

ILOHI Interview with Bill Frazier

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Muncie, Indiana

Interview by Ben Baumann

Transcribed by Katie Turner

MP3 file, Sony

Bill Frazier=BF

Ben Baumann=BB

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[0:00:00]

BB: Alright, it is on. So, before we begin, I'll just state for the record that today is February 25th, 2020, and my name is Ben Baumann—I'm here with Bill Frazier in his home in Muncie, Indiana, and we are doing an interview for the Indiana Oral History Initiative. Um, so, to begin, could you tell me when and where you were born?

BF: Yeah, I was born on November the eighth, 1936 at, uh, Ball Memorial Hospital, where my mother was a registered nurse at the time—

BB: Mm, OK—

BF: And our residence was in Albany, Indiana.

BB: Oh, OK. (BF interjects: "So, that...") Interesting.

BF: As far as the hometown was concerned (BB interjects: "Yeah, OK")—hospital, obviously, was in Muncie, so.

BB: Right. Interesting—

BF: That's where I was born.

BB: OK. Uh, what were your parents' names?

BF: Uh, my mother's name was Dorothy Alice Shellenbarger Frazier.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: And my [0:01:00] father's name was Francis Aaron Frazier. [Scraping sound, likely from chair being moved]

BB: OK. Um, and... Where was your family from originally, uh, how long had they been in Indiana, for example?

BF: Well, since the 1700s.

BB: OK. Wow.

BF: Yeah, so we've, uh, we've got a family history that goes back to about one thou—well... I think 530 is the oldest records that we can find.

BB: Mmhhh, sure—

BF: We came out of the Cherbourg... portion of France.

BB: Ahh, OK.

BF: And from—migrated from there up into Scotland.

BB: Yeah.

BF: And then from Scotland here to the United States.

BB: Wow. Yeah—

BF: And they were basically coming to the East Coast, like most immigrants of that time.

BB: Sure.

BF: You know, probably the s-1600s [popping, likely from fireplace; continues throughout interview] and—

BB: Right. [Crackling, likely from fireplace; continues throughout interview]

BF: And, uh, (BB interjects: "Yeah") [unintelligible] up to North Carolina, [0:02:01] and they were Quakers, as far as the religion was concerned. And very much opposed to slavery, so they didn't stay that l-long in the Carolinas, and they migrated into Indiana.

BB: Wow! OK.

BF: And participated in the Underground Railroad [unintelligible]—

BB: Wow! (Chuckles)

BF: Uh, the black people from—

BB: Uh-huh—

BF: Outta the South up through Randolph County and... uh, up into Canada for refuge and...

BB: Wow. That's amazing. (BF interjects: "Yeah") OK. Um, what were your parents' occupations?

BF: My dad was, basically, raised on a farm, but he was a businessman—he ran... a parts distributing company, auto parts.

BB: Oh, OK—

BF: Back in the, uh... late '20s and through the '30s, '40s, '50s, '60s, up until his death. And, uh, had a auto parts [0:03:00] distributing company—

BB: Oh, OK—

BF: Covered most of eastern Indiana.

BB: Interesting—

BF: From, uh, headquartered in Albany.

BB: Yeah—

BF: My mother was a, of course, a housewife and a—had mothered three children, and a registered nurse working at Ball Memorial Hospital.

BB: Oh, OK. Wow—

BF: And helped in the business as well, back in the early days.

BB: Wow, OK. Uh, do you have any siblings?

BF: Yes. I have a brother named John A. Frazier; he lives in Florida and he's retired. And then I have a sister, Mary Alice, uh, Frazier Ellison, surname. She has a, um... kind of a hotel... uh, restaurant combination in West Point, Kentucky, just east of Fort Knox.

BB: OK.

BF: And she's retired now, of cour—

BB: Right.

BF: Mmhmm. And then I have one [0:04:00] deceased brother who died as an infant: David Alan Frazier.

BB: OK—

BF: His name.

BB: Interesting. OK... How would you describe your childhood?

BF: This house?

BB: (Gently raises voice) Uh, your childhood.

BF: Oh, my childhood—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Oh, I had a wonderful childhood. Yeah, it was great. You know, storybook parents, uh—

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: You know, you could, you couldn't ask for anything nicer than my parents.

BB: Yeah—

BF: I'm fortunate to have good grandparents—we spent a lot of time with them, uh, very Christian-based people.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: My grandmother's father, William Shellenbarger, was a devout Christian man who [unintelligible] a lot of counseling with his neighbors, I can remember that as a child. And, uh, just have—had good uncles, aunts, uh... no real vices that I'm aware of—my grandad did chew tobacco (chuckles).

[0:05:00] BB: OK (chuckles).

BF: But as far as any problems with (BB interjects: "Sure") the law or anything like that, they—we'd never, uh, been into those situations—

BB: Right—

BF: As a family.

BB: Sure.

BF: That I'm very grateful for.

BB: Yeah, absolutely. Um, who would you say was the most influential person in your childhood?

BF: Well, probably my mother and my father—

BB: Yeah, OK—

BF: For sure and, uh, grandparents, as I indicated earlier.

BB: Yeah.

BF: You know, they were, uh, good, solid people, and uh... knew the correct values of—to—as mankind should follow and Biblically-based, so.

BB: Right.

BF: Uh, they, uh... Pretty hard to go wrong when you got a foundation like that—

BB: Of course, yeah—

BF: Those are my most, uh, influential...

BB: Yeah—

BF: People that I've been around. And a lot of contacts with family, uncles and aunts and so forth.

BB: OK, great. [0:06:01] Um, what understanding, if any, did you have about your family's political beliefs as a child?

BF: Well, not—we weren't a so-called political family back (BB interjects: "OK") when my, when we grew up. You know, the—World War II was a big, big deal—

BB: Right—

BF: And, uh... My, uh (clears throat) w—I lost a second or third cousin or two in the Second War—I remember going to their funerals. Um... So, basically, I o—I had no fa—well, my great-grandfather was a, uh, Republican—either a County Councilman or Commissioner in Blackford County, just north of here—

BB: Mmhmm. OK.

BF: (Clears throat) And I remember him. He—I was ten years old when he passed away. So I was fortunate to be able to know, um, three of my great-grandparents on my—

BB: Wow—

BF: Frazier [0:07:00] side, yeah. Remem—

BB: Wow, that's amazing—

BF: Remember them well.

BB: Yeah, that's very rare—

BF: Back in those days, uh, the old folks would stay with the children for a month.

BB: Right, OK.

BF: And them move along to the next ch-sibling or child—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: And help look after them before the days of nursing homes and so forth.

BB: Ah, OK, yeah—

BF: So that's the way it was back in the '20s and '30s...

BB: Right.

BF: When I grew up and even the '40s. The (BB interjects; unintelligible) old folks would spend time with ya, so we'd get to know our great-grandparents there pretty well.

BB: Yeah.

BF: We—my folks took their turn looking after my great-grandmother.

BB: Wow! That's very cool, I (chuckles)—yeah.

BF: Yeah (clears throat).

BB: Uh, what schools did you attend as a child and as a teenager—

BF: Yeah, Albany High School, of course, a great school—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: All twelve years, back in those days, were in the same building.

BB: OK.

BF: And, uh... [0:08:00] That's basically it. And l-little town of Albany over here.

BB: Oh, OK, sure—

BF: Just northeast of Muncie.

BB: Um, how would you describe your educational experiences there?

BF: Well, I wasn't what you would call a, probably a very studious student.

BB: OK (chuckles).

BF: Uh, I was more interested in being on the farm than...

BB: Yeah.

BF: Studying and school and...

BB: Sure. [Clock chiming in background]

BF: I have (stammers) gotten a couple college degrees, though (laughs) in my (BB interjects: "Yeah, OK") later years, but...

BB: Sure.

BF: Uh, and I'm a strong believer in education. Uh, like I said, my wife and I have a... foundation where we provide scholarships for high school students that wants to go on to college for studying nursing, farm—whatever they wanna study, we help provide some financial support to them.

BB: OK.

BF: We have several nurses—

BB: Right—

BF: And we've been doing that for more than twenty-five years (BB interjects: "Yeah"), I guess.

BB: Right—

BF: Called the Frazier Foundation.

BB: Oh, OK. Excellent, wow. [0:09:00] That's neat.

BF: So, anyway, that's, uh, the high school part. Um... I-I could've always could've done better, I'm sure, if I'd have applied myself more, but. Uh, we've been fair—reasonably successful, I guess, and might've been more so had we worked a little harder in school.

BB: OK. (Laughs) Fair enough.

BF: But we were able to get through and, g-get through college and all, so.

BB: Yeah, yeah. That worked out.

BF: Lot of patience from the part of the teachers, too.

BB: (Laughs)

BF: We have some good teachers, too—I can call every teacher I’ve had, eh, by name, I remember so they did make an impression on me.

BB: OK. Yeah.

BF: Back in those days, we had, uh... we had prayer in, in public school and—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: A lot of things that (stammers) I guess is not, uh, allowed today.

BB: Right. Sure.

BF: Though very patriotic, you know, the Pledge and all those things that, uh—

BB: Yeah.

BF: I’m not sure [0:10:00] they do and all that in public schools.

BB: Right, yeah.

BF: They do in private and Christian schools—my—

BB: Sure—

BF: We sent our kids to, uh, school called Heritage Hall here in Muncie.

BB: Oh, OK. Interesting.

BF: Yeah. And, uh, they’ve been very successful in...

BB: Yeah—

BF: Their lives and (BB interjects: “That’s great!”) through college and... My son, uh... graduated from Heritage Hall and went on to Purdue and... got with honors a-there and received his master’s degree in engineering.

BB: Wow.

BF: And aviation—he’s a (stammers) certified flight instructor now, and—

BB: Wow! OK—

BF: And has an airport—or an air... uh, it’s an ATP—Air Transport Certificate to fly.

BB: Wow, that’s great—

BF: W-which is the PhD for f-flying.

BB: Yeah (chuckles), wow—

BF: I have a commercial license, he-so he had to outdo me.

BB: OK. (Laughs) Naturally—

BF: [0:11:00] ATP, yeah.

BB: Yeah. (Chuckles)

BF: And he teaches people to fly airplanes, so.

BB: Oh, that's great.

BF: And the other son works for Eli Lilly—he was... on a nuclear submarine in the Navy and an (BB interjects: "Wow!") aircraft carrier, so—

BB: Wow!

BF: He did pretty well coming out of the—

BB: Yeah, sounds like it.

BF: The private—so-called—they're not really private schools, but—

BB: Sure—

BF: Tuition-based schools—

BB: Yeah.

BF: High school.

BB: That's amazing.

BF: And our (yawns) youngest daughter is a... pediatrics intensive care specialist, uh, does neonatal—

BB: Wow—

BF: Work and she has her master's degree there, and—

BB: Yeah.

BF: And the other daughter is—runs a very successful construction business.

BB: OK.

BF: And her—with her son.

BB: Amazing! (Chuckles) S—

BF: The kids turned out pretty well.

BB: (Laughs) Sounds like it.

BF: Yeah.

BB: That's really impressive. And what are you kids' names?

BF: Uh, the oldest is Annette, uh—

BB: Mmm—

BF: Jone Annette Steen. [0:12:00] And she's the one who's in the building business.

BB: OK.

BF: And the next daughter is Susan Carol Hartis—she's, uh, the, the medical person. And then the oldest son is William Nicholas, he's... the guy works for Eli Lilly and... the other son's William Michael Frazier, he's the engineer and—

BB: Sure, OK—

BF: Airline pilot—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Doesn't work for the airlines, but he's—that's what he's rating (trails off)...

BB: Right. OK, great—

BF: And a flight instructor. That's what he—and he's helping me do the farm; I'm not able (BB interjects: "Ah, OK") to do that anymore, so.

BB: Of course, right. Yeah, OK, interesting. Um, so, when you were at school, did you have any favorite subjects at all, or?

BF: Well, not really. I guess recess is probably my (BB interjects: "Recess?" Chuckles) favorite—(laughs)

BB: OK, yeah, I can understand that.

BF: No, we, uh—I-I had some—we had some very good teachers at, in our high school, and—

BB: Yeah.

BF: Um, it was a small group, I think my class was, like... might've been [0:13:00] twelve or thir—(BB interjects: "Oh!") fourteen (BB interjects: "Wow. Yeah, yeah") students in my graduating class.

BB: So, very small—

BF: And, uh... Yeah, we had people, uh, tea—very dedicated and, um, principled teachers—

BB: Mmm.

BF: And, uh, again, we could've—if I'd applied myself more in high school and there, I would've probably had a little easier time in—

BB: Sure—

BF: College and all th—

BB: OK—

BF: We, we made it, we got through. Or—

BB: Yeah, seems like it, yeah. Were you involved in any extracurricular activities—

BF: Oh, yeah. I played basketball and ran track.

BB: Oh, OK. Wow.

BF: We didn't have a track team, per se, and cross-country team i-in Albany, so I participated with the Muncie Central High School in Muncie.

BB: OK.

BF: I was able to run cross-country meets with them.

BB: Yeah.

BF: So.

BB: Great!

BF: [Telephone rings in the background] I didn't do baseball—I was always on the farm in the spring.

BB: Right. Yeah, makes sense—

BF: Working in the... (trails off)

BB: OK... [0:14:00] Um, so as a child, what were your views about the state of Indiana, or about being a Hoosier?

BF: Oh, not much, I have no—never gave it a lot of thought—you know, you're (BB interjects: "Mmhmm") interested in growing up—

BB: Right—

BF: Doing your thing—

BB: Sure—

BF: Which mine was working at the farm, and—

BB: Right. Naturally, yeah.

BF: That type of thing. Never really got into politics at all till I... um, after we got, were married, a-and, uh... got to earning some money and... realized that the tax burden was pretty excessive—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Especially real estate taxes because I did own some farmland.

BB: Right. OK—

BF: And it just kept increasing all the time and...

BB: Yeah.

BF: So that's what really prop-pro-prompted me to get into politics and—

BB: Sure—

BF: Try to revise the tax system in this state.

BB: Right, right.

BF: Which we finally got tha—some tax relief done with—from Otis Bowen and (BB interjects: “Mmhmm”) [0:15:00] Ed Whitcomb and, uh, some of the governors and some of the people in the legislature were interested in doing it and finally got that accomplished, but.

BB: Yeah.

BF: There's still a lot—pretty rough to make it on the farm today with the tax bill and—

BB: Sure—

BF: All the other—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Difficulties you have just making ends meet.

BB: Right.

BF: Trying to raise stock—livestock, and—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Grain, grain farming.

BB: A lot of work.

BF: A lot of challenges, yeah—

BB: Yeah. Uh, so, where did you attend college?

BF: Uh, I went, uh (stammers), went right into the military right after—

BB: OK—

BF: High school.

BB: OK.

BF: And, uh, took some classes at the University of North Carolina...

BB: OK—

BF: While I was there.

BB: Interesting.

BF: And, uh... Couple small colleges around the area in Fort Bragg—

BB: OK—

BF: Campbell College, and so forth. And then, came back and, uh, went to Ball State and graduated from there, [0:16:00] and then I've attended Purdue—I've got a fe—several hours of study at Purdue—

BB: Oh, OK, great—

BF: Don't have a degree from there, but—

BB: Right—

BF: I enjoy it. (BB interjects: "Yeah") I still go to class when I get a chance, and—

BB: Nice, yeah—

BF: Whenever there's things offered for farmers or whatever, I, I try to—

BB: Sure—

BF: Take time to make—attend.

BB: Yeah.

BF: It's a little far from here, the Purdue (BB interjects: "Yeah") campus—

BB: (Chuckles) True—

BF: Pretty good drive, but, uh...

BB: Yeah.

BF: Good weather, fly the airplane over there and—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Save a little time (chuckles).

BB: (Chuckles) That's right, that's true, but if—

BF: And it gives me the excuse to fly.

BB: Yeah, a little bit faster that way, yeah (chuckles).

BF: Yeah.

BB: That's great, though, that you still, yeah, go to classes.

BF: Oh, yeah. So, I was—matter of fact, I was in a class not—no, maybe a year ago, or so—

BB: Oh, OK—

BF: Relative to livestock and so forth—

BB: Yeah!

BF: Marketing and... So I st—try to stay up to date... yeah.

BB: Right. That's fantastic. Uh, what was your degree in from Ball State?

BF: Just general studies—

BB: OK, general studies. (BF confirms: "Yeah, mmhmm") OK.

BF: [0:17:00] And Purdue, I studied (stammers) agriculture economics, basically, and—

BB: OK.

BF: Worked with some real sharp professors up there. My son still, uh—of course, he has his master's from Purdue in engineering, but he's working closely with the, uh, animal departments up there, the veterinary parts—

BB: Sure—

BF: And, and, uh, animal husbandry, that (BB interjects: "Mmhmm") type of thing. On—we feed, uh, and raise, uh, black angus—

BB: Oh, OK—

BF: Br-breed cows, yeah, so.

BB: OK, interesting.

BF: So, if you got time, I'll take you down to the farm.

BB: That could be interesting—it depends, yeah, but I would—that would be fun to see.

BF: So, that's what we do, and then, he—we're staying in touch with the schools and he works with two or three of the universities—I think he's working with one out in, maybe Illinois, and... Nebraska and other places—they're doing studies (BB interjects: "Mmhmm") on what we do at the farm.

BB: Right, sure—

BF: They're glad to have the participation of farmers.

BB: Yeah, OK. [0:18:00] Yeah, that's great. Um, so, when you graduated with, from Ball State, were you planning, then, going back to the farm and working, that was—

BF: Oh, yeah, yes, uh-huh.

BB: Your goal, right, yeah. Were you involved in any extracurricular activities at Ball State at all, or?

BF: No, (BB interjects: "Yeah, yeah") no, we were basically... I was in the mobile home community business; we built, uh... commonly known trailer parks, that type of thing. And I sold, uh, mobile homes to the general public—

BB: OK—

BF: Several years.

BB: Right—

BF: That's what I did—

BB: OK—

BF: Earned a bulk of our income.

BB: Sure.

BF: 'Cause we sure didn't earn it from farming (chuckles).

BB: Yeah, yeah.

BF: That was a tough... tough road ahead—

BB: Yeah, I understand, yeah. (BF clears throat) Um, how did you view your college experiences?

BF: Say that again?

BB: How did you view your, uh, college experiences?

BF: Oh, college? Yeah, well, I was... [0:19:00] It was interesting. Uh... (stammers) I spent a little time in a dorm in, in the Carolinas—I didn't appreciate that; it was pretty rough.

BB: OK.

BF: There was a lotta... You know, just... Confusion, things that j-just (BB interjects: "Yeah") annoyed peop—I was a little older, too—

BB: OK, sure—

BF: So going around being a—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Sergeant and a paratrooper in the Army was a little tough—

BB: Yes, a little bit of adjustments—

BF: Put up with the young (BB interjects: “College kids, yeah”), young kids, yeah (chuckles).

BB: Yeah! No, I-I totally get that, I, I can see that.

BF: So, that was—I didn’t have a traditional college experience, I guess (BB interjects: “Right”) you might say.

BB: Yeah. No, that makes sense.

BF: Yeah.

BB: Um, in what ways did your awareness of politics change as you got older?

BF: Well, it was—again, the onset was the fact that we were being taxed, like [drumming sound in background], excessively, and—

BB: Right—

BF: Real estate and we needed to, uh, readjust the, the, a lot of the burden for... [0:20:00] taxes, uh, was because of schools, education—a lot of it was placed on real estate—

BB: Mmhmm. OK—

BF: And there (stammers)—I felt it ought to be more evenly distributed, you know, as—wasn’t just farmers that went to school.

BB: Right, of course—

BF: We had a lot of people, you know, that worked other places, and—

BB: Yeah—

BF: And, uh, we-I wanted them to kind of share the burden, so—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Tried to shift it around—had a sales tax, which I wasn’t really supportive of, but—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: They enacted that, and—

BB: OK.

BF: So, that was the—that was my prime motiv-motivation to get into—

BB: Right—

BF: Politics.

BB: OK. And were your parents supportive of that?

BF: Oh, yes, but then they were—again, I had, you know, a family, and was more or less grown up by that point, you know.

BB: Right, of course.

BF: So they didn't, uh... Didn't object to it—

BB: Right—

BF: I'm not sure they were that happy about it, because I funded [0:21:00] most of my campaigns myself.

BB: Ahh, OK, yeah.

BF: And that was a—that's expensive.

BB: Yeah. Financial risks involved, yeah.

BF: Yeah, mmhmm.

BB: (Clears throat) So, after high school, college, is that when you got into the mobile home business as well as your, doing farming?

BF: Yes.

BB: OK.

BF: Yeah, to help support my agricultural enterprise, I—

BB: Yeah, OK—

BF: Had to do something else.

BB: Right, sure. That makes sense.

BF: Yeah.

BB: Um, and so, when did you get married?

BF: Uh, 195...6.

BB: OK. And remind me, what's your wife's name?

BF: Joan.

BB: Joan. (BF confirms: "Mmhmm") OK.

BF: Yeah, she's a honor graduate from Ball State, and—

BB: Oh, OK—

BF: Taught school.

BB: Oh, fantastic.

BF: So, she's kinda the brains of the family.

BB: Yeah, OK (laughs).

BF: And she helped me in the businesses and—

BB: Yeah.

BF: Ran the office, that type of thing (BB interjects: "Sure"), computer.

BB: Yeah, that's great—

BF: And she was my co-pilot, too, in airplanes a lot.

BB: Oh, wow—

BF: When we flew, [0:22:00] so—

BB: That's great—

BF: Till she got problems with this neurological issue she has.

BB: Sure... Yeah.

BF: Has to have nursing care now around the clock.

BB: Right. Right, yeah. Um, let's see... Did your family have an influence, um, in your politics at all—like, were your children in—did they have an interest in you when you were—

BF: No, not, not really—they never pushed it one way or the other [drumming sound in background]. But they were, I would say, you classify 'em under the conservative umbrella.

BB: Sure.

BF: Um, again, being... A lot of this Biblically-based, that's the—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: A lot of the foundation, and—

BB: Right—

BF: You know, being—issues like... the abortion thing, and a lot of the—

BB: Sure—

BF: The more liberal, progressive-type issues of the day, as—

BB: Right—

BF: Not something they supported at all.

BB: [0:23:00] Right, yeah.

BF: My mother, you know, being a nurse and then, uh—

BB: Of course, yeah, makes sense—

BF: Tried to preserve life, rather than... (chuckles)

BB: Yes [unintelligible, speaking at same time as BF]

BF: [Unintelligible] it out.

BB: Yeah, I can see where they would get that outlook, yeah.

BF: Yeah, so. But, no, they didn't, what you say, push me one way or the other.

BB: OK—

BF: They s-gave me good support.

BB: Yeah. Um... Let's see, did you have any national political heroes or state or local political heroes?

BF: Well, I worked, um—I met most of the presidents since Harry Truman.

BB: Oh, OK.

BF: And, uh, not all of 'em, but most.

BB: Yeah.

BF: And actually worked with Ronald Reagan—we've got a lot of video, him and I together, and—

BB: OK, yeah.

BF: Which I'll have available at some point—

BB: Yeah—

BF: And you might have an interest in that—

BB: That would be very interesting, yeah. That's—

BF: And if I had someone to run my computer, I could show you some of them (chuckles).

BB: Yeah.

BF: I'm sitting between he and [0:24:00] George Bush, Sr.

BB: Right.

BF: In a couple meetings we had, and—

BB: Yeah.

BF: Yeah, and I worked with him, basically, on Star Wars.

BB: Right, that's what I read, yeah.

BF: I helped, uh, promote that.

BB: Yeah.

BF: So, with a couple of the generals, and sing along [voice muffled by background sound].

BB: Yeah.

BF: So—

BB: Yeah, that's very interesting—

BF: So, I've been in the White House a lot. [Background sound continues]

BB: (Chuckles) Yeah, you must've been! Yeah.

BF: Yeah. Met Ford, and Nixon, and—

BB: Uh-huh—

BF: And then the latest connection I have is Trump's, uh, people (BB interjects: "Uh-huh") gave me a call couple years ago.

BB: Oh, really?

BF: Wanted me to do some projects with them and [thumping sound in background]—

BB: Wow—

BF: But with my wife's condition and all and—

BB: Right—

BF: We decided that we (BB interjects: "Yeah, that's...") better stick around here—

BB: That's hard, yeah.

BF: 'Cause I've already had the White House experience, you know (chuckles).

BB: Yeah, that's true—sounds like you— [clanging sounds in background]

BF: Yeah—

BB: Been there quite a bit.

BF: Yeah, I've been—we've been to the Capitol [0:25:00] a lot, and... We've met some interesting characters up there, believe me.

BB: I can only imagine (laughs).

BF: Yeah.

BB: Yeah, I bet. I be-yeah. Wow... [Background sounds continue, unidentifiable – possibly a dog growl, maybe a dog playing with a toy] Let's see, so—

BF: And back to politics, you know (BB interjects: “Mmhmm”) we’ve been, uh, nominated for Congress, uh, I kinda lost track... several times.

BB: Right.

BF: And was never able to beat the incumbent, uh, uh, my old buddy, Phil Sharp—

BB: OK (chuckles).

BF: I won the—several primaries over a lot of the Republican opposition—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: That didn’t bode well—I think some of those people... didn’t vote for me or voted for Phil Sharp (laughs).

BB: (Laughs)

BF: All the elections.

BB: Yeah. OK—

BF: Came close a time or two, but that don’t count in politics.

BB: That’s true. That’s right.

BF: Yeah.

BB: You win or lose, yeah.

BF: Spent a lot of money—and I’ve met a lot of good people over the time—you know, [0:26:00] had a lot of support, you know—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: Throughout—won a lot of counties, you know, there were ten, twelve, fifteen counties in a congressional district.

BB: Right.

BF: Like, right now, the s-sixth district runs from here, from Delaware (BB interjects: “Mmhmm”) County, clear to Ohio River.

BB: OK.

BF: To give you an idea of how large the (BB interjects: “Yeah, that’s yeah”) districts are.

BB: That is pretty big... Um (clears throat)—

BF: We had some interesting debates and—

BB: OK—

BF: So forth, yeah.

BB: Yeah, I be-(chuckles) I bet you did, yeah.

BF: And matter of fact, in ni—in 2000, I lost the primary—well, I lost the general election to, uh, Mike Pence because I ran as an Independent.

BB: Oh, OK, yeah—

BF: And so I was an Independent, (stammers) Mike was a Republican, and—

BB: Mmhmm— [unidentified voice in background]

BF: Rock, from Anderson, (stammers) a lawyer from there, was a Democrat.

BB: Right.

BF: And Mike came out real good—he got 52% of the vote, I think—which is good.

BB: Yeah, that's a lot, yeah.

BF: [0:27:00] So, anyway, that's a little—

BB: Yeah that's—

BF: Interesting history there (laughs)—

BB: That is interesting, yeah, definitely, yeah.

BF: And we're good friends—matter of fact, I've got a recording I'll play for you in a little bit here.

BB: Oh, OK, yeah.

BF: If I can find someone to run my computer (chuckles lightly).

BB: Yeah, and I understand, yeah (chuckles).

BF: Yeah, we're good friends, and...

BB: Interesting—

BF: No animosities at all.

BB: Yeah, wow, OK.

BF: But I—my big—the big reason that I ran for an Independent is over the [unidentified person coughs in background] issue of NAFTA.

BB: Oh, OK—

BF: We all hear a lot about NAFTA (BB interjects: "Yeah"), see.

BB: Yeah.

BF: And finally, Trump has done something about it.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: And I was very much opposed to that, because I could see what it did to the workforce in cen—east central Indiana.

BB: Right, right.

BF: And factories just—well, we’ve lost them all.

BB: Yeah.

BF: They all moved (BB interjects: “Yeah”) to Mexico or—

BB: That’s right, yeah—

BF: China.

BB: Yeah.

BF: And that really hurt a lot of acquaintances that I have.

BB: Oh, I bet.

BF: Yeah, because [0:28:00] good-paying jobs were gone.

BB: Sure.

BF: So, and it was a very unfair [sound of footsteps and unidentified person coughing in background]... arrangement that we had early on—some of the farmers even liked it, but I never thought it was a fair... trade agreement.

BB: Right.

BF: In its original form.

BB: Yeah.

BF: And Trump has (stammers) adjusted that—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: To where it’s equitable now—

BB: Sure—

BF: To both sides, so—

BB: Yeah—

BF: We’ve really taken it on the chin—the United States was, and—

BB: Right—

BF: [Unintelligible] unfair trade practices, so.

BB: Yeah—

BF: That's why I'm an avid, very avid, supporter of Trump.

BB: Mmhmm. Sure.

BF: And, uh, doing everything I can to get him re-elected.

BB: Right. Yeah.

BF: He's doing what I wanted to do...

BB: Yeah, about what—

BF: Running for Congress.

BB: Yeah, OK.

BF: So.

BB: Yeah. Yeah, that makes sense, absolutely. (BF sighs) Um, when you were running your campaign for the General [0:29:00] Assembly, did you have a particular strategy at all, or?

BF: Nah, not really. Obviously, not one that was successful, because I didn't win.

BB: Oh, we—

BF: In the general election, yeah—

BB: Right, the general election—

BF: I won primaries.

BB: Right.

BF: You know, I won... not every primary, but almost every primary that I really put an effort in.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: Uh... to get the nomination.

BB: Right, of course.

BF: So, that's where I got acquainted with a lotta... people in national politics, was—

BB: Yeah—

BF: The fact that I was a congressional nominee, and—

BB: Right. And, when it came to the state legislature—

BF: Mmhmm—

BB: Did you have a strategy at all for that [unintelligible]—

BF: Not really, just, uh, worked hard and got my name out and, and, uh, had a lot of help. The Ball family was very helpful to... in helping me with my campaign and—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Helped mailings (BB interjects: “Sure”) and a lot of people that, uh, in, in this community—as well as others—

BB: Right, OK—

BF: Hancock County, [0:30:00] down here, then Rush County and—some of the counties I’ve never lost a race, even the general election, in (BB interjects: “Mmhmm”), but of course, they were smaller counties and then—

BB: Right, yeah—

BF: And you’ve k—got access to all the records of votes and things.

BB: Yeah. Yeah... Uh... Who was your main opponent when you were running for the state Senate? [Sound, perhaps horses whinnying, in the background]

BF: Well, we had Roger Marsh, who, who was a good friend of mine, he was—in 1976 was the first... year I was nominated, and I was against all of the Republican powers—

BB: Right.

BF: In, uh, this county, and really, the state—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: So, uh. So, uh... They were opposed to... I didn’t have much support with the Republican elite, so to speak.

BB: Sure.

BF: [0:31:00] Uh, in—early on.

BB: OK.

BF: And they (stammers) would come around when they thought you were gonna win (chuckles).

BB: Yeah (laughs), funny how that happens—

BF: Then everybody’s there, oh my—

BB: Yeah, yeah.

BF: With contributions and all, so. But again, I funded most of the races, the m-majority of it, I—we paid, my wife and I paid (BB interjects: “Right”) using our own money.

BB: Yeah.

BF: TV ads and everything.

BB: Yeah, yeah, it's a big investment, yeah.

BF: And that's probably all public record, too, if you look it up.

BB: Yeah, I think s-I think so.

BF: Yeah—

BB: That makes sense. Um, what was your first election day like... for the state Senate?

BF: Well, it was interesting, you know, here was a, was the young guy that, uh, had never been, you know, had served—that was the first elected office—

BB: Yeah—

BF: I was precinct committeeman and that local...

BB: Oh—

BF: I've forgotten your last question now.

BB: Oh, that's OK. I, we were talking about, uh, your first election day.

BF: [0:32:00] Mmhmm.

BB: Um, how did you feel? Were you optimistic about winning the election—

BF: Well, yeah, I thought we had a real good chance. [Clinking sound in background, perhaps dishes; running water] We had, uh, let's see. Well, in the general election, it was, I was running against the... like a third year incumbent—

BB: OK—

BF: From...

BB: Yeah.

BF: From, uh... He lived in Wells County—

BB: OK—

BF: Out in a little town (laughs) up by Bluffton— [unidentified voices talking in background]

BB: Yeah.

BF: Which, really... I mean, I haven't, I was from here, a large county—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: [Unintelligible] the votes, so people tend to kinda support the local guy.

BB: Sure, sure.

BF: And that's basically probably why I won that one.

BB: Yeah. [More clinking sounds in background; sounds continue]

BF: Going away. I'm not—I don't remember whether I won Wells County or not.

BB: Right.

BF: I may not have, because I bet it was so small, compared to—

BB: Right—

BF: Randolph, and—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Delaware and Jay where I was born and raised (chuckles).

BB: Sure, sure.

BF: So that gave me a little advantage there.

BB: Yeah, that makes sense.

BF: And, uh... Once you do things, you would [0:33:00] always do them a little differently than you did at the time, but that's hindsight.

BB: Yep. OK.

BF: But no, we got elected, and then (stammers) I ran for re-election and got beat by another college professor. Bob Park [note from KT: should actually be Don Park] was a—

BB: Oh, OK—

BF: Democrat from Ball State so—

BB: Wow—

BF: I-I haven't had very good luck with running against college professors (laughs).

BB: (Laughs) Yeah, I guess (laughs), yeah, sounds like it. Yeah.

BF: Yeah.

BB: Bit tough, yeah... Um, what were you thinking when you walked into the Statehouse your first day?

BF: Well, I'd been there before, you know—

BB: OK—

BF: For different things, and—

BB: Right. Was it different since you'd been elected, or—

BF: Not really, no, nothing overwhelming at all.

BB: OK. Sure.

BF: 'Course I'd been, you know, through the White House—

BB: Yeah. Yeah.

BF: Been through the Capitol building—

BB: Yeah—

BF: In Washington, and—

BB: Been around quite a bit.

BF: Oh, yeah.

BB: Yeah. Makes sense.

BF: Been to some con— [clock chiming in background] let's see, I had—did I have a, uh... I don't know whether I had an inauguration under my [0:34:00] belt that particular time or not, but we'd been to a couple inaugurations, you know.

BB: Oh, OK.

BF: Yeah. Nixon, and—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Stuff, and...

BB: That's interesting, OK.

BF: Same way with the... Statehouse, you know, the governors, and—

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: Th-that's when we had primaries instead of conven—or conven—or we had conventions that nominated state candidates and—

BB: Right.

BF: We still [unintelligible] to a point but now it's a direct primary, you know—

BB: OK—

BF: For the big office.

BB: Yeah.

BF: So that was always kind of exciting, so—

BB: Yeah.

BF: I've been exposed to that... crowd, you know, earlier and—

BB: Right. Yeah, that's neat—

BF: I can't say it was overwhelming, but—

BB: Sure—

BF: Interesting (laughs).

BB: (Chuckles) Fair enough. OK.

BF: A little different. Yeah, I had—I replaced a senator that had died in office, and 'course (stammers) the legislature was not in session—Vince Pittenger from Albany.

BB: OK.

BF: Had passed away, and—so, he—it [0:35:00] became an open seat, and it was for a two-year term—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: So I ran for that and won—that's the one I won.

BB: Yeah, OK.

BF: And Charlie Wise ran for a four-year term—

BB: Right—

BF: For a joint Senate seat, and—

BB: OK—

BF: (Takes a breath) So, that's how that came to pass.

BB: Yeah. Um, what were your expectations, uh, in regard to the legislative process—

BF: Oh, I thought I could get a lot more done, believe me—

BB: OK. Yeah.

BF: And I just went through—you copied all the things that I've—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Gotten involved with—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Which, to me, is just common sense.

BB: Right.

BF: But, bein' pretty, uh, bein' a novice (laughs) and kinda naïve (BB interjects: "Sure"), you know, I thought that everybody was—you know, I thought the platform meant what it said.

BB: Yeah.

BF: That was a rude awakening (laughs).

BB: Yeah, a lot more complicated, yeah.

BF: Yeah, there, well—

BB: Yeah.

BF: Platformers [0:36:00] try to get votes and win elections, and—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: They don't necessarily stay with th-what they say.

BB: Right.

BF: Um (BB interjects: "Yeah"), my old buddy, Dan Burton, who spent a career... of course, he had a very safe congressional seat for many years, and he was always tellin' me that he just, he daily said, "You tell people what they wanna know... and don't worry about it and then do what you wanna do when you get in." I said, "Hey, Dan, that's... From where I come from, that's not totally honest."

BB: Yeah.

BF: He said, "Well, that's just politics." I said, "Well... I don't see it any different, in my book."

BB: Yeah. Sure.

BF: And that's where some of my Senate colleagues wound up in federal prison for the same breeding—

BB: Oh, wow, OK.

BF: Uh, Phil Gutman, Senate majority leader, and Chip Edwards, a lawyer from New Castle, and—

BB: OK.

BF: Couple others, couple from northwestern Indiana.

BB: [0:37:00] Yeah.

BF: And that was a sad, sad deal. They were involved in things that... When they ran that proposition past me, I said, "Hey. You guys are lawyers, and this is fine, but... to me, it's—if nothing, it's dishonest [unidentified person coughing in background], if not illegal."

BB: Yeah. Sure.

BF: At the time, I said, “I-I don’t want any part of it.” So.

BB: Yeah.

BF: And I do—I wouldn’t participate in it and—

BB: Yeah—

BF: The legislation they were tying to... sell-vote, basically, is what it boiled down to—

BB: Right—

BF: Is dishonest.

BB: Yeah. Yeah.

BF: Pretty clear cut in my book.

BB: Yeah. Yeah, it’s a smart thing you s-stayed away from that, yeah—

BF: So I said, “Well, thanks, but no thanks,” and—

BB: Right.

BF: Unfortunately, they wound up in losing their law license and—

BB: Yeah.

BF: Wound up servin’ time in jail.

BB: Wow.

BF: I don’t know whether you looked into that or not.

BB: Um, I, I think I’ve heard a little bit about it (BF interjects: “Mmhmm”), but, uh, yeah, not, not as much, yeah.

BF: Yeah.

BB: How did you learn the [0:38:00] ins and outs of state politics?

BF: Probably didn’t learn it too well, well enough—

BB: OK—

BF: And that’s why, you know, I wasn’t any more successful than workin’ with the party people and—a lot of it is, um... self-interest, a lotta people were in it for different reasons than I was in it for.

BB: Mmhmm. Yeah.

BF: You know, I wanted to, to re-(stammers) align the tax structure in the state.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: Which Otis Bowen and others after me got done (BB interjects: “Mmhmm”), finally. And, uh, I think it needs to be re-done again, the way it looks (chuckles).

BB: Sure.

BF: We’re gettin’ killed out here on taxes.

BB: Yeah.

BF: Property taxes.

BB: Wow.

BF: So, I didn’t learn it well enough, apparently, and... Um, you know, th-the old saying, you know, “Go along to get along”—I never subscribed to that philosophy.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: But—which is n-not [0:39:00] good if you wanna have longevity in politics (laughs).

BB: Yeah, th-that’s right, so, it can be a rough business—

BF: That’s right, so that’s the way I played the game, and some of my friends said, “Bill, you’re too honest to be in politics.” (Laughs)

BB: Yeah. (Laughs)

BF: So, I took that as a compliment.

BB: Sure, y-yeah, why not, yeah—

BF: Kept me out of office, probably, but that’s alright.

BB: Yeah.

BF: Lot of it’s self-serving—lotta people are wantin’ to have personal gain from doing it, and—

BB: Yeah, it’s, it—that does seem to be the case, unfortunately. Yeah.

BF: Yeah. Another reason I’m a strong supporter of Trump—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: I mean, he doesn’t need the j—work.

BB: Mmhmm. Sure.

BF: And he has definite goals in mind.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: To reforming NAFTA, and—

BB: Right.

BF: And he's made a lotta promises. And he's kept most of 'em (BB interjects: "Mmhmm"), if not all of 'em. That's why I'm a—that—he's doing what I tried to do.

BB: Uh, did you have any political mentors in the state [0:40:00] Assembly? Anyone help you out when you first, uh—

BF: Well, not really—I had to make a speech [banging sound in background] on the first day I was in the Senate to, uh, memorialize my predecessor, Vince Pittenger (laughs).

BB: OK. Yeah, wow.

BF: M-my old buddy, Dan Burton, he helped me write a few comments down, which was helpful (chuckles).

BB: Yeah, I bet, yeah.

BF: Th-then, you know, to get up and speak like that and—

BB: Yeah, that's, that's hard.

BF: I assume that's recorded—I don't know what I said, but... The family appreciated it, you know (BB interjects: "Yeah"), the Pittenger family, and—

BB: Right—

BF: 'Course, we went to the same church, and—

BB: Yeah, OK—

BF: He was a Ford dealer there in Albany, and—

BB: Oh, OK—

BF: [Unintelligible] Who I've known, you know, most of my life, so.

BB: Sure.

BF: Kind of a family friend, too.

BB: Yeah.

BF: But that, um—but I wouldn't say that I had anybody that, like some of 'em that were having ideas that I didn't agree with—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: And it's just like I described the group of people [0:41:00] that got in trouble over... [jingle playing in background; possibly a cell phone ringtone] getting paid for passing certain legislation, you know (chuckles).

BB: Yeah, that's crazy. Yeah—

BF: But, uh... That didn't fly.

BB: Yeah.

BF: Yeah, we had some nice meals at the... St. Elmo's Steakhouse—

BB: Oh, OK, yeah—

BF: Th-the lobby group that was trying to promote that particular thing—

BB: Yeah.

BF: With these senators, and—now, I may just've been a farm boy from out here in the country, but, uh, I-I did learn many, many years ago, right and wrong, you know? (Chuckles)

BB: Sure. Yeah, that's good—

BF: And I didn't... pu—I didn't... delineate any f-political thing—right is right and (stammers) wrong is wrong—

BB: Right—

BF: No matter s-what group—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Scenario you're in.

BB: Sure.

BF: Trying to promote.

BB: Right. Yeah, you are—

BF: Wasn't tough for me at all.

BB: Yeah, doesn't sound like you were interested in playing the political games—

BF: Yep, that's it, yeah. And that probably kept me out of office, [0:42:00] so.

BB: Mm. Yeah.

BF: Which may have been a good thing, who knows.

BB: Yeah, who knows—

BF: I probably wouldn't have lasted long in Congress, anyway.

BB: (Laughs)

BF: From some of these characters that I've met over the years.

BB: Sure.

BF: And demonstrated on the television in this...

BB: Yeah.

BF: Last fiasco (chuckles)—impeachment.

BB: Yeah, yeah.

BF: And to have agencies like the FBI and... corrupted like that is (makes whooshing sound), is really—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: Alarming, to me. It's uh... When you get corruption like that, that is bad, bad for the country. Hopefully, they'll get it straightened out.

BB: Uh, when it came to your constituents, how did you communicate with them?

BF: Oh... Very... very much. I had a lot of meetings, you know, to—like (BB interjects: "Mmhmm") town hall kind of things, and—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Uh, I had a lot of, uh—back in those days, you had pages that you invited—

BB: OK—

BF: And I'd send [0:43:00] letters to the schools, and I had more pages, probably, than anybody ever had (laughs).

BB: OK.

BF: I'd give the kids a chance to come.

BB: Yeah.

BF: So that was one—

BB: That's great, yeah—

BF: Good thing I had, yeah.

BB: Yeah, neat, OK—

BF: We had clerical help, and it, uh, we did a lot of correspondence.

BB: Yeah. Uh, what was the first bill you sponsored?

BF: Uh, I can't remember—might've been... Back in those days, we had... a lot of these characters that were—would start a fire... and then they would shoot at the firemen who came to put the fire out, you know, in the cities—

BB: Oh, my gosh—

BF: The riot kind of stuff, back (BB interjects: "Yeah) in the...

BB: Wow—

BF: Sixties.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: All the radical (chuckles) groups—

BB: Yeah—

BF: That were goin’.

BB: Wow—

BF: And I passed, I... put a, uh, bill in, I forgot who the sponsor—my co-sponsors were—you always tried to get a Democrat to (BB interjects: Mmhmm”) help you sponsor your bill—

BB: Sure—

BF: To, uh, [0:44:00] make a mandatory death penalty for anyone who [clanging sound in background] would kill a policeman or a fireman in the line of duty.

BB: OK.

BF: They would literally shoot you, these people—

BB: Yeah, that’s, that’s crazy—

BF: You’ve surely read about that—

BB: I think I’ve heard a little bit about that, yeah—

BF: Riots, way back—oh, it was nasty—

BB: Yeah, that’s crazy, yeah.

BF: Oh, yeah. And, you know, all these people—mostly—a lot from the West Coast—but all over the country—radical groups (BB interjects: “Mmhmm”), you know (laughs). So that was one of ‘em that I put—and I saw that in your list here [sound of paper rustling]—

BB: Yeah.

BF: Of, uh, I can... And I had some self-serving things, I guess—the mobile home, uh, in the mobile home business—things I knew about—

BB: Yeah—

BF: [Unintelligible] benefit and not really cost any money.

BB: Sure.

BF: But benefit, uh... [sound of paper continuing to rustle] people in that industry, that type of thing.

BB: Yeah.

BF: Lookin' for that list of, uh—yeah, I've got all of my [0:45:00] minutes and everything downstairs that I—yeah, murder sentence. That was the mandatory—

BB: OK—

BF: For the people that shot policemen.

BB: OK.

BF: And a lot of 'em, you know, w-would get off for that stuff. [Talking in the background, possibly from a TV] Here's an income tax rates—I forgot what that was—option taxes, mobile home—I wanted to close mobile home sales on Sunday, like car—

BB: OK, yeah—

BF: Dealers. So, that didn't fly. [More talking in background from unidentified voice] Uh, some of these... And I-I was a big advocate of havin' people work fines out, that type of thing.

BB: Oh, OK.

BF: For the county good.

BB: Yeah.

BF: (Stammers) Chain gangs, let's put (BB interjects: "Right") it that way.

BB: Interesting—

BF: You know, 'stead of having people s-sit around in jail—

BB: Uh-huh—

BF: All the debris and things that—along the roadside, like they do in the South.

BB: Yeah.

BF: Have 'em out, you know—

BB: Cleaning [unintelligible] yeah—

BB: Cuttin' weeds and pickin' up trash and—

BB: Sure—

BF: [0:46:00] Make it, uh, n-not advantageous to go to jail.

BB: Right—

BF: You know?

BB: Right—

BF: 'Cause you go to jail, you're gonna (stammers) hard—you put in a hard day's work.

BB: Right—

BF: Not necessarily breaking rocks with a sledgehammer (laughs).

BB: Sure, that's right (laughs).

BF: You know, but you're doing things for the good of the community—

BB: Yeah, or [unintelligible], yeah—

BF: That type of—yeah, that's what that bill was about.

BB: OK.

BF: Uh, see... And then, this was the Vietnam War, of course, and they, uh, people were paradin' up and down with the Viet Cong flags, you know, in Washington and—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: That kind of thing, and, so it was a display of foreign flags.

BB: Yeah.

BF: Was the thing I was, uh... Put a bill in for that.

BB: OK. And that's interesting, too.

BF: Yeah, that (stammers)... Bill to help medical school establish at Ball State.

BB: Oh, OK, yeah.

BF: Back in those days, uh, [0:47:00] the big schools didn't want that—IU—

BB: Oh, really.

BF: Oh, no. No. Everybody was tryin' to preserve their own turf, you know—

BB: Yeah, OK, that's right, yeah, makes, yeah—I get it, yeah.

BF: That was one, that, uh... Then (clears throat) school buildings—I really caught a lot of flak over that one. You know, you take Wendy's and McDonald's and all the real successful places—they don't have a set of plans for each restaurant.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: They have one set.

BB: Yeah.

BF: And then they build 'em, and... same.

BB: Right.

BF: And I wanted to do that for schools.

BB: OK.

BF: And, boy, did the architects and lawyers (BB laughs) really get upset over that deal.

BB: Yeah, OK.

BF: ‘Cause they get a huge fee out of this thing.

BB: Sure, sure.

BF: You know, I said, “Let’s have two, maybe three, sets of plans, and you can choose from these—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: “That are already paid for—

BB: Yeah.

BF: “And build your school.”

BB: Yeah.

BF: Don’t start from—reinvent the wheel (BB laughs) [0:48:00] every time you build a school now.

BB: Right (laughs).

BF: And that would save the—that would’ve saved millions (BB interjects: “Right”) of taxpayer money.

BB: Uh-huh.

BF: You know, architect fees and—

BB: Sure, yeah—

BF: Since you’ve already done that once (BB interjects: “That’s an interesting idea”) you don’t have to do it again.

BB: Right.

BF: That, that (BB interjects: “Yeah”), to me, was very common sense, but that didn’t fly—it was a lotta opposition.

BB: Yeah, yeah, I could see people end up getting upset, yeah—

BF: Oh, yeah, because, you know, there was no big architect fees to collect.

BB: Right.

BF: So that was, uh, that was an interesting one. [Unidentified voice talking in background, possibly on TV] And... Police and firemen arbitration. Puttin’ a traffic light in my hometown of Albany.

BB: Oh, OK. Yeah.

BF: Finally got one.

BB: Yeah, there you go! (Laughs)

BF: We got—seriously, we got one, two, three now! (Laughs)

BB: OK, wow.

BF: And repairing of curbs and stuff, you know, and—

BB: Sure—

BF: [Unintelligible] on the state highway—

BB: Yeah—

BF: That kind of thing. So, that's kinda constituent service, and that helped the general public.

BB: Yeah.

BF: [0:49:00] Those are just some of the things that, uh, I worked on.

BB: That's great.

BF: And I sponsored a bill with a lot of my Democrat buddies down there that, uh, co-sponsored 'em, so. But it was—I was r-real frustrated on—that's why I decided after this—went through this one term, I wasn't gonna even run again, you know—

BB: OK.

BF: That's how I decided to do it. And, uh, probably why I lost—you know, I wasn't that enthused.

BB: Sure.

BF: It was boring to me.

BB: Yeah, yeah—

BF: I mean, boring as you can't believe.

BB: Right.

BF: And I was in a lot of meetings, when I was running for Congress, with Newt Gingrich—

BB: Oh, OK—

BF: Ol' Newt. Mr. Newt.

BB: Yeah.

BF: (Laughs, then stammers) He's a college professor, too.

BB: Yes, right [unintelligible]—

BF: History professor—

BB: Yeah, he was a history professor—

BF: Smart guy, you know—

BB: Yeah—

BF: I like Newt, but... Man, oh, man, I couldn't stay awake, you know.

BB: OK, yeah (laughs).

BF: So.

BB: Yeah.

BF: So that was, [0:50:00] to me—you know, I, I like to get things done—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: You know, “Get ‘er done, don’t fool around,” you know—

BB: Sure—

BF: That’s the way I was in the military—that’s why I got to be a sergeant in—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Less than two years.

BB: Yeah. Makes sense.

BF: I was a good soldier—got the highest ratings you could get, and—

BB: That’s fantastic.

BF: Yeah... Used to train paratroopers. There’s my—some of my stuff up there—

BB: Yeah, I remember reading something about that, yeah.

BF: Yeah.

BB: Yeah, that’s pretty impressive. That’s great.

BF: Down on the farm, you know, you, you get busy, you get—you know, [clinking sounds in background; possibly dishes] I’ve accomplished a lot from nothing—you know, I didn’t have anything (BB interjects: “Sure”) when I started out.

BB: Yeah.

BF: I came to Muncie—I had \$500, and—

BB: Wow!

BF: Started my business and... [loud thumping sound in background] sold millions of dollars' worth—I'll show you my plaques. OK, where were we?

BB: Oh, let's see. So, we were talking about your experience and the state Assembly, um... What was the regular [0:51:00] interaction like between different members of the Senate—

BF: Oh, we ha—I have some that were a little squeamish on doing things. I mean, I was—

BB: OK—

BF: (Stammers) wasn't hard for me to take a stand.

BB: Mmhmm, sure—

BF: I don't think.

BB: Yeah.

BF: And some of 'em were more interested in what's—"How's this gonna affect, you know, my re-election?" (BB interjects: "Right") or so on, so on.

BB: Yeah.

BF: And I was the guy that wanted to get the job done—

BB: Sure—

BF: And go home.

BB: Yeah.

BF: Very much opposed to annual sessions...

BB: OK—

BF: Of the legislature—

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: And that—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Turned out to be a—and a lot of the, my colleagues, they wanted a fulltime job—I don't even know what they get paid now, do you?

BB: Um, I don't—I'm not sure, actually—

BF: I got eighteen hundred bucks a year.

BB: Yeah, I think it's more than that now, for sure—

BF: Oh, it's thousands—

BB: By a lot, yeah—(laughs)

BF: It's a fulltime job.

BB: Yeah, yeah.

BF: And they made it that way—there was some in the sp—in the Senate side that—

BB: Yeah—

BF: That's what they wanted to do.

BB: [0:52:00] Right.

BF: They wanted to—like the Congress of the (BB interjects: "Mmhmm") United States, they wanted a fulltime job—

BB: Sure—

BF: And that's what it is now.

BB: Yeah.

BF: Travel time, per diem, and all that stuff.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: I donated all my money to charity that I made—

BB: Oh, wow.

BF: Eighteen hundred bucks a year.

BB: Wow.

BF: (Chuckles)

BB: That's amazing.

BF: So, I've never made two cents from (BB interjects: "Yeah") politics.

BB: Yeah. That's—

BF: [Unintelligible] pay, congressional (BB interjects: "Yeah") pay.

BB: That's really impressive—

BF: And I even o—m—one of my campaign issues was I would donate my congressional...

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: Salary to my scholarship fund.

BB: Yeah, OK.

BF: So... Kinda mini-Trump.

BB: Yeah (laughs).

BF: I'm not in his league, money-wise.

BB: Yeah (chuckles). Gonna say, not quite—

BF: But I have some money, you know.

BB: Yeah.

BF: I don't know what Congress got paid, but... I've spent lots of doll—you know, skirtin' a million bucks in my scholarship, so.

BB: Sure.

BF: And I would've donated all of my salary to...

BB: Yeah—

BF: To, to charity, yeah. [Whispering sounds in background]

BB: [0:53:00] That's great.

BF: And I already did that with my—

BB: Right—

BF: Cu—my Senate, In-Indianapolis pay.

BB: Yeah.

BF: And I guess there's a retirement—I'm not even—I better check into that; I might be entitled to some retirement, who knows? (Laughs)

BB: Could be, yeah.

BF: At my age (laughs).

BB: Yeah, could be.

BF: Yeah. At least I get the money and put it into my scholarship fund.

BB: Sure, sure.

BF: Give it away to the kids, so.

BB: Yeah. That's fantastic. Really is.

BF: (Clears throat)

BB: Uh... Let's se—what were the interactions like between Democrats and Republicans?

BF: Well, not bad—I mean, we—uh, like, uh... Some of the guy—Mahowald, from up north, and—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: You know, a lot of these guys were business people and we related very well.

BB: Sure—

BF: It wasn't a, you know real cutthroat situation.

BB: Right.

BF: Mean, I've caucused, you know, with our people, and—

BB: Yeah—

BF: W-we were in the maj-majority like it is now (laughs).

BB: OK, yeah.

BF: And you know, [0:54:00] be-being a Democrat, in the state Senate, is... just as well stay home, you know.

BB: Right.

BF: You can't do anything.

BB: Yeah.

BF: I-if you wanna promote something—unless you get Republican—

BB: That's right, yeah—

BF: Uh, votes to do it.

BB: Yeah.

BF: So, that's—I voted pretty well with the—[sound like paper tearing in background] long as I felt like it was the legit thing to do—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: I voted with the—our people—

BB: Were, were you friends with any Democrats?

BF: Pardon?

BB: Were you friends with any of the Democrats—

BF: Oh, sure—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Yeah, absolutely. Yeah, they were... They were good people, you know, and of course, most of 'em were Republicans—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: And, uh—I'll look through my list here.

BB: Sure, OK.

BF: It's been a while, right?

BB: Yeah.

BF: How long? Sixty years?

BB: It's—yeah (laughs), that's true... It's been a long time, yeah.

BF: Long time, yeah. Let me see here... [sound of paper rustling] Yeah, here's, uh [whispering in background], yeah, G.S. Andrews, and he's a big, husky guy... John [0:55:00] Augsburger, he was—one of 'em was in a wheelchair, [sound of cardstock or board turning] forget who that was.

BB: OK.

BF: Barber from Indianapolis. [Phillip] Bainbridge from up north—he was a Democrat. Oh... Larry Bor—[unintelligible] I'm lookin' at the Democrats—[unintelligible] yeah, Bill Christy, and, from Hammond, up north.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: And then... Oh, [Leonard] Conrad, he was a character—from Terre Haute. Vigo County. Martin Edwards was one of the guys that got in trouble [unintelligible]—

BB: Oh, OK, yeah.

BF: From New Castle. Blast it all—he was... you know, the kinda guy that could go along to get along.

BB: Sure.

BF: There's Bob Fair and... Herman Fan—Fanning, yeah. John Frick—he and I got along good—he was... uh, h-he owned an electrical store.

BB: Oh, OK.

BF: They were b-business people (BB interjects: "Yeah"), like me.

BB: Right.

BF: [0:56:00] Yeah, and, uh... [slamming sound; possibly a door] Yeah, Marshall Kizer, I think he was the guy from Plymouth. He was a lawyer and a farmer. But he was kind—I think he was the guy in the wheelchair. And there's ol' Bernard Conrad, he was a character from, from, uh [clanking sound; possibly silverware in sink], Gary, Indiana. [Unintelligible] a character from, from there.

BB: Wow.

BF: Lamar... Ol' Bob Mahowald—he was a real promoter. He had a retail luggage store, so (laughs).

BB: OK (laughs).

BF: You know, suitcases.

BB: Nice! OK. (Laughs)

BF: Yeah, Bob—he was a nice guy; we got along fine. I got along with everybody.

BB: Yeah.

BF: You know, Bob O'Bannon, uh... and his dad, Frank, was the governor—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: [Unintelligible] wait a second, have I got that backwards? (Pauses) [0:57:01] Anyway, we sponsored some bills together. He's from Corydon—he had a newspaper down there.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: Frank! Is—Bob was the dad, and Frank, his son, became the governor.

BB: Oh, OK.

BF: And he died in office. [Squeaking sounds, possibly from furniture; whispering in background]

BB: Interesting—yeah, yeah, I remember that, yeah—

BF: Yeah, uh-huh, from Corydon—good people. And Bob Orr, of course, was the governor from—

BB: Right—

BF: Evansville. Jim Pulaski from... Mt. Washington—he was a school principal and a farmer.

BB: OK.

BF: George Rubin—he's a lawyer from Indianapolis. John Rye was another... attorney down there. He was involved with the banks.

BB: OK.

BF: Michigan City... St-Paul Standish. He was, [0:58:00] uh, did something, I forgot what—Paul did. I don't know how many of these guys are still involved—[unintelligible]—I don't know how many of 'em are still, uh... still living. I think Jim Young was another guy got in trouble, from Franklin, lawyer.

BB: Oh, OK—

BF: In that scandal, was four of 'em.

BB: Wow, yeah—

BF: One of ‘em wound up committing suicide—let me think who he was. Yeah, it was an interesting group.

BB: Yeah.

BF: Ol’ Burton, he was an insurance salesman (chuckles).

BB: OK. Yeah.

BF: You ever know him, meet him?

BB: Um, no, I haven’t, actu—(BF interjects: “Mmhmm”) I’ve been in contact with somebody—I haven’t been able to schedule an interview yet, so.

BF: Yeah... Yep, he’s a piece of work, that boy, mm—

BB: Yeah.

BF: So you get to understand ‘em and know—‘cause you’re [0:59:00] pretty tight group, you know (BB interjects: “Mmhmm”), for sixty-one days—that’s how long we met.

BB: Yeah, yeah.

BF: Every two years.

BB: Right.

BF: So, which is, I think, it still should be, you know (laughs)—(BB interjects: “Mmhmm”) there’s not enough to—if there’s an emergency, they can always call a special session.

BB: Mmhmm. Sure.

BF: But those times are over.

BB: Yeah, things change—

BF: You know, the old boys wanted to get back to the farms early on, that’s why it was set up that way—

BB: Right—

BF: Originally.

BB: Yeah.

BF: And transportation, was—way back, was a problem.

BB: Right.

BF: Gettin’ back and forth. Then the group come along and they could see how... pushed—cushy job it was in Washington—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: So, that's why they decided, "We'll just make that the same way in Indianapolis." So, there they are, all the time, far as I know, doin' committee meetings and—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Hearings and all that foolishness.

BB: Right.

BF: Which is a lot of it is: (BB interjects: "Mmhmm") foolishness. Political maneuvering.

BB: Right—

BF: Just like the C—federal Congress—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Same thing.

BB: Yeah.

BF: [1:00:00] Look at the money that they spent on this impeachment stuff.

BB: Mmhmm. [Sound in background; possibly from a Windows-based computer]

BF: So, where are we at now?

BB: Um, let's see. So (sighs)... In talking about your experiences in the General Assembly, what—what were the differences between members of the House and members of the Senate?

BF: Well, we—(stammers) you know, you have to have—it's set up very similar to the federal Cong-Congress.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: And you gotta have bills that have to be approved in both bodies.

BB: Mmhmm. [Clock chiming in background]

BF: So, we work in conjunction with them, closely—

BB: Sure—

BF: If you wanted to get something—

BB: Right—

BF: Accomplished.

BB: Of course. Yeah.

BF: So, uh [sound in background; possibly dishes clinking together], now it's so heavily Republican... that, uh... pretty much a party thing, you know? [Squeaking and slamming sounds in background]

BB: Yeah, yeah.

BF: Anything goes wrong, the Republicans will get the blame, really.

BB: Yeah—

BF: Which is the way it should be—they're in charge.

BB: Sure. What was the process like for you when it came to [1:01:00] generating a bill?

BF: Well, we had a (stammers)—we had a (stammers) agency called, uh—I'm—forgot the name of it—

BB: Legislative services?

BF: Well, yeah—(stammers) you just, y-you give 'em the ideas, and they have young lawyers and people over there that write them for ya—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: You know, put 'em in the—

BB: Yeah—

BF: The right language.

BB: Right—

BF: Just like this mandatory murders—that was a pretty serious piece (BB interjects: “Yeah”) of legislation (chuckles)—

BB: Definitely. Yeah, that is, that is.

BF: So, uh, and, uh... It was a little too radical for a lot of 'em. Yeah, I was s-surprised and disappointed in some of 'em that just would not go along with things that made total sense, you know?

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: Um... It's always, it's always been illegal to shoot somebody.

BB: Sure. [Hammering sound in background]

BF: And—but I wanted to make it a statement—

BB: Mmhmm, yeah—

BF: To these nut groups out here (chuckles) that were—

BB: Right—

BF: Like, starting fires just to get firemen to come to shoot at ‘em.

BB: Sure. [1:02:00] Yeah, that’s, that’s crazy.

BF: Yeah, so.

BB: Huh—

BF: That was—so I’d, I’d say, uh (stammers), we’d rely on the legislative council, I think they called it, and they were right down the hall, and—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: Give ‘em some ideas, and—what you wanted to do, and give ‘em a rough draft, and—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Write it out, and that’s what I did.

BB: Yeah, OK—

BF: Turn it over to them and then make it—put all the legalese in it—

BB: Right, of course—

BF: Made it presentable.

BB: Yep.

BF: ‘Cause I wasn’t trained, you know, to do that kind of thing—

BB: Righ—oh yeah, it’s a complex process, you know—

BF: Yeah, that’s true, so that’s how we did it.

BB: Yeah.

BF: Wasn’t a big deal—you had to move along, you know, sixty-one days wasn’t very long.

BB: Sure. Yeah, that’s true—that’s not a lot of time.

BB: No.

BB: Yeah. How did you get support for your bills? [Tumbling sound; possibly something rolling down a staircase]

BF: I just—I’d go around and strongarm ‘em, you know—

BB: Sure—

BF: Say, “Hey...”

BB: Yeah—

BF: “Help me out here. Do this, and—”

BB: Yeah.

BF: Some of 'em would do it, and s-some of 'em would leave and not vote—

BB: OK, yeah—

BF: Back out in the hall (laughs)!

BB: Yeah (laughs).

BF: [1:03:00] Wouldn't wanna take a stand.

BB: That's right, yeah, play the political games, yeah.

BF: Yep. I voted on all mine. I voted when, you know, whenever I had a vote come up, and—

BB: Sure.

BF: I missed some, because I was invited to the inauguration with Nixon.

BB: Oh, OK, yeah.

BF: And, uh, took a train out there and I missed—I got permission from the lieutenant governor, who was president of the Senate, to—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: Be absent 'cause they didn't need my vote, anyway.

BB: Right.

BF: They had enough (chuckles).

BB: Yeah.

BF: The majority.

BB: Sure, of course.

BF: So, I missed some votes on that.

BB: Mmhmm. Uh, do you know anything about how legislative business was conducted outside of formal votes and committees, or?

BF: Well, just like I told you, some of this stuff that they wanted me to get involved with—

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: Uh, I want no part of it, you know—

BB: Yeah.

BF: Mean, they—like I said, I had some nice meals at St. Elmo's.

BB: (Chuckles) Right, yeah.

BF: Which didn't influence me (laughs).

BB: Yeah, yeah.

BF: [Unintelligible] others, but... It was black and white issues, [1:04:00] as far as I was concerned.

BB: Sure, yeah.

BF: So, that's, uh, what goes on.

BB: OK.

BF: Lotta lobbying, you know—and lobbyists are helpful.

BB: Yeah.

BF: You know, they give you a lot of information; they know their subject quite well.

BB: Right, of course.

BF: And if you look at it in terms of being very objective—

BB: Mmhhh—

BF: And I was always glad to get the information.

BB: Yeah, yeah—

BF: To help make a decision—

BB: Of course, yeah, that's helpful.

BF: And they do their best to influence you and—short of, you know, giving you cash money.

BB: (Laughs) Yeah, yes, that's great.

BF: And the ones that took that wound up in jail, which they should have.

BB: Yeah.

BF: (Laughs)

BB: Definitely, yep.

BF: And that's the bottom line.

BB: Right—

BF: S-simply put.

BB: Yeah.

BF: I've got all kinds of stuff. Matter of fact, when he was picked to be vice president, *The New York Times* sent a guy—a young guy like you—

BB: Uh-huh—

BF: Out here and I knew right away what he was after.

BB: (Laughs) Yeah.

BF: See, I recor—I debated Pence [1:05:00] heavy on that—

BB: Oh, OK—

BF: On that NAFTA thing.

BB: Yeah.

BF: ‘Cause he would support it.

BB: Yeah.

BF: And that’s all we disagreed on.

BB: Right.

BF: Everything else, you know, pro-life, that stuff (BB interjects: “Sure”), we vote the same. And so, he sent this—this—*New York Times* sent this kid out here [thumping sound in background], and he was looking for anything he could get to... jeopardize Pence’s—

BB: OK—

BF: Opportunity.

BB: Yeah.

BF: So, I gave him a nice meal and sent him on his way.

BB: Yeah (laughs).

BF: I’ve got all that stuff.

BB: Yeah. That’s fascinating—that is interesting—

BF: I’ve got it all down there in my files (laughs).

BB: W-were you surprised at all when he was picked to be vice president, or were you—

BF: Pence? No, not really.

BB: OK. So, he was kind of in the loop of candidates—

BF: Same like Quayle.

BB: Yeah.

BF: I mean, I wasn’t surprised that—you know, the President don’t want somebody that’s really notable like a Cruz—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: I mean, that—

BB: Right—

BF: Trump, you know, [coughing and various other sounds in background] he's almost equal, you know?

BB: Yeah. Right.

BF: I don't think anybody's [1:06:00] equal to Trump.

BB: Mmhmm. No, and right now, he definitely seems the figurehead, for sure—

BF: No, he's his own man (laughs).

BB: Yeah, yeah.

BF: He doesn't need any help one way—from the Vice (BB interjects: "Yeah") President or anybody.

BB: No, doesn't appear like that—he's—yeah—

BF: And I just—he's gonna be a hard act to follow.

BB: Yeah, he's pretty dominant, yeah—

BF: He gets, he gets elec—re-elected and, and I don't know whether Pence—I know he wants to be president, but... uh, I don't know. He's gonna have his hands full.

BB: Yeah. Yeah.

BF: Anybody is.

BB: Definitely, yeah (chuckles)—I think it's—it is—

BF: Because...

BB: Yeah.

BF: Trump's black is black, white is white, you know—

BB: Right. That's true.

BF: No, no in between.

BB: Yeah.

BF: He's a dealmaker (chuckles).

BB: Yeah (laughs), yeah. Uh... Did party leadership have any role in influencing people—

BF: Oh, they tried to. That's probably what I was not cooperative about—

BB: OK.

BF: In their view.

BB: Yeah.

BF: And that's basically the people that have—raise the big [1:07:00] bucks (BB interjects: “Mmhmm”), money.

BB: OK—

BF: ‘Cause that's the whole thing. If this—

BB: Right—

BF: Costs so much money to run...

BB: Yeah. OK.

BF: You know, you're talkin'—look at this Bloomberg guy.

BB: Sure.

BF: (Makes whooshing sound) And you can influence a lot of people with that kinda money.

BB: Yeah, it is—that is, uh, uh, a good example—

BF: People don't pay any attention—they're interested in puttin' food on the table for their family, and—

BB: Right.

BF: You know, their daily living thing, and—

BB: Yep. That's right—

BF: Politics is way out here in the...

BB: Yeah.

BF: Not one of their major concerns.

BB: Right.

BF: It should be, but it isn't.

BB: Yeah, yeah. (BF clears throat) Yep. Um, what would you say the public does not know about the Indiana General Assembly and how it operates?

BF: (Pauses) Well, I don't really—would have any idea of what—

BB: OK—

BF: This is (stammers) um... The Indianapolis media was—they [1:08:00] policed it pretty close—they did; I don't know what they're doing (BB interjects: “Mmhmm”) now.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: But, uh, that's, that's what I'm real concerned about. You know, the local press and... uh, newspapers, radio, and so on (BB interjects: "Mmhmm")—it's just not something that, uh... those media companies seem to be able to do much anymore.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: Their news arms, and—

BB: Right.

BF: And that—some of it was very fair and some of it was not fair.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: I mean, 'specially the national media—you got so one-sided, to the progressive side, that—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: Uh, it's just not credible. And that's not a good thing for the country—that bothers me a lot.

BB: Yeah, it seems like, yeah, media organizations have become very focused on agendas. Yep—

BF: Oh, they have their own agenda—

BB: Yep—

BF: And that's, you know, all you gotta do is go to the meetings, and "This is what the guy said," and put it that way.

BB: Yeah.

BF: Oh, they—I—you wouldn't believe the stuff that they've slanted against [1:09:00] me.

BB: Yeah.

BF: I've got newspapers—I'm gonna publish all that [unintelligible]—

BB: Yeah, sure.

BF: That's (stammers, chuckles) no question, that cost me some elections.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: Yeah. Basically, the local newspapers. [Dragging sound in background; possibly a box sliding over the floor]

BB: Yeah—

BF: [Unintelligible] Well, one reporter, I know they got—he got fired over what he was trying to do for me—which is just totally dishonest.

BB: Yeah. Wow.

BF: Reporting untrue things—

BB: Yeah—

BF: That wasn't true. (BB interjects: "Yeah") 'Cause I funded a lot of my own elections.

BB: Yeah.

BF: And they were putting in articles that just weren't true at all.

BB: Yeah, that's, that's crazy—

BF: And then, when I would debate Phil Sharp, I took TV—my own cameras and everything—with it. They wouldn't report that at all.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: Usually 'cause he wasn't rep—debate me. He just—

BB: Yeah.

BF: Refu—one time, he did, and I took it to the newspaper, and I said, "Hey, you're—here's the tape, this is what I said, here's what he said"—

BB: Yeah.

BF: And they still didn't publish it.

BB: Wow.

BF: [1:10:00] (Laughs)

BB: Yeah (chuckles).

BF: Yeah, ol' John—one instance is where—I've gotta try to find my canceled [dragging sound in background] checks and so forth—

BB: OK—

BF: I put an ad in the newspaper, uh, of the jobs lost—

BB: OK—

BF: 'Cause of NAFTA in eastern Indiana.

BB: Yeah.

BF: And the editor... actually rewrote my political ad—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: To le—make it less damaging to Phil Sharp.

BB: Yeah. Wow.

BF: And my ad...

BB: Wow.

BF: So, the ad was not what I wrote at all.

BB: Right—

BF: Changed my—

BB: That's, that's...

BF: Can you believe it?

BB: That's really strange, yeah.

BF: True. That's (stammers)... So, I called 'em up, and I said, "Hey. I want my money back for that ad." And they (BB interjects: "Yeah") gave me my money back.

BB: Yeah. Makes sense. I mean, that's, that's crazy—

BF: But the damage was already done, you know.

BB: Right. Yeah.

BF: Oh, it was unreal—[1:11:00] I'll—I think I've got a copy of that little card I used to show you the jobs that's been lost, and—

BB: Yeah.

BF: Due to the NAFTA and (BB interjects: "Wow") Phil Sharp's support of these (BB interjects: "Mmhmm") things. So, that's—I've had a lot of personal experience with this stuff.

BB: Yeah. Sounds like it, yeah, that's—

BF: Oh, yeah. It's a nasty business.

BB: Yeah.

BF: So, that's why the news people, just—you know, I don't—I listen to Limbaugh and I listen to (BB: "Mmhmm") Fox.

BB: Sure.

BF: (Clears throat) Sort it out. Because the other people don't tell the truth, and that's sad.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: Not good... Nope. I mean, if, if the guy's wrong—if Trump's wrong... put it out there.

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: Let the people decide.

BB: Sure, yeah.

BF: He's not always right—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: So... Or correct on these... statistics.

BB: Yeah.

BF: So.

BB: Yeah.

BF: And a lot of people are busy with their own lives—they're not gonna take time to—that's the job of the newspaper.

BB: Right.

BF: In my view.

BB: [1:12:00] Yeah, yeah.

BF: Yep, they should... So, I've been, uh... I'll give you another story.

BB: OK.

BF: Uh, the Republicans... This was in—I was running against a guy in the primary called McIntosh. I think he became a congressman.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: Then, he wanted to run for governor, and he got trumped there. Anyway, I got a list—a mailing list—from the Republican State Committee.

BB: OK—

BF: To—and I sent my—they were gonna put the addresses on my political material to mail out.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: (Clears throat) And, of course, we had checks around to know whether it was—got mailed or not. Anyway, the bottom line is, I paid 'em the postage—I gave several thousands of dollars, you know, for postage, and they were gonna mail those for me.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: [1:13:00] They got mailed, alright—right into the dumpster.

BB: Oh my gosh. [Background noise increases] Wow—

BF: In politics—you know, in private business, I would've sued 'em.

BB: Yeah, yeah—

BF: In politics, you know...

BB: Yeah—

BF: Just got my money back—I did get my money back from the newspaper here.

BB: Yeah, that's good.

BF: (Laughs) Yeah, that's where my brochures went.

BB: OK—

BF: And that was a real close race—I... A-and he won—'course, it was a sure thing in the district.

BB: Right.

BF: Republican district, and I forget what year that was. Uh... That was after 2000 when I ran in the primary... against him. [Sudden, loud snapping sound]

BB: Yeah.

BF: So, that's what—that's the little dirty tricks on the Republican side.

BB: Yeah. Interesting. That is very interesting.

BF: Mmhmm.

BB: Um—

BF: I don't know who the state chairman was at that time, but they were all in bed for M-McIntosh, you know, they—

BB: [1:14:00] Mmhmm.

BF: (Clears throat) So that's a little—(laughs)

BB: OK.

BF: Tidbit there for you.

BB: How did your, uh, legislative service or political life affect your family—if at all?

BF: Not, no.

BB: OK.

BF: No, it hasn't changed my standard of living—that's where you don't want to do it.

BB: Right—

BF: A lot of friends of mine have run—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: And actually went broke.

BB: (Chuckles in disbelief) Oh my gosh!

BF: Yeah, from spending—

BB: Wow—

BF: Spending money they didn't have, and—

BB: Yeah, that's—yeah. Gotta be careful about that. Wow—

BF: Yep, so. No, if you don't change your standard of living at all, that's... that's a good thing.

BB: Yeah.

BF: That's what I always tried to do.

BB: Sure. Um—

BF: And they were with me most of the time, you know, they would go and—

BB: Yeah, OK, that's nice—

BF: My wife wasn't that fired up about it—she didn't (chuckles)—

BB: Yeah.

BF: 'Cause they (stammers), they didn't treat her decent, you know.

BB: Yeah, it's, it's hard, yeah—

BF: There.

BB: When that's going on.

BF: Oh, yeah. Other side, you know, [1:15:00] scowl at ya—you know, I cared less, myself, but I (chuckles) (BB interjects: "Yeah") didn't like for her to be mistreated.

BB: Yeah, that's, that's too bad.

BF: Treated rudely.

BB: Yeah, that's terrible.

BF: (Chuckles) Oh, it happens. Like I say, it's a nasty business.

BB: Yeah—

BF: That's why a lot of good people don't do it.

BB: Yeah. Yep... So, what were the most controversial legislative issues during your time in the Assembly? [Unidentified person blows nose in background]

BF: Well, I've... really, I don't—can't think of any that, in my time, that it was really... packed the Statehouse, you know (BB interjects: "Mmhmm"), like my friend up in Wisconsin (chuckles).

BB: Yeah.

BF: That governor, you know, and—

BB: OK—

BF: Stuff that he got into.

BB: Yeah.

BF: So, I don't know that I could... hang my hat on anything particular that... [sound of pages turning] would be really... [squeaking sound in background] where'd you'd have people carrying [1:16:00] signs and so on (chuckles).

BB: Sure. [Sound of door closing and opening in background; background noise increases in volume]

BF: [Unintelligible] of mine was, uh, for me, just common sense.

BB: Yeah.

BF: I mean, who wants to protest against killing of a policeman or a fireman—

BB: Right, right—

BF: In the line of duty. Those kinds of things.

BB: Yeah... Um, what piece of legislation, that you worked on, took the most of your time?

BF: Well, sixty-one days—there wasn't much time—

BB: OK—

BF: To work on things, so... (mumbles, trails off).

BB: So, they were all equal, then, I guess, for the time?

BF: Yeah, I would say it's pretty much across the board about the same.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: Present the bill and then try to get your colleagues to support it.

BB: Yeah... Uh, what was your proudest moment as a legislator?

BF: Well, I don't—I can't pick one [1:17:00] particular thing out, to be honest with you—

BB: OK. Sure. OK, that's fine—

BF: I was just, you know, honored to be able to serve, and—

BB: Yeah.

BF: You know, represent the people out here, and—

BB: Yeah, that's great—

BF: And I got a lotta compliments from—especially on that architectural bill for schools, you know (BB interjects: “Mmhmm”) that helped save money (chuckles).

BB: Yeah—

BF: Lotta Democrats that said that. Right thing to do.

BB: Yeah. Yeah.

BF: But, takes a lotta money to promote that in the public—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Generally speaking—

BB: Yeah, yeah.

BF: And to, to get ideas out and—

BB: A lot of, yeah, pieces to that puzzle, yeah.

BF: Mmhmm... Yep. ‘Cause I had specifics, you know—this is what it is, and—

BB: (Clears throat)

BF: Uh, there wasn't any doubt to where I stood on the thing, and—

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: And tried to point out all that it would do—but it, again, it takes a lotta money to promote any idea.

BB: Yes. Yeah... What was the biggest hurdle for you [1:18:00] during your time in office?

BF: (Pauses) Yeah, I didn't find... it was difficult for—

BB: OK—

BF: Anything that I did—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Just kinda routine, and—

BB: Sure. OK. Um, what, in your opinion, is the most important work for the Indiana General Assembly?

BF: The important work for—?

BB: For the, like, the—most important job, uh, of the Indiana General Assembly.

BF: (Pauses) Well, to maintain the... finances of the state—

BB: Yep—

BF: They're doin' a—we got surplus, and—

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: They're doin' a phenomenal job now—as we did, too.

BB: Yeah.

BF: So—watch the debt and spending.

BB: Sure. Yeah, OK—

BF: I mean, anything that you can do to have balanced budgets and—

BB: Of course—

BF: Of course, we have to have in Indiana, that's a statute.

BB: Yep.

BF: A constitutional—

BB: Yeah.

BF: In the state Constitution, not goin' [1:19:00] into debt—

BB: Right—

BF: After we went broke over the canal projects back in the...

BB: Yeah, I'd re—(laughs) yeah.

BF: (Laughs)

BB: I remember hearing about that, yeah.

BF: State went broke.

BB: Yeah, yeah, that, yeah (laughs).

BF: That's like California (mumbles)—

BB: Yep.

BF: They're below broke.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: Illinois's in about the same shape.

BB: Yeah.

BF: Mismanagement.

BB: Yeah.

BF: Yep. A lotta big spenders in those areas, and, uh, this country is not far behind, because you take—in the twenty trillion range, that's an awful lot of money.

BB: Yeah, that, that is a lot, yeah.

BF: We're, we're, we have a huge economy and all, but, uh, you know, nobody's above going broke.

BB: Right, yeah that's not a—

BF: Even the United States of America (laughs)—

BB: Well, I mean, that's right, just look at history, you know, it's, uh—

BF: That's right.

BB: Yep—

BF: It happened before.

BB: No one's immune to disaster, so.

BF: And we got an opportunity of growing our economy and stopping some of these trade (stammers) deals that have been so one-sided—

BB: [1:20:00] Mmhmm—

BF: That really put the United States at a big disadvantage.

BB: Sure.

BF: Uh, you know, you're talkin', T-Trump's brought in billions, hundreds of billions of dollars just on the tariffs with China and so on—

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: To get it more equitable, you know.

BB: Yeah.

BF: We can't afford to rebuild the economies of all these countries. 'Course—

BB: Right—

BF: We pretty well did that with China.

BB: Yeah. Yeah.

BF: Yep.

BB: Lot of, of foreign aid (trails off).

BF: Yeah. We gotta look after our welfare first.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: So we're gonna be able to help people when they really get in trouble.

BB: Sure, sure.

BF: (Clears throat)

BB: Um... (clears throat) How would you summarize your time, overall, as a state legislator?

BF: Well, it's, it's a lot of work—you know, you drive—stayed here—I didn't stay down there.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: So, that's a hour drive, you know, from (chuckles)—

BB: Yeah.

BF: Back in tho—that's before Interstate 69.

BB: Yeah, yeah.

BF: [1:21:00] And it was partially built, but... That's a big problem, too, is in maintaining our roads and all, and it's a—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: Big expense in this part of the world—

BB: Yep—

BF: Freeze and thaws, and we're gonna have a big freeze in the next few days—

BB: Yeah, yeah—

BF: That's hard on pavement, and—

BB: Oh, yeah. Gonna get chopped up, yeah—

BF: Yeah, Purdue's gotta get in gear and get some engineering (laughs) goin' on—

BB: (Laughs)

BF: That'll keep and maintain these roads.

BB: Yeah.

BF: Which is a responsibility of the legislature—

BB: Oh, yeah, definitely—

BF: Be—yeah.

BB: Yep.

BF: The right ki—hire the right people.

BB: Yeah. Uh, do you have a favorite story or anecdote from your time as a legislator?

BF: Oh, not really—just, I mean, I related some of the bad things, you know, about throwin' out my mailings and that kinda thing—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: Just truly dishonest stuff.

BB: Yeah.

BF: (Pauses) No, not—I don't have any big anecdote things—stories—to tell (mumbles) about—

BB: OK—

BF: (Mumbles) [1:22:00] What was...

BB: Yeah, that's fine.

BF: Interesting, and... again, that's been a long time ago.

BB: Right, of course. Um, what lessons, if any, did you learn from your time there?

BF: Well, you know, honesty pays.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: You know, I'm a straight shooter, and—

BB: Yeah, yeah.

BF: I want you to hear Pence's comments, and—

BB: Yeah, that'll be good, yeah—

BF: Y-your word has to be your bond.

BB: Yeah. True—

BF: And that's not true with the national Congress and—which is really frightening.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: I mean, these characters—like my friend, Dan Burton—

BB: Yeah.

BF: “Tell ‘em what you want ‘em to hear and, and do what—”

BB: Yeah—

BF: “And do what you—” (BB interjects: “Yeah”) I said, “Well, Dan, that's dishonest.”

BB: Yeah.

BF: “Nah, that’s politics.”

BB: Yeah, well—

BF: Quote unquote.

BB: Yep.

BF: I remember that. That’s—managed to stay in office and get re-elected many times, so.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: If you want to call that success.

BB: Sure. (Clears throat)

BF: [1:23:02] It’d be interesting for you catch him, interview him—

BB: Uh, yeah, I would like to—I, I’ve, I reached out to him, I talked to him over the phone once, and then, um, I wasn’t able to reach him again after that, so—I was able to send him some information, but I haven’t been able to reconnect since.

BF: Well, this is not gonna do him any good when he’s got a cush retirement, believe me.

BB: Uh-huh.

BF: You wouldn’t believe what those guys get.

BB: Yeah.

BF: Probably makes more now than he made when he was a congressman.

BB: Wow.

BF: Mo—not just him, all of ‘em.

BB: Yeah. Wow.

BF: Oh, it’s a—I remember when the United States Congress became a billion dollar expenditure.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: Not too many years ago, and—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Before that, it was fairly reasonable.

BB: Sure.

BF: But I mean, it’s gotten so far out of hand, it’s pathetic.

BB: Wow.

BF: That's why term limits is an absolute—but you'll never get those c-clowns to vote for term limits.

BB: (Sighs) Yeah, that's, that's a tough proposition, yeah—

BF: Well, look at all of 'em that go in, [1:24:00] just average people—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: Makin', you know, forty, fifty thousand bucks a year, come out a multi-millionaire.

BB: Yeah, yeah—

BF: Hastert—or in jail—

BB: Yep—

BF: I-is he—(stammers) the Republican Speaker of the House—is he still in prison, or do you know? On his real (laughs) estate deals.

BB: Yeah—

BF: Dennis Hastert. Where are you from?

BB: I'm from Kansas.

BF: Oh, OK.

BB: Yeah.

BF: Yeah, I know Bob Dole pretty well—

BB: Yeah, Bob Dole, OK, yeah. Interesting.

BF: Yeah, I got pictures of him down here.

BB: Wow, OK. [Something rolling in the background, possibly over the floor]

BF: The ol' WWII guy.

BB: Yeah.

BF: That's the guys that trained me and my military.

BB: Wow, OK.

BF: See, I was—forty-five—ten years after the second war. [Unidentified female voice in background]

BB: Yeah.

BF: So, the veterans that stayed in were, were—taught us young guys.

BB: Sure... Yeah, OK.

BF: So, anyway, they come out, you know, multi-millionaires.

BB: [1:25:00] Yeah.

BF: Like, you know, I'm a, I'm a commodity trader on Chicago Board of Trade—I trade futures up there.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: And, uh, ol' Hillary, she (chuckles) never lost anything, you know, tradin' cattle futures.

BB: Mm.

BF: I mean, pure dishonesty.

BB: Mm.

BF: Crooked—just, just like robbin' a bank (laughs).

BB: Wow. Yeah, that's interesting, yeah.

BF: (Clears throat) Mmhmm. Yeah, the ethics are very, very stringent on, uh, the people that are for brokers, like me—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: I mean, you're... If there's a mistake made, you're guilty and you have to prove you're not guilty, regardless of what happens—

BB: Yeah—

BF: That's a, that's the rule.

BB: Right, of course.

BF: And that's where your word is your bond, up there.

BB: Yeah.

BF: 'Course, now it's electronic. You happen to hit the wrong button, you're—

BB: That's right. (Laughs) Yep.

BF: But used to—it was, you know, hand [1:26:00] signals and all that stuff.

BB: Sure. Did you have any regrets as a legislator?

BF: Not really—just that I couldn't get more done.

BB: Yeah, yeah, makes sense—

BF: But it's just—I wasn't cut out, I guess, to be for the—I'd probably be more bored in, at the Congress if I ever got (chuckles) elected to that.

BB: Sure.

BF: I mean, it just frustrated—you know, all the needs that need to be addressed. [Clinking sounds in background, possibly dishes]

BB: Yeah.

BF: And then not be able to get it done.

BB: Right.

BF: ‘Cause of petty bickering and that kind of thing.

BB: Yeah.

BF: That’s the nature of our system.

BB: Yeah.

BF: You have to know that goin’ in.

BB: Sure.

BF: If you don’t want to do it, don’t run.

BB: Uh, what advice would you give to future legislators or, even, current legislators?

BF: Well, just like I said, be, be, uh, honest, and, uh, know politics is not an excuse to be dishonest.

BB: Yeah.

BF: And tell somebody something [1:27:00]—you know, do it.

BB: Yep. Yeah. Makes sense—

BF: That’s basically what I’d tell ‘em to do.

BB: Yeah.

BF: Just basic... fundamental... common decency, you know? (Laughs)

BB: Sure, yeah... How has the state of Indiana changed over the course of your lifetime?

BF: The Indiana?

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: Well, they’ve gone professional legislature.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: That’s a, the bad thing, in my book.

BB: Yeah.

BF: I'd, I'd like to see judges elected instead of appointed, and, you know, we get a vote... yes or no on 'em, you know—

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: But—

BB: Right—

BF: I didn't go for that, and I certainly didn't go for annual session.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: You know, I like to see... [background noise increases in volume] And then, they call that “antiquated,” I guess, or “old-fashioned” to meet like we used to (chuckles).

BB: Sure.

BF: But, uh, there's always ways—you know, you've got administrators—uh, uh, adminis—people who administrate the hay—highway department, and, [1:28:00] and do all—oversee all those things—you put the right people in—

BB: Yeah—

BF: You don't have to have a bunch of politicians buttin' in all the time.

BB: True, true.

BF: Hire good people, and... let 'em get it done.

BB: Yeah.

BF: Matter of fact, politics impedes it a lotta times.

BB: Yeah, that's, that's a fair assessment, yeah.

BF: Slows it down. Yep. (Grunts) I can't believe the complex they got down there now, you know—

BB: Yeah—

BF: The buildings—

BB: Yeah—

BF: And how, how it's built up around (chuckles).

BB: Yeah, it is, it's a, yeah—

BF: Just like the federal government.

BB: It is pretty impressive, yeah. It's, um—

BF: Yeah—

BB: It's, it's a lot bigger than the one I've seen in Kansas, for example, so.

BF: Spent a lot of money [unidentified female voice in background] and they're not ha—the, the federal government is not a good example.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: It's a way to (chuckles) ruin a state.

BB: Mmhmm. That's interesting... Um, how has the—well, I guess you've already kinda answered that one. Do you think politics has changed much over time in Indiana?

BF: [1:29:01] Not really—I think it's—

BB: OK—

BF: Still basically—you know, there's a lotta good people that wanna get involved [clock chiming in background], do something, and—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Just like our recent election here in the city of Muncie.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: You know, I just hated to see Dennis get into the trouble he got into.

BB: Yeah.

BF: 'Course, he hadn't had a trial yet, but it don't, doesn't look good.

BB: Sure.

BF: So, but that—Muncie's got a history of that, speaking about the local stuff.

BB: Mmhmm. Yeah, OK.

BF: And, uh, yeah, I've known all these mayors, and matter of fact, the—most of 'em have been out here for dinner a time or two at my house (chuckles).

BB: Yeah, OK—

BF: But Democrat and Republican.

BB: Yeah. Sure.

BF: Yeah, I stay in touch with 'em, and...

BB: That's great, OK.

BF: But yeah, (stammers) the community needs all the support it can get. And they do, too—it's a big job.

BB: Yeah.

BF: Even the local level, you know, the—

BB: [1:30:00] Sure.

BF: A lot of responsibility.

BB: (Sniffs) Uh, what, if any, enduring qualities do s-Hoosiers still have or hold dear?

BF: Relative to what?

BB: I guess, uh, what do you think is, is something... about people from Indiana that has— (stammers) really hasn't changed much over time?

BF: Oh, that's true, yeah, they're the, really, the backbone of the country—of the whole Midwest—

BB: Mmhmm. Yeah—

BF: Your part of the world, and—

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: And I've known people all over, and it's, uh—yeah, you can believe what they say and—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: They say what they believe, and... and just basic honesty.

BB: Yeah. OK.

BF: Is the bottom line.

BB: Yeah.

BF: Basic—Biblical principles, you know, that's what (BB interjects: "Mmhmm") the country was founded on.

BB: Sure.

BF: It's all through the Constitution, so.

BB: Mmhmm. Uh—

BF: You gotta have a good book of rules, and we got one, if we'd follow it (laughs).

BB: Mmhmm (chuckles; sniffs). [1:31:03] What do you want Hoosiers to know about their role in, in relation to the function of the General Assembly? [Unidentified female voice says "Hey" in background]

BF: Well, it's, uh, one that, that I think that's gotten too large, number one, by having—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: Full-time legislators.

BB: Yeah.

BF: I mean, there isn't that much going that hasn't always gone on in this part of the world (chuckles).

BB: Right, right.

BF: That we couldn't be—done with less expense.

BB: Yeah.

BF: Yeah.

BB: Makes sense. And so, what would you want, like, the public to do to, to make thing—uh, to sh—you know, show their role in the legislative process?

BF: [Unintelligible] Make sure you vote, and then—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: Stay in contact with your representatives and—

BB: Yeah.

BF: Senators, whoever they are, even—

BB: Sure—

BF: City people, and that's why I'm very involved with the... all the [1:32:00] elected officials, and—

BB: Yeah, OK.

BF: Most people care less, I mean, unless if you have some personal thing—

BB: Yeah—

BF: Ax to grind, so to speak.

BB: Yep. Yeah, that happens—

BF: Gotta stay involved, and, uh, be aware of what's really going on.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: 'Cause we're all on this boat together, and...

BB: Yeah. [Background sounds increasing in volume]

BF: Uh, government is very necessary and very—and our form of government's been the most successful the world's ever known.

BB: Yeah, yeah, that's—

BF: Representative, uh, Republic.

BB: Yeah, it's, I mean—

BF: And, uh—

BB: Pretty amazing, yeah—

BF: And that's why I'm so concerned about agencies like the Secret So—(stammers) the, the, uh, FBI—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: And all of the foreign—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: Intelligence services that we have in this country.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: Being corrupted by politics.

BB: Mmhmm.

BF: And agendas—just like the news media—that's—

BB: Right—

BF: Really a (BB interjects: "Mmhmm") tragedy, in my view. I think we—

BB: Sure—

BF: Get that—

BB: You want things to be nonpartisan.

BF: Yep. Nope. It be, yeah, true [1:33:00] and nonpartisan.

BB: Yeah.

BF: And everybody's got an opinion, but that—if you're in the news business—

BB: Mmhmm—

BF: Report the news.

BB: Right, right.

BF: Period.

BB: Yeah, it is amazing, uh, how many opinion pieces now dominate the news, yeah—

BF: Oh, yeah. Hey, that's what an editorial page is for.

BB: Yep.

BF: I don't object to p—editorializing, that's (BB interjects: "Mmhmm") fine, that's—

BB: Yeah—

BF: A very important function of the press.

BB: Mmhhh.

BF: But, uh—

BB: Yeah—

BF: They don't editorialize in a news story [unintelligible]—

BB: Yeah, it's, it's become mostly just opinions, yeah.

BF: Mmhhh. Yeah. That's the bad part of it.

BB: Um, let's see, so—that's pretty much all the questions that I have. Do you have anything else you wanna add, or—

BF: No. Always would after the fact, but—

BB: Yeah.

BF: Not off the top of my head. I'll get, uh—if I get busy and take enough time off from hangin' around the farm, and—

BB: Mmhhh—

BF: Start doin' my f—I'll show you my material—

BB: Yeah!

BF: You wouldn't believe—

BB: That'd be great.

BF: Sort—I've got—yeah...

BB: Alright, well.

BF: [1:34:00] Lots and lots of stuff.

BB: I'll go ahead and turn off the recordings, then.

BF: Yeah, shut that thing off. [Interview concludes]