Exit Interview with Priscilla Boswell, Secretary in Ann Wexler’s Office

Interviewer:  David Alsobrook, Presidential Papers Staff

Location:  Room 490, Old Executive Office Building

Date:   June 25, 1979

Transcriber: Lyn Kirkland

Alsobrook: This is an exit interview with Priscilla Boswell of Ann Wexler’s staff. The date is June 25th, 1979. The time is 12:25 pm. The interviewer is David Alsobrook with Presidential Paper’s staff. In room 490 in the Old Executive Office Building. Ok, get me hooked up. Alright, what positions have you held in this particular administration, Priscilla?

Boswell: Only one and that was as secretary to Michael Chanin.

Alsobrook: And this was in Anne Wexler’s staff.

Boswell: Right. Michael is Anne’s deputy.

Alsobrook: Ok. Did you have any previous job experience that you feel helped prepare you for this particular role?

Boswell: Probably all the jobs that I, that I’ve held have prepared me for this one. This job asked me to do a lot of things mainly, operate to the point, using common sense and I also had to use my basic secretarial skills. I was able to hone and to refine them but basically I had to use common sense and all my secretarial positions ask me to do that, so it was...

Alsobrook: Was there anything unusual about this particular position, you know, that was different from the other secretarial jobs that you have had previously?

Boswell: Really, this job required probably, maybe less skills and use of judgement than some of my other jobs, but the pace was about 20 times faster.

Alsobrook: Could you tell me what a typical day would be like on this job, from the time you arrived to the time you leave?

Boswell: There really were no typical days to my way of thinking. Just recently I’ve been interviewing some people to replace me so that I’ve thought about it a lot in trying to guide them, but generally in the morning, maybe the first thing I would do would be to get coffee and that was because everyone needed to wake up. [Alsobrook laughs.] But that’s probably the only thing that was typical. I would be called upon to, you know, answer phones, make phone calls,
be alert, I think was the, I would have to say, I needed to... I had the sense of being alert all the time for anything that might come up.

**Alsobrook:** Would you work a long day?

**Boswell:** From 7:30 till 6:00 at night.

**Alsobrook:** Was that every day? Saturdays?

**Boswell:** Those were my hours. No Saturdays.

**Alsobrook:** What was probably the most difficult thing about your day? Was having to stay alert at every minute, was that the…?

**Boswell:** I think from the personal standpoint the most difficult thing for me was interacting with some people on my staff. I mean I had the attitude, and always understood, before I accepted this position, I was very naive about it, I thought that everybody was enthused about what they wanted to do and coming in here every day was just fun. I mean, it was important, but the attitude was sort of light, not that we were so heavy and involved that we never smiled or laughed about what we were doing. Everything was just so, “How dare you to even attempt to see humor in the situation.” That would slow me down a little bit because I would start to wonder why people were so *dull.* [Boswell laughs.] You know, when I, my attitude’s pretty, you know, outgoing and I think that I’m efficient, competent and I just have good judgements, but I can also be very human and part of being human to me is being open and, you know, sort of friendly and so that when people didn’t respond to me that way, I sort of, I was taken aback. I mean I couldn’t understand it.

**Alsobrook:** While do you think working in the White House is different from that standpoint, say, from another type of government job? Did you have other government jobs that you can compare it with?

**Boswell:** I don’t know. I’ve never worked in the government at all. This was my first experience.

**Alsobrook:** And when did you first come to work here?

**Boswell:** In November.

**Alsobrook:** Of last year? Of ’78?

**Boswell:** Right.

**Alsobrook:** Could you tell me how the office was organized, you know, like who was the, who was at the top, you know, and who were the assistants?
Boswell: Anne Wexler was, is the leader. Next I guess would be Michael Chanin as a Deputy. From that point I think it branched out to associates. We had a very, we did have a very small staff. Jane Hartley, I think, is assigned permanently to our staff as an associate, assistant, or some such title. I think equivalent to her would be Phil Spector who has the same kind of title. Then we have volunteers, interns, people detailed from government agencies, volunteers- I mentioned volunteers.

Alsobrook: Do you have any White House Fellows in there?

Boswell: Oh yeah, we do. We have a fantastic guy, Jim Satz, who is leaving us pretty soon. He, I don’t know how he fits in, you know, in the hierarchy, or anything like that.

Alsobrook: How about this, too. Exactly how would you describe the role of Anne Wexler’s office? What’s the latest function?

Boswell: From what I have been reading and what I’ve picked up, mainly we are responsible for making certain that the President’s policies are understood by everyone.

Alsobrook: You mean the American people?

Boswell: Yeah. We do that, I guess, by briefing, here at the White House, and maybe in other areas, our national leaders, people who, in the field of education, business leaders, the Congress, the consumers, environmentalists, all kinds of people. And our staff really does a fantastic job on that mess, like, we’re excellent.

Alsobrook: What are some of the issues that you present to these groups, or have presented? This would be past tense now since you’re leaving there?

Boswell: The issues have been many and varied. Panama Canal so that we could generate support, for, you know. That’s what we do, generate support for the President’s programs, for energy, multilateral trade negotiations, of course SALT right now, trucking deregulation, Department of Education. Oh I have just, a lot of the presidential policies. There’s just so many, I don’t keep up with them all. I can’t possibly do that.

Alsobrook: This may seem like a very obvious question, but which one has occupied most of your time in the last 15 months?

Boswell: There’s been two: SALT and energy. A tremendous amount of time.

Alsobrook: Are there other White House units that you have worked very closely with on both of those issues?
Boswell: We work very closely with Stu Eizenstat and staff, very closely with Jack Watson’s staff. I am sure there may be others but Domestic Policy probably we work closest with because their functions are so wide ranging.

Alsobrook: Have you worked closely with Stu Eizenstat recently on energy?

Boswell: Oh, yeah.

Alsobrook: Has that been the main one?

Boswell: Oh, absolutely. Everyday.

Alsobrook: On a special task force sort of thing?

Boswell: Yeah, right, yeah.

Alsobrook: You, yourself, Priscilla, have there been certain assignments you’ve had that you worked on that have given you a great deal of personal satisfaction in addition to your everyday duties?

Boswell: No. Most of what, most of the satisfaction I get comes from my personal interest and involvement and in gleaning out of what I do those things that are interesting to me. I have no particular assignments. My job mainly is to assist Michael to get done all the many things that he has to get done. And also to free his time up so that he is not bogged down in administrative details so that he can go out to do what Anne is expecting him to do and those various other things.

Alsobrook: Does he have to travel a lot?

Boswell: Not too much. Not too much. Because we just don’t have, no, Mike directs, he and Anne direct our staff. They do a lot of the leg work while we’re off making certain that we are, that all the policy issues are being handled properly, that all the loose ends are being tied, nothing is getting past us that we don’t want to get past us. Mike is just excellent. I admire him a lot. He’s a fantastic guy. He’s about 5 foot five and weighs about 130 pounds dripping wet and all that energy. A very, an extremely capable person. Very bright. And because he was, and also because he’s such a hard worker, he helped me to work hard and efficiently because he did it all the time.

Alsobrook: Is he the one who hired you? Did you come in …?

Boswell: Yeah. He did.

Alsobrook: I was curious, like if you are going to bring a particular group of people in, like business men or some other constituent or interest group, like if you’re going to bring them into
the White House for a briefing, could you describe what all has to go on in your office in order to get one group of people through here and briefed?

**Boswell:** I guess initially what happens is that we decide a forum. What we want to tell the people. We ask various other segments of the White House staff whether or not there’s some particular points they want covered. We also decide who those people will be. We try very often to, depending on what our subject matter is, we’ll either have a fairly wide range of segments of people in for one briefing on one matter or we’ll have several briefings on one matter to reach these various groups of people. We have opponents to our viewpoints and supporters.

**Alsobrook:** People you bring in for the briefing, from the outside?

**Boswell:** Oh yeah, oh yeah, absolutely, we do that because, you know, our supporters we want to keep informed and our opponents we want to see influenced. After we get the list together, I guess, of who will be in attendance, we prepare the kind of material that we want them to carry away with them as well as what we are going to brief them on. We make certain that we have someone to greet them as they come in through our gates and that’s because we want to make good very first impressions right there at that gate and we don’t want them to be hung up for any reason at all. Sometimes we’ll have a group of pitch people coming in and the guards are overwhelmed and they may not be as cordial as one of our staff people would be, just to smooth them over and make sure nothing, no ruffle, no feathers are ruffled, you know, cause the staff-

**Alsobrook:** Have you ever had to meet them at the gate yourself?

**Boswell:** I have once, a group of students was brought in for Michael to tell them what they do and it just so happened that that day one of the students had left all of his identification at some hotel where they were staying and he was, you know, embarrassed and the guards, of course, weren’t about to let him and so I had to come and just reassure the student that we knew, of course, that he wasn’t intending to, you know, destroy any of us, [Alsobrook laughs] but that we had to, you know, just have someone vouch for him as being a decent human, which I did.

**Alsobrook:** These are college students you’re talking about?

**Boswell:** Yeah. These were. We’ve had, we also have high had school students come in.

**Alsobrook:** Do you know what particular issue this group was briefed on? I know you, you basically-

**Boswell:** Really on what our staff does.

**Alsobrook:** OK, so you bring the group in and you show them around…
Boswell:  Bring them in, show them around, well no, you escort them to their room.  We don’t usually provide them with a tour.

Alsobrook:  Do you take them up to 450 over here?

Boswell:  Very often.  Usually wherever we can find space.  And then we brief them and we tell them what we do and tell them, well, very often we solicit their support and ask them to go out and, you know, spread the word for us and we follow up our meetings very often with letters and more information.  And we get feedback from those people who say, gee, the briefing we were at was really good.  I need more information because I am going to have a meeting of my own.  And it just...

Alsobrook:  And who would be some of the people who would brief them?  Would Anne Wexler herself do the briefing?

Boswell:  Very often Anne Wexler would.  Depending upon our, what we are trying to get across.  Recently on SALT, we’ve had people like Secretary Cyrus Vance, Harold Brown.  Dr. Brzezinski we use quite often.  The President, the Vice President used to be our main speakers.

Alsobrook:  Are there certain groups that you always careful to make sure the President does have a few minutes with them?  Are there certain types of groups that you try to work a session with the President into their briefing?

Boswell:  Because the President’s time is so valuable, I think we make certain that he sees those people who have the most wide ranging influence.  Is that a good term to use, does that make sense?  I don’t know if it- Those people that reach the most constituents.  They’re usually business leaders or people in the Congress, but mainly, you know, we have core, a core group of supporters that, you know, that we usually, I think, comes in, I guess it’s maybe like a pep talk and I’m not really sure that he has been in on any of those, unfortunately.

Alsobrook:  If, years from now if you could tell your grandchildren or great grandchildren or associates something that happened during your stay here that you feel is historically valuable, can you think of anything you’ve witnessed that you feel like will be historically significant in years to come?

Boswell:  What we are doing now in SALT, to me, boggles my mind.  [Alsobrook laughs] Mainly because this issue is so complex that, and the ramifications are so wide ranging, the term of it seems to be forever.  I mean, what we decide today on SALT will seem, will be affecting us for the next 100 years.  Hopefully, at least the next 100 years depending upon what happens with SALT and, uh, I have reams and reams of material at home that I bring home so that I can read and I start to read it and I’m just overwhelmed by it and my understanding is that there are
people who have been working with SALT since its inception, maybe 20 years ago, I understand now, who are still learning and understanding all of its complex issues.

**Alsobrook:** Priscilla, is this some of the same type of material that the Office of Media Liaison sends out?

**Boswell:** Some of it is.

**Alsobrook:** I wonder, how closely does your office work with the Office of Media Liaison?

**Boswell:** Now it seems as though we are working more closely with them. We tell them that we want to get media background prepared for, on various issues and Anne or Michael will sit down with Pat Barrio, used to be Walt Worth when he was here, and say we need to make certain that this point, that point, the other points are covered and you go ahead with your expertise, and do that for us. And that’s what happens. Media Liaison also provides us with background material when we have to be before media in cities other than here when we travel. We have briefing books if we are going to be doing, if Anne is going to be doing a speech, or Mike, in some other city. They will also have tie-ins with television, radio, personalities, spotlights, and... Our Media Liaison Office prepares us for that too.

**Alsobrook:** Do you do all the advance work for your office or does the regular White House Advance or Scheduling Office handle all that?

**Boswell:** White House Advance does most of it. We also have people, keep people, in various cities to help us out too when we are coming down. Anne used to work at the Department of Commerce and she has many contacts there so that means a lot of the secretarial representatives in those cities will prepare up-to-date information for us to use, be aware of before we come. They also help make a lot of the arrangements, agenda, programs, whatever we need.

**Alsobrook:** I was curious too about, I think you touched on this a little bit earlier, exactly how the office work is apportioned. You mentioned, you know, how everybody works on things in there. I was wondering, does Anne give things to Mike and then he gives them to everybody else to work on? Is that how it works? Everything just-

**Boswell:** That is the way it works generally, and that is because there’s so much information flowing back and forth that someone’s got to have a handle on it, pretty much, it’s Michael and with me assisting Michael, it’s me. The office, Anne’s office, is new. It’s just been there maybe a little more than a year and there was no system devised on how they were going to handle staff matters, how they were going to handle the flow of information. Things were just done, with Mike yelling and screaming and **demanding**. Really, yelling and screaming and **demanding** [emphasized] that there be results immediately, so that pretty much things were chaotic. But somehow, it’s amazing, somehow the staff managed to keep a hold on things and really come up
with results that were more than satisfactory. I don’t know how they did that. It still puzzles me, but anyway, they did it, and which pretty much means we’re off on our own, we’re given assignments, we’re given a lot of leeway, the staff, it’s not me really, the staff is given a lot of leeway to accomplish things, so within certain guidelines. They’re not allowed, for instance, to go out and, say, make promises to some particular group that they could never fulfill, but they certainly have to be certain that all those people who would be important to us are, are reached. I mean, there’s very little room for error.

Alsobrook: Does everybody report back directly to Anne Wexler?

Boswell: Through Michael they do, oh yeah. We have staff meetings weekly where we try to have each member of the staff discuss what they are doing, what they’re planning to do. One of the problems with our office is that members of the staff weren’t able to know, or didn’t know what happened, you know, other than themselves, there’s no way, no central way for them to keep up with what someone else is doing. Very often it presented problems because their work overlapped and they could have helped each other.

Alsobrook: Have you ever met the President?

Boswell: No, I’ve never had the opportunity to meet him.

Alsobrook: Have you, while you have sat there at your desk have you ever seen any other people that you would regard as celebrities?

Boswell: I guess the only celebrity that I’ve ever met was Mohammed Ali and boy was that fun. [Boswell laughs.] I knew one day that he was going to be in the office and I thought, “Well, that’s fun.” The office in the White House, he had an appointment in Louie Martin’s office. And I thought, well, that’s great, I mean, you know, it’s no big deal to me because I’m cool. And, as it happened, someone came by and said he was there and said “Come on down,” Louie Martin said “Come on down and meet Mohammed Ali,” and I said, “OK, Mr. Martin, I’ll be down in a minute,” so, you know, I nonchalantly picked up a piece of paper and I thought, “Well, I’ll get the man’s autograph.” I took the piece of paper and went down there and held this pencil and stood by doorway into Louie’s office and I saw Mohammed Ali and I thought, “Geez, he’s not that big, you know, and not that good looking.” [Alsobrook laughs.] And I’m still being cool and I’m saying to myself, “I’m really pleased to be here but this is really a waste of my time. I have about 20 letters that I could go back and type.” However, he walked by me and looked at me and said to me, “I’ll be back in a minute.” And I thought, “Geez, where’s this man going? Why do I have to stand here and wait for him, but it would be rude for me to go away because he has looked at me now.” I’m still standing by the door and he comes by and suddenly he grabs me and hugs me and I melt and I break out into this grin from one ear to the other and Billy, the White House photographer is taking pictures of all this.
Alsobrook: Billy Shaddocks.

Boswell: Yes, Billy Shaddocks. And my eyes get big and I have this huge grin on my face and here Mohammed and I are, you know, hugging each other and I am thinking, “Oh, God, wait till my husband sees this. He’s going to have a fit.” But I lost all my composure and I became like a teenager again. And so, you know, Mohammed Ali is a very warm and friendly person, I thought, and very relaxed doing this and I wasn’t nearly as embarrassed as I thought I might have been by this, you know, state of emotion. But he’s just so friendly. It’s like meeting an old friend and so, I enjoyed that. Another instance was meeting Coretta King. She’s a very gracious woman. She’s a close friend of Michael Chanin’s, by the way, and I didn’t know that, but, it happened at one point. Apparently she’s here at the White House quite often. There was some briefing they were putting on. She came over to the West Wing and I happened to see her in the hallway. And I wanted to speak to her but I didn’t want to just go up and gawk at her, but I did go up to her and introduce myself and said frankly how much I admired her and wondered if there was anything I could do to help. And we talked for a little bit and she was very gracious and very kind, and I excused myself and I told her I didn’t really want to spend very, to use much of her time, but I just wanted to talk with her a little bit, so that was good.

Alsobrook: Were there others that you can recall?

Boswell: I’ve met Lena Horn which was fun. Beautiful woman. Incredible.

Alsobrook: Keeping thinking about that. I want to try to catch this phone.

Boswell: I think there’s, I can’t think of too many more.

Alsobrook: Was that kind of an exciting part about working over there, though, being able to see people like that?

Boswell: It was, though I never considered it very much before I came here, but once you get here... It is, to me, interesting to know the kinds of people you meet constantly. In other jobs I have had I have met very often with business leaders and Congress persons, but knowing that or having a sense of knowing why people are here at the White House has given a little different attitude to me.

Alsobrook: You think after leaving here you will always look at the White House a little differently than you did before?

Boswell: Oh, absolutely. Not only the White House, but government in general. Before I accepted this position here: my main concerns were making sure that my children and my husband were well fed and clothed, and how I get to work and how I would do this, but not so much about where our country was headed or various segments of our country were headed, or even why. But in the few months that I’ve been here, I don’t think I will ever go back to being
an uninformed citizen. There’s no way I could possibly do that. Not only that, but I think I have matured since I’ve been here in the sense that, I know my job is not that important or significant compared with the other people who are working here and the other jobs that are being done here, but it is important that me, the citizen, Priscilla, know what’s going on in our country.

Alsobrook: Priscilla, do you think a lot of people on the outside of the White House look upon a job here as something different from what it really is, like they view it with sort of a haze around it, you know-

Boswell: Absolutely.

Alsobrook: Kind of put it up on a pedestal?

Boswell: I know I did. Not so much a pedestal but my concepts of what went on here were very fuzzy. Number 1, I didn’t think people here at the White House did very much. Excuse me, that, again, is just out of ignorance. That’s good. [both laugh] I guess, I guess I thought that decisions were made, but I never thought how much work went into making decisions, presidential pronouncements. I just sort of thought well, one day he’d say, he would get up in the morning and say I have to do this today, 5 or 6 things to do today and then I’m off, but the amount of work that goes into a half hour press conference is incredible. I mean, months of work go into that and we on the outside just see the end result and not what goes on. And...

Alsobrook: Did you have friends and family sometimes approach you and say, “You work in the White House. Wow!” You know, like that? Did they ever kind of hold you at arm’s length because suddenly you were working in this building?

Boswell: Well, I’ll tell you what happened. Just before I accepted the position here my idea of the amount of work that had to be done here was changed. So that I thought I, you know I knew that, since my hours were going to be so long, people began to say “Well, you know, we won’t call you unless it’s an emergency.” Or, “We just won’t bother you. You have such, it’s just so important what you’re doing now,” and I found myself being isolated from the moment I stepped into this White House, in through those gates. None of my friends ever called, my mother even wouldn’t call. We used to talk every day on the phone. And when I’d reach out to touch someone they would say “well, I’m not going to keep you because I know you are so busy,” and I would say, it is true that I am busy but I need to talk with you. I need to hear, you know, something else that’s going on in this world. Don’t just leave me here with all the things we are doing without my, I need a perspective, I need to know there are people who have other problems that they need taken care of other than the ones that, you know, I’m working on right now.

Alsobrook: So, what you are saying is that you still need to maintain those ties with your family and friends.
Boswell: Oh, absolutely. It’s very important. And you also need to physically go outside the gates surrounding here. I mean, there are a lot of people here who don’t bother to go outside because it takes you a half hour to get to the gate and by the time you get outside you have to come right back. And the people on the outside, their pace is much more leisurely than our pace is here, generally, and you can go and stand in line for a half hour when in a half hour you could have handled twenty matters when you’re back at your desk probably. Very often you could, so that you always felt this sense of time being, you know, urgency.

Alsobrook: And when you did get out it would give you a sense of perspective when you could get out and mingle?


Alsobrook: Can you tell me anything about your future plans?

Boswell: Yes, I am-

Alsobrook: Are they finalized?

Boswell: One of the things I’m going to do is I’m going to be an office administrator for a small office. It’s called the Committee for the Caribbean. We’re going to, I guess be brokers, help the people in the various Caribbean Islands develop themselves economically and socially. Match that up with people in the states who want, have money they need to invest and the Caribbean’s a great place to do that. But my responsibilities will be to get the office operational and that means staffing it, equipping it, getting furnishings, everything, running it. And I’m excited about that because that’s what I do pretty good. [Laughs]

Alsobrook: Did this job, this new job, grow out of this one? I mean….

Boswell: It didn’t grow out of it but someone happened to see me functioning in my position and said, gee, that person would be really good for someone else who really needs someone with my background. Or so they thought. And I was really surprised because I had no idea that I was being observed by anyone, you know, outside. You just don’t think about that. You just do your job, and I do have a pretty strong sense of professionalism. As a matter of fact-

Alsobrook: I’m just going to let that ring, go ahead.

Boswell: In the law firm where I worked, the attorneys always separated the staff positions and at the bottom of that were secretaries and the attitude was that the secretarial position was not a professional one and I argued against that almost daily. For five years I would say and indicate that, yes, my position is professional. Maybe it’s not professional in the sense that I don’t have a master’s degree to do what you’re doing and you are practicing law, but similarly, if my letters didn’t come out looking good and if they were full of typos or if I didn’t answer your phones
properly or if I didn’t, couldn’t speak to your clients intelligently, you wouldn’t earn a cent and
then you’d get rid of me [Alsobrook laughs], so that because you’ve kept me this long and put up
with all my personality quirks, I have to be a pretty damn good professional. [Alsobrook
laughs.] So, I’m really pleased to know that outside that law firm and in the real world, people
recognize those feelings, and those feelings that I have had all along and recognize that and say,
“Hey, you’re damned good and I’m going to use you,” and they’ve given me the opportunity to
be creative in that realm, so that’s good. I’m excited about it.

**Alsobrook:** Do you have any ideas about what you would like to be doing 10 or 15 years or
maybe even 20 years from now?

**Boswell:** I’ve never in my life thought that far ahead. But 15 years from now I would be about
48 and I would like to be able to maybe be at home. I don’t think I would want to be working,
not necessarily be working, but I would want to do something, maybe volunteer work, maybe
working in a hospital or nursing home. I’m good with people, I interact pretty good with people.
Maybe being a tour guide at the White House would be good for me. I don’t know.

**Alsobrook:** I have just a couple more questions for you. I know you have other things to do.
One is, could you tell me exactly what happened to all the paper in your office that was churned
out, I mean, how was it channeled and was it sent to central files or is it stored somewhere else?
You probably produced a lot of the paper yourself, so…

**Boswell:** Most of the paper eventually will go to central files, I would imagine. A lot of it stays
right there in our office because we need to be a
ble to put our hands on it right away.

**Alsobrook:** Sure.

**Boswell:** Pretty soon we’ll be able to send it on over to central files. A lot of the paper that we
handle, we create a lot of paper specifically so that we can send it out to various interest groups
and the public, so we create, we have a lot of paper, you know, create it so that it can be
disseminated.

**Alsobrook:** I was thinking maybe in terms of all your outgoing letters, you know, copies of
things like that. Other words, would you periodically send copies of those to central files or do
you think that would come some months from now, when you have a-?

**Boswell:** No, generally with our outgoing letters, yeah, it goes right to central files.
Occasionally we hold some things back, but as, I think generally we send them right over.

**Alsobrook:** Alright and do the, do like Anne Wexler and Mike Chanin, do they have their
records segregated like official and personal papers, you know?

**Boswell:** Oh yeah.
Alsobrook: It, can you tell me the criteria that is used to differentiate between personal and official?

Boswell: For Mike Chanin I can, but not for Anne.

Alsobrook: OK. For him.

Boswell: For Mike, the letters that come in from family or friends or former business associates who are saying things like, “Gee, Mike, I hear you’re running the country. Damn good job.”[Alsobrook laughs.] While I’d love to send them down to central files for everyone else to know about it, I would love to send them to the President, but I don’t think that’s quite proper. Now, if someone sends a letter to Anne Wexler and says, “Gee, Anne, your deputy Mike Chanin’s done a damn good job.” Those letters would go, I think, then to central files but when they come directly to Mike, I think it would be improper to do that. Or anything else that relates to family, or his mom or his dad or his business holdings, or whatever.

Alsobrook: What about outgoing or incoming?

Boswell: I think I have done only maybe three letters for Mike that went outside that was of a personal nature.

Alsobrook: Anything else would end up in an official category.

Boswell: Uh huh.

Alsobrook: And finally, Priscilla, would you give me a permanent address and telephone number? Yeah, as permanent as you can be for the future library in case someone wants to get in contact with you?

Boswell: I guess my home. 7801 Westover Lane in Clinton, Md., 20735 and my number is 868-7530.

Alsobrook: OK. Thank very much and I hope you enjoy your new endeavor.

Boswell: Thank you.