

ILOHI Interview with Farrell Duckworth

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Bloomington, Indiana

Interview by Dr. Michella M. Marino

Transcribed by Dagny Villegas

MP3 file, Sony

Farrell Duckworth=FW

Michella Marino=MM

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[0:00]

MM: Okay. So, I'll just state for the record then that my name is Michella Marino and I'm here interviewing Farrell N. Duckworth and today is Tuesday, March 5th, 2019 and we are at his home in Bloomington, Indiana. Um, so my first question is simply when and where were you born?

FD: I was born in Fort Payne, Alabama in DeKalb County.

MM: Okay. Where is that at in Alabama?

FD: That's in the northeast corner of Alabama. Uh, I was born right at the foot of Lookout Mountain.

MM: Oh, okay.

FD: And uh...lived there most of my life.

MM: Okay and when is your actual birth date?

FD: November the 6th, 1933

MM: Okay. Um, what were your parent's names?

FD: My father's name was James K. Duckworth, just an initial.

MM: Oh. Uh-huh.

FD: My grandmother liked it and that was it and um, my mother was [01:00] Maggie Elizabeth Hartline Duckworth.

MM: Okay. Hartline being the maiden name?

FD: Right. Her maiden name.

MM: And were they both from Alabama originally or?

FD: My mother was. My dad was from northeast Georgia. It's uh ... well right up by Bald Mountain. It's part of the Blue Ridge Mountain and uh ... after my grandfather was killed my dad and the family moved to Dalton, Georgia and one summer, I believe it was, my mother was not teaching school in Alabama she went over to Dalton with some friends to get a job, summer job, and that's when she met my dad. I don't know how long they dated (chuckles), I don't but [02:00] they eventually got married in Fort Payne and then settled there.

MM: Okay. What happened to your grandfather?

FD: He was ... stabbed and killed by a gentleman that had been drinking too much and it was all over a farm. My granddad owned—had a farm and there was a farm for sale right next to him and he talked it over with my grandmother and they decided that yeah that would be nice to buy that and add it on. Well then he found out this fella who was a relative wanted to buy it and he went to him and told him, says, “You go ahead and buy it. I've got a farm. You haven't [03:00] and I don't really need it. It's just there next to me,” and see the guy says, “No. I don't have the money right now, so you go ahead.” Well granddad did and then he got to drinking one day, had too much, and came to the farm and granddad was just coming down out of the hayloft, I guess, and uh, from throwing some hay down to the cattle and the guy asked him, he says, “Judge, do you carry a gun?” He says, “No. I don't carry it. I don't carry a pocketknife,” and he, “I don't see any need for one,” and with that he pulled out a knife and stabbed him.

MM: Oh my gosh.

FD: And he died right, practically right, well [04:00] he collapsed, and my dad and his cousin came around the barn and saw dad, granddad fall, and the cousin went to—started with my dad after the guy that did the stabbing and granddad saw ... his cousin there, I can't think of his name right now, and called to him. He didn't see my dad and the cousin yelled at dad and says, “Let him go.” Says, “We'll get him later,” or something like that. You know? And they picked up granddad and carried him to the house and dad said just as they walked into the yard, opened the gate and walked into the yard they felt him go limp. So.

MM: Yeah. Oh, my goodness.

FD: He must have stabbed him in—hit a lung or something. You know? [05:00]

MM: Yeah. How old was your father at the time?

FD: He was about fifteen. Just a young kid.

MM: Yeah, I can't imagine.

FD: And of course, he grabbed his, granddad's shotgun and he was going after him and grandmother told him says, “Put it back.” Says, “Your dad shot the last shell the other day at a chicken hawk.” (Chuckles)

MM: Oh my gosh (chuckles)!

FD: See I don't know if he had or if she just did that to stop him you know?

MM: Yeah. Right.

FD: And of course, and they caught the guy and um ... later in court ... let's see. Oh, there was, what I was going to say is, the judge told my dad after he testified, he says, "You are very fortunate young man that there wasn't any shells [06:00] or I'd be trying you." He says, "Now if you'd of killed him there at the barn, self-defense," cause he was coming back with the same knife trying to stab my dad. So that's what happened to my grandfather.

MM: Oh, my goodness and so then I'm assuming your family sold the farm and then that's when they moved down to ...

FD: Yes.

MM: Yeah. Didn't want to stay there anymore, probably.

FD: Yeah.

MM: Wow. That's crazy. So, you said your father then, what, what did your father do for a living when ...

FD: Well, he was still in school of course at that time.

MM: Right. Right.

FD: And when they moved to Dalton, Georgia he got a job. Well, he was going to school and when he got out of school, he went to um ... work in the cotton, cotton mills making thread. Thread mills they called 'em [07:01] and he was there until he met my mother and then was over in Alabama and did construction work mostly.

MM: Okay.

FD: And World War II broke out his sister and her family was living in Detroit, Michigan at the time and uh, he went up to see about getting a job in one of the factories and doing government work because he was too old at that time for the draft. He was thirty-six, just out of the draft area but he wanted to do something, and he tried to volunteer for the Navy and didn't pass because he had broke a shoulder they said. He said it was just from carrying heavy [08:00] lumber on his shoulder and it pulled it down. And so, he went to work for Ford Motor Company and worked there 'til, I think it was forty-five they started cutting back and they wanted him to go to a job that he said he wouldn't take, and they told him says, "Well, if you [inaudible]" He says, "I'll take anything in the South. I want to get back down where it's warm." So, he went down and interviewed out Bechtel-McCone Aircraft there in Birmingham, Alabama and soon as they found out he had worked on Pratt and Whitney engines at Ford the guy wanted him right away. He says, "Boy anybody at Ford they know what—they've been trained right." And he was there

until the end of the war and when the war was over, we moved back up to Fort Payne [09:04] because we still had a home there. We never did sell the house there and we bought a—they had bought it. He and my mother bought a house in Birmingham cause you couldn't find a place to rent during the war and so they sold that, and he went into the trucking business. And was in that for oh, probably ten years, close to it. Sold the business, bought a cab company, ran that and after my mother passed away, he was seventy-three years old by that time, they sent him a letter from Montgomery that the state of Alabama's legislature had [10:01] changed the law on—in governing cab companies and he had to uh ... they upped his insurance on the cabs and he told me, he says, "I'm too old for this," and he says, "I'm gonna to have to start working," and he says, "So I'm just gonna shut it down," and he did and a couple of years later a friend came around and says, "I understand you've still got your franchise," and he said, "Yes," and we wound up selling it to him.

MM: Yeah. Okay. Wow. So, he had lots of different jobs that sound very successful. [11:01]

FD: Yeah.

MM: And so, you said, did your mom continue teaching after they married or?

FD: No, she uh, after I—well she did up until I was born, I think and then she went to work in the W.B. Davis Hosiery Mill there in Fort Payne. Fort Payne was the world capitol for hosiery, I understand or that's what they claimed. I don't know who gave it to 'em. They probably gave it to themselves but um, Bill Davis, the guy that owned the mill that was the—I know it was the largest one in town. He invented the cushioned sole sock and he made that all through the war for the soldiers and they—you could talk to him—and I know when I went into service fifty-four [12:00] the military was still buying those socks and man it was good you get out on a hike (laughter).

MM: Uh huh. I bet. Oh, my goodness. So, when your dad went up to Detroit during the war did you and your mom go too, or did you guys stay back down South?

FD: We stayed in the South until oh, school—no school wasn't out either. I transferred during the school year but anyway also houses were hard to find any place and he found a house to rent and we packed up, put everything all the furniture moved it in, stored it in one of the rooms and had someone rent the house out, minus that room (chuckles) and we went up to Detroit and I attended school [13:00] there until we ...

MM: Came back?

FD: ... went back to—well we stopped off in Fort Payne because I had a house there and dad was only ninety miles away at Birmingham until they could find a house there to buy and then I got transferred to Birmingham. I was in three different schools that year. I do not recommend it (laughter).

MM: Yeah. I bet (chuckles). That's a lot for a kid. Do you remember, or you know you were pretty young still but what do you remember of the war itself?

FD: I remember the air raids that they had in Detroit and they would bomb with sacks of, they said flour, but I don't think it was flour. That was a food, and they didn't waste it but some kind of sacks [14:00] and they were—I never saw any but I would assume they were small so they wouldn't hurt anybody, and they usually let us know the areas they were going to—because it was training and teaching the civilians to hit cover and we had uh, I think it was called the Home Guard, that older gentleman and I think there were some ladies in it too. They had a Air Raid Warden. That's what they were, and they had a steel pot that they wore on their head and they'd come around, "Get in on the porch! Get in the house!" You know? (Laughter)

MM: Wow. That's probably kind of scary at as a little kid, I can imagine.

FD: Yeah. Well, you know it was at first but then it was a way of life [15:00] and kids learn fast.

MM: That's true.

FD: Really, they do faster than us adults do (chuckles).

MM: So, did you have any siblings at that point?

FD: I had one brother and he was born 1940 and this was—we went to Detroit in early forty-two and so he wasn't in school. I was in third grade. My birthday being in November I got held back a year in starting and the school was real close, half a block from the house and so I went to school there but that only went through the third grade. Then I had to transfer to another school, (chuckles) down by where I lived first (chuckles). [16:00]

MM: Oh, my goodness! That's a lot.

FD: We could still walk to school. We lived in River Rouge, a suburb of Detroit and it wasn't a very big area and uh, one thing even back then that they had that I wish a lot of cities had today and I was in Detroit the last time just oh, ten years ago or less to see my aunt and West Jefferson Boulevard, we lived on the east side of it. The last school I went to was on the west side and it was a big, wide boulevard even back then. They had a tunnel that you went under and came up on the sidewalk on the other side [17:00] and uh so we never had to worry about ...

MM: Crossing the street, or?

FD: ... getting hit by any cars or anything like that.

MM: Yeah. That's smart.

FD: Yeah.

MM: Yeah.

FD: And I'd like to see that today.

MM: Sure. Sure.

FD: Not the over—they put overpasses in now and if kids want to be—get into mischief they get up there and throw rocks and things at the cars and that would be eliminated.

MM: Yeah. No. You're absolutely right. Despite all the moving around how would you describe your childhood overall?

FD: Well, it was different (laughter). For instance, when we moved back to Alabama it was right at Christmas time and Detroit promoted, [18:02] the school system promoted ever semester and uh, so here I got cut out and had to go down to Alabama and go back to school and the school there would not give me the benefit that—I was just less than a month from getting promoted to the next grade because they didn't, they promoted at the end of the year and they had half years up there every six months, or not every six months but half semester than the others and so [19:01] they said, "No. You've got to start in the grade that you were in there." Well, I says, "I was at the end of it. This is the middle of it here." It didn't make any difference so. I didn't agree with it but what's a little kid going to do (chuckles)?

MM: Right. Right.

FD: And then uh, before Germany surrendered, that same spring, I got transferred to Birmingham and oh that teacher just loved the grading system we had but there wasn't anything she could do for me. At the end of the year, I got promoted to where I should have got promoted back here and so that move cost me a year and I was already a year behind and I was getting, as a kid, I was getting irritated with this (chuckles). [20:04]

MM: Yeah. I bet. That would have been frustrating, certainly.

FD: Yes.

MM: Um, and I forgot to ask, what was your brother's name?

FD: My brother's name was James Jerrell Duckworth, yeah and it is spelled J-E-R-R-E-L-L.

MM: I see. Uh-huh.

FD: My mother picked Farrell for me because there was some movie star that she was crazy about as a young lady and so she wanted—she named me that and so he and he got the James from my dad and then after the war, this was in the spring of, well January of sixty, fifty [21:00], of forty-six and uh, my youngest brother was born.

MM: Okay.

FD: So, there's three boys and he is Sherrill Douglass, so she got him—all three names had to rhyme (chuckles).

MM: (Laughter) Now what does the N stand for or is it just an initial, too?

FD: No, it stands for my dad's baby brother that died as an infant, but his middle name was Newman and he wanted me named after him. So, I've got a name that long (chuckles).

MM: (Laughter) That's funny. A mouthful for a kid, I'm sure. Um, well who would you say were the most influential people in your childhood?

FD: Well, one was my great uncle, John Hartline. He was a minister [22:00] and uh he loved to tell stories and every time he came to visit, I would wind up settin' some place with him listening to a story and he told me one time, he says you—we were talking about him being a minister, good man and all. He says, "At one time I wasn't." I said, "What you mean?" He says, "I was known as the black sheep of the family." (Laughter) I said, "Woah, (laughter) what does that mean?"

MM: Yeah.

FD: He says, "Oh, me and the boys always gettin' into trouble." Says, "One time, believe it or not, I don't know how we got out as easy as we did," but said, "We were up on a hillside and there was railroad tracks below and there was a train comin' and we got a pole and pried a big boulder loose and it rolled down the hill and landed on the track." [23:06] But he said, "Train was able to stop." Says, "They didn't go very fast back then," when he was a youngin (laughter). He so that—he says, "So that got me the nickname of the bad sheep of ..." (Laughter) But he had turned his life around completely.

MM: Yeah. That's funny. Well what understanding, if any, when you were growing up did you have about your family's politics or political beliefs?

FD: Well, my mother's family was Republican. My dad's family was Democrat so I was brought up a Democrat cause even my mother said during World War II when we were in Detroit and Roosevelt was running for reelection the last time and she said she was gonna vote for him because she didn't think we should change presidents in the middle of a war [24:04] and so I don't know if she voted Democrat after that or not. I know my grandmother didn't (laughter) and so when I went to—got out of high school I went to Chicago and the first time I voted. I voted for Richard J. Daily for mayor. In fact, I think I voted a straight Democrat ticket but—and all my dad's family was Democrats. One of his cousins was the Chairman of the Democratic Party of Georgia during World War II and was called to Washington D.C. by President Roosevelt as an advisor.

MM: Wow.

FD: And another one was a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in Georgia [25:07] and um, Zell Miller, a Democrat, all Georgia Democrats and it was, it's funny about him. Good friend of mine that was a judge here in Bloomington and a Democrat, he and I were talking one day at the AMVETS post and he says, "I understand you're related to Zell Miller." I says, "Yes." He says,

“I really like that man.” I said, “Well, you should. He’s a good Democrat.” (Laughter) And he laughed. He says, “Yeah that’s true he is.” I says, “But don’t be too sure.” I says, “One of these days you may be sorry.” [26:00] And he looked at me funny, but he didn’t say anything and um, it was—oh Zell went out as Governor of Georgia and he was elected to or appointed to finish another Senator’s term by the Governor in Washington. That’s how he got up there and it was just too much for Zell. He said, “I can’t stand those liberal Democrats.” (Laughter)

MM: That’s funny (laughter).

FD: But he would not drop his party, so he just, just didn’t run for reelection.

MM: That’s interesting.

FD: He said, “That Bobby Kennedy, I can’t stand him (laughter), and I just don’t want anything to do with him.” [27:00] So at the national convention that year he was the uh, head speaker at the Democrat Convention. He also holds the title of being the head speaker at the Republican Convention that year (laughter).

MM: Wow.

FD: And when that happened, I called my buddy (laughter). I said, “Judge? What do you think of Zell?”

MM: Yeah. What do you think now?

FD: But he did not change his [inaudible]. He went back to Georgia, sat on his front porch, rocked in a house that his mother built. His father had passed away and he went down to the creek and got creek rock and helped her bring ‘em to the house and build a stone house.

MM: Wow.

FD: And that’s where he passed away, [28:02] about a year ago, I think.

MM: Oh, my goodness. It’s amazing.

FD: (Laughter)

MM: (Laughter) Funny, too but um ...

FD: So, I had a hard time to become a Republican, but I made it (laughter).

MM: Yeah, yeah (laughter). You were able to come on over. That’s funny. Alright. Um, you know, I know your family moved up to Detroit and I know you came up to Indiana in sixty-seven or so is that right?

FD: No, I came, came down to Indiana.

MM: Oh, because you were in Chicago, right?

FD: Yes. I went to Chicago to go to school and after I graduated from school there, I went to work for Hot Point in Refrigeration Engineering and worked in that until I got drafted in uh, fifty-six.

MM: Okay.

FD: And uh, then I was in for two years after I got discharged [29:02]. I had gone from Chicago to Montgomery, Alabama, got inducted in the service, and then to Columbia, South Carolina, Fort Jackson, got my basic training. From there to Washington D.C. to the Fort Belvoir the Corps of Engineering Headquarters is there and went to school on a guided missile electrical equipment repair.

MM: Wow.

FD: And they sent me right back to Chicago (laughter).

MM: Making a full circle there, I guess.

FD: Yep, and uh, I served out at Arlington Heights at the Eighty-six Triple A Missile Battalion. I went there as [30:00]—to be an inspector on the headquarters battery of all the line batteries and after about six months they did away with the headquarters battery, so I wound up in alpha battery which was right there on the same base as I was at and I finished up there and uh ...

MM: So, was it two years' service or?

FD: Two years of service, yes.

MM: Okay well let me back up there just a little bit. So where did you graduate from high school, down in Alabama?

FD: Yes.

MM: And what year was that then?

FD: Uh ... fifty-two.

MM: Fifty-two, okay. Well, it's hard to keep track of because you kept being all around everywhere.

FD: Yeah, it is for me, especially as I get older (chuckles).

MM: Yeah, and then you said you went up to Chicago to go to school is that Greer...?

FD: Greer Tech.

MM: Greer Tech. Okay, and that's an engineering school?

FD: It's a, yeah you get an associate's degree [31:01]. It's like a junior—you know?

MM: Yeah and ...

FD: In fact, I don't even know if they're still in business or not because there is another one up there that school, uh, DeVry. That's a University now.

MM: Yeah.

FD: They have really kept growing but I don't hear any more about Greer.

MM: So, what made you want to go to Chicago?

FD: To go to school.

MM: Yeah, I mean how did you even find out about Greer, I guess?

FD: Well, it was—I was in Chattanooga, had gone up Chattanooga to look for a job. Jobs weren't easy to find and I went to this one place to uh, I thought I was going to interview for a job but come to find out it wasn't a job. It was—there was a guy there signing people up to go to this trade college [32:00]. That's actually what I call it, trade college, because that's what I learned and so I got to talking to him and he said if I signed up for—I was going to go to diesel school and he said, "Oh you can get a good job in Chicago." Says, "We'll, in fact we'll get you a job when you get up there," and so I took it basically to get a job but then when I got up there, I was working for the school in the mail room and I got to know several people in the office and found out that they had Refrigeration and Air Conditioning and get associate's degree. So, I decided I didn't want to work on diesels after all (chuckles) [33:05].

MM: Yeah (chuckles). Go that route.

FD: And um, so I switched over then and then after I got out of school, they ...

MM: Is it about a two-year program or so?

FD: They had a two-year program, but I had gotten married and I was wantin' to get a better job and I got out sooner because I had had enough to qualify to be a Refrigeration/Air Conditioning Tech.

MM: Okay.

FD: And ... so I uh ... got a phone call from the school one day and they said, "Hey we" — they had got me a job at Pennsylvania Railroad, and I was supposed to be working on air conditioning

units on passenger cars [34:01]. Well, they didn't have any openings at the time, so I went to work in the—as an Electrician's Assistant in the shop there at the terminal and then ... I got a call from my school again and they had two better openings and I called—told me to call my buddy who had gone to school together, and I got ahold of him and one was with the Greyhound, so we went out there and it wasn't anything we were interested in. We might as well stay where we were because that was pulling air conditioning units out of busses and rebuilding it and putting it back in and that just told me it was temporary.

MM: Yeah.

FD: You get that job done you're out the door and [35:00] so then we went out to Hot Point and interviewed, same day and they sent us over to the Engineering Building on Jackson and Damon and um, we interviewed there. We liked it. Got a tour of the lab and what have you, where we'd be working and so we went back out and the guy says, "Well I got a call from 'em and they want you so." He says, "Here's what I can do," and made us an offer and my buddy says—he was only interested in one thing. He says, "Okay. That's just about what I'm making now." He says, "Well can I get over a hundred dollars? [36:00] Can I go up to over a hundred dollars?" That sounds funny nowadays. You start at more than that!

MM: Yeah.

FD: And uh, guy says, "Oh yeah. Yeah, yeah, you can definitely get over a hundred dollars," and he says, "I'll take it." Looked at me and I says—sat there and shook my head, "Uh-uh. Can't do it." I says, "My wife's expecting. I've got to think of that. It's a break even on a job. I've got to travel farther to work than I do now," and I said, "I just can't do it." I says, "You've got to, got to come up with some more bread." I said, "That's just not good enough."

MM: Yeah. Yeah.

FD: And he him-hawed a little bit and he says, "Well, I tell ya. Now just, you boys be patient here." He says, "I think I can give you a first six month pay raise." [37:00] I said, "Well, how much is that?" Well, he was at seventy-six dollars a week, I think because that's about what I was making at the railroad and so we talked back and forth a little bit and he says, "I can get you up about halfway to a hundred." I say, "I can probably work with that."

MM: Yeah. Yeah (laughter). Entice you a little more.

FD: (Chuckles) So when we walked out of there—and we got it, both of us, and when we walked out of there going back to the car parking lot Tony turned to me and he says, "Boy I could just grab ya and kiss ya!" (Laughter) I says, "Don't you try!" (Laughter)

MM: (Laughter) That's funny. Yeah, he wouldn't have had that without you, I don't think. Oh, that's funny. [38:01]

FD: But I just couldn't see doing that, you know? All the expenses I had coming up and I still had some—just like the kids today getting out of college or trade school or whatever, got a bill there to pay.

MM: Yeah. So, did you plan on staying in Chicago for a while? I mean, is that something you wanted or was it just wherever you were going to be able to find work?

FD: Well, it was a good job. It had a good promise. Hot Point was just getting into the refrigeration business. The lab had the only refrigerators that Hot Point had built had been built right there in the model shop because we were hired in as model makers and the government had a contract with Hot Point to build jet engines [39:00] and the government had built a new plant for 'em but they were—something came up and they got into some negotiations and the government gave Hot Point the plant to get out of the contract and Hot Point converted the plant to a refrigeration assembly plant and they had a warehouse right behind, across the tracks from it. They were in the process of remodeling it on the inside and we were there on Damon. It must have been April, I believe when we moved out to Cicero to the Engineering Building [40:00] and I worked there as a model maker 'til I was drafted. When I got out of the service I came back as a model maker then I went in as a lab tech over to the lab side working as a lab technician on the development of the polyurethane foam and after a time we started making some polyurethane foam parts across over in plant eight making a pan to go on the bottom of the refrigerator because you needed something with good insulation qualities because the compressor was settin' right under there and a lot of heat and then we started ... developing the side by side refrigerator [41:00]. We had some company up in Michigan that was building them for us, but we wanted to make 'em so. The model shop built up the refrigerator cabinet with a wiring harness in it and all and then they sent it to me. We picked it up and put it on a—in a mold. The plug went up in it to hold the sides in place. The sides came up to hold the outside of the cabinet and then it was up to us. I worked with two engineers, two chemical engineers, and we came up with different formulas 'til we got the one that worked real good and then we would pour them as they called it. Had a plug in the back and the nozzle would come down and go through the plug [42:01]. Spray the foam around in there in a liquid state and then it would start rising and the uh ... oh, we had freon 11 in it as a blowing factor to make it foam. We also injected another freon, well I think it was freon 11 at that time into it and to make it expand more and then a friend of mine that was over—well he had worked there in the engineering building where I was and we had purchased the plant down here and he said, "Why don't you transfer down there with me?" [43:00] He says, "I need somebody that knows somethin' about this polyurethane foam." I said, "Well, if the money's right." (Chuckles) I says, "It's always money [inaudible]." Says, "You know that." So, he says, "Okay. I'll see what I can do," and he was the Assistant Plant Engineer. I mean Plant Manager. Assistant Plant Manager and Manger of Manufacturing. I mean, yeah, Manufacturing Engineering and uh ... so we had talked about it quite a bit. One day I get a phone call. He had already had to come down.

MM: You mean to Bloomington specifically?

FD: Yeah.

MM: Okay.

FD: He had moved down here already. I get a phone call and it's him. He says, "You ready to move?" I said, "Well, I don't know." [44:00] He says, "Are you still interested?" I says, "Yes. I'm interested." So, he says, "Okay. I'll get the paperwork started to—for you to come down for an interview because I'd like for you to interview with the person that is gonna to be your boss," and so I uh ... said, "Alright." Came down for an interview and went back home and my wife says, "Well?" I said, "I don't know. They didn't say and I don't know. I'll hear from 'em." Well, she worked for Chatman and Cutler Law Firm in Chicago for one of the top lawyers. She was his secretary and he had uh—she was a fill in secretary at the time, but he had—I picked her up at the L tracks. She got off of the train. [45:00] She says, "I've got some news for ya." I says, "Yeah, I got some news today, too," and she says, "Well I want to tell you first." She says, "My boss offered me the job permanently," and think it was a five or six thousand dollar pay increase. And I, ooooooh! (laughter). She says, "Now what's yours?" I says, "I got a call from Bloomington and the job is mine," and they had offered me exactly what he had offered her (chuckles).

MM: Wow. Wow, that's tough.

FD: And I says—she's, "Well, I guess tomorrow I'll go back in to work and tell 'em I can't take it." I says, "Well, I hate to put you through that." She says, "No. [46:00] I've got to go where you go," and she says, "You're the bread winner. Not me. I'm just workin' because I want to," (chuckles) and—which was always nice because she did make good money. So, the next day I called Marvin and I said, "Okay," and I went upstairs and interviewed out with my boss, the manager of that department, and he said, "You know, I could keep you? I don't have to sign this paper to let you go. Keep you right here." He says, "But I can't do that to you." (Laughter)

MM: You're thinking after your wife has already quit probably. Oh, my goodness.

FD: Yeah, but I knew how he was. He was a character. So, next thing I knew I was down here and her and the kids were up there for a couple of months but [47:05] while I was waitin' to get a house built.

MM: Wow. Yeah. So, if we could back up just a couple steps there. So, you, so you were at school at Greer and then you were drafted for a couple years, then you came back to Chicago and worked before you came down to Bloomington, right?

FD: Right.

MM: You said somewhere in there you got married. Is that right?

FD: Actually, I got married on the way to Chicago.

MM: Oh. Okay.

FD: (Chuckles) When I—the first [inaudible] to go to school.

MM: Okay.

FD: My first wife and I had uh ... been talking about if I could get a good job you know, maybe getting married and so when I was goin' up to school and I knew I'd get a job and I knew I'd get a pretty good job we decided we'd get married so we stopped off we—a buddy of mine took us up to Chattanooga and then over into Roswell, Georgia and we got married in Roswell (chuckles). [48:11]

MM: And so, is this a girl from home?

FD: Yes.

MM: Okay. That you knew in high school or...?

FD: No. I met her after I got out of school. We hadn't really known one another too awful long and so then when I went in the service, she wasn't really ready to settle down and I started getting all kinds of reports on her and I didn't like 'em 'til I got one that said the city police had ran her—made her go home at two o'clock in the morning with my baby daughter asleep in the backseat [49:02]. Had beer cans all around the car and I said, "Ah-uh, uh-uh. That's my daughter. Can't happen." And I was in—back in Chicago at the missile base at that time, went in and told my sergeant I says, "I need a leave," and I say, "I know I don't have the time coming," and he says, "Well, tell me what you need it for, and I'll see what I can do," and I told him. He says, "Go pack your bags." He says, "The old man's got to sign this," but he says, "He'll sign whatever I lay in front of him," and he gave me a leave and I took off, went home, got in on Friday afternoon.

MM: By home you mean your house in Chicago?

FD: No. Alabama.

MM: Oh. She was still back in Alabama?

FD: Yeah.

MM: Oh!

FD: I had moved her back down there [50:00] because my draft board was down there you know, and so I took off enough time to get her moved back and she was there, single, had a car to run around in and so I uh ... called a buddy of mine and we went out. I said, "I've heard" —told him, I said, "I heard all these rumors. My dad's kept me up to date, told me things that's goin' on and I believe him, but I got to see for myself and he says, "Okay. Get in the car," and we took off. And we were out 'til pretty close to midnight and we had seen her car pull up. Her grandmother and aunt—we lived on the corner [51:01] and I had rented the house right next door and I had seen my car parked alongside the house and so we had gone where we could park and the corn was cut and we could see across the field and see what was goin' on and some guy, somebody, we couldn't tell it was night, got out of the car and ran into her aunt's and two people came back out and got in the car and they took off and went passed us and of course my car was still sittin'

and we had to turn around to follow ‘em and sort of lost track of ‘em but we thought we still had ‘em in sight (laughter) [52:00]. We followed ‘em—this car up Lookout Mountain to the top and Lookout Mountain has a plateau. It levels off when you get on top for many miles and we’re following ‘em across the mountain, top of the mountain there and he says, “You want me to pull up closer?” Because he’s way back and I says, “No,” and finally I says, “Yeah, let’s get this over with.” So, he’s drivin’ this big Lincoln (chuckles) and he roars up right on their bumper, lights on bright and two high school kids in the backseat scared to death! (Laughter)

MM: Oh no. So, it wasn’t them at all? Oh no. (Laughter)

FD: Wrong car (laughter) so we turned around [53:01].

MM: Were you guys mad or did you laugh?

FD: We laughed. No need to being mad (laughter). So, he says, “I hate to tell you this, but I’ve got to go in. I’ve got to work tomorrow. I’m not like you.” (Chuckles) So, he was still at home. He lived at home and he and his parents lived right across the street from my mother and dad. So, we went back. He dropped me off at the house. I went in and I told my dad, I says, “Can I have the keys to your cab?” I says, “Nobody’ll know it’s me if I drive that,” and he says, “Okay but now I’ve got to have that by six o’clock in the morning cause I’ve got some old ladies I’ve gotta pick up and take to work.” (Chuckles) [54:00] And um, so I says, “I will,” and I turned around, my dad always wore a fedora, and I picked his hat up and he said, “What are you gonna do with that?” I said, “I’m going to wear it.” So I put it on and there was people saw that and wondered what that car was doing out all night because they knew that was the one my dad drove and so we—I go driving around a little bit down south of town and around a truck stop, back out, back up into town and still hadn’t seen anything so I thought, “Well, I’m going to pull in that alley across the street from the house and I can park in the alley and I can see the house.” So, I sat there ‘til I fell asleep and then I woke up and the sun was coming up and I thought, “Well, [55:02] nothing’s changed and I got to get the car back to my dad.” So, I went up to a gas station and put gas in it and all. Coming back down the street I get almost to that intersection and there is a car parked behind her aunt’s house now. My car is still where it was and that one’s settin’ there and I pull up and I slowed down and I thought, “Well, I got to get to the house now. No. Dad’ll just have to wait a minute.” I turned a corner, stopped and all the sudden I saw a blonde head go down, scooted down the seat. I said, “That’s it,” backed up, turned in. I got about halfway to ‘em and I just—it was stick shift. I knocked it out of gear and started getting out and it rolled into ‘em and hit ‘em [56:06]. Well, with that hat on she thought it was my dad. She didn’t know I was in town and I always was told that I favored my dad a lot, but she thought it was dad and I walked upside of the car, on the driver’s side, pecked on the glass, guy rolled his window down, says, “What can I do for ya?” I says, “You tell her get out of that car and get in that house,” and he says, “Well.” I says, “You keep your mouth shut. I’ll get to you in a minute,” and she started to swear at me [inaudible] she thought it was dad again and I leaned down, took the hat off and I says, “I mean it.” [57:00] Oh, her face dropped, she got out and almost ran to the house.

MM: I bet.

FD: And I said, “Now. I’m gonna take care of you. When I get back to the street, you better be as close to me as your bumper is right now and I don’t want to ever see you in Fort Payne, Alabama again.” I backed out and he was—I think he pushed me out and last time I saw him he was headed north for Georgia (laughter).

MM: (Laughter) Didn’t have to worry about him anymore. My goodness.

FD: So, I don’t know if he came back or not. Went around and pulled in behind my car and went in the house and I says, “Where’s my daughter?” She says, “With a babysitter.” I says, “I want her.” She says, “I’ll go get her.” I says, “No. We’ll go get her.” [58:00] So went out and got in the cab. I went over to this place, this house, friends of hers, and got my daughter, went back to the house, went in, got a change of clothes all for her. She says, “What are you going to do?” I says, “I’m taking her with me.” I say, “I’m not leavin’ her in this that you’re raisin’ her in,” and I says, “My attorney will talk to you later,” and so I went to my mother and dad’s, took her in and dad was just about ready to be ready for me to come in the door and so I came in and gave her to mother and my clothes and asked dad, I says, “Would you take me back down to the house so I can get my car?” [59:00] I went back, I got my car, went home and went to bed (chuckles).

MM: Yeah. I bet you’re tired at that point.

FD: That afternoon I went to town, saw my lawyer, talked to him and uh ... we talked quite a bit and he says, “Well, what you told me,” says “We shouldn’t have any problem, but you know it’s hearsay and it’s you repeating it.” He says, “Can we get some witnesses?” And I says, “Uh, pick up the phone, call the city police and whoever answers the phone tell him you want him as a witness.” I says, “From what I understand there’s not a police officer down there that hasn’t seen what was going on,” and I says, “If they do give you any problem” [1:00:00] I says, “ask for the chief because the chief and I went to school together,” and uh, so I left, stopped and talked to his secretary for a minute. She was a girl I went to school with and, in fact the last time I saw her was at high school (chuckles) and I went out and got in my car, went home, told mother and dad what had happened, and he had told me, he says, “Now, do you want me to get in touch with your ex-wife or do you want to let her know or what?” I said, “Ah, nobody’s takin’ this privilege away from me. Nah, I’ve been through too much.” So, I went up to the house. She wasn’t there [1:01:00] and so I just went off, didn’t even stop. Later that evening I went by again and the light was on in the living room so I pulled in the driveway and went in and it was just her and she uh, “I can’t do anything. My lawyer’s out of town.” I said, “I don’t care where your lawyer is. Mine’s in town and he’s going to do this.” I says, “He has made one offer and it’s one time. If you agree to let him draw this up and don’t contest it, you won’t have to pay for a lawyer. My lawyer will handle it all and before we go, it goes to the judge he will give you [1:02:00] —he wants us both in his office.” This was Satur ... no, yeah it was Saturday night that I was talkin’ to her about it. Monday I went by where she worked, picked her up when she came out, drove down to his office, went in and introduced ‘em and I’m settin’ over here and she’s settin’ over here (chuckles) and he says, “I’ve got both of your statements already typed up,” and he hadn’t even spoke to her and he read what I had told him and I was chargin’ her with adultery and oh when he read that she came out of the chair. He said, “Just set down. [1:03:00] You have a say, too and I haven’t read what you have to say. This is him. His charges.” So, after he got through, he said, “Do you agree with this that this is basically what we talked about?” I said, “Yes.” He

says, "Alright. You don't" —started to have me sign and he says, "Nope, nope. You don't sign it yet." He says, "Tomorrow morning in front of the judge," and he turned to her and he read her statement and he said, "And you deny any adultery." He says, "Because you have to." She says, "I do?" He said, "Yes. In the state of Alabama, it's a prison sentence for adultery [1:04:00] (laughter) and I don't want to see you go to jail," and so she signed it and he told me he says, "Can you have your mother here in the morning?" Cause I was having my mother, cause I was in the Army at the time, he made legal guardian while I was in the service cause I couldn't take her with me and uh, so ...

MM: Was your mother okay with that?

FD: Oh yeah. I'd already talked to her and I knew she would [inaudible]. She didn't have any girls and this was her chance to have a daughter, (laughter) not a granddaughter.

MM: And how old was your daughter at this point?

FD: Three years old.

MM: Three. Okay.

FD: And so, I—we went out and I took her back up to her house, dropped her off, [1:05:02] went home, told 'em what was the deal, told mother, I says, "Can you be ready in the morning to go down and see the attorney?" And so we went down, and the attorney read her statement, had that all typed up that she would accept legal guardianship and uh, then we followed him over to the courthouse, went in and the court clerk came out and witnessed me signing and my mother signing, and he had had his secretary sign on my wife's statement and um, he says, "Well, that's it. I can take care of it from here." Says, "I am due in the Judge's chambers in just a few minutes." He says, "Stop back by this afternoon. I'll have your divorce for ya." [1:06:07] I say, "Okay," and sure enough he—and again he said, "Now here's your copy and here's her copy." I said, "Oh, give me that." (Laughter) I say, "I want to take that sucker to her," (laughter) and he's, "Well just don't get nasty." I said, "Oh, I'm not gonna get nasty. It's too late for that," and so I took it up to her and I says, "There you are. There's your freedom. Do whatever you want to now."

MM: Wow. Was she resistant at all about you taking your daughter?

FD: Well at first she didn't want to give her up. I told her, I says, "Look, I'm trying to make this as easy as I can on you because my family is well known in town [1:07:03]. My mother's family was pioneers in settling Fort Payne. They came over the mountain by horse and buggy from Rome, Georgia and I says, "My mother taught school here. She went to school with teachers that taught me in school and taught her brother and sister, younger than her in high school and taught my two brothers in high school," (laughter) and I says, "and this attorney that I've got his father was a judge." I says, "Now, if you want to fight me you can drag it out but you're gonna lose and I'm giving you an easy out," and I agreed with the attorney to give her [1:08:00] rights to—she gave me full custody but she had rights for reasonable times of visitation, and it was pretty much that she could visit any time she wanted to as long as it wasn't unreasonable. She didn't come

around that much. Uh, she came to visit—I think my grandmother who was living with my mother and dad said that she came up two or three times to visit and finally one day after she left my daughter said, “Grandma,” says, “I just wish she wouldn’t come see me anymore.” She said, “I almost cried with her,” (chuckles) and then I, uh, [1:09:00] —three, it was about three years, four years later I got married again. By that time, I was out of the service, (clears throat) back to work at Hot Point and uh, my wife...

MM: Is it Sandra?

FD: Yes. Went—well she went down to visit my mother and dad to get acquainted with ‘em and ...

MM: Was she from Chicago or?

FD: Yes. She’s from Chicago. She’s full-blooded Norwegian (laughter) and so we went down to visit and that was a couple of months before, a month or two, no more than two months before we got married and we’re getting married in Chicago [1:10:00] and my parents were planning on coming up. My brother, younger than me, he was in the service by now and he was taken leave and he was in New York and he came out to Chicago to the wedding and we got married in the Lutheran church there. She was Lutheran and so my parents didn’t get to make it up. I think my mother got sick or my dad got sick, one or the other and they weren’t able to make it so my daughter didn’t get to be there, but I had also made arrangements with my mother that she would take care of Toni until—for a year after we got married to give us a chance to get to know one another you know as a couple [1:11:00]. Not just seeing one another for the evening and “Bye. Talk to you tomorrow,” and so she said that she would. Well, it wasn’t quite a—we hadn’t been married quite a year and we went down to get her, and Sandra and I went to town and saw my ex get out of her car and pull in at the curb diagonal as we walked by. I didn’t say anything, and Sandra wasn’t going to say anything, and we went on down the street and came back and I think we passed ‘em, her and her girlfriend on the sidewalk. She never came to the house to see my daughter [1:12:01]. She knew I was in town to get her and take her back to Chicago because uh—and she knew I was married again and that was the last opportunity she had to see her until she saw her laying in a coffin in Western Kentucky.

MM: That’s really awful.

FD: It was a shame. She did contact my daughter after my daughter got married and wanted her to come to visit. She was—her and her husband were living in Cleveland, Ohio I think at the time and my daughter came over with her—she got the letter and her and her husband came over and [1:13:00] uh, she said she wanted to talk to me so we went in the living room and sat down and her husband came in and sat down with her and they told me what was goin’ on and she says, “What do you think I should do?” I says, “You’ve got to do what you feel like doin’. I’ve tried to take care of you and protect you and what have you, as you well know.” I says, “But right now, you’re a married woman. You’re on your own and it will not upset me, whatever you decide to do.” She says, “Well, I just don’t think I want to go.” She says, “I would like to drive down the street where she lives, maybe see her out front, [1:14:02] on the porch or whatever and see that she’s doin’ okay and that’s it.” She says, “She’s never cared for me and I know it,” and I

had told my parents when I got the divorce and took her to live with my parents before I left to go back to camp, I says, “One thing I want to stress, and I want it to sink into both of ya good. I don’t want to hear, *ever* hear that anybody around here, including you two,” I says, “has ever said anything bad about her mother in front of her.” I said, “I wouldn’t” —looked at my mother and I said, “I wouldn’t put up with it if anybody said anything bad about you.” I says, “I know they couldn’t but that’s beside the point,” and I says, [1:15:00] “Let her get—when she is an adult, she’ll draw her own opinion.” And uh, so when she was killed in an auto accident down in—my granddaughter was almost killed in that accident. She had a broken arm, and her insides were—they were operating on that baby, she was one year old—for about five hours that night and uh, so she’s a beautiful, healthy young lady, got two boys. One graduated from high school a couple of years ago and was getting ready to go to college [1:16:00] and he had a part time job and was coming home from work and his transmission, his truck started making a noise. He stopped at his girlfriend’s to jack it up and get underneath and see what was wrong and it fell on him and killed him.

MM: My goodness. This is your grandson?

FD: Great grandson.

MM: Great grandson. Uh!

FD: And the youngest one graduates this comin’ spring.

MM: And these are Toni’s children? Is that right? Toni’s children? Your daughter’s...

FD: My daughter’s grandchildren.

MM: Your daughter’s grandchildren. Okay. Okay.

FD: Yeah, she had one daughter.

MM: Okay. And the daughter had two boys.

FD: And she had two boys.

MM: Okay. Okay. Got it. Wow. That’s tough.

FD: And we had such great hopes for both of ‘em. The youngest—the oldest one, the one that was killed [1:17:01] he won—had the best archery score in high school. He was tops in the archery class and uh, they gave him a new, a trophy, it was new. First year to be given at the school. That thing was ever bit of that high. Awe it’s big and he was so proud of that as he should be and uh, he of course got killed that fall and then his brother, they were both good in archery, he wanted to win that trophy if he could. The following year, just a few months after James was killed, [1:18:00] the coach came to my granddaughter and told her that the school had decided and that if it was alright with her, they had named that trophy, James Alford, no what was his, James Brian Alford Trophy and so then (phone ringing) Noah decided, “Hey that’s the

trophy. I've got to win that." Well, he did good enough to win it, but he was too young. You had to be a Senior (laughter).

MM: Oh no!

FD: Or a Junior. He had to be a Junior and he was just a Sophomore and uh, so he couldn't be, couldn't win it [1:19:00] but that was alright but then last year, his Junior year he won it.

MM: Oh, good for him.

FD: And uh, last summer right after he got out of school I went to visit. Oh, he was so proud he had it settin' in the living room where everybody can see it who came in and it said right on there, "James Alford Trophy". So, he wasn't the first one to win it after it was named after his brother, but he got it second year.

MM: Yeah. That's really neat. So, to kind of jump back into your timeframe.

FD: Yeah, I'm bouncin' all over (laughter).

MM: No. That's okay. No, I'm really enjoying it. Um, so how did—so your daughter Toni then was about eight or nine when she came to live with you and your Sandra?

FD: Yeah, she was...she was seven.

MM: Seven. Okay and how was that adjustment for your wife?

FD: [1:20:00] I'm sorry?

MM: How was that for your wife?

FD: Oh, it was fine and she—that kid, when she—I gotta tell you this. We had gone down the first Christmas we were married. Took her Christmas presents to her and we were settin' there in the living room at my mother and dad's Christmas Eve and she was getting ready to get under that tree and start peekin' and there's a knock at the door. My mother went to the door. It was my ex. I'd said that she didn't see her until—she did see her that one. That was the last time. She came to the house. She brought her a Christmas present, a bride's doll [1:21:00] and uh, everybody there knew that she only came to see my wife. Well, she wouldn't even come in and set down. She just stood by the door and uh, Toni was standing over by my grandmother, close to the Christmas tree of course, and my mother says, "Toni," says, "your mother's got something for ya." Says, "Why don't you go over and see her?" She walked to my wife.

MM: Wow.

FD: Oh, I tell ya, I really did, I felt sorry for my ex at that time. It was not planned. Nobody, nobody in that room knew that was gonna happen, even a possibility of it happening. You know?

And she had always called my wife “mother” [1:22:02] (laughter). That may be the reason she never came to see her anymore (laughter).

MM: Yeah. Oh, that’s funny. Goodness. Well, um, so then you all went back to Chicago and then came down to Bloomington and were here for—have lived here since, right?

FD: Yeah.

MM: Okay. Well, maybe jumping a little bit then into um—well actually I’m going to ask a couple more questions related to this. So you obviously had Toni and then you and Sandra had two children, as well. When did that happen?

FD: Yes. That happened in Chicago.

MM: Okay. In Chicago.

FD: We’d been married a year and, let’s see we got married July. Jim was born the day after Christmas the next year [1:23:00] so about a year and a half and then two years later, Karen was born and uh ... that was it of course. Just the two kids cause my wife had found she had endometriosis. I hope I’m pronouncing that right and she couldn’t have any more children and she just felt very fortunate that she had a boy and a girl (laughter).

MM: Yeah, yeah, I bet. So, by the time you got to Bloomington then you had all three children?

FD: Yes.

MM: Okay and then um, well as you, you know, got into your twenties and then your thirties how did your politics start changing or did they?

FD: Well, at twenty-one, you had to be twenty-one back then to vote, I, like I say I voted straight Democrat and that was in ‘54 [1:24:02] and uh, then—or I think it was ‘54. Being the Mayor’s race I’m not sure. I know here it’s an off year. I’m not sure if it still was in Illinois or not and at that time I was leaning towards the Republicans. Barry Goldwater came out for president and that secured it for me. I became a full-blooded, no foolishness Republican (chuckles) and um, so ... I supported Barry, campaigned for him. My brother uh ... [1:25:00] that was in the service, he came out for him and he was living—out of the service and living in St. Louis at the time and I forget the name of the organization, but I stayed away from it. It was an ultra, ultra ... darn.

MM: Was it conservative or liberal?

FD: Conservative. It was an ultra, ultra conservative organization and I could agree with him on a lot of things but I—not enough to get involved myself.

MM: Was it the John Birch Society?

FD: John Birch. Yes. Yes.

MM: So, your brother got into that, then?

FD: Yeah. I guess it was pretty big in St. Louis and [1:26:00] so he got involved with that, but he got out of it too pretty quick. And after he got in so deep then he started seein' things that he didn't really believe (chuckles) and so I've just been a Republican ever since. I got in with the Republican party in Cicero and was—there we didn't have Precinct Committeeman. Precinct Committeeman was a Precinct Captain, and I was one of the lieutenants. He had several lieutenants. Broke the precinct up so that none of us had—we were mostly like block people. I took care of my block and another guy took care of the other block and what have you [1:27:01] and my Precinct Committeeman was also the town president and he and I became very good friends and uh, he had plans for me when I left and came down here. He told me, he says, "Well I'm sorry you're goin'." Says, "I've been doin' some work to get you on the ... water board," or somethin' like that. One of the boards there in town and so when I got down here, I registered as a Republican, but it was a Democrat that signed me up (chuckles).

MM: Oh, that's funny.

FD: I couldn't get away from 'em.

MM: (Laughter) They're everywhere [1:28:00]. So then when you got down here were you a Precinct Committeeman at some point? Or how did you get, how did you get into Republican politics down here?

FD: Okay. At first, I ran for Precinct Committeeman just to get to know some people cause campaigning and all you get out and knock-on doors and um, I didn't get it. The Precinct guy that was Precinct Committeeman won and I ran for uh ... the state convention. I forget what that position's called now and uh ...

MM: Like the delegates?

FD: Yes. Yes. That was it and that was the year that [1:29:00] Governor, oh his son is music director church. He's from Seymore.

MM: Is it a Republican or Democrat? Like Orr or?

FD: No. Orr was from Evansville.

MM: Bowen was from up north.

FD: It was before Doc Bowen. He was Secretary of State before he ran for Governor.

MM: I should know this too.

FD: Whitcomb.

MM: Okay. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Okay. There we go. Yes.

FD: Yeah. Ed Whitcomb.

MM: Yes. Because he lives down here.

FD: And his son John lives on the east side here. I don't know if he's over in Brown County or not, but he comes to church here in Highland Village and is the music director of St. Paul Methodist Church.

MM: Yeah. I'm embarrassed I couldn't come up with that name, either (laughter). I should know that. [1:30:00]

FD: And so that's where I got to know Ed Whitcomb was before the convention when we had a big meeting here in Bloomington and he came down to meet all of the delegates for the convention.

MM: Got it.

FD: And then after that I ran for J.P.

MM: What's that?

FD: Justice of Peace.

MM: Oh. Okay.

FD: And we didn't have one. A lot of small precincts didn't have because they had really no need for one, but Van Buren Township was getting big enough that it should have one so I, "Yeah. I'll run." And I lost that one because [1:31:00] another guy from my church (chuckles) ran and the county chairman knew him and didn't know me, so he supported him. I mean, I was just basically doin' a lot of this to get known.

MM: Yeah.

FD: Win or lose, you know? And so, he got elected and then he passed away. County Chairman got in touch with me about appointing me and one of the members on the Central Committee was a labor leader and he wanted this guy from The Brick Layers Union appointed so County Chairman called me up and says, "I'm gonna have to bypass you. I got pressure. Just be honest with you." But he says, "I've got other plans." [1:32:00] I say, "Okay." Because evidently, I'd been making a good enough showing, you know that he was interested. So, when the election came up for ... uh, it was '72 I think, he asked me to run for Trustee. He says, "Now I'll tell you, you got your work cut out for ya." He says, "The Republicans haven't had that office since, oh," he says, "it's been at least twenty-four, twenty-eight years." But he says, "I think you can do it." He says, "You've got a good name." I was director of the Youth Hockey program here in Blooming ... at that time. He says, "you've got all those kids goin' home and talking to their parents about you. You know?" He says, "So that's got your name out there," and he, "I just

think you've got a good chance." [1:33:05] And the Democrat that was in office had decided to run for Sheriff so that meant it was wide open, really and I was a volunteer on the fire department down here. We just started up and a friend of mine on the fire department, I didn't know what his politics was, but turns out he was Democrat. We're still best of friends and the Trustee came up and he, "I wanted you people to know first. I'm running for Sheriff. I'm not going to be running for reelection," and he says, "That way you can decide who you would like to have in there and get a head start." [1:34:01] So some of my friends that were—well, I was President of the Fire Department and my Vice President was a Republican. The Chief was a Democrat and uh, so my Vice President says, "Hey. You've got to run. You've got to run. We've got to have somebody on, in there that will be interested in this fire department or it's gonna fall apart and we just got it started." I said, "Okay." So, I called Carl Meyers, the County Chairman and I said, "Well you said that you'd like for me to run for the office." I says, "I've been getting some other support out here also," and I says, "Rufus Koontz." He says, "Oh yeah. I know Rufus Koontz." I says, "Well he's on the Fire Department. He's my Vice President and he has asked me if I'd run." [1:35:05] He says, "Good." He says, "How do you want to do this?" I says, "I don't want to do it like they do it in Monroe County. I want to do it like it's done in Chicago." I says, "This town that I moved from had so many Republicans and no Democrats. My precinct, I had to get one of my members, a Republican lived two doors down the street from me. Her husband voted straight Democrat, I mean Republican every year. She votes Democrat in the primary just so she can serve on the Election Board (chuckles). Mayor Dailey had to send someone from Chicago out there to be a poll watcher [1:36:00]. There was no Democrats to be poll watchers.

MM: Yeah.

FD: The ones that were didn't want to get involved in anything and of course Cicero was really known for Al Capone's days when his headquarters was there. Nobody knows anything about (chuckles). At that time, it was Democrats and then they tell me the Democrats in Cicero that were running it didn't like the way the Democrat party was going so they all switched to Republican and took the whole thing over (chuckles).

MM: That's funny.

FD: So, I says, "I want to do it like they do there. I want a slate." I says, "That's the best way. We're wantin' to take this township back." I say, "Right now the Trustee is a Democrat. There's three members on the board. Two of 'em are Democrat. One Republican." [1:37:01] I said, "I want a slate. The board, a Republican for all three positions and the Republican that's on there take him along too," and he says, "Okay." He says, "You run it. I'll back you anyway you want to go cause you mentioned slating and around here they didn't like that." Well, I slated. I had a big billboard up over here on 45 that had me for Trustee and the Township Board listed underneath and I won. The Constable won and the Republican got back on and Rufus Koontz the guy that talked—supported me to get me to run, he had just barely lost [1:38:09]. Well, the Democrat was a good friend and in fact I spoke at his—his wife called and asked me to speak at his memorial and so when he passed away, I called the board together and I says, "The three of us have got to pick somebody to replace him." I say, "Now he is a Democrat. Normally you would replace him with another Democrat," but I says, "You're the board," and the Democrat

even spoke up and says, “Well, what about Rufus?” He says, “He was so close.” [1:39:03] He says, “I think we should probably put him in there.” I said, “Well, it’s up to you guys. You decide it and I’ll do the paperwork,” and so they put Rufus in. So now we’ve got two Republicans on there. The JP won reelection and the Constable was still in for a short time and then they did away with the JP office about a year after that election throughout the state and so since then there’s never been anything but a Republican in that office [1:40:00].

MM: Wow. That’s funny.

FD: I served one and a half terms, resigned to, because I’d been elected to the Senate. My wife says, “I think I’m gonna put my name in the hat.” I says, “You sure you want that?” I says, “Afterall you know what it’s like. I didn’t.” I says, “You were my township clerk.” I says, “So you know what goes on and what problems are...” She says, “No. I think I will,” and I was Precinct Committeeman at that time. I says, “Well if you want to, throw your hat in there.” So, she did and she won hands down. When the Precinct Committeeman met to elect one or nominate, appoint, whatever, she won hands down. She finished my two-year term [1:41:01]. That was up in '82 and she ran for reelection every year until she retired in 2002.

MM: Wow.

FD: Or 2004. I forget which. She talked one of our neighbors down here that was her Fire Chief into running. He won, elected two terms then he talked one of his clerks or his clerk in the office there to run for Trustee and he says, “If you will run, I will resign.” The Precinct Committeeman and he was one of the Precinct Committee. He says, “We’ll put you in and then you’re running as an incumbent [1:42:00].” Which they did and she’s still in office.

MM: Wow (chuckles). That’s pretty impressive.

FD: (Laughter) So we turned this precinct but at the same time, give the devil his dues I guess, when I moved to town here the courthouse was just about all Republicans. The city had a Republican Mayor, last Republican Mayor they’ve ever had, and the council was mostly Republicans. I don’t know if there’s a Republican on the council now.

MM: Yeah, so that part has flipped but...

FD: That has switched but Van Buren Township will be still hangin’ on, too.

MM: That’s funny. Okay. Well, as you started thinking about running for, or maybe what prompted you to run for state government then after doing sort of local? [1:43:00]

FD: The County Chairman called me. I was on the Central Committee and he called me one day at work, at GE and he said, “The Finance Committee was meeting yesterday,” and he says, “I didn’t call you because I didn’t think we needed you there.” I say, “Ah. Okay,” and he says, “We got to talking afterwards about who was going to run for the Senate and your name kept coming up.” I thought, “Yeah, probably from you. If anybody put my name in,” (chuckles) and he said uh, “Well, one of the other Trustees who was a Republican had replaced a Democrat.” He said—

he seconded a motion, and he says, “We want you to run for the Senate.” [1:44:03] I says, “Oh, come on. You’re kiddin’. That’s not me.” I says, “Uh, I’m just trudging along here trying to learn something in grade school. You’re wantin’ to put me in college.” (Laughter) He says, “No,” but he says, “I’ll tell ya now. I don’t want an answer right now.” He says, “You go home, talk it over with Sandra, talk it over with the kids because you’ve all got to agree before it works,” and he says, “That’s the only way I can support you.” I say, “Well that would make sense.” I says, “I would insist on doing that anyway.”

MM: Yeah.

FD: And uh, so that night when I got home, I told Sandra and she says, “You’re kidding.” I says, “No. You call Carl.” I says, “He’s the one. If there’s anybody kidding in this, he’s the one that called me and told me this,” [1:45:02] and she says, “Well I think it would be great,” and the kids came in. They were both in high school and we sat down to eat supper and I told them at the supper table, and I says, “I’ve been asked to run. So, what do you kids think?” “Well, I think you should.” You know how kids are, especially young high school kids and so I called Carl the next day. I says, “Well, I talked it over with Sandra and the kids and they all said, ‘yes’ so I guess you’ve got yourself a candidate weather you want him or not now.” (laughter)

MM: Yeah. Too late. That’s funny. Well sort of jumping back, related to that but you had mentioned, you know, earlier on that [1:46:00] you were a fan of Goldwater but at this point sort of in the ‘70s into the ‘80s were there other either national or state, you know political figures that you were looking up to or wanted to emulate or ...

FD: Ev Dirksen, I thought the world of that man. Senator Dirksen was one of a kind. He had been asked to run as the, oh what do they call it? Where you sacrifice yourself, you know? Nobody expected him to win except him. He told ‘em, he says, “Well. Okay. I’ll run as your candidate,” but he says, “I want to tell ya now I never run for something I don’t expect to win.” “Well, okay but we’ll give ya a Post Master’s job or somethin’ you know, [1:47:00] if you’ll run,” cause he was well known, and I don’t know if you ever met Ev Dirksen or heard him speak but he had a monotone voice. I’ve got a record here, a full thirty-three and a third record that it’s Ev Dirksen all the way through and he says, “I’ll run but I expect to win.” They said, “Well, more power to ya. We’ll do what we can.” And he got elected and he served in the Senate until he died, and he’d get up there and say, “Now ladies and gentlemen I want you to listen very closely as I say this because this is very important,” [1:48:03] and it’s just the same tone all the way through! (laughter)

MM: Oh, that’s rough.

FD: But he was a great guy. I—him and I think the guy was from the House here in Indiana, the northern part of the state at that time and it was the Ev and I forget the guy’s—I can’t think of the guy’s name, but they had a show they did every Friday on the radio and they’d get up there and he’d tell about what all went in the Senate. [Inaudible] would tell about all the stuff that was passed in the House and how things were going, what they expected to see the next week and [1:49:00] I thought the world of him, too because I again, I grew in politics in Chicago listening

to those two on the radio give their talks and Erv, Ev, not Erv, Ev Dirksen, he drew me in because of that monotone voice. Just nobody could talk—and he was a Shakespearian (laughter).

MM: Wow.

FD: Oh yeah, he'd been in acting in Illinois. He never got national fame as a actor or anything but yeah, he was in a lot of Shakespeare plays.

MM: That's really interesting.

FD: You can imagine that poor audience (laughter).

MM: So, when you then decided or were asked to run for state government what did your campaign emphasize?

FD: I'm sorry?

MM: How did you approach your campaign for state government or what did you emphasize?
[1:50:05]

FD: Oh, what did I emphasize? Well, I was coming out of township government. There was a lot of things that needed to be changed in township government, so it was the local things that were going on here. The highways needed work, needed to be pushed and so when I got in there I—my first bill was a township bill. Uh, I was approached by Bob Garten over in Brown County at a meeting over there and he says, "You know," says, "we definitely need you in the Senate." Says, "You bring township government." Says, "We don't have anybody representing township government." [1:51:04] So that was a big opening for me that there was something somebody needed in that area and I was interested in uh, the tax structure and IU. In fact, I had one of the Vice Presidents of IU tell me at a dinner that—and he was a Democrat. He said, "I hope you get reelected. I really do." He says, "You have done more for IU than anybody." Well, excuse me, it was easy to do more than anybody else cause they'd all been Democrats. My opponent was a Democrat lawyer out at IU, [1:52:00] an attorney for the students. And being a Republican state, it was just hard to find anybody that would do anything for IU. So, John Ryan called me up one day and came out to the plant, picked me up, took me to lunch. He and I had a long talk. That was my first time ever meeting him and we became good friends because he needed some help and I wanted to help and there's areas of the county you had to play it down that you were doing anything for IU, or the not the county the district. I went over to Salisbury and [1:53:02] stopped at the restaurant there in town or in the wide spot in the road and there was three old farmers settin' there. I went in, spoke to the lady that owned the place, came back out, stopped, and was talkin' to these guys and gave 'em some of my literature. This was when I was running and, "Oh, from Bloomington." "Yeah." "You have anything to do with that University?" I says, "No. No I don't. I work for General Electric." "Oh. Okay." I says, "I can't stand that University. They get everything." I says, "Well. I don't know. They may. They get some things. Some things they don't get but." [1:54:02] I say, "No. I have nothing to do with the University. I didn't graduate from it. I have no allegiance to it other than it's a state institution." And they say, "Well, we might vote for you." (Laughter)

MM: So, you had to be careful about how you played it.

FD: That's right. That's right. You gotta listen, as they say, to your audience and play to the audience what they want.

MM: Yeah. Wow. That's interesting.

FD: And so, I did do things for the University. I uh, tried to do some things for the veterans, being a veteran, and got some things through [1:55:00]. I wanted to get a license plate when I was there. I wanted to get a license plate for 'em (sniffle) and I forgot to call the one man that I should have and that I have known ever since, just about ever since I came to Bloomington and that was General Carl Farrell. He was the General over the National Guard in Indiana and he and I had worked at GE when he was a Colonel and I wanted to get a license plate that said National Guard on there and a special plate for the members. Several reasons, one being that um, if there was a disaster and the Governor needed to activate [1:56:00] it would be easy to get 'em together. The State Troopers be notified, and they see a car with a Guard plate on it, stop that car and tell 'em to get back to their post. You know? That there was such and such goin' and I uh, I wanted that for that reason, and I wanted the guys to have a little recognition. People knew there were National Guards around, but they didn't know how many. They didn't realize how many men were offering their lives for them and I lost that bill. There was some people that didn't want any more plates [1:57:00]. So, it didn't pass but the next year after I was out of office Governor Orr issued like an ultimatum (laughter) but it's not a law to have the plate for 'em but he could create the plate just by his signature, which he did and uh...I was more interested in anything that anybody came to me with that was local.

MM: Well, when you said a minute ago—well, cause right when you were coming in was when Bob Garten became Pro Tem right?

FD: Yes.

MM: Okay. So, when he sort of told you, "We need someone you know that's fighting for township." Like what did he mean by that? Someone who could represent that type of government in state government or?

FD: Well, if a question came up [1:58:00] in Caucus I ...

MM: Like about the legality of how that worked or?

FD: Yeah.

MM: I understand. Okay.

FD: See in Caucus that's where each party does their decision on these bills and um, so if there was one on township then they would look to me to answer the questions.

MM: I see.

FD: And I was called on it couple of times, not an awful lot. I wouldn't expect to be called on a lot. You know?

MM: It was nice to have that expertise?

FD: Yeah.

MM: Yeah. Okay. When you ran then for state government who, or for State Senate who was your main opponent? Do you recall?

FD: John Irvine.

MM: Okay. Was he a Democrat or was this in the primaries?

FD: Democrat.

MM: Okay.

FD: He was an attorney out at IU [1:59:00], still is, and in the primary oh, he was a Republican but from out at IU and uh ... he was an author and I think he had—I forget just what his position was. He was a good speaker. When he came out, I thought, “Boy. I’m in trouble.” You know? And uh—but having the support of the Central Committee helped and I won and that night of the election he came to me and said [2:00:00] —we were down at the HT. That was—back then there was always an election party at the Harold Telephone, and he says, “Congratulations,” and I would have expected him—he was polished from one end to the other (chuckles) and um, so we, standing there talkin’ he says, “We need to go back here and talk to the” —I forget the guy’s name now, but he was a political reporter for the HT. We went back, walkin’ up, side-by-side you know? Started talkin’ to him and he says, “We gotta get behind Farrell. We gotta work. Gotta get him in there,” [2:01:00] and later after we got through with the interview the reporter says, “I just couldn’t believe what I saw comin’ down through there! [Inaudible] opponents twenty-four hours before.” (Chuckles) I says, “Yeah but we were still friends then!” (Chuckles)

MM: Can put that aside.

FD: And then they had some—I forget what kind of a luncheon it was but a big shindig out at IU when—at lunchtime and uh, he was setting up on the speakers. [Inaudible] he was pretty high up with IU at that time and the Democrat that was in office [2:02:00] at that time cause this was before the—between the primary and the general and he was settin’ up from there on, at the table and he came around and got me and says, “Come over. We’ll introduce you to these people up here.” So, he’s goin’ down through there introducing me to everybody there. Pat Carroll, that’s who the Senator was, and I knew Pat so when I walked up there, he introduced me to Pat. Pat says, “I don’t believe this.” (Chuckles) He says, “How do you get organized so quick?” Because it’s just a couple of days after the primary (chuckles).

MM: You're on it.

FD: So, it just went from there. You know?

MM: Well, um, [2:03:00] how did you feel on the actual election day? Not the primaries but the election day? What was that like for you?

FD: Well, it was busy. I made every precinct in Monroe County and I had a friend drivin' me and when we went to Brown County and hit the precincts over there. We went down to Lawrence County and hit the one precinct I had down there, or one township I had down there and over into Greene County, Owen County. We hit 'em all. I mean it was a full day and it was moving.

MM: What did you—did you have a sense of how things would go or how were you feeling?

FD: I was excited, but I didn't really know how it was gonna go because it—hey you know a Republican hadn't had that seat [2:04:06] and this guy being an attorney and one thing that I think helped me was a friend that was a Democrat Precinct Committeeman and resigned as Committeeman so he could work for me. He didn't like my opponent (chuckles). [Inaudible] being interviewed on WTIU TV or radio, we were on the radio station, and a few days before that I got a call from a Republican on the election board down at the courthouse that said, "Farrell, I got to call you and tell you right now about this." Says, "Your opponent just signed a petition today to put a communist on the ballot." [2:05:05] I said, "He what!?" I said, "I know he's liberal but my god. I didn't know he's crazy, too."

MM: Yeah (chuckles).

FD: And uh, she said, "Yes he did." She said, "You need to get, let the public know." "Well, I don't know how I'm gonna handle that, but I appreciate ya calling." Well, the next phone call I get is from this friend of mine, is a Democrat and he says, "I resigned my Precinct Committee position. I'm working for you. I don't like John. I don't want him in there," and he says, "Did you know that he signed a petition to put a communist on the ballot?" And I said, "Yes. I heard that." (Chuckles) He says, "Don't want that man. Gotta bring it out." So, we're on the radio [2:06:03] and uh, we're goin' through our interview you know. I get a question. He gets a question back and forth. Then we're takin' phone calls. Phone rings. Soon as I heard his voice I knew who it was and the look on John's face he did too and he says, "I have a question from Mr. Irvine and then I want a response from Mr. Duckworth. He says, "John," says, "I understand you signed a petition to put a communist on the ballot and I want to know if you did and why you did and then I want to hear Mr. Duckworth's answer." [2:07:01] So John gets on there and typical answer, right. "I feel everybody has a right as long as they're a citizen of this country blah, blah, blah, to run for any office and they shouldn't be deprived of their right to be on the ballot." Like a true liberal so he says—and he said, "That's what happened. That's what I did." I wish I could think of his name. He worked at Otis Elevator anyway he says, "Mr. Duckworth, would you do somethin' like that?" I says, "No. I would never sign any petition or do anything to get somebody on the ballot that stands for the violent overthrow of the United States Government." [2:08:03] I said, "I have too many friends and too many members of the family that have died for

this country to put up for that.” I says, “So, no. To answer your question, I never have, and I never will.” He says, “Thank you,” (chuckles) and after the whole thing was over the interviewer says, “I knew that was coming, John. I didn’t know when, but I knew somewhere down the line it was gonna be brought up.” (Chuckles)

MM: How did John respond to that?

FD: He says, “Well, hem, hem, heh,” and he started him-hawin’ around like a lawyer would (chuckles) that had got caught but um, no he [2:09:03] just took it in stride.

MM: So, when did you find out the election results that you had won?

FD: That evening, pretty early. I was at the Republican, not Headquarters but where they were meeting at the Holiday Inn and waitin’ for all of the results to come in and one of the reporters came over and says, “Well, congratulations.” I says, “Huh? What’d I do now?” He says, “John Irvine just said that ... he’s gonna toss his hat in the ring, for you. That you had it.”

MM: Yeah. Concede. Yeah.

FD: And I said, “Well I haven’t heard anything about that.” [2:10:00] He said, “Well, what’s your comment?” I says, “Right now I haven’t heard anything official except from you,” and I went over got a hold of County Chairman, Carl wasn’t County Chairman then and so he said, “Yes. We just got a call from down there. He has tossed his hat in,” and so then he introduced me, and I thanked everybody for helping me and that was it.

MM: Yeah. Exciting. So, then you would gone up probably in November to ...

FD: Yes. Organization Day.

MM: And then would have come back in January which would have been 1981, is that right?

FD: Yes.

MM: Yeah, so what did you find or what were you thinking as you walked in the State House that first day? [2:11:05]

FD: How did I get here?

MM: So, where you surprised or was it like overwhelming?

FD: Well, it was overwhelming and it was a surprise, too but uh, just look around and, “So this is what this one and that one has been through.” You know? Only down in Georgia, relatives and I just couldn’t see how—well, I wondered how a young man from the Appalachian Mountains, cause that’s a part of it, and could wind up in the Indiana Senate (chuckles). [2:12:07]

MM: Uh-huh. It’s an interesting path to get there.

FD: Yeah. Yeah.

MM: Had you ever, I mean growing up or anything, imagined that you would get into politics or that you would want to follow in family footsteps there?

FD: I was as bashful as they could be, and you can't be bashful if you get into politics (chuckles).

MM: No (chuckles). No sir. Well, how then did you learn the ins and outs of state politics as you're settling in in the General Assembly?

FD: Well, everybody was very helpful and made it easy. In Caucus we all got introduced to one another and the Republicans part of it and we had a constitutional majority that year.

MM: And that was the first time in a while that both houses had it, right? [2:13:00]

FD: I think so.

MM: I think so. Yeah.

FD: And so that made things easy, too and the very first year I was there I introduced a bill and it had to do with the Trustees. It had to do with having guidelines. The state had passed a law, I believe when I was Trustee, that we should have guidelines, but they left it up to each precinct. I mean each township and I had no problem with that because—and I think it should be that way because every township is different. Just like every county is different. Every state's different [2:14:00]. The township has a responsibility for taking care of poor relief and that was the biggest thing. That's what we needed guidelines for. When I was first elected there, I was elected at the very first Township Trustee's meeting President of the Township, Monroe County Township Association and with the help (clears throat) of a Democrat here in town that was an attorney, we drew up guidelines and I presented them to the rest of the Trustees and I said, "This is gonna be my guideline. Each one of ya has a different type of precinct than what I've got [2:15:00] or some of you have, some may have something like mine. Take the guidelines, read 'em and if you see something you think should be changed, change it. Have your Township attorney go over it and make sure it's what you have there is legal, within laws and file it with the county so they have a copy. Well, all the Trustees in Monroe County had a set of guidelines filed with the courthouse. Again, John Irvine he was a County Commissioner, President of the County Commissioners and he didn't like our guidelines. He thought that he [2:16:00]—his decision—I had a constituent not like my decision. [inaudible] my guidelines. She had the right to go down to the courthouse and file a petition for—with a complaint. John Irvine bein' on the Commissioners as president held a board meeting. I was out of town, couldn't be there. I had my investigator go for me who was a retired police officer very good at doing investigations and so uh ... this gal had sued me for food, lodging, and [2:17:00] she didn't have any way of gettin' around. They take my decision that denied her because she had a job. I knew she had a job. She gettin' paid under the table but she had a job and John Irvine ruled it against me and said that I was to take care of her food, whatever food she needed, pay her rent and give her free

transportation even if I had to send a fire truck to pick her up and take her where she wanted to go. Well, I thought, “Uh, huh.” So, I took him to court, and I won or I took her to court [2:18:00]. I had my—told my investigator when I—he called me while I was out of town and told me and I says, “You go see Ken Nunn, my attorney, and run it past him but I want charges brought against her for uh, ... not impeachment ... falsifying under oath. My memory’s gettin’ fuzzy.

MM: Yeah, I’m trying to think. Yeah.

FD: And I says, “I want charges taken against her if Ken agrees.” Well Ken did. He said— and he told him, says, “You take this up to the prosecutor and give it to him. Tell him I sent you up [2:19:00] as the Township Attorney and we want charges brought.” Well, he takes it up there, the prosecutor reads it, signs it and says, “Take it downstairs to the judge. There’s a judge settin’ on the bench today, this afternoon. Give it to him. I want to swear out a warrant.” He takes it down and he says, “You know the routine around here.” Says, “You were on the force long enough.” He say, “Oh yeah.” Well, he takes it down and gives it to the judge, judge reads it, signs it, hands it back to him and says, “Run this down to the Sherriff’s Office.” So, he says, “Okay.” He takes it down, gets a hold of the Sherriff, Bill Brown and says, “Here’s a warrant for this woman’s arrest [2:20:02] and they want it served as soon as possible,” and he says, “Well, arresting a woman, I always try to send one of the female matrons at the—in the jail with a deputy to go do it but the—they’re all tied up. I don’t have any. Can’t send two deputies cause I only got one here.” He says, “Oh, by the way do you still have your special deputy’s badge that I gave you when you were on the City Police Department?” He says, “Yeah.” He says, “Good. You can go with him to serve it.” That poor guy was getting run.

MM: Yeah. Every which way.

FD: That—over here in a trailer park, pulled up. They both get out of the squad car. The deputy goes up to the door and he stayed back by the car. He didn’t go up to the house [2:21:00] and uh, she came to the door and he told her. Says, “You’re under arrest for ...” Darn. I still can’t think of the one—the term I want.

MM: Was it taking the money illegally or was it lying?

FD: It was the lying. They get ya for—there’s a, there’s a—something there and I can’t. And I know it well because ...

MM: I’m being no help today. Yeah.

FD: But anyway ...

MM: Yes. We’ll come to that.

FD: They arrested her took her to jail, locked her up and I did exactly what the uh, County Commissioners ordered me to do. I gave her free transportation. I gave her a roof over her head and three-square meals a day [2:22:00].

MM: That's true technically (laughter). Wow.

FD: (Laughter) Not in the order or the way they wanted me to do it!

MM: I doubt it. Yeah.

FD: But they didn't specify the way they wanted me to do it. They only threw in the fire truck as if that was all I had. That wasn't all I had. I had a squad car.

MM: Uh-huh so did that then have to run through the courts after that?

FD: No.

MM: No.

FD: No.

MM: So, but ...

FD: There was one other thing after it though. There was a guy came into the office and was applying for a job in poor relief and he's settin' like this and here's the wall right in front of it and an article out of the newspaper, "Trustee (laughter) has a (stutters) client arrested for lying." [2:23:03] He said, "Who's that?" She says, "Oh that's this trustee here." He says, "I don't want to work here."

MM: (laughter) That's funny. I forget where we started with that. Oh, so that had to do with the bill writing out the trustee guidelines, which is interesting if you had the guidelines that they could overrule you on that.

FD: Yeah, so I introduced the bill, first bill I introduced, was a bill that said, and I was trying to be as fair as possible about it. I didn't say they had to go by my bill, my guidelines or yes, I did. I said they had to go by my guidelines as long as they met the state's requirements but if a trustee didn't have guidelines [2:24:04] and had to go before them to get it to sub then the commissioners could have their attorney write guidelines for that trustee that he would have to go by.

MM: Yeah.

FD: And they was some Democrats and some Republicans that liked it, and some didn't and so I withdrew it to take it back to uh—for a second reading and put some amendments in it trying to save the bill. Well, I'm back at the back of the room, standing back there, thinkin' about it and Frank O'Bannon comes walk—gets up out of his seat and comes back, walks up and he says, "You know you've got a good bill there." [2:25:03] He says, "That's something that we need." He says—had his copy [inaudible] reads it. He said, "Why don't you change this, this, and put this in here." He says, "and I think that'll—I think it will get by for you then." I said, "Frank, it's

your idea. Draw it up and I guarantee ya tomorrow on second reading I will agree with it.” He says, “Nah, I don’t—I’m not lookin’ for anything like that. It’s your bill. Take it down to your attorneys over there and have them put it in there and take this out.” Which I did, and it flew right through the next day only to get killed in the House (chuckles).

MM: Oh no.

FD: And being my freshmen year, [2:26:00] I did not—and not realizing all of the little quirks that you can pull, and do I let it die? Whereas if I’d of been thinkin’, I’d of let the House do what they wanted to with it instead of the guy I sent it to withdrawing it. There was a couple of other guys that wanted to change it to being the state guidelines and I said, “No. It won’t work for every—you go into one township you got a wage level that’s being met. You go into—and it may be twenty thousand dollars a year so. Over here, it may be a hundred thousand dollars a year [2:27:00]. This Trustee’s got to balance his somewhere in between there. Granted, there’s not going to be—hopefully, somebody a hundred- and twenty-thousand-dollar year salary coming for poor relief but it could be wherever that township wanted to set it. They know what the people can afford and still where it would protect those that couldn’t afford it and that’s all I was after. If a guy didn’t do—want to do his job and come up with guidelines that were useable let the Commissioners come up with it and he’s going to have to live with it. So, uh ...

MM: So, do you feel like if you’d had another term in there or even later on you could have—you would have known better how to manipulate the system, ultimately. Maybe manipulate is not the right word but to work within it? [2:28:08]

FD: Right. Work within it. Right. And I got sidetracked on other bills and what have you and never did get back to it and I’m sorry for that.

MM: Um ... did you have any specific political mentors as you were settling in or did you even know anybody else in the General Assembly when you were elected?

FD: The only people I knew in the Senate when I arrived there was Bob Garten.

MM: So, did he mentor you at all or not really?

FD: Uh, not too awful much cause he was getting his feet wet as a (chuckles)...

MM: He was probably busy.

FD: Yes. But I had some good people in there, Senator McCormick [2:29:00]. He was terrific. I could go to him for anything. He set right across from me and so I had him close by and uh, Senator Joe Harrison, he was our floor leader, and he was very helpful and so—and of course by the time the year was up I knew just about whoever I could go to. It’s like I had uh, some lobbyist come down to see me when I was running and they were real nice. They weren’t pushy about anything. They just wanted to get a chance to meet me and introduce themselves and what have you [2:30:03] and one of ‘em was Frank Bannon, O’Bannon’s brother, Bob and so the other one that was in there, I can’t think of his name, but he was a—god everybody would tell ya he

was as honest as the day was long and as the old guy said, “You could take it to the bank.” And I got up—he told me, he says, “When you get up there” —he was a lobbyist for the oil industry. He says, “Anything that has to do with the oil industry, if you’re not sure about it and you wanna know anything about it call me and I will give you the facts even if I walk into the Committee here and speak against what I’d told you [2:31:06]. You know what I told you is correct, but I do have a job to do (chuckles). I says, “I understand it.” Well I got up there, and I had been there maybe two or three weeks, and I had a meeting with a Fire Marshal over in a state office building for coffee one morning and towards the end of our meeting we got around to talkin’ about things that had happened and it came up. I says, “You know one thing I have—well it seems to be pretty true but it’s going to be interesting to see how it plays out.” I says, “There was a lobbyist that came down to Bloomington and told me that [2:32:00] whatever he told me I could believe and to not change my story because he was giving a different story in Committee.” Never mentioned his name. Fire Chief spoke up and says, “That’s so and so.” And I says, “You’re right.” He says, “And that’s the truth, too.” So had a reputation up there that was good, and I was glad to have somebody that—because a lot of the stuff, that’s where we had to go to get our—I couldn’t know everything about everything and that’s what you’d have to do for one person to know but it was nice to know that you had somebody that would tell you the truth. Now there were some I wouldn’t trust ‘em if they said it’s pourin’ down rain and you looked out and saw it raining [2:33:02].

MM: Yeah.

FD: I wouldn’t believe ‘em and they were just strictly for their client is what it amounts to but there was some up there that you could trust.

MM: Do you feel like you got a sense of that pretty early on who those people were or did it really take the full four years?

FD: No, no. It doesn’t take very long.

MM: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

FD: Now it might for some people but if you know if you’re used to dealing with the public, and I was, that I did have in my favor, then you pick up pretty quick because with these people comin’ in for poor relief that weren’t entitled to it, you picked up pretty quick that they weren’t entitled to it.

MM: Mm-hmm. Okay. Well, how did you know the needs and wants of your constituents back here in the district? [2:34:03]

FD: They let me know. I had an open-door policy with ‘em. I had my phone number on my card, my address. The gal at the State House that got the cards made up she did put my phone number on there at work. And I had that taken off because when I went to GE, I was GE’s employee. This being a civilian citizen legislature you’ve got to keep the two separated. You can’t—I don’t know what they get paid now but when I went up there you didn’t go there for the money. I think I got nine thousand six hundred dollars [2:35:00]. I lost more from GE than that (chuckles).

MM: Yeah. I bet. Were you able to take a leave of absence from GE?

FD: Yes. I did.

MM: Okay.

FD: I talked it over with my Plant Manager before I even told Carl that I would run cause that morning when I went back in before I talked to Carl I went in and talked to the Plant Manager and uh, or called up and made an (clears throat) appointment to talk with him, told him what I's been approached and I wanted to know what GE would think of somethin' like that. And I knew in Louisville there was a guy that was a member of the Kentucky House of a Representative and—but each plant is—that's one thing about GE, no matter where you go you're workin' for the same outfit but every plant [2:36:00] you go to it's like going to another company because they have certain leeways. And he told me, he says, "I think it's great that you're wantin' to run." He says, "Give me a chance. I've gotta go to Louisville. I'll run it past the Vice President see what he has to say." Which he did. Called me the next day and he says, "It's a go," and says, "We will do whatever we can to help ya here."

MM: That's nice.

FD: "Well it's a two-way street so whatever you need give me a call."

MM: Yeah. So, when people call, write letters, did you have like townhall meetings or things like that too or?

FD: I had meetings that I attended throughout the district [2:37:00]. We had every, when we were in session, every Monday morning we had a Chamber of Commerce meeting here in town and any and everybody was invited out to that and they'd ask you questions about this or that or the other, you know and some would say, "After the meeting I'd like to talk to you for a few minutes," and they'd have something that they would like to see done and you take notes and go back and check it out. Also, take their phone number down so you can call 'em and tell 'em what the deal was. You know?

MM: This is not related but I just thought of this question. When you were in session did you stay in Indianapolis or did you drive back?

FD: Yes, I did.

MM: Where did you stay?

FD: First year I stayed at the Essex Hotel [2:38:03]. They had efficiency apartments up on some of the top floors and Representative Jerry Bales, who was from Bloomington here, he and I shared the apartment that year and uh, then—but that was cramped and I didn't want to get into that and I don't—I think he had decided that he just gonna drive back and forth and I got an apartment over at uh ... oh ... it's on Lafayette Road. Twin apartment buildings [2:39:00]. The

initials on the building was R.P. but I can't remember what it stood for (chuckles) but anyway this guy had bought them up. The buildings were this housing authority and people had quit paying rent. They were tearing doors off of elevators and all—just completely tearing the buildings down and he bought it from the government and he—I talked to him. I was there when they had their grand opening of the building that I was—that they released out to all of us. The one on the north side was for students that were going to IUPUI [2:40:02].

MM: Oh.

FD: That was the building I was in for a couple months or for a month or so and uh, when they had their grand opening I was invited to it and I went down and was sittin' there on the couch talking with him. Didn't realize who he was at first, young man and he said, "The first thing I had to do was make everybody move out. Everybody had to move out of the building." He says, "It sounds horrible," but he says, "That's what the government makes you do," because it was goin' under construction and he complete—started at the top floor and emptied every room out all the way to the basement and redid 'em. It was beautiful apartments [2:41:02] and they had a swimming pool over in the building on the north side and we were invited over. I mean we shared the pool, use of the pool and I had a three-bedroom apartment. No, a two-bedroom apartment. They had three bedrooms but I took a two bedroom and it had a large living room, dining area, kitchen with a bar between the kitchen and the dining room. Very nice. All furnished and everything. It cost me, I think it was four hundred dollars a month at that time. That was a lot of money back then.

MM: Yeah. Did your wife and kids come up with you some or ... [2:42:02]

FD: My wife, she come up every once and awhile. She wouldn't even tell me she's comin'. She just pop in and I'd be settin' there in the Senate listening to a bill, look over at the lounge on the side and there she'd be settin' (chuckles). So, I get up and go in there and she says, "Well I just wanted to stop by and let you know I was in town." I say, "Well you got a key to the apartment so." (Chuckles)

MM: Yeah. Go on over. Now were your kids in high school at this time then?

FD: They were in high school, yes.

MM: Okay.

FD: But that's the reason I wanted the two bedroom so that if they came up, one of them could have the bedroom. Usually they one at a time. They weren't ever up there both of 'em at the same time but if they were the couch made a bed and uh, so it really worked nice.

MM: Okay. Um, I think we've ... [2:43:00]

FD: River Point Suites (laughter).

MM: River Point. There it is. It came to ya. Came to ya.

FD: Just all of a sudden it came to me.

MM: Well can you describe the regular interaction between assembly members or between Senators, formal versus informal interactions?

FD: Uh...there was just good all-around interactions, really. If you needed to know anything you could ask any one of 'em, even on the Democrat's side. I settin' there one day and I see a Democrat Senator from up in Lake County was up and he was really selling his bill and without thinking I just sat there sort of starin' at him listening to what he was saying [2:44:00] and when it came votin' time I voted against the bill. He came back and he says, "I don't know what to think about you." I says, "Why? What? What's wrong?" He says, "I looked out over that crowd and I thought, 'There is one vote I'm gonna get,'" and said, 'Son of a gun it was redder than all get out when I looked up there.'

MM: That's funny.

FD: He says, "How come you voted against my bill? You were settin' there so intent, listening. You had to be wantin' to vote for (chuckles).

MM: (chuckles) Misread the signs I guess. Ah, that's funny.

FD: But he and I were good—became good friends. We worked on committees together, travelled around the state together. I just—I had a good relationship with both sides of the aisle [2:45:05].

MM: Well, and did you feel like ... you could talk with people or how do I want to say this? How did people discuss their bills? Was it off the floor? Was it over dinner? Was it in the hallways or was it a more formal—in Caucus or in something else?

FD: Most of the time we wouldn't talk about bills without they was one that was really important to you and you were really wantin', thinkin', "I need this guys vote, or gal's vote" or whatever but it was usually your own reading of the bill in the evening in the apartment or questions you would listen to a [2:46:00] Senator when they introduced their bill at third reading and if you had any questions, get up and go to the microphone and ask 'em. You know? That was really the formal place to do your asking. Anything else would have been informal. You know?

MM: And so people did both? People did both? Would ask on the floor and talk sometimes outside of it?

FD: Yeah. Yeah. Not ever time would somebody get up.

MM: Yeah.

FD: Not everybody would get up on every bill. I'll put it that way, but you could get up and go speak on a bill. One I spoke on one day that I found out later I had more effect on than I expected

to. I was just up to express my views [2:47:02] and Senator Dunbar from Terre Haute was against the bill and I was for it and I went up to speak on it to and—well, I went up to explain my vote. There's different ways that you can go up to the microphone. If you've already voted and all of the sudden, I want to have my say. You just hit the button and cancel it out, go up or get the Pro Tem's attention that you wanna explain your vote and go up to do it. One thing that way, there is no challenge to what you say. You can't challenge somebody explaining their vote [2:48:00] but if you just go up during the debate part you can go up and call them back to the microphone to question 'em about what they were saying.

MM: Yeah.

FD: And this was a bill on child restraint and I had talked to Bob Garten about it and he says, "You need to go up and explain—speak on that." He says, "I didn't realize what had happened." So, I waited and let everybody have their say and it was more personal for me so I didn't want to go up and have debate on it [inaudible]. So I went up and I told 'em about my daughter's accident and how she was killed but I had a granddaughter that lived [2:49:00] because my daughter realized the car didn't have car seats but she had one and her and her husband had a Jeep. One of the worst vehicles in the world as far as I was concerned, at that time anyway, and she had taken the car seat and sat it down between the seats and run her seat belt through the car seat to hold it and so she didn't have a seat belt on. She'd of been killed anyway. There's no way she could have survived. So, she had made the right decision and I went up and explained that and uh, [2:50:00] the Jeep's had a roll bar. If you roll sideways it would protect you but this Jeep flipped end over end and when it came down on the asphalt that bar just, it wasn't hooked to the frame it was factory. It was hooked to the body of the Jeep, which is sheet metal and it just tore the bolts right out, hit the ground, the windshield was folded down to the ground so if she'd been—had a seat belt on settin' in her seat she'd of still been killed because from here up was gonna be exposed and my granddaughter had been shoved partially up under the dash. Not under the dash but up close to it [2:51:03] but she was in the floor so she was protected there. This girl that was with my daughter, her husband's cousin, she was thrown underneath the dash and she was just—her bones were just shattered all over and she just laid there in bed. They didn't have a cast on her or anything but she just had to lay there and she healed and the doctors didn't think she'd—didn't know if she'd ever walk and then when her stand and when she did stand they said, "Well she'll never walk. Not without crutches or something." She does today. She danced at my daughter's wedding, and—[2:52:00] my daughter Karen when she got married but I told that story and I says, "We are charged as legislators by the Constitution to in for,"—lets see, "draft laws that will protect our citizens." I said, "Now this law protects our citizen, the little citizen that can't speak for itself," and I says, "Having driven an ambulance many years ago, I can tell you this, a lot of mothers will stand—sit there and hold that baby and think, boy I'm protecting it and crush that baby against the dash when the car hits and throws them forward," [2:53:00] and I say, "They don't want to do that but we need safety features on the—for the kids. It's up to us to do it so I am voting for the bill and I would hope you would too." Well, it was probably a year later, a group came to me and they wanted to get a Senator to speak to a business men's group and I called Dunbar and he came over and he told them that he changed his vote because of me.

MM: Wow.

FD: That paid for and it passed (laughter).

MM: Yeah.

FD: So, I don't know if it would have passed. I wasn't lookin' at the board to see if any lights went out or switched or anything. I just did my part.

MM: Yeah.

FD: And that's... [2:54:03]

MM: Well that's important. That's clearly important legislation that's been around then for a long time.

FD: Yeah, yeah.

MM: So, wow. Um, what differences, if any, were there between members of the House and Senate? Did you interact with members of the House very much?

FD: Oh, yeah. Yeah. We interacted when the President Reagan came to town we all met just like they do in Washington, in the House chambers because they always have more seats in there (laughter) and the uh—there's a lot of parties up there, no question about it. The lobbyists put on parties to get a chance to talk to us and us talk to them and uh, so members of the House and the Senate get together and even discuss bills [2:55:03]. "I've got a bill I want to send over to the House and I'd like for you to take the bill." You know? And so, that helps and it's a relaxed atmosphere and I set with Representatives many a times, many of 'em discussing bills, you know that I was working on and had and what have you and the same with them.

MM: Yeah. Okay. You mentioned sitting across from—I can't remember now who you said it was. I'm sure I could look it up but what was your relationship like with your seat mates?

FD: Oh, I got along with 'em all because for one thing you were in Republican territory (laughter). You didn't have to be careful about what you said, maybe how loud you said it (chuckles) [2:56:05]. McCormick is the one I was talking ...

MM: Yes. That's who you mentioned.

FD: And it was real easy. I had a bill that uh, there was one Senator did not like it. She had came out of county government and it was a township bill and she was against it and it started in the House and it passed and it was sent to me in the Senate. So, my partners—I got one over here and two over here or one and one. I forget which it was and I talked to the two of 'em about that bill before it ever got there [2:57:00] and explained to 'em what it was all about. It was—had to do with the Trustee's salary ordinances. They were having to go to the County Council and County Commissioners to get the ordinances to pass and it was township money. It wasn't county money and we had wanted for years to get it under them but it had been blocked because

of some stupidity. There was a Senate, I mean a House member. No, start over. There was a Trustee up in Lake County. They were—the Legislature was hearing a bill before I ever got up there on salary ordinances and he jumped on the bandwagon before the bill got passed [2:58:02] and announced that he was raising his salary to *this* level instead of it being here and going to here. He really raised it. Well, that killed the bill and uh, I didn't want that to happen so I had talked to everybody and I knew the Democrats—it was one of those things. I know this block here is going to vote for the bill because they're liberal and all I got to do—see now there's so many there and I need twenty-six (laughter) and I talked to this guy. Oh, yeah, yeah. He was—he agreed with that. Count it, they, they did. I said, “They got a board they have to answer to [2:59:00] and they all have to answer to the tax payer.” I said, “So what's the different than that?” That'd be like the state tellin' the county, “You send your request up here and we'll tell you whether you can do it or not.” That's county money as long as it fits. I think the tax board does have to take a look at it but that's all taxes.

MM: Right.

FD: You know? So, the bill was—I called the bill. Garten came back and says—before I called it. He knew it was up. Came back and he says, “Been wantin' to talk to you.” I says, “Yeah, Bob. I thought you might.” He says, “This ordinance bill for Township Trustees, I don't think it'll pass.” [3:00:01] I say, “I do.” He says, “You do?” I said, “Yeah.” He say, “I don't think so.” He says, “They's too many against it.” I says, “Well there's one way we can find out,” and he—I says, “You know Bob,” I says, “first meeting you and I had after I was elected was at for breakfast at the Holiday Inn when you were campaigning with me for Speaker of the, I mean for President Pro Tem, he says, “Yeah,” “and one of the things you told me was when it came to a bill you had to learn how to count.” I say, “You know somethin'? I can count.” (Laughter) He says, “Well, okay. It's your bill but I don't think so.” [3:01:02] I say, “Okay.” Well Senator Parent was setting right up there, right back behind him, back two seats or maybe she was over to the side. I'm not sure. Anyway, it was her that didn't want the bill passed because she came from county government. They wanted to keep that control on the townships. Well, one of the things I knew that I don't think either one of them knew, the Governor's first elective office was on a township board (laughter).

MM: That'll help.

FD: Yes. So, his—wantin' to say it's John, I can't think of John's last name right now—was up there for the vote to hear it and uh, so the—I got up, said my spiel and ever boy she got up and she just carried on about it [3:02:05] and I just looked over at the guys, Republicans settin' around me that would make it enough to pass and that was like a positive count. I've got ten votes here, Republicans and I've got eighteen Democrats. They were in the minority but I still had figured I had all those votes and I did. Every one of 'em voted for me. Well, it passed. Poor old John was standin' back here waitin' go down tell the Governor it had passed. Here come Parent shew down the aisle, the flames comin' out her ears [3:03:00] and she goes up and does, “John you get downstairs in the Governor's office right now,” and he says, “What, what for?” She says, “You gotta get down there and get him to veto this bill the soon as it touches his desk. It's a no good bill. It's not—just can't have it. It's wrong.” He says, “Oh. Okay.” Well, he went down. The Governor signed the bill (laughter). So that was ...

MM: Probably wasn't too happy about that.

FD: Yeah but there was a lot of Trustees in this state that were happy. I got a lot of letters from them.

MM: Yeah. I bet. I bet so. Can you briefly walk me through the process of generating a bill? What did that look like, sort of, from beginning to end? [3:04:00]

FD: Okay. You as a citizen come up to me and say, "There ought to be a law," and you tell me what you think this new law should be. I had one guy come up and he said, "We need a law like they had in Florida when the it's raining you have to have your headlights on." I couldn't argue with it but uh, it didn't pass but he wanted it and I tried to get it through for him. But you get a bill that way. Are you—there's something that you are interested in that you want to get a bill and you set down and you get your notes together. You call back and make an appointment with one of the attorneys. Set down with them.

MM: And do you mean like Legislative Services?

FD: Huh?

MM: Legislative Services? Those attorneys?

FD: Yes.

MM: Okay.

FD: Yeah, they have attorneys for the Republicans and Democrats have theirs in there and they—no matter you set the right thing out and it be perfect [3:05:12]. They're gonna still have to take a look at it and go through it and rewrite it to make sure that it's in the legal terminology. So they write it up. Then they send it back to you. You look at it. Don't have any big complaints or if you do have some complaints you go back down and say, "Well, this I don't like." You get that changed. Now it's you file the bill. It becomes—it comes in on the first reading, which they read the title and assign it to a committee and [3:06:00] in the Senate we can decide what committee our bills go to and I've had that workin' good for me in a lot of cases. Over in the House the Speaker assigned the bills. You had no control over it. You filed it. That's it. It's your bill. The only thing that Bob Garten had control over, any bill, was he could lock it in the safe and you couldn't do anything about it. You could go in his office and plead and cry and beg and all of that but if he said, "No," it was no. And so you got it on first reading. It's been assigned to a committee. The Committee Chairman [3:07:00] announces when the committee will meet and what bills they're going to hear in committee and if he doesn't have it on the list you go talk to him and explain to him why you need it on there as soon as possible. Have a committee hearing. People from the public come in and speak for, speak against and then the Committee votes recommend or not recommend. It goes back to the Senate. It's read into the records that it has passed ... the hearing, the committee hearing and the next day it's eligible for a third read. So, then I have control of my bill again and I call it on the third day for hearing [3:08:03] and I go up

to the microphone and introduce the bill and I say what I have to say about it and go back and set down and then they stand up, Senators do and raise their hand to get the Lieutenant Governor, Pro Tem's permission to come up and speak on the bill for or against. And then after that's all done and I have—as the author I have the closing argument, also and then when I get through, unless there's nobody wantin' to explain their votes, it's called for a vote and after the vote it either passes or it doesn't pass. If it passes then it's a Senate bill, then they will ask if, who I'm sending it to in the House [3:09:05] and I tell 'em what Legislator I have arranged for it to—to handle it over there and the way it goes and that's the end of it as far as I'm concerned until it comes back from the House and then if they've passed it, that's it. It's sent to the Governor to sign. If they amended it in any way, good, bad or indifferent, I am asked do I agree with the amendments that have been put on it or if I disagree. If I disagree it goes to a joint committee of House and Senate and we sit down and discuss it [3:10:02] and the House explains why they put the amendment in there that's there and it's up to me to explain why it shouldn't be there. I had a Representative one time put a IU bill in a bill about caves that I had. Nothin' germane and so I said, “That has to come out. It has nothin' to do with this bill.” That was a very short meeting cause they agreed (chuckles).

MM: Yeah.

FD: So we took it out and that goes back to each house. I present it and say, “We took out some language that had been put in there that was non germane and I recommend due pass,” and they vote on it, we pass it, it passes in the Senate, I mean the House [3:11:00] and then it goes to the Governor to sign into law.

MM: Okay. That was a good explanation. Thank you. Did you have a general sense—I mean you've shared a couple of stories related to this—but did you have a general sense of how people would vote prior to actually sitting down and voting?

FD: Some of 'em, I did.

MM: Yeah. Okay.

FD: If it—I wasn't so much concerned unless it was my bill (laughter).

MM: Right. Fair enough.

FD: You know? And, and I think everybody was that way and when I say, “my bill,” a bill I was really concerned about. You know? I didn't have to be the author of it. Somebody on the other side of the aisle could be the author but if it was one I was really concerned about and we didn't go to Caucus and the leadership say, “You *will* vote this bill in.” [3:12:07] That's usually on the budget bill.

MM: So they would say that or they wouldn't say that? Sorry, did you say usually in Caucus they would encourage you all to vote a particular way or not?

FD: They wouldn't unless it was a bill that the Governor wanted. We had—we were expected ...

MM: Okay.

FD: ... to vote for it. If it was one he didn't care about we were free to do whatever we wanted. That was one thing they did. Both houses, I mean both parties. They ran very tight ships when I was up.

MM: What do you mean by that exactly?

FD: Well, [3:13:00] if the edict that came out was that, "We want this bill," or "We don't want this bill," then you'd better go with the party if you want to be on any good committees cause next year you're gonna be put some place else.

MM: Okay. You just answered this question, I think but what roles did party leadership play then? How did they sort of enforce that?

FD: They just flat out told us, "If you want anything you will." I had a good friend of mine set right next to me. I think it was the second year that I was up there. He was from Evansville and he and I worked on a bill that we lost [3:14:00] but it didn't have anything to do with the leadership but um, there was a budget bill. Like I say, most of those where they put the clamps down on us and you had to do it. He wanted—he asked for permission in Caucus to vote against the budget bill. He says, "You've got enough votes to pass it. There is one thing in there that my constituents,"—there's a hospital I think in Evansville, a mental hospital or something and they wanted money for more air conditioning or something like that and he wanted to vote for the bill. We were all told the Governor didn't like the bill [3:15:00]. Didn't want that in there (sniffles) and he was from Evansville so Bob Garten and the Caucus Chairman both got up and they told us, "This is a no, no. We can't have the bill. We want it to go back to committee and Larry will do his thing." Larry Borst who was our finance and uh, so he told 'em. He says, "I will loose my election. You're putting me out of office if I *have* to vote with that or against it," and they said, "No. You've got to stick. We've got to do this as a unit," and he did. He stayed right with it. He bit the dust and whatever [3:16:01] and I admired him for doing it but I felt sorry for him at the same time for having to. I mean there's good sides and bad sides to it.

MM: Sure.

FD: And I was talking to Frank O'Bannon one day going down on the elevator and he says, "You know I feel sorry for you guys." He says, "You're the leadership. You guys are—have the responsibility of running a tight ship for state government." He says, "We're the minority. We can't do anything. We can just vote any way we want to, you know or just not vote or whatever," and I says, "You wouldn't do that," and he says, "No. Dad would come back and haunt me." [3:17:00] (Chuckles) His dad was a State Senator also but Frank was right. When you're in the minority you can do, you can vote any way you want to, say anything you want to about a bill, get it defeated or passed or whatever but when you're in the majority you can't pass that buck and so I don't know how other Pro Tems have ran the Caucus cause Garten was the only one the whole time I was there because the one that was there when I filed to run at that time was in

prison down in Kentucky for some mischievous thing he did and um ... so you just, you got—that's the rules and you've got to play by 'em. [3:18:03]

MM: What does the public, the general public, not know about the Indiana General Assembly or how it operates?

FD: There's so many things. For one right off the bat they think you go to the Senate or the House and you come away a millionaire. You don't do it. Oh, thank god for that and...they don't realize what it takes to get a bill passed. They just don't realize that.

MM: Do you mean the difficulty of it or?

FD: Yes. All of the hearings and everything to get the bill through and then get it kicked back in your face from the other house and have to go through it again or it completely dies and next year you've got to bring it back again [3:19:08]. They don't understand that. They think we just go up there and write the bills and that's it. And get a big check (chuckles). You'd be surprised how many people think that.

MM: And why do you think they do? What's the discrepancy in people not knowing how it works, in your opinion?

FD: Well, it may be because I mean it's public record. It's voted on in the public but a lot of people don't listen to that and they draw their own conclusion. They read in the paper, "Legislature discussing pay raise tomorrow." Uh, oh. That's all they saw was the headlines and the newspaper definitely made it a headline [3:20:04] and that's what their conclusion is [inaudible]. It said they were talkin' about raising their salary to twenty thousand dollars a year. Might have been some there that was doing that but if they had read the full story they'd have found out there was a majority settin' there that said, "No. We're not."

MM: Yeah.

FD: The whole time I was up there we never raised the legislator's salary until the last year I was there and the philosophy was, I can vote for a raise if it's not for me. I don't know if I'll be there tomorrow or not or next year so I can vote for it with a—if I think it's right, if I think it's legal and I want [3:21:00]. We had one Senator settin' in Caucus and we were talkin' about salaries that um, oh he was always worried about what people back home was gonna say. I told him, I says, "They sent you up here to think for them because you're here where it is. Now granted, you don't wanna just flagrantly go against 'em."

MM: Sure.

FD: "But it's up to you to do what's right here and go home and explain it to them and why it was right." I said, "It's that simple." But we were sittin' in Caucus and the salary had been brought up and oh, he thought we should have a pay raise. He just really kept on, "I think we need a—we, we do. We—you know we need a pay raise," and he says um—lets see. How was that? [3:22:07] He would make a motion that we raise the salary. Couldn't get a second. Nobody

else in Caucus was gonna second it but Larry Borst did speak up and says, “To answer Senator so-and-so's question here and all and needin’ more money.” He says, “We’re not gonna touch—I’ll tell ya right off. We’re not gonna touch the salary but now if you want to we can raise the per diem.” Which they did and it didn’t take all of us votin’ for it, what have you. You know?

[3:23:00] So some of us could vote against it. The Democrats were all gonna vote for it. They’re the irresponsible party (laughter) and um, so he was happy. He had some more money in his pocket. I think it was, per diem was fifty dollars a day when I went in and when I left there it had been raised to seventy-five, I think and at fifty we were way under what the federal government said it cost to live in Indianapolis. What my accountant did, he said, “We, we’ll claim that that you got the fifty dollars a day while in session and then we will put it that you lost twenty-five dollars, tax it because the federal government says it takes seventy-five dollars but you only got fifty.” [3:24:10] I says, “You’re the accountant just don’t get me in jail.”

MM: (Laughter) Figure it out. Well, how did your legislative service affect your family or did it affect your family?

FD: Well, it did. There was times I wasn’t around when they would liked to have me here, I’m sure (clears throat). It affected my daughter because she—Charlie Loos hired her to be ... I forget what it was. Anyway, she wound up wording, working at the front desk in his office when he was auditor [3:25:00] and she—he sent her to the business college in Indianapolis and had the state paying her way and it was all legitimate and then of course when he lost the election the Democrats moved her off the front desk right away. They couldn’t have a Duckworth settin’ at the front desk (chuckles) and Charlie—that was Charlie’s statement (laughter) and um, so then Bob Orr was busy tryin’ to find a place for her and he got her over in called her to his office and told her he had a job for her in the uh ... Public Service Commission Office [3:26:00] and she said, “Well, I’d better go back over to the office and let ‘em know.” He says, “You don’t have to tell them nothin’. You don’t work there anymore. Go get your stuff out of the desk if there’s anything you want and that’s it. You’re done. Report over to (laughter)—I said you’re not workin’ there anymore. You’re workin’ over there.” But Bob Orr liked her. She was on the budget—worked on the Budget Committee with Bob Orr and the others on the State Budget Committee so he’d got to know her pretty well and so that affected her that way. My son was—got out of Vincennes. When he got out of there he went to work—I’d had him working part time during the summer for DNR and he went to work for the State Highway—excuse me—State Highway Engineers [3:27:07] on building new highways and bridges and stuff like that. Surveying the lay for, of the land for the new approach, bridge, whatever and that worked until after I lost the election. A Democrat got in and she had her little business that was puttin’ up guardrails along the highway and her husband was running it and my son happened to be the inspector on a section of that over on sixty-seven and he had to go to Seymore because he worked out of Seymore. He had to go to Seymore and get his assignment and then drive back and it was up above Martinsville on sixty-seven [3:28:04] so he gets there and these guys are workin’ away. He goes over and starts checkin’ the guardrail and it’s not to speck and he told ‘em, he says, “Stop,” and the guy says, “What’d you mean?” He says, “It’s not to speck,” and he checked it. There was four miles of guardrail that was put up wrong and he says, “I’m not approving it.” So they called Vi Simpson’s husband and he came out and, “Ah, well, you know it’s not that bad. There’s worse than that,” and blah blah blah. Jim says, I’m sorry. I’m not doin’ it. I’m not puttin’ my name on something done wrong [3:29:00]. I never have and I never will.”

So Jim says, "I'll call Indianapolis." He says, "I know some"—cause he had worked for Ralph Rodgers. He says, "I know some of the guys in the office up there." Well, they called back down to Seymore, dumped it in Jim's bosses lap. He called Jim and says, "Is that road really that bad? You not—you don't want to sign it?" He says, "No. I won't sign it. You can assign somebody else there if you want to but I won't sign." It's—told 'em what was wrong and he said, "Oh, well, no problem." He says, "Tell 'em to tear it up." Well that cost her company a bundle of money. Several, I mean four miles of steel guardrail [3:30:02] and so they undid it but uh, then the Democrats had gotten in office and Bob Orr was out and Evan Bayh was in there. Well, the word came down to keep an eye on him and they would follow him home because he drove a state vehicle. Did he stop at the grocery store? That's a no-no. Did he stop any place? And they documented everything and he got tired of it and he walked in says, "I quit. You won't fire me. I quit." And they done the same thing to my daughter [3:31:00]. They had a gal watching her and taking notes every time she got up from her desk. She could be going to sharpen her pencil and in eyesight you could see her sharpening and comin' back and settin' down. "Karen left her desk at such and such a time and returned at such and such a time."

MM: Wow.

FD: Oh, after an election when it changes parties you—they can't fire ya but they can make life miserable enough that you'll quit.

MM: Yeah.

FD: And that's what they had just about done to her and Bob Orr found a job for her over in the state office building and they didn't have nothin' to do with that.

MM: Yeah. Did your daughter continue to work for state government?

FD: She worked, in fact that's where she met her husband. He was an auditor in that section and then uh, Charlie Loos showed up again [3:32:01]. She met him on the elevator and he says, "What are you doin'?" She says, "I'm workin' in public service," and he says, "Oh." She says, "What are you doin'?" He says, "Well, I'm the Director of Public Safety." He says, "Why don't you come up and see me sometime?" She says, "Well, okay," and by that time they're at the bottom on their elevator. He says, "In fact, why don't you come and see me in the morning?" So morning comes, she takes a break and goes up to his office. He says, "How would you like to work up here?" And uh, "Well what would I be doing?" And a dialogue going on and [3:33:00] so he says, "Well, just a minute," and he says, "I'll call my Personnel Officer up and I want him to talk to you." So he came up and got Karen and took her back, interviewed her and she came back and he says, "Well when do you go to work?" She says, "What do you mean go to work?" He says—she said, "We just talked." She said—he says, "You were supposed to come back in here hired." (Laughter) He says, "I want you here Monday morning." I think that was a Thursday or Friday and so she took over and she was operating the budget for the State Police and she handled the budget and I think she had to go to Chicago with the federal government [3:34:02] on it to get the Mustangs that they had for chase cars and she—they had only had 'em a short time and she was coming down here one Sunday. Her and her husband lived in Carmel or not Carmel, Fishers right next to Carmel and she was on four sixty five and a trooper pulled her over

for speeding and he was driving a Mustang (laughter) and she was drivin'. Greg was just settin' there (laughter).

MM: That's funny.

FD: And he didn't help her explain or nothing. He stayed out of it.

MM: Probably wise.

FD: Yeah.

MM: Oh, that is funny.

FD: And so she came down, was tellin' me about it. Greg says, "You know I told her comin' on down here she should have told him who she was." Said, "He'd have probably let her off."

[3:35:05] She said, "Ah, it would have been on the front page of the newspaper come Monday morning."

MM: Probably true.

FD: So instead Monday morning she's settin' there at her desk and here comes the State Superintendent of Police in. He walks by, says, "Oh, hi Karen. Thanks for the donation." (laughter) She was—it was already all over the air.

MM: That's funny. I bet she was a bit embarrassed probably.

FD: Oh, she was. She says, "If I ever find out who told and spread the—got this rumor spread around."

MM: Yeah. That's funny. Well, I have a handful of questions left. I don't know what time it is or how you're doing or?

FD: Oh, I'm alright. It's five o'clock.

MM: Is it? Okay.

FD: Let me turn some light on here. (shuffling)

MM: Let me just check my phone real quick. [3:36:00] Okay. Give me one second here. I think I've got about a half hour before I have to head out but hopefully we'll get through this here but if not we can arrange to finish up another time, too. Make sure that's still recording but, okay what would you say were the most controversial legislative issues during your time in the assembly?

FD: (long pause) [3:37:00] Well, it's hard to say cause there was so many bills went through and the one that I think probably got the most attention was about a child here in Bloomington that

was born and it had no esophagus. I think that was the story on it cause that hit close to home with me because I had an older child that died twenty-four hours after she was born. My oldest one and that—she had, was deformed and had all of that and the doctor in down here, [3:38:00] a good friend of mine and a very, very good doctor. He took care of all of our children and—cause he even took care of Toni she was young enough when we first came to town and there was a big uproar. People complaining that they should let the baby die. They shouldn't let the baby die. One of those things and it was—a bill was introduced that affected that and I can't remember how the bill went, if it was voted up or down but I know I spoke on it [3:39:00]. It was a—knowing the doctor I says, “he would not have recommended what he recommended there if it wasn't the last straw,” and he wanted to try to save the baby and god he was known for taking care of babies. I was in the emergency room with my wife one time after that and some guy and his wife came in and they had a young—it wasn't a baby, baby like the other one but he had brought the child to the hospital and I think his wife was a nurse and they called her and she came down and he was saying that something happened to the child and got hurt [3:40:00]. Well, he was walking through at the time and they latched on to him and said, “Take a look at that baby in there.” Says, “Tell us what the story is.” He went in and came back out and he just shakin' his head and I could tell by the look on his face he was upset. He had taken a look at the baby and he said it was child abuse and the father was saying that he had rolled over and the baby fell off the bed and he said, “That baby's been hit hard. Not fallen off the couch on the floor,” and he was just that kind of doctor. [3:41:00] Babies came first so I knew if he said, “This is what should be done with that baby,” that's what it should, should be done. I wasn't a doctor. I'm not gonna contradict him. He had too good a reputation and I knew it and I think that was probably one of the most controversial because it was a human interest thing and those you have people on both sides that are very hot and each side argues very hard and newspapers were taking sides and it was just, it was rough. It was a rough time.

MM: Sounds like it. What legislation did you work hardest on? [3:42:00]

FD: I guess the one I worked hardest on was the one that—that first one. The guidelines.

MM: The trustee guidelines?

FD: The trustee guidelines because that was a very highly contested bill and had a lot of support behind it too because like I say it cleared the Senate and would have the House had I been coached on that—the way to handle something like that. I found out after the facts [3:43:00]. I was very disappointed in the legislator I sent it to cause he had been there for some time and he didn't say anything about what we could do as go ahead and let them strip it and put theirs in and pass it in the House and then when it come back from the Senate I could refuse it, have it stripped out and put it back the way it was and then the House would have to vote on it that way and I wasn't aware of it at that time. I was depending on him, a seasoned legislator to direct me on that.

MM: Mm-hmm. What was your proudest moment as a legislator?

FD: When I stood there with Miss America [3:44:01] (laughter).

MM: And when did that happen?

FD: And introduced her to the Senate.

MM: That's funny. How did that come about?

FD: She was from IU and she'd been Miss IU and then Miss Indiana and then Miss America.

MM: And you got to introduce her?

FD: And I got to introduce her and got my picture taken with her (laughter).

MM: That's funny. Okay.

FD: And I had a lot of Senators around there saying, "Why you? Why you?" (laughter)

MM: I bet. I bet they did. Oh, that's funny. Well you've talked about this a couple of different times throughout but how would you describe committee work?

FD: Oh, it was very interesting cause you learn a lot in there. If you didn't know anything about the bill before that's where you really got a chance to [3:45:03] not only read it, cause if you didn't read it you couldn't ask any questions on it or make any recommendations or anything and so that was a good learning place. Of course you couldn't be on every committee but that was one of the best areas to learn because you get back out on the Senate floor and then it's getting close to time to vote. You're only a day away from possibly voting up or down and so it's too late to learn then.

MM: Okay. What in your opinion is the most important work [3:46:00] of the Indiana General Assembly? What's the most important thing they do?

FD: Well, one of the most important things, that's a standing thing, is the state budget. That takes an awful lot of work. I mean we caucused for two weeks on the state budget. Larry Borst has got it this way and he's thinks it'll go and then meet with the House people and they don't like it and back and forth and I think that would be the most difficult one too.

MM: Sure, sure. Well, when did you leave the General Assembly?

FD: When did I leave? [3:47:00]

MM: Mm-hmm.

FD: I left in the fall of 1984.

MM: Mm-hmm and did you run again for re-election?

FD: No.

MM: No. So did you lose the election or did you just not run again?

FD: Oh, wait a minute. Wait, wait. I'm in the wrong period. Yes. I did run for re-election.

MM: Okay.

FD: And I lost to Vy Simpson

MM: Okay.

FD: Which again it wasn't a surprise that I lost. It was a surprise that I ever won that seat because again it was like the Trustee's Office and we hadn't had it and we haven't had it since.

MM: Yeah.

FD: I'm the only Republican to have been in that seat at all since, [3:48:00] well twenty-eight years before 80 so that's thirty-six.

MM: So you kind of looked at it, and correct me if I'm wrong, more that it was just lucky that you got the one term as opposed to any sort of long term ...

FD: That's right and I only lost by five hundred votes.

MM: Wow. So still close.

FD: So it was still close and yes I would have liked to have won. I wouldn't have served over two terms, though.

MM: Why's that?

FD: I believe in term limits and the best way to believe in term limits is to live up to it.

MM: Okay. Well how would you summarize your time as a state legislator overall?

FD: Well, I enjoyed it. I really and truly did because I like politics. I like discussing politics and [3:49:00] being in on the know. You know? And there you were on the inside.

MM: Sure.

FD: And I really enjoyed that.

MM: What is it that you liked about it? Is it just, well I'll let you answer. What is it that you liked being in the know?

FD: Oh, I—just everything. I just liked to know how the budget's going, how this bill's going and I set back here and I'll see in the paper where they'll say that, "Legislature's doing such and such or the Democrats are doin' such and such or the Republicans are." Say, "It's not goin' any place," (laughter) and they say, "How do you know it's not?" It's just not and sure enough it doesn't go any place and it's not because I'm so smart [3:50:04]. It's because that's the way the legislature works.

MM: So you like having that understanding, too of...

FD: Yes.

MM: Okay. You shared several throughout the interview but do you have a favorite story or anecdote during your time in the General Assembly?

FD: Mmm ... Well, I'll tell you one that I later after I was out and he was out of the Senate told on 'em. Senator Ed Peas from over in Terre Haute, he and I were freshmen together and I forget if it was the second or third year or maybe even the fourth year but he got very sick and that young man had them bring a bed in to the Pro Tem's office [3:51:00], a hospital bed I think it was. Some form of bed, may have been a rollaway and he laid in that bed until it was time to vote and he'd get outta that bed and go in and vote and come back to bed.

MM: Wow.

FD: I think that's dedication and it's something to be really looked up to. Well, after I got out of the Senate I think he served one more term and then John Myers decided that he was gonna drop outa Congress and so Ed filed that he was runnin'. And he had contacted some of the people that he knew from some Boy Scout connections I think that he had over in Ellettsville [3:52:02] and one of 'em served on the parks, Monroe County Parks Board with me and long time friends and he called me up and he said, "Ed Peas is comin' over to meet with some of us this weekend or whatever day," and says, "I'd like to invite you." I said, "Okay." So I went over and they were all settin' there talkin' to Ed and questioning him, you know to find out something about him and that's where I says, "You know, I want to say one thing. You'll never find a more dedicated person than that man settin' right there," and Ed did not know what was coming and I says, [3:53:00] "To show you true dedication," and I told them what he did and I says, "I have all the admiration in the world for that man. He should have been home in bed or at least back in his hotel room in bed but he was there. He never missed the vote. He got out of the bed, went and voted, and came back." I says, "Now if you want a man that's dedicated here's the man to get behind." And Ed set there and he shook his head. He says, "I think I forgot all about that." (laughter) I said, "What do you mean you think you forgot?"

MM: (laughter) That's funny. That was dedication certainly.

FD: That's right [3:54:00] but I told that on him over there and they remembered that (laughter).

MM: Yeah, I bet. I bet.

FD: And Ed would even mention it sometimes cause he had asked me if I would be his connection over here in Monroe County, representative and he'd tell people, "Don't ever let him find out anything about you. Gonna tell it."

MM: What lessons if any did you learn?

FD: What lessons? When to speak and when not to speak.

MM: In what way or how so?

FD: Well, if you're speaking on a controversial issue you may not want to say what you think is right [3:55:00] but a lot of times we go ahead and do it anyway and I think that's the biggest thing is just sort of monitoring yourself so that you don't overdo it. You overbake a cake, you know? You can leave it in the fire too long. It's time to get out (laughter).

MM: Fair enough. Well, you already answered this so, even though you lost the election in what have been probably '84 you would have maybe run one more term but not again. Did you want to get back into politics later in any way?

FD: Oh I ran for Coroner. I got talked into that and I wasn't really into it [3:56:00]. I just knew all along I was gonna lose because I wasn't—my heart wasn't in it. You know? And that was the last time I ran for anything. I've had people try to talk me into running for things but I've been there. As the guy says, "I've played in the big game." And the only thing if I was gonna run for the, for Congress would it be worth it? You know? And I don't believe in going backwards. I think that's the reason I probably didn't have my heart in running for Coroner. It's a local—it's an honorable position and there's not—in a lot of people they'd still be happy. But I just, [3:57:00] I had actually just run out of steam.

MM: Sure. Sure.

FD: And having four years out if it had of been right after I went out it might have been different but after you've been out a while you're over it (laughter).

MM: Sure. Sure. Well, you know I know you aren't—weren't born and raised here but you've been in Indiana for a while now. How would you say the state itself has changed over the course of your time here. Or has it changed?

FD: It has in some ways, I think and other ways it hasn't. Hoosiers are still Hoosiers and I've got somethin' I'm gonna go upstairs and get and give to [3:58:02] you that my daughter in law did. She's an artist. And I don't think you'll ever change a Hoosier from bein' a Hoosier. I really don't and there's nothin' wrong with it but I think that's the one thing that hasn't changed at all. What has changed? I've seen a lot of change in transportation. For instance, we've got the interstate here now and they were arguing about that when I ran for the Senate.

MM: Wow.

FD: And I was questioned on that [3:59:02]. “How do you feel about that? Are you for it or against it?” I says, “Well I’m for progression and that is not being liberal. It’s being a moderate and so I would like to see it. Now were they to put it where they are talkin’ about now I’d leave that up to the engineers,” but I says, “As far as an interstate? Yes. We need it. We’re settin’ down here, got a big University.” I says, “Finally got thirty seven in. At least we’ve got four lanes but we need an interstate.” And I had some people that didn’t like my statement on that but I found out that those people that didn’t like it, their property was involved [4:00:00]. People that were for it, they didn’t have anything to worry about except, “Let me know where it is.”
(Laughter)

MM: Yeah. Right, right.

FD: And we had a guy down here that evidently he had more money and more time than he knew what to do with cause he fought that for years. His money. Now I’m sure they—some people donated money but it was basically his money that he put up.

MM: Wow.

FD: And uh, it was just ridiculous. He was all the time goin’ around sayin’ “It’s gonna cost more. They’re wrong. That’s not what a much it’s gonna cost.” Yeah, he was right. He delayed it at least twenty years startin’. Prices went up during twenty years. It cost more. He was assured it was gonna pass [4:01:01] or cost more.

MM: Goodness. How would you say the Indiana General Assembly changed? Or has it, too?

FD: I think it’s pretty much the same. I can’t really see anything that has changed there. It’s still the committees and well, even the—it’s still a Republican Legislature. Even I think they’ve got the House now. It’s maybe not the same percentages that we had. We were an unusual group to have a constitutional majority. That’s pretty hard to do, so.

MM: Well, you just said that you know Hoosiers and identifying—Hoosiers that stayed the same [4:02:04] so to kind of follow up on that what if any enduring qualities do Hoosiers still have or hold dear? What is it that makes a Hoosier a Hoosier?

FD: Oh, (laughter) basketball.

MM: Well you’re in the hot bed seat here—down here with that.

FD: Huh?

MM: Well, down here with that you’re right in the thick of it.

FD: Yeah. That has to be the first thing that comes to mind. Indiana University, the race track in Indianapolis. That goes way back. It’s over a hundred years old. It’s uh, the [4:03:00] old Hoagie Carmichael from here in Bloomington. I’ve been in—I don’t know if you’ve ever had the pleasure or not but I’ve been in the—where he wrote Stardust. The restaurant that he played a

piano in and it's where he's supposed to have written Stardust and we've got some others. They don't come to mind right now but that have gone on to some great things. One was—is a young man when I was in the Senate. The representative, a Democrat over by the—that had the University. He was a violin player. Very, very good and she had him up to the State House [4:04:02] and introduced him to the House of Representatives and then brought him over to me and introduced him to me and I introduced him to the Senate and he played in the Senate and boy it was just dead silence in there. Unusual (laughter). Nobody was even whispering.

MM: Yeah. Really had 'em.

FD: He was—I can't remember his name and he's still popular. I hear of him every once in a while.

MM: Yeah. Yeah.

FD: I think he's in New York now the last time I heard. I think that's where he was.

MM: Well, we have covered a lot of material here. Is there anything that I haven't asked that you would want to say or go on record with or?

FD: What haven't we covered? [4:05:01]

MM: (Laughter) It's pretty thorough.

FD: I can't think of a thing right now.

MM: Okay. Well, if you do think of anything please give me a call and let me know or if there's anything else.

FD: Well, if you think of anything else you'd like to ask ...

MM: Okay. I will certainly do that, so.

FD: ... give me a call.

MM: Alright.

FD: And hold on just a minute.

MM: Okay. Are you okay with me turning this off or do you want me to leave that on for a minute?

FD: Yes, you can turn that off.

MM: Okay. We'll get set up then. Well, thank you so much.

