



Rocco Celebrezze relives his son's election victory.

DISCIPLINED 'GOOD BOY'

Spanked Mayor, Says Loving Dad

BY SEVERINO P. SEVERINO

Papa Rocco Celebrezze—who admits spanking Cleveland's No. 1 citizen—twinkled happily today when he discussed his prize bambino.

"He's a good boy," he says, with no less eloquence than 140,917 voters expressed a week ago.

Papa Celebrezze, humble son of the soil, is bewildered but proud over the new fuss that has descended upon him. His modesty bars him from taking credit.

Credits America

"I only helped when I could," he said.

Papa Celebrezze gives most credit to the planting of his sons into American soil where his family thrived. In his native Italy, he worked 16 hours for eight cents a day.

"America gave them the opportunity," he said. He spoke not only of his son Tony, the mayor, but also of his other children who have been embraced by the American system.

Spanked All Children

But Papa Celebrezze also mentioned how his stern, guiding hand, influenced the lives of his 13 offspring, of whom nine survive.

"I spanked Tony when he had it coming," he said. "I spanked all my children, as any loving father should."

The elder Celebrezze recalled one of the times he disciplined his distinguished son.

"I had told him to shovel the snow off the walk," he said. "When I came home from work Tony was having a snowball fight in the yard and the snow was still unshoveled."

Tony Sold Papers

He also recalled that Mayor Tony as a boy was industrious and eager for learning. He sold papers in front of the Caxton Building, which to newsboys was known as "Celebrezze Corners."

"Celebrezze Corners" was so named because it was handed down from Celebrezze to Celebrezze for selling papers. It started with Frank, the late Municipal Judge Frank D. Celebrezze, then down

the line to Vincent, Gus, Tony, Sal and Joseph.

The interview, all in Italian, took place at the home of his son Joseph, 19328 Shoreland Ave., Rocky River.

Pappa Celebrezze recalled that he gave all his boys haircuts and mended their shoes, so that money could be saved for their education.

Barbered for Dates

"They stopped taking my haircuts as soon as they became interested in girls," he said.

Pappa Celebrezze, 82, stands five feet, two inches tall, and weighs only 130 pounds. His hair is slightly grayed, but more abundant than any of his sons' hair today.

He has worn a closely-clipped mustache all his life. He stands erect and his health is good except for occasional rheumatic pains.

He stood at his full stature in Cleveland's City Council chambers Monday when his Tony was sworn in as Cleveland's 40th mayor.

His hat was clutched in both hands as he held it to his heart and small beads of tears fell from his eyes.