

WTTG
NEWS



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SENATOR EVERETT DIRKSEN ON "OPINION IN THE CAPITAL"

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, FROM 9:30 - 10:00 P.M.

MINORITY LEADER TALKS WITH MARK EVANS IN FIRST OF 2-PART TV PORTRAIT

Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen (R., Ill.), one of the most colorful figures, as well as one of the most effective leaders, in the history of the U.S. Senate, will be interviewed by Mark Evans on Metromedia's OPINION IN THE CAPITAL, on Sunday, October 9, from 9:30 - 10:00 p.m. on WTTG-Channel 5.

This will be part one of a two-part conversation with the famed Minority Leader of the Senate. Part two will be telecast on Sunday, October 16.

A self-made man who worked his way through college and completed law school while in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served for eight terms, Everett Dirksen is considered the very prototype of a Senator. His oratory has made him the darling of the press; his integrity has won him the admiration and affection of leaders of both parties; and his close friendship with the President of a rival party has made him an intriguing political figure.

OPINION IN THE CAPITAL

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OPINION IN THE CAPITAL will focus on the personal and political philosophy of this remarkable man; on some of the outstanding moments of his long career; on his views of current affairs and trends; and on his own plans for the future.

Mark Evans, Vice President for Public Affairs, Metromedia, Inc., a long-time friend of Senator Dirksen, hopes this hour-long interview, to be presented in two parts, will "be as interesting and meaningful ten years from now as the day it is telecast".

OPINION IN THE CAPITAL is a Metromedia production and is telecast over WNEW-TV, New York City; KTTV, Los Angeles; KMBC-TV, Kansas City, Mo.; and by other radio and television stations in the Metromedia chain as well as the Armed Forces Radio Network.

OPINION IN THE CAPITAL is also telecast by KCSD-TV, the educational station in Kansas City, and by thirteen stations in the Eastern Educational Television Network, including WGBH, Boston; WHYI, Philadelphia; WVIZ, Cleveland; and KQED, San Francisco.

The program originates in the studios of WTTG, Washington, D.C. and is produced by Florence Lowe.

CANNOT BE PERMITTED TO STAND, BECAUSE IT'S ALIEN TO EVERYTHING THAT'S IN PEOPLE. IT'S ALIEN TO WHAT'S IN CHILDREN. AND THEY'VE GOT TO HAVE A WAY OF EXPRESSING THEMSELVES TO THE ALMIGHTY AND THEY HAVE GOT TO HAVE THAT PIPELINE TO THE CREATOR.

EVANS: THIS WASN'T JUST A PASSING FANCY?

SEN. DIRKSEN: OH, INDEED IT WASN'T. AND I MEAN BUSINESS ON THIS, NOW, AN AMENDMENT WAS OFFERED ONLY YESTERDAY TO THE EDUCATION BILL, BUT IT WAS SENSE OF THE CONGRESS AGAIN, AND IT CALLED FOR SILENT MEDITATION. HOW CAN CHILDREN SILENTLY MEDITATE? THEY'VE GOT TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES. THEIR LIPS HAVE GOT TO MOVE. THEY HAVE TO FORMULATE WORDS. I SAID 'DON'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THIS. LET'S PUT THIS ON THE TABLE.'

EVANS: WAS IT DISAPPOINTING TO YOU TO FIND MINISTERS OBJECTING TO THE AMENDMENT.

SEN. DIRKSEN: OH, THERE ARE SOME WHO DO, BUT YOU'D BE SURPRISED TO THE NUMBER OF MINISTER WHO DON'T. DID YOU SEE THAT AD IN THE PAPER RECENTLY? 30,000 MINISTERS...

EVANS: WHAT'S THE NAME OF THE MAN WHO BACKED IT FROM NEW YORK?

SEN. DIRKSEN: DAN POLEY (SP ?) FOR ONE, AND BILLY GRAHAM FOR ANOTHER.

EVANS: YOU'RE WALKING AN AMAZING LINE IN THE CONGRESS. MANY TIMES IN CRUCIAL VOTES YOU WILL SIDE IN WITH THE OPPOSITION. HOW DO YOU ARRIVE AT THAT DECISION? HOW DO YOU MAKE UP YOUR MIND ON CIVIL RIGHTS? HOW DO YOU MAKE UP YOUR MIND ON VITAL ISSUES?

SEN. DIRKSEN: THE QUESTION IS, IF THE ADMINISTRATION OFFERS A BILL, IS IT RIGHT OR IS IT WRONG? IS IT SOUND OR UNSOUND. YOU KNOW, LINCOLN ONCE SAID THAT 'EVERY PROPOSITION IN THE LEGISLATIVE FIELD HAS GOOD AND BAD IN IT. THE QUESTION IS, WHICH ONE PREPONDERATES.' IF THE BAD PREPONDERATES, REJECT IT; IF THE GOOD IS IN THE ASCENDACY, TAKE IT. I HAVE TO DO THAT WITH EVERY PIECE OF LEGISLATION.

EVANS: ACCORDING TO TIME MAGAZINE, YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR MIND QUITE A FEW TIMES IN THE HISTORY OF YOUR CAREER.

SEN. DIRKSEN: THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO DON'T CHANGE THEIR MINDS ARE EITHER IN CEMETARIES OR IN THE ASYLUMS OF THE COUNTRY.

..I HAVE TO FIRST EXAMINE IT THOROUGHLY, AND THEN I HAVE TO ADDRESS IT TO MY OWN CONSCIENCE, MY OWN SENSE OF RIGHT AND WRONG. HAVING WORKED IN THE LEGISLATIVE FIELD FOR A THIRD OF A CENTURY, THERE'S A BACKGROUND AGAINST WHICH YOU WORK.

EVANS: I'M THINKING OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS BILL. IN THE PAST YEAR OR SO YOU HAVE BEEN THE HERO OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND YOU HAVE BEEN ON THE OPPOSITE END OF CIVIL RIGHTS.

SEN. DIRKSEN: WELL, I CAPTAINED THE BILL, I THINK, IN 1957, THE ONE IN 1960, THE ONE IN 1964 - THAT WAS THE BIG BILL, AS YOU KNOW - AND THEN THE VOTING RIGHTS BILL IN 1965. BUT WHEN THEY CAME ALONG WITH THIS BILL, AND YOU HAD CRIMINAL PENALTIES IN IT, AND YOU HAD THIS TITLE FOUR, RELATING TO THE LEASE, AND THE RENTING, AND THE SALE OF REAL ESTATE, I HAD TO MEASURE THE IMPACT UPON THE ECONOMY OF THIS COUNTRY, AND THE AMOUNT OF MISCHIEF THAT IT WOULD DO. I SAID THIS IS NOT FOR ME, THIS IS NOT FOR THE COUNTRY, AND IT HAS TO BE REJECTED.

EVANS: WHAT COULD MAKE YOU LIVE WITH IT?

SEN. DIRKSEN:- WELL, I BELIEVE IT WOULD TAKE A LOT OF DOING. IN THAT FORM, AT LEAST, TO MAKE ME LIVE WITH IT.

EVANS: THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS GOING TO TAKE A TRIP...

SEN DIRKSEN: YOU MEAN THAT THIS TRIP IS CONNECTED WITH THE ELECTIONS AND IS TO HAVE AN IMPACT?

EVANS: YES.

SEN. DIRKSEN: WELL, I HAVE A FEELING ABOUT IT. SUPPOSE I WERE MAKING THAT TRIP, AND THEY SAID IT. I THINK WAY DOWN DEEP I WOULD BE AFFRONTED. TO THINK THAT I WAS DOING THIS, AT AN ANXIOUS HOUR IN THE HISTORY OF THIS

COUNTRY, FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING POLITICAL CAPITAL. I WOULD NOT WANT TO AFFRONT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. I HAVE TO GO ON THE FEELING THAT HE IS A MAN OF GOOD WILL. HE'S A LONG TIME FRIEND. I KNEW HIM WHEN HE WAS A DOORKEEPER, ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE HOUSE AND IN THE CAPITOL, BEFORE HE WAS EVEN A SECRETARY TO CONGRESSMAN OF TEXAS.

EVANS: DO YOU CONSTANTLY REMIND HIM OF THIS?

SEN. DIRKSEN: WELL, EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE I DO, BUT OF COURSE, I'VE KNOWN HIM ALL THAT TIME, AND WE ARE FRIENDS. THAT'S THE REASON I CAN TALK TO HIM. MAYBE I TALK TO HIM AS NOBODY ELSE DOES. THERE'S A LITTLE ROOM, YOU KNOW, JUST OFF OF HIS OFFICE AT THE WHITE HOUSE...

EVANS: THEY CALL THAT THE DIRKSEN ROOM, I UNDERSTAND.

SEN. DIRKSEN: WELL, I'VE HEARD IT SAID THEY CALL IT THAT, BUT WE SIT DOWN AND THEN, OF COURSE, WE TALK LIKE A COUPLE OF DUTCH UNCLES; IN LANGUAGE THAT EVEN A TEXAN CAN UNDERSTAND.

EVANS: WHO DOES THE MOST TALKING?

SEN. DIRKSEN: I THINK IT'S A HORSE A PIECE.

EVANS: IT WASN'T THE PRESIDENT WHO CALLED YOU 'IRKSEN DIRKSEN' WAS IT?

SEN. DIRKSEN: NO, THAT WAS BOB KERR, AND THEN HE TOOK IT ALL BACK.

BREAK

EVANS: I'VE BEEN READING A NEW BOOK BY NOVAK AND EVANS THAT POINTS OUT SOME RATHER INTERESTING IRONY, ONE OF WHICH IS THAT BETWEEN YOU AND BARRY GOLDWATER, YOU HELPED TO MAKE HIM PRESIDENT. YOU, BY DEFEATING THE THEN MAJORITY LEADER IN A CONTEST IN ILLINOIS, AND BARRY GOLDWATER, BY DEFEATING MR. MC FARLAND. BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU, YOU PAVED THE WAY FOR LYNDON JOHNSON. HAS THAT EVER STRUCK YOU?

SEN. DIRKSEN:-- IT HAS STRUCK ME; A LOT OF IT BECAUSE I WENT OUT THERE TO ARIZONA TO CAMPAIGN AGAINST ERNIE MC FARLAND. I REMEMBER WHEN HE CAME AND FAIRLY ENTREATED ME NOT TO COME. BUT, I SAID, ERNIE, I HAVE TO.

IT'S A MATTER OF DUTY TO THE COUNTRY. IT'S A MATTER OF DUTY TO THE PARTY. AND THAT SAME NIGHT WE HAD A GREAT MASS MEETING, OUT IN PHOENIX, ERNIE WAS HAVING A MASS MEETING OF HIS OWN. SO, THE BOYS WENT AROUND COUNTING HOW MANY WERE PRESENT AT EACH MEETING, AND I'LL NEVER FORGET IT.AND, OF COURSE, IF DESTINY HAD NOT WROUGHT THIS POLITICAL FATE IN 1950 WHEN I RAN AGAINST SCOTT LUCKAS (SP?), IT PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN THE SAME THING. SO THERE ARE THOSE FORCES YOU NEVER KNOW, WHAT THEIR IMPACT IS ON FUTURE HISTORY.

EVANS: I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING MORE CONCERNING THE PEOPLE, OTHER THAN VIETNAM, THAN THE INFLATIONARY SPIRAL, COUPLED WITH THE ATTITUDE OF THE STOCK MARKET. ARE YOU GETTING MUCH REACTION FROM HOME ON THAT?

SEN. DIRKSEN: YOU ARE SO RIGHT. OH, WE GET A TERRIFIC AMOUNT OF MAIL, AND REACTION GENERALLY FROM PEOPLE. INFLATION REGISTERING AS IT DOES, YOU SEE IT EVERY DAY IN YOUR GROCERY STORE. OF COURSE, THEY SEE THESE PRICES GO UP. IT HAS A TREMENDOUS IMPACT. THEN WHEN THEY SEE THE SIZE OF THE PAYCHECK BEING ^{FORE-}SHORTENED, WHY SHOULDN'T THEY BE CONCERNED?

EVANS: IS THERE AN EASY ANSWER TO THIS?

SEN. DIRKSEN: NO, THERE ISN'T. THERE ARE A LOT OF ANSWERS. NONE OF THEM QUITE EASY. YET, I THINK THE ROOT CAUSE OF IT, OF COURSE, IS SPENDING THAT GOES ON, BECAUSE IF THIS DISPOSABLE MONEY IS IN THE HANDS OF PEOPLE, OBVIOUSLY, IT'S GOING TO BE SPENT AND IT'S GOING TO CONVERT ITSELF IN THE MARKET INTO THIS KIND OF A REACTION.

EVANS: THE PEOPLE SEEM TO BE SAYING 'BOY, AM I CONFUSED'.

SEN. DIRKSEN: EXACTLY, LOOK AT THE AMOUNT OF CONSTRUCTION MONEY THAT HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN THESE VARIOUS BILLS. YET, WE GO ON SAYING TO INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS, 'DON'T BUILD', 'DON'T EXPAND', HOW CAN YOU RUN A DOUBLE STANDARD LIKE THAT?

EVANS: ARE THE REPUBLICANS EQUALLY QUILTY WITH THE DEMOCRATS.

DIRKSEN: I'M AFRAID THERE ARE AT LEAST SOME WHO ARE GUILTY AND

DISTRESSES ME TO NO END. BECAUSE WHEN YOU PURSUE A COURSE, YOU BETTER STAY IN YOUR FURROW. IT'S LIKE THEY USE TO SAY ABOUT THE OLD TRACK WESTWARD, PICK YOUR TRACK CAREFULLY, CAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN THAT RUT FROM NOW ON.

EVANS: WHAT DOES THE PRESIDENT SAY ABOUT THIS? HAVE YOU CONFRONTED HIM?
SEN. DIRKSEN: OF COURSE, HE'S DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SPENDING. I'VE TALKED TO HIM A GREAT DEAL ABOUT IT. I'VE SEEN HIM A GOOD MANY TIMES IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS, AND HE IS DISTRESSED OVER THE FACT THAT THE CONGRESS SOMEHOW IGNORES HIS BUDGET. THEY THINK WELL THE PRESIDENT DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT. THE BUDGET BUREAU KNOWS MORE ABOUT THOSE ITEMS IN THE BUDGET THAN THE COMMITTEES OF THE CONGRESS.

EVANS: HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR THE FACT THAT THE POWER THAT THIS MAN HAS, AND HIS ABILITY TO SELL PROGRAMS, AND YET HE CAN'T TURN MANY OF THE LEADERSHIP OF HIS OWN PARTY?

SEN. DIRKSEN: WELL, FIRST OF ALL, YOU FORGET THAT THERE ARE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED. AFTER ALL, THEY'RE RUNNING FOR OFFICE. PROJECTS ARE PROJECTS, AND WHEN YOU CAN GO HOME, AND SAY TO PEOPLE, LOOK I GOT THIS BACON FOR YOU OUT OF THE PUBLIC TILL, THEY EXPECT THAT TO REGISTER IN TERMS OF VOTES.

EVANS: HOW CAN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY EVER REACH THE HEIGHTS THAT IT HAD ONCE KNOWN, WHEN THE QUESTION IS PRETTY WELL ACCEPTED THAT YOU CAN'T SHOOT SANTA CLAUS?

SEN. DIRKSEN: MARK, WAIT UNTIL THE TURNING POINT COMES, BECAUSE WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE, EVERYTHING THAT IS GOOD FOR THE COUNTRY IS GOING TO BE BASED UPON ITS SOLVENCY AND ITS STABILITY. NOW, LET THAT FAIL AT ANY POINT ALONG THE LINE, AND THEN WATCH. AND THEN THERE'S GOING TO

BE THE TURNOUT. YOU KNOW CHAUNCEY DEPEW ONCE SAID, 'THAT IT TAKES NEARLY 75 YEARS FOR A REAL IDEA TO GRAVITATE INTO THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE PEOPLE'. AND MAYBE SO, I HOPE IT WON'T TAKE 75 YEARS, AND IT SHOULDN'T NOW, WITH MEDIA LIKE THIS, NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINES, PERIODICALS, BUT THE TIME WILL COME. WHEN THEY SEE THIS IMPAIRMENT OF THE PAYCHECK VALUE, AND ITS PURCHASING VALUE, WHEN THEY SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THEM, WHEN THEY SEE THE IMPACT OF BURDENSOME TAXES, MORE SO THAN EVER BEFORE, THAT'S WHEN YOU ARE GOING TO GET THE REACTION.

EVANS: ARE YOU TELLING ME, SIR, THAT THIS CONTINUED INFLATION WILL PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY?

SEN. DIRKSEN: INDEED IT WILL; IT CAN'T DO OTHERWISE.

EVANS: I HOW YOUR PREDICTION ON THE UPCOMING HOUSE ELECTIONS. HAVE YOU ALTERED THAT?

DIRKSEN: NO, I HAVEN'T. WHAT DISTRESSES ME ABOUT IT IS, THAT I GET LETTERS FROM OUTSIDE OF WASHINGTON NOW, WANTING TO TAKE THAT BET. THE ONLY TROUBLE IS THOSE WHO WRITE ME, AND ATTACH A CHECK, FORGET THAT IT'S A VIOLATION OF THE JUDICIAL CODE, OR THE CRIMINAL CODE, TO SEND A CHECK THROUGH THE MAIL ON A WAGER. SO I HAVE TO QUOTE THEM THE SECTION, THE TITLE OF THE CODE.

EVANS: THIS ISN'T A HANDY OUT FOR YOU, IS IT?

DIRKSEN:-- I JUST SEND THE CHECK BACK. AND I'VE SAID TO THEM, HERE IN WASHINGTON, IF YOU WANT TO MAKE A BET, COME INTO MY OFFICE. THEN WE DON'T USE THE MAIL, AND WE'LL GO OUT ON THE STREET, SO WE'RE NOT MAKING IT ON FEDERAL PROPERTY. I HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFUL.

EVANS: WHAT HAS TRANSPIRED IN THE SENATE RACE IN ILLIONOIS IS SO MACABRE, HOW MUCH EFFECT, IN YOUR ESTIMATION, HAS THIS HAD ON THE RACE?

DIRKSEN: IT'S HAD A GOOD DEAL OF EFFECT. AND IF IT WASN'T FOR THE TRAGEDY ITSELF, IT'S THE FACT THAT IT CONSTANTLY APPEARS AND REAPPEARS

ON THE FRONT PAGE. AND THERE'S THE PUBLICITY THAT GOES ALONG WITH IT. NOW, OUT OF IT ALL, AND KNOWING, OF COURSE, WHAT KIND OF A CAMPAIGNER OUR CANDIDATE IS, AND HOW FORTHRIGHT AND FAITHFUL HE IS, I FULLY EXPECT HIM TO WIN, AND I'M CONFIDENT THAT HE WILL WIN.

EVANS: WERE YOU THAT CONFIDENT BEFORE THE TRAGEDY?

DIRKSEN: YES, BEFORE THE TRAGEDY. MORESO, NOW. YOU KNOW, YOU HAVEN'T MENTIONED HIS NAME...

EVANS: I DON'T THINK ANYBODY NEEDS TO; MR. PERCY IS PRETTY WELL KNOWN AROUND THE COUNTRY.

DIRKSEN: - THAT'S QUITE RIGHT.

EVANS: HOW MUCH HAS THE RACIAL SITUATION IN CHICAGO HAD AN EFFECT? HERE ARE TWO MEN WHO STAND PRETTY MUCH THE SAME ON CIVIL RIGHTS AND YET IT BECOMES AN ISSUE.

DIRKSEN: OH, IT BECOMES AN ISSUE. YOU MAY HAVE TO DIVIDE UP THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE GREATEST PASSIONATE INTEREST IN CIVIL RIGHTS. YOU'D BE SURPRISED AT THE NUMBER OF NON-WHITE PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY WHO TAKE A SOUND AND REASONED VIEW OF THIS WHOLE CIVIL RIGHTS MATTER. THEY'RE THE SOLID PEOPLE. THEY WORK IN INDUSTRY. THEY GET GOOD PAYCHECKS. THEY DO OWN THEIR OWN HOMES. THEY GO TO CHURCH ON SUNDAYS. THEY DON'T THROW IN WITH A LOT OF THIS EXTREMIST STUFF.

EVANS: I'M TOLD THERE IS QUITE A NUCLEAS OF NEGRO REPUBLICANS IN ILLINOIS - ONE OF WHOM IS RUNNING FOR OFFICE AND IS DOING A PRETTY GOOD JOB.

DIRKSEN: THEY DO A GOOD JOB, A VERY GOOD JOB, INDEED.

CLOSE

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OPINION IN THE CAPITAL

A METROMEDIA-WTTG PRESENTATION

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GUEST: SENATOR EVERETT MC KINLEY DIRKSEN (R., ILL.)

INTERVIEWED BY: MARK EVANS, VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS,
METROMEDIA, INC.

THIS PROGRAM IS BROADCAST ON ALL METROMEDIA RADIO
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EDITORS PLEASE NOTE: THIS TRANSCRIPT IS PROVIDED ON THE CONDITION
THAT ANY EXCERPTS OR QUOTES FROM THIS PROGRAM BE CREDITED
TO METROMEDIA-WTTG.

MARK EVANS: WHAT IS IT, SENATOR, ABOUT SMALL TOWNS. YOU TAKE THE METROPOLIS OF PEKIN, HELENA, INDEPENDENCE, AUSTIN - THESE ARE THE SOURCES OF SOME OF THE GREAT NAMES OF OUR TIMES. WHAT IS IT ABOUT SMALL TOWNS THAT CAN HAVE THIS EFFECT ON THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR COUNTRY?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: WELL, FIRST OF ALL. LIFE IS PRISTINE, IT'S SIMPLE. NOBODY EVER DESCRIBES IT BETTER THAN OLIVER GOLDSMITH IN THAT DEATHLESS POEM, 'THE DESERTED VILLAGE'. DO YOU REMEMBER HOW IT BEGINS? 'SWEET AUBURN, LOVELIEST VILLAGE OF THE PLAIN. WHERE HEALTH AND PLENTY CHEER THE LABORING SWAIN,' THEN HE GOES ON AND ON AND TAKES OFF ON ALL THESE CHARACTERS IN TOWN. THAT'S THE SWEETNESS OF A SMALL TOWN.

MARK EVANS: THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE LIVE IN BIG TOWNS, YET THE LEADERSHIP COMES FROM THESE LITTLE TOWNS. I'VE NEVER HEARD OF PEKIN UNTIL EVERETT DIRKSEN CAME ALONG, I APOLOGIZE FOR SAYING THAT.

SEN. DIRKSEN: YOU DIDN'T, I SEE NO REASON WHY. CHARACTER HAS A CHANCE. EVERYTHING BY WAY OF A HUMAN ATTRIBUTE HAS A CHANCE FOR BETTER ANCHORING, BETTER FORMULATION, IN A SMALL TOWN, BETTER THAN THE HURLY-BURLY OF A METROPOLITAN CENTER.

EVANS: I FIND MUCH ABOUT A PERSON FROM WHO WERE THERE HEROS AS A YOUNGSTER.

SEN. DIRKSEN: OF COURSE, MY FIRST HERO, WHEN I WAS OLD ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND, WAS HORATIO ALGER. I'M NOT SPEAKING OF ANOTHER HORATIO - AND THEN, OF COURSE, A LITTLE LATER CAME ABRAHAM LINCOLN, AND HE HAS BEEN THE VERY CENTER OF MY LIFE'S FOCUS. WHY SHOULDN'T HE BE? BECAUSE I LIVED IN THE LINCOLN COUNTRY. HE CARRIED ON JUST 65 MILES FROM HOME. PRACTICED LAW, BY THE WAY, IN MY HOME TOWN.

EVANS: IS THIS A NORMAL THING FOR BOYS IN ILLINOIS TO DO?

SEN. DIRKSEN: I DON'T KNOW, BUT YOU ARE SENSIBLE OF IT AT ALL TIMES.

EVANS: WHAT ABOUT THE BUSINESS OF RUNNING IN CONGRESS? HAS ANY POLITICIAN INFLUENCED YOU, PARTICULARLY OF OUR TIME? YOU CAME THERE

WHEN?

SEN. DIRKSEN: I ACTUALLY ENTERED CONGRESS IN 1933, BUT I WAS ELECTED IN 1932.

EVANS: HAVE YOU HAD ANY POLITICAL HEROS, CURRENT?

SEN. DIRKSEN: NOT PARTICULARLY, THAT IS, OF THE CONTEMPORARY. I FELT I HAD TO BE MY OWN HERO, BECAUSE IN THAT FIRST YEAR I WAS RUNNING AT A TIME WHEN FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT WAS RUNNING, AND I KNEW WHAT THE ISSUES WERE. AND I COULD SENSE THE GENERAL ATTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE. IN CONSEQUENCE, OF COURSE, I HAD TO AS BEST I COULD FOR MYSELF, AND NOT TRADE PARTICULARLY ON ANYBODY IN THE HISTORY OF THE PAST.

EVANS: YOU HAVE THE REPUTATION OF BEING ABLE TO DISAGREE, WITHOUT BEING DISAGREEABLE. IT'S TRUE OF EVERETT DIRKSEN...

SEN. DIRKSEN: MARK, THAT GOES BACK TO LINCOLN. YOU KNOW FREDERICK DOUGLAS, WAY BACK WHEN, WHO WAS AN OFFICER IN OUR ARMY, ONCE SAID THAT ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS THE ONLY HUMAN BEING WHO NEVER MADE A MAN CONSCIOUS OF HIS COLOR. YOU SEE, THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FROM PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIVED IN THIS COUNTRY BEFORE US.

EVANS: I GUESS YOUR PARENTS INFLUENCED YOU A GREAT DEAL. ONE MORE THAN THE OTHER?

SEN. DIRKSEN: WELL, MY MOTHER, PARTICULARLY.

EVANS: SHE HAD NO USE FOR YOUR EARLY ASPIRATIONS...

SEN. DIRKSEN: NO, BUT YOU SEE MY FATHER DIED WHEN I WAS FIVE. SO WE DIDN'T HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THAT PARENTAL ADVANTAGE, ALTHOUGH I HAD A ADMIRATION FOR MY FATHER. INCIDENTALLY, ^{HE}LOOK EXACTLY LIKE CHARLES DICKENS. BUT MOTHER WAS A SAINTLY SOUL, THAT HAD THIS IMPRESSION ON US, TOOK US TO CHURCH, TO SUNDAY SCHOOL, AND NURSED US, AND SYMPATHIZED IN OUR JOYS AND IN OUR TRIUMPHS.

EVANS: DID SHE CREATE THIS LOVE OF LEARNING IN YOU?

SEN. DIRKSEN: I THINK TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT, YES. OF COURSE, SHE SAID I HAD TO MAKE IT ON MY OWN. AND IN THOSE DAYS, WE HAD NO EVANS: MONEY./ SHE DID A LITTLE STEERING, TOO, DIDN'T SHE? YOU WERE HEADED FOR THE STAGE AS I AM TOLD.

SEN. DIRKSEN: WELL, THAT CAME JUST A LITTLE LATER IN LIFE, BUT ACTUALLY I GOT THAT STAGE-STRUCK FEELING. I EVEN SUBSCRIBED TO A DRAMATIC COURSE OF GEORGE BAKER OF EITHER YALE OR HARVARD, AND I USE TO GET ALL THE THEATER MAGAZINES. I THOUGHT THIS IS FOR ME.

EVANS: THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY YOU HAVE NEVER GOTTEN OVER IT, SENATOR.

SEN. DIRKSEN: I HAVEN'T ENTIRELY GOTTEN OVER IT. YOU KNOW THAT THEATRICAL INSTINCT IS THERE AND YOU NEVER QUITE LIVE IT DOWN.

EVANS: THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THIS, BECAUSE THE DIFFERENCE IS THAT YOU ARE NOT USING SOMEBODY ELSE'S LINES, YOU'RE USING YOUR OWN.

SEN. DIRKSEN: MARK, IT GOES DEEPER THAN THAT, BECAUSE THIS IS AN EXPRESSION FROM WITHIN. IF YOU FEEL IT, OUT GO YOUR ARMS. I COULD TELL YOU A RATHER INTERESTING STORY ABOUT THAT. ABOUT THE MINISTER WHO LEFT HIS SCRIPT IN THE PULPIT ONE TIME AND THE SEXTON FOUND IT ON MONDAY MORNING. HE SAW ALL THESE LITTLE NOTES, 'RAISE YOUR ARMS HERE' AND 'SHOUT' AND 'GESTURE' AND THEN, AT ONE POINT, - I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME FOR SAYING THIS - HE SAID, JUST 'GESTICULATE WILDLY AND THROW YOUR ARMS IN THE AIR, CAUSE ARGUMENT WEAK AND YOU HAVE TO SHOUT LIKE HELL.'

EVANS: POLITICIANS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO DO THAT ON OCCASION.

SEN. DIRKSEN: OH YES, INDEED.

EVANS: SENATOR, YOU'VE GOT TWO BROTHERS, DON'T YOU? NEITHER OF WHOM ARE ACTIVE IN POLITICS?

SEN. DIRKSEN: WELL, ONE WAS. HE HAD A TOUR IN THE CITY COUNCIL. JUST ONE, THAT WAS A FOUR YEAR TERM, AND HE WANTED TO RESUME. I LOOKED AT IT RATHER ASKANCE. I THOUGHT ONE PERSON IN THIS BUSINESS IS ENOUGH. AND I TALKED HIM OUT OF IT.

EVANS: DO YOU AGREE POLITICALLY?

SEN. DIRKSEN: OH YES, DEFINITELY. BUT HE IS INFINITELY SMARTER THAN I AM.

EVANS: BECAUSE HE STAYED OUT OF POLITICS?

SEN. DIRKSEN: NO, HE RETIRED. SO HE GOES IN FOR CARESSING THE SOIL. RAISING THINGS, COMMUNING WITH NATURE, SEEING HIS GRANDCHILDREN. IT'S A WONDERFUL THING.

EVANS: I'VE HEARD YOU TALK ABOUT MARIGOLDS. I'M SURE HE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING MORE ABOUT MARIGOLDS THAN YOU DO.

SEN. DIRKSEN: NO, BUT HE KNOWS MORE ABOUT STRAWBERRIES AND RUHBARB.

EVANS: I DON'T THINK ANYBODY WAS MORE IMPRESSED THAN PEOPLE THAT FEEL AS YOU DO ABOUT RELIGION, AND YOU MENTIONED THAT YOUR MOTHER GUIDED/SO^{YOU} ADROITLY IN THIS PHASE OF YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU WERE MAKING DECISIONS. RECENTLY, THIS CAME TO THE FLOOR AND YOU FOUGHT FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES. WERE YOU CHAGRINED, WERE YOU AMAZED THAT DIDN'T PASS?

SEN. DIRKSEN: OH, NO.

EVANS: YOU DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO?

SEN. DIRKSEN: YOU EXPECT IN THIS KIND OF A BUSINESS THAT YOU DON'T WIN THE FIRST TIME. AND THEN, OF COURSE, THAT'S JUST A CHALLENGE TO YOUR MENTAL AND TO YOUR DETERMINATION. AND THEN YOU'LL DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN. NOW, YOU SEE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE COMPLEXION OF THE 90TH CONGRESS WILL BE WHEN WE CONVENE IN JANUARY. BUT, WHATEVER IT IS, THE PRAYER AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION WILL BE THERE. THAT SUPREME COURT DECISION