Sergeant-at-Arms from 1981 to 1983. After leaving the Senate, Mr. Liebengood became one of D.C.’s most prominent lobbyists, representing such organizations as Phillip Morris, Fiat USA, and the Hopi Indian Tribe. (Liebengood Tape 1) (Liebengood Tape 2)

Robert Lighthizer – Deputy U.S. Trade Representative with the rank of Ambassador under President Reagan (1981-1989). Formerly Chief of Staff to the Senate Finance Committee.


Charles “Mack” Matthias – U.S. Senator from Maryland (1969-1987). Known for being a member of the liberal wing of the Republican Party. Played an influential role in civil rights legislation and ending the Vietnam War. (Matthias Tape 1) (Matthias Tape 2)


Ron McMahan – Owner and editor of The Knoxville Journal (1981-1988). Press Secretary to Senator Howard Baker during the Senate Watergate Hearings. Formerly Director of Information for the Appalachian Regional Commission. (McMahan Tape 1), (McMahan Tape 2), (McMahan Tape 3), (McMahan Tape 4)

**Ed Miller** – *Knoxville Journal* and AP journalist during the 1950s and 1960s. Miller became Senator Baker’s Press Secretary during Baker’s 1966 Senate campaign.


**Frank Moore** – Congressional liaison for President Jimmy Carter (1977-1981). Accompanied Senator Baker on his famous trips to Panama and Russia to meet with Trujillo and Noriega and Brezhnev, respectively.

**Mary Kay O’Hara Morin** – Staff assistant to Senator James Buckley (1973-1976). Minority staff member, Senate Public Works committee.


**Ambler Moss** - Professor of International Studies at the University of Miami. He was involved with the negotiation of the U.S.-Panama Canal Treaties and was Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations. He served as Ambassador to Panama from 1978 until 1982 under Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan.

**George F. Murphy** – Executive Director for the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy (1958-1977).

**Edmond Muskie** - Served as Governor of Maine from 1955 to 1959, as a member of the United States Senate from 1959 to 1980, and as Secretary of State under Jimmy Carter from 1980 to 1981. Democratic nominee for Vice President in the 1968 presidential election, and was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for President in 1972. Wrote Clean Air Act with Sen. Baker.

**Robert Odel** – Assistant Secretary of Energy for Congressional Intergovernmental and Public Affairs under the Reagan Administration (1981-1989).


**George Pritts** – Chief Minority Counsel, Senate Finance Committee (1976 – 1980).

**James H. Quillen** - Republican member of the United States House of Representatives from Tennessee (1963 to 1997). ([Quillen Tape 1](#)) ([Quillen Tape 2](#))

**Jim Range** – Member of Senator Baker’s Majority Leader Staff (1981-1985) and longtime employee of Baker Donelson in Washington, DC.

**Emily Reynolds** – Began her career as special assistant to Senator Howard Baker in 1980. Later served as chief of staff to Senator Bill Frist and Secretary of the US Senate from 2003 to 2007. Presently with TVA in Nashville, TN.

**William Roesing** – Prominent DC strategist and consultant. Chief of Staff to Senator John Chaffee (1976-1999). President of Campaign Planning, Inc. Vice-President and head of the DC office of Joseph E Seagram and Sons. ([Roesing Tape 1](#)) ([Roesing Tape 2](#))


**Edward Sanders** – Staff director of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (1981 -1983). Associate Director of the Office of Management and Budget under President Jimmy Carter.

**Robert Schule** – Special Assistant to President Jimmy Carter (1977-1981). Founder of Wexler, Reynolds, Harrison, and Schule lobbying firm that represented many major corporations, trade groups, Indian tribes and NGOs before Congress.


**W. Dennis Thomas** – Office of Legislative Affairs: Deputy Assistant for Legislative Affairs (1983-1985); Office of the Chief of Staff: Assistant to the President (1985-1987). ([Thomas Tape 1](#)), ([Thomas Tape 2](#)), ([Thomas Tape 3](#))

**Robert Thomson** – Staff assistant to the Executive Director of the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee. Instrumental in creating the post-Watergate campaign and finance laws (1975).

**Strom Thurmond** – U.S. Senator from South Carolina (1956-2003).

**Lee Verstandig** – Acting Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under President Reagan (1981-1989).


**John Yago** – Staff Director of the Senate Public Works Committee (1976-1987).