

EDWARDS INTERVIEW

Telephone calls come in over the speaker phone in rapid succession. He handles them as I set up the tape recorder. One is a case he is trying in court (he is a practicing attorney). It involves a strategical decision. He tells his secretary who to call and what to say. Another call, a man in New Orleans he is supposed to meet. He tells his secretary that he is not sure who this person is, to have an aide do the advance on the person and get back to him. Then he tells his secretary to hold the calls, that he will be in conference. I am grateful for that. I figure at best I'll have one hour with him. Better make every minute count.

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PREJEAN: First I'd like to talk to you about your position on the death penalty before you were governor. Your brother, Nolan, I know, was murdered.

EDWARDS: My brother was murdered, but the guy that murdered him simultaneously turned the gun on himself and committed suicide. I thought long and hard about what position I would have taken had he lived, and I would not have urged the lawful authorities to execute the fellow. That was my personal view. As much as I hated what he did, murdering my brother, I don't think I could have brought myself to insist on his execution.