JC: needed him, and so on. (Let's not get into a praise of my father.) But he was exactly the way I've represented it. Something like your father, Jesse. He was integrity itself. He wasn't one person outside, another person at home. He was always the same. So I don't know what Dad's secret things were. But our home atmosphere... You wouldn't believe it now. People would say that's fantasy, so I'm not going into it. But it was so true.

So Mother was very much opposed to my breaking my engagement. She also referred to Audley...

[Interruption]

Audley Cole: Good morning, Jesse. How are you this morning?

JW: Fine.

JC: I have to tell about...

AC: "That boy?"

JC: "That boy," yes. (Laughter) She was very much opposed to "that boy." Audley smoked in those days, so he coughed occasionally. She said, "He has a tubercular cough. He'll be dead within a few years."

JW: Did she throw it up in your face after it was an accomplished fact?

JC: No. After we'd been married a couple of years, she started adoring Audley. She loved him to death. I think she thought more of him than my sister or me, because he had a way with her. She'd never had a boy, and I guess he sort of filled that need too. And he was always very attentive to her. Really and truthfully, he understood her better than either my sister or I did. And, of course, in her later years when she was ill -- I think I've mentioned this -- her own flesh and blood couldn't have been that good. He did everything. He dedicated himself to her. He took off from work to take care of her affairs, and he never took a penny for anything he did. He just... I don't know. I always say he'll never have any bad luck really, because he was so devoted to her.

JW: What did your friends think of him?

JC: My father loved him too. Oh, my friends, they all thought, "My word!"... How did they put this?... "You certainly have gone into another world, as puritanical and bookish as you've always been" and so forth. I don't know how it's going to work. But you can try it." (Laughs)

JW: Who makes the major decisions about purchases or what house to move in or when to move?

JC: Well, I don't think either of us makes the decision. We talk it over. We compare