JACK KEMP
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interview with

PAUL R. KEMP

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Interviewer

Morton Kondracke

JACK KEMP FOUNDATION
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Kondracke: This is an oral history interview as part of the Jack Kemp Foundation's Oral History Collection. It's an interview with Jack Kemp's oldest brother, Paul. Today is August 2, 2011. We're in San Francisco, California, and I'm Morton Kondracke.

Paul, how would you characterize your family life, growing up?

Kemp: I would say it's kind of idyllic in an old-fashioned way. It was a very quiet, serene, faith-based family. The parents were, I think, of old values and sort of old style of thinking. My dad was an extremely loyal, simple guy, not in a pejorative sense "simple," but just a really simple, straight, loyal, loving man. My mother was an educated woman, so she was a very energetic, assertive, professional woman, sort of. The two of them had kind of an ideal of their own, in which they raised their family, and that's kind of how we grew up. We were protected from a lot of outside negative influences, even though it was in the midst of the Depression and it was tough times, but we were kind of shielded from all of that. So we grew up in a happy, active household.

Kondracke: What are your standout memories about Jack Kemp as a kid?

Kemp: I would say standout memories would really amount to him trying to fit in and him playing games all by himself and accumulating statistics and records. He would spend hours playing these spin-the-arrow games. They had professional football and baseball names attached to them. I wish I could remember now what they were. They were famous players, and they had these board games where you'd spin the arrow and it'd land on a number and you'd advance a player from one base to another, or a team would make a touchdown or something. And he'd play those by the hour, and he'd keep notebooks of statistics on those games. It was really kind of amazing. He would do that hour by hour.

The other thing that we all did, but he did to a much greater extent, was listen to the old simulated ballgames, where some guy in a radio studio would be watching a Teletype and then he would simulate the crack of the bat and announce the game just as if he were there. We played those all the time. Jack listened to those constantly. So, sports. I see Jack out in front throwing the ball endlessly, anybody that he could get to catch for him, mostly football, but some baseball. So I would say sports, athletics, Jack trying to race around and squeeze his way into the family.

Kondracke: Squeeze his way into the family in what way? He was the third son.

Kemp: To me, knowing that I was going to be interviewed by you, I began to think about, gee, what kind of things did Jack do that made him into what he was today, or what he is today in my mind. He was number three in the line of succession here, so Tom and I were already a unit. There was four of us in the family before Jack came along, and we all did things, normal family things, together. Then five years later, after Tom, why—

[telephone interruption]

Kemp: Tom and I were already a pair. I had grown up as kind of an indulged, spoiled little kid, and Tom came along, and the two of us, like all kids, were then used to doing things together. Jack came along enough years later to where he kind of had to scramble to fit in. Kids are cruel, and we probably didn't want Jack to involve himself, you know, little red-haired, pesky kid. So Jack kind of got pushed aside a lot as kids tend to do, and to me, I think that's kind of what made Jack into the loner that I see him as always had been, always being. I think Jack essentially was a lone wolf who had such a great personality and a way of embracing people, that people didn't realize that, but he rarely stayed in one place very long or with one person very long. He was always out and about and around and over and doing. So I see Jack growing up as kind of in that outsider influence and

having to struggle his way into the family unit. That's kind of what I think formed him into who he was in his later life.

Did that answer your question?

Kondracke: Yes. So you have the impression of Jack Kemp being a hale-fellow-well-met, politician, lots of friends, all of that, but I take it that there's a different Jack Kemp that you knew growing up.

Kemp: Right.

Kondracke: So what is this loneliness about, this loner tendency about?

Kemp: Well, anybody who knows Jack, I'd be interested to hear Dick's reaction to this and I'd be interested to hear Joanne and maybe some of the kids, but Jack was a considerably different person with his loved ones and his family than I think he was with a lot of the rest of the world.

Jack essentially never stayed in one place in one state very long. He was always all over the place. Tom and I used to talk a lot about the fact that Jack seemed to just have to move, had to travel, had to move, had to go, had to go here, had to go there. It's hard to describe, but I see that as coming from the fact that Jack was number three among the boys and sort of late in arrival, and having to more or less fight and bite and claw his way

into the family circle. Now, this is nothing psychologically bad. In fact, it might be typical of the third child in any family that comes along that much time later. So I see Jack as essentially a loner, in a quiet sort of a way.

Kondracke: Does that mean that he wasn't intimate with all of you as life went on?

Kemp: Right. Here again, I'd love to hear others' opinions. We've never gotten into this kind of a subject. But I don't think Jack was very intimate with very many people, if really anybody, perhaps, other than Joanne or his children, until very late in his life I'm sure that he got quite intimate. I'm sure of that, even with me later on in life, he got closer, but for a long time it was always Jack competing, no matter what he did. It was Jack competing, Jack pushing, pushing to win and pushing to achieve, something like that. That doesn't leave much time for closeness with anybody around him that I could see.

Kondracke: So later in life, what did you get intimate with him about?

Kemp: The nature of people and the nature of life and how people react and how people think. He and I would compare notes at length on the phone a lot in the later years about different politicians and how they would react and

how they would conduct themselves. We shared likes and dislikes of people and attitudes and religion, in the sense where religion belonged and where it didn't belong, how religion kept trying to intrude into government, and both he and I felt that was really wrong and frequently in very bad taste, if not wrong.

So we talked a lot about those kinds of things. It never got what I would call extremely personal, but it did at times. And towards the end, of course, why, especially after he knew that he had been diagnosed with serious cancer, it wasn't particularly terminal in his mind at that point, but he was quite frightened of it, I think, then we did get a lot closer and talk about a lot more intimate things, immortality, mortality, religion, God, things like that.

Kondracke: Most of the time, how often would you talk to him, after your childhood was over and you were gone?

Kemp: You know, Mort, I went off to college in 1946, and as I mentioned earlier before we started taping, I was so enthralled with the good life of USC [University of Southern California], that I just kind of left home and left family and joined in the fun, so I didn't see much of the family from 1946 until probably '50, '51, when I started to graduate.

Jack and I began to really communicate again at length in about 1956 or ’57, and finally in ’59, I think it was, or ’58—Joanne could make this more clear to you, but he bought a home in Costa Mesa, California, in these new developments that had sprung up after the war. I had already owned a little home there with my first wife, so Jack moved in just a couple of blocks away and we saw a lot of each other then and managed to share books and our attitudes about cultural activities, music, art, things like that. So I would say we sort of really began to talk more as adults in perhaps ’57, ’58, ’59.

Kondracke: And he was then doing what?

Kemp: Playing football, just starting to play football.

Kondracke: For the Chargers?

Kemp: In ’57, he was drafted by the Steelers, and then began that chain of trades and dismissals that he went through before he finally landed with the L.A. Chargers.

Kondracke: While we’re there, how did he take that whole experience of being cut time after time after time after time?

Kemp: Jack was so innocent in the beginning that I think it hurt him really bad. I can recall vividly when he went off to training camp in—where was it? Pittsburgh. The Steelers were originally not in Pittsburgh, were they? I've forgotten where the Steelers originally were. So wherever that was. I can't think. Was it Detroit? Wherever the Steelers were originally, why, he went there, and they had [Robert L.] Bobby Lane as their old-time veteran quarterback, and Lane was a hard-drinking, hard-partying, hard-cussing guy who had been down the path a long time, so Jack was immediately cast into that crowd as a rookie.

I used to love the stories about him showing up. Lane would say, "Come on." Jack would get dressed after practice, and he'd say, "Come on. We're going to go down and talk football." So they'd go to the local bar. There'd be three or four guys there. Of course, Jack, coming from a Christian Science family, certainly was no drinker. And this was Bobby Lane with his martinis or whatever he drank, so Jack was shocked into the new world, the new life, and he'd come back at home and talk about that, and we'd hear stories of that. We'd all get a huge kick out of that. So Jack got introduced into that.

The Steelers moved to—I'm getting my football history wrong, because I'm not thinking straight. But once the Steelers—I'm sorry. He went with the Detroit Lions. I'm confused. They moved and traded him to the new team, or some of the players moved. Lane moved, and Jack moved with

Lane, and then Jack got dropped and that hurt him a lot. That really hurt him. Then he eventually ended up with the New York Giants and got dropped again, and then he went to Canada, and each time he was really hurt. I think a couple of times he just cried openly about that, and Jack was not one to appear crying at all, to my memory.

Finally, our parents drove him to—I think it was Calgary, with the Stampeders, and he played a few games up there and got dropped up there, and came back to no job. So then he was off for a while. Then he got called by—I think it was—who was the famous old coach of Notre Dame, famous guy during the—

Kondracke: [Francis W.] Frank Leahy?

Kemp: Yes. Frank Leahy called him, and he had been signed by the '49ers, but couldn't play in their championship game because of ineligibility, so he immediately after that last game he was signed on the field by Leahy, and [Sidney] Sid Gilman, and I don't know if [William] Barron Hilton was there at that moment or not, but Jack was literally picked up on the field at the end of that championship game.

So does that aim at your question?

Kondracke: Yes. So let's go back to the family now. What would you say your father's major influences on Jack were?

Kemp: Love and sports. I would say it's hard to say which came first. Dad was an old ball player. He was an excellent ball player when he was in high school, and I don't think he even finished high school. I think the World War I draft took him out of high school and put him in the Navy, and I think after the Navy he went right to work. But Dad was a great ball player and a great handball player and a great—almost everything he did he was a natural. He had kind of an athletic—you know, the pro athletic nature. That's why I saw he was a simple guy. He had a really good sense—loyal, loving, kind, treated everybody as he wanted to be treated. The Golden Rule was major to him. So that's my dad, and I think that was the influence that permeated all of us. I think we all tried to emulate that in him, some with success and some not, probably.

Kondracke: Dick says that your dad and his brother, Jack, had this incredibly close relationship and that that sort of inculcated a sense of brotherly love among you boys. Is that correct?

Kemp: I think that's absolutely correct. I think that's good of Dick to remember that. Jack was the youngest boy in a family of twelve kids. She

actually had thirteen and one died. But Jack was the youngest and kind of the baby of the group, and my dad sort of fathered him all the way along through his life. Dad bought him his first car. Dad paid for a lot of things for Jack. And Dad being an incredibly loyal guy to his mother, to his family, to everybody, was very, very loyal to Jack. Jack was a sparky, red-headed-type guy, great personality, and Dad loved Jack, and I guess Jack loved Dad a lot.

So they would talk every single morning on the phone for as long as we were alive. Dad would get up and go to work at five-thirty in the morning, and he and Jack would go downtown to the coffee shop and have breakfast every single morning like at six o'clock, then go to work at their business. This lasted their entire working adult life.

Kondracke: What about the other siblings? There were all these eleven other kids.

Kemp: And they had such a wide range of ages, that Dad was close to many of them and not very close to some of them. Some of them were kind of independent, went their own way, and stayed aloof from the family, and some were in our life almost constantly as we grew up.

So Dad was very loyal to his mother [Elva Mary French Kemp]. His mother was widowed early, and she had no place to go, so during the Great

Depression, she got kind of traded from family to family to family, to take care of her after she gave up her last family home. So Dad and Jack would support her for many of the final years. She lived with us during the Depression and she lived with Jack during the Depression.

Kondracke: Was your dad interested in politics at all?

Kemp: Dad was a fervent Republican, as was [Frances Pope Kemp] Mother, and I think most of his family was. His famous most frequent joke was that in 1932 he was still busy driving people to the polls to vote when Roosevelt had been elected hours before in New York, and he used to laugh about that every couple of years. So I wouldn't say that he was fervent about politics, but he felt strongly. He felt strongly that we objected to Roosevelt and then to Harry Truman, quite unjustly now, but that's how people feel.

Kondracke: Why was he a Republican?

Kemp: I think his mother and his family were. I don't really know anymore about that. It just kind of grew up in the family.

Kondracke: So what was the economic circumstances? You owned a house, or he owned a house.

Kemp: Right.

Kondracke: And that must have been unusual in those days.

Kemp: I think my mother and dad were married in ’25 or ’26. I came along in ’28. For the first year or two of my life, we lived over in a western portion of Hollywood, and then they bought this typical California bungalow on Plymouth Boulevard, and we moved there and we grew up there, and the family stayed there until about 1950 or ’51. I forget the year. Then my aunt and uncle had owned a home a few blocks away, and he died years earlier, but when she passed away, she willed that to my dad, and they moved over there to her house, Aunt Marie, Marie Kemp.

Kondracke: But the economic circumstances of your family must have been—

Kemp: I got off track.

Kondracke: —well above that of the ordinary person in those days, to own your own house.

Kemp: Well, Mort, we grew up in a very, very middle-class way, in a very middle-class neighborhood. Dad and his brothers, Jack, Dad and Willard, I think the second or third oldest boy in the family, and a hanger-on, a young man that Grandma raised, called Dugan, that's all I know him by, those four brothers went into business as the Kemp Brothers Motorcycle Company, and they had the franchise for the Henderson Motorcycle, which I believe was a division of the Schwinn Bicycle Company. Mr. Schwinn took an immediate liking to my dad, although my Uncle Willard was the silver-head, silver-tongued guy in the crowd, and he was the one who had gotten the franchise for the Henderson Motorcycle.

So they became Western states dealer for the Henderson Motorcycle and sold these motorcycles to police departments and the CHP [California Highway Patrol] and state people all over the West, and they had quite a thriving business going up through, I would say, probably 1930, '31, somewhere in there, the world began to change, obviously. They had a branch in Pasadena and their main store was down on Main Street in Los Angeles, so the circumstances were very good through that point, but then it developed that Willard had actually bankrupted the business, and the business went broke, bankrupt, and instead of declaring bankruptcy, why, my dad and Jack paid off all those debts in ten or fifteen more years, every dime, and took a lot of pride in that.

So our circumstances started out good. My mother had a great job when I was born, and they remained good up until perhaps the beginning of the Depression. Then we went way down the hill. There was a time in the mid thirties when we were broke. Dad kept talking about not knowing later—he would never reveal this to us kids, but he kept talking about, "How am I going to make the payroll on Friday? How am I going to do that? I just don't know." And he would pray and try to be very spiritual about where that payroll was going to come from, and with help from different people; my Uncle Clare. He always managed to make payroll.

I can recall a birthday—I think this was in 1936—where my friends and I were all sitting around the dining room table with Mother and Dad and brothers and neighborhood kids, and it was a party. We were having a birthday party for me in July. I finally said, "Gee, why aren't we going to the pier, to the pike," we used to call it, the Ocean Park Pier, rides and games and stuff. And I guess I made a fuss about it or something, because all of a sudden Mother began to cry, and then Dad broke down and cried. Then I think within a little while, why, we got up and all went down to the pier, but they didn't have the money to go. It was just broke time.

Before that, I think it must have been in '32, '33, I was awakened at nine or ten at night by the doorbell ringing, and I got up and ran out. You know, kids jump up and run out. The porch light was on and Dad was going to the door, and there was a guy in a brown uniform with a Sam Browne belt

on and a gun and holster and all that stuff, and Dad said, "Well, you can take the damn place. Take it. It's yours." And I didn't quite at the time understand what that meant, but he said, "You can have the damn place." And we were being evicted.

Later on, when I interviewed my Uncle Jack, just like you're interviewing me, I got Jack to talk about that, and it was painful for him at the moment to talk about that, but he said that eventually Uncle Clare Kemp was a very successful merchandizer up here in Burlingame, California, and he bankrolled much of the family's problems during the Depression, and he came and apparently rescued us. I know very few of the details of that. The parents would just never share that with us.

Kondracke: That's not the family that Jack lived in, though. By the time Jack was growing up, he was alive in 1935, but—

Kemp: Unable to know anything about this. He was still a baby.

Kondracke: So what kind of circumstances would he have grown up in?

Kemp: Things were improving. Dad started out with the motorcycle business, and when the motorcycle business collapsed, he took his inventory and made that into a messenger service and a small parcel delivery service,

and he had contracts for driving stunt people. Air shows were common during that period. They'd have low-flowing planes and stunts, and people would parachute out. These were common in those days. So Dad would have the contract to provide three-wheeled motorcycles to run out in the field and pick up parachutists and drive them in or pick up stars or VIPs and drive them into the stands. He did that quite a lot. So by '39, that business had been converted into a parcel delivery service, and I think it was in '37 or '38 that he bought a fleet of trucks and turned it into a little larger parcel delivery service.

So by the time Jack came along and then Dick, why, the war came along and began to pick things up. Things improved very drastically then for us. So by the time the war started, things were much better and the family was in much better shape. So the lowest point was probably around '35, '36, and then around '37, '38, things began to get much better. So by the time Jack and Dick became of age, why, things were much better.

Kondracke: He was entrepreneurial, your father.

Kemp: I don't know that I would—to some extent, certainly. He was a small business guy all the time, so that's all he knew. He worked for a seed company, the largest seed company in Los Angeles, when he got out of the Navy. The owners loved him. He was such a faithful employee, that they

gave him a company car to use personally, and the whole family would use it. They just treated him royally because they loved him so much, and I guess he must have been successful. So small business was all he knew then. After that, he got into this motorcycle business probably because Willard Kemp talked him into it, and so that's all he knew. He was kind of forced to stay entrepreneurial by then. Whether that was in his blood or not or in his mind or not, I really don't know. Dad was not a risk taker much. Neither was Jack. They were both very conservative guys.

Kondracke: Let's talk about your mother. What would you say her major influences on Jack were?

Kemp: Intellect. Intellect. Assertive intellect. Mother was well educated for her time. She had a bachelor's degree, I believe in sociology, from University of Montana, and she came out West for a couple of years at Berkeley, California, at Berkeley, and got an advanced degree, a master's, I believe, in one or the other. I forget which came first. And immediately upon graduation, she got a job with the L.A. City School District. By the time she got married, why, she had a good job, I think it was up in the management hierarchy of the L.A. City school system, and I think she was in charge of truancy. She kept talking about her car and driver, and she would frequently go out into the *barrio* and pick kids up and haul them to school.

I'm going to research that. I'm going to find out what she actually did. She was not a Spanish teacher. She spoke Spanish, fluent Spanish, but she never taught Spanish. I think that's a misconception.

Kondracke: Was there ever any kind of family tension over the fact that she was so well educated and your dad wasn't?

Kemp: Yes, yes.

Kondracke: What kind?

Kemp: Again, we were shielded, but Dad would always pick at her and say, "Well, you're the expert. You know that better than I do," or he'd always push at her, prick at her at times. Mother, being assertive, she'd say, "Well, this is this and that," and Dad would say, "Yeah, well, you know all that because you're so smart." But Dad was not the kind of a guy that would ever continue that or keep that going. I don't think he inwardly—I'm sure he felt inadequate or inferior because of that. He always kept saying, "I never finished school." He always kept referring to that. So I'm sure he felt some degree of inadequacy because of that, but, again, he was a sunny guy. I mean, that always prevailed.

[Pause.]

Kondracke: When you say that your mother had the influence of inculcating intellect into Jack, what do you mean by that?

Kemp: Mother was an educated woman and she was, again, assertive, as I use that word, and she was alive, very much alive, very inquisitive, very much in tune with the world's affairs, and she pushed us intellectually all the time. We'd sit there at the dinner table, and what started out as a discussion would end up as a big battle, bang-bang, between us. Mother would foster that. She would get that going. She would ask questions and we'd tease each other about pronouncing words.

Dad finally would get up and throw his napkin down in disgust and walk away. That happened over and over and over again. He couldn't take the dissention. But we regularly had those arguments and battles. It's tough to use the word "battle," but these are, you know, four growing boys, all assertive and twitchy and aggressive, sitting at the dinner table. We ate dinner every single night at home. I can't recall—we hardly ever went out. Probably they didn't have the money to go out most of the time.

But Mother would inculcate us with current events and thoughts and ideas and opinions all the time, constantly. So this included Jack. That's what I'm getting at.

Kondracke: Can you remember any of the subject matter or how the action went?

Kemp: Well, it depends on what was happening. In '36, why, there was the *Hindenburg* disaster, and so we got into dirigibles and Germany and why dirigibles and what was going on with them. The king was crowned in England, and that became a huge subject to talk about England and the history and the crown and royalty, and why royalty and what royalty, where, and all of these sorts of subjects.

There's an interesting point that we can touch on or not about our projector at home and the films that we used to rent, but that was more on the entertainment side. Intellectually, I think that Mother would—see, here again I could talk about her relationship with me a lot, but I wasn't too conscious of how that directly affected Jack, but I know that he would have been just like Tom and Dick all were, directly affected by Mother's intellect, her thinking and her constant push of intellectual curiosity.

Kondracke: Do you remember Jack's participation in any of these debates?

Kemp: Yes, I do. He was Jack. He was very assertive and aggressive and argued a lot. I can't specifically remember the arguments, but we ranged all

over the map. And there was a lot of sports talk, the Hollywood Stars and the L.A. football team, Bulldogs, I think. I've forgotten their name now. But we used to go to a lot of ball games and a lot of events, and those would come up and we'd talk about those. But Jack was just one of the gang by the time I remember all of this. Early on he wasn't, but then as he grew up and got—he was kind of, at first, a pesky little red-haired pesky kid, and then he kind of grew up and began to think and talk and argue, and we just kind of went on that way until I went off to college. I'm assuming they probably continued that way, but by the time I went off, why, Tom was close to going off to college, too, so that probably broke up an awful lot of what had happened originally, and I really don't know much about what went on there, except when I came home, it was much the same.

Kondracke: So I get the impression that your dad was the sports person and your mom was the intellectual.

Kemp: That's essentially correct. Dad was an athlete and involved in sports, belonged to the Hollywood Athletic Club until the recession/Depression forced him out of it. He used to play handball up there on a weekly basis, perhaps during the week also; I've forgotten. He was very good at it, apparently. He won tournaments up there. This was the Hollywood Athletic Club, which was a division of the L.A. Athletic Club.

So Dad was the athlete. Mother was the intellect. Mother was the educated person. Dad would express ideas and thoughts on politics, but it was mainly Mother who led the charge.

Kondracke: I think Dick said in his book that she was the values person, that she was the disciplinarian.

Kemp: You know, that's easy to say, but I can remember being very afraid of Dad's moods when he would suddenly get tired of the problem. He never struck us, never laid a hand on us, but somehow we were really afraid of Dad when he got angry, which was very rare. But Mother was the one who was always carping at manners and carping at this. Dad would, too, but he was more of the quiet, passive side, and Mother was the aggressive side. Mother would always push on manners and attitudes and values, as Dick says. That's right. They both were highly valued. Dad would talk a lot about values and how to treat people and how not to treat people and things like that.

Kondracke: How did Jack absorb all that stuff?

Kemp: Mort, it's just like I did and like Tom did, as far as I know. It just all worked its way into his conscience and his memory bank and that was it. I don't recall any specifics about Jack in this particularly.

Kondracke: So what exactly was the role of sports in your family?

Kemp: Dad, being an athlete, was always athletic and was always playing ball in pickup groups or handball. I developed very, very severe asthma when I was two years old or two and a half, so that kind of pushed me out of any athletic effort at all. I was barely able to move much of the time for several years.

Tom was a natural athlete. Tom was Mr. Athlete. Everything came so easily to Tom, that it was almost amazing. Jack then came along after Tom was well into pitching and throwing and running, and we had an awful lot of pickup games out in the streets in our neighborhoods. A lot of the kids were very good at stickball and football and baseball. We played right out in the street. I'm sure Jack got into that crowd as he came along. I just remember him constantly pitching and throwing on the front lawn, constantly, with whoever he could get to catch the ball.

But your main point was—what was your main point?

Kondracke: Somebody has described this—maybe it was Jack himself at some point—saying that sports was all day, every day, morning, noon, and night.

Kemp: That's true of Jack and probably of Tom for much of the time too. Dad would come home late at night in the summertime, at least, and he would catch for Jack or Tom.

Kondracke: What were your mother and dad's attitudes toward competition?

Kemp: Competitive. I wouldn't say overly so, but competitive. Mother was a real competitor. She was, I take it, the captain of her basketball team up in Montana. I don't think she played after she left Montana, but she was a tall woman for her age and so she played basketball and I guess was quite good at it, from what her friends have told me.

Kondracke: But she didn't participate in sports when you were kids, did she?

Kemp: No.

Kondracke: So in what way was she competitive?

Kemp: Just encouraging winning. By competitive, you mean personally competitive? Not really, no. I don't see that. I just see her as encouraging a winning attitude, saying that, "You will win, you can win, and don't worry about it, you'll win," that type of thing.

Kondracke: Did she or your father make you boys competitive with one another?

Kemp: No, I don't think so. I think we were competitive enough without anybody encouraging us. I think we were all very competitive siblings. We just constantly bang, bang, bang together all the time.

Kondracke: What about fighting?

Kemp: You know, Dick is a better judge of this between himself and Jack. He'll tell you about that. I think he and Jack swung a few times at each other. Tom and I would get into it here and there. You can't help it, living in a small house. Not a lot of that. Not a lot of that at all. Mother was the peacemaker and Dad was the peacemaker. They were all peacemakers. They'd say, "Cool it. No need to fight." We were aggressive young

teenagers, so we managed to not obey that. We'd fight. We'd get into it, but not a lot of physical stuff.

Kondracke: Dick actually told me that the rivalry was between Jack and Tom, that Tom was such a great athlete that Jack either emulated him or—

Kemp: That's true. Jack emulated Tom. I think Jack hero-worshiped Tom greatly. When Tom died, Jack was devastated, and that's what he expressed to me all the time, was that his hero had died, had left. That was what came out so clearly when Tom died.

Kondracke: When did Tom die and what did he die of?

Kemp: He had a heart attack in a swimming pool in Laguna on a morning workout, and that must have been, Mort, seven or eight years ago now. I'm sorry I can't be more specific. I'd say it was 2005, '06, '07, somewhere in there.

Kondracke: And Jack—

Kemp: Was devastated. I got a call one morning. Nancy and I were headed down to the Los Angeles area, and I got a phone call from Jack's

office. I immediately called back from the car, and Jack was just absolutely out of control, he was so upset and crying. I was shocked. I mean, it took me totally by surprise. Everybody was shocked, of course. So I think Tom was very clearly Jack's hero, and that's really easy to see because Tom was already well established playing games in football and baseball both. He was, I think, an All-City athlete in both baseball and football. He was a southpaw pitcher and a southpaw single-wing quarterback. At Fairfax High, Tom was already a class president and the athlete worship stuff. So Jack was following right along behind that and came up after that, and I think Tom was his role model and his hero. But I don't think there was competition between them, other than just getting into it a little bit at sports at home or something.

But Jack was argumentative, so there would be a lot of argumentative question and answers-type stuff on sports, different teams, different statistics, different players, different opinions, you know.

Kondracke: Somehow crying, even with your brother dying, but also when you're cut from a football team and stuff like that, doesn't fit with the notion of tough guy football player. How do you square that?

Kemp: I'm probably not a good source on this question, but I could tell you that Jack was not an emotional guy when it came to crying or expressing

sorrow or sadness. The only times I can remember him crying were two or three times after he got cut. One time I think it was after the Steelers cut him. That was about the worst time. Then when Tom passed away. But there was no other history of that, to my knowledge.

Kondracke: So where did Jack get all this competitive spirit? It was from his mother, you think, your mother?

Kemp: I just think he grew up with it, Mort. I think that he was Mr. Outside, as I said in the beginning, and I think he started out having to kind of work his way into the family, and that's what made him into a guy that wanted to succeed. I think he kind of grew up, in a sense, alone, which is ridiculous to say it when you look at the closeness of our family, but within that context, why, he was kind of a loner in terms of Tom and me being a team together already.

Kondracke: Did he ever talk about competition and winning?

Kemp: No, not to my knowledge. Well, oh, yes, winning is everything by the time he got into sports. Oh, yes. Winning was a big deal to him, and he preached it to his kids, preached it to all of us.

Kondracke: One question about your mother. She's the one who said to you kids, "Be a leader," right?

Kemp: I think so, yes.

Kondracke: What did she mean by that? Or how often did she say it? Because Jack always said it to his kids.

Kemp: Right. But this was Mother to Jack probably later on. I don't remember that to me at all. I think I heard it probably second- or third-hand. That must have been to Jack and Dick later when they were growing up. There's, you know, two eras, in looking back. There was the Tom and Paul era in the beginning and then there was the Jack and Dick era later on, and we all separated.

Kondracke: What values did you think sports inculcated into Jack?

Kemp: Discipline. Jack was an amazingly disciplined guy, relatively undisciplined in some ways, but very disciplined, very able to do the tough things that he had to do in order to win. He started out lifting weights and working hard on weights and conditioning when he was very young.

Kondracke: As a kid?

Kemp: Yes. He looked at his body and said, "Wow, what a weak, thin-looking body. I don't like my legs. I don't like my arms. I don't like being white-skinned." He wanted to get a tan. He wanted to be built up, so he began to build up. He began to lift weights strongly every day at home and at gym, and he used to grunt, and we'd tease him. Mother would laugh at him. He used to make these grunting workout noises. I guess that's part of the drill. But we all used to laugh at him for that, but he didn't laugh. He was very serious about that, and he had a whole set of weights right at home, and he'd stand there and lift and lift and lift. In my collection I have pictures of him doing that at home.

Kondracke: Did he do that in order to be a quarterback at Fairfax or was it even before that?

Kemp: No, I think that was before that. I think he just decided he didn't like his skinny teenager body and decided he was going to build it up. And, of course, in those days it wasn't Jack LaLanne then, but it was some early childhood—

Kondracke: Charles Atlas.

Kemp: Yes, right. Charles Atlas on the magazine covers and everything, you know, that would emphasize, "I can build you up into a real man." I think Jack just got into that flow and began to work hard at it. But he was always a conditioning guy, always a conditioning guy, to my knowledge.

Kondracke: How was he as a student?

Kemp: Here again, you're kind of out of my field, but I think he was plenty good enough. Mort, I can't answer that very well. That's probably a good one for Dick.

Kondracke: What was he undisciplined about? You said he was undisciplined about some things.

Kemp: Probably spur-of-the-moment impetuousness. He'd do some crazy kid stuff, driving. I think he wrecked one of Dad's trucks one time, trying to turn too quickly into a building or something. Jack was not a patient guy at all. I think those of us who knew him, people you'll interview will tell him that he was not a patient guy. He was quite impatient and quite impetuous to move on and do something, get going, think of something else.

Kondracke: How did that manifest itself besides driving a truck into a building?

Kemp: I can't think of anything right now, but I just know that he was impatient. He was famous for that. He picked Nancy and me up at home one time up in North. No, I guess we drove to Sacramento. He was out for Jeff's ballgame. I'm driving my Cadillac up into Sacramento, and Jack and Joanne got in. I'm driving along through traffic in the rain, and Jack says, "Paul, you're not driving fast enough. Let me drive."

"Okay, Jack. All right." I got out and let Jack drive, and, man, he cruised around in the rain as if he were dry, all by himself on the road.

He was kind of a very impetuous, impatient guy in many, many ways. So that was the only thing that I would say that he was kind of undisciplined. He never did conquer his impatience, I don't think, and it manifested itself in so many ways that I can almost not think of it. He was forever saying, "Joanne, where's this? Why don't we have that? Paul, why don't you do that? What's the matter? Why can't you do that?" He was just always impatient with something or other, never quiet satisfied. He always wanted something right now, quick, fast.

Kondracke: Did he get mad at people when they didn't jump?

Kemp: He'd get flash irritated. Yes, he'd get irritated. He wouldn't get what you'd call really angry; he just got severely irritated. [laughs] Yes, he would flash. He would flash at people.

Kondracke: Swear?

Kemp: No. Oh, lightly, maybe sometimes, but not to the point that you'd ever notice it, I don't think.

Kondracke: Back to the intellectual business. Were there books around the house?

Kemp: Yes, lots of them, lots of them.

Kondracke: Did he read?

Kemp: Oh, yes, very much so. I don't know when he started reading. Athletics was so dominant in his consciousness that I don't think he really began to read until probably high school and then college. I think college is what lit his fire a lot. By the time he got down to Costa Mesa in 1959, he was very well read, and he and I were talking about books, but at that time Jack was mainly reading politics and economics and history. I got him into a

whole other side of books and cultural activities. I remember I took him a copy of Irving Stone's *Clarence Darrow for the Defense*, and he raved about that book, and we began to talk about it and talk about Clarence Darrow and all the things that Darrow did. For the rest of his life, Jack always used to say—and I would blush and deny it, but Jack would say that I was the one that gave him the love of reading. I don't believe that. I think that's part of Jack's flattery. But I don't think that ever last his mind, that he had suddenly discovered a whole new branch of reading and a whole new type of reading from the time that we were together down in Costa Mesa.

I then gave him a copy of Stone's Michelangelo book, *Agony and Ecstasy*, or something like that, and we used to talk about that kind of Renaissance history and stuff like that. So that kind of awakened Jack in some way. And we'd talk about the ballet and we'd talk about concerts and we'd talk about music and we'd listen to music together sometimes. I gave Jack some records, some classical records which he ended up really liking and loving.

Is that on your question? Am I on the track?

Kondracke: Yes. At Occidental, supposedly he was into music and ballet.

Kemp: You know, here again I have to give—

Kondracke: Where did that come from?

Kemp: Mother. Mother pushed—

Kondracke: Did you go to ballet, concerts when you were a kid?

Kemp: Yes, yes, yes. Our mother would push that. I had elocution lessons when I was, like, five years old. I then had violin lessons for ten or twelve years. Tom had piano lessons. I think Jack had clarinet lessons or something, and Dick played an instrument; I've forgotten now what that was.

But we were raised kind of in the new, modern way of raising kids in those days. Mother was a professional person and she kind of had this, I suppose, a modern way of raising her kids, so that's how we were raised. So Jack got his music from Mother and partially me. I love music.

One of the things growing up in Hollywood gave us was we lived right in the middle of the film community. Two doors up and a girlfriend of Jack's for a time, or Dick's, I guess, was the head of casting for Columbia Pictures, and down the street and across was Otto Pierce, the cameraman on Cecil B. DeMille's big epochs. Down the street on our side three or four doors were the Binion brothers [Claude and Dewey], the stars of a long-running radio serial. Next door to us—the point I'm really trying to get to—was Kurt

Reher, who was first chair cellist for the L.A. Philharmonic. He moved in next to us. I think he had been in New York. He was a German immigrant; he'd come from Germany to play in the United States. He became the first chair cellist of the Philharmonic, but then he would go to the Hollywood Bowl, and many times I would drive up with him at six o'clock and sit way up in the stands, and he took Jack, I think, several times, or at least Jack went to the Hollywood Bowl a lot. Mother would take us. We frequently went to the Bowl during the summer. I don't recall going to concerts downtown. I remember it was always Hollywood Bowl.

Kondracke: Art galleries?

Kemp: Yes, yes, to some extent. Nothing extraordinary, but, yes, I can remember we went to art galleries, museums a lot. Mother would haul us to museums.

Kondracke: Did people in your family have any particular heroes, or did Jack have any particular heroes besides [Robert S.] Bob Waterfield? [laughs]

Kemp: Bob Waterfield, Otto [Everett] Graham [Jr.]. I think he did, but, Mort, I can't recall right now. Sports figures, major sports figures. The guys

that had their names on these games that he would play were always his heroes.

Kondracke: And what about your dad and mom? Did they have any particular outside heroes that they talked about who weren't sports figures, or were they in sports too?

Kemp: I can't remember any right now. That's a good question for me to ponder.

Kondracke: Let me ask you about the place of Christian Science in your family. Were your parents always Scientists?

Kemp: No. Apparently, Grandmother got interested in or converted to Christian Science in South Dakota, and I think she brought that out to her family a little bit, and I think Dad and Jack picked that up. There were no other Christian Sciences in the Elva Mary Kemp family that I know of.

When I first went to Sunday school—this must have been 1932 or '33, I went to a Christian church down on Wilshire Boulevard, and I went to Sunday school there for several Sundays and I came home and told Mother what I did. I don't think she liked that, and suddenly I found myself in a Christian Science Sunday school. So somehow that happened when I must

have been six or seven years old. And from that point on, they were very dedicated Christian Scientists. They both were Readers in the church. Readers are the Christian Science substitute for preachers. Mother was a Reader first and then Dad became a Reader. I'm sorry; it was just the reverse. Dad must have become a Reader in 1940, '41, or '42, and Mother became a Reader after that.

Kondracke: Did you kids develop into Readers too?

Kemp: No, no.

Kondracke: Dick eventually became a—

Kemp: Dick was the deepest into church of anybody and became a Christian Science chaplain in the Navy, assigned to the Marine Corps, and served over in Vietnam in some horrific conditions, which is another book of his that's just wonderful.

But Tom was a dedicated Christian Scientist. I've sort of been in and out of it my whole life, never out of it really, but just differing in depth and differing in discipline to it. But both Dad and Mother were very devoted.

Kondracke: And Jack?

Kemp: Jack was into Christian Science a lot until he married Joanne, and I think during that point, I think he converted and became a Presbyterian, but he had become a class-taught Christian Scientist before he married Joanne.

Kondracke: Was there any distress in the family about his conversion?

Kemp: Oh, I don't think so. There might have been, but here again, the folks never would share any of that with us.

Kondracke: I take it the family took to Joanne when she turned up?

Kemp: Oh, very much so. Oh, yes. She was wonderful. She was an instant hit with the family. She's such a terrific person.

Kondracke: So what are the values, exactly, that Christian Science inculcates into people?

Kemp: Spirituality, loyalty, honesty, you know, all the good stuff. Worship God, be humble, try to forget about self, try to forget about the material world, and focus on the spiritual side of things. Honesty, hard work, you

know, all the old-fashioned values are what they put forth. That's why I started out calling them an old-fashioned family.

Kondracke: Well, what about this notion of being positive all the time? I mean that the world is essentially good and everything's going to turn out all right. Some people have said that Jack Kemp was an inveterate optimist and that this comes from Christian Science. Is there any connection there?

Kemp: Sure. I think that's the foundation rock of Christian Science, is that God made all, and since God is good, then all is good, so everything has to be good. So that's a bedrock foundational item in Christian Science, so you're encouraged to see that in everything, rather than to see anything evil or wrong. So I'm sure that had a major effect on Jack. Plus he was just a very positive guy in his nature.

Kondracke: So what about injury and sickness and stuff like that? Here Jack Kemp, he gets injured again and again and again and again and again, even in high school, I guess.

Kemp: Sure.

Kondracke: So does Christian Science say anything about what to do about when you're injured?

Kemp: Sure. Well, Christian Science is a silent healer, so nothing was ever really said, but I recall sitting in the stands at Oxy, and Jack was carried off the field, unconscious, and Dad would just get up and we'd both walk down to the locker room. I'm sure Dad was praying that whole time. Jack would come to. They'd pass smelling salts under his nose. The next thing you know, he'd be out on the field again for the last half or the fourth quarter, playing his head off. So again, it's a silent process, so I couldn't tell you that there was any overt expression of anything. I'm sure Mother and Dad spent a lot of time praying.

Kondracke: Dick records somewhere that not only did they drive him up to Canada when he joined the football team up there, but when he got cut, they drove him back and he was in distress, and your mother said something like, "Don't worry. When one door closes, another one opens." Is that something that she often said, or do you remember that story?

Kemp: That's what she would say. I don't recall that specifically, but I'm sure that's what she said. That's what she was always saying. That's how

she was always talking. She was sort of well known for that within the family.

Kondracke: Anything else about Christian Science that you think is important to know in assessing Jack's character?

Kemp: Not really, Mort. It was just the family style of thinking, so he was raised in that environment and I'm sure it had some residual effect on him.

Kondracke: So he started wanting to be a pro quarterback when?

Kemp: Probably high school. You know, probably dreaming about it when he was a little kid playing those games, probably dreaming about it from the beginning. Little kids dream. We all do. We all have our secret ambitions, and I imagine that's when he decided he wanted to be an Otto Graham or a Bob Waterfield or something like that.

Kondracke: Did the family think that he had a chance?

Kemp: I don't think anybody thought about it. I'm sure that Mother and Dad would have said, "Sure, go ahead. You can do that. If you want to do it bad enough, you'll do it." But I don't think anybody would particularly

take him very seriously. I think at the time that this was going on, they were so focused on just survival and getting things done, and managing four boisterous kids, I just don't know specifically about that.

Kondracke: When he was playing at Fairfax, did everybody go to the games, the whole family?

Kemp: No, not all the time. I only went to a very few. There were so many games, that we just couldn't make many of them. Mother wasn't too fond of going; she was always so afraid. Mother was very fearful.

Kondracke: Of what?

Kemp: Of anything mothers fear: injury, accidents. I'm sure that she prayed a lot over that stuff. She was, I would say, equally tending to fear as much as she was assertive and outgoing. Looking back, I think my mother was a very powerful woman in a quiet way, in a motherhood way.

Kondracke: Your brother Dick actually says that you lived in a matriarchal household, that she sort of was the dominant figure.

Kemp: I think that's very true. I think that's very true. Dad was far more passive than Mother, but then Dad was the guy that had to go to work every morning at five-thirty and got home by six or seven o'clock at night and was always trying to make that payroll that I mentioned. Again, he was a simpler guy. Mother was considerably more intellectually complicated than Dad ever was.

Kondracke: That raises the question, how did they ever get married?

Kemp: Good question. I don't know. Mother's family used to winter. They were Montanans with huge ranches in eastern Montana, and they would winter in Pasadena. Somehow the families got together, and Mother met Dad and they ended up getting married, but they were very, very different people. But Dad was a lover. Dad was a very loving guy. He loved women, but again, his sense of loyalty and honor would never permit him to be much of a carouser of any kind. He was really a lover, and women flocked to him his whole life, in my recollection.

Kondracke: How about Jack? Did Jack have a lot of girlfriends?

Kemp: I think so. He had several, I know. But again, athletics was always the dominant aspect for Jack, if not politics and stuff like that, but Jack was an athlete. That was his main focus.

Kondracke: You got your status in the Kemp household by being intellectual, by being a sports standout, not chasing girls, I take it.

Kemp: That's right. That's right. Mother and Dad would never have permitted much in the way of—and I don't think any of us really had that on our mind most of the time. Tom was just an absolutely attractive guy, and he never even really tried to do much. He was an athlete, but Tom was Mr. Loose Goose, Mr. Hey, I Just Stand Here and It Falls On Me. So Tom never appeared to do anything to get anywhere or go anywhere or do anything; it just all happened to him. Of course, that's a false image, but that's the way he would look to people, to me too. Tom was an amazing guy.

Kondracke: So Jack goes to Occidental. Why did he go to Occidental as opposed to USC, where you went and Tom went?

Kemp: He worshipped the track coach there [Payton Jordan]. I don't think the track coach is a very famous guy. The name just doesn't quite come to mind real quickly, but I'm sure you'd know it, Mort. Gosh, it'll come to me.

But the track coach was an Olympic champion, famous coach, and Jack wanted to be with him.

Kondracke: So did he go there to do javelin as opposed to being a football player?

Kemp: No, I think he just went there to be with that coach. I don't really know the answer to that, I guess, in very much detail. I just know that he worshipped that coach and that he went there to be a part of that—it may have been track that he was—although he was mainly enthusiastic about football and baseball. Gosh, the name of that coach. It'll come to me probably after we're on the way home.

Kondracke: So did the family go to games at Oxy?

Kemp: Sure. Yes, quite often. Every week. I only made a few, because by this time I was at SC or beyond. But, yes, Dad would go as often as he could. Mother, sometimes. Again, she was reluctant to go because of her fear.

Kondracke: Why did he major in physical education if he was into intellectual subjects?

Kemp: That was his life and his sole interest until he woke up to the fact that he loved politics and loved ideas and loved more complex intellectual things. At that point, then he added political science, so I think he graduated in both, didn't he? I'll have to find out.

Kondracke: So then he goes through all the trials and tribulations about being a pro football player, but then he finally lands. So did you all go to Chargers games all the time?

Kemp: Oh, yes. Sat in the Coliseum when the L.A. Chargers played. I think their first season was 1960. There'd be 5,000 of us in that 10,000-seat stadium. [laughs] And it was Jack running around the field trying to pass the ball, as usual. That was the way he looked in high school and the way he looked in college and the way he looked for the Chargers, racing around, trying to evade the other guys, linemen and linebackers, and trying to find a receiver open and get the ball to him. It was a lot of fun, I'll tell you.

Kondracke: Did he ever talk to you about Sid Gilman?

Kemp: Oh, yes, a lot.

Kondracke: What did he say?

Kemp: Sid Gilman was kind of like a surrogate father to him. Sid Gilman publicly announced, I think, more than once, but one time very dramatically in a news conference that if he'd had a son, he would want that son to be Jack Kemp. It caused quite a stir in the press. Jack would talk to me about what Sid would talk to him and how Sid would push him and nudge him and argue with him and fight with him over how to do things and how to win. Sid was quite a coach. He was such an advocate of the passing game that he was a great coach for Jack in that sense, and I think he brought out the best in Jack.

Kondracke: Jack admired him?

Kemp: Very much. Felt very loyal to him.

Kondracke: So how did he feel when Sid Gilman let him go on waivers to the Buffalo Bills?

Kemp: You know, I was separated from my first wife at the time, Mort, and I was living in Denver. Jack showed up. I had season tickets to the Bronco

games. Jack showed up and stayed with me when the Chargers came to town. I think this was his next to last year with the Chargers. Had to be 1961 or ’62. Jack showed up and stayed with me at my home in Denver, and he was very, very, very upset and sad. Turns out that he at that time—he would never admit this to me later, but Al Davis was on his case, and Al was giving him a very, very bad time.

Kondracke: Why?

Kemp: I don’t know the specifics. All I know is that Davis did not like Jack at that time. Neither one would ever admit that now. They’d probably very much deny it. But at the time I recall being very worried for Jack that Davis was going to get him, that Davis was going to—and sure enough, I think Davis did get him eventually. The story goes that Jack was put on waivers to hide him, but I think all that time Al Davis had been working to get Jack pushed out.

Kondracke: So what did Jack say about what the Davis problem was?

Kemp: I think they disagreed. I think they disagreed on playing approach, tactics. I think that Davis—I can’t say for sure, Mort, but I think it was that Jack was a favorite of Gilman’s, and Gilman kept favoring Jack over other

players. I think Davis resented that. Davis felt he was God's gift to the offense of the Chargers. He was the offensive coordinator at the time. I think Gilman kept overruling, and I think either out of jealousy or anger or resentment or something, Davis just turned against Jack. I don't know anything more specific than that, but I know at that time that when Jack showed up in Denver, he was very, very worried and very upset and very concerned, and he was specifically mentioning Al Davis being out to get him.

Kondracke: But Gilman was still the coach.

Kemp: Yes.

Kondracke: So was it an accident or was Gilman unhappy with—

Kemp: Jack broke his middle finger in San Diego at a game, and they pulled him out. It was a tight game, and they gave him an injection of Novocain and he went back in. After every pass, he would dislocate that finger again and he would reset it himself out on the field. He'd stick it back in the socket or whatever you do with a dislocated finger. And he'd throw that ball, and that was his last game for the Chargers. So he got waivered. How deliberate or how accidental it was is another question. Here again, I privately, personally think it was Al Davis that engineered it.

Gilman is somehow credited with trying to hide Jack, and he ended up getting, quote, "discovered" by the Buffalo Bills, and they had a coin toss in Kansas City or St. Louis, wherever the AFL Headquarters were, and Buffalo won the coin toss. That's my version. I think there's other versions of it. But I think Buffalo won the coin toss. Jack found himself on an airplane the next day, flying from San Diego Airport to Buffalo, New York, and the rest is history.

Kondracke: How did the family feel about him suddenly taking off for the east side of the country?

Kemp: Our family?

Kondracke: Yes.

Kemp: I think we were all very concerned. We were all regretful. Playing for the Chargers was a heck of a lot more—it was closer to us, more fun, it was more accessible to us, and Buffalo seemed like a different country to us at the time, and we couldn't imagine somebody. Buffalo? Where is Buffalo to Californians? So we were all worried.

Actually, Jack had a great time, which isn't your question, but he ended up having an extremely good time. Buffaloans just took him to their

bosom. He loved skiing, even up in Buffalo, where there aren't that many good hills for skiing. Why, he loved skiing, skied a lot up there. He and Joanne had a great life up there.

Kondracke: But he came back fairly often. Didn't he work for Governor Reagan?

Kemp: During the off-season in the Charger era, he worked for Governor [Ronald W.] Reagan in California, in Sacramento. That would have been in the very early sixties, I think. I recommend that you talk to Sal Russo about that. I think he met Sal in those days, and he and Sal became very close in the Reagan fraternity. That friendship with Reagan lasted until Reagan passed away.

[Pause.]

Kondracke: So when did you first suspect that Jack was going to go into politics?

Kemp: With Governor Reagan I think he found a real home up here in Sacramento. I think that lit that secondary fire in him that gave him the ultimate desire to get into politics, and, of course, Jack was constantly espousing ideas. He was constantly trying to convince people of the right way. I'm sure that that led him to feel like, "I've got to get into a position

where I can make myself heard and felt." So I'm sure that he began to think that he could do that. I think it took him, still, by surprise when they finally got a hold of him in Buffalo and suggested that he run, but I think that had been kind of his background goal all along.

Kondracke: Back in the days when you were neighbors and he was reading already history and politics and stuff like that, and you were discussing things with him, did you agree with his politics or his world view?

Kemp: I think the only thing that Jack and I ever differed on, Mort, was Israel. I think everything else we seemed to agree on, and essentially we agreed on Israel, but Jack became such a fanatical supporter of Israel, that they could literally do no wrong, and I didn't think that was right at all. I am a supporter of Israel, and Jack and I, the only hard words that we've ever had as adults were on this subject. So when we were living near each other down there in Costa Mesa, no, I think we both just kept discussing things and perhaps arguing about details, and then we'd run home and look up stuff.

We always enjoyed the idea of surprising the other one with some fact or word. We were great on teasing each other about words. I would shoot a word at him that he already knew, and I'd say, "Jack, that means such-and-such," and you could see how upset he'd get over that. Or I'd use a

word that he didn't know, and he'd get upset at that and have to run to look it up in the dictionary. We used to tease each other about that all the time. That was a favorite game of ours. I think that's what came from Mother, that kind of thing. That kind of thing was what we'd toss around the dinner table when we were kids.

Kondracke: Did it surprise you that he was as successful a politician as he was, or did you think he had it in him from the get-go?

Kemp: Mort, that's a good question. I don't think I was really surprised. I've always seen Jack as a winner at whatever he did, and he had such a phenomenal way of finding out what he had to know in order to get someplace. Jack seemed to have an amazing ability to—I don't want to say f_____ his way along, but to determine what was needed to win the game. No, I can't say that I was surprised. I was always in wonderment, but never surprised.

Kondracke: Did he talk to you about his political ambitions, how high he thought he could go or what he thought he could get done?

Kemp: Only a little bit. Jack was very private that way. He let me know that he really thought that he had a chance at being a leader, and so he

thought he might have a chance at becoming president, and I think that other people encouraged him and pushed him very hard to do that, so in ’88 he finally took the plunge and decided to try for the nomination. I don’t ever recall him ever confiding in me that he ever really, really wanted to be president. I think it just happened. No, I don’t think he ever did. I don’t know that he would have with anybody, perhaps, other than Joanne.

Kondracke: Did you get involved in any of this campaigns?

Kemp: Oh, sure.

Kondracke: What did you do?

Kemp: When Jack ran for the nomination in ’88, why, I had just taken a new job in New York out on Long Island, so Jack was going to go to New Hampshire and try to get a good turnout in a vote in New Hampshire for the primary there, so the whole family went up. A lot of people from the family went up there. Nancy and I got on a plane, flew to Buffalo, got off, joined the campaign. They flew us to way upstate New Hampshire. I guess we got off in the capital, drove northward, and tramped the snows of New Hampshire and shook hands and made the pitch as much as we could for several days. Jack did okay, but he didn’t do well enough.

So then I look back at ourselves as being hangers-on. We were always just outriders along with him. We went on a lot of his bus trips and his campaign trips when he was running for the vice presidency with [Robert J.] Dole. Absolutely dazzled with what that whole process was, and it was so much fun for us to just be hangers-on, as I call us.

Kondracke: You were on his bus?

Kemp: Oh, yes. Oh, yes, and on his plane. That's quite an experience.

Kondracke: How did he take not doing well in '88?

Kemp: I think he was disappointed, but it's onward and upward for him. He was disappointed.

Kondracke: It wasn't like getting cut from the Chargers.

Kemp: No, not nearly that bad. I think Jack had such a spirit to him, and he had so many friends that kept pushing him, saying, "Don't worry about it. Don't worry about it. It'll come around again," yadda, yadda, yadda. So I'm sure he was disappointed. I felt some of that, but not a lot. So again, it's up to somebody perhaps who was closer to him at that time.

Kondracke: Did he really want to be president?

Kemp: You know, Mort, that's a darn good question. I don't think so. I think that he was pushed hard. There was a strong number of people in this country that liked him and wanted to see him in that role, advanced. To this day I'm stopped all the time by people saying, "Gosh, I wish your brother had—," and so forth. But I think in the end, I think he was kind of relieved to not have to go through that terrible, terrible process.

Kondracke: Did he want to be vice president with Reagan in 1980? Did you talk about that?

Kemp: Yes, he did. He was very disappointed. I was in New York. I was in Long Island. I was in a meeting. I was having a national sales meeting of my guys from this country, and the phone kept ringing and they'd call me to the phone. It was Jack. He was waiting for the final answer for Reagan to tell him that he was going to be the candidate. I'm sorry, are we talking Reagan or Bush?

Kondracke: Reagan in ’80. Reagan is the nominee in ’80, and Jack might have been his vice presidential candidate. He chose George Bush instead.

Kemp: No, I’m sorry. I’m off the track. I don’t recall that, Mort, at all. I was beginning to spout off on what happened when George Bush the first ended up picking [James Danforth] Dan Quayle.

Kondracke: I see. So he thought he had a chance then?

Kemp: Very definitely, and he was very disappointed when it was Quayle. I talked to Jack probably half a dozen times that morning, and when he finally called me and told me that they’d picked Dan Quayle, he was very crestfallen.

Kondracke: Did he tell you what was going on? Did he make a campaign in ’88?

Kemp: I think Jack told me that Bush didn’t trust him. I think Jack said that—I can’t say what he said. I can say that I think what he felt was that Bush regarded him as too much of a maverick, unreliable in that sense, too much his own man, unwilling to hew to the Bush party line.

Kondracke: So what did he say about expressing disappointment when it was Quayle?

Kemp: I expressed sympathy and he said, "Yeah, it really hurts." He said, "I felt that I was really going to have the bid." And he said, "Something happened this morning and I'm not in it." Here I was in this big meeting and I really felt bad. I felt like being by myself or talking to him, but I was tied up and so was he. But I talked to him at least half a dozen times that morning.

Kondracke: Let's go back to family history now. Dick says that you're the ultimate expert on the history of the Kemps and the Popes.

Kemp: That's Dick's revenge. [laughs]

Kondracke: Starting on the Kemp side, when did the Kemps first come to America?

Kemp: Holy smokes. I think it was in the mid 17th century. I'm not really an expert on genealogy of the Kemps. I've read it and so has Dick, or some of it. The Kemps came from—I think it was—I've forgotten the town in

England, but they came over very early on in the 17th century, late 17th century.

Kondracke: 1600s?

Kemp: Yes, in the 1600s, I think late in the century, and I think that they had been, I think, military people early on in England, and I think that's where the name came from. I think the name "kemping" is a form of dueling or combat of some kind. I think that's where the family name came from. I think that they eventually became—what's the old word for it in those days?

Kondracke: Indentured servants.

Kemp: No, not really, no. They were more entrepreneurial in that sense. They were running horses. They were running horse rental, horse sales, freight business with wagons, and they first settled somewhere up in Massachusetts and then gradually moved down to New York, and they ended up in Watertown, New York, where they ran the business during the 19th century, during the Civil War. They apparently made a lot of money running freight for the Union and buying and selling horses.

So my grandfather was part of that family and went West to round up horses, I guess, every year, and on one of those years, why, he camped by a river in South Dakota and decided that's where he was going to go and settle eventually, I guess. So they founded the town called Watertown, South Dakota, and the main drag there is known as Kemp Avenue. That's where he had a ranch and a farm.

Kondracke: That's John Edwin Kemp.

Kemp: No, that's Oscar Padock Kemp. Oscar Padock Kemp was the son who went West to round up horses for the family business, selling horses to the government.

Kondracke: So it's Oscar who married Elva.

Kemp: Right.

Kondracke: Who was your grandmother.

Kemp: Right.

Kondracke: And who were her people?

Kemp: Her people were the Frenches, a very, very strong, relatively famous family. Her brother, I think it was, founded the chain of French hospitals in Los Angeles that were more or less occupational hospitals, more or less working-men's hospitals. There was a whole chain of them, and they're now called the Pacific Medical Centers or something like that, but that chain was founded by Mother's brother, a very, very successful guy, very wealthy, successful guy. Her family, I think, was very notable. She had two sisters who were doctors back in the late 1800s, early 1900s. She had three widowed or single sisters who lived together in Boyle Heights, which was then a lovely, lovely high-class area of Los Angeles, and that's where Grandmother lived with her family when she came out from South Dakota.

Her husband died in 190-something, 1904, '05, '06, and she sold the farm and the ranch and put the whole family on a chartered railroad car, sent the oldest son out to L.A. to scout the territory, and he bought a home and she brought the whole gang out on this railroad car. They ended up living together out on Soto Street in East L.A.

Kondracke: Why did they pick L.A.?

Kemp: The land of opportunity, the land of growth, the land of prosperity. Dad said that they were really taken in by all of the railroad advertising. The

railroads were busy promoting traffic to the West Coast, to California, and California was the promised land, so she had all these kids and they had to go someplace, so she took them to what the promised land had, and that was how they got here.

Kondracke: So Elva lived with you guys for a while. What was she like and what kind of an influence—

Kemp: She was a great, great old lady. She had an Indian—I was going to say Indian background. That's not accurate. She had a ranch with her husband back in South Dakota, and they had many Indian tribes living within a distance of their house, and there were raiders—not raiders, but there were thieves and marauders, you know, dissident groups among the Indians, and one night she apparently had to use a gun somehow. I've forgotten that story, but it was a famous story that circulated in the family. Kept a gun under her pillow, I guess, for a while back there. But she was steeped in Indian culture and Indian lore, and she brought that out with her, so when she lived with us, she lived with us before Dick was ever born, but then I think she was living with Uncle Jack. She'd come over and say Indian words to Jack and Dick, and she kind of filled their heads with Indian stuff, and it was kind of funny.

But Grandmother lived among Jack and us. She lived with us from the time I was two, 1930, until probably ’34 or ’35. In 1932, the Lindbergh baby was kidnapped, and so Grandmother had my Dad’s shop come and put bars on all of our windows in Hollywood. We grew up with these big iron bars on all of our windows in the house. Grandmother said, “Do it.” So talk about a matriarchal society, that was sure one. And we didn’t have bicycles for a long time either, because she thought that was too dangerous a vehicle. Mother finally went out and bought us all bikes, said, “To heck with all of you, Dad. Your mother can figure out how you’re going to deal with this.” [laughs]

Kondracke: So she influenced your dad.

Kemp: Very much so. Dad was extremely loyal to her. Again, that’s why I keep talking about him having a really old-fashioned loyalty to his mother. It was very touching.

Kondracke: So on your mother’s side, how did the Popes get to South Dakota?

Kemp: Again, an English immigrant to New England.

Kondracke: So you're all Daughters of the American Revolution.

Kemp: I think so. Well, Mother was a member of the DAR. You know, speaking of heroes, I'm trying to think of her name. It doesn't pop right up to me, but Anderson, the black woman that was a famous mezzo-soprano.

Kondracke: Marion Anderson.

Kemp: Yes. Mother used to worship her a lot and used to talk about her being denied the chance to sing in Washington, and finally putting on that great concert at—I think it was the Lincoln Memorial. Mother used to really worship her, spoke very, very highly of her.

What was your subject, Mort?

Kondracke: Let me just stop you there. So Jack Kemp's tolerant attitude, which is famous, you know, his biracial, non-racial attitude, precedes his football days.

Kemp: I would say a little bit, Mort, but I think that came from sports. I think 95 percent of that came from being dependent upon strong black players protecting his rear end during games. I think he traveled with them,

practically lived with them during the season, so I think that's where that came from.

Kondracke: So, back to the family. So, what do you know about Gershom [Barlow] Pope and Lucy Catlett [Pope]?

Kemp: The Catletts I know very little about except they had some prominent people in the family. One was a general, a famous general. Gershom Barlow was a wild and wooly rancher, sheep and cattle, headquarters in Mile City in eastern Montana, and had apparently at times many hundreds of thousands of acres, perhaps millions of acres of land. Especially as the market would rise for sheep and cattle, why, he'd expand his size of his acreage, and wartimes were the best times for him. World War I apparently was a huge time of expansion because the country was seeking hides and meat and wool, so he ended up in World War I quite wealthy. He was the first guy to own a car in Mile City.

His wife died when Mother was nine, so Mother was raised in a male family with three brothers and her dad in the house. Her dad was a real crusty Wild West guy.

Kondracke: You met him?

Kemp: No. I was apparently his favorite child when I was very young. Mother took us to Montana on the train a couple of times, me, but I never knew him, no. I was too young. He died, Mother said, of a broken heart in 1929, I think it was. The Depression ruined him. The Crash ruined him, apparently. How that particular crash would ruin a rancher I'm not altogether sure, but perhaps he was highly leveraged or something.

Kondracke: So how long did your folks live?

Kemp: Dad lived until he was eighty, and Mother lived—gee, I think she passed away in '69. I think she was probably only seventy years old. Heart. Dad had a stroke and Mother, I think, had a heart attack and passed away.

Kondracke: And how did Jack take their deaths?

Kemp: Just about like the rest of us. It was tough, very tough. Jack was away, I think, for both events. I think he was living in Buffalo for both events. I think. Or Washington, D.C., perhaps. I'll have to go back and think about those dates. I can't remember. But Jack, I think he was very, very, very upset, like all of us were, and flew out. We never had a funeral for either parent, which is a Christian Science sort of thing. I think he flew out to be with us, though, after both.

Kondracke: So when Jack himself got sick, did you talk to him a lot about how he felt, how worried he was? How did you learn about the diagnosis?

Kemp: He called me and told me. He called me often then during that time, and as the suspicion grew, it was never at first known. I mean, it wasn't a decision; it was just a possibility. He was told that it was a likely problem, but he kept saying there was always this chance and that chance of not having it go further. Then I think one day he called me up—I think it was a Sunday afternoon, and he said, "Hey, it's terminal now. They've told me that I've only got," I think he said, "three months to live." I think that's about right, too. I think that's about all he did live. He went very, very quickly.

But I think he was, at first, worried, and then I think he just calmed down and accepted it. Here again, I wasn't that close to know. But every time he talked to me, he seemed, at first, alarmed and then subdued.

Kondracke: Did he have a kind of religious attitude toward it?

Kemp: Mort, not to my knowledge. Dick might have more knowledge of that than I would. Both of us flew back, but at different times. I flew back and spent a long weekend with him. I think it was four or five days. Dick

flew back and spent some time with him or came through on a trip, and I think Dick got into religion with him, but I did not.

Kondracke: So we're just about to the end. Is there anything I've missed about who Jack Kemp was or what the world ought to know about?

Kemp: Impatience was a big characteristic. I think that his need to fit in and desire to get inside the group was what gave him his nature. To me, that's been the key to how he turned out like he did. He was number three in the list of seniority, and had to push his way into the crowd in order to make it, and he did that for the rest of his life. Sports, politics, he was always an outsider in a way, when you stop and think about it.

Kondracke: Which created drive and focus.

Kemp: Sure. You bet. I think that his need to fit in and desire to get inside the group was what gave him his nature. To me, that's been the key to how he turned out like he did. He was number three in the list of seniority, and had to push his way into the crowd in order to make it, and he did that for the rest of his life. Sports, politics, he was always an outsider in a way, when you stop and think about it.

Kondracke: Paul Kemp, thank you very much for doing this.

Kemp: Gee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to talk about a great guy.

Kondracke: Thank you.

[End of interview]