

Albert R. Anness
Page, U.S. House of Representatives

Doorkeeper “Fishbait” Miller

Albert R. Anness shares memories of William M. “Fishbait” Miller, the Doorkeeper of the House.
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“Fishbait” ran a tight ship, and when it came to meeting the personal needs of the House Members, he could be counted on to deliver in a timely and, if required, discreet manner. On page three of his book, “Fishbait” stated, “The rule of this, this place is every man is king, and don’t you forget it.” He was friendly, trustworthy, amiable, a tireless worker, and he never failed in his duty, or to act in the best interest of the House. “Fishbait” was a creature of the House. The House was his constituency. And they always—I remember I’ve read from the, from one of your other interviews—talked about “Fishbait” and his cigarette lighter. That’s true. He, he would light cigarettes, and Dave Cunningham and I observed that. And we thought it was funny, too, at the time. So, we went out and got cigarette lighters, and for a while we passed ourselves off as understudies for the Doorkeeper. Went around lighting cigarettes. But before we got in trouble, we had enough sense to stop. “Fishbait” talks about in his book about the only automobile he ever owned was a 1945 Dodge custom-built sedan. I recall that he took me to his church’s father and son Banquet in 1949 in that sedan. I always thought he was, he did a fantastic job, or he wouldn’t have kept it. But of course as long—he was a protégé of Sam Rayburn—and as long as he kept Sam Rayburn and the other Congressmen happy—which it wasn’t always easy—he was, he was doing a good job to do that.