ADELAIDE HART

1900 - 1995

Interviewed by

Tom Downs

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TD: This is Monday, June 26, 1995, and with me is Adelaide Hart. Adelaide Hart is now at Mercy Brook in Rochester Hills, and Adelaide is a person in her own right. She's been a real important cog in Michigan political history. She was vice chairman of the Michigan Democratic Party, a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, a teacher in Detroit, and a very effective music teacher there, a member of the teachers' union, an active Democrat and has kept her Catholic religion always as part of her regular life. So, first, just a little of the family background. Where were you born?

AH: Born in Saginaw. I'm reading a book right now on the last farm, and it is from Saginaw.

TD: Then when did you move to Charlotte?

AH: We moved to Charlotte three years after I was born. We were there until I graduated from high school. Well, we lived there after that, but I graduated from high school. All my grade school work was there.

TD: And I remember your father was a union printer, is that correct?

AH: He was a union printer, but he was also a newspaper man. He wrote a column which was called *McSweeney's Boarding House.* He and the printers lived at this boarding house, had their meals there. The printer had a parrot. The parrot amused my father no end, and, of course, they were always telling stories. They compared their stories. One day one of the printers got kind of smart and the parrot yelled out, 'Wally, Wally, throw that damn printer out!' And my father got the biggest kick out of that. He

wrote this column, *McSweeney's Boarding House.* My mother clipped it every day. She was like Nancy Williams. She clipped everything my father wrote. And she published it -- I don't mean published it -- but she pasted everything in a notebook. She kept that thing, and we had it until my father and mother moved to Detroit and there was no room to carry it. But we always used to read that *McSweeney's Boarding House.*

TD: And your mother pretty much took care of you and Helen, your sister, is that right?

AH: Well, my mother, before she met my father, my mother worked in a confectionery store. It was a lovely store in Saginaw, and she was artistic. They gave her the job of arranging all of the fancy boxes and that kind of thing. She worked with that. My father was a kitty-korner from them. He rode a bicycle to work, and somehow my mother asked about him. His name was Malachi. That was an old family name, an old Irish name. His name, as I say, was Malachi, named for his great-grandfather, and she asked his name, and somebody said, 'why, that's Billy Hart'. My mother, to the day she died, called my father Billy. She always did. But he apparently got a picture of my grandmother, too, got a visual thing, and he fell in love with my mother right away and they were married. It was one of those very good marriages. They didn't always think exactly alike, but they had fun with their differences, and it was a good marriage. They made a wonderful home for Helen and me, one we always wanted to be in. It was one of those homes that you wanted to get home to. You wanted to

be there, but we had to mind. My dad was no one to fool around. We had to mind, which we did, just to save our souls.

TD: I remember Helen and you were always very close.

AH: Very.

TD: And that was a very warm family that you grew up in.

AH: Well, Helen was eight years older than I was. She was eight years old when I was born, and she adopted me. The first thing she did was run to school to tell all the children that I had been born. And then she went to the hospital to see my mother. She was allowed to do that, and she invited everybody to come to the hospital to see my mother who had had a very hard birth. Finally, the matron called her in, and she said, 'Helen, you can't invite everybody to the hospital. They can't come.' They took her home, but from that day on I was Helen's. She took care of me always until the day she was stricken here and was made helpless.

TD: I remember she said she did all the cooking. She wouldn't even let you in the kitchen. Is that right?

AH: No, no, I didn't cook to suit her. I played the violin. That was my job. I played the violin, and I practiced an awful lot. She oversaw that, but she wasn't repressive with me. I heard my first great violinist with Helen. She took me to Lansing where she taught. I heard him. Then she took me to see the theater, to see things in the theater. Lansing got some very good shows, and I went to the theater with her. I saw one after another. The great musician, the story was bound around him -- all these things I saw with her. The Bluebird, the Bluebird of Paradise was one that I saw.

TD: And you did the driving for the two of you, didn't you?

AH: I did the driving, yes. She never would. My father taught me, but Helen was nervous about it. She learned. My father taught her, but she never was secure about driving, so I always did the driving.

TD: I remember one time the two of you were at a meeting -- and you may remember this -- and Helen was helping you hang up your coat and take your rubbers off, and I said, 'I want to introduce Helen Hart, and she brought along with her her baby sister, Adelaide.' And everybody laughed because they knew just how close the two of you were.

AH: We were very, very close till the day she died.

TD: It was a wonderful relationship. Now, let's jump a little bit. I want to get on. You went to Western Michigan College for your education degree?

AH: Yes, I did, but before that I went down to Monroe to the academy, and I was there for two years. I was studying violin and majoring in violin. My course was about music. It was a very different atmosphere for me. Then I went for the second year, and the second year I seemed to physically fail. The doctor caught me out on the tennis court, and he came and brought me in and went to the sisters and said I wasn't allowed to be on the tennis court. I wasn't able to do it. They finally came to the conclusion that I was getting too many hours of violin. I was practicing some days five hours a day. So I was sent home. I stayed there for the better part of a year and I was lonesome. Everybody was away at college. All my friends were gone away to school, and it was hard to find a place to practice. After the violin was much too much for me, I

went to -- there was an opening with the superintendent of schools -- I went up to. He was a friend of mine. I used to take my report card to him every month and have him look at it to see if it was all right. He lived across the street from us. Everybody lived across the street from everybody else in Charlotte. And he, Mr. Harper Maybe from Western Michigan was the head of the music department and he came in to visit some former students or people who had been formerly recommended to him. So Mr. Carrick insisted that I go see Mr. Maybe, and Mr. Maybe was interested and made it possible for me to go to Western Michigan. It was already two weeks after school started. So I went to Western Michigan, and I studied with him and with Harper Maybe. He was a partner really, Mr. Henderson, who was a very gifted teacher, and I studied with him. He always said -- there were four of us from Charlotte that were together there -- and he always called us the 'tee hee and ha ha club'. But we had a good time and we enjoyed it. I graduated from Western Michigan then. It was just a two year course. At that time it was Western Michigan Normal College. I had the pleasure of making it a university when I was at the Constitutional Convention. So, it was a great place to go. I wrote the school song there. I won the contest. It was the 'brown and gold', and I won that contest. So I had a lot of good memories of Western Michigan.

TD: Now, I remember, Adelaide, and you tell if I'm right, that you did enjoy that. You were the third or one of the top in your class and then the president told you if you wanted a job teaching since you

were a Catholic and a Democrat you should go to Detroit. Am I correct on that?

AH: He didn't talk about the Democrat. He talked about that I was a Catholic. He was a friend of the family's. We had lived in Charlotte with his mother-in-law who was a wonderful elderly lady and, of course, my father was good to her, my mother, too. He was the head man who interviewed, brought the students to be interviewed by the outside superintendent. So he called me in, and he said, 'Adelaide, don't be impatient, and don't worry. I'm not going to call you in when these superintendents from the little towns come, because they won't hire a Catholic teacher.' He said it isn't the thing in Michigan. They won't do it. You used to have to milk the cow, and I forgot all the things you had to do when you went in some of these towns. You had to sing in the choir, and it was -- there was no federation of teachers at that time. You did what you were told to do, and so when Detroit came in -- Mr. Fredericks was the man who came -- and Mr. Fredericks, he was the assistant superintendent, and he said that, well, they told me, both of them told me that I was one of the three top people in the class and I didn't have any problem at all. I organized an orchestra there in their kindergarten at the training school. I worked with the glee club. I did all the things that made it easy to get a job, but it was a great experience. I learned a lot, and so I went to Detroit, and that was a great experience. The first school I went to was a school that was down near Hastings, the old Hastings Street. I don't know if you remember Hastings, ran through the black volume down in that area. And I was assigned

to that school, and from the day I got there, we were in the newspapers every day. It was the school where Henry Ford was dumping kids that came into the city. They were bringing them up in busloads. They dumped them down in the lower part of the city, and those kids -- the fathers were working at Ford's -- that was the $5 a day time, and the mothers, many of them, were working in the buildings downtown washing, cleaning the stores and doing all those things. The kids were pretty much on their own. I put on shows for those children. I can remember one girl, they wore beautiful outfits. We had a teacher who was a great artist in that way. She made costumes for them. She wouldn't let them wear shoes on the stage and they were supposed to come in on their tip toes, kind of scurry in on their tip toes. They were fairies. And then they were to drop gracefully on the floor. Well, this one girl I saw coming. She was a very big girl who never should have been given a part as a fairy, but she was. And all of a sudden, she dropped, and she dropped like a ton of bricks on the stage. And I couldn't stop laughing. I got laughing, and I couldn't stop. I was down in front directing, and my father and mother had come to see the show from Charlotte. They came to see this, and it was really a ridiculous thing. I often remember this girl who was supposed to be so graceful and delicate, and she was like a ton of bricks when she came. There were some great experiences in that school. We had one elderly teacher who went around carrying a yardstick all the time which she used very handily. Any kid who got out of line, he got the yardstick. But, the first day I went there I was assigned to a room where my

homeroom would be. I was assigned to that room. Of course, these kids in the homeroom weren't all music students. They went all over the place. But then you get your classes. The homeroom would go out and be scattered all over the building. Then you'd get your music classes. Nobody told me that there was a special system with the thing. No one told me that at all, so I started teaching, and I was having a great time. I was teaching music, and this bell rang, and I paid no attention to it. I didn't know what the bell was all about, so I paid no attention. I went right on teaching. All of a sudden, somebody came in and whammed open the door and said, 'you're holding up the whole platoon system in the school.' Nobody dared move until my class moved. Oh, it was a rough experience, but I was lucky because I had a good principal who was defensive of me and very good to me. He was fine, and he told the music department people to go away and leave me alone. I was doing just fine without them. Because one of them wanted everything in perfect style. They were supposed to sit with their hands folded. They were supposed to be on the desk, hands folded. The first boy was to put their books on their left shoulder. They were to take one. Now this with both hands. They were to take one for themselves and pass the others back and the books were to be passed back that way to the back row. So what happened to the books always was they all fell on the floor, and everybody had to stop and pick them up. But I never got over having to apologize for having held up the whole platoon system.

TD: Ok, now. Let's go on to when you were at Jefferson School. I remember that school. What were your experiences there?

AH: When I was where?

TD: At Jefferson School in Detroit.

AH: Oh, yes. I had a wonderful principal there. She was a remarkable woman.

TD: Sarah Robinson, wasn't it?

AH: Miss Robinson, who Mennen appointed to the --

TD: Civil Service.

AH: And she had been a social worker in New York before she came, and she was the answer to prayers. She understood the kids and she didn't put up with anything with them. I never saw her address a child when she wasn't smiling. She'd smile. She'd lay down the law, but the smile was there. It was an interesting school, and I taught there until I was appointed and I never quite knew where the appointment came. I have a notion. Somehow or other I suppose Frank Martell had done it, but there was a big organization in Detroit, in Wayne County, and people, the mayors, all the mayors were there, Orville Hubbard and all the crowds were all there. And then the people they selected, the certain department heads and so on, and for some reason or other I ended up on that outfit and I ended up I was dissatisfied because every time you went to the meeting they handed you a sheet of paper and that told you what you were going to do all day, during the meeting. It told you about all the issues that were coming up. You didn't have any time to digest them. All you could do is read them and then vote on them. And it wasn't quite as bad as Jimmy

Hoffa who put the thumb up and you voted no and the thumb down and you voted yes. But at least you knew what you were supposed to do depending on who sent you. I wasn't happy with that because I wanted to know more about what I was voting on and I didn't understand all those county problems and I couldn't figure out why I ever ended up there. Miss Robinson used to give me time off. Then I was appointed to the, what became the home for delinquent boys.

TD: Yes.

AH: Supposedly, it was for delinquent children, but most of them were boys. And I remember the first day I went to the thing seeing these boys up in the tower. That was before James Lincoln's building was put up and holding on and shaking them in clear exasperation. It's something you know because I still see it in my face. It was just awful.

TD: You mean the administrator would be shaking the child?

AH: No, the child was shaking, in desperation, was shaking anything that was loose up there.

TD: Oh, shaking, I see, yes.

AH: They were frustrated. They were taken out of school and supposedly they were being given an education in this thing. I always doubted it. I was supposed to be supervising this along with the board, the school board, not the school board, but their school board, their board. And I had taught long enough to know how kids behave, and when I saw children with this expression of exasperation it hurt me like anything. Then I had an experience there. The first day that I went they took me through the building

so that I would know where I was and what I was seeing. We went into one room that was vacant except for a baby carriage, and in it was a baby. I got into that room and everybody else was a man who was going through, but I was new so I was there. And that baby looked up at me and put up her arms to me and I couldn't stop. I had to keep going because I didn't know where I was or where anything was. I had to keep going. I have never forgotten that experience. That child was looking at me and hoping to be picked up. You have to, people have to go in and see these things for themselves before they realize what children put up with and how people get rid of children after they have the or they get them from somebody else, and then those youngsters are so longing for somebody to love them. I've never forgotten that.

TD: Well, let's jump to -- Mennen appointed you to the Mental Health Commission, didn't he?

AH: Yes, I got into mental health. That's another thing if you're teaching. Well, I got into that in a different way. I got into that at church. I belonged to St. Hugo of the Hills in Bloomfield Hills, and there was a man there -- he was a lovely person with a lovely wife -- and he had a child, a girl, in one of the institutions in Oakland County, and he spent his life with that child protecting her and seeing that she got the education that she was supposed to get and that they were paying attention, that she got the attention. Then one of the buildings closed down and she was going to be out of it, and she was a difficult problem. There was no question about that. He didn't question that. He formed an organization and it was called *The Voice for the Mentally Handicapped*. I

belonged to it with him. And a number of other people at St.Hugo's. St. Hugo's was great for that. That's a very wealthy parish, but, boy, what the people put into it, what they do for it, and we worked and worked and worked. We did get a home. We finally found a home, and we got a home for these children that we felt we could run properly. We got it, and we got people in it. We had successes and we had failures, but we accomplished a lot. There was no question about that. And then, of course, I moved. I moved away from St. Hugo's, but I never lost my interest in the mentally handicapped because the fathers and mothers of those people give up their lives. It's almost unbelievable what those people do to see that their children can be taken care of and, of course, the children are so misunderstood by people who aren't educated to know what mental illness is all about. I learned. I didn't know much about it. I had had children who were mentally not gifted, certainly, but handicapped. But I learned as I watched and saw these families. They used to have regular meetings, and, of course, it was like everything else. Some people would come in for what they could get out of it. Some people came in for what they could get for their own children, but they weren't concerned about the others. Other people came in completely absorbed in the problem of mental health and doing something about it. And I had leave it before I ever felt that I had accomplished what I wanted to in it because I got so involved in everything else, and I didn't have anybody who was close to me who was mentally having difficulty. It's a great education for anybody.

TD: Let's back up a minute now. In Hastings the students were almost all black or African Americans at Hastings School where you taught?

AH: Oh, yes.

TD: Then how about Jefferson? Was that an integrated school?

AH: Jefferson had -- they came from the deep south. They came from, oh, the mountainous country.

TD: Hillbillies?

AH: Pardon?

TD: Hillbillies?

AH: Yes, they were hillbillies.

TD: Tennessee, Kentucky?

AH: And then they came, and then the blacks in directly from the south, but Miss Robinson was wonderful because she wouldn't take any fooling on race business. Everybody, the teachers and the students and the workers, the janitors and everybody else had to be concerned about teaching these people to get along together. They had to learn to live together, and it was not easy. It was very difficult, but she was so sincere and so strong with it that she began a movement, certainly began a movement that brought me into race relations. It gave me a very strong feeling. When I became vice chairman that feeling was very strong because we should have been working with the blacks long before we were, and with the whites, too. We needed to work with the whites so they knew what they were doing.

TD: How did you get interested in the Democratic Party?

AH: I was always interested in causes. There was never a time that I wasn't interested in causes. I was raised in this Republican outfit. My father wasn't sympathetic with it either, or my mother. My mother, to my mother, people were people, and that was all there was to it. And Dad was the same. One of my father's best friends in Charlotte was the keeper of the county building. His name was Mr. Biggs, and Mr. Biggs and my dad -- there was a church social going on, a dinner -- I think it was at the Methodist church in Charlotte. My father bought tickets. He invited the judge. He had people who were in prominent positions all over, and he invited Mr. Biggs. That was kind of a shock to a lot of people because while they were good they liked Mr. Biggs. Mr. Biggs had a son who graduated, was a doctor. He was a very prominent doctor. He had one daughter who graduated as a nurse. He had one girl who wasn't mentally right, but there was a girl in my class who was Mr. Biggs' daughter, and I remember singing with her in the glee club. We didn't make any difference. I also had an 8th grade teacher who was like that. People were people to her. She was as tough on those of us who came from prominent families as she was on the ones who weren't.

TD: Then I'd like to talk a little -- you read Helen Berthelot's book, did you?

AH: Yes.

TD: Do you remember the 17th District we were all active in?

AH: Oh, brother. Nobody could forget that.

TD: Do you want to tell us a little about that? I remember before we got active in it, I think the meetings were mostly men meeting in

the bar and then holding a short meeting. Do you want to tell what you did to get that some gender orientation?

AH: Well, my introduction, I tell you, I got appointed to the Housing Commission. I don't know how much you knew about the Housing Commission. Hicks Griffiths was on that, and I went to the first meeting, and the first meeting was in the old city hall downtown. And when I got there I felt I was in the strangest place and there were some very unfriendly people there, very unfriendly. I got appointed because I was a teacher, and I don't know who got me in there, but somebody did. And Hicks came over to me, and he said, 'I understand, Miss Hart, that you have very strong feelings about what's happening in this country and that you're on our side.' And I said, 'well, I don't know whose side I'm on'. I wasn't involved at that time. And he introduced me to the people with whom I was supposed to associate with on that committee. Well, I was glad to because the Communists in those days were raising the -- everybody was supposed to be a Communist, of course -- and they were throwing things at us. And the Realtors weren't much better. They didn't care for us at all and they were throwing things, too. It was the most unpleasant meeting I ever went to and from that committee we started out, and I remember our inviting people. We invited people, the residents who were complaining about housing. That was when Kim Sigler was governor, and the committee had broken up in great trouble and that's why all of the new ones, like me, were on it. The meetings began with -- Pat McNamara was on that committee, too -- and the meetings began with the Realtors

over here and we were sitting on the other side and no two were speaking the same language, you know. And the fight went on. And so what we did was set up committees, several committees of our own group, and we interviewed the people who were without residents and who were trying to, they were renting to people who had nothing. And there might be three families and a mother trying to use one kitchen, one bathroom, one bedroom. There simply wasn't the housing. The Realtors always defended it. My job was to get Pat McNamara home. I was supposed to get Pat McNamara from wherever he was and he was all over the country. I'd get him home when we were going to have a vote. And, of course, with Pat, Pat never spoke in dialogue. Pat knew exactly what he wanted to say, he had no hesitation in saying it. He'd say it, and it was amazing how much the Realtors learned to listen to him. Of course, he became a United States senator before too long, after Blair Moody died. We had these conferences all over, and they taught us -- you would never believe that people in a city like Detroit -- lived under the conditions so many of these renters lived under. Then if they didn't pay right on time they were dumped, you know, they were dumped right on the city and they were having to go out and find places to stay all night. So, I learned from that, and I got so I knew where my friends were, the people I knew where the people were who wanted that made a very strong Democrat of me. I had all the makings of it to begin with, but that showed me where it was.

TD: And then you ran for precinct delegate, is that correct?

AH: Oh, yes.

TD: Do you want to tell about that?

AH: Well, Hicks was very interested in Mennen Williams, and Hicks invited me -- Frances Comfort, do you remember Frances?

TD: Yes, teachers union.

AH: He came over and invited Frances Comfort and me to have lunch with him and Mennen, and he took us to a little French restaurant downtown. Do you know where the cars turn around?

TD: Yes.

AH: Well, it was in that area and it was downstairs and Mennen, he introduced us to Mennen, and we went down and we had lunch, and I remember that Mennen handed his onions to anybody who wanted them. It was very informal, a very informal lunch, but a very pleasant one. And I just liked him right off the bat. Hicks knew I would. I just liked him immediately, and so it was from then on then Hicks asked me to be a precinct delegate, and I didn't know how I was going to do one more thing than I was doing. I was on everybody's committee, and so they took us to a meeting in a school house. I'd never forget it. It was my first experience of that kind. I went in. The man was a lawyer, a high powered lawyer in Detroit. He also was a professor in one of the colleges, and we started out to have an election of officers and so on and when the vote was -- it was a voice vote -- and when the voice vote was counted he apparently had forgotten that we could count, too. We counted and our count was entirely different. So we had a big row. Then I'm sure we didn't prevail. I can't remember what happened, but that sent us over to the ah -- Hicks was there, of course -- it sent us over to the meetings that they began having. I

can't even remember where we had them, because we didn't have the carpenters hall then, but we'd go to the meetings and we learned that we better be precinct delegates and what precinct delegates were all about. I didn't really have a notion of it. It just sounded like awfully hard work to me. So we became precinct delegates and we, in the middle of all this, when we were getting very close to a meeting, I think it was Jim Hare, who came up with storage to us that petitions were being for precinct delegate were being passed around in houses and different places and people were sitting down at tables. They'd bring pens, and they'd sit down at tables and write the, oh, what do you call it?

TD: It's called a round robin. They would sign other people's names.

AH: This would be, have different people, yeah, it would be in an area like Grosse Pointe or some place, and then they'd fill out these petitions and everybody was taking a hand at it. Some of the people just sat down and with one handwriting wrote them all. Well, I'm sure it was Jim Hare who caught on to what was going on. Jim was livid. Anybody who ever knew Jim knew that if he got on something he stayed with it. He finally became the secretary of state under Mennen Williams. But he battled. We were all very upset about it because they had more delegate's petitions than we did by a long shot because we had all done our own. We had gone out and gotten them signed, and it was taken into court finally. And the court accepted it and they declared that we were the winners, that the people who had properly designated ballots were the people who would decide who would be the precinct delegates. They had to have a properly signed ballot

before, well, it was. And so we won that fight except that they weren't willing to accept that we'd fight it. And I remember the first meeting that we, well, the meeting that we had that was going to decide it. And there were three of us who were -- Al Meyers -- no, there were four of us, no, it was three men, the two men and myself first. Al Meyers and Barney --

TD: Taylor

AH: Barney Taylor, whose wife was a prize package, too. And Barney Taylor who were to make the decisions, and we sat in a straight line and right in back of us was a stairway that went down in the basement of the carpenter's hall. That carpenter's hall was a beautiful hall. It was great. All of a sudden we found out that the whole street was full of policemen and there was this business of people shoving their way up to get into the lines and they were coming in with these, well, they had had the election, yeah, they had the election. And they were coming in with these ballots and what not, and we made up, we had made up our minds that anybody -- well, the court had said this, and we made up our minds and we were abiding by it, of course, that anybody who had a properly signed application and had won the seat of precinct delegate we would accept. It didn't make any difference if they were on our side or somebody else's side. They started coming in. We finally decided that they'd have to stand in a line outside and we had people out there telling people when they could tell for themselves that the ballots weren't proper that they couldn't come in. If they had the proper election as precinct delegate they could come in and we would sign them up. They came in and we looked

at them and we accepted one after another. It was perfectly all right. In the meantime, it got noisier outside, and they began to fight outside. They began having real fights, and finally we finished. We had done all we could. We didn't let anybody else in because it was getting too rough. It was very bad, and the police were bad and all. So, then somebody came in and tried to grab the ballots and Al Meyer, you know, who was as thin as a rail, jumped up. And with that, the table turned over and I fell backward and if it had not been for some of the UAW men who stood at the head of the stairway, I'd have been going yet down that stairway backward. It was a very difficult meeting. Then do you remember the federal government sent in committees -- the federal government was pretty Republican at the time -- and it sent in committees and they sent for us to hear and I remember going in. You had to go down the federal building and they were to hear me and find out whether I was regular delegate or not and when they got through asking me the questions and I told them that I had gone to the convent down at Monroe and I told them that I graduated from Marygrove College, they decided they would let me. I didn't have to prove any more that I was a delegate. But some people were turned away. We didn't fool with that. We were very, very careful about it. But the next day the papers, of course, came out with this blood on the pavement story. It was really very hard to go back into a social situation and answer for this because who is going to believe anything like that of a political party.

TD: Now, Adelaide, we were saying in the break there there Al Meyers and you, the table was dumped over. You were falling back and then Barney Taylor -- Barney was a veteran who had lost --

AH: No, it wasn't Barney, it was somebody who was back of me.

TD: Oh, I think it was Johnny -- or somebody.

AH: Somebody on the stairway.

TD: That's right. Barney Taylor was on the committee with you.

AH: Yeah, and he had to be a pretty big fellow to pick me up.

TD: Right. Now, do you remember some of the other people you worked with to be precinct delegates?

AH: Well, boy, I worked with so many, to pick anyone out.

TD: Mary and Horace Gillmore were active.

AH: Oh, yes. Well, we used to take turns, and Sid Wolner. We used to take turns. They would come and we would go out together. Sid and I would be across the street and Mary and Horace on the other side. And we would go from place to place, and what I determined to do was make a list of Democrats, a list of Republicans, and a list of independents. Then I would decide what to do about them when I got home. And that was a very successful way of working because I really found out the people who were going to be glad to see me and I was very close to my neighbors around there and I wanted to remain close to them. I wanted to be friends, but I remember one time Horace Gillmore meeting me in the middle of the road. He signaled to me to come to the middle of the road, and he was just hysterical. He was laughing until he just shook. He had gone to one house, and he had asked them if they had known Hicks Griffith. 'Oh,' the man

said, 'yes, and everything I know about him is good'. And, of course, there had nothing good printed in the paper about Hicks Griffith. I tell you, the two of us, we contained ourselves while we sat there, but when we got away we couldn't stop laughing. It was funny. You had very funny experiences.

TD: That was going door to door. Do you remember Gus Scholle being active?

AH: Oh, yes, Gus and Kathy.

TD: Yes. So, then, as I remember then, it was either you or Pat Taylor got us out of the bar and into the carpenter's hall for meetings. Was that your idea?

AH: No, well, I don't remember that. I remember when we went to the carpenter's hall it was a big change for us.

TD: Do you remember the fashion shows that you and Pat would put on?

AH: The what?

TD: Weren't there fashion shows put on to get women active?

AH: Oh, yes. We used to put on fashion shows. We were right up to date.

TD: Now, what about, were women kept just as secretaries or to clean up or what role did the women play?

AH: They were kept baking cooking and making cakes and seeing that the men were well fed and nobody ever asked them what they thought or what they believed or anything else.

TD: What did you do to change that?

AH: Well, I got elected state vice chairman.

TD: And then what did you do?

AH: Well, I took a good look around. It was pretty hard to tell. There was one, well, I guess I won't even tell about that because she may have relatives left. But there were women, there was one woman in one county. I went out to the county and they said, oh, yes, they had women active. There were seven different groups and none of them spoke to each other. Well, I couldn't believe it. I just couldn't. Here you were you were trying to win elections, and you weren't speaking. And what they wanted, every club wanted to have a piece of paper that said that this was the only club in that county. Well, I wasn't about to get caught in that trap because I wanted every woman regardless of her club to be a part of this organization, so I refused. I made some enemies with that because well, one woman invited me to her home for a meeting. She was having her club there. She invited me for the meeting, and she was trying to make me understand that I should give her club the paper that said that she was running the whole county. Well, I went to it and I got in and there was a table set up and there was a lighted candle on the table and there were pictures. It looked for all like a religious kind of thing, and in the middle of all of this was hanging this announcement that they were **a** club. It didn't say they were **the** club. It said they were **a** club in this county, and I took one look at it and I made up my mind that that was the end of that one as far as I was concerned. It was a wonderful start for me, and I said, no. Well, she made it very clear that they didn't want everybody in their club. That was one thing. They didn't want to have everybody. I said we're going to have a federation of Democratic women, and I said every officer

from every club will be written to. We will let them know when the meetings are and we will invite them to participate. So, I did. I did. And that was the way I cleared up that business of 999 clubs because they found out it didn't work, wasn't going to work for them, and it sure didn't work for me.

TD: Did Neil work with you on getting women active in the party?

AH: Oh, yes, and his wife was a jewel, ~~Bernette.~~ BERNETTE

TD: Now, was that just to have women active to clean up and make cookies?

AH: No. Neil Stabler was a sound citizen, and Neil Stabler -- I'm very glad I had a chance to be vice chairman with him because he worked with me all the time. There was never a time that Neil wasn't at one of those meetings that we had. We had state meetings all, you know, regularly, the women. Muskegon would have it and then people in Grand Rapids would be on that committee. They would have registration or they would have some. Each one of these other committees outside had something to do at that other meeting. You'd take them by areas. And Neil and Bernette, too, were always at every meeting. Of course, you know Bernette was a find because Bernette wrote the cleverest performances. She was a very gifted woman. Besides having a beautiful singing voice, she could write the cleverest performances which people were able to perform. And so the other thing is that there never was a time we had a meeting but once that Mennen Williams wasn't there. He came when the Federation of Women met. He met with them except one time when he was abroad, and that time I got a cable from him on that

day telling me that he was for the women and that he was so sorry to miss the meeting. But Neil and I saw things eye to eye. Neil was an expert in foreign relations because he traveled all over and every place he went he studied and he knew what he was talking about when he got talking on foreign relations. He wasn't talking from the newspapers. He was talking from his own experiences. He and Bernette would go and stay a long time and visit. He went to Russia I don't know how many times, and they went into homes there. They took big chances and interviewed the public. As far as I was concerned, there wasn't anything Neil wouldn't do to help me make a success of things. He was always there to advise and he was always there to perform and he approved of what we were doing. I wanted every Democratic woman in Michigan to know she was welcomed and that we would not only welcome but we wanted very much to have her participate, and we studied. We made a business at every meeting of doing some studying on certain issues. Maybe they were issues that were before Williams. Maybe they were issues that were national issues. But we tried to learn, and we gave out lists of books and all that kind of thing to people. So I think we did our duty in educating.

TD: Well, I think this is important in what you've done to show that women weren't just to be secretaries and dishwashers.

AH: Oh, no. Now, do you want to talk about Governor Williams and talk about the time you first met him. I know you and Governor Williams were very close, but why don't you just tell us a little about the relationship.

TD: Well, from the time that I ran as delegate, I used to go with Hicks some times because remember Martha was in Washington, and so he would take me when he was going from one place to another and I would go and what he was trying to do was to teach me and I needed that and I learned a lot. Hicks was a -- it was too bad that he didn't have a disposition that let him stay on as a leader but he couldn't bear opposition. But as far as his ideas were concerned what he wanted was what I think all of us wanted, and I think that I always felt that my job as a women's leader was to teach them, give them work to do, give them as many ideas as we could get. You know we had something I think the public never knew. Before every state central meeting, state central committee was divided into committees and we sat down. There was one committee for the women who were delegates. There was on public performance. There was one on registration and one on getting out the vote. And I think the newspapermen had a difficult time trying to understand this because they had never been to a political meeting where that kind of thing was happening. But it was all very serious, and before we got down to the regular meeting we all had jobs to do when we got home. You never got away from Neil without having a job to do.

TD: The one thing I remember about meetings with you and Governor Williams is you would speak up. A lot of people would be hesitant. I remember you shaking your finger in his face and say, 'now, Governor, listen'. And he listened. Am I correct on that?

AH: Well, Mennen was like that. You know, he was sincere. You know, I used to go to the meetings in the capitol regularly, and

there were people among them, we no sooner got elected to governor and they were trying to get him to run for president. Well, I knew better than that. My father gave me something of an education before I ever started and the idea of Mennen running for president before he had gotten his feet wet as a governor was ridiculous. But, you know, Larry Farrell and some of those people were shoving him to the front all the time. And Mennen, I always felt, appreciated the fact that I didn't buy it because I just said I didn't think it made any sense and they wanted him to run for senator before he hardly gotten himself into his governorship. He was completely absorbed in that governorship as he should have been, and he was doing things for the state of Michigan that had never been done, and it didn't make any sense to me to worry about what he was going to be doing ten years from now. That wasn't the point. The point was what we did today and tomorrow and the next day.

TD: You felt he really enjoyed being governor, is that correct?

AH: Oh, yes, Mennen loved being governor. And he talked Nancy into loving being the governor's wife. He never neglected his home. One of the things I remember that's personal about Governor Williams -- he tried to give one night at home every week so he could be with Nancy and the children. He tried very hard, and if he failed that was a big disappointment not only to the children and Nancy, but to him. But I can remember him nabbing me and saying, 'Adelaide, I've got something to tell you. I went to the movie last night. And then he'd tell me what the movie was all about.' And as if it would make any difference, but he would tell

me all about the movie. I used to think it was pathetic in a way because he was a young man absorbed in his family and his children and he had to be gone so much but Nancy was a good sport about it and, of course, she went with him when she could. And they always had people at the house taking care of the children, but, of course, that isn't enough. And both of them felt that they, they both felt that they owed the children a lot. And the children proved it. They're wonderful kids.

TD: They had at the reception for Helen Berthelot -- Nancy was there and some of the children.

AH: Oh, yes, she would be. She was here for the party last week.

TD: Yes. Now, the ones that around Mennen you knew, Paul Webber, John Murray, did you know them?

AH: Did I know them? I know them and loved them. Paul Webber I knew before he ever met Mennen Williams. Paul was the president of the *Wage Earner*. He put out the *Wage Earner* which went all over the United States. Even Congress sent for the paper, and he put me on the board of the ah, not the *Wage Earner*, but the organization. And it was something that I valued. Paul would call me, and he would say, 'Adelaide, are you coming to the meeting tonight?' And I would say, 'yes, I am, Paul'. 'Leave your car at home. Take the bus down, and you and I will take the rest of them who need to be taken home, we'll take them home'. So that I would do. I would leave the car at home and I would drive down and Paul and we'd sit through the whole meeting and then Paul, there were those who didn't have any way of getting home and Paul said, 'we'll take you home'. Well, that's when I

got to know Paul better than any time. You know, he wasn't very strong. He used to have some awful serious illnesses when he was doing that work. He tested his heart way beyond what he should have done, but Paul, when Paul took a rap out of the Communists all of the time, but when Paul did it he was a true newspaperman. He would call them up and read what he had written, and if there were changes that he felt where he made a mistake and he should change it, he would do that, but he didn't change it just to please them. And it was a marvelous experience to work with him because Paul was a deeply religious man, a deeply religious man. But he also was a very human person and he had the best sense of humor. I never knew anybody with a better sense of humor than Paul had. And Paul used it with the governor, too.

TD: I remember one of Paul Webber's comments was that the communist's idea of an impartial committee was one communist, one fellow traveler, and one dumb American. He had that great sense of humor. And how about John Murray? Did you work with him much?

AH: Well, you know Paul got John to work with Neil and me and John was a very serious -- he was with the Free Press when I first knew him. And John was serious, very serious. A very lovely person, and he set us straight. That's what Paul wanted, to be sure. We weren't always sure about what we were saying or what we were doing might be to the public, and John could always advise us. And John was a great adviser because he wasn't always advising us to shut up. He was advising us to do something that was

constructive, and he could show us how to put what we were working on in constructive terms. I am still very anxious to meet this young man.

TD: Oh, John's son is Mark Murray, and he is now the acting Director of Management and Budget. He had wanted to come up, but he is so busy on the state budget. But he did help work out questions and guidance. He's on the committee that's working on the Michigan Political History Society. Now, how about appointments? What about the matter of racial appointments and ethnic appointments? What do you remember on those?

AH: On appointments?

TD: Yes, whether blacks should be appointed or ethnic groups.

AH: Oh, I remember riding home in a car, I think, I can't remember whether Mennen was driving it, but do you remember the chairman, a black chairman of the 13th district? I cannot think of his name. I have been trying to for ages. He was a dear little man, very good and good chairman.

TD: Not Harold Bledsoe?

AH: Pardon?

TD: No, I don't remember the name.

AH: I can't remember his name to save my -- he died. I remember going to the funeral, but we came home one night and he was arguing in behalf of, let me see, I was arguing on behalf of a black for something or other and he was arguing for someone who was on the county committee -- a white man -- and we came all the way back with Mennen with this fellow, arguing for a white man and me arguing for a black man and Mennen, being kind of

dumbfounded by the two of us, but it was like that. That was one of the things that I tried to do when I became head of the women. Well, Neil and I did it, too. We went into the black areas and had meetings with them. We'd go to any outfit there that had a good name and then we would try to get them to get their people working with us, and I did that with the women.

TD: Do you remember Wade McCree being appointed?

AH: Who?

TD: Wade McCree being appointed to the circuit court?

AH: Oh, that was a wonderful appointment, Wade McCree. I had a card from his wife, not --

TD: Doris.

AH: Not so long ago. Wade was a remarkable -- he went way up in Washington. He was, what was the title?

TD: Solicitor General, and he might have been on the U.S. Supreme Court if the Democrats had kept president.

AH: Yes.

TD: And George Edwards, of course, you knew George.

AH: Oh, George. He was another one. You know, I worked for George when he was mayor and, of course, George --

TD: You mean when he was on the city council?

AH: The city council, he was running for mayor, I think. He was, George was always very friendly with the federation of teachers because he spoke their language and I used to work with George on -- I can remember going out on the street with stuff for George Edwards when he was running. George knew it. Peg and George were always very close friends. They had two sons.

TD: Yes. Jim works for the credit union. And George married Ted Bond's daughter. You remember Ted Bond?

AH: Oh, I remember Ted Bond. I've heard from him since I've been here. I did hear from him.

TD: Now, let's go -- do you remember the famous recount we had?

AH: I remember you coming in and bringing me a pair of shoes or slippers or something and making a public presentation. I used to run down every night after school and run to the county building and go upstairs and we'd get a lesson in how to follow a recount. The man in my outfit, I didn't have anything to do with it, but he was there but he sent for me and I went to see it and I think it was the kind, yellow butter business was up.

TD: Margarine, oleo margarine.

AH: That kind of counted against Mennen.

TD: Yes, I gave you some slippers because you had been every day on those hard cement floors in the county building walking up and down telling people to keep doing their work.

AH: Because I came right from school. I didn't have time to change clothes or anything.

TD: That recount we won. Now, the constitutional convention, do you want to tell a little bit about that?

AH: Ok.

TD: I remember. Let me start. You were the Democratic vice chair, so you convened the Democrats.

AH: Yes, that's right.

TD: Because you were vice chair, and later you were elected caucus chair, and we called you the 'den mother'. Remember that?

AH: They always did. I was always called the den mother.

TD: The one vote -- I don't know if you remember this -- Coleman Young had been elected as a Democrat.

AH: Oh, I remember it well.

TD: And he was called a Communist.

AH: Yes.

TD: And the Democratic party didn't invite him to the first meeting because he'd been tagged as a Communist. I remember you insisted everyone elected as a Democrat be treated that way. Do you remember that?

AH: I remember very well. Coleman called me, and he said, 'Miss Hart, I know you're having a meeting of the delegates. Would I be welcome?' I said, 'Mr. Young, you were elected by the delegates of the first district, were you not?' And he said, 'Yes, I was.' And I said, 'Who am I to tell you you can't come. Of course, you can come. And when you come, come and see me right away and I'll see that you meet the other delegates.' And he came. And from that day on, Coleman Young and I -- I had a terrible time because I couldn't send him a message since he's been so sick -- I finally did. But, Coleman was one of the most faithful of the delegates, one of the smartest delegates that we had, and he came to meetings. He was there. When we were on the floor, Coleman was almost never off the floor unless he had a committee meeting that took him on business.

TD: Which committees were you on? Do you remember?

AH: Yes, indeed I do. I was on the Education Committee with George Romney, who knew all the answers to education. George

Romney. We had superintendents of schools. We had presidents of college. I think there were two or three presidents of colleges on that. We had -- do you remember the name of the chairman of that committee? He was the congressman from Ann Arbor, and he was the one that carried the briefcase that had been shot at on the floor.

TD: Bentley.

AH: Bentley. Well, Bentley was a good man. I tell you, I learned to be very fond of Mr. Bentley because Mr. Bentley knew how to run the committee, and he didn't let George overrun it entirely. I remember when George interrupted Jack Faxon. He said, 'I know you and your kind. You're the kind who's trying to keep God out of the schools.' And poor Jack, who was a very devout Jew, and who ate the food that the Jewish people prescribed, who lived in the hotel where he could cook his own food so that he would live up to the laws of his church, who was the son of a father and mother who, of course, adored him, and he never forgot them. I remember his devotion to his parents. And he should have called him somebody trying to keep God out of the schools. You know, I don't know what was the matter with that man. I noticed he went down and try to elect his son for senator against Kennedy, Ted Kennedy. And the son lost.

TD: Now remember apportionment was a big issue. I talked later with Bob Danhoff. Remember Bob?

AH: Yes.

TD: He and I got to be good friends.

AH: Well, you know, you and I got to be good friends with an awful lot of the Republicans.

TD: Right. And we said we both made a mistake that Democrats thought if we yield at any, the US Supreme Court would 'ok' it, and Bob said if they yield at any, Wayne county would take over and we were both wrong. But I think we did make a lot of good friends. A lot of the people there were very, very fine.

AH: Well, we heard from them at Christmas time and at other times. You heard from them repeatedly, but then I was on the Education Committee, and I got so discouraged with that. But, we finally won out. I had the MEA running against me on that one. They were giving George all kinds of information.

TD: The MEA was opposing you on issues?

AH: No, I'm talking about on Education Committee. And the MEA always knows all the answers, too. And I was very glad to have the support of all these other men because they were good.

TD: Now, you were very active in the American Federation of Teachers. How did you happen to get active in the union?

AH: Oh, it was my nature to. We were having all kinds of problems in the schools and I had a principal once who called us in and locked us all in the room and told us what to send to George Murphy. We were to write and tell him that we were against him and his program, and we couldn't get out of the room until we handed him the message. And I've never forgotten it. I handed him a message to get out of the room, but I wired George Murphy where I really stood. But, we didn't have a voice in anything until we got

a teachers union. And the people who ran it were Florence Sweeney and ...

TD: Frances Comfort

AH: Frances Comfort, who was a great woman. And Mennen appointed her finally.

TD: Right, Art Elder was active, wasn't he?

AH: Who?

TD: Art Elder.

AH: Oh, Art Elder belonged to the senior group and he was a brick.

TD: Now, I want to talk a little, and I know we've been running pretty long. Religion has certainly been a large part of your life. We've talked about that.

AH: Oh, of course.

TD: Do you want to tell us a little bit more about what Catholicism has meant to you?

AH: I hope I run my life by my religion. I try to. It's not easy. It isn't easy, but truth is terribly important. Of course, my background -- my grandfathers and grandmothers on both sides came from Ireland, and they had lived through the horrible times there, came to this country in order to escape more persecution, and I don't know what I'd have done without my faith. I'll tell you there are a lot of things about it. Confession is one because you are able to relieve yourself. You're able to be sure that what you're doing is the right thing, and if you aren't doing that there's no excuse for you if you're just willing to go along the soft easy way. There is also communion, which is a part of every Catholic's life where you believe very firmly that you are participating of the blood and

flesh of the Christ child. I think every day, and you're supposed to be looking at people beside you not with hate, but if you can do anything for them, that's your job to do it. And not to be superior, but to try to help in any way that you can with people to make people successful. I find it hard to meet people who are unhappy about other people's successes. And you pray. There's a lot of prayer with the Catholic religion, any religion, I think, I hope that you get strength from prayer. I wouldn't give anything for it.

TD: I would say, Adelaide, in all the years I've known you, you've lived up to just what you've said, and I just wish more people had that idealism.

AH: I have tried. I don't know if I've been successful, but I've tried. it isn't easy to be successful with it.

TD: Just a couple more things. Adelaide, you were active in the Teen Dems. You weren't a Teen Dem yourself, but you worked with them. Do you want to tell a little bit more about that?

AH: Yes, I have great, great confidence in the Teen Dems. I don't know what's happened to them in recent years because I haven't been where I could work with them, but we took youngsters -- these people came, and do you remember Mary Spallings? Well, Mary Spallings is the one who ran that party last week. She was secretary, and Mary never forgot -- she used to bring her little children in -- and she taught them how to work, and you'd be amazed at the work those children did. They were much younger, but you'd be amazed to know how much those children did, and we had many teachers in the school system who were teaching political science, government, political science, and who wanted

to some way to show children how they could be useful politically, whatever party they belonged to they could be useful. And we worked together. Paul Donahue was one of those people, and there were a number of them. I remember at one of the high schools that wasn't far from where I lived we had a young man who was very active in the thing. We got them together and we made up our minds, oh, Iris Becker was another one. Remember Iris?

TD: Yes.

AH: She was a teacher. She liked it, too. She was very interested in it. But I was insistent that we have rules and regulations. I was afraid of kids getting used. I didn't want them to be used and not educated, not given the chance they needed. And not to feel that they were successful. And so we set up a whole -- in fact, we got out a booklet. I looked at it not very long ago, and I thought how they'd laugh at me today because we had very strict rules. The kids went to the conventions with us, but we put them up in the rooms that are reserved for the salesmen. We put the girls in one area and the boys in another. We kept them off the floor when the drinking was going on because there's never a convention that drinking doesn't go on, so we kept them apart and all that from the temptation. But we let them go in for all the discussions. They could go in and hear all the debates that went on in any part, their own district or somebody else's district. And they organized, well, those kids did more in the way of precinct delegate work following up. You could get the precinct stuff all together, but they would help distribute it.

TD: Well, do you remember one of your protégés, Jackie Vaughn, is still a state senator, and I know he sees you. Where I'm particularly interested is my daughter, Elizabeth, met John and they're now married, and that's where they met. They have three children. We had a family reunion last week, and they really said that that's where they first got together, and she let you and Pat Taylor still call her Betsy.

AH: Yes, I never think of her except as Betsy.

TD: Then I remember you and Father Curran and I were on that Democratic Appeals Committee. Do you remember that?

AH: I remember being in the 13th district one time and I was ready to get up and walk out and Father Curran was sitting there.

TD: Father Curran was a very stabilizing influence.

AH: Oh, he was a remarkable man.

TD: Well, Adelaide, I think we're about to wrap up. You've made a big contribution to Michigan history. I think the fact at Con Con you were positive and gave women a real leadership role in Con Con. Would you say anything in particular that you'd like to add that you've made a real contribution to, you have through your whole life?

AH: No, I think I've bored enough people now. I've had a wonderful life. I always think that no matter what comes or goes. I've had a wonderful life, and I've enjoyed every minute of it.

TD: You've always appeared positive and cheerful. I don't know if it's your religion or the chemistry or a combination.

AH: That's part of it, and it's part of the fact that I had parents who believed in me and a sister who believed in me. I have been

Obituaries

Adelaide J. Hart, Democratic Party activist

One of the most influential women in Michigan politics was also a dedicated Detroit school teacher.

The Detroit News

It was one of the rare times the late Gov. G. Mennen Williams, one of the most imposing figures ever in Michigan government, looked helpless.

He had just been stripped of his trademark green-and-white, polka-dot bow tie that had instilled fear into the hearts of Republicans for the six straight two-year terms he had served as the state's chief executive.

It was 1960 and "Soapy" had just been picked for a new job — assistant U.S. Secretary of State for African affairs — by the late President John F. Kennedy. The state Democratic Party was giving him a send-off.

The governor looked sheepish with the new four-in-hand tie looped, untied, around his neck.

Two women came to his aid. One of them was Adelaide Julia Hart, a Detroit music teacher and party vice-chairwoman.

The new tie finally brought back Williams' wide grin when he discovered it was dotted with white donkeys.

Miss Hart, one of the most influential women ever in the state party, spoke at the affair.

"The Williamses are starting on a new road," she told the crowd. "In fact, the political roads in Africa never will look the same again."

Williams went off to serve with distinction in Africa and Miss Hart, after years of service to her party, said she would not accept any more political tasks. She said she wanted to go back to her job teaching music at Jefferson school in Detroit.

At the time, she seemed unshakable in her resolve. But her promise lasted only a year. Try as she might, she couldn't stay out of politics and, in 1961, she run for a seat as a delegate to Michigan's Constitutional Convention. She eventually also reclaimed her post as state party vice-chairwoman, serving into the late 1960s.

Miss Hart died Saturday, July 22, 1995, of complications of a stroke in the Mercy Bellbrook Nursing Home, Rochester Hills. She was 95.

Five-foot-four and 110 pounds, she was, in her own words, "a frightened little school teacher" when she got into politics in the late 1940s. She said she had been influenced by Hicks G. Griffiths, a former law partner of Gov. Williams.

With a master's degree from Marygrove College and a teaching certificate from Western Michigan University, Miss Hart taught at Detroit elementary schools from 1923 through 1963 and became head of the fine arts department.

After becoming involved in politics at the precinct level, she became a member of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors, a member of the executive board of the 17th Congressional District, a member of the state central committee, a member of the Democratic National Platform Committee in 1952 and 1964, a delegate and Democratic Caucus Chairman of Michigan's 1961-62 Constitutional Convention, chairwoman of the Michigan Federation of Democratic Women, and chairwoman of the register of voters of the Wayne County Democratic Committee.

She was one of the original organizers and served as executive secretary of the Detroit Federation of Teachers.

In all of her activities, she worked hard to teach male Democrats to respect women in politics.

"In politics," she said in a 1960 interview, "a woman can do as well or better than a man. The social aspects are easier, and most housewives have the time. However, we must be given some incentive, some goal, and actually, I wouldn't work five minutes unless I could take some part in the direction."

The Detroit News

Adelaide Hart, right, then head of the state Federation of Democratic Women, walks with Rose Kennedy in 1960.

In her years as Michigan's "No. 2" Democrat — vice-chairwoman — she rarely had an evening to herself. In addition, she spent her school lunch hours doing party errands.

She thought teaching and politics were a lot alike.

"I love to teach," she said in another interview, "and that's what my party job has been. Teaching Democrats how to participate in government, how to find an outlet for their energies . . . That is what our people need so badly."

Services for Miss Hart were scheduled for 11 a.m. Tuesday in the A.J. Desmond and Sons Funeral Home, 2600 Crooks, Troy. Burial will be in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Visitation is 2-9 p.m. today in the funeral home.

There are no survivors.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, 610 W. Elm, Monroe, Mich. 48161.