

## **ILOHI Interview with Frank Biddinger**

Thursday January 16, 2020

Phone Interview between Indianapolis, Indiana and Charlotte, North Carolina

Interview by Ben Baumann

Transcribed by Katie Turner

MP3 file, Sony

Frank Biddinger=FB

Ben Baumann=BB

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[0:00:00]

BB: Now... We can begin.

FB: Alright.

BB: So, I guess, just—I would like to state for the record that my name is Ben Baumann and I'm interviewing Frank Biddinger, and today is Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and we are doing a digital oral history interview via phone. I'm in Indianapolis, Indiana, and you are in Charlotte, North Carolina, correct?

FB: That's correct.

BB: Excellent. And just for the record, I do have your consent to record the interview?

FB: You do.

BB: Perfect! OK, so let's begin... When and where were you born?

FB: I was born in Marion, Indiana... Uh, December 30, 1935.

BB: OK. And what were your parents' names?

FB: My father was Thurman A. Biddinger; [0:01:00] my mother Florence McKaughn Biddinger.

BB: Alright. And where is your family from?

FB: Um... My parents were both... My father was born in Converse, Indiana, which is... in Grant County, the same county as the city of Marion—my mother was born in Gas City, Indiana, which is also, uh, in Grant County.

BB: Oh, OK. Wonderful. And do you know, by any chance, how your family got to Indiana?

FB: Uh... No—my grandfather on my, my father's father, uh, was a station master... on the—for the Pennsylvania Railroad in Gas City.

BB: Oh, OK.

FB: My [0:02:00] my, uh, maternal grandfather, James McKaughn, uh, had a grocery store in Gas City.

BB: Oh!

FB: And he, he was a Scotch-Irishman. His ancestors had come from Ireland, and, and immigrated to Kentucky, and then he im—he, he left Kentucky and came to Indiana—my father's, uh, parents, I think, were, uh (sighs), Pennsylvania Dutch.

BB: Oh, OK.

FB: And I don't remember the county that they came from to get to Indiana.

BB: Interesting. OK. Wow. Uh, so what were your parents—(FB interjects) Yeah, go ahead.

GB: Yeah. Well, I was gonna tell you my father was also [0:03:00] on the Senate. I think he was elected maybe in 1932...

BB: That's right, yeah.

FB: He was, he was president pro tem in 1943—

BB: Oh, OK.

FB: When he, when he resigned to join the Navy.

BB: Oh, OK. Wow.

FB: Uh, to be, to be in World War II.

BB: Right. Interesting. And what were exactly were your parents' occupations?

FB: My father was a lawyer. My mother a housewife.

BB: OK. And did you have any siblings?

FB: I have a sister who is eight years younger than me.

BB: OK. And what was her name?

FB: Betty Ann.

BB: OK. Betty Ann. Um—

FB: Her name is Cleaver now.

BB: Ah, OK. So, how would you describe your childhood, [0:04:00] growing up?

FB: I'm sorry, say that again?

BB: How would you describe your childhood?

FB: Well, I think it was perfect! (Laughs)

BB: (Laughs) That's good.

FB: I, I—my, my parents were loving and, uh, I-I wanted for nothing.

BB: Oh, OK.

FB: And we tr—we traveled... We went out west a lot. And, uh, just had a lot of fun.

BB: That's fantastic. Yeah, that's—sounds like a good childhood. (Chuckles)

FB: Yes.

BB: And, uh, who would you say were the most influential people in your childhood?

FB: (Sighs) Well, obviously, my parents—

BB: Right.

FB: Um, but I had other people that were influential, but most of 'em were relatives, oh, you know, aunts and uncles.

BB: Sure.

FB: My mother had, [0:05:00] my mother had two sisters, my father had a sister, and, uh, they were, they were all influential and I don't remember that many people outside the family being a big influence.

BB: Oh, OK. And, uh, I guess what, what about them made them so influential to you?

FB: Well... For example, when I was a little boy, I was very frustrated... Before ever going to school I couldn't read, I wanted to read the comic strips—

BB: Mmhmm.

FB: And my, my mother taught me to read before I ever went to kindergarten.

BB: Wow.

FB: And, you know, that's very influential.

BB: Sure, sure.

FB: My dad... was a lawyer, and he took me to the office, and he talked to me a lot about the law. And, uh, influenced me [0:06:00] in that way—and then, then I always wanted to be a lawyer after that.

BB: OK, so just like your father.

FB: Yes.

BB: Excellent. So... I guess, the next question is, what understanding, if any, did you have about your family's... politics or political beliefs as a young child?

FB: Um, well, I knew my parents were Republicans.

BB: Right.

FB: Because they took me to Republican meetings all the time.

BB: Ah.

FB: I liked the ci—I liked the cider and donuts a lot (chuckles).

BB: (Laughs)

FB: But I later found out my father's parents were Democrats. And when my dad ran for office as a Republican, they disowned him.

BB: Oh my gosh!

FB: But, but that didn't last very long (chuckles).

BB: Right, right (chuckles).

FB: And there was never any conversations in my presence about politics. [0:07:00]

BB: Oh, OK. Interesting...

FB: Yeah.

BB: So, I guess, now moving towards your education, what schools did you attend as a child and as a teenager?

FB: (Sighs) Uh... I don't remem—my, my education was a little interrupted because of World War II.

BB: Right.

FB: Um, I had gone to grade school in south Marion and... when the war came... my dad decided to resign from the Senate, which he did, and he turned his law practice over to his partner—

BB: OK.

FB: And he sold the house and we all moved to, um, Philadelphia.

BB: Wow.

FB: And he, he [0:08:00] was stationed at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. Uh, he was the Aviation Supply Officer. And he kept trying to get... on... uh, on to the overseas—he kept trying to get on a ship.

BB: OK.

FB: And I remem—he knew two U.S. Senators from Indiana. And I remember, as a youngster, him talking to 'em on the phone. And asking them to give him, um, on a ship. First thing they did was get him assigned to a naval air station, um, at Bunker Hill, Indiana, which is over in, you know (chuckles), twenty miles from home.

BB: Oh, wow.

FB: And, and he threw a fit about that—"I didn't sell my house and... leave my practice to go twenty miles from home."

BB: Right.

[0:09:00] FB: So finally, they called him one night... and he talked to 'em, and when he hung up, my mother said, "What'd they say?" And he said, "They said I'm too old and too fat to be on a ship." (Laughs)

BB: Oh my gosh. (Chuckles)

FB: So that ended that. Then, he stayed in... the Navy as a officer, a lieutenant, uh, until, uh, the war was over—we came back to Indiana.

BB: OK. And, how would you describe your educational experiences, then?

FB: Well, when we got back from... from Philadelphia, I went to, uh, Washington... School in Marion.

BB: OK—

FB: Through—and that was through the ninth grade. And, and then... grades ten, eleven, and twelve were at Marion High School. I wouldn't... [0:10:00] I won't say I was a bad student, I just wasn't a very interested student.

BB: OK, sure.

FB: And, uh, I loved to read. And I loved history.

BB: Yeah, OK.

FB: And, um... I hated mathematics (laughs).

BB: Yes, that's probably pretty common, yeah. (Laughs)

FB: (Laughs) And, after high school, I went to Indiana University.

BB: Oh, OK... Grea—

FB: My dad always said, "I will send you any place you want to go as long as it's a land grant college in Indiana—"

BB: Wow—

FB: Well, that didn't leave much. (Chuckles)

BB: (Laughs) Nope. (Chuckles)

FB: And I got a bachelor's and, and went in the Army for three years.

BB: Wow—

FB: And when I came back, I went to law school and graduated in 19...60.

BB: That's fantastic... So, when you were a student in [0:11:00] school, did you have any extracurricular activities at all, or?

FB: Oh, yeah, but I don't remember much about 'em.

BB: Oh, OK—

FB: Um, you know, there was a, in law school, I was a member of a legal fraternity, uh, I think it was Phi Delta Phi, but I'm not sure of that now, I just have lost... touch with all of that.

BB: Right.

FB: And uh—but, you know, there was always a lot of things going on.

BB: Right, right. So, was your bachelor degree in law as well?

FB: No. No, it was in, uh, social service.

BB: Social service. OK.

FB: Yeah.

BB: And, uh, how did you, uh—I guess, what made you get interested in the social service major? Was it because you wanted to go to law school later, or?

FB: It was because I could get a degree in that without taking a foreign language.

BB: Ahh, OK... [0:12:00]

FB: Now I wish I'd had a foreign language (laughs).

BB: (Laughs) Yeah... (Chuckles) So, did you know after getting your bachelor's degree that you wanted to go to law school?

FB: Yes.

BB: OK.

FB: And, um... yeah.

BB: And in college, were you involved in any clubs or organizations, or?

FB: No, I was, uh, I got married at age twenty.

BB: Oh, OK.

FB: So, uh, I was still an undergraduate.

BB: Right... So, how did you view your college experiences at the time, when you were studying?

FB: Oh, I thought they were great, uh, my upstairs neighbor was Birch Bayh.

BB: Really. Wow!

FB: Yeah, later—in fact, he was made Speaker of the House while [0:13:00] he was still in law school.

BB: Wow. That's interesting.

FB: Yeah. He and Marvella, his first wife, lived up above us.

BB: Wow. So, in college, did you already start to develop sort of a political identity, or? What was your awareness of politics at the time?

FB: (Sighs) Well, wasn't very active.

BB: OK—

FB: Um, I was, I was aware of politics, I followed it, but I can't say that I was active.

BB: OK. Alright. So, did you... I suppose you didn't have many conversations with your family about politics or anything at the time, or?

FB: No, not many.

BB: OK. So, what was your first job out of college and law school?

FB: I practiced law with my father.

[0:14:00] BB: Wow. OK. Excellent.

FB: And, and we had a two-man firm, later on a three-man firm, and uh... then I, I served in the Senate at that time. And then later on, um, I left the firm and went to Indianapolis where I was a lawyer.

BB: OK.

FB: And I, and I did, uh... I practiced utility law.

BB: Interesting.

FB: I was, I was a lawyer for AT&T, who was a client. And, uh, uh... I was the first lawyer for, um, for Verizon in Indiana. It was then called, uh... General Telephone-something.

BB: Oh, OK.

FB: Uh, but, but [0:15:00] then it became Verizon. And I—so I did a lot of utility work for a lot of utilities.

BB: Sure—

FB: Big ones and small ones.

BB: OK, wow. Interesting... So, I guess, the next one—

FB: And then, well, and then, after a few years, uh, there was an Indiana Gas Association.

BB: Oh, OK—

FB: Uh, and I was asked if I would run it so, uh, and I said yes. So I went to practice, I think, for something like sixteen years. I was President of the Indiana Gas Association. It has since been merged with the Electric Association.

BB: OK.

FB: And I—I think it's called the Energy Association now.

BB: Oh, OK. Interesting... So, moving back to your family, uh, what year did you get married?

[0:16:00] FB: 1956.

BB: 1956. OK.

FB: Mmhmm.

BB: And what was your wife's name?

FB: Mary Lou.

BB: Mary Lou. OK.

FB: And her maiden name was Liepse: L-I-E-P-S-E.

BB: Oh, OK. And did you have any children?

FB: We have two daughters. One still in Indiana, lives in Noblesville—

BB: OK.

FB: And the other one is in, um, South Carolina. 'Bout thirty minutes from where we are.

BB: Oh, OK. And, and what were their names?

FB: The one in, in Indiana is Nancy... uh, still, Nancy Biddinger.

BB: OK.

FB: The, the, the one here, in South Carolina, is Jennifer Funk: F-U-N-K.

BB: OK. And were they both born in Indiana, or?

[0:17:00] FB: Uh, no, Jennifer was born in Germany while I was in the Army.

BB: Ahh, OK. Wow. Interesting.

FB: And Nan—Nancy was born in Indiana.

BB: OK. So, did your family have, uh, much impact on your career?

FB: (Sighs) Well, I don't—I don't know how to think about that.

BB: Yeah, I guess, uh—

FB: Uh—



BB: Perhaps, did your career development... change after (FB interjects) having a family?

FB: I think, I think my children were upset when I lost the bid for reelection. I wasn't, but they were. (Laughs)

BB: Ohh, OK. Yeah. (Chuckles) So yeah, I guess, now, turning towards politics, how did you first become more seriously involved in politics?

FB: That's a good question. Um... [0:18:00] Well, you know, in those days... you could not adverti—if you were a lawyer, you couldn't advertise.

BB: OK.

FB: And the on—the only way to get noticed, or the usual way to get noticed, was to run for office. And people would get to know your name.

BB: Sure—

FB: And they'd get to know you're a lawyer. And they might hire you.

BB: Interesting.

FB: And my dad encouraged me to run for office—he did not encourage me to get elected.

BB: Wow.

FB: And after I got elected, he said, “Y—you dummy.”

BB: (Laughs)

FB: “You weren't supposed to get elected, you were supposed to just run.”

BB: Wow. So—

FB: And, uh now, now, of course, you can advertise.

BB: Right, right. So, when you first... ran for office, was it... more because you wanted to get your [0:19:00] name out there as a lawyer, or was it because—

FB: Yes.

BB: OK.

FB: Yes.

BB: OK.

FB: I didn't think I had any—I thought I had no chance of winning.

BB: (Chuckles) Surprise! Yeah.

FB: It was a surprise.

BB: So, what shaped your political outlook?

FB: (Sighs) I think just life, my life experiences, um... I... I, I don't consider myself... liberal or c—I guess I consider myself conservative—

BB: Right—

FB: But I have a lot of liberal viewpoints, so I, you know, who knows?

BB: Sure—

FB: I think it's just, what, the things that happen to you in life.

BB: Right. Yeah, that makes sense—

FB: [Unintelligible] Let me, let me give you an example.

BB: OK...

FB: When I was practicing—first practicing law... if I had a woman come in who was pregnant, [0:20:00] and wanted an abortion... it was against the law for me to advise her... on how to get that abortion. And it was against the law for her to have an abortion. Well... What's that leave her? A, a coat hanger in the bathroom?

BB: Yeah, wow—

FB: To abort herself? So, what I did was said, I would say, "I can't tell ya, but if I were you, I'd get on the airplane and go to New York."

BB: Wow.

FB: Because in New York, you can get abortions without goin' to jail.

BB: Right. True.

FB: And, th—one of the first... Just tryin' to think—one of the first bills I introduced was a liberalized... abortion law in Indiana.

BB: Interesting!

FB: Uh, a-and that's, of course that's why [0:21:00] I wanted to do that, was because of my experience as a lawyer—

BB: Right—

FB: And seeing women in trouble. And, uh... A-and one other thing I (chuckles) did: I introduced a bill to allow women to sit at bars... A—when I was first elected, in that era, a woman could not go in a tavern and sit at the bar.

BB: Wow—

FB: She could sit at a table, but not at the bar. And I just thought that was stupid.

BB: Right. Wow.

FB: And now, that's not the kind of bill you in-introduce when you want to get elected, yeah?  
(Laughs)

BB: Right. Right (chuckles), yeah, yeah. That's right. (Chuckles) S—

FB: I just thought it was the right thing to do.

BB: So—

FB: But that's another thing that shapes your, your view of politics.

BB: Oh, definitely, yeah. I'm sure that has quite the impact... So, when talking about [0:22:00]  
the, your first bill that you sponsored, the abortion bill, what was—

FB: Mmhmm—

BB: The reaction across the board in the legislature when you introduced that bill?

FB: I don't think there was one.

BB: OK. Was it—

FB: It was just, just one of the many bills—

BB: Yeah. So wa—

FB: And it was, it passed.

BB: Right. S-So, it really wasn't debated much, or?

FB: No. Uh-uh.

BB: OK. Interesting... So, in your career as politician, and as you became more involved in politics, what were the key issues or legislation that you sponsored or fought against?

FB: The, uh, primary—the one that comes to mind every time I think about it—

BB: Yeah—

FB: Is... (Sighs) Again, when I was a young lawyer, when I was a [0:23:00] young senator... I think I was only twenty-nine when I was elected... We elected, in Indiana, appellate and Supreme Court judges. They had to run for office... I think my predecessor in the Senate, who was a friend of mine, a judge... may have introduced, uh, a Constitutional Amendment to change that from electing judges to appointing them.

BB: OK.

FB: A-And I sponsored it in the Senate, and after it passed, uh, I became president of an organization that was trying to get people to vote for it.

BB: Ahh, OK—

FB: And I went all over—and I went all over the state doing that. [0:24:00] And it passed.

BB: Wow.

FB: And th-that's how we select judges today, as far as I know, anyway, unless something—unless something's changed.

BB: (Chuckles) Yeah! (Chuckles) So, what was the, the primary reason, then, for, for this bill—could you describe it for people that aren't familiar with it?

FB: Well I— (Sighs) I think it was to try to get the most qualified men or women... Uh, who wouldn't be influenced... in their decision-making by having to run for office.

BB: Right.

FB: And, um, and left it up to a committee to select candidates... and then the Governor to choose from those candidates. And then, I think, it's [0:25:00] every ten years they, they are on the ballot, whether to... uh, retain them in office or not. And I think they almost always retain them.

BB: Interesting, wow... So, my next question is, did you have any national political heroes or any state or local political heroes?

FB: You know, that's a good question and I've never thought about it.

BB: (Chuckles)

FB: Um... I really haven't!

BB: OK.

FB: I've—I'm, I'm, I'm an admirer of Ronald Reagan.

BB: Right.

FB: Of, um... Oh, the old senator from Illinois who was the head of the Senate for years—D-Dirksen!

BB: OK.

FB: I always admire—I always admired him. Um, [0:26:00] I guess my dad would've been my local hero—

BB: Sure—

FB: He, by the way, ran for mayor in 1947—

BB: Wow! OK—

FB: And lost, and lost by two votes.

BB: (Chuckles) Oh my gosh!

FB: And he would not—he refused to have a recount.

BB: Yeah—

FB: He said to the pre—he said to the press, “If I have a recount, I might lose by three votes!”

BB: (Chuckles)

FB: And, and The Indianapolis News, which no longer exists, named him Sportsman of the Year.  
(Laughs)

BB: Wow!

FB: For, for not getting—for not having the recount—

BB: Oh my gosh—

FB: I’ve always thought that was a funny story. (Chuckles)

BB: (Chuckles) That is funny. (Chuckles)

FB: And the—and he is just kind of a hero of mine.

BB: Oh, of course, definitely... So, going back to, I guess, right before you officially became [0:27:00] a politician, I-I know you mentioned already that... it was—you mostly tried to get your name out there when you ran for the Senate, but, uh, what did your campaign emphasize?

FB: (Sighs) Um... The sales tax had just been started in Indiana.

BB: OK.

FB: Prior to that time, there was no sales tax.

BB: Right.

FB: And I ran—I ran on... Well, several things, but one of ‘em was getting rid of the sales tax on groceries.

BB: Oh, OK.

FB: And, uh, got it done! Got elected and got it done.

BB: Wow.

FB: And that’s, uh, that seems to be... the one I remember the most.

BB: Right... And, how would you describe your campaign [0:28:00] strategy?

FB: I don’t know that I had much of a strategy (BB chuckles), to be honest with you—

BB: Yeah—

FB: Um. I—(sighs) I went to meetings where... you know, Republican meetings, or, or, uh... Other meetings where I could speak—and I was asked to speak and my opponent was asked to speak.

BB: Right.

FB: And, uh... and we would debate. Um... I ran against both, in both elections against Wayne Townsend.

BB: OK.

FB: Who had, who had been in the House before that. And he was from the Hartford City area.

BB: Interesting. OK... So, what was your first election day like?

FB: Well, it was a surprise! (Laughs)

BB: Yeah. (Chuckles) I bet! [0:29:00] (Chuckles)

FB: (Laughs) Um... I think I worked. I mean, I went to the office and worked (BB chuckles); I didn't... I didn't go out to the polls or anything.

BB: Right.

FB: And, uh...

BB: How did you f—

FB: Then when they, when they counted the votes, my dad was mad at me for gettin' elected. (Laughs)

BB: (Laughs) Right. (Laughs) And how did you feel about that?

FB: Oh, I was kind of excited.

BB: Yeah, OK—

FB: I thought that, I th-thought that'd be a neat thing to do.

BB: Yeah! Definitely.

FB: Yeah. And I looked forward to it. And, and it was a great experience, I loved being in the Senate. I had a lot of friends... and, uh... I hope I did some good, you know.

BB: Yeah—what were your thoughts on, on the next election cycle that you were in?

[0:30:00] FB: Um, well, I had the same opponent.

BB: Yeah.

FB: And I didn't do—I didn't... In the first election... I... I had fifty dollars to run on—

BB: Wow—

FB: Of my own money.

BB: Wow—

FB: And somebody gave me maybe a hundred dollars. And in the second election, I didn't put my own money in the campaign—I was able to raise some money. People would have, uh... Uh, fundraisers for me. But it still wasn't much money.

BB: Right.

FB: Um. You know, you did a little a-advertising on, in the newspaper... I don't think there was any TV at the time.

BB: Sure—

FB: Or, if there was, no-nobody used it. [0:31:00] Um... It—I don't know, it wa—I don't think it was much of a campaign.

BB: OK. S—

FB: And I lost by a couple hundred votes.

BB: Right. OK... So—

FB: And I—and I never ran again.

BB: Yeah.

FB: E-even though my friends in the Senate changed the district to get me in what would've been a surefire seat, then I just stopped—by that time I was busy practicing law and doing other things—

BB: OK—

FB: I just didn't have the time.

BB: Interesting. So... when you were first elected, uh, what were you thinking when you walked into the Statehouse the first time? ...As a senator?

FB: Well (sighs)... I guess I'd probably been there before, but I thou—I was kind of impressed, [0:32:00] I thought it was a, kind of a neat building.

BB: Right.

FB: And, uh, and I looked forward to, uh, being a senator and being called Senator and I thought that was kinda nice, and everybody I met was nice—I liked the Republicans and Democrats. Probably my best friend in the Senate was a Democrat.

BB: Oh, OK—

FB: And, uh... and, uh, I-I don't—I think I liked everybody I met—the staff was wonderful, and, you know, in those days... In fact now, even later on, in my career, they had a whole... office full of people that helped write legislation, and, you know, prepare it and shape it. In those days, they used a part-time attorney [0:33:00] who came from Huntington, Indiana, and I can't remember his name, and he would say to—I'd say to him, "I want a—I want a bill that does this

and this and this,” and he’d say, “OK. Be right back.” And he’d go in and pull out a bill just like it, already—that had already been introduced years ago.

BB: Oh, wow!

FB: And say, “How ‘bout this?” (Laughs)

BB: (Laughs)

FB: I’d say, “How’d you do that?” He said, “Oh, there’s nothin’ new,” you know, everything’s—

BB: Oh my gosh!

FB: So I—I always thought that was funny.

BB: That is funny. What were your expectations for the legislative process when you first started as a senator?

FB: I don’t know that I had much because I didn’t really—I had never watched the legislative process.

BB: OK.

FB: I was twenty-nine years old, I was... [0:34:00] had been busy practicing law, and three years in the Army, and...

BB: Right.

FB: Uh... You know, raising a family and, uh—I don’t know what—I don’t know that I had any expectations.

BB: Sure. Did the process seem complicated at all, or?

FB: Well, not particularly.

BB: No? OK, good. And—so, how did you exactly learn, sort of, the ins and outs of state politics when you were there?

FB: Um (sighs), mostly by listening, um... They had a very active... Uh, I can’t remember his name, uh, I should... uh, Republican County Chairman in Indianapolis. And a very active one in my hometown who also was a lawyer.

[0:35:00] BB: OK—

FB: And, um, and I learned an awful lot from the two of them... And by keeping my eyes and ears open.

BB: Right, right... So, how did you know the needs and wants of your constituents?

FB: Well, they let you know that pretty early.

BB: (Laughs) Yeah. (Chuckles)



FB: Um, I—there were, you know, I-I got a lot of phone calls, I got a lot of letters.

BB: Right.

FB: Not as ma—not at many as I thought I would get.

BB: Oh, OK.

FB: But, um... But I got some.

BB: And how would you respond to them?

FB: Um, I would call ‘em or write ‘em. And, uh, if I liked what they wanted, if I thought it was doable, I would ask that a bill be prepared to do that.

BB: Right.

FB: And, and [0:36:00] maybe send them a copy of it... And tell ‘em I was gonna introduce it and would try to pass it.

BB: OK. So, when you were interacting with other... assembly members, what were the interactions typically like—formal and informal?

FB: (Takes a breath) Well, they were mostly informal.

BB: OK. (Chuckles)

FB: We, we all knew each other by our first names.

BB: Right.

FB: We were not formal about talking about anything—we... If I had a bill and I wanted their vote, I would just go to ‘em.

BB: OK.

FB: And say, you know, “I’d like your vote on (coughs) this bill” and if they wanted to know more about it, they didn’t want to take my word, I’d be happy to tell ‘em—

BB: Right—

FB: What the effects were [0:37:01] and why and explain it to ‘em. And... After a while you know who to talk to and who not to talk to ‘cause some people aren’t gonna, aren’t gonna listen to you.

BB: Right.

FB: For whatever re—whatever reason. Maybe the subject matter, maybe somethin’ else.

BB: What were the interactions typically like between the different parties?

FB: You know, t-there’s very little difference between the parties. Um... It’s not like Congress, it’s not like what you see on TV every night.

BB: Right.

FB: Um... In our legislature, I considered virtually everybody a friend of mine.

BB: Wow—

FB: Um... and... You know, we'd go out and [unintelligible] together and, and, uh, tell jokes, and I said that [0:38:00] a Democrat was my best friend.

BB: Yeah—

FB: And we-we remained friends till he died and then he died way too young. He died at age sixty-six, and I was a good friend of his... uh, all of... the rest of his life and, uh, I knew his wife and I knew his kids, and uh... But I and—another senator who ran for governor, hell, he was great, I loved him. Guy named Bob Fair.

BB: Mmhmm.

FB: Um, from southern Indiana—he was funny and he was a good lawyer. I even, I even gave him some money to run for governor (laughs).

BB: Wow! (FB laughs) And what was your best friend's name, again?

FB: Bob Mahowald: M-A-H-O-W-A-L-D.

BB: OK—

FB: He was from South-South Bend. [0:39:01] Great guy—had a, had a leather store.

BB: Oh, wow, OK... Now, were there any differences between members of the House and Senate?

FB: (Takes breath) Not many. Um... No.

BB: OK—

FB: D-different, d'you mean, ill feelings, or?

BB: Yeah, I suppose—any, anything that might, sort of, suggest to someone that, you know, they... Uh, they sort of acted differently, perhaps, or, or if the organization was different. What would you say?

FB: Well, I was a very good friend of the Speaker of the House, Otis Bowen. And, in fact, I spoke at... at, I think, his first campaign event—although it wasn't called that—in his hometown. Uh, [0:40:00] and why they got me I'll never know, but I was happy to do it, and I have a lot of friends, uh... that were... in the House, both Republican and Democrat. You just, I—when you're there, you don't think about that.

BB: Right.

FB: Uh, you know it's, th—all you want is their name and their friendship.

BB: Sure. That's great... Who was your, uh, seat mate... in the Senate?

FB: I sat next to... hmm... What was his name? Doggone it! That's silly. He was from Huntington. Give me a second while I—

BB: Sure—

FB: Put on my reading glasses.

BB: No problem.

FB: Uh... (Clicks tongue in concentration) [0:41:00]

BB: Looks like you sat next to, maybe, Harrison and Snowden?

FB: Yeah. It was Snowden I was trying to think of. Yeah, Joe Harrison was a long-serving... uh, Republican senator, uh, and he was a graduate of, uh, the Naval Academy. And, uh—

BB: Oh, OK—

FB: I remember goin' to—I remember to goin' to a Notre Dame-Navy game with he and his wife—they were good people.

BB: Wow, OK—

FB: James Sno-James Snowden was funny.

BB: Yeah?

FB: James Snowden had a new joke every day! (BB laughs) They weren't all funny, but they were all jokes (chuckles).

BB: (Laughs)

FB: None of-none of 'em were dirty, they were all clean.

BB: Yeah.

FB: And, and, uh... [0:42:00] He was a great guy. But how he had so many jokes, I'll never know (laughs).

BB: (Laughs) Oh, my gosh. That's great. So, changing gears a little bit, could you walk me through the general process of generating a bill?

FB: Well (sighs)... First you got to have an idea.

BB: Right—

FB: And you might get—you might get that from a constituent, or you might get it from your personal experience—I mean, there's all kinds of ways to, to have a thought about a bill. And then, y-you would—I-I like to write my own bills. Um. I'm a lawyer, and I, I, I think I know how to write—

BB: Of course!

FB: Um... Bills—I, I would then take it to... [0:43:00] that lawyer I was tellin' you about that, that worked for us. Or to the group that succeeded him. And they would try to shape it up and bring it back to me and I'd look at it, and if it wasn't what I wanted, I'd tell 'em why or I would change it. And then... You submit it when you're ready, you submit it to... um, as I recall... to the front desk, and it gets dis-distributed to everybody.

BB: OK.

FB: And i-it gets assigned to a committee. By the pro tem. And, uh, or the-the leader. And, um... It goes to that committee and there are [0:44:00] hearings on it—I was a committee chairman. Um, of the judiciary committee. And, um... If it would come to my committee, we would have a hearing.

BB: Right—

FB: And I would, I would speak in favor of it, and if somebody wanted to speak against it, they were welcome to. And at some point, we'd take up a vote on whether to vote it out or not.

BB: Mmhmm.

FB: You vote it out, it goes... on the floor, and... it gets called for a vote and, uh, you debate it.

BB: Interesting—

FB: And then at some point—and there is an option, uh, an opportunity to amend it—

BB: Right—

FB: From th-from the floor. And, um, after that, it's voted on, yea or nay, [0:45:00] and if it passes, it goes to the House. Then, through that same process over there.

BB: And, how would you garner support for any legislation you came up with?

FB: Almost all of it, I just... counted on my speaking on the floor for it.

BB: Right—

FB: To be enough. If I thought something was controversial or if somebody raised a question about it, uh, I would go to them.

BB: OK—

FB: And, and talk to 'em about it.

BB: Interesting. And how was legislative business conducted outside of formal votes and committee meetings?

FB: Well... I-I'm not sure I know [0:46:00] how to answer that. Um...

BB: I s'pose—

FB: You know, you have access to, to your compatriots and you can talk about it at any time.

BB: Right.

FB: On or off the floor.

BB: Yeah... OK, yeah, that's, that's fair. And did you have a sense of how people would vote prior to actually voting?

FB: Yes. Almost always. Um, there were very few surprises.

BB: OK. And why was that?

FB: Well, you got to know people, and you got to know what you thought their reaction would be.

BB: Sure.

FB: Uh... And... What they thought, you know, what they thought about the particular area you were in, um, if it was a... criminal bill of some kind, [0:47:00] you knew who was, uh, uh, very likely to vote for a, a bill that was gonna put somebody in jail—they uh, there are a lot of hard-nosed people in there.

BB: Right... And what role did party leadership play in the legislative process?

FB: Very little.

BB: OK—

FB: I don't re-I don't recall a party leader... Maybe one time, coming to me, and saying, "You really need to support this or that."

BB: OK.

FB: It-it-it's just not—the p—there's not much politics there, at least when I was there, there wasn't.

BB: Right... So, I guess, in the, in the big picture, when it comes [0:48:00] to the relationship between the General Assembly and the general public, uh, what would you say the general public does not know about the Indiana General Assembly and how it operates?

FB: I don't think they know anything about it.

BB: Yeah?

FB: I think they are clueless.

BB: (Chuckles) Yeah.

FB: I would be at home, on a weekend, and more than... almost always, people would say to me, "Well, aren't you supposed to be in Washington?"

BB: Oh my gosh (chuckles).

FB: They all thought I was a... U.S. senator, I guess—they didn't know the difference between a state senator and a U.S. senator.

BB: Wow.

FB: And, uh... Uh, they just don't. And I'm living now in a building full of... people in their eighties and more, and they [0:49:00] don't, either.

BB: Wow.

FB: They just don't know.

BB: Yeah, that's... Wow. That's really interesting... What about—

FB: I'm always surprised at how little people know about government—

BB: Yeah—

FB: I'll tell ya a quick story—

BB: Yeah, go for it—

FB: One time, my, my wife and I and her parents went on a trip. Uh, and we went to Myrtle Beach and we went to Washington, D.C., and they could—the parents couldn't get over Washington, D.C. They thought the U.S. government was run out of the White House. They thought the whole government was in the White House.

BB: Oh, my gosh.

FB: They didn't know there was a Congress, not really. They'd heard of it, but they didn't think about it. [0:50:01]

BB: Wow.

FB: They didn't know there was an agricultural building, you know—

BB: Sure.

FB: Uh, and that's the way most people think.

BB: Wow.

FB: And I-I—I don't know if it's because the schools don't teach it or they just—or people just don't care, I don't know.

BB: Right. So, speaking of family, did your legislative service have an impact on your family life at all?

FB: Uh, not much.

BB: OK—

FB: Not much, because I was home every weekend. You know, it's not as though you have to fly back from Washington—I was sixty miles away, you know.

BB: Right, right—

FB: And, um...

BB: So—

FB: And there—one, one time (chuckles), one time, my dad called me, [0:51:00] and he had to open an estate, and it was a will that I had written and I was one of the witnesses.

BB: OK—

FB: And the other witness, the other witness, who was not available, and he said, “You’ve got to come home and sign this application to open the estate...” And I said, “Dad! (Exasperated sigh) You know, I’m busy, and... Can it wait till the weekend?” And he said, “No.” He said, “Here’s what you do: You go to the Governor. You tell him you want... the State Police to ferry you up here.”

BB: (Chuckles) Oh, my gosh.

FB: A-and, and by that he means the state cop pick you up at the Statehouse, drive you north for a few miles, there another one’ll pick you up, and so on and so forth until you get home, and then do the same thing comin’ back. [0:52:00] Well, I did. I said, “I’ll do that.” So, I go to the Governor... and (chuckles) he—Democrat governor, he doesn’t care—

BB: Yeah—

FB: He’s a lawyer, he would—he know—he understands.

BB: Right.

FB: And he said, “Oh, we’ll do better than that.” He said, um... “We’ll fly you up there.”

BB: Wow!

FB: Well, the, the State Police had, had a plane, and they—this governor didn’t believe in planes. He was a railroad lawyer. (Laughs)

BB: Oh, my gosh—

FB: Roger Branigin, he was a character!

BB: (Laughs)

FB: And, uh, he said, “I’m gonna fly you up there.” So I walk—he said, “There’s a—s-state trooper will pick you up at the... n-north end of the Capitol” and I walked out... and Bob Mahowald, my friend, was out there—and I said, “Hey, you wanna take a ride?” (Laughs) He said, [0:53:00] “Sure!”

BB: (Laughs)

FB: We went out, got in, got in the car, they took us to the plane. The plane had a dead battery. They had to replace that (laughs).

BB: Oh, my gosh!

FB: And we, and we flew up there—scared me to death, uh... And, and there was a state trooper waitin' and he took us downtown, I signed the petition, we got back in the car, got back in the plane, and flew back to Indianapolis.

BB: Wow—

FB: But that still is one of the scariest days of my life (chuckles).

BB: I bet (chuckles). So... In your work as a legislator, what would you say was the most controversial legislative issue during your time in the General Assembly?

FB: (Sighs) I don't remember one.

BB: Oh, OK.

FB: I don't re—I, I don't remember anything being very controversial.

BB: Interesting... [0:54:00] OK, fair enough.

FB: You know, the abortion law wasn't controversial.

BB: Right—

FB: The, uh, the, the... appointment of judges wasn't controversial. Um. Everything just seemed to go smoothly.

BB: Sure... And what piece of legislation did you work hardest on?

FB: (Sighs) Probably the, uh, appointment of judges—

BB: Right, judicial one, yeah—

FB: I would assume.

BB: And was that your proudest moment as a legislator?

FB: Up to a point, yes, and let me tell you what that point was.

BB: OK.

FB: I got all these guys appointed. They oughta love me, right?

BB: Sure.

FB: [0:55:00] They got a lifetime job—who's the first... Whose case is the first one they reverse? Mine. (Laughs)

BB: Oh, oh my gosh. (FB laughs)



FB: I was so mad at them! (Laughs)

BB: I bet. (FB continues laughing) Wow. (Chuckles)

FB: But, I guess they knew what they were doin'.

BB: (Chuckles) I guess! Wow. (Chuckles) (FB laughs) Man! That's tough. So—see, what committees did you serve on as a... state senator?

FB: Primarily Public Policy and the Judiciary A Committee—there was a judic-Judiciary A and a Judiciary B. The B Committee got bills that were meant to die.

BB: Mmhmm.

FB: Once they went in to Judiciary B, [0:56:00] they never came out—Judiciary A was where the good legislation went.

BB: OK—

FB: That pertained to laws and, and judges. And I was Chairman of that committee.

BB: Oh, OK—

FB: And I was on, and I was on Public Policy, which was another important committee.

BB: Right. How did you come to serve on those committees?

FB: Uh, I didn't ask for 'em. The, the leadership gave 'em to me.

BB: OK. Interesting... So, what would you say was the biggest hurdle you had to overcome during your time in office?

FB: (Pauses) Getting re-elected.

BB: Yeah.

FB: And I failed! (Laughs) I got beat. (Laughs)

BB: Righ—(chuckles) Yeah, true. Uh, what, in your opinion... would you say is the most [0:57:00] important work of the Indiana General Assembly?

FB: Oh, good question! (Clicks tongue) Uh... I think, in my experience, the General Assembly has done a pretty darn good job.

BB: Mmhmm.

FB: And I think they've done it because they keep their ear to the ground. They listen to what their... uh... what the voters want, and they try to do it.

BB: Right—

FB: And the—I think they've done a pretty fair job of that.

BB: OK. Good, good. How often did you have to work with, uh, the Democratic Party to get legislation done?

FB: Oh, all the time.

BB: All the time?

FB: Yeah. But they were friends of mine.

BB: Right. So that worked out well, then. Yeah.

FB: [0:58:00] Yeah.

BB: A—how important would you say was it to work with the other party? Or was it just kind of accepted as common, a c-a common thing to do?

FB: Uh, yes, it was. Um. We all knew that we had to work together and, uh, there wasn't any question about it.

BB: Right. OK. So, uh, my next few questions are—be about some specific legislative issues that I saw you worked on, going through your, your legislative history. Uh, for instance, one of 'em was in regard to a vote you made against a pay increase for state legislators during your time in office—

FB: Yes—

BB: Could you tell me a bit about that?

FB: Well (sighs), we didn't make much money—we made \$1800 towards a year—

BB: [0:59:00] Right—

FB: And twen-\$25 a day in session. And I didn't think we deserved, uh, uh—it was my opinion that y-you should serve for a few years and then get out.

BB: Right.

FB: That everybody owed something to their state.

BB: Sure—

FB: And that was my way of paying it back.

BB: OK. Wow—

FB: And I—and, and, and not the money.

BB: Yeah. That's interesting.

FB: And it, it was—you know, I had a room in the Columbia Club—

BB: Mmhmm—

FB: That cost me \$35 a week.

BB: Wow—

FB: Now, how cheap can that be, you know?

BB: Right. Sure. Interesting, OK. Uh, another piece of legislation I thought, uh, could be interesting to talk about was, [1:00:00] y-you voted against allowing a governor to have two consecutive terms? Why is that?

FB: I don't remember.

BB: Oh! (Chuckles) OK. (Laughs) Well...

FB: I c-I can't imagine that I voted against that.

BB: That's interesting.

FB: Huh.

BB: Yeah, I can look here at my notes... (Flipping pages)

FB: Maybe I was mad at the governor at the time [unintelligible]—

BB: (Chuckles) Perhaps. Uh. Yeah, let's see... Well. That's OK. We'll pretend that—yeah but—yeah, if you don't remember it, then yeah, doesn't, doesn't really matter much, so. (Chuckles)

FB: (Chuckles) I really don't remember! (Laughs)

BB: Yeah, yeah, it's—yeah, we'll have to double-check the records, then, on that one. So, uh... Did you have any role in, in any [1:01:00] Unigov legislation at all, or?

FB: Yes. I sure did.

BB: OK. Does—

FB: Uh—

BB: Tell me about that.

FB: I, I was, um... very much for Unigov. I thought it was a great idea—not the political idea—

BB: Mmhmm—

FB: But a great idea. I... I think Frank McKinney, the banker... asked a lot of Republicans to come to his office, a-and he lobbied for it. And I remember saying to him, "I wish you'd do it in my county."

BB: OK—

FB: Uh. I-it just seemed sensible to me—

BB: Yeah—

FB: To not have so many layers of government.

BB: Right. Right. Interesting. And so, I-I guess the main reasoning behind Unigov for you was just to... prevent, sort of, [1:02:00] excess government from preventing th... I guess, the legislative process, or just getting laws initiated?

FB: I, I think it was, I think it was just we don't need that many layers of government.

BB: Right.

FB: To, uh, to run a city or a county or a state.

BB: Sure. OK—

FB: And, you know, and... I have since lived... in states where they don't have townships—

BB: Right.

FB: Uh, where they don't have precincts. They don't have all the layers of government.

BB: Yeah.

FB: And, uh, they seem to get along alright.

BB: Yeah, OK. That's fair. And—so, what was the opposition's argument against Unigov?

FB: It was a political one.

BB: OK.

FB: Uh... The-the-the [1:03:00] old city limits contained Democrats, and the Republicans were all out in the county, and if you combined the two of 'em, you were givin' the Republicans a break.

BB: OK... Interesting... And, so, could you describe, I guess, in a little bit more detail about your role in the creation of Unigov?

FB: Well, I was just... (sighs) I liked the idea so much that I was... I lobbied for it in the Senate—

BB: Mmhmm—

FB: With my friends. I went to 'em and said, "You know, this is really a good idea."

BB: Right.

FB: "Let's do this. Let's see if it works."

BB: Yeah.

FB: And, um, I don't know if I influenced 'em or not, but they, they voted for it.

BB: Yeah, OK. Interesting. [1:04:00] Uh, moving on to another topic, uh, I noticed, in your legislative history, it appears... there were some debates going on regarding capital punishment? Could you tell me a bit (FB interjects: "Yeah") about your role in this debate?

FB: (Sighs) My father... (sighs) had had a, a, uh, murder case... and he was very anti-capital punishment.

BB: Oh, OK—

FB: And he con-he convinced me that that was not a very good idea.

BB: Interesting—

FB: And I just sort of took up the cudgel from, from him—

BB: Right—

FB: And, uh, sorta told people what he said.

BB: Sure—

FB: I hadn't had any experience at that point. [1:05:00] I have since tried murder cases, but I hadn't then.

BB: Mmmhmm. And so, what exactly did your father tell you that had such a big impact on you?

FB: Well, I think that, that, mostly that you can't recover from capital punishment—

BB: OK—

FB: If you find out the guy didn't do it—

BB: Right—

FB: You know, ten years later, he's dead ten years.

BB: Yeah—

FB: And, uh...

BB: Yeah, that's—

FB: In 1974... Um... The Governor appointed me as Consumer Counselor of the State of Indiana. And I represented the public in, uh... utility rate cases before the—what was that called? The Public Service Commission.

BB: OK—

FB: And I did, I did that for [1:06:00] seven years.

BB: Interesting, OK.

FB: And I had a lot of, uh, interaction with the General Assembly during that time.

BB: Oh, OK... Alright. Yeah, that's, that's another good detail to know.

FB: OK.

BB: So, going back to some of your legislation, you mentioned earlier about, uh, women not being allowed to sit in bars. I, I read so—

FB: Yes—

BB: I read something else about women not... (digital echo of BB's voice in background) uh, being able to be served alcoholic beverages. Um, or something in a bar?

FB: Well, I think that's probably the same thing.

BB: OK. Got it.

FB: They could go into the bars, they just couldn't sit at a bar.

BB: Right.

FB: You know, on a bar stool, and so forth.

BB: Ah, OK. [1:07:00] Alright. So, now moving on to... life after the Indiana General Assembly, uh, when did you—well, I guess you left the Indiana General Assembly after 1969, correct?

FB: Yeah. I lost the 1970 election, yes—

BB: Right. OK. And so, overall, how would you summarize your time as a state legislator?

FB: Well, I thought it was very satisfying. Um... I was happy with it.

BB: Good, OK—

FB: I thought I had, I thought I had probably done my best, and... and, um... did what I thought was right.

BB: What is your favorite story or anecdote during your time as a legislator?

FB: (Laughs) Well, th-they would all be [1:08:00] about (laughs) some other legislator.

BB: Yeah? (Laughs)

FB: There was (laughs), there was, uh, a, a, a senator—I'm sure he's dead now, but, uh—named Emil H. Schmutzler, Jr.... and he was a character, he was a jet pilot in the Air Force.

BB: Wow—

FB: He, uh (laughs)... He was—he didn't pay much attention to (laughs) about what's going on. (Laughs)

BB: Oh, no (chuckles)—

FB: He was a funeral, he was a funeral director. And... If somebody got up and said something he didn't like, he would go to the microphone and say, "Let me tell you: You can't hoot with the owls at night and soar with the eagles during the day."

BB: (Chuckles)

FB: And (laughs) everybody would just [1:09:00] roar!

BB: Oh my gosh (chuckles).

FB: And, and he would just let stuff pile up on his desk till it just... slid off of itself (BB laughs) and wai—you know. (Laughs)

BB: Wow!

FB: His nickname was Junie. Junie Schmutzler. He was a great guy.

BB: (Chuckles) OK. Interesting. Let's see, what lessons, if any, did you learn?

FB: Oh (sighs)... My guess is I probably learned a lotta lessons. But... One lesson I did learn...

BB: Mmhmm.

FB: Was hard work pays off. The harder you work, the better you do.

BB: Sure—

FB: The more you prepare, the better you do.

BB: Yeah.

FB: And, and I think I saw that all the time in the legislature.

[1:10:00] BB: Dep-definitely.

FB: And I, and I've seen it in life.

BB: Yeah... Yeah, that's, that's good. Did you have any regrets as a legislator?

FB: Only that I didn't get re-elected—I wanted to be president pro tem, and I think I had the votes—

BB: Ahh—

FB: To do that, and uh, then I didn't get re-elected. But I, you know, the truth is I didn't work hard at it.

BB: OK... So—

FB: 'Cause I had a, I had a law practice to run and a family to look after—

BB: Of course.

FB: It's—you know, for \$1800 a year?

BB: Yeah. Yeah. That's a lot to, to deal with at once for that.

FB: Yeah.

BB: So... What advice [1:11:00] would you give to future legislators or even current legislators today?

FB: Keep your nose clean.

BB: What do you mean by that?

FB: Be honest. Don't cheat. Um... Keep your nose clean and work hard.

BB: That's good advice. Um, I know that you live in North Carolina now, but, uh, how has the state of Indiana changed over the course of your lifetime?

FB: (Sighs) Well, I haven't lived in Indiana since... 2000, so it's been twenty years.

BB: OK.

FB: Um... I th—I've always loved Indiana. I thought it was a great place to grow up.

BB: Yeah.

FB: A great place to [1:12:00] practice law, to serve in the General Assembly. I just like the, the whole state.

BB: Yeah—

FB: North and south. And I think it's a state to be proud of.

BB: Sure.

FB: Um... We ha—I think we have a reputation of being... not just conservative, but practical. Practical people who do things... for a reason. And not a silly reason, but a reason. And I think we have that reputation and I think we earned it.

BB: That's great, yeah. Very good. Uh, do you know if the... or I suppose, just in general, how has the Indiana General Assembly changed?

FB: (Sighs) I, I, I guess [1:13:00] I don't know.

BB: OK, yeah—

FB: Um, they have computers on their desks now—

BB: (Laughs) Yeah, yeah, true.

FB: I would imagine—

BB: Yeah—

FB: And, you know, that's something we didn't have.

BB: Of course. Right.

FB: And we—they have cell phones and we didn't have those. So (BB makes a sound in agreement) the communication now is far better than it was.



BB: Right.

FB: Far better.

BB: Sure.

FB: And I think that oughta help ‘em.

BB: Yeah, definitely. Uh, so, talking about people from Indiana, a-and Hoosiers in general, what, if any, enduring qualities do Hoosiers still have or hold dear?

FB: Well, as I said, I think they’re, they’re practical people, they’re hardworking, they’re, uh, intelligent... Those are good qualities.

BB: [1:14:00] Absolutely.

FB: And, and I think, I think Hoosiers are known for that. I still talk to people about the word “Hoosier” and where it came from.

BB: (Chuckles) Yeah.

FB: And, and, you know, nobody knows.

BB: (Chuckles) Right, right... So, my final question, then, uh... What do you want Hoosiers to know about their role in relation to the function of the Indiana General Assembly?

FB: Well, I just want them to know more about the General Assembly—

BB: Right—

FB: I want them to know what it’s made up of, uh, when they meet, what they’re paid, what their function is, and I don’t think most people know.

BB: Yeah.

FB: You know—this is a change of subject, but last night, [1:15:00] I went to a presentation here in this building... on the music of Cole Porter. Cole Porter, in my mind, was the greatest composer of modern music.

BB: Mmhmm—

FB: And he’s from Peru, Indiana.

BB: Wow.

FB: And I’ve always been proud of that.

BB: Yeah. Well, that’s good. Alright, well—

FB: And I don’t, I don’t, I don’t hesitate to tell people that, either! (Laughs)

BB: No! (Chuckles) And you shouldn’t. That’s good. That’s good. (Laughs)

FB: (Laughs)

BB: Well, great! Um—

FB: Tell me, tell me somethin' about you, Ben.

BB: Well, I'll be, yeah, I'll be happy to do that, uh, in a minute. I guess j-just before we finish off with, uh, you answering questions, is there anything else about your time in the Indiana General Assembly, uh, that you want to be said?

FB: [1:16:00] Well, nothing that comes to mind right now.

BB: OK. Alright. Well, then I'll, uh, turn off the recorders, and—[interview ends]