

The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training  
Foreign Affairs Oral History Project

**JOHN D. HEMENWAY**

*Interviewed by: David Jones*  
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*Q: This is a Foreign Affairs Oral History Program interview with John Hemenway conducted under the auspices of the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training. I'm David Jones. John, very briefly, would you say a few words about your early life?*

HEMENWAY: I was born in Wisconsin in December 1926, where my father was superintendent of schools at Shorewood, a northern suburb of Milwaukee. When I was 17 I went into the army as a private in the infantry. By August, I had been promoted to Second Lieutenant in the infantry by the time of the invasion of Japan, which the date had been set for the 1<sup>st</sup> of November of 1945. But Truman's use of our entire inventory of nuclear weapons prevented the invasion from taking place.

So I went up to Alaska and served two years there. Then I went to the University of Washington [Ed: 1947], where I was appointed to the Naval Academy [1947], which I'd been trying to get all during the war. The various draft dodgers who preferred to spend three years at the Academy, rather than in the infantry trenches, were crowding one out, even though the Senator from Wisconsin, Wiley, appropriately named, gave an appointment according to a civil service examination. That is to say, he gave a civil service examination and then appointed the people. Not necessarily in the order of who did best on the exam.

At any rate, when I got to Annapolis, I was wondering where all those people were who had been beating me out. I found the Academy a delightful place to study [Ed: USNA B.S. 1951] and while there I won a Rhodes Scholarship and attended Oxford for three years. [Ed: Oxford University, Worcester College, 1951. The State Department Biographic Register for 1967 also lists Hemenway as studying at the University of Heidelberg 1953 and Georgetown University from 1954 to 1957. It lists his academic accomplishments as a B.A earned in 1954 and an M.A degree issued in 1957. It further lists an enlistment in the U.S. Air Force and assignment overseas from 1951 to 1954 with the rank of First Lieutenant].

I went into the Foreign Service [Ed: The Biographic Register for 1967 records entry into the Foreign Service as November 26, 1954 as a reserve officer and then he received his Foreign Service commission on December 3, 1954], where I did a little waltzing around in the Department, doing some awful jobs designed for bureaucrats and not Foreign Service Officers. [Ed: The February 1955 State Department Telephone Directory shows Hemenway assigned to an administrative position in the Division of Foreign Reporting in

State Annex 18. The March 1956 Telephone Directory lists him in the same office, renamed the Foreign Reporting Staff, but located in State Annex 12. The State Department Historian describes the mission of the Foreign Reporting Staff as the coordination of the dispatch of instructions and reports from the Department to overseas posts, and the distribution of reports from Foreign Service posts to offices within the Department and to other government agencies. By 1956 the Foreign Reporting Staff was under the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Operations. More substantively, the July 1956 Telephone Directory lists him as assigned to the Office of Eastern European Affairs in the Bureau of European Affairs (EUR/EE)]

I was assigned to Munich in the Visa Section [Ed: The Biographic Register records he entered FSI language training on February 24, 1957 and arrived in Munich on June 2, 1957.], which was in great trouble. I bailed it out, won a medal [Ed: Commendable Service Award, 1959], and got the Visa Section commended by the State Department. [Ed: The Foreign Service List also recorded Hemenway's arrival in Munich as June 2, 1957. Edward Page was the Consul General during Hemenway's entire tour through his departure in the summer of 1959. Page later served as Ambassador to Bulgaria from March 1960 to May 1962.]

Then I went back to the department for a brief spell. Then I went to Oberammergau, Germany, to learn Russian [Ed: June 1959]. I learned Russian in ten months and then went to Moscow [Ed: According to the Foreign Service List, Hemenway arrived in Moscow on August 7, 1960 and was assigned to the Political Section, headed on his arrival by Boris Klosson and from July 1961 by Richard Davies, who has an interview on file with ADST] for two years at the end of a fairly active period in Moscow.

*Q: What years were they?*

HEMENWAY: 1960-1962, the height of the Cold War. The U-2 had just been shot down when we arrived [Ed: May 1, 1960]. The Gary Powers show trial had taken place while I was there.

The guy [Lee Harvey Oswald] who later shot the President (Kennedy) was there and renounced his citizenship. He decided the USSR was not the land of milk and honey, and asked for his passport back. Had I been in charge, I never would have given it back to him.

*Q: Did you ever meet Oswald then?*

HEMENWAY: I didn't meet him then, but he was talked about at the weekly meetings in front of the Ambassador. The Ambassador and the head of the Visa department had decided that the poor boy had made a mistake and should be given his citizenship back.

*Q: Who was the Ambassador at the time?*

HEMENWAY: Llewellyn E. Thompson [Ed: Ambassador Thompson served from July 1957 to July 1962 and was succeeded in August 1962 by Foy Kohler].

Then, the first thing he (Oswald) did was look for someone important to shoot so he could be a big name for the rest of history. His first target was a right-wing general... Walker. He missed him, shooting through a plate glass window. Apparently the plate glass deflected the bullet a little bit and gave Walker the chance to look for his own gun. [Ed: Wikipedia reports the Warren Commission concluded that on April 10, 1963, Oswald attempted to kill retired U.S. Major General Edwin Walker, firing his rifle at Walker through a window, from less than 100 feet away, as Walker sat at a desk in his home; the bullet struck the window-frame and Walker's only injuries were bullet fragments to the forearm. General Walker was an outspoken anti-communist, segregationist, and member of the John Birch Society. In 1961, Walker had been relieved of his command of the 24th Division of the U.S. Army in West Germany for distributing right-wing literature to his troops.]

At any rate, this guy should have never been allowed into the U.S. He should've been put at the end of a 20 year list for an immigrant visa. It's amazing that when in Minsk, that's where the Soviets stored him for a while, he married the head of the investigative department of the Soviet Army. In other words, the daughter of a very big important person. I suppose he got there because he was an American. That attracted people to him. Anyway, then the Foreign Service fired me and I was selected out.

*Q: You were getting rather quick promotions at the time. [Ed: The Biographic Register notes Mr. Hemenway entered the Foreign Service in 1954 with the rank of FSO-6. In an adjustment of ranks perhaps due to the Wriston reforms his rank was FSO-7 in July 1956, FSO-6 in July 1957, FSO-5 in March 1959, and FSO-4 in February 1961.]*

HEMENWAY: Yes. And unfortunately, the selection out presets made that a penalty, rather than a plus. If you'd been at a certain grade for an extended period of time, it became harder to move up. If you'd been a Grade 4 for five years, and you wanted to become a Grade 3, you had to show "Extraordinary" potential for promotion. The presets changed. They also reduced the time in class from ten to eight years. Which I think is frankly unconstitutional. There are a lot of unconstitutional things that go on at the State Department, as you may recognize. That was the one that affected me most perversely. So I decided to study law and became a lawyer, and have made my living that way, and that's what I've done ever since.

*Q: After you left Moscow, did you return to the U.S.?*

HEMENWAY: Yes, I was in DOS (Department of State) for about three and a half to four more years. [Ed: The Biographic Register lists Mr. Hemenway as detailed to the Armed Forces Staff College from August 1962 to January 1963 and taking up a position in the Department in March 1963. The State Department Telephone Directory lists him as assigned to the Bloc International Activities Division (RSB/BP) of the Office of Research and Analysis for Soviet Bloc (RSB) in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR). At

RSB/BP Helmut Sonnenfeldt is listed at the Division Chief. The February 1965 Telephone Directory next lists Hemenway as moving to INR/RSB/SOV, the Soviet Division where the Division Chief was Kermit Midthun.]

[Ed: The August 1965 Telephone Directory placed Hemenway on the German Desk in the European Bureau (EUR/GER), where Alfred Puhon was listed as the Director and concurrently the Deputy Director of the Berlin Task Force. Puhon served as Ambassador to Hungary from June 1969 to July 1973 after which he retired. He has an interview on file with ADST.] I was working as the Chief of the Berlin Section, which was important because it was the place where we would determine if World War III started. It stoppage occurred on the Autobahn or planes were harassed on the three access routes to Berlin, we had to determine if the Soviets were trying to provoke us, or if they were trying to start a war. It was a real tough period. It was a sensitive job. My dear supervisor, Alexander John Paul [Ed: The Telephone Directories for 1965 to 1967, do not list either an Alexander John Paul or a John Paul Alexander, this name may be a transcription error], who had his security lifted when he was in Yugoslavia, I do not know why, put it in the personnel record that Hemenway ought to be removed as Chief of the Berlin Section. He stated that, "In his desperation to save himself he might do something that is very embarrassing for the United States government." Well, they threw me out. [Ed: circa 1968.]

*Q: Did you have a grievance hearing?*

HEMENWAY: I didn't like being thrown out of the Service; I thought I was a good officer. (Clark R.) Mollenhoff, who I had met during various things that were going on, well he was a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and also a lawyer, and he did an article on me and the personnel system. [Ed: One such article appeared in the April 17, 1973 Sarasota (FL) Herald Tribune, according to Wikipedia.]

*Q: In 1969 Mollenhoff was Special Counsel to President Nixon for a year.*

HEMENWAY: Yes. And so he said, "I want to take up your case Hemenway. I want to know what the limits of my office are and you're going to be my test case." So he did what he could and got me a schedule C appointment over at the Defense Department, where I handled many very sensitive items for the U.S. without ever betraying the United States I might add.

I looked around, and it turned out at that time, that when an FSO was in Washington, the civil service regulations applied to him. He was to be considered a civil service officer, not an FSO. Therefore, grievance procedures that the civil service had available to it were open to the FSOs, who didn't normally have their own. So as I left the Department. I signed a caveat that reserved me the right, within the next two years, to file a grievance under the regulations of the civil service.

*Q: What role did the people like Howard Mace, and Bill Macomber, Ed Lyerly play in connection with your grievance?*

HEMENWAY: Well they all were involved. Lyerly may have been the most involved. He was, at that time, in the legal division. He handled the section of the legal division that dealt with personnel.

*Q: He was the Assistant Legal Advisor for Management.*

HEMENWAY: That would figure. At any rate, he had told a person of utmost integrity, who testified under oath that Hemenway's dismissal could be explained because he was a (John) Bircher, a right-winger and the kind of guy who saw Communists under every bush. That is virtually a quote from my hearing. I've got five feet of hearing record up there. It went on for three years. Interestingly enough, I sent for my security record. The record was never produced. I knew that if there was anything bad in my security record then it was a lie. I knew I had done nothing improper. They sent a note, instead, "We have looked at Hemenway's security file and it is clean." Just a one sentence note. I was dumb enough to accept that. Later on, someone pushed a note over the transom so to speak, unsigned, unattributed, saying that Alexander John Paul had put a note in to the effect that I had just told you: We have to get Hemenway out of the Foreign Service, he's going to betray the U.S. and it's a very sensitive job that he is in. There you have it. I won the grievance hearing. Three to nothing.

*Q: Can you describe the hearing itself?*

HEMENWAY: The best thing to do is to refer you to the record, which was to have been kept in the legal advisor's office, so that any FSO could always look up the Hemenway grievance hearing. They could get citations from it. In fact, it's been removed from there and I don't know what they've done with it. That'll be a future case against the Department. That's one of the things they violated in connection with the grievance hearing.

Another thing, the hearing decided that I should be reinstated, promoted and given back pay and given a letter of apology. They gave me the letter of apology, but it was only for "the manner in which your grievance was conducted." For the first three sessions, they didn't even appoint anyone from State to participate. You see, under the guidelines, I can appoint someone, and they appoint someone and then the two they appoint a chairman. The chairman was Paul Tucson, who was impeccably good. They fired him in the middle of the hearing. For that I went to the hill. A prominent congressman, who dealt with DOS from a congressional relations end of it, said he didn't know anything about the hearing. But, he said, it was his general impression that during a legal hearing, you do not fire someone in the middle of the hearing and appoint someone else.

*Q: Who did you appoint as your member?*

HEMENWAY: General Hagan. Hagan was a FSO, he was also in the Air Force reserves. He was the Judge Advocate General of the Air Force. So he had quite a legal background. Top man in the Air Force legal department.

*Q: I think he was in the Office of International Conference.*

HEMENWAY: That was his Foreign Service job.

*Q: What did they do?*

HEMENWAY: They simply refused to implement it. They did this by having Macomber dropping out, refusing to approve it, and Mace, nobody except this newly appointed Deputy Secretary of State, who was then appointed after he rejected my hearing, he said he would not approve of it. He was then appointed the Ambassador to France. He was then kicked out of that job when he pinched the bottoms of the French babes on Air France.

But that was an illegal act. Later, my hearing record became the pattern in Congress for an administratively enacted record for the Foreign Service; it became all of the negatives: Failure to produce documents, over classification of documents, failure to participate in the first place... all of this became encapsulated in the Foreign Service Grievance Act. The first in the history of the service, my own hearing was the basis for that. You'll never get the Foreign Service to admit that. They will have to once I take legal action against them, which I intend to do. It's been amended a couple of times.

Later on, a gal in the CIA who was using the FSO as a cover was dealt with badly she thought. She filed a grievance, she won, they rejected it, she worked it up the courts and it went to the Supreme Court. They said, "You don't have to have these grievance hearings, but if you do, the decision of the hearing is the decision of the department." Backtracking that, they had a legal obligation to implement my hearing. The statute of limitations and all that – by that time, 20 years earlier, you couldn't ask the law to be reversed 20 years ago. It's a political action. I have a few Congressmen who are willing to get on board with this.

*Q: Were you back with the Department?*

HEMENWAY: Never. In fact, I filed a grievance for their failure to implement my grievance. They said I couldn't do that since I was no longer a member of the Service.

*Q: Well you waited a couple of years, but then you ran for the AFSA (American Foreign Service Association) Presidency in 1973?*

HEMENWAY: Because I saw how corrupt it was. I was in touch with John Harter and I opposed a formation of the Union, out of AFSA. It was a decent professional organization. I declared publically many times, that if you turn this into a Union, it will become a company Union. Very bad move. The people, who wanted that to happen, were doing it because they didn't want something like AFL/CIO to take over. Under Executive Order 11636, you can look it up; they made it possible to incorporate AFSA as a Union.

That really annoyed me. I ran for President, my opponents split their votes and I got in on a plurality.

*Q: That was in 1973?*

HEMENWAY: I think so yeah. It wasn't a Union yet. They simply used crooked devices to manipulate that. Harter and I went to the Labor Department and made a complaint and they determined that, "Yes, your rather detailed complaint was accurate. They had not fairly implemented an election." Then I was elected President after it became a Union, under a Labor Department supervised election. So my election was fair. The people who were against me, and later became members of my board, and caused a recall election to occur after one and ¾ years, they were all the characters that managed AFSA for the next three or four years. After they retired from State, they moved over to help me out at DACOR and wrecked that too. I was a member of DACOR. And when I saw them come over, I just resigned. A guy who is in charge of promoting membership called me up to ask, "Look, you've been a member, why don't you rejoin?" Well I named the people and I said, "They've just left State and joined DACOR and they will wreck it." He saw it first-hand.

*Q: What can you recall about the first board meeting when you were President of AFSA?*

HEMENWAY: The first board meeting was held over lunch. I had, among other things in my campaign; I had prevented the sale of the real estate where AFSA is, thinking you couldn't find a better chunk of real estate in Washington for the FSOs. So I refused to go along with that. I had put some bonds in the bank to make sure that no one was cheating. They really wanted to sell it so we could live easy off the net income of that sale. I also prevented them from closing down the luncheon, which went on for another ten years. The first thing I did was to invite an Ambassador to preside over the Luncheon. It was the Ambassador to South Africa, and that ought to be controversial enough to get a full attendance. Sure enough it worked, the place was packed. Standing room only. The Ambassador gave a perfectly decent explanation on what South African foreign policy was all about and why all those who were chipping at the South Africans weren't all quite with it. The big worry of the board was I going to charge this to AFSA? No, I was going to pay for it myself, for all the board members, which I did. I didn't get a single thank you. That gives you the tone of what our personal relations were like.

*Q: I've been given the impression that the entire board was hostile to you from the beginning?*

HEMENWAY: Exactly. I buy them lunch and they worry about whose going to pay for it. I am, I invited you to lunch. It cost me like \$50-60 total. Easy.

*Q: Did you try to implement your campaign promises of reform during this period?*

HEMENWAY: Two major points were the ones I just gave you: preserve luncheon facility quarters and don't sell AFSA. After that we take them one at a time. They came

up and eventually there was discussion about the grievance procedure, and it was a bipartisan measure. Larry McDonald, who was as far right as you could find, and the far left came together and it was passed almost unanimously. Then the only problem we had to handle was the appointment of the management, the people who would participate.

*Q: On the question of grievance, would it not be worth mentioning that Senator Bayh introduced a good bill, three times in three consecutive bills that got through the Senate but not the House?*

HEMENWAY: Larry McDonald liberated it, yes, when I became President. It was a controversial matter. The board didn't like it, especially since I was the model, they didn't approve of that. What can I say; eventually there was the question of who was going to appoint the State Department representatives to any grievance board that took place. DOS would appoint one, the guy would appoint one and who got the last one? The board just wanted to rubber stamp the State Department proposal. They simply picked the people. The Union ought to have something to say about that. We ought to be able to approve or disapprove of the choices made by DOS. Well I lost that.

Tex Harris was one of the worst opponents I had [Ed: As of January 2015 Mr. Harris has an unpublished interview on file with ADST]. He was not on the board, but he was always there. One thing I promoted were public meetings of the board: any Tom, Dick or Harry, whether he was a member of AFSA or not, could attend the meetings. They were open to the public.

*Q: I remember that you recorded the meetings on the tapes?*

HEMENWAY: I still have those tapes.

*Q: These tapes were met with a lot of anger, but you said that the tapes were the honest man's best friend, and this of course was right after Nixon and Watergate. I thought that was a remarkable rejoinder.*

HEMENWAY: Thank you. That is quite right. In order to meet that particular opposition I put down two tape recorders. I said, "If anyone wants these meetings transcribed, at your cost, I will give you the second tape." Nobody ever took me up on that. I think it tempered what was said in the meetings a little bit.

*Q: How do you explain the board's opposition?*

HEMENWAY: I think they resented the hell out of a guy who was selected out of the Service, who then beat the State Department at a grievance that lasted three years, presiding over an organization that he had been against formulating. I was opposed to AFSA's creation, but here I was, president of it. Take a look at the *Foreign Service Journal*, where they parade "30 years of being the Union." See if you can find a trace of Hemenway in that.

*Q: Actually you are listed in the records.*

HEMENWAY: Not as a first president.

*Q: Yes. You were listed in the election sequence. I was working on the election last year; I tried to find out who had been on the boards for extended periods of times. I checked on Tex Harris, and he's been the member of AFSA board in some capacity every time except the first ones.*

HEMENWAY: Yeah, there is another element of hostility. These would've been fanned by Tex Harris. Howard Mace was put up to be ambassador to Sierra Leone. I opposed him as being unfit, incompetent and deceitful, tying him into my own hearing. Fulbright, who was chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at that time, loved it. He said, "Well Mr. Mace, you've only had one grievance in 182 years? I would say that is a remarkable organization," with plenty of sarcasm. Mace lost the appointment. He was then put up to be consul general of Constantinople, which any real FSO would've preferred. Better place to be.

*Q: Now the AFSA president, before your election, normally presented his views to the members through the FS Journal. Did you do that?*

HEMENWAY: I tried to do that and succeeded in a limited way. I wanted a page, the president's page. A number of members of the board agreed that it was traditional and proper.

*Q: They have it now.*

HEMENWAY: Yes, it's been a tradition. They then put a page opposite of my page to correct my misstatements and assumptions and hypothesis. It was a kind of anti-president page. I didn't appreciate that. I didn't like that grand old lady, Shirley Newhall, who was the editor of the *Journal*, but there was nothing I could do about either of those things. She didn't approve of me at all, and was very cagey. I wasn't really certain of her position until deep into my tenure.

*Q: How long did your tenure as AFSA president last?*

HEMENWAY: I was elected for two years at that time. But they implemented a recall vote and I was thrown out with two months to go.

*Q: There was no election. No referendum to the membership, just one big meeting.*

HEMENWAY: Yes, there is one big meeting as prescribed by the laws of the State Department. It was just loaded with State people who were determined to just get me thrown out. It wasn't a worldwide election.

*Q: What do you think you accomplished during your period as president?*

HEMENWAY: Basically nothing, except for a deep and provable record for how corrupt the personnel and hierarchy was then. I am about to launch an attack on State to see if it extends to the present time. The body's are all different, but the institution and the systems are all still in place. The legal advisor, Lyerly, how long ago did he leave? Not too long after me, but his buddy, who was the liaison between State and AFSA is still there. He is Secretary of the Board.

*Q: Tex Harris.*

HEMENWAY: Yes, that is Tex Harris. That's all you really need, and under me is negative progress. The labor management hierarchy was set up. It's cost the DOS millions. It was basically established to get rid of a guy like Hemenway, which they managed to do. It would be interesting to see how many records have been "lost" by DOS personnel. As I say, they lost the one they were commanded to keep. The file of the legal officer, the entire proceeding has been moved. That's disappeared.

*Q: Have you asked for it under FOIA (Freedom of Information Act)?*

HEMENWAY: I've asked for it informally, they say that they don't have it. I haven't gone to FOIA or court with them yet. I will provide them with a copy at their expense, so they can stick it back in the office of the legal advisor. I am going to pound on them for that. And there are a few people up in Congress who have written letters to the effect of, "We understand that John Hemenway, the first grievant, is now the only grievant whose successful pursuit of a grievance was never implemented. Can you comment on that?" They haven't denied that. Sometimes they deny that I was ever a grievant.

*Q: There is a lack of institutional memory and records.*

HEMENWAY: Oh sure. You could find somebody if you pushed hard enough. I know people in Congress have an institutional memory of it. I can show you their name over their signature.

*Q: Did you do anything about the dismissal from AFSA by the referendum?*

HEMENWAY: I was pretty exhausted by that time, and rather penniless, and I had watched how these fared when they went through the courts. There were a few judges who just rubberstamped anything DOS did. I thought it would be healthier to not go to court and so it wasn't worth the fight. Now, I think I could find some judges, and I know how to recuse a judge who is incompetent.

*Q: There was no formal appeal process for the action taken against you in the AFSA case?*

HEMENWAY: For the recall?

*Q: Yes.*

HEMENWAY: I filed for the annual certificate, which was due at that time. It was for the legality of the president and the officers, and I told them in as many words as I've just told you, that this was a crooked arrangement, they changed the rules and regulation of the recall, even as it was in progress. The most disreputable aspect was when the management officer wrote a letter condemning me and saying I should be kicked out as president. That was against the law. That was a crime; he was not allowed to do that.

*Q: Were AFSA members informed about these disagreements?*

HEMENWAY: Not very thoroughly, but it was put in the *Journal* I'm sure. But I don't remember it specifically being there.

*Q: Can we talk a little bit about your views on Foreign Service personnel reform and the question to be posed, for all its problems, don't you think the Service generally advances the careers of the most talented and successful officers.*

HEMENWAY: Certainly not. First of all, they violate the law. The law, in my time, required DOS to rank each FSO in accordance with their ability. They just didn't do it. They threw out people every year who were perfectly capable officers and they couldn't tell exactly where they were, because they didn't rank them, which was against the law, and kept in people who were lower rated. I mean that is almost proof of my position right there. Instead, they lump these people into what they sometimes call, the middle third. That was a violation of the law. Where is that middle third, you don't rank! In any case, that rating system which was invented in West Point, and as an Annapolis man, I don't think too much of it, my first impression of it was in OCS (Officer Candidate School) during the war. You had to rank your platoon members – perfectly good people were thrown out of OCS because of that system. They rubbed someone the wrong way and got a low review.

I think the rating system tells more about the rater than it does about the person rated. In Munich, after getting the medal and getting the Visa section commended, W. Garland Richardson, who came out of personnel, to become the #2 man in Munich, had a little book. [Ed: According to the Foreign Service List, Richardson arrived in Munich in November 1957 and became the #2 man in the Consulate General on December 28, 1958.] Whenever he heard the name of someone who had done something gross, he would look them up on the promotion lists. He would pull you off if he found you. He gave me a terrible rating. Page said, "I can't understand this rating. This man, Hemenway is my best officer." This is the Consul General you see. He just tore the rating to bits. It's a real interesting piece. When I got to meet the guy who I was replacing as a political officer, he asked me, "Have you had your cocktail party yet?" What cocktail party? The cocktail party that Richardson and his wife give to the political officer and his wife. Sure enough, within a week, we were invited to the Richardson's. It was just after the Christmas party. Mrs. Richardson berated my wife for allowing me to be the one to wrap the columns leading to the visa section in red crepe paper. It was a festive but neutral

thing. “Mrs. Richardson,” I said, “My wife is pregnant, I didn’t want her climbing a ladder.” “Oh, I didn’t know that.” No hint of apology. That led up to the efficiency report. I didn’t like him and I still don’t.

*Q: Can you imagine a better method for evaluation?*

HEMENWAY: Well, up to a certain rank, this includes the vesting of your entitlement to retirement. Tenure is not all that bad. I would pay attention to a system that says, “His writing needs improvement.” I had that said to me a number of times, they say that when they have nothing bad to actually say. I won an essay contest coming out of high school, I won an essay contest when I graduated from the Naval Academy, there is nothing wrong with my writing, but they would say, “His writing has improved considerably.” So, up to the vesting of their retirement, I would think I’d let tenure handle it, but worry about demands of being thrown out of the Service due to low ratings. After that, the efficiency rating system doesn’t mean anything anyway; it’s who your contacts are. Matter of fact, I was requested to be DCM for the man who became the Ambassador to Bulgaria, but CIA jammed their man in the post. CIA has put its ugly nose into the Service ever since biographic reporting was taken out of States hands and put in the hands of the CIA. That was in the early 1970s.

*Q: What about Foreign Service assignments? Do you think the most qualified person is selected for each opening?*

HEMENWAY: No. I think it’s a very bad system. I think FS assignments should be promulgated out on a list and anyone who wanted to write personnel a letter to show their interest in a position could and would. If a person wants to be considered for a post –

*Q: As a matter of fact, that exists now. It changed. You can bid for positions even above your grade.*

HEMENWAY: That simply suggests that progress has been made. That was my feeling as I left that that sort of mechanism should be in place.

*Q: When you finally left the Service completely, you went to law school.*

HEMENWAY: Yes, after a gap of about a year.

*Q: You’ve been practicing law since then?*

HEMENWAY: Yes. I am trying to get out as fast as I can, but I am still hanging onto my license because I’ve got some personal things that I want to accomplish. You are more effective in a court if you’re a member of the court. I filed a suit against (President) Obama and that was dismissed by a judge by the name of Robertson, a District Court Judge. He said it shouldn’t be done, since Obama’s qualifications for the office had been blogged and tweeted all over the place and there was no reason to further question it.

Well, those things are not evidence, and the fact is, I am convinced 99% that it's a fact that Obama was born in Mombasa, Kenya. And the constitution says that you must be a native born American to be President of the United States. The reason he was born there, his mother went there very pregnant, determined her husband was already the husband of at least one other woman and she decided to go home. But the Airlines said, "You are nine months pregnant. We won't take you until you have the baby." His grandmother on his paternal side said she was present at the birth, named the doctor and said it was in Kenya. There are birth certificates that have been spirited out of Kenya, the legitimacy of which are questioned, there they are anyway. They are solid birth certificates. The one that came out of Hawaii isn't even a certificate of live birth. Chiang Kai-shek had such a certificate of live birth. Hawaii gave them to everybody. Subsequently, the people in the bureaucracy of Hawaii have declared it a forgery. Well, I think further the mother married again to an Indonesian and he attended school in Indonesia. To be a student in Indonesian school, you must be an Indonesian, that's the law, so I think either someone wrote him in as a citizen or he was a citizen. Either way, the circumstances of his birth being what they were, he would've had to make a statement. He would've had to make a claim on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday to a right to American citizenship, and he never did that. So I think there is even doubt to his citizenship. I think that his mother had not been a citizen long enough.

*Q: The President's mother was born in Kansas.*

HEMENWAY: Yeah, but you have to be a citizen for 10 years in order to automatically be a citizen.

*Q: She was certainly a citizen all her life.*

HEMENWAY: But she bore him when she was 19. Well, look, if I were you, I would want to revise my understanding of citizenship. In any event, he may have trumped that by becoming an Indonesian citizen.

*Q: That would've been ruled as involuntary on his part because he was a minor.*

HEMENWAY: When he became 21 he needed to declare that. He didn't do that. Notwithstanding, I think he was born in Mombasa.

*Q: Well, that's interesting. [Ed: Mr. Hemenway's views on American citizenship do not comport with the law at the time and his other assertions remain unsubstantiated.]*

HEMENWAY: The court threw it out. They sanctioned me to pay the other guys court costs. That would've wiped me out. So I gave them 35 pages of why I shouldn't be so sanctioned. It was not a frivolous case. 20 other cases, none of them have been giving standing. They have not been denounced as frivolous.

Alan Keyes filed such a law suit that when he ran for President he was discriminated against. That case wasn't given standing. Well, if anybody deserves standing to criticize

the position of his opponent, it was Alan Keyes. So, the judges have made an overall decision not to touch this matter. They don't want to challenge the guy in the White House. But he is challengeable and I do not think he will get a second term to protect him. I think there will be some interesting wire fraud, letter fraud cases against the people against him and the people around him. Nancy Pelosi, whose case in herself has had the requirement as a chairman of the Democratic Committee, had to certify who would run as their candidate for each and every state. She sent such a certificate to every state. In Hawaii, she sent a certificate that also said that he was constitutionally qualified to be President. So the message she sent to Hawaii is different than the one she sent to the other states. She is obviously aware that something is improper about his birth certificate. Increasingly, that's become an issue on the internet.

*Q: I've seen a great deal of discussion on this.*

HEMENWAY: This case is now in the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

*Q: This is your case?*

HEMENWAY: Yes. I appealed it. I am running this case on behalf of Lt. Col. Hollister in the Air Force who says that Obama isn't his Commander-in-Chief. All the Court of Appeals did was to rubber stamp the decision below, so I kicked it up higher. That is improper, when the court below has indicated in any way prejudice or the hint of the possibility of prejudice why they've gone along with the ruling. That is according to the Supreme Court. Right now, we've asked to recues themselves but we haven't gotten reply. If they say no, it'll go up to the Supreme Court.

*Q: Have you gotten any relief from the President's expenses?*

HEMENWAY: Yes, they withdrew that and reprimanded me instead. But I didn't let go of the case, so I appealed the reprimand.

*Q: Is there anything you'd like to say to wind up the interview?*

HEMENWAY: All of these events have loomed rather large in my life, as you can imagine. It's made an impression on me how a person can become very desperate when you put your fortunes into the hands of an organization that can destroy what pension plans you thought you had amassed. They can cut you off at the knees after retroactively changing the regulations that apply to you. With desperate maneuvering I have saved just a portion of what I earned in the Service. I am now on a reduced civil service annuity. I don't know what that sounds like to you, but it's robbery to me.

*Q: That's also the consequence of the Charles Thomas circumstance. He was selected out as an O-4.*

HEMENWAY: He was in exactly my position. They didn't have pensions for them when that happened. Cynthia Thomas, I knew her well, I told her about my hearing, show me

some of the sessions, because Charles will be interested in them. Charles spent all night reading them. I said, "Look, you're a lawyer, and I need a lawyer. Would you be willing to help me out?" Then he shot himself.

Mollenhoff, was involved in the press angles of his shooting, and that got Mollenhoff, into the State Department problem. Mollenhoff, got me a job with Warren Nutter, who had cancer, and he became the Deputy Assistant Secretary of International Affairs, the State Department-like component of the DOD [Ed: Nutter was Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs from March 4, 1969 to January 30, 1973]. My job was to essentially battle Kissinger. I never lost a battle against Kissinger. Later on, I testified against his suitability as Secretary of State. Helmut Sonnenfeldt showed up then as the legal advisor of the department [Ed: Sonnenfeldt served as Counselor at the Department of State from January 1974 to February 1977. This is not a legal advisor position]. He was being nominated as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. Well it was quite clear why Kissinger wanted Sonnenfeldt there. He wanted someone to fill up shoeboxes of money for the Egyptians and the Israelis so he can say, "See I made peace again." Sonnenfeldt never got that job because of my testimony [Ed: In late 1973, when George P. Shultz was promoted from budget director to secretary of the Treasury, he nominated Mr. Sonnenfeldt to be deputy secretary in charge of geopolitical economic issues, the No. 3 job at Treasury.] I testified against promotions for some people. There was a lot of Congressional activity in State Department matters. I will resume that until such time as they fully restore my hearing results. They probably will never do that, but then they will have a lot of wounds on the State Department corpus. The labor management system is a scandal. How many millions is that costing? Have you ever looked at their position in the phone book?

There are also two auxiliary matters. There is the Service's register that ought to be published again. It would tell people who are in the government, what they are getting paid and where they've been. The FS classification list needs to be open as well.

*Q: The Biographic Register was published through 1975. It was classified after some people could identify the CIA officers.*

HEMENWAY: Give me a cleaned up version then.

*Q: Well they were going to do some of that, and then they ran into privacy exercise acts.*

HEMENWAY: A citizen has the right to know who is in his government. Privacy doesn't extend that far.

*Q: Actually, again, if you are being nominated to a position like that, the financial disclosures are a matter of the public record.*

HEMENWAY: I didn't know that. So I can't get a biographical register, but I can get their finances.

*Q: You have to fill all those out pretty much for everything.*

HEMENWAY: I think you can get that without going to FOIA if they are high enough on the totem pole.

*Q: You can get most of that off the internet. As soon as the Ambassador is appointed they have to release all that type of info anyway, it's the law.*

HEMENWAY: You have to do that in the Senate as well. And you've had these records out there. Anyway, I've been busy enough with what I've been doing to keep me away from that. But if you start an FOIA action, you have to keep the pressure on; you can't ever miss a deadline. The problem is they can always say, "We can't find it. It's lost."

*Q: It's hard to get around that.*

HEMENWAY: Then give me the documents that the chief of personnel uses when he is checking on his subordinates appointment of various officers.

*Q: I think you need to be incredibly specific about which document you want. What I requested when I did declassifying for FOIA, was anything Obama's mother wrote when she was working for AID in Indonesia and they had placed times they were looking into. I got nothing though, when I looked.*

HEMENWAY: The answer is to go up to Congress, and ask them to cut the budget of State to Indonesia and see what happens. That might make them stand up. Congress is always interested in cutting even if it's illegitimate.

*Q: Well thank you very much.*

HEMENWAY: Yes indeed it's been a pleasure.

*End of interview*