

ILOHI Interview with Robert D. Garton

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Columbus, Indiana

Interview by Dr. Michella M. Marino

Transcribed by Mary Kelley

MP3 file, Sony

Robert Garton=RG

Michella Marino=MM

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MM: Ok. Well, we'll get started then if you're ready.

RG: Are we on?

MM: Yeah.

RG: Ok.

MM: I just want to state for the record that my name is Michella Marino and today's date, although we couldn't remember it (chuckles), ...

RG: (chuckles)

MM: ... is Tuesday, September 25, 2018, and I am here interviewing Robert D., what's the D stand for?...

RG: Dean.

MM: ...Dean Garton and we are at his home in Columbus, Indiana, and we are doing an audio digital oral history interview. So, I'll start with some easy questions...

RG: Ok.

MM: ...of when and where were you born?

RG: At Chariton, Iowa. In Lucas County, Iowa, you go down to the next county and then you go to that southern border the next county and you're in Missouri. So, it's pretty far south.

MM: Ok.

RG: Why, it's where the glacier ended so it's not the farmland that it is up in central Iowa.

MM: Ok.

RG: It's a town of about 5000 people when I was there and it's still about 5000 people (chuckles). But the count [0:01:00] where I was born was the same county that John L. Lewis was born, president of the United Mine Workers...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...and grew up there uh because it was also coal mining country.

MM: Ok.

RG: At that time. And so that's ...then I went through the Chariton public schools and their high school.

MM: Ok. And did you give me your birth date there?

RG: Uh, August 18, 1933. I was born in...on the second floor of a white clap board house about a mile from the railroad...uh a mile, uh about a block from the railroad tracks there in Chariton...

MM: Uh huh.

RG: ...and my dad was a doctor of osteopathy but he was not allowed to practice in the local hospital which was owned by an M.D. Because M.D.'s and D.O.'s did not recognize each other and now they all take the same exams...

MM: Um hmm.

RF: ...boards, if you will, and they are totally accepted. [0:02:00] But at the time dad had to practice in Des Moines from the osteopathic hospital there.

MM: Wow.

RG: So, he assisted in the delivery and uh, that's uh, that's where we grew up at that point.

MM: Ok. In, um... what are your parents' names?

RG: Dad's name was Doctor Jesse Glen Garton and he went by his middle name Glen. I don't know why but he did. And mom was Ruth Irene Wright and she grew up in Indianola, Iowa about 25 miles from Chariton and mom for some reason went by her middle name and so uh dad was very intelligent. He was, you would call him an intellectual today uh in fact, he combined two grades twice when he was going through school. And so, he graduated, I think, when he was about 15 [0:03:00] years old and so then he worked two years as a gravel truck driver and for some reason, since he was eleven years old, always wanted to be an osteopath. So, he ended up going to Kirksville for a couple a years after he had earned enough money to be able to afford to go there and he then finished up at the Des Moines General Hospital in Des Moines. Went to Milo, set up practice, had a fire, burned out, decided to relocate to Chariton, Iowa, and uh down in the next county, southwest of it, my grandfather, he and grandmother owned a uh well what would today be called a convenience store...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...it was a very small community called Cambria and uh grandpa [0:04:00] was uh ran for the school board and was elected and at that time they were in the midst of consolidation and uh so grandpa broke the tie and voted to consolidate the high school in Cambria and all the surrounding schools then were very opposed so he lost half his business.

MM: Ooh.

RG: And it was the start of the Depression and he lost the other half. (laughs) So...

MM: It's a bad string of luck there.

RG: And the irony is that high school is the only thing that held that community together for years and years and years.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And so back to dad, with his V.O. degree. Mom, grew up, as I say, in Indianola, Iowa and went to Simpson College and got her two-year certificate in teaching. And then got a job in Cambria to teach where grandpa and grandma lived. And she rented a room in their house, [0:05:00] (laughs) And that's how mom and dad met and were married. And then after their marriage mom did not teach anymore. She often helped dad out in the office.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Dad had a huge practice.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: In fact, Des Moines General said he was probably the best diagnostician in central Iowa. And so...

MM: How far away was Des Moines?

RG: Oh, Des Moines, that's a good question. Was about 50 miles. It's about like Columbus and Indianapolis now. Sometimes I wonder if I'm not replicating (laughingly) my home town and Columbus.

MM: Yeah.

RG: Except Chariton still stayed 5000.

MM: Columbus is...

RG: Oh, by the way, Chariton is also the headquarters of Hy-Vee, if you've heard of it.

MM: I have.

RG: Hy-Vee stands for Hyde and Vredenburg. Those were the two guys that started the distribution of groceries center and it became then their headquarters. It grew and now I believe it is the largest privately held grocery chain in America. [0:06:00]

MM: That's funny. I am familiar with Hy-Vee when I lived out in Nebraska Hy-Vees were very big out there...

RG: Oh Hy-Vee...

MM: ... and it was the nice grocery store to go to. I never knew what that stood for.

RG: ...right, right and then they got a new president, and the rumor was she did not want to live in Chariton, too small, so they moved headquarters to Des Moines, but the distribution center is still there. Employs, I think, several thousand people. It's a very huge facility and also there's a Johnson Machine Works there that built big dams throughout the country

MM: Uh huh.

RG: So those were the two major employers there in Chariton.

MM: Yeah, huh. Ok. Well, um, how did your family, your grandparents end up in that area? Or, why, how did they come to Iowa?

RG: Well, I don't really know.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: Mom really had researched the family and somewhere I have misplaced and can't find the book. [0:07:00] (laughs) And all the work she did but if I remember right we've got ah Welsh, we have Irish, we have German, we have English in our background and whatever wing of the family moved to North Carolina and then I think they came to Indiana. In fact, mom said I've got one relative that started the first Sunday School class up in central Indiana, maybe the Methodist.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And, uh mom always claimed we were related to the Wright brothers. Not claimed proved it because their last name was Wright and incidentally that was an old joke that I used to tell uh why did you become a Republican and you're probably going to ask that later on, so I will wait for that joke. Remind me of it.

MM: Ok, we'll get back to that one then. So,...

RG: And, uh both grandparents ended up [0:08:00] being farmers. One in Wayne County and one in the county where Indianola is. But unfortunately, during those Depression years when grandpa lost his store, grandpa Garton, they had to move in with mom and dad. (laughingly) That's not the most pleasant experience...

MM: I'm sure not.

RG: ...either at the time. And then dad, uh grandpa got a job as a butcher and then dad bought a farm down in Owen County...

MM: Ok.

RG: ...so that uh grandpa then farmed the farm and of course mom grew up her parents were farmers all the full time.

MM: Um hmm. Yeah, So, you said, help me understand the progression, that you, you had some family in Indiana first and then went to Iowa? Or did your family come from like North Carolina and then Iowa?

RG: North Carolina and then I think some of them dropped off here.

MM: Yeah, Pit stop on the way. Yeah.

RG: Indiana on mom's side of the family...

MM: Yeah, ok.

RG: ... and other than that I simply [0:09:00] don't know.

MM: Yeah. Ok. I think that's kind of a pretty common progression. That's how my family got this way too, I think.

RG: Oh yeah. Ok.

MM: Now you said obviously your dad owned a farm and was a doctor as well, right? And your mom didn't work but did I read somewhere that she ran for school board later on?

RG: Yes, mom did run for school board. And I remember I was in the sixth grade fifth-sixth grade at the time, sitting in the car as mom and dad went door to door campaigning. She was the first woman to be elected to the school board in Chariton and then unfortunately, or fortunately, she made the right decision, but she broke the tie to fire the football coach. (laughs)

MM: Which I bet was a very big deal.

RG: Now, when you're in the sixth grade (laughs) and you have your classmates who think the football coach is a pretty neat guy...it was an interesting time. (laughs)

MM: I bet it was.

RG: Oh, and dad also ran. Did I mention that he ran [0:10:00] for the town council?

MM: No.

RG: And was elected to town council. He only served one term.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: But oh my, what improvements happened when he was on the council. They built an airport in Chariton.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: They changed the traffic pattern around the square, which still exists. They opened a solid waste dump. You know, they really did a lot of terrific things.

MM: Yeah.

RG: But dad said four years was enough. And then...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...oh, did I get my interest in politics from those two? I don't know but mom was very, very active in the Republican Party.

MM: Ok.

RG: And um, ...

MM: Like at the city or county level or...?

RG: At the city level.

MM: At the city level, ok.

RG: And that's when we were on the paper ballots. Election night she wouldn't get home until five or six in the morning cause they'd been up all night counting ballots. (laughs)

MM: Uh huh. Wow.

RG: Paper ballots. Yeah. And yeah, I might as well [0:11:00] mention that, you know, why did I become a Republican, uh well, the Wright family was all Republican.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: The Garton family were all Democrats. (laughs) In fact, in fact, dad told grandma Garton in one of the FDR campaigns, I think it was the 1940 campaigns, said, if Roosevelt's elected mom we're going to war. So, grandma could not vote Republicans, so she did not vote in that election. (chuckles)

MM: (laughs)

RG: They were fine, they were straight. I mean the Wrights, Republicans, the Gartons', Democrats. So that's how I became a Republican, is I used to joke, because I'm half Wright. (laughs)

MM: (laughs) That's a good one. Yeah. That's funny.

RG: Ok.

MM: Um,

RG: I got one other thing to tell you about my early years.

MM: Yeah. Please do. Please do.

RG: Um, when I was [0:12:00] five years old...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...now dad's a doctor, and I kept having this pain, but it would come and go. It was intermittent. I would be fine and then I'd have the pain again. And what in the world is wrong? And finally, we went to the local M.D. hospital...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...and I had an infected appendix.

MM: Ooh.

RG: And it was dripping. And I was infected so I'd be ok and then it would stop and it got very serious. I had to go to surgery there at the local hospital. And these were the days before the antibiotics. Penicillin didn't exist. So, I was in such pain that they gave me morphine.

MM: I didn't know about that.

RG: Almost died.

MM: Ooh.

RG: That's why I always say I'm allergic to morphine [0:13:00] whether I am or not all these years.

MM: Yeah.

RG: And it got to the point where at five years old I weighed twenty-five pounds.

MM: Oh.

RG: And I remember being in that local hospital bed and vomiting all the way to the wall...

MM: Oh.

RG: ...you know, and then I remember mom sitting by my bedside and I was working on some childhood puzzle and she was crying and I couldn't understand why she was crying.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And I have since found out that my chances for living were 40/60 the wrong way. So, dad finally moved me to a Dr. Schwartz up at the Des Moines General and every year since then I'd send him a Christmas card because he literally saved my life and did a surgery.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And what the result of that is that I was always thin, very, very thin. Up until...I mean I remember in the seventh grade I would not walk [0:14:00] across in front of the classroom to sharpen my pencil because I was so embarrassed. (chuckles) I was so thin.

MM: Hmm.

RG: And I was in sports and finally in my junior year I said you know I'm tired of being thin.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: So, mom said it cost them two cows. One to milk and one to butcher. (chuckles)

MM: Hmph.

RG: Everyday I drank four quarts of milk and I remember I'd go to bed at night and I'd roll back and forth in my bed and I'd just slosh. (laughs)

MM: (laughs)

RG: And I ate meat and potatoes and I ended up gaining about, I think, about sixty /seventy pounds.

MM: Wow.

RG: So, it slowed me up a little bit in football but other than that.

MM: Yeah. Well, I think I heard though that you were a four-sport athlete...

RG: I was a four-sport.

MM: ... so I don't think it hurt you too bad.

RG: Yeah, well the reason I was a four sport is because we didn't offer four sports until I got my letter. (laughs)

MM: (laughs)

RG: We had track, football and basketball but we never had baseball. Well, they added baseball.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: So that was my four letters. [0:15:00] And to my knowledge I was the first four sport letterman there in high school. And I really loved basketball. I was honorable mention on their all-conference. They had first team, second team and then I was honorable mention. I was also co-captain of the basketball team.

MM: Well you were a Hoosier at heart then weren't you? (laughs)

RG: (laughs) That's right. And I played end in football and ended up being a punter on the team and I remember we were playing Knoxville, Iowa and we were getting ready to go out and it was going to be a very even game...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...and the coach, it was a real complement to me, I took it that way, he said, coach said I think we're going to be ok with them because we've got a better punter than they do. (chuckles) So...

MM: (laughingly) Well there you go.

RG: ...I thought that was nice. (laughs)

MM: Well it is nice. Now, did you have any siblings?

RG: No, only child.

MM: Only child, ok.

RG: Yeah. The irony is wife Barbara is [0:16:00] also an only child.

MM: Oooh.

RG: So, how can that work out all of these years. (laughs)

MM: Yeah. Oh that's funny. Um...

RG: And she grew up in St. Louis.

MM: Ok.

RG: Webster Grove suburb...

MM: Ok.

RG: ...of St. Louis. Dad, Dad was a musician by training. He grew up at southeastern Iowa on a farm. He, he didn't really know what he wanted to do but he knew he didn't want to be a farmer. And he played the violin. He was a string and oboe man and at that time you studied under some one you didn't go to university for music.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And ended up playing in the Chicago Symphony and then that's where he and Nana, we called grandma, he and Arlene Hicks were married. And, oh by the way, that was an interesting time because she was an usher. And they were engaged but they couldn't let anybody know because nobody that was engaged or married to [0:17:00] someone in the orchestra could hold that job...

MM: Ooooh.

RG: ...as an usher. And some people turned them in. They kept seeing them sitting on a bench for lunch.

MM: (gasp)

RG: And so, he ended up in St. Louis and was the leader of the Philharmonic and also the leader of the Scottish band. Barb's background is Scottish.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And was the secretary of the union at the Muny Opera in St. Louis.

MM: Wow.

RG: And again played the oboe and the clarinet. And was in Who's Who in Music by the way.

MM: Yeah. Right.

RG: He was, yeah, he was quite a, quite a guy. So that brings you up to date on that side of the family.

MM: Who were the, who would you say are the most influential people in your childhood? Parents? Teachers?

RG: Yeah parents were very influential. Coaches are always influential [0:18:00] to young guys at that age. Well, there was another fella that ended up being rather influential. His name was Leo Hoegh. Leo Hoegh was the first um civil disaster member of the cabinet. I believe it was in Eisenhower's cabinet.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And Leo Hoegh was an attorney there in Chariton, Iowa. Leo Hoegh then hired my aunt Phyllis who married dad's younger brother. And then Leo Hoegh ran for governor and she went up and worked as his secretary when he was governor of the state of Indiana [Iowa]. And Leo Hoegh was also my Sunday School teacher.

MM: Oooh.

RG: At the Methodist Church.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: One of my other Sunday School teachers was the corporate secretary at Hy-Vee and uh [0:19:00] that was kind of interesting too.

MM: Yeah. Yeah I bet.

RG: So, uh now did I answer your question fully on that?

MM: You did. Yeah and we 've already sort of talked about how you came into politics as a kid and the differences on both sides. So, what schools did you attend?

RG: It was all Chariton High School. Local public high school. And then it's so different today. When I graduated I had no idea where I was going to college. I mean mom and dad made sure I was going to go to college. Cornell College in Iowa you know, you know what different schools. And I mean I graduated. I still hadn't made a choice.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: In those days you didn't really have to. It wasn't as competitive in those days. And dad was talking to either one of his patients or a fellow doctor said you know Iowa State College, it was called then, has a program called ROTC. [0:20:00] They will, they will pay you monthly if you're in the program and so dad said well why don't you look into that. So I did – NROTC – Naval ROTC hey. And so that's how I got to Iowa State.

MM: Um, Ok.

RG: It was it. I had no idea what I was going to major in.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Whatsoever. Well the first year you don't have to really make a determination.

MM: um hmm.

RG: And then, uh I was in NROTC and we hit a course called navigation. Which I barely passed. And I said the navy is not for me.

MM: (laughs)

RG: I do not want to join the navy (chuckles). And we had a Marine Corps attachment to it and hey, that's a lot about history.

MM: There you go.

RG: You know? I can learn about it and I don't have to take navigation or math or any of that stuff.

MM: (laughs)

RG: And that why [0:21:00] I ended up on the Marine Corps side and at Iowa State at the time the head of the ROTC battalion was always a naval cadet and the executive officer was always a marine. Well I was named the executive officer my senior year of the battalion. And uh I was very pleased with that. But that's, that's how I ended up. Now I'm going to do some hand motions here but this is how I got my commission otherwise I would not have been commissioned in the Marine Corps.

MM: Ok.

RG: And then, Wow, what am I really going to do next. I had to pass an eye test. So, I'm trying to memorize the eye chart because I know my right eye is weak.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: I'm not wearing glasses but I know it's weak. And I can't memorize them fast enough and so I come up at the end of the line and the guy says uh cover one eye with your hand. I covered my right [0:22:00] eye with my left hand. And he said now cover your other eye. And I covered my right eye with my right hand (laughs) and they didn't catch it and I passed.

MM: (laughs) Wow.

RG: And that's how I got my commission.

MM: There you go. Hey gotta be resourceful right?

RG: (laughing) And I had no plans after graduating from Iowa State because I knew I was going in the Marine Corps...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...and who knows, maybe I want to be a, you know, a full time military.

MM: Um hmm. What did you end up majoring in at Ohio uh Iowa State?

RG: Thank you for asking because when I grew up in Iowa, the University of Iowa was the liberal arts school.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Iowa State College was the engineering, ag, science...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...Ok? Technical. So, I could not major in liberal arts. So I found out that if I had to take chemistry [0:23:03] I was in big trouble. If I had to take physics I was in worse trouble. (laughs)

MM: (chuckles)

RG: So I found out I could take enough geology courses to get in fifteen hours for a minor. And then I, oh, I'll go into technical journalism. Well I didn't really care for that. But I got a minor in Technical Journalism and then I got a minor in ROTC and I got a minor in Economics. So I graduated with a General Science degree. (laughs)

MM: A lot of minors. (laughs)

RG: With four minors and no major! (laughs) By the way Iowa State College is now Iowa State University.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And Iowa State University and University of Iowa all can offer the same courses now. It's all changed. A little aside, it has nothing to do with the interview, but in the late 1930's the football between those two schools was so intense...

MM: Oh.

RG: ...I mean they would have riots [0:24:00] and they suspended football play for about twenty years.

MM: Really.

RG: Because it was so bad and I think it was in the mid to late '50's when they started playing each other again. (chuckles)

MM: Yeah, football's the real deal out that way for sure.

RG: Ooh yeah. Ok.

MM: Oh yeah.

RG: Ok. So, I think we, I think we, oh I, I, I joined the Beta Theta Pi fraternity...

MM: hmm.

RG: ...because my uncle, my mom's brother got his after graduated from Simpson College...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...was admitted masters program at Stanford. And got his degree there. And so he told mom, uh, when she asked him what's a good fraternity he said, he named several, and he named Beta Theta Pi. And so that's where I joined Beta Theta Pi and I ended up, I was never really an officer I ended up kind of a a corp, correspondent secretary.

MM: um hmm.

RG: Our class, pledge class [0:25:00] was so jealous of each other we could never elect a president out of there or vice president. (chuckles) And so I was not active in the fraternity council but I was active in several other organizations. And I even ran for the President of the Class. Lost that. And also they had a science division council and I lost that election. I think one by 50 votes and one by 8 votes. And I said well I lost, I lost, we're not going to have a recount for heaven's sake.

MM: Yeah (chuckles)

RG: So, I was active in that and then when I was at the fraternity with my background in journalism I did their, their annual report that we sent to alumni.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And I got the national Beta Theta Pi award for our, um, it was a pamphlet kind of a thing...

MM: Oh. Um hmm.

RG: ...that you put together. And one of the things that I really fell into [0:26:00] there was a Lake Mills printer that printed the freshman grides at Iowa State. And it paid \$1000 whoever represented them on campus.

MM: Wow.

RG: And that's all you had to do was represent them on campus and so I got it when the predecessor left and graduated. So I got that \$1000. And so then I went to Lake Mills and also got a commission for printing the pamphlet...

MM: Wow, yeah.

RG: ...or the brochure whatever it was. That's where I learned about raised printing by the way. I'm off target here a bit...

MM: That's ok.

RG: ... I'm sorry Michella. But when we were in the Marine Corps we were told at basic officers training everybody had to have calling cards. And those calling cards had to be engraved.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: You know, they couldn't be cheap calling cards. Well from Lake Mills Printing I learned there was a technique called raised printing.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Raised printing you could not [0:27:00] distinguish between it and engraved printing.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And it was about 20 percent of the cost. (chuckles) And so I went around to all of my fellow lieutenants and took orders and ... Barb and I lived in Fredericksburg...found a printer there...and so for several weeks every morning I'd carry in boxes of credit cards. (laughs)

MM: Yeah (chuckles) for a discounted rate.

RG: And they, and it passed the test. Because when you went to call on the colonel you had to leave your card and it had to be engraved.

MM: um hmm.

RG: But printing worked. (laughs) Raised printing.

MM: (laughs) That's funny too.

RG: So, ok.

MM: Well I'm not sure if I included this in the questions but I was just thinking of your timeline. Were you probably in Junior High or early high school when World War II started? Or even elementary maybe. '33, '31?

RG: Yeah, '33, 7, no I wouldn't have been in Junior High...

MM: Maybe still elementary school. [0:28:00]

RG: ...yeah .

MM: Well I guess I was wondering did the war affect Chariton or your family in any way?

RG: No, but it sure affected Iowa. Now I can't remember the brothers names but they were famous, they were all on a ship...

MM: Hmm.

RG: ...and the ship was sunk and all five brothers died.

MM: Oh.

RG: And that's when federal policy changed relatives could not serve on the same ship. Immediate family relatives.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Oh, why can't I think of the name.

MM: Was it Sullivan?

RG: Sullivan brothers. Thank you. You're better than I am. You know your history. You're right. It was the Sullivan brothers. It was tragic. And other than that, my uh uncle, dad had cancer, cancer, he had an ulcer, probably brought on when I was five years old, ...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ... and uh so he ended up being exempt, but my uncle was drafted and a jeep, a domestic training exercise flipped on him and broke his back and so he had a time recovering from that [0:29:00] but he never served overseas either

MM: Oh. Um hmm.

RG: But other than that no. Yeah it affected because of gold star mothers...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...and so forth. Yeah.

MM: Ok.

RG: Um, ok.

MM: Well, so we made it through there...well now I know...well can you...

RG: Oh, by the way I did, I did run for president of my Senior class in high school.

MM: Oh, uh huh.

RG: And uh at that time they had a system where your Senior class nominated people. And they took the top nominees and I ended up being nominated for president, vice president and secretary.

MM: (chuckles)

RG: And that's on the ballot and I'm thinking I don't think this is good.

MM: Yeah.

RG: It may not have made any change whatsoever but my vote was split among three offices so I didn't get any of the offices. And the fella, [0:30:00] the fella who ended up president of our class, Frank Mitchell, ended up going to Iowa State as well and ended up teaching at University

of Southern California and writing a book on Truman, and he's now retired and was a tenured professor at I think it was University of Southern Cal.

MM: Wow, that's interesting.

RG: It's either that or UCLA.

MM: Yeah, one of those.

RG: Frank was a good guy so I was active in different organizations...

MM: High school too,

RG:...but no big deal.

MM: Yeah, ok. Um, if you could walk me through the timeline, so you were ROTC in your undergrad. Now I know you also got a masters degree. Did you go straight into the Marines? Or did you pursue that masters degree?

RG: Straight into the Marines.

MM: Ok.

RG: Straight. That's why I didn't really do any job interviews.

MM: Ok.

RG: Because, you know, it was an obligation. There was no question. And it was a two year commitment. Um, at the end of two years I think I finally figured out I graduated in the top fifteen [0:31:00] percent of my class there which I thought was pretty good because when we got into navigation and compasses we did not do well on that test. (chuckles)

MM: Uh huh, uh huh.

RG: That stayed with me, and my captain he said, he said, because we got our assignments...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...uh before we left Quantico and (chuckles) my captain said I would have recommended you for the infantry but I know you didn't want it. And I said that's right. (laughs) So I ended up in the Supply Corps. And was assigned to the Supply School first of all at Camp Lejeune. I learned in North Carolina it's called Lejern with an "r" and then I spent there uh then I got orders to stay there. And I was special services officer and I played baseball. (laughs) And coached the baseball team. Oh I had a marvelous two years.

MM: It sounds like it.

RE: And a movie theater. Oh it was... [0:32:00] you know. And so there's a plaza in town here named after yours truly, Robert D. Garton Veterans Plaza and it's embarrassing because I never left the states for heavens sakes. And I always stayed at Camp Lejeune.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Now it's time to leave and I'm not going to stay in the Corps because I didn't really care for it that much.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: Uh, at Iowa State I had four or five courses, and I have one of his books back here on the shelf, by Dr. Harold Davey. He taught labor relations. He was almost a permanent arbitrator for the UAW in Iowa.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Now that was, I mean that was beyond belief that somebody would stay as a permanent arbitrator with the unions and the auto companies.

MM: Yeah.

RG: But he did. And he had, he wrote...apparently the book on collective bargaining. [0:33:00] Which I didn't know at the time.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: And so when I was on leave I came back and talked to him and said I was kind of interested in going to graduate school. Maybe Cornell ILR school. Industrial labor relations. Uh I had a fellow lieutenant through basic officers who had gone to Harvard. He really tried to convince me to go to Harvard. But I said I really enjoy those courses with Dr. Davey so on the way up to see him, I'm getting a little off tangent,...

MM: That's ok.

RG: ...on the way up to see him I stopped in Washington D.C. and went to the United Mine Workers headquarters office...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...maybe meeting John L. in my home county. Well he was out. But I did meet his brother A.D. Lewis. A.D. Lewis was in charge of District 50 of the United Mine Workers. District 50 was the mine workers answer [0:34:00] to the C.I.O.

MM: Ok. Yeah.

RG: You know. Factory jobs and so forth. And the more we talked uh he offered me an internship...

MM: Wow.

RG: ...in Chicago. After I got out of school and before graduate school started.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: And so that was...I was out campaigning for the Union. You know I got carb sign. (laughs) Not very many. But I I sat in on grievance meetings. (laughs)

MM: Wow.

RG: But I learned a lot of things. And on settlement contract I said this is not going to pass and it eventually did and I told the district guy I said how what would happened if it had failed and he said it wasn't going to fail. I would have kept holding votes until it passed. (laughs)

MM: (laughs)

RG: So, ok. So now I'm going to Cornell and I go up and I do my interviews...

MM: Now, is this Cornell in Iowa or in New York?

RG: No, Cornell University in New York. [0:35:00]

MM: New York, ok.

RG: Cornell University is a fascinating institution. And I've forgotten what the break down was but there were at least four state schools.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And the rest were public schools.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: You know, private.

MM: Yeah.

RG: Fascinating isn't it.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Because if you're a professor at Cornell and you're an ILR are you a Cornell employee or are you a state employee? (chuckles)

MM: Uh huh, how does that work?

RG: Interesting. Fascinating. So I interviewed and they said they would admit me. I would not have to take the GRI, graduate record exam, you know.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: The GRE. If I had studied under Dr. Davey that's all it was good for. That was good. (laughs)

MM: (laughs)

RG: Apparently he wrote a letter of recommendation for me too.

MM: Yeah. Wow.

RG: And so I probably wouldn't have passed the graduate exam (laughs) So I ended up that's where I started. And it ended [0:36:00] up another guy in a class behind me was also an Iowa State grad and then my second year I got an internship there.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And uh between the first year and the second year...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...we had summer training for union officials for a week for a lot of different unions...

MML Um hmm.

RG: ...from New York City and around. And I got to sit in and head up all of those sessions for them. I, yeah, I was the um I mean I was their social guy.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: You know, for things to do after words.

MM: Yeah.

RG: That was a fascinating experience.

MM: I bet it was.

RG: I loved it. I loved it. I just learned, I learned so much. This really isn't that off color, but one of them was the railroad brotherhoods and he headed up the dining car. He told me two things, that stayed with me, Commodore Vanderbilt when he came on board as long as he shouted out well good morning Commodore Vanderbilt, [0:37:00] welcome, to your train, you know, uh I had no trouble, he said but if I didn't do that it was hell. (laughs) From then on.

MM: (laughs)

RG: And so he, he ran the bar...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ... and they had women went back and forth waiting on people and he noticed that they had a tip jar. This one woman was not putting tips in the jar.

MM: Hmmm.

RG: And he noticed as the train kept moving along the zipper on her sweater kept getting lower and lower and lower. So he finally said "Mildred, the tips go in the jar or the zipper goes up to here." (big laughs)

MM: (big laughs) Can't keep hiding those away. Oh that's funny.

RG: I thought it was funny.

MM: Yeah.

RG: These guys were good. And they told me, they said, the railroads are so good structured. You know, yeah, if you're a certain level of management you always wear a hat. [0:38:00]

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Ah, and they all agree to all of these collective bargaining agreements and then they violate them. They know they're violating them and they just pile up at the next train station and nothing ever really happens. And both sides know nothing is going to happen. (chuckles) It was just a really interesting experience.

MM: I bet it was.

RG: It really was fascinating.

MM: Huh. Well, so then how did...

RG: So, so anyway that was my two years there and then I, and then I wrote a masters thesis. I did, you had a MILR degree, master of labor relations,...

MM: Ok.

RG: ...or you had the academic degree, supposedly, the MS degree. I wanted the MS degree.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: So I... and Barb typed up my thesis for me.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And I did it with the Crucible Steel Company up in Syracuse, New York. They had a collective bargaining agreement that set up classifications, job classifications. And they had then a bi-~~partisan~~partisan [0:39:02] union management board that decided a lot on grievances and things of that nature. And I wanted to see how well it was working out. Because there was nothing like it in the country.

MM: Wow.

RG: And so I called it the Box Steel Company and went up and interviewed the union people, interviewed the management people and that's what I wrote my thesis on.

MM: Well that sounds like a really interesting project.

RG: It really was and particularly because the unions really fought, you know, job descriptions and classifications and pointing those out. Well it was a joint committee that would run it.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And just a...and it was working very well.

MM: Yeah.

RG: But it was unique to the country as far as anybody else knew.

MM: Yeah. That's interesting. So, what did you want to do then when you finished your degree? Did you want to continue working in labor relations?

RG: Labor relations. I even thought about working for the union. Which mom's sister married a fella who was with Pan Am Airlines [0:40:00] in management and it went, it drove him nuts that I went with or was going to work for a union. I thought well I knew I wanted to come back to the Midwest and uh I think I interviewed a couple of and I, wait a minute, I really can't be a any salaried person in a union unless I come up from the ranks. It finally dawned on me, that I don't think that's true anymore, but then I had it in my mind that it ...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...did. So I interviewed at Cornell and interviewed at Procter and Gamble. I made it very clear to folks at Procter and Gamble that I was not a technical person. (chuckles) I'm coming back to that. And that's ok. We'll start you out as a supervisor on a shipping dock. He said

that'd be fine, ok. [0:41:00] So I was the first person apparently hired out of ILR to go to work for Procter and Gamble.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: It was all non union. And walked in my first day and the plant manager there in Urbandale, suburb of Cincinnati, and he said well, he said before we start you on the shipping dock we're going to start you in industrial engineering. And time people, you know and break down the different motions they make on the job.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: I, now I'm an industrial engineer. (chuckles) With this dumb stopwatch and oh my goodness, my goodness... this is not for me. And so about three or four months...I had been interviewed by Cummins. Been offered by Cummins and did not take it. So I called Cummins. They still had a personnel trainee opening. So, ok, I came over and interviewed.

MM: Um hmm. [0:42:00]

RG: And by golly I got the job offer. Well, in the meantime I told people, you know, I'm going to be leaving. Well in Cincinnati the vice president of industrial relations wanted to see me. So I went in and he made the comment, he said, well if you weren't getting along with people we would transfer you to Kansas or Nebraska or someplace. But, he said, you get along with everybody fine. He said you just don't like what you're doing. (chuckles) I said that's right. (laughs)

MM: (laughs) You nailed it.

RG: So when I left and went to open the door and I could sense he had convinced me to stay, he had not I was gone. So, I moved after about four months and then joined Cummins, personnel trainee, and then was placed in charge of their college recruiting and their management development. But very, not very long in their management development [0:43:00] because two years after I was with Cummins I decided to leave.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And I said to myself, you know, dad built a business, why can't I build a business? (chuckling) So, I left Cummins and started Garton Associates.

MM: Ok, now Cummins was here in Columbus?

RG: Yeah, I'm sorry, Columbus, Indiana.

MM: That's how you got here.

RG: And I concentrated on middle management. There was executive search...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...I said I'll carve out a market in middle management search. So I did. And stayed with that for about thirty-five years.

MM: Ok.

RG: So a dissatisfied fella from Cummins went back to his family ranch in South Dakota and decided he wanted to come back to Columbus and so the last, oh I don't know, five or six years for a couple years he was with me as a partner.

MM: Ok.

RG: And we did recruiting. [0:44:00] We did seminar work. Then in 19--, am I getting too far ahead of myself?

MM: No, it's ok.

RG: In 1962 when I was in the Marine Corps I joined Toastmasters. Man, this is a neat club! It was, it was for officers at the time. And Toastmaster was all male only at that time. And for some dumb reason that nobody understood the speaker of the night who won the club contest that night as a prize would get this veterinarians book that was printed in the 1880's. (laughs) And you got to carry it around until the next meeting.

MM: (laughs)

RG: So when I came to Cummins I found that Columbus had a Toastmasters Club. I said I really like this. So I joined it.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: And it was one terrific club. At that time we had one club. Now Cummins has, I don't know, five or six clubs.

MM: What does a club do?

RG: Pardon?

MM: What does the club do?

RG: Toastmasters? Public speaking and speaking communication. [0:45:00] As I made up onetime look at the word communicate, wait a minute, those three letters in the middle, U-N-I that's what hold it together otherwise commcate makes no sense.

MM: (laughs)

RG: And it give balance -- four 4 letters on each side. So it's U-N-I, that's communication. Whether you're speaking to an individual, to an audience or posting a memo on the bulletin board, it's one on one, that's effective communication.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: So I love things like that, a play with words. So, I made up this speech -- The True Measure of a Man -- which was character. Toughest, I always said the toughest competition I had was in the local club. I mean we had vice-presidents of Cummins, vice-presidents of the old Arvin Industries that make mufflers, and Cummins, of course, making the diesel engine. It was an outstanding club. And uh I won it. And then I went up at the seven different levels...

MM: Wow.

RG: ...at the time counting the club. [0:46:00] And I could not have won that today. First of all, it was the true measure of a man, that is gender specific.

MM: Hmm.

RG: At that time women were not allowed in Toastmasters as I said. Then women started their own Toastmasters Club and then finally the Toastmaster Club accepted women.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: What I think is so fascinating they did admit one woman under her husbands name and she was so effective in Toastmasters, this was before women had blended, she ended up becoming the president of the Toastmasters International.

MM: Um hmm. Wow.

RG: I think women were in it at that time. Isn't that an interesting story.

MM: Yeah, uh huh, right. [garbled words]

RG: I just thought that was fascinating. So, at that time I was only 28 years old.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: At that time you had to have a new speech for every level. And they gave you several subjects about 24-hours before hand.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Well I didn't have the experience or knowledge to do that. Well for the first time [0:47:00] you could take one speech all the way through the different levels.

MM: Ok. Um hmm.

RG: So, competed here, competed in Bloomington, competed down at Naval Depo, then competed in Indianapolis. For the first time my mouth was dry, my tongue swelled. I'd heard those complaints. Now I know what people were talking about.

MM: Oh no. Uh huh.

RG: I, I kind of stumbled through it. It really bothered me. And when I ended up second -- ok, well it was a nice run.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: You know, we were up at the IU Memorial Union and oh wait a minute, they found out, wait a minute, because this area is so large there are two winners. (laughs) I've even got the little trophy downstairs.

MM: (laughs) Yeah.

RG: Runner up. So I beat the guy at Terre Haute.

MM: Oh, so a come-back.

RG: Then we went to Marysville, Ohio.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: At Scotts Feed or Grass. [0:48:00] And then we had the, uh semi finals and the finals.

MM: Wow.

RG: Now, all along, up until the semi finals when you drew to get your place, there's always four contests uh contestants, I was fourth. So I could evaluate the speakers before me. And knew what I had to do. Gave me a little more motivation.

MM: Sure.

RG: Until I got to the semi finals. I was first. Well I did win that. And then we come to the finals.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Now, always in Toastmasters you had a lectern, a podium. And I walked into that room and there were maybe five or six hundred people, you saw people with turbans, it was international. It was a stand up mic. (laughs) Oh. (laughingly) Okaaay. Well you had to adjust to that. And my true measure of the man [0:49:00] mom and dad came up from Chariton, Iowa to join us. Barb was with us of course. Even a couple of guy from the club, the local club, were there.

MM: Yeah.

RG: And uh I was telling dad, you measure a man, you know, you put him on scales and you weigh him and you ahh his height and dad said yeah and you, thump, you know, and I was using that motion and I went blank. Because it was new. I guess.

MM: Right.

RG: And I went by rote for about three sentences and then I got through it and then I was ok.

MM: Wow.

RG: But then when they announced it, of the four contestants, three had the first name of Robert. (laughs)

MM: Oh no. (laughs)

RG: And so it got down to the last two Bobs,...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...we were sitting next to each other. We shook each others hand and he was called and ...

MM: Uh huh and then you were the one.

RG: ...and then I won.

MM: That's a big deal.

RG: So as a result of that. Dean Berkley, from Bloomington. Dean was a Dean dean. [0:50:00] He was the Dean of School of Education. And three or four years before I had won he had won the international.

MM: Oh.

RG: That's when the rules, different speech every, wow. And so I was talking with him one day, and you know, he was speaking around the country...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...and he said yeah I've hooked up with a national management association in Dayton, Ohio. Really? These are management clubs. Oh? I called. I went over and interviewed them. I had to have two clearing speeches for free and then I would, I would, they would give me a schedule of speakers, maybe five or six at one time and I spoke all over the country to a management club.

MM: Wow.

RG: I spoke to I think it was the Boeing people, uh you know, the North American Rockwell, the Old North American, uh...

MM: So was this part of your job now or was this something you were doing for fun?

RG: ...worked into my job. [0:51:00]

MM: Yeah.

RG: Yeah, yeah. So I did speaking and seminar work then.

MM: Ok. Now is this with, was it called Garton Associates? What was the name of your business?

RG: Robert Garton Associates.

MM: Robert Garton Associates. Ok.

RG: Yeah.

MM: Wow.

RG: And so that that was part of my income.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: That was 35 years from I think it was the late '60s on. And one quick one. When I was speaking to a group down in Florida...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...and we were on the sixth floor of this uh uh windows from ceiling to floor...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: and it was, one of these guys, this group whatever the company was, had worked on the Mariner to Mars.

MM: Wow.

RG: And it was either Mariner 5 or Mariner 6. All of a sudden I'm half way through my speech and they're pointing to the windows and I'm losing my audience. And I'm looking out there

and there's this trail. [0:52:00] It was either Mariner 5 or 6 that was on its way. (laughs) Now these were the people that worked on it to make it happen.

MM: And they're there listening to you?

RG: And I'm half way...now I said how am I going to get them...we all ran to the windows of course. How am I going to get them back? I thought I've gotta have something clever. I gotta have a joke. I came up with nothing. So I just went ahead with my notes and finished the speech. Holding an audience at that point was a real challenge. (laughs)

MM: I can imagine. (chuckling) They should have given you a little more prep for that I guess. So.

RG: Yeah, with the cereal companies, the food companies, you know, ~~Kelloggs~~Kellogg's, their management company...I mean I spoke, I really literally spoke all over the country. I just spoke to people who worked second shifts and we started at 11:00 that night.

MM: Oh wow. That'd be kinda fun. A different routine.

RG: Yeah it was. I would always...to me it was kind of my own schtick, but I would get the company and I would go [0:53:00] to the local investment office, and all reports usually have some history of the company, so I would pick it up. And whether they'd been up or down and what was happening then, I would feed that back. And I would get evaluations back that said you know he told me things about our company that I didn't know. (chuckle) And it was just a, just a, you know, a way to get their attention.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And I would always start with humor. and I would try to tie it in with the local area.

MM: Sure.

RG: Like when George Wallace was governor of Georgia and his wife became governor, one of my opening lines was I'm just delighted to be in Georgia. It's the first time I ever wanted to dance with the governor. (laughs)

MM: (laughs)

RG: It's, you know, it's things like that.

MM: Right.

RG: That I would make up. So, uh yeah, uh they always uh I was told by one of the staff members of the national management association that I was among the, [0:54:00] I think, the top three or four speakers in the nation for them.

MM: Wow

RG: Which, I mean Anna May never told me that.

MM: Well so many people get nervous public speaking. I mean it's really is a skill. What interested you about that? Like why did you...

RG: I don't know, I was just fascinated, fascinated by words and it was the Toastmasters Club...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...down at Lajerne.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Notice I call it Lajerne.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: That I really enjoyed. It was just a, I mean, there were ranks of different officers, you know, majors, lieutenants, captains. It was just a, just a fun group.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: Really a fun group so.

MM: Ok. Well...

RG: Uh, I got started here. I didn't start out with the idea that I was gonna win. You know, go as far as you can. But I remember, before we were going to Minneapolis and I was driving around north of Shelbyville, those curves...and in a week we were going up to the Toastmasters International, [0:55:00] and it just hit me as I was driving around these curves, I can win. (laughs) I really, for the first, I really believed I could win. And I did. (chuckles) So.

MM: Well good for you.

RG: And one thing that was so interesting too, somebody that I knew well had been to a seminar or an audience or somewhere, some panel in, it was either Nebraska or Kansas, and they passed around slips of the panel who are the best speakers you had ever heard and two of those guys had my name down.

MM: Wow.

RG: Because they had been in the audience at Toastmasters International final.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: And in fact one of them may have been a judge at the panel. (laughs). And so Toastmasters, you know, the way it pulls people together.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: Just fascinating.

MM: So about what time was that? In the 60's?

RG: '62.

MM: '62. When you did that. Ok.

REG: '62. [0:56:00] That was a looong long time ago.

MM: Yeah.

RG: Yeah.

MM: Well, a couple of things, one I'm going to have to eat one of these cookies that Barb brought in here, but talking about Barb, you've mentioned her multiple times here but when did you both meet?

RG: Ok. Barb went to Iowa State and I left this out because Iowa State had a television program. Ames Iowa on Iowa State's campus was the first tv station in Iowa. So Barb wanted to go into television. And she majored in Home Ec at the time. And she was the first woman to go on camera there because a lot of students participated...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...in it and I remember dad buying a television set in I don't know, '45, '46 somewhere around that period. And we put up a huge telephone pole in the backyard with an antenna on it because we could get Ames eighty miles away. [0:57:00] (chuckles) At that time no cable then.

MM: (laughs)

RG: So Barb never practiced. She worked the summers at the television station in St. Louis but when we got married she never practiced so here Brenda picks up the TV part.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: And then, so we met at Iowa State and she was a Pi Phi and after our first or second date she told her roommates, she made a little note, sealed it, put it on the bulletin board, and she said when something happens, she said, I'm going to open this and show it to you and they dated it. And what she had written is I'm going to be pinned to Bob Garton.

MM: (laughs)

RG: (laughing) So I said she, she let me chase her until she caught me. (laughs)

MM: (laughs) That's funny.

RG: So that was very interesting. [0:58:00]

MM: Um hmm.

RG: So...

MM: And then did you get married while you were still in college? Because she went with you to the Marines.

RG: No, we got married right after college.

MM: Right after college.

RG: Right before I went to the Marine Corps.

MM: Ok.

RG: Yeah, because I had about a month in there before I had to report at Quantico.

MM: Ok.

RG: Quantico was fascinating. Because that's where they train their F.B.I. guys. You know, and they had a building on campus.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: And I could see these guys. It was, I mean, hot, sweltering, humid, but they were out there with their coats and ties on the front porch. I mean, they were F.B.I.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: And then because there was a lag between leaving basic officers and going to Lajern a fellow from Evansville, Indiana, we were both headed to different schools and so they had to do something with us on campus...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...and so they had us look and re-write the enlisted men's [0:59:00] test for promotion.

MM: Hmmm.

RG: And I saw that new test, I obviously saw the old test. I'll bet 80 to 90 percent were the questions we came up with.

MM: Wow.

RG: Because they said you just came out of the boonies...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...basic officers and so write it for, you know, private to corporal, corporal to sergeant. So we did.

MM: Yeah.

RG: And uh, it was, uh, Marine Corps was good for me but I did not want to be a career officer. I learned that very quickly.

MM: um hmm, yeah. You wanted back out. So then, obviously then you told me about coming back this way. Now when did you and Barb have Brenda and Brad?

RG: Well Brad was '57 uh just before I got in the Marine Corps.

MM: Ok.

RG: You will get a kick out of this. So we were under the care of the Naval Hospital. [1:00:00]

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Barbara ended up with a private room because she was on a fire escape and Brad's whole birth cost us \$8.75. (laughs)

MM: Wow!

RG: So he really is a tar heel.

MM: Yeah. I guess so.

RG: So, and then there's four years difference between the two. Brenda was born when I was at Cummins, so I was under Cummins health insurance at the time.

MM: Ok. Yeah.

RG: So,...

MM: So Brad is older.

RG: Pardon.

MM: Brad is older.

RG: Brad is older yeah. You didn't know that but there was four years difference.

MM: Ok.

RG: Yeah. [1:01:00]

MM: Well how did your family influence your career?

RG: How did they...

MM: Did you...

RG: ...affect the career?

MM: Yeah. Did you have to ... traveling so much or anything. Was that a problem? Or they go with you?

RG: Yeah, well you have to remember Barb's dad being in the St. Louis Muny Orchestra...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...by the way, he was so clever. They were big St. Louis fans and so he attached a little rear view mirror on his...let's see no a little hearing, a rear view mirror and a hearing aid...people: what's the score Al?

MM: (laughs)

RG: He tuned in while he was performing.

MM: Wow.

RG: So dad for 90-100 days during that summer wasn't home till eleven or twelve at night.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: So me not being home to put the kids to bed didn't bother Barb you know.

MM: She was used to that. [1:02:00]

RG: Yeah, and she was very supportive. Barb really often takes more risks than I do...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...on things. So she was very supportive of it.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And um, when I was...I really was talked into because I gave a speech to um a local Republican Women's Club...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...and they thought I ought to run against Lee Hamilton. Because the title of my remarks were principles not politics. I do a lot of alliteration in my speeches.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And uh they said you really ought to run for office you know...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...and the more I thought about it why not? Well this was '68. Two years earlier the local county chairman asked if I would run for the state house of representatives. And I was ...well I'll think about it...well Lambrough said if you do, I'm leaving. Well he ended up leaving anyway.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: A little later. Gene Lambrough was my partner. [1:03:00] So I didn't. I backed out.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And so then I, I was going to...well I ran into...the reason I didn't think about politics...wait a minute, I grew up in Iowa, you know I'm a hawkeyeHawkeye for or a cyclone for heaven's sake...you have to be a *Hoosier*, you have to be a *Hoosier* to run for politics in Indiana. If you're not a *Hoosier* you can't run.

MM: (laughs)

RG: So then after, and I'm getting a little off trail here, but after I lost to Lee then I had to rebuild the business. I was all by myself again and you know I even gave some of my clients away...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...at the time to other competitors. That's it. I'm never doing that again! Well the field guy for our campaign and congress was down here from Jeffersonville, New Albany, Steve Koons. He traveled with me all the time, [1:04:00] had car washes here in town, and after I lost he became administrative assistant to Lt. Governor Foltz, Republican when Ed Whitcomb was Governor. And I was giving a speech in New Jersey and Steve called me and he said why don't you think about running for the state senate? Well, I don't know, Steve. You know, I was at a motel room before the speech.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: I, I, well yeah, well. They did not want the incumbent from Johnson County, Senator Jim Young, because he was going against things that Whitcomb and Foltz were for.

MM: Hmmm.

RG: Whitcomb and Foltz were very conservative. And I find out that Jim was a lot more moderate than I thought he was. Which I felt I think I'm a moderate.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: Ok. So, well, I'll think about it. Yeah, I'll...so on the very last day, [1:05:00] Steve is with me, I'm walking up to the State House to file. Midnight's the filing deadline, Hortense Myers with U.P.I. thought oh he's running for congress again. She met me at the door. Saw me coming in, saw me...I said no, no, I'm not, I'm going up to file for another office Hortense. So I filed just before it closed.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: Then I came back home and I'm saying what have I done? I don't have a campaign chair. I don't have a treasurer. I don't have any organization whatsoever. So Costco, where Barb ended up after graduating by the way from Ivy Tech, ...Barb got her degree in graphic arts and then worked for Hamilton Costco now Durrell,...

MM: Ok.

RG: ...baby seats, car seats,...

MM: Oh yeah, yeah.

RG: ...cradles, all that stuff, she did all their advertising for them...

MM: Oh wow.

RG: Oh yeah she was really, got a national award, a state award for advertising officer. [1:06:00] So I called the treasurer of Costco, a good friend, I said Bob I, I, don't know and he said he would be my treasurer. And so, you know, we got a campaign chair and surreptitiously some people from the Lt. Governors office helped.

MM: Yeah.

RG: I remember I was so embarrassed. I'm driving up 31 and every single telephone pole from the north end of Franklin to the south end of Franklin had my poster on it. The Lt. Governors folks had done it. There was the slogan: we know and like Bob Garton. Well, because Jim Young had not paid attention to Bartholomew County I kind of overwhelmed him here.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And my good will left over from the congressional race because I did beat Lee here in this county.

MM: Um hmm. Right.

RG: I think I...

MM: It was a very close race over all wasn't it? A very close race overall.

RG: Hmm? Yeah, yeah, it really was. It was the closest race he had. Until oh Gene, over here, in Batesville, [1:07:00] gave him a closer one. State Senator. Anyway, so we put that together. He did beat me in Johnson County in all fairness. At that time I learned, by the way, because in

my business office then my administrative assistant started answering the phone, Good Morning, Garton Associates. This is Senator Garton's office. Clerk of the Courts here told me ~~ungh~~Ung constitution says you're elected the day of that midnight of...it's the only office in our constitution where there is no lag in between. Your either in or you're out. Because the constitution for some reason...so we quit doing that senator elect business.

MM: Yeah.

RG: And um, so we raised the money. We won. Uh and so I'm going up there having no idea what I'm into.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: The only thought I had is [1:08:00] I uh represent senate district 41, doggone it and so I'm, that's my whole focus is representing this state, I mean this district in this state,

MM: Uh huh.

RG: And so I kind of set my self apart.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: From the caucus. Caucus I think was on opening day had a luncheon. I went to the state house cafeteria. You know, I'm, I'm independent. (chuckles)

MM: Yeah, yeah.

RG: Well Phil Gutman, who was Pro Tem at the time, said, you know, Senator Wilson, former congressman from Bedford, missed you. Wondered why you...he said you really need to attend those things.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: For some reason Phil liked me. I did...well ended up...I'm not gonna say who I voted for because there was a contest between Phil Gutman and Les Duvall [1:09:00] out of Indianapolis.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: I think, I not sure Les was still living anyway.

MM: I can't figure it out. I'm not sure.

RG: He was one of my heroes by the way. And they both had come down to see me. And it was a secret ballot.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: So I didn't have to say how I was going to vote. However, you pick a counter when you count the secret ballots.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And for some reason, Senator Duvall picked me to be his counter. (laughs)

MM: Oh no.

RG: To verify the count. So Gutman knew. (laughs)

MM: (laughs) Yes. What had happened there.

RG: He knew, he knew that I didn't vote for him. And so when the first committee assignments, he put them out in two batches, when the first committee assignments came out I was assigned to the affairs of Lake County. (laughs) Well I later on I got better assignments as it went on.

[1:10:00] And for some reason Phil liked me.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: I mean he really did. And I really had to appreciate what he did as Pro Tem. I suppose I model myself after him. I'm not gonna get into that until you're ready to get into it.

MM: That's ok.

RG: You've got more questions.

MM: Well, we'll get up there. Well, uh, just uh one quick question. You know, obviously your family had been involved in Republican Party but when you moved back here to Columbus, and Cummins, and then your own business, did you become involved in the local Republican Party here or did that not happen until you ran?

RG: Yeah I did. I did. My first vote here when I came in uh I was registered Democrat. And that really never came up. It tried in the campaign for congress but it just kind of fizzled away.

MM: Yeah.

RG: You know, cause I could point to Ronald Reagan and all that stuff. [1:11:00] (laughs)

MM: Yeah.

RG: So, yeah, I became chairman of the Young Republican Party here.

MM: Ok.

RG: Then, too, and then uh, I obviously changed registration.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: If I remember right I think I really voted for more Republicans when I was a registered Democrat than I did for Democrats at the time. So, yes.

MM: Well at that point too, what, what did the Republican Party mean to you. What were the values that drew you to that party?

RG: Well it was small business, you know, identifying with it.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Uh, there wasn't that much uh philosophical reasoning behind my switch to the party. There really wasn't. And uh, you know, maybe it went well back to mom's influence because when I was in the Marine Corps absentee ballots [1:12:00] I got from mom (laughs) to send back to vote Republican you know.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: So, it, that must have been it. I don't really know. There really weren't any philosophical principles that I saw...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...oh, you know, I could say limited government, and when people would ask me that question and it really wasn't that accurate, what I made up was well I was a small businessman and I was subject to all the same regulations. Well that was true...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...but that wasn't a real factor. (chuckles) So, and you know, Virgil Scheidt, chairman of the party, lot of good good friends who were Republican...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...so I did.

MM: Yeah, ok.

RG: But I, the irony had I known at the time when I ran against Jim Young, incumbent, you cannot beat incumbents in primaries. [1:13:00] I learned out, I found out in 2006 you can beat incumbents in primaries because I was the incumbent. (laughs)

MM: (laughs) Yes.

RG: I didn't know at the time that you couldn't do that.

MM: Right, right.

RG: Well I, it was re-affirmed.

MM: (laughs) Many years later but...

RG: Yeah.

MM: ...yeah.

RG: And part of the problem was Johnson County. Johnson County, ultra conservative county. Uh, the uh, what was it, the Birch Society...

MM: The John Birch Society.

RG: ...strong chapter in Greenwood.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: I mean people who withheld taxes, they weren't paying local taxes. I mean it was really ultra ultra conservative.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And it, in the '06, I just read the other day, in the '06 primary election there was only 16% vote in Johnson County. [1:14:00]

MM: Wow.

RG: And we only carried two precincts. So whatever I did...I know one of the things I did, um, I'm sorry to get you off tangent,...

MM: That's ok.

RG: ...I'm doing this to you, but one of the things I did the state had miscalculated the property taxes that were owed in the city of Franklin.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And the city of Franklin was suing. The state made an error. Now I, our attorneys, senate attorneys always told me we don't settle court cases.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: So, ok. So we came in, I talked with the mayor, they really had a case before...the state admitted they'd made an error...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: and I said ok and then I caught myself... wait a minute there's a suit...I said you have to withdraw the suit. And then we will convince them, you know...

MM: Um hmm. [1:15:00]

RG: They did. They withdrew the, I think it's with prejudice, so they could refile it...

MM: Uh huh.

RG: But it wasn't a law suit anymore. And so I can't remember if it was a bill that went through or what happened but property taxes really jumped in Franklin.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Otherwise mayor was faced with laying off firefighters and police officers. She got beat then two years later.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: In her election. So that was part of the problem.

MM: Um hmm. Yeah.

RG: No question. And then northwest part of the county White River Township was in the district at that time. Neighbors got all upset because a woman was teaching piano lessons in her home.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Well our son Brad took lessons here in his home.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: I think Brenda did too. For heavens sakes you know. Well the cars are parking all over you know and she's running a business. She's running a business where businesses aren't allowed.[1:16:00] So boy, I weighed in on that one. And I took her and I supposedly got all the piano lesson teachers vote in the state. (laughs)

MM: (laughs)

RG: I think maybe that was a factor too.

MM: I'm pretty sure too.

RG: And then we had the whole issue of the health insurance for legislators. Was not my issue, was never my issue.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: In fact I did not think it was going to pass. I did vote for it as all other 50 senators voted for it.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: But my friend Potch Wheeler was caucus chair. Potch Wheeler had severe diabetes and he was one of the sponsors of the bill.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Ironically the two sponsors in the House, the two sponsors in the Senate both won their next elections.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: You know, but I'll get to it, but Potch came to me one day and he said Bob [1:17:00] I've got a real problem, because I assigned it to Joe Harrison's committee who's our majority leader... who at one time opposed me for Pro Tem...Larry Borst always said we had a deal...we never did have a deal I just thought he'd be a good majority leader...anyway, I assigned it to his committee and knowing Joe it wasn't going to come out. I think Potch got to him because Potch told apparently both of us he can't get his insulin shots. Medicaid, Medicare did not cover them at that time.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: And I think for really for Potch, I voted for it.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: It was not my issue. I really didn't care. I could have had Ivy Tech insurance.

MM: Yeah,

RG: But I didn't know, and I never bothered to find out that Ivy, I didn't know if that insurance program included Columbus doctors or not. I didn't know.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: So anyway, we kept it, we passed it and then the two leaders [1:18:00] had to agree how to administer it.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And unfortunately it was my idea, before it was in conference committee, and before it could come to the floor it had to go through conference committee and I chaired as Rules Chair the confer... I mean anything in conference. Ok. You gotta have an employer. The House had named the secretary, the Clerk of the House...the Senate was going to be the secretary of the Senate. Wait a minute. They don't represent anybody. You know, they're elected. That, that is not, that's not fair to them and they had to negotiate and do the adm...I said it's gotta be the Speaker and it's gotta be the Pro Tem.

MM: Yeah.

RG: And so I had Richard Young, Democrat Leader introduce that amendment.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Potch got all upset by it. [1:19:00] And he said does the Speaker of the House know this? I said Potch I just talked to him before the meeting and yes he has agreed to it.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: We held the vote. The darn amendment lost. And I said I'm tabling the conference report until we can pass it.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: (laughs) All of a sudden, the guy who'd sponsored in the House had left, he was back in the room, you know, and he was telling...and it passed unanimously. (laughs)

MM: (laughs)

RG: So I set it up...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...that we had to administer it and at that time...ok, what's the co-pay? At that time no state employee had a co-pay.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: The state was picking up the whole insurance premiums.

MM: Wow.

RG: And so we agreed, the Speaker then, John Gregg and I agreed that it would go with whatever the co-pay was. It was 0% for a year or two. [1:20:00]

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Well then it crept up and it got bigger and bigger.

MM: Yeah.

RG: I mean I pay I think five or six about \$6,000 a year now for it you know.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: But they get free health insurance forever because it went beyond retirement.

MM: Yeah.

RG: You know. To cover Potch. (chuckles) So I know, that I know had to be used against me. That uh, so all those things added up.

MM: Yeah. Well we'll definitely come back to some of those here in a bit too.

RG: I'm sorry.

MM: No, but it's ok. The stories feed onto each other. That's how it goes so. Um one thing I wanted to ask and I know that you've talked about this in other interviews and things but when I was reading up on you running against Lee Hamilton I found a lot of interesting quotes related to you...

RG: Yeah.

MM: ...that you had a very different take on women's rights in the '60s and '70s than I think some of the Republican Party did. So, I'm just curious where did your views on women's right come from? Develop I guess. [1:21:00]

RG: Two things. One was Steve Combs, AA to Lt. Governor Foltz. Hey, I would like to have an appointment up there you know. I mean this was after I lost to Lee. So they appointed me to the Civil Rights Commission.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: I was Chair of the Civil... became later the Chair of the Civil Rights Commission. And um that was one of the first bills I sponsored then was no discrimination on account of sex.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Some of the Republicans in my caucus went nuts, you know. And well, we did get it passed. And so that led into the Equal Rights Amendment. Wait a minute, I'm the one that sponsored adding sex to the...you know, I gotta sponsor the Equal Rights Amendment. So that was part of it. The other part was daughter Brenda. Why shouldn't she have the same equal opportunity as anybody else. [1:22:00] I mean come on folk. Oh my goodness when we got to the Equal Rights Amendment people who had supported me against Jim Luntz thought really had I lost all my senses. I mean we had long conversations. They were angry. They were Phyllis SchafleySchlafly fans. Fans from Illinois. I got invited to hear Phyllis Schafley by the way. I sat in the audience. I got introduced to her. (laughs) I was the sponsor of the bill. Well we lost the first time. Around. The second time was a candidate issue in Johnson County and so the only promise I made was Ok, I won't sponsor it again but I will vote for it.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: So, apparently that satisfied. And I was caucus chair at the time that it finally passed . We were the last state to pass it. 35th straight. And it passed and let's see where was I going with this thought. [1:23:00] Three of us from the Republican Caucus voted for it.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Two of them lost in the next election. I was the only one that survived.

MM: Wow.

RG: And on top of that I was caucus Chair at the time. (chuckles) And our leadership, Chip Edwards, was very opposed to the Equal Rights Amendment. And I would get arguments, *well you know, men and women, they'll have to share the same bathroom.* And I said guys have you ever flown on a commercial airplane? (laughs)

MM: (laughs)

RG: Our local drivers license has a unisex bathroom. For heavens sakes. *Well you want your daughter fighting in combat?* No, I don't want our son either. (laughs)

MM: Um hmm, um hmm.

RG: But they just...I mean it was, it was vicious.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And that's when, I think it that was yeah, that was one of the issues We got a call and the administrative assistant on the line, [1:24:00] this woman called from Bartholomew County and wanted me to know at the hearing there would be women up in the gallery with pistols in their purses. (laughs)

MM: Whoa!

RG: We, and at that same time our collie had been hit by a car out here, damaged her hip and she was always had to be lying here for and I'm going through the big emotional and I said I'm never going through this again. Because I'd usually I'd stay overnight up there but I would come home with Misty and I said I'm not doing this. I'm not gonna get this emotional...

MM: Uh huh.

RG: ...about things because I spoke in front of this crowd on the Equal Rights Amendment and I said, you know and I submit to you in that in Israel women are in the military and less than a week the war was over. (laughs)

MM: A really good fact to bring up I think right?

RG: So, [1:25:00] so that really changed me.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Now, well everybody's gone or deceased on the Civil Rights Commission.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: You know who'd wanted the uh, well opponents weren't exactly the right word, the non supporters? What one group was of adding sex to the Civil Rights Code? Civil Rights Commission.

MM: Really.

RG: Because they thought they would just be overwhelmed by complaints and charges. And with the small staff couldn't handle it. (chuckles) And would be ineffective. Couldn't...isn't that interesting? (laughs)

MM: Yes, instead of just doing the right thing they just felt they couldn't handle it so they do nothing.

RG: Yeah. They weren't, they really weren't opposed to doing it, it was just the workload would be enormous. (laughs)

MM: Wow. Wow.

RG: I just find...so anyway it was very logical [1:26:00] for me that we follow through with Equal Rights Amendment. That was one of the first bills I sponsored by the way.

MM: Ok. Well and can I ask you one question because I'm interested in that. So you said you met Phyllis Schlafly. One, what was that like?

RG: I'm sorry.

MM: You said you met Phyllis Schlafly?

RG: Yes.

MM: What was that like?

RG: Oh, (laughingly) they introduced me as the sponsor of the bill you know and I just...she gave an interesting speech, she did. Uh, but we kidded around a little bit, not much. And uh yeah.

MM: Now was Joan Gubbins...

RG: Joan Gubbins took me to the luncheon.

MML I wondered. There had to be a connection there somehow.

RG: Yeah, And the women really did a good...I mean we got baked bread on our desks in the Senate, you know, and little desserts...it was uh...

MM: Was that from the Stop ERA groups that were doing that?

RG: From Joan Gubbins group.

MM: Yeah.

RG: Yep. Yep, yep, interesting.

MM: That is interesting. [1:27:00]

RG: Yeah it really was.

MM: Now I know that you ended up not voting for the ERA when it came back...

RG: Oh I did. Yes. Oh ok, ok.

MM: So what was the scenario behind that?

RG: Well one of my things, one of my things that when I was elected, nominated for Pro Tem and elected Pro Tem was we are going to follow the rules. You know. Period. We, uh, I mean, um, I suppose you can always change the rules but no, we are going to follow the rules. And the rules that Congress set up is that it was a time period that you had to ratify the amendment.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: So this was my rationale. They're changing the rules. You don't change the rules of volleyball in the middle of the game.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And they changed the rules after it had been defeated.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Then to do it. I said that's not right. And that just became a principle. And...so I did.

MM: Yeah. [1:28:00]

RG: And I think I misunderstood a little bit of what I was voting for because I guess in the new rules then you were going to have an unlimited time.

MM: Hmm.

RG: But to me it was just this was the issue, it was voted, up or down and yeah I did not vote for it. (chuckles)

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And Justin Walsh picks that up did he.

MM: Yes

RG: But he never asked me about it.

MM: He didn't?

RG: No. Very interesting.

MM: That is interesting. Ok. Well...

RG: Do you want to have lunch by the way?

MM: It's up to you. I know we are probably running long.

RG: I know Barb's got a hair appointment at one. But we can go out to eat. If you like an IHOP.

MM: Sure. Yeah, sure.

RG: Or something. Ok. I don't know if Barb would want to go with us but...

MM: Yeah whatever you're comfortable with.

RG: I am talking an awfully lot here.

MM: Well I've asked an awful lot of questions. And I have pages of them.

RG: I know. I hope it's helpful.

MM: Yes! This is so interesting. I'm learning so much. [1:29:00]

RG: By the way, one of these things here is um, it's either the Bureau or Society...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: You can turn that off if you...

MM: Ok, let me stop this here.

(pause for lunch)

MM: [1:30:29] Alright, well I'll just again state for the record I am Michella Marino continuing the interview with Robert Garton. Still Tuesday, September 25th, 2018, and so we'll just pick up where we left off here before lunch. Um I think you had been telling me that...well let me just rephrase the question. What did you think as you were walking into the State House the first day.

RG: Oh that first day, I thought, I can't even remember now the number of people [1:31:00] 120,000, 116,000, whatever it was, boy I'm carrying them, I mean, you know, that they're sending me here, I'm not carrying them there but they're expecting things from me.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And so it...it was and our State Capital is an impressive building. So, yeah it was a good feeling.

MM: Um hmm. Well how did you learn the ins and outs of state government?

RG: You just, you just listen and observe. A lot. You obviously need to read the rulebook and but more important you need to read the constitution.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Find out the limits of your responsibilities and what *are* your major responsibilities. And then you have people that you admire. You watch them.

MM: Um hmm. Well who were maybe some of your early political mentors that you were watching and trying to learn from? [1:32:00]

RG: Well let's see. Two guys that first of all really impressed me. I had been elected in November so I was now a Senator so I was invited down to Vincennes because they were inviting members of the legislature down to tour the campus and I met two guys walking along one of the campus paths. One was State Senator Bob Orr and the other was State Senator Jim, oh boy oh boy um, Gardner, up around Rensselaer area and boy I was impressed by these two guys. I thought WOW. And then I was very impressed by Les Duvall who was from

Indianapolis. Very strict on following the rulebook. Very objective, very capable senator. Those were folks I listened and watched [1:33:00] to a lot. And then whatever committees I served on I would just observe how the chair ran the committee.

MM: Sure.

RG: So.

MM: Ok. Um, well you just said there were 120,000 people in your district...

RG: Whatever it was at that time.

MM: ...whatever the number was. How did you know the needs or wants of your constituents?

RG: It's almost an osmosis. You know, that's why you, why I went to the fish fries, of course to keep your presence in front of people.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: But also you welcome the opportunity to hear what they're talking about. You solicit it. Our caucus we would send out questionnaires and then the results would be marked by your intern and you'd review those. And phone calls and letters that you would get.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And somehow, it's very interesting to me, because there is a feel that you pick up. You go to the um, you know, [1:34:00] 4H fairs in your district...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...and then the so called third houses. The head of the local chamber both here and in Johnson County I started those third houses. They did not have them.

MM: I'm not familiar with that term.

RG: Third house is sponsored usually by the local chamber of commerce.

MM: Ok.

RG: And is just a session often weekly, sometimes monthly, where people gather early in the morning on a Monday before session start and meet locally.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: Your local area. And anybody's invited. They pay a few bucks for the donuts and the coffee or in some cases they find sponsors for them. Here locally we would get 50 to 60 people showing up and I'd think man what are we doing all these people are that interested in it.

MM: Yeah. (chuckles) [1:35:00]

RG: But in Franklin then we started one in Franklin and one in Greenwood. And they met I'm trying to remember, I think was it every other week or maybe once a month. It was just different. They're all a little bit different. Some senators call them cracker barrel sessions but most of us call them third house like it is the third house...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...influence. And you have people that often are very involved in organizations, you know, they lobby the legislature.

MM: Sure.

RG: So they're raising questions. And it's a real opportunity for feedback.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: The questions you get.

MM: Uh huh. Sounds like a great idea.

RG: And it's usually not just you yourself that are having it, it's whatever legislators are representing that area.

MM: Yeah. Ok.

RG: So you get both political sides. [1:36:00]

MM: Sure. So then how did you communicate or interact with constituents? Did you send out mailers? Did you just go to these fish fries and things too?

RG: We'd have a caucus services they called it. They'd send out the surveys that I mentioned. And they'd also send out press releases for you. And both caucuses have those.

MM: Ok.

RG: Um, and when our daughter interned for us when she was at Ball State University, she interned a session. She also did a lot of radio feeds. Going around contacting senators and then, and she knew how radio worked because during the summer she had worked at one of the local radio stations. So, yeah.

MM: [?] that way. I think that maybe you already answered this question but I'll ask again. What was the first bill you sponsored?

RG: I'm trying to remember. [1:37:00]

MM: I can look that up as well but.

RG: But I thought maybe it was the one adding sex to the Civil Rights Code. I'm not positive that that was the first bill.

MM: Yeah. Ok. It's at least the first memorable one.

RG: Yeah, it was the first memorable one. (chuckles)

MM: Ok.

RG: Right.

MM: Well could you tell me a little bit about the regular interaction amongst the General Assembly members? What was it like being on the floor with everybody?

RG: Well, it was always a learning experience. Talking with your seat mate or other people around. And there's one thing that people come to view the legislature and you'll, they'll often see people just wandering around the floor while session is continuing. And one thing you learn up there, you learn to be in a conversation and then hear what's going on at the same time.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: I can't explain it but it occurs. [1:38:00] (chuckles) And uh and uh your committee members then, you know, you're meeting with them sometimes outside the committee...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...to discuss things. And you learn who you can trust and who you kind of question.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And one thing that uh really is almost a sacred rule at the legislature and it's not always followed is uh never break your word.

MM: Hmm.

RG: Don't do that. Uh because I was very naïve and Senator Charlie Bosma was chair of a committee and through that committee came a change in the way we selected nominees at the state ticket level. And also the lieutenant governor and the governor running together...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...not separately. And uh going to a large extent [1:39:00] to primaries uh...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...and I told Charlie well yeah I, I, I believe in primaries.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And then I thought well part of my role is to sit and listen to debate. And I thought the arguments against it were pretty solid. So I did not vote for it.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And he turned around to me and said Bob, you told me you were for it and I was just so embarrassed because don't let your mind be changed if you've given your word.

MM: Yeah.

RG: You go back and say my mind has been changed. (laughs)

MM: Right, right. (laughs)

RG: So I learned that lesson hard. And Charlie Bosma and I were very very good friends.

MM: Um hmm. So. Ok.

RG: His, his son, by the way, is Speaker of the House now.

MM: Right, now. Yeah. We talked about the earlier but by the time your now in your sort of first nine or so years before you come become Speaker, had you become, [1:40:00] had you adopted any more philosophical ideas about the Republican Party or was it still just I'm a Republican... this is...you know?

RG: Well, that's a, that's a good question. Of course I had been caucus chair.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: What was that for um...six years, four years I was caucus chair. I was there thirty-six years. That's right, I was caucus chair for four. I was majority caucus chair and when we lost one of the elections I was minority caucus chair and then I was Pro Tem for twenty-six of those years.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And after, after I had won I called then former state senator Phil Gutman, who had been President Pro Tem just to ask him for advice and this this really struck home with me, he said well, first of all remember you only [1:41:00] have so many bullets in your gun so be very judicious when you fire them. (laughs) In other words don't hog the microphone, don't you know, just don't use your influence that often, it's always there.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And second, he said, read every bill. I said Phil, you're kidding me.

MM: Yeah.

RG: He said read every bill.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: Well there may be 5 to 600 Senate bills and maybe half that number coming from the House and I'm thinking how do you read...best advice I ever had because you knew then if you saw changes out of committees. You knew what the base bill was and I learned, wait a minute, because I started out reading every page of every bill...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...no, no, all you have to do is read... review the changes that are being made in the law.

MM: Um hmm.

RF: And they show up in [1:42:00] bold type, what this is new or strike throughs you're eliminating laws so...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...so you don't have to read every single page...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ... and you can skip through and I got so that I could read them and digest them very quickly...

MM: Uh huh.

RG: ...and then that helped me in making assignments to bills because the Pro Tem, in my case, defined the committee jurisdictions.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Now they may have changed that to some staff doing it now I'm not positive. And so you try to be consistent in assigning the same subject matter to the same committee.

MM: Right.

RG: And, uh there would be times when I'm reading maybe bill uh Senate Bill 350, and by the way they start with Senate Bill 1, and they are numbered consecutively, House starts with four numbers, 11,000 and one,...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...so you always know a three digit [1:43:00] bill is a Senate Bill.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And so you're reading along and I think I've read this language before, what committee did I assign that to? Now I want to be consistent. Because I did have a chair one time that said, Bob, I don't understand I thought I had the same subject matter but you assigned the bill differently and I simply forgot.

MM: Oh. (chuckles)

RG: So my, my administrative assistant, Garner Price, would take the digest or the summary of the bill and take sentences from it and remind me whenever she handed me the whole new Senate Bill list. So that was really handy.

MM: Yeah.

RG: Because I would always go back to Garn and say Garn find out where I assigned a similar bill and I don't even know that similar bill's number. (laughs)

MM: Yeah. (chuckles)

RG: So yeah, that was sort of...to be consistent and to be fair.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And then I kind if had an internal rule, I wish people caught onto very quickly [1:44:00] I'm afraid, I never ask for a Senator's vote that was against their conscious or was against their constituents.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Well after a while (laughingly) they knew...this is what my constituents...they knew their constituents better than I did.

MM: Right.

RG: I could never, never ask anybody to change their conscious. Take for instance Senator Morris Mills, who was Quaker,...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...Senate, Senator Mills did not believe in the death penalty.

MM: um hmm.

RG: Senator Mills was a very strong law and order person but he would never vote...don't even ask him to vote for it because with his conscious and ethics he wasn't going to do it. So, I didn't. (chuckles)

MM: Yeah, yeah. Probably a smart move.

RG: Why waste your time on that.

MM: Yeah. Right.

RG: So. And you, you know, people criticize well lobbyists put on all these receptions [1:45:00] that you go to...well it's very informal and often people as close as Bartholomew and Johnson County are to the state capitol, they would come up from home if they belonged to the organization.

MM: Yeah.

RG: And you talk with the senators from the other side very easily and it's a nice hospitable environment.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And you learn to, you learn to know people and that was one of the advices I gave to my successor, you know, learn the interests of individual senators.

MM: Yeah.

RG: And in fact I gave him a whole list of things.

MM: (laughs)

RG: I don't know that he followed any of them.

MM: (laughs) But you gave them.

RG: But I did. And you just establish friendships.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And mutual respect.

MM: Well that kind of leads to my next question of what were the interactions like between the majority [1:46:00] and minority parties?

RG: Well I thought they were pretty good. Now you talk to some minority people they would disagree with you. But particularly when Frank O'Bannon was minority leader in the Senate, Frank would lean across the aisle and say I'm gonna take you on today. So, you know, be ready to respond or sometimes I'd point to somebody else to respond. And so they usually, I thought

they were pretty good. And after all they represent approximately the same number of people you do even though they're in the minority.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And then they have good ideas too, you know. So.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: I really thought we got along pretty well...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...not as polarized now particularly as it is at the Congressional level.

MM: Um hmm. [1:47:00]

RG: And most bills had bipartisan sponsorship.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: You learn that quickly because you needed help in the other party's caucus.

MM: Yeah.

RG: You know. Whoever is your co-sponsor. So there's a lot more cooperation between the parties at least when I was there...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...at the state level than there appears to be at the Congressional level.

MM: Yeah. Did that change during the course of your time there or would you say that was pretty consistent?

RG: Oh just pretty consistent I think yeah.

MM: Yeah. Ok.

RG: It was consistent. Yeah, they've got good ideas too. Yeah.

MM: Uh huh. What was the relationship like between seatmates or what was your relationship with your seatmate?

RG: Oh my relationship was wonderful. One was Jack Ryan who was a very close friend of Phil Gutman. He was an attorney in Indianapolis. And then for [1:48:00] several years my seatmate was a Pete Swisher.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: From Mooresville, Indiana. And he was the family of the swisher cigars. That developed those. And Pete at one time was a doorkeeper for the Senate. And then as the district opened up and he ran for the Senate and was elected.

MM: That's funny.

RG: He was just a delightful guy, a great sense of humor and even, even when I was making, what he thought, were really wrong votes, hey, that didn't bother him. And, yeah, you talk with your seatmate quite a bit.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And of course when I became Pro Tem then I moved up to the front row and the majority leader is somebody I appoint and for some reason and I've never understood why in the Senate, the Republican caucus, [1:49:00] the majority leader is appointed by the President Pro Tem.

MM: Hmm.

RG: In other caucuses it's elected.

MM: Almost.

RG: By the caucus.

MM: Ok.

RG: And I don't know why we did it the way we did it but we continue to do it that way.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And it's very important because you want to appoint somebody you can trust implicitly...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...because there's nothing worse than the majority leader and the Pro Tem getting into big arguments.

MM: Right. Right.

RG: About things. So.

MM: Can you briefly walk me through the process of generating a bill? What did that look like from when you had an idea to the finished product.

RG: Pretty simple. Really. Well it's complicated but it's simple. The process is simple. You go to Legislative Services Agency, which is a nonpartison group, that serves all four caucuses, both legislators, both houses of the legislature and you say you have this idea [1:50:00] for this bill. Perhaps if you've got legal background you've submitted a draft, maybe somebody wants the bill has submitted a draft for you but the draft is always written by Legislative Services Agency. And we also use parlance, well I wrote this bill, well you didn't. In most cases, you didn't because it has to be cleared by Legislative Services on it.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And then you could review it and you could ask for changes before you file it. But once you file it then the only way to change that was through the amendment process. But uh I can't remember now how many are in Legislative Services Agency. Some 30-40 staff members? And as I say they are non-partison and there are times, well you know that analyst, that analyst is a Democrat. No, I don't know that analyst is a Democrat and I don't want to know...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...what party they belong to.

MM: Right.

RG: Because that's not the way they are. That's not the way they function. So.

MM: Ok. How did you then...so now you have a bill. How did you garner support for that legislation? [1:51:00] How did you assure that it was going to get passed?

RG: Which one? Anyone that I sponsored?

M: Yeah. Yeah just any one.

RG: Oh...

MM: What would you do?

RG: ...we would be in caucus and would come in, come up if the author wanted it to come up and you could listen and hear reactions to it. And you just talk in lunches and dinners and as I say, those receptions, awful receptions, sponsored by lobbyists, you know. (chuckles)

MM: (laughs)

RG: And you still talk shop. And you get a feel for it after a while. One thing I think is very important for the Pro Tem as well as the caucus chair is know how to count votes.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: I always thought I was a pretty good vote counter.

MM: So how would you do that? How did you...what's?

RG: Well, it's an osmosis, if you will. It's just in talking with them or you hear them express comments in caucus. [1:52:00]

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And by the way, on the whole idea of a public having access and transparency but the caucuses are closed.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And it's very, very interesting to me that Dick Hardwell who is head of the state, Hoosier State Press Association, yes even newspapers have lobbyists with their association...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...Dick Hardwell told me one time that *I don't want to go anywhere where the public can't go*. And still so far in Indiana caucuses are closed.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Now, there are some legislators that have opened their caucuses. I talk with those legislators, says it takes forever to find out a vote count.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Because you just don't get the same feeling free of expression. Of your reaction to something when the press is sitting there. (chuckles)

MM: Yeah, I bet. [1:53:00]

RG: Covering it. So. Yeah it's just a...it's just one of those things that um well, you get to know them. I mean, after all they're friends.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And they're colleagues and you can...there are times you can even anticipate reaction. And there are other times when I would use very close friends to that senator...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...to see if he or she could influence the vote...

MM: Uh huh.

RG: ...of uh...and then they'd let me know.

MM: Yeah.

RG: And so. Yeah. You rely a lot on your caucus chair. You rely on your majority leader. Uh, yeah.

MM: Ok. See, you started...you were elected in '70, so you would have started in '71 I believe. In the...

RG: The session started...

MM: The session started. [1:54:00]

RG: ...but I was actually elected...

MM: Yeah, official in...

RG: Election Day that November.

MM: Ok.

RG: in '70.

MM: So that was right at the time when they were switching from annual...er bi, biannual to annual sessions, right?

RG: Yes, indeed.

MM: What was the response like to that shift?

RG: Oh, that was, that was, Phil Gutman was really a leader on that. He pushed it very hard and he was opposed by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. They did not want us meeting every year for things. But it was just plain common sense.

MM: Why were they resistant to it?

RG: They didn't trust the legislature I gue...I don't know why it was but...

MM: Yeah.

RF: ...you know, why, oh...you know, there, there suppos...always two sessions...when the Legislature's in session and when it's not in session, you know, because then we can deal directly with departments...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...and agencies. And uh yeah, it was [1:55:00] one a brilliant move on Phil's part because you know, you would passed the budget, and then you weren't there to amend it. Times change. I mean, you have fires in penitentiaries, you know, you have storms that destroy buildings and there are times you just can't anticipate everything.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: So by moving it to the even numbered years you could amend the budget.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And so, yeah, it wasn't to start a new budget it was to amend the one they had and so that simplified it and it really was a brilliant idea. It was a ...I liked it. And well, with the Chamber too, it was going to cost more.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Because you know, you draw your salary during the session not year round.

MM: Right.

RG: So.

MM: Did that change the way [1:56:00] or when legislation was proposed? So I guess what I mean by that did you focus on the budget for the first session and then the second session was other matters?

RG: Oh yeah. Absolutely Other and that's... it opened up...it wasn't...there wasn't anything that was confined.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: The only thing that uh when I was Pro Tem later in my term is that I can find that I limited the number of bills that can be filed. I think I...I think the limit was ten, something like that, for each senator. Well that's 500 bills for heavens sakes.

MM: Still a lot of bills.

RG: And uh I think the House may have done the same thing. But uh yeah, otherwise there's no limit for the first half of that session. And the other, the other thing they would, the two years would count as a single session then.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: So.

MM: Ok. [1:57:00]

RG: It was really a good move.

MM: Ok.

RG: Phil did a lot of good things.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Yep, yep he did.

MM: So, as you were running for, well that first U.S. Congressional seat, and then as you got into the State Senate, um, you know, it's kind of a hot bed time, 1960's, 1970's in America, were national issues affecting the Indiana legislature? Or were you...

RG: Oh probably the biggest one was Equal Rights Amendment. That was a national issue. I frankly, I don't remember.

MM: Yeah. Well it was a while ago.

RG: Obviously there had to be some effect...

MM: Sure.

RG: ...some, but I really don't remember.

MM: Ok.

RG: And by the way one of my first caucuses that I attended was whether or not committee meetings should be open to the public. [1:58:00] Now we talked a little bit about this earlier. And prior to that they were not. There's closed doors. You got committee reports afterwards. By the way, you could read committee reports, and particularly if you had read the bill, you knew changes that were being made in committee. And so we took a vote in caucus...how many are in favor of open committee meetings? I raised my hand. I looked around. I think I was the only one with my hand up. (laughs) Because I didn't have the experience of some of these...because one the organizers said can you imagine...committee meetings are very small. Unless you hold the committee on the session floor...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...they're very small rooms. Can you imagine a lobbyist sitting right behind you and whispering in your ear? You know, as you're sitting in committees and they just...and...I mean, tradition. [1:59:00] They just didn't think that was right. Well, ok, we were against it. We weren't going to do it. Well, a fella named Doc Bowen was Speaker of the House. And they decided to open their committee meetings. We had another vote in caucus and I think it passed unanimously. (laughs) So.

MM: (laughs) That's funny.

RG: Yeah.

MM: Well I guess so you mentioned Bowen, well let's jump into property taxes here for a minute. What involvement did you have with that?

RG: Well I was involved there. Again because of Senator Gutman. He asked me, because it was a close vote in the Senate, and he asked me to get Senator Leo Sullivan's vote. Now Leo Sullivan suffered from polio. He was in a wheelchair and often when we were in caucus he would be stretched out on a table. He was not in good health. And his wife was [2:00:00] not all that enthused about the bill. She was, she would sit right behind him on the floor on visitors seats area there. And so Phil asked if I would, if I would get his vote. And um ok. It was to pass the Senate we knew it'd go to conference and would be changed in conference. And Charlie Bosma, I thought was going to vote for it because he was a very good friend of Speaker Bowen's, and Charlie was up green then saw it was not going to pass and he went to red. And Leo Sullivan who sat just a couple of seats down from me in the back row at the Senate at that time, Leo then switched his vote from yes to no. [2:01:00] And I said Charlie, you're confusing Leo. Go back. He said Bob, it's not going to pass. I said yes, but it will with Leo's vote. (laughs) And so he went back and so then Leo went back and changed it and I believe it did pass by one vote. I remember. So, yeah, and some of the governors staff people were on the floor and they saw what I'd done. I didn't get a whole lot of credit for it. I was ok. I didn't care.

MM: Yeah.

RG: I just thought hey, this is...because property tax were pretty high at that time. And um that was one of the things that we campaigned on. You know, we're going to change property taxes.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And by enacting the local option into income tax that reduced property taxes even further. So, yeah.

MM: Ok.

RG: That was kind of interesting by the way, when the whole [2:02:00] bill passed, we had a meeting at Governor Bowens', uh let's see, Governor, yeah, yeah Governor Bowen was Bowen...that's when it passed...or was he still Speaker...anyway we had a meeting...I remember it was the Governors residence...

MM: I think he was Governor when it passed. I think.

RG: ...the idea was how much property tax reduction do we want? Oh, uh 15%? Eeeh, that's not a lot. Uh 25%? That's pretty heavy. That's whoa...we compromised at 20%. (laughs)

MM: There you go. (chuckles)

RG: How did we get there I often wondered that. So, you know. And yeah, Doc...that was...for years the Democrats tried to defeat it.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Or change it. And were never successful. [2:03:00] Until they finally came around and realized it was extremely popular.

MM: Yeah.

RG: Really was.

MM: Funny how that works. (chuckles)

RG: Yeah. Yeah, yeah those were the days. Yeah.

MM: Well I sure before you became Pro Tem and assigned committees you served on a lot of different committees. Which ones were the most important to you?

RG: I made a decision I was not going to assign myself to a committee except chair the Rules Committee.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Because that governs a lot of the process.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: The reason, because as I, I served under three Pro Tems previously and you were always waiting for them to get to the meeting, you know, or not making the meeting or for whatever reason and I said that well first of all I don't have to be on those committees. I don't have to sit there to listen to the testimony. After all I'm familiar with the bill. I read it.

MM: Right.

RG: So I would [2:04:00] not be on any committee. The second decision I made was I would not sponsor bills any more. Because I figured out quickly I sponsor a bill, it passes, goes to the House, and there is always tension between the House and the Senate. Hey, this is one of the Pro Tems bill...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...let's fool around with it. I was not gonna get in that game. (chuckles)

MM: Um hmm.

RG: So, when I was asked, and sometimes it put me on the spot, to sponsor a bill I would find sponsors for them. For instance up here at the Edinburgh Mall a special law had to be created to create a governance for the mall because Bartholomew County wanted it to claim it. Of course Johnson County wanted to claim it. And so I got Joe Corcoran to sponsor but I went to the committee with him and testified for it. [2:05:00] But uh and I missed that part of the legislature. Because it's fun to take a bill all the way through.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: It's challenging. It's at times frustrating. But I said I'm just not going to play the game with the House. (chuckles) So I didn't.

MM: Yeah. Well before you were Pro Tem did you chair any key committees that you enjoyed?

RG: Oh I probably did I just can't remember what they were.

MM: Yeah, it's been a while. I can look that up too very easily.

RG: Uh. I'm trying to...

MM: I have that information...

RG: Ok.

MM: ...back in the books. Uh I don't want to spend a lot of time on it because in the oral history whenever you did with the Historical Society you talked a lot about the Centennial Project. But I did want to ask one question. So I know you were heavily involved in creating the committee that eventually hired Dr. Walsh to produce the book. And so I just wanted to ask why it was important to initiate such a project? Why is it important for us to have such a history [2:06:00] of the Legislature?

RG: A resolution was introduced in the House to create an interim study committee because we were approaching as close as we could determine the hundredth session...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...of the Indiana General Assembly. Because the Civil War they were in and out a lot. (chuckles) If you count those sessions or not. And Phil Goodman appointed me to chair that committee. And one of the many...how do we commemorate it...and the idea of a history came up. And we discussed that pro and con and then the fascinating aspect it came down...it was a tie vote and John Mutz voted for, who was a state senator at that time, voted for the history. So the history was created as I remember by a single vote in that committee. [2:07:00] And then it became a bill and I sponsored the bill. And so I guess in Phil's mind when it came around to who chairs, you know, the committee in the interim it was me.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And maybe *that's* when John caste his ...because I think that committee comprised of different professors, it was one of the two, that voted and...

MM: Went forward.

RG: ... it lived by a single vote.

MM: Yeah (laughs) an important vote.

RG: And then we hired an historian and it was close. Justin Walsh was one of the candidates and we decided to go with a Jim Broussard. And a couple of years went by and there really wasn't any product yet.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And I remember Professor York Wilburn reviewing what little we had in front of it and he said you know, Jim [2:08:00] my mother always said pudding was really improved when you put a lot of raisins in it. He said we need more raisins you know, more examp...I mean make it live, lively. And nothing was really happening with it and so we finally had to ask Jim to leave to project.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: So I contacted Justin Walsh again and we hired him...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...and it started to move.

MM: Yeah.

RG: So it fortunately...but it took longer than it should have.

MM: Um hmm. It's a big project.

RG: But well, not only the history but then the two volumes of biographical sketches...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...of every legislator who ever served. What were their hobbies, you know, where did they live, what district did they represent...the, I mean it was like a little condensed who's who for every single legislator.

MM: Yeah.

RG: I've forgotten how many hundred that were listed... [2:09:00]

MM: A lot.

RG: ...but it did take two volumes.

MM: Um hmm. Um hmm. It's been...

RG: I'm very proud of that work.

MM: ...I bet. Yeah, that was a big undertaking for sure and a good sort of legacy to leave behind.

RG: And then we authorized hiring a staff and of course that money had to be in the budget...

MM: Right.

RG: ...to hire the staff.

MM: Ok. How did you come to be Pro Tem of the Senate?

RG: How what?

MM: How did you get to be Pro Tem? What was the process like?

RG: Well, I was caucus chair and I went in and told Chip Edwards, who was Pro Tem, that I'm going to stick my toe in the water. He was not happy. At that time he was under FBI investigation. He was not happy at all and he said well this is the first time a district attorney is going to determine who is Pro Tem. Because it was a local district [2:10:00] attorney that was prosecuting the case. So that, so that was a little ugly. Before that Gene Snowden had called me, Senator Snowden, and said it doesn't look good for Chip, he says, why don't you run for Pro Tem? Well, Gene, I will if you'll support me. I will! (chuckles) So we started and it ended up there were five of us, five final candidates, for the position. Well that summer I had gone around the state, visited senators in their homes, republican senators obviously, because they're the ones that nominated, they were the majority, and the, you know, sometimes at work, wherever lunches, phone calls, checking up, and initially [2:11:00] there were six of us running and Senator Harrison was a very strong candidate and I told him one day, because I never let my list out, how many votes I had, and Joe said, I don't know, he said, I think I'm pretty strong. I said Joe I don't think so. Well, Senator Corcoran down in Seymour...I said Joe, Senator Corcoran is with me. How?? I said Joe, eye to eye, Senator Corcoran told me...because I would never share

my list with anybody, who was for me. So Joe went home and talked to his wife. In the meantime we had talked and he said well, he said ok, if one of us stays (mumbles) I'll make you majority leader. [2:12:00] I don't want to be majority leader Joe. I don't. Why not? I want to be caucus chair I don't want to be majority... So when I appointed Joe majority leader Senator Larry Borst said we had a deal. We never had a deal. We did discuss it but it was never confirmed. I just thought Joe was the best person for it at the time. So I always had my vote count, I would confirm my vote count repeatedly and I remember the day of the election. We met at state headquarters, Republican headquarters, Indianapolis. Dick Harris, who was one of the opponents saw me at the Columbia Club legislature where I had stayed overnight expecting Snowden to be there to go over all the votes and Snowden never showed up (laughs) that night until the meeting, but at the elevator Dick Harris said you have nine votes. I said Oh Dick. [2:13:00] He said you have nine votes. I knew I had more than twice that many. I was close very close to twenty votes at the time which I ended up having. And I thought Oh, I just feel sorry about this. And then uh, Les Duval decided he might want to run and Charlie Bosma was with Les. Both from Indianapolis. He was with me if Les didn't run.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And so in the caucus meeting headed by the State Chair of the Republican Party it was said well that anybody could just stand up and declare. And I looked across the table at a fellow senator and said Roberts Rules apply. And so he challenged it and said you've got to have a motion and you've gotta have a second. And Les apparently didn't have a second. [2:14:00] So Charlie, I mean he dropped out.

MM: Yeah.

RG: So that took care of that so Charlie was with me that time. I always give Charlie credit for making me Pro Tem. And then Ralph Protesta from northwest Indiana didn't have the votes. Jack Guy was almost a surrogate for Chip Edwards.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: They were very close friends. Both attorneys and he was involved in it and of course Larry Borst.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Well at that time you just had to have the majority and when we hit twenty votes, it was Jim Abraham that called for Roberts Rules of Order. It was either Jim or Joe Harrison, when we hit the magic number twenty-five we suspended the vote. Cause I had it.

MM: Yeah.

RG: It really bothered Larry Borst because it never showed he had seven or eight votes I think. At the time he was pretty irritated at that. I found out later because they told me exactly who [2:15:00] had how many votes.

MM: Yeah.

RG: And so that was what happened at that time but I had, I had gone around the state...and I'd be at the statehouse at night sometimes and I would walk out ready to go back home and I see the

light off in the senate finance office and I said I know Larry Borst is looking for votes (laughs). I'd go back to the office and make more calls. (laughs)

MM: (laughs) That's funny.

RG: But one of the charges against me – I was too liberal. And in fact, I think it was the Indianapolis Chamber the first, my first year I was rated along with the Senate Democrats as the most liberal legislator in the Senate. And I thought well boy that's a surprise to me. I just think it's common sense.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Ok. [2:16:00]

MM: That's funny. Well, I think I've read a couple places too that you were known for walking around with your cigar. Is that right?

RG: No, pipe.

MM: Pipe. Ok.

RG: In fact we had a little area behind the Senate Chambers where visitors could come in...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...and a lot of people go back and smoke cigarettes there, you know.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: And it did not smell very good . But being a pipe smoker I didn't notice it that much. In fact you could smoke on the floor at that time even but visitors could be back there. And then it came to the point I was back there one day I said this smells awful. (laughs) So I said ok we are banning smoking on the floor. Well the, uh Richard Young, the Democrat leader sitting across the aisle from me said I smoke a pipe and I'm really going to miss it. [2:17:00] And I said Richard both of us are going to miss it. (chuckles) So we put the ban in even walking around the work walls there would be no smoking but you could still smoke back in the visitors area and finally we cut that out even.

MM: That's funny.

RG: And when Richard Young did not run again and smoking was banned on the floor and one of the last session days I worked it out with the Lieutenant Governor that I would not preside or I would start presiding and would call Richard up to give him a chance to preside that he would never ever have again. (laughs) And his wife was there and I told her what I wanted to do and he was from northwest Indiana and she came down for the little ceremony. And I had her pack his pipe [2:18:00] (laughs) and had her light it and said and you can even smoke your pipe. (laughs)

MM: (laughs)

RG: Not only preside but smoke your pipe yeah.

MM: That's funny.

ERG: These are the kinds of relationships we had. Where we could kid back and forth...

MM: Yeah.

RG: with legislators and...

MM: That's funny. Well obviously...oh...

RG: By the way when you appoint committee chairs and you appoint the republican members and I always allowed with a couple of exceptions for the democrats to appoint their own to committees. You...in my approach you let the chair run the committee. After all you appointed that person. You should not be chairing the committee and so I made it principle no matter what came out of committees I was supporting that committee chair. I was not going to fault them. I might try to get an amendment change [2:19:00] or something but that was one of the rules, informal rules that I followed.

MM: Well that actually leads right into my next question. What approach did you take to the Pro Tem position particularly given that Gutman and Edwards had gotten in trouble? How did you approach it?

RG: I decided that we were going to follow the rules.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Because there was a conference committee report that came out. This is a long story. That banned the firemen on trains. And in conference committee report it was somehow it was changed. Maybe the conductor was not, I can't remember but the report was, and it irritated me so I did not vote for it. [2:20:00] And I even turned to the reporter from the Louisville Courier Journal and, by the way press always had access to the Senate floor, and I said principle prevails. I voted against it. So when I looked at one bill that came through I realized after session was over this bill had five different subject matters. The constitution says, I mean one was the odometer reading, one was I mean they didn't even relate, wasn't even close. Whoa. That the odometers readers had to be accurate I think there was something in there about the mentally retarded, I mean solid waste rules. I said no we are now going to follow the constitution which says one subject matter per bill and I had that added to the rules. [2:21:00] Then we will adhere to article so and so in the constitution. And so that's where germaneness came in. And I...oh the House disliked that because some lobbyists, really good lobbyists would wait until conference committee and then insert a whole bunch of things in conference committee that they knew they couldn't get through.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: But people would have to vote for that conference committee once it came out because of somethings it had in it. Even if the things they didn't like were in it. And so that was not fair to the process.

MM: Um hmm. Is that also what they call stripping a bill? Or is that different?

RG: What?

MM: Stripping a bill?

RG: Stripping? No.

MM: Is that different?

RG: Bill stripping we outlawed.

MM: Ok.

RG: Because I realized wait a minute County Chair can change this bill after I've assigned it to a committee. That might be a whole different subject matter. So you could strip a bill with the approval of the Rules Committee but it had [2:22:00] to be noted on the daily calendar. This is a special bill. This has been stripped. The language has been changed. But it had to come out of the Rules Committee...

MM: Ok.

RG: ...to do it. So we eliminated that practice.

MM: Ok.

RG: Yeah, we restored a lot of the integrity to the process.

MM: And so did you feel that that was important because of what had happened before you were Pro Tem?

MM: Oh yeah. Yeah because on that, I think it was the eliminating the firemen, that's what got Senator Edwards, Senator Gutman, Senator Jim Gardner in trouble. They were placed on a retainer by the railroad lobbyist. Wasn't that much money. I think it was \$500 a month or something year round on retainer. And Phil didn't need it. I think they did it for Chip Edwards. That's my opinion. I don't know. And it would have been ok for Phil if he had run it through the law firm. But he didn't. (chuckles) Because lawyers have a right to retainers. [2:23:00]

MM: Right.

RG: You know. You can't ask them to give up their practice. So that's where it all started.

MM: Right. Um hmm.

RG: And let me go on a side trail because they tapped Chip Edwards phone at the Columbia Club. That's how they caught him. And that's how they got Phil and that's how they got Jim Gardner. Ok. So I was very aware, in fact occasionally before session started I would have our phones checked.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: To see if they were tapped. (chuckles)

MM: Yeah.

RG: You know. And so I was very careful. Even conversations on the telephone.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: On it because I just...I talk with people my phone maybe tapped.

MM: Yeah.

RG: So we had an issue come up about the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nick Negley. Negley had used some campaign funds for his Columbia Club dues for personal expenses. You know, oh boy. So Senator Corcorun, strong supporter [2:24:00] of mine, from Jackson County, Senator Heshen from Shelby County came into the office one day and they are going to start a resolution to impeach Senator...Superintendent of Public Instruction...Negley. (chuckles) That gets to the floor that is going to pass. I think oh my gosh. At that time Steve Coons, my campaign field manager when I ran for congress was working with Negley. And I called...I told Joe and Heshen give me twenty-four hours, please give me twenty-four hours. Went down to see the Governor. I saw Steve Coons. I said he's got to resign I said otherwise it is going to come to the floor and it is going to pass.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: He ended up resigning fortunately. [2:25:00] However, what I had forgotten...a little clause in the constitution, impeachment has to start in the House. (laughs) So, not the Senate. I got locked in.

MM: Yeah.

RG: So anyway we're in there with Hesham and Corcorun and I'm saying just give me some time and we got no, no we've got to move now you know and I would arguer here and I would argue there and Joe Corcorun being Joe Corcorun said, you know, he said what we're doing right now is a conspiracy. He said we could be prosecuted. He said it's a conspiracy and it is wrong. And I just pointed around the office and I said Joe, FBI's already heard it. (laughs)

MM: (laughs)

RG: So he laughed. That broke the tension...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...so they gave me the twenty-four hours...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...and by that afternoon Negley...(chuckling) [2:26:00] it was a decision to resign. Oh boy.

MM: Well you've given hints about this too but how would you describe your leadership style?

RG: I don't know. That's a very good question. I know there's all these classifications of leadership style and I don't know. I just try...I wanted to be fair and I want to be consistent. And I wanted mutual respect, you know, established. And let's see it here, if you might want to turn that off.

MM: I can pause it.

RG: Give me a chance to look (pause)...ok I guess this is my style. I had a dozen rules that I tried to follow and one is learn to listen and know how and when to lead. The other is to learn self interest and motivation of the individual senators so you know if, the old trite saying, where they're coming from if you will. And I said listen to learn, anticipate problems [2:27:00] and develop options for solutions was part of my...and I would always try to think ahead of what was going to happen next on a particular issue or how will the Senate react. And as I say I thought I

was a good vote counter. Earn the trust and confidence and respect of your Senators. And strive to be fair and consistent. Know the rules and enforce them evenly. And how I enforced the germane rule I would have our session attorneys come in and give me arguments for and against why this is germane or not germane.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And then I, they would, I would make the decision on what to do with it. Because I'm not a lawyer.

MM: Right.

RG: And I wanted to maintain the integrity of the legislative process and ethical behavior and recognize the ramifications of precedence affecting future decisions. Because of you ever [2:28:00] go beyond a rule now you basically informally have created a new rule. So, that's a precedent you don't want to do. And be flexible. Know when you made a mistake and admit it. And I did that on the floor a couple of times. Correct it quickly and apologize if necessary and I did. A senator got very upset with me because I adjourned the session early because IU was playing Kentucky in basketball...

MM: That's important.

RG: ...and they had a bus for Legislators, IU did. And so I wanted to make sure they would get on that bus so I adjourned it early and he came to me and he was very upset because he had an abortion bill that he said would take minutes and I knew it would take a long time. And I said Kent, you know, no Senator it's not good and then he flippantly said well, you're in charge. [2:29:00] And then I said and don't you forget it. Next couple of days I apologized on the floor. I said a senator corrected me, and I made a mistake and I apologize for it. That was very very rude on my part but he got to me and I reacted. Keep a sense of humor, balance perspective, and practice patience and self discipline daily. (chuckles)

MM: (chuckles)

RG: And then protect the interests of the general public. Pursue positive public policy and create a positive image of the state senate. So you will, if that's a style select good committee chairs and let them chair their committee. And finally, always remember senators elect the president Pro Tempore and not vica versa. (chuckles)

MM: It's an important way to look at that probably.

RG: So those are my rules. [2:30:00]

MM: Ok. I think that explains a lot in how you approached the position...

RG: Yeah, it...

MM: ...and how you ruled.

RG: ...oh, and the other thing I did, this is very important, write a little procedure senators would file bills, they would file them numerically...

MM: Right.

RG: ... except for Senate Bill 1. And even before me you could hold that out...say you know I just hadn't read it and assigned it yet.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: And that was kind of a key bill for the Senate.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: Senate Bill 1. So ok, senators would come in, fill out cards like that, with a few words on the subject matter, what it was and their committee preference. And if I said...checked ok or I checked... I crossed out their committee preference and wrote in the committee...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...that was the process for it. And so I would look through and read these bills and try to be consistent [2:31:00] with the right subject matter and the right committee. There were times I felt I had to disagree. Whenever I disagreed with a senator I sent them a memo that I'd dictate to Garna and she would type up and send it. And I said if you question, let's discuss, you know, or if you think I'm wrong let's discuss it.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And rarely did I have that happen. But I thought that's the way to keep trust.

MM: Right.

RG: You know, because they would always kind of bother me. The first couple of years, I mean I don't know what committees have what jurisdiction. So I'd fill out the dumb card and all of a sudden it'd be assigned to a different committee. Well why? I don't know. Well, so, and I would do that with the democrats as well. When they filed separate bills. You know, if you think I'm wrong...

MM: Tell me.

RG: And there's a chance they might have...they might convince me.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: This language really is the controlling language, [2:32:00] you know, that I missed. So that was one of the styles...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...that I used and that's the way I kept personal contact going with them.

MM: It's good to have that communication too, right? That you're not just sending the card and that's the end of it.

RG: Yeah, yeah. Because you want to know.

MM: Yeah. Ok.

RG: Yeah, you know, and you wanna...if they uh gave...one time, this is immodest, but one time Phil Gutman after I had given a speech on it may have been the Equal Rights Amendment, I

don't know, uh gave a speech on the floor, and uh no, it was the property tax program, I spoke for it, and Phil caught up a little later and talked about some of my arguments and he said, that was the most impressive speech by a freshman senator on this floor. (chuckles) So I said I'll write little notes to people when they make good comments on the floor...

MM: Yeah. There you go.

RG: ...and congratulate them particularly [2:33:00] new senators...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...you know. So I just constantly tried to keep in touch with them.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And then, like our caucus chairman, I mentioned Potch Wheeler, up in northwestern Indiana, he...I mean we met five days a week. He was a plumber and he needed Fridays...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...uh he was driving home one day he said...Potch would always start this way...well you're probably not going to like this idea, but he said why don't we come down to four days a week? I said well Potch, we could but you know committee meets on Friday, all five days. He said well, he said, why don't we set aside a day, maybe a Wednesday, all committee meetings days. (chuckles) Well, ok, so we did. Really a neat move. [2:34:00]

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Uh because uh I mean people who had a three day weekend basically, lawyers, you know, could practice, business, small business people. It was...and it was all Potch's idea...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...how that started. And so that worked out, that improved the process. They still adhere to that.

MM: Yeah.

RG: The other issue, the other issue that I, there was never a vote on it, boy did I loose it big time. When we were meeting on Fridays, and this is when neckties were disappearing from men...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...you know, we were having casual dress. I want to have casual dress on Fridays. You know, people going home, you know wearing jeans driving home. Why not? Holy cow did I get hit. No! That's the image of the senate? I mean I thought women would love to wear jeans going home. [2:35:00] No! (laughs)

MM: They were not in favor.

RG: No! No! So I had to back off that right quick. (laughs)

MM: (laughs) That's funny.

RG: I mean, ok. Alright.

MM: Well when you were talking about the going down to the four days, was it under your leadership too when the...didn't the House and the Senate used to be on the same calendar?

RG: Yeah.

MM: And that got split up somehow? Or how did that work?

RG: Yeah. That was one of the better things we did. That's when we were limited to session days.

MM: That's right. That's what it was.

RG: That's what it was. And either house could call the other into session. Always had arguments with that. We needed more time, you know, for your bills or whatever...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...and uh, no that was a good move. That really was. That took away that argument. That took away the tension between the Speaker [2:36:00] and the President Pro Tem...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...too. Which was always there.

MM: Yeah. Sure.

RG: No matter who was Speaker.

MM: Um what were, what would you say was the most controversial legislative issues that came across when you were Pro Tem?

RG: Uh, one I was involved was the Equal Rights Amendment.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: That got emotional.

MM: Yeah.

RG: It really did. Uh, the property reduction program...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...uh I mean, the fact that it passed the Senate by one vote. In fact, Senator Wilson from Bedford, who was in Congress and got beat by Lee Hamilton, came back home and ran for the Senate. We really needed his vote. And all of a sudden uh Senator Wilson disappeared. (laughs) And we had to put Bob Orr, Lieutenant Governor, had to put us in recess until we found Senator Earl Wilson. (chuckles) Because he was voting [2:37:00] against it but we needed his vote. If I remember right he was voting against it. Somehow I've got that confused. But we needed Earl's presence and vote. And man, we didn't know what to do so we stayed in an adjournment for about five hours, through the lunch hour and so forth and suddenly Earl Wilson was back. (laughs) And we passed the property tax bill. And I asked Senator Wilson, I said Senator where were you? Oh, he said, I went over to the Veterans Hospital and visited a very close friend and

found out he had died the week before. (laughs) So in other words he wasn't going to tell me where he was. (laughs)

MM: (laughs) Yeah I don't think so.

RG: I said he's going to get down there in the hills of Lawrence County and we'll never find him. (laughs)

MM: No.

RG: So that was a...yeah that was pretty doggone controversial. [2:38:00] Um, well, for the Republicans, adding sex to the Civil Rights Code...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...was very controversial.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Uh, what else...?

MM: What about gambling?

RG: Hmm?

MM: What about gambling legislation?

RG: Oooh yeah. Oooh big time. Oooh big ti...oh, thank you, because I wanted I wanted to get into when we were at that point. I just always had concerns about gambling. Larry Borst who sponsored it, had no concern at all about casinos, but he really didn't want pari-mutual. Vice or wrong?

MM: No, he wanted the pari-mutual not the casinos.

RG: He wanted the pari-mutual and a senator from Lake County said well Larry, if you amend the constitution, because we lost the vote to the Supreme Court...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...when we passed the casino bill and he said, Larry why don't you just go with pari-mutual [2:39:00] and I said no, no we're not going to do that. Larry said one of the worst mistakes he ever made because even though his wife loved casinos, Eldoris, and Larry enjoyed them too, but watching horses race. He told me one time, he was a small animal vet, he told me if he had to do it he would be a large animal vet. He just loved large animals. Watching them run. Well ok. Now we're into a tax program. Getting near the end of the session that Senator Bayh wanted to tax soft drinks and water...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...and raise the tax on cigarettes. Republicans being republicans said we didn't want to raise any taxes...

MM: Uh huh.

RG: ...and so, no, no we weren't going to do that. Uh no! [2:40:00] (pause) So Frank O'Bannon, I think, remembering when Bob Orr kept the machine open, said I'm holding this machine open, voting machine until the votes change. Oh my. He held it open for almost five days.

MM: (chuckle)

RG: I mean, through the ni...I was shocked. Because Frank, as I say, I gotta take you on Bob, like Dennis Neary did that I gotta take you on today. He would tell me, he would tell me what's here is where our caucus is on this. And I could, I would believe him. He never mentioned to me, he says we're in recess until the votes change. I went up to the railing before his podium and said Frank we gotta talk. And he said nope, not leaving this podium. And I said Frank, I said we gotta, I said put a state trooper in charge, which is what we did way back on the property tax program, when we all went to lunch [2:41:00] and go to your office and talk. So we went in there and talked about it and he was adamant. Holy cow. Wha, what are we gonna do now? And we would stay late into the evenings and it was just awful. And I made the comment that, you know, Frank had to go to the bathroom I was taking over. By the way that's where President Pro Tempore came from. Did you know that? It's a Latin term?

MM: Uh huh.

RG: It means for the time being.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: And it's in the constitution.

MM: I didn't realize it was in the constitution but I did...

RG: In the absence of the president. The lieutenant governor, senators may elect one of their own to fill in until the time being. (chuckles)

MM: There you go.

RG: That's...

MM: Uh huh.

RG: ...found that out from the president of I.U. when he introduced me one time. I didn't know that. Ok. So. [2:42:00] We got a real problem. Uh, and Jim Lewis hadn't voted yet.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: He's a Democrat from the Jeffersonville area. Ok. (pause) We would stay...and I told Senator Lising when Frank has to go to the bathroom I'm taking over. And I went up to Frank and I says Frank, sometime you gotta go to the bathroom. You know, and finally he says I need to go to the bathroom but I'm not leaving this podium. I said Frank put the state trooper in charge, you and I both will go to the bathroom. (laughs)

MM: (laughs)

RG: And so we did. And Gene Lising afterwards always got all over him – you said... you know I said Gene he's a human being. (laughs) So this went on for over forty hours.

MM: Oh my gosh.

RG: It was awful, just awful. [2:43:00] Well, I think it was a Friday morning, Joe Harris and I were both staying at the Columbia Club, downtown Indianapolis, Joe says you know, he said I been looking...we're now controlled our rules if there's a question about rules, by Mason's Manuals. We were controlled by Jefferson's Manuals.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: That's what I had to correct when I made a previous tape. And the secretary of the Senate, Carolyn Tinkle, president of the clerks and secretaries, she had worked on the committee, she might have even chaired it, to changes to Mason's Manuals. It was specifically designed for legislators.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And we adopted it. Carolyn really said we needed to do this. So we adopted it. That's...and Joe said you know, in Mason's Manual if the presiding officer [2:44:00] frustrates the Senate one of the senators can take over. (laughs) And so, about 8:30 I think it was that morning, I stood up and we had a reading clerk...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...who was lower level from the presiding officer, I'm giving you this detail because he's the one who can open the machine or close it.

MM: Mmmm.

RG: And so the president...ummmmm...the principal leader of the senate stood by him, and I told him this is not right, you're just a college student,...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...it's not right, and Carolyn will take over and he said nope. This is my job. I'm going to do it. (laughingly) So, I stood up and I announced to the Senate, you know, Senate, the clerk will close the machine and tally. And I couldn't turn around [2:45:00] and look at him because Frank was yelling in the microphone behind me "this Senate is still in recess, this Senate is still in recess." (laughs) And I said, because you're always to say has everybody voted. Jim Lewis hadn't voted so he never did get a vote on that...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...he's in cigarette territory. He didn't want that tax increase on cigarettes. So I ordered the machine closed and then I knew I had to move on, under our rules, to the next order of business or it would be challenged.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And so I called for amendments. Frank is meantime yelling "we're in session, we're in session." People...I mean the press is up. I mean it's chaos on the floor just like this last session. I mean it was just chaos and I said anybody have an amendment? (laughs) I knew I had to get an amendment.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: So I looked at Senator Nugent who sat beside...behind me on the floor, and I said Senator Nugent, don't you have an amendment. He had an amendment on the casino gambling [2:46:00] business that I didn't want. (laughs)

MM: Oh no.

RG: So I, so Johnny looked and he said, I said...he got up, he started talking, he got into three or four sentences and I mean the press is everywhere, I mean the noise level is enormous and so I finally tell Johnny now we had moved to additional business and I could not be challenged. I'm taking it over. So I said Johnny, cut it, we'll go to caucus...

MM: (laughs)

RG: ...and discuss this. And that's what happened. Now, the follow up on that and I just learned this about a month ago, Representative Ralph Full, Fuller, from over at Martinsville, he was on the Senate floor looking... particularly he had a real interest in that issue, and he was observing and he said that was the most dramatic thing I had seen in government. (laughs) Your taking over the Senate. [2:47:00] (laughs)

MM: Uh huh.

RG: (laughingly) He said what...he said it was just was ha ha ha...it was...

MM: I bet.

RG: ...and to Frank's credit, he had a speech in Columbus, well he's Lieutenant Governor, I'm gonna go...he's governor at that time maybe, I don't know... Lieutenant governor...it was to a union group so I went. I'm in the audience and he recognizes me and he said hey Senator Gardner's there he said, you know I used to think I ran the Senate but I found out differently. (laughs) So...

MM: He remembered. (chuckles)

RG: And then, then they had the knowledge, if you will, or the inspiration to write the college magazine for the National Conference of State Legislators a letter from one of Frank O'Bannon's staff about the whole brew-ha-ha. [2:48:00]

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And that Frank had called the recess and then he had time to work things out and make...and gave credit for Frank. (laughs) I thought we ought to write a response. I said why write a response. This is all neighborhood stuff.

MM: Um hmm. That's funny.

RG: (laughs) You know, forget it.

MM: Yeah. (laughs)

RG: So, but he took credit for really coming to a resolution.

MM: (laughs) Uh huh. Right. Oh that's funny.

RG: Ok. Sorry to go on so long.

MM: No, no.

RG: I, that was one of the things I thought over the lunch hour I wanted to talk to you about because that was, that was a moment in time...

MM: I bet.

RG: ...that none of us who were on the floor that day or observing I think will ever forget.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: It was, it was dramatic. And Johnny Nugent's amendment then passed. (laughs)

MM: (laughs) That sort of back fired for you didn't it.

RG: Later, later when, you know, when we were back in session and on the schedule. [2:49:00]

MM: Yeah.

RG: Um, um, um.

MM: So how did the gambling legislation did it just gain momentum from the Republican caucus eventually?

RG: Yeah. Yeah it did and then particularly with picking up the casinos north, northern Indiana, you know. Everybody wanted a casino. Southern Indiana, along the river. Yeah. And I just, I just...I'd read too many books, not that many, but read books about gambling, and who, maybe years ago, maybe not now, but years ago controlled it. You know, out in Vegas. And that just bothered me.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: It just bothered me.

MM: Yeah.

RG: I just...and I even spoke against it on the floor. But, hey...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...it passed.

MM: It passed. What can you do.

RG: And the added revenue that came in...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...which has been going down...

MM: Yeah. [2:50:00]

RG: ...so, uh...yeah that was, that was an interesting time.

MM: I bet it was. I bet it was.

RG: And it has, it has added in particularly the gate fees where a percent of it went to the local communities.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: You know, I always, I always kidded I never went down to Lawrenceburg and argued against gambling. (Laughs)

MM: Yeah I know. Probably didn't want to do that.

RG: Yeah, and uh and then did you see recently Rod Radlif...

MM: No.

RG: ...he uh, he was selling encyclo...this is not important...

MM: No.

RG: ...he was selling encyclopedias door to door to farmers in Lafayette. This bill passed. He got some farmers together, raised some money, and they bid on one of the casinos. And they got it.

MM: Wow.

RG: They got the license [2:51:00] and not only that, he got the track over here at Shelbyville.

MM: Huh.

RG: And then the casino moved to Shelbyville.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: So he had all of them and he just recently sold, I think it was for, I've got two figures, the last one I think it was at 1.2 billion dollars. (laughs) So you gotta give the guy credit, you know,...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...from where he started and what he did but we were always on opposite sides...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...of the fence. He really was...in fact, one night I bought his dinner one night at the Columbia Club. (laughs)

MM: (laughs)

RG: (laughingly) No, I'll buy...no, I says, you do that all the time.

MM: Yeah.

RG: No, cause he'd pick out tables...I'll buy their dinners...so I bought his dinner even one night.

MM: That's funny.

RG: So.

MM: Now you've mentioned the Columbia Club several times and I know that used to be the hotbed for where Republicans...

RG: The what?

MM: The Columbia Club? [2:52:00]

RG: Oh yeah.

MM: Did you stay there when you were in session?

RG: Yeah, yeah. I didn't for my first few years but when I became Pro Tem I did. Because I really, I stayed at different hotels around the south part. I really needed to be close to the State House.

MM: Yeah.

RG: And be where I could be easily reached and contacted. So, yeah I did.

MM: And then would you drive back on the weekends or how did that work?

RG: Uh huh.

MM: Ok.

RG: Yep.

MM: What was your proudest moment as a legislator?

RG: Oh there were several. I think that writing that history...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...uh very, because I, just as you I really enjoy history. One of my favorite courses.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: I really enjoyed history. Uh, another one was on the Bowen property tax package. And part of that package that had gone to conference committee was a sales [2:53:00] tax on groceries. And I was appointed as an advisee to the conference committee and I had introduced a bill there would not be sales tax on groceries. Didn't go anywhere. Gonna raise a lot of money. You know, very important. And we got in the conference committee and John Hart was chair of House Ways and Means Committee.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And there must have been 10-12 of us in this meeting. And John Hart came back to the sales tax on groceries. Which at that point was dead. And he was insisting on it. And Phil Gutman sitting next to him said we need one vote to pass this bill and he said Senator Garton will not vote for it if there's sales tax on groceries. I never said that. (laughs) I said did I say that? [2:54:00] And John Hart looked down the table at me and said so you're the culprit. (laughs) And I said yes. (laughs)

MM: (laughs)

RG: Phil made it up. (laughs)

MM: Did you...

RG: But that's how why you don't have sales tax on groceries now. Can you imagine sales tax at the price of groceries these days?

MM: No, oof.

RG: And so, no. That was a good moment for me.

MM: (laughingly) Did you and Phil ever talk about that later?

RG: And the Equal Right Amendment. As I say this is repeating that adding sex to the code.

MM: Yeah.

RG: Those were always, all proud moments.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: I was very proud of myself because every bill that I introduced that I got through the committee passed on the floor. I'm kinda proud of that. So I, you know, co-sponsored, when we were in the minority, banning asbestos with Senator Bernie Bower. [2:55:00] Father of Speaker Bower. They both served at the same time. And he had the bill and we lost it. It was the first bill. I was co-sponsor of the bill and that really kind of disappointed me...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...that we lost that. But another proud moment was uh they were gonna build a...let me have this straight...they were gonna build a big reservoir over here in part of...it might even have been part of Johnson County...I represented both counties at the time.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And it was a federal project. And the people in Hartsville were going to be flooded. (laughs) They were going to be wiped out. So, you know, I introduced [2:56:00] something. I think I had that removed from the Budget Bill. I didn't introduce anything. And the ...particularly from Jackson County, which flooded from lack of reservoir. He was pretty upset with me at the time. But that was a proud moment because Hartsville's still there.

MM: (laughs) Still in existence.

RG: And homes aren't flooded. (chuckles)

MM: Well that leads me to ask what if a bill came before you and you had to put in into a committee, what if you...how did you kill a bill?

RG: Kill a bill? Well I could always re-assign a bill. Which I...the only time I would do that is if I talked to the sponsors about doing it.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: On both sides of the aisle. Or I could assign it to Rules Committee. Even after it'd passed. And control it from that standpoint. Uh, that's the only way I could really do it. [2:57:00]

MM: Did you have to do that often?

RG: Uh, no not too often.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Because it always bugged me once it had cleared conference committee there wasn't anything I could do about it.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: So I proposed a rules change the next session and we adopted it.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Some of them thought that gave me too much authority you know.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And I said, you know, I'll be judicious with it. I promised them I would. And apparently I had enough trust that yes, you could stop conference reports...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...so, or you stop them by sending them to the Rules Committee.

MM: Yeah.

RG: So that was a proud moment helping Hartsville out of there. Aaah another proud moment you lived at Princess Lakes and I got in the budget the money for that water tower there.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: Uh that was a good time. And then around Atterbury that [2:58:00] awful awful road that was so rutted and gullied. Jack Mullendor represented Jackson County in the House, we both got that money in the budget for it.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: And then I got money in the budget for Hartsville for decorating that little square area there. That was good.

MM: Yeah.

RG: And one of my , one of my worst moments was I had money in there, more money for Hartsville. I think there was more money for the Hope ball diamonds because we got electric lights out there for it in the budget bill and several other things that were very important, about half a million dollars.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And all of a sudden I got these stacks of these [2:59:00] red postcards from teachers. We gotta have more money. We gotta have more money. And very critical. And the Superintendent supporting them sending you know, those cards up.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And I just... they just stacked up on my desk , it was just...and finally at the very last minute I told Gretchen Gutman, who was our budget analyst, I says can you change and before we vote on this report, and change and take \$500,000.00 and give to the local school corporation. She said yeah. And then I kinda backed down and oh I can't remember, let's say it was either 25,000 or 30,000, let's save that for Hope. Let's take, you know, ok. And then, fortunately, Jeff Flinder had some money in.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: So we could really improve that Hope square. Ok. Not designated for anything. It was up to the local [3:00:00] Superintendent of our school system.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: They never used the money. I know what I was going to have the money for. It wasn't...but I pulled it out, got some for Hope, you know.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: It was to build a new Veterans Memorial Facility at the airport.

MM: Oh.

RG: To renovate it.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: That was a significant amount of money in there for that.

MM: Yeah.

RG: So they didn't get the money.

MM: Hmm.

RG: And I had told them it was there and at the last minute changed and then a couple years ago they finally raised enough money that they could renovate that building and I really felt bad...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...about pulling the rug from underneath them.

MM: Yeah.

RG: And really basically giving in to [3:01:00] informal lobbying tactics. (laughs)

MM: Yeah. They can be persuasive certainly.

RG: Yeah. I always said about lobbyists, I said, you know, do they have influence, you know, really, well yeah. But they also give you information that you may not have gleaned from the bill itself. I said, so on top of that they don't elect me.

MM: Yeah, no they don't.

RG: Well, so, lobbyist have all this influence. I always denied it, rightly or wrongly. There were highlights and lowlights.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: That was probably the worst lowlight...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...that I've had.

MM: What in your opinion is the most important work of the General Assembly?

RG: It sets the public policy for the State of Indiana and I mean that's a trite answer but it does.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: It's all of the state laws. It's uh, [3:02:00] they do delegate to agencies the right to draw regulations but the General Assembly can always change it by law.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: So, you know, you want to be married, you want to be divorced? It's the legislature that approved the law...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...that governs us. So it does set the public policy for the state.

MM: Yeah. What would you say is the most important job of the Pro Tem?

RG: Aaah, good question. Keeping the integrity of the Senate. Following the rules, to me. That's probably not the case. It's change somewhat. Our State Senate has changed so much.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Since then. Why it's twelve year ago since I've been there.

MM: Right.

RG: But it really personalities are different. It...I always treated or tried to treat both the family and the caucus as family. You know, we were all part of a family.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: So, [3:03:00] it has changed.

MM: Um hmm. Ok. What does the public not know about the Indiana General Assembly or the way it operates?

RG: Probably don't really understand or appreciate that there is a process. And if you follow it I mean you are going to create transparency...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...by itself, because, reporters are there in committee meetings now. They're there on the floor. They have access to the floor.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And uh I will give credit to the press, by the way, well remind me of that and I'll come back to it.

MM: Ok.

RG: They, I mean, you're their representative. I know we had a case that I don't think I mentioned. A fella called me, a local, a member of...a citizen of Bartholomew County. He was going blind. [3:04:00] And there was this experimental surgery but very low income and down in Texas there was a hospital that did this surgery...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...but he couldn't afford it. And Medicaid turned him down...

MM: Mmm.

RG: ...because or a version of Medicaid because it was experimental surgery. So I weighed in and I got approval for him to have that surgery and he can see. (laughs) So, you know, that does kinds of things you don't forget.

MM: Right, no I bet not.

RG: Yeah.

MM: Um, Why were the open door and public access laws so important then for you?

RG: It just seemed so logical...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...to me. Uh, first of all I chaired a interim study committee on the open door.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And we passed it. So I had a vested interest in it. I chaired the committee. I think I may have passed it...one of the members of the interim study committee said you'll never get that through. [3:05:00]

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Because guess who opposed it? (pause) Like...well Franklin College I don't think deliberately opposed it but religious based institutions of higher education because they took scholarships. (chuckles) Public money. So they, well, found out that really wasn't the case and I mean people just didn't want it to happen.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: And if I...yeah it did. It came through with one vote. Vote came on the floor. We were then in the minority. I was smart enough to ask Tom Tig, Democrat Majority Leader, to sponsor it and then I would co-sponsor it.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Because I figured if I sponsored it (laughs) ...

MM: It 's not gonna happen.

RG: ...it may not happen. Well Tom got it through committee. [3:06:00] It got to the floor and I'm looking up there, we need a vote. John Mutz came. He would have been out, outside the chamber and he came in to his desk and I walked up and said I really need your vote on this John. He said well what is it? I said it's that open meetings bill. He said oh, I believe in that. We passed it. Got one vote. And then I wasn't involved in open records cause I was Pro Tem by that time.

MM: Ok.

RG: And I didn't sponsor it but Senator Ed Pease did. And I always supported Ed on those bills.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: So, yeah, it's very very very very frustrating for some local officials but I think it's very important.

MM: Um hmm. Well how did your legislative service affect your family life just in terms of...

RG: Oh,...

MM: ...your kids or being gone or?

RG: ...ah it did. Being gone, uh, you know, Barb raised the kids, if you will, [3:07:00] a lot except, you know, it's only four months one year and three, two and a half another. You do have interim study committees and things like that but it's not that demanding. And I was traveling anyway for speeches and recruiting.

MM: Sure.

RG: So it really didn't affect the family other than a joke that I made up. That we were seated on the stage one day with daughter Brenda. She's sitting between Barbara and me and two years earlier I had lost for congress and now I won the election and suddenly she became known around the neighborhood as Senator Garton's daughter. To her classmates, her friends: I'm Senator Garton's daughter. Mom overheard her one day and said Brenda, your name is Brenda. You are not Senator Garton's daughter and you remember that. Mayor came in from the wings, [3:08:00] saw me, saw Barb, walked up and said you're Senator Garton's daughter aren't you. Well I thought so but mommy says no. (laughs)

MM: (laughs) Oh no.

RG: It didn't happen. It's a joke. (laughs)

MM: Yeah. Oh that's funny. That was funny.

RG: (laughs) So.

MM: Yeah. Well um...

RG: Anyway it uh...the only time it really affected me was when the collie got hit. You know and I'm in the middle of the ERA, and oh, by the way, local police was alerted on that. We had a local sheriffs car at that time parked in front of our driveway.

MM: Oh really?

RG: Yeah just to make sure Barb was protected.

MM: Yeah.

RG: (laughs) It got that serious.

MM: Yeah.

RG: You know.

MM: Wow. During the ERA battles, right?

RG: Yeah.

MM: Well...

RG: It was not a nice time and that's why I [3:09:00] have a lot of empathy with this Professor Fore.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: You know they've had to move out of their home.

MM: Yeah.

RG: And in California I think where she's living because she's getting death threats.

MM: Yeah. Ugh, my goodness.

RG: Yeah, it uh sad, sad times. Another person called from Indianapolis and threatened me over the phone. We called the state troopers on him and that took care of that.

MM: Yeah, I can imagine.

RG: I can't remember the issue now.

MM: Yeah. Here's a questions I was going to ask related to that when you were telling me the story um, oh I know, when did you switch over to Ivy Tech? How did you get involved with working out of Ivy Tech?

RG: Yes. Ivy Tech had been a client.

MM: Ok.

RG: I had given some speeches to its board and so forth. And one day I mentioned to President Lamkin if I ever left my business it would be with Ivy Tech. First of all [3:10:00] Barb had gotten her second degree from there and was chair of the board for a number of years. Regional board. And ok, and my friend Harvey Polling, who is since deceased, Harvey was chancellor here at Columbus campus. A building is named for him. Harvey grew up in Bloomington, was just an outstanding individual. He and Lamkin built Ivy Tech.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: The two were very close friends. And so Jerry called me one day and hey, how would you like to join our Foundation? You know, Chuck Harris, who had been head of LSA, Legislative Services Agency,...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...moved over to head up the Foundation, and work for Chuck? And I said Jerry, I just wouldn't be comfortable doing that. I'm in the Senate and then going out and then raising money, you know, being Pro Tem I'm not, I'm not... He said ok. So then he said, [3:11:00] ok, I want to beef up a couple of our in-house training programs. So he said, how about... well he said first of all you'll come in as my administrative assistant and we had a masters...let's say we had a leadership academy and we had an academy for master teachers. And we even invited the Purdues, the IUs to join on the teachers one. And so I was in charge then of that training and then after the new president came in he didn't have any full appreciation for me...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...I just never got any comments from him. Because Jerry let me have an office in Columbus as well as up at you know...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...where they're located now. [3:12:00] And we had a talk one day and he said how long do you want to stay and I said I'd like to stay another year.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: He said fine, go through one more cycle. And I did. In the meantime Jerry had made me Dean of Professional Development and I retired as Vice-President of Professional Development.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And I said I'd like to keep the title and I'd like to keep my reporting line to you and he said fine. So we agreed amicably and so after fifteen years I retired. And um, Ivy Tech is an amazing institution. It really is. Just terrific. Ok.

MM: Yeah. Um, well, now jumping back here briefly, and like I said I have a few more questions. I know I'm taking up a lot of your time today but tell me about the 2006 election. What do you think happened there?

RG: Uh, I lost the confidence of the voters [3:13:00] in the district. I mean that's how you stay elected.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And when I...I always said now there's a difference between politics and corporations and business...corporations and business you have to make a profit.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: You don't have to make a profit as a politician but you do have to be popular.

MM: Yeah.

RG: It was an issue over abortion. Are you familiar with that?

MM: Um hmm.

RG: As to what happened on that?

MM: Partly. The right to life was getting big.

RG: That was pretty bad. Uh, might as well get this on tape. But we're on the last day of the session. It's about 7:00 and by law you can't go beyond...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...you can't re-set the clock at all. And you know, I don't know, 8:00, whatever it was, 7:30 the clock, Senate Democrats went to caucus. We had all these bills left before us including the day light savings time issue, [3:14:00] the highway toll road, we owed 40 million dollars to colleges and universities that we had withheld until revenue picked up, very important issues for one of our senators for bonding of a jail up in northern Indiana, I mean, there were just a lot of issues out there that were critically important. Well they go to caucus. And they don't come back. We don't have a quorum. Now, it finally hit me after about an hour, an hour and a half, they're not up there on that toll road, they're up there on that abortion bill. The abortion bill was drafted to comply almost word for word with the South Dakota abortion bill. Which ironically the voters in South Dakota on an initiative and referendum repealed. [3:15:00] (chuckled) It was the most strict abortion bill in the country at the time.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Well, why can't we have South Dakota's bill? Well the senator that took Steve Johnson's place, that I mentioned, he was a lobbyist before he came to the Senate for the pro-life people. (chuckles) Ok. And I mean we're getting...I mean it's about 10:15 now, I think, and Richard came, Young, in order came down and said we're not on the toll road he said we're up there on that abortion bill. And their senators Alan Ally Craycraft he signed the conference report. Ally was very pro life, very strong. Ok. Oh boy. I can't, and in a way this is one of my proud moments by the way, because it was a terrible bill [3:16:00] and I really convinced myself, you know, why not just go ahead and vote for it. It was really a bad bill. Ok. We're up there on the abortion conference report. Richard, let's go back to the office and talk about it. Ok. Left the floor. I said Richard we'll set priorities. Really? I said yeah. We'll set priorities. I'll put in a motion with the bill numbers, the Senate will approve it and we'll set priorities and we'll never get to it. He trusted me enough he went back to his caucus. I guess they trusted me enough. Senator Vi Simpson was out of her mind with it. I mean she really was angry.

MM: About the bill itself.

RG: Oh, about the bill itself. Oh, they were all over Ally Craycraft. And so, we came down and so I, the attorneys put a list together. We, you know, the budget bill we had, we owed the universities, [3:17:00] I mean all of these things I think it was the budget bill. Ok, so we would go through that. And once we worked through that list I put in a second motion and I finally told David Long, who was then our majority leader, I said David go back and tell the senator we're not going to get to it and he was angry. I mean you could just see but I just couldn't go back and tell him. I was a little bit cowardly on my part and so my rationale was wait a minute, I didn't do it the Senate did.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Well they didn't know what bills I may have had twenty bill on the conference report at a time, you know. I mean really, you know, fairness, for heavens sake. So we got through and one of the Democrats was timing me. We finished [3:18:00] up at one minute till midnight. Oh, one of the issues involved was bringing our tax code up to date to comply with the federal tax code. So you didn't have to follow two separate rules.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Man, would a lot of people been inconvenienced. You had to renew that every three or four or five years. And that was one of those hanging. That was the last one that we passed and the Democrats were still doing a little filibustering. Now in our state Senate you can only filibuster for thirty minutes and that's it. You can't go back again unless the Senate gives you permission. So we don't have filibustering. You can't stop that way. But you can go to caucus and hold things. And all of a sudden the Democrats kept talking and I'm looking at the clock behind me and I'm saying we're running out of time. We gotta get this tax bill through. So I walked up the aisle, I said it's over, it's over. We're done. We can't do it. And I remember they looked at me quizzically and said what, what? I said it's over. We can't get to the last one [3:19:00] we really need. Oh. They stopped talking. (chuckles) And we voted and we passed it. Senate Democrat, as I say, was timing me one minute till midnight I put in the motion to adjourn sine die. (laughs)

MM: Wow.

RG: So that was, in a way, I look back that was a proud moment. So then, believe it or not, one of the years I ran I was endorsed by the Pro-Choice and Pro-Life. (laughs)

MM: (laughs) Yeah.

RG: I guess in fair...I don't know what it was. And I'd always had the Pro-Life endorsement.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Uh and I voted for some bills...well for instance, the ok you gotta have your parents commission, permission for an abortion. I said well for heavens sake you know you have a tonsillectomy you gotta have your parents permission. I didn't see anything really wrong with that. Well, yeah, but you know, some real [3:20:00] rifted families and...Ok. Well I voted for the bill anyway. And others, you know, 48 hour notice that the doctors...nyyyah I'm not sure about that. But anyway, I really, Barb didn't particularly like it, I had a 93% Pro-Life voting record that session. (chuckles) Conference report still hanging.

MM: But they...yeah.

RG: But I did.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: In fact they even made a mistake. They had me voting...a guy even called my administrative assistant wanting to know why I voted against or voted for tax taxpayers funding abortions. She said he didn't. We had to send him the vote count because there were evil phone calls, surveys being made about me all over the country. They stared out of Virginia and ended

up out west. [3:21:00] The right-to-work people didn't want me back again because I was always stopping that bill for the unions. You can't escape your legisla...education you know, industrial labor relations.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: And so, we never got to that bill so I met with the Pro-Life people up in the caucus room later. And uh, they were convinced I had the authority to approve bills to be handed down. Speaker did up to that point. I didn't. I mean if your time was up for calling it, you could call it. But I could reassign it before that happened as I mentioned. So, I mean, it was obvious that they just weren't believing me. And I just got frustrated with them. I said, you know, we had all of these other bills. I said when that conference committee cleared...oh, I said by the way, I appointed the conferees [3:22:00] almost immediately. They waited five days to come back with the report. Even over the weekend they didn't meet. And so they came back and the minute it was filed I assigned it to the Rules Committee. Which the rules said I had to do...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...and I said within an hour on that last day I held a conference, I held a rules meeting and we voted it out and I voted it for it to go to the floor, you know, and so they said well...my opponents wife sent out a letter I held up the abortion bill at every opportunity. I did not.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Obviously but I did learn that in caucus some of our women senators would not ask questions. Because there set the former lobbyist for Pro-Life in caucus and they were very hesitant to say anything to be used against them in their re-elections. [3:23:00] So the minute I learned that I said I'm the one that's gotta ask the questions.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: (laughs) So I started asking the questions that I thought they were...you know, how about the morning after pill, you know, how about, you know, contraception, how about all...I mean is this covered in here. So I, I'm the one that asked those questions.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: So, he obviously picked up that I was opposed.

MM: Yeah.

RG: So that was used against me.

MM: Yeah.

RG: That and the insurance bill as I mentioned and the uh oh, the White River problem. That was unfortunately, that was still in the district with the piano teacher...

MM: Oh. (laughs)

RG: ...and the lessons. And the property tax, I think, really had a big play on it. So, otherwise I don't know. Because I was up in there a lot. I was giving speeches...[3:24:00]

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...in fact, very early on in my career, I was the government official of the year by the Johnson County or Franklin Chamber of Commerce, you know. So it all slipped a long way from there.

MM: Yeah. Well...

RG: You know, you run without an opponent enough times you get a little sloppy I suppose.

MM: Yeah.

RG: But uh, it just, it was just...and it was probably meant to be.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And it worked out...it worked out decently. I just would not, I would not want to go through some of these issues they're almost welcoming these days...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...in the legislature. Because they're very divisive issues.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: So. Ok. I'm sorry.

MM: No. No, that's fine. (pause) Um, this is a loaded question, I don't know how you can answer this easily but how would you summarize your time as a State Legislator?

RG: My time in the legislature?

MM: How would you summarize it? [3:25:00]

RG: Pride. Pride in serving there. The experiences I had. The knowledge I acquired of how government works. Yeah. It uh, the friendships. Very close friendships. Very close friends with the staff. With Senators even across the aisle. One, in my early years, one senator said you know the one thing about the Senate you can go anywhere in the state and there'll be a state senator somewhere in that area, Democrat or Republican, and you can call them up and have a great conversation. Because, you know, you form very close friendships and you do. And it's just the challenge. That's...when I became Pro Tem I missed the challenge of taking a bill all the way through the process.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Presenting it on the floor, you know, that's where the action was. (laughs)

MM: Yeah. (laughs)

RG: That's what I really enjoyed. Answering questions. You get questions, you know, because senators...you always had a right to ask [3:26:00] a question. And I...the longer I stayed away from sponsoring a bill I think the more I missed it. (laughs)

MM: Yeah.

RG: Yeah, that's the action. (laughs)

MM: Right, right.

RG: And uh you know, working with the interns, developing the budget, I mean, not doing it, being attuned to what's going on with it and things that are happening. Another proud moment, and this frustrated Senator Borst, who was chair of senate finance, there was no one better to chair finance. I had people...how come, how come Morrie Mills is on the budget sub-committee and Larry Borst from Indianapolis, too. They both were from then...is chair of the committee...that's not right. Name two better. You know, they were both very good. [3:27:00]

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Well I had this bill in my hand, coming from the House, that had to do with gambling. And I just walked up and said I wonder if Larry even wants to fool with it. He may not even want to be involved with this. I'm pretty sure he doesn't want it. But I'll ask him out of courtesy. Public Policy it could have gone too, you know. And so I walked in and had a...oh members of the Republican Majority were meeting. Going through the budget. You know, oh, so I just set there next to Larry. Didn't say anything and was listening and they got into capital projects. Oh, (laughs) really. This whole complex out here, of IUPUC they called it now, was an old army, old air force headquarters. Air Force had that base out here. [3:28:00] And we were going to renovate it for IUPUC, IUPUI extension to come down and teach courses.

MM: Uh huh.

RG: And I don't know, twenty five or whatever the money was had been taken out. It wasn't in the budget. And uh or maybe it wasn't in there from the House anyway. I've forgot my timing. And they're discussing Capital Projects and I'm think...I have one (chuckles) that I'd like to have. Luke Canley was on the committee and I said Luke you know the president of Arvin, you practice in a law firm with him uh a number of years ago. I said he's now president of Arvin Industries, the muffler manufacturers, and man if we could get this building, across the street [3:29:00] there's an empty building and that would be all the training for the hospital, you know, and all that stuff...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...and uh so Larry was really upset by this. He said has this been approved by the Commission on Higher Education? I said yes it had. Because I always had a rule, Larry had the rule: hadn't been approved by the Commission we weren't gonna put it in at the last minute. It had been approved.

MM: Um hmm. Ooh. That's lucky..

RG: Well Larry, Larry (chuckles)...so they decided to put it in. (laughs) Oh, so then I afterward Larry and I talked about the bill I had in my hand and Senator Bob Meeks you mentioned, Bob thought I was absolutely brilliant that I knew the committee was going on and what it was discussing...

MM: (laughs)

RG: ...and I walked up with that bill to talk about to Larry. It was serendipity. (laughs)

MM: Yeah. (laughs)

RG: I had no idea. All I knew he wasn't in his office and his legislative assistant said yeah, they're next door in the caucus uh, in the finance room. So I walked in. [3:30:00]

MM: Funny how that works isn't it.

RG: And sat at the side and then we got capital projects and I moved over to talk with Larry. It was really funny but it because we did have approval and that's how we got that.

MM: Yeah. Wow. Wow.

RG: Yep, yep. It was a big big deal to the community.

MM: Yeah, I bet.

RG: That was huge.

MM: I bet it was. Um, (pause) How would you say the State of Indiana has changed over the course of your time here?

RG: Well, for my reaction, my perception, I think it's become much more conservative in politics and in issues. And this is one of the problems with redistricting. I mean, ok, I had been here since, when did I say, since the Fall of '61...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: November '61. [3:31:00] You go along the Ohio River, all democratic votes no, solid. And that's where Lee Hamilton had his base down there. Well people moved in and expanded suburbs and grew in. It's now mixed. In fact, a lot of it is Republican and now, wait a minute Marion County there for a few years was Republican...

MM: um hmm.

RG: ...now we're talking Democratic, you know. And so that has changed and altered a lot.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Lake County? They're not going to vote Republican up there in Lake County.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: I just think but somehow the Democratic Party, in my mind, has had less and less influence.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And impact, on certainly on local elections and redistricting may be part of it. [3:32:00] But there just not their votes aren't there.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: You know, areas have changed.

MM: What do you think's causing that shift? I mean I've heard that but...

RG: I don't know. I don't know where that's...I mean I really don't...I, I don't know if it's based on income...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...you know, the middle income, but shoot, factory workers, anymore, are middle, are in a middle income range for a lot. So, I really can't answer to what happened.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And maybe, maybe even like a Dick Lugar...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...you know, I don't know. But it, politics has changed. I mean it is absolutely incredible you got forty-one Republicans or is it forty-two, forty-one I think in State Senate. I mean that's, that's absurd. [3:33:00] And the House, I think that the House couldn't even set it's own quorum. You have to have two-thirds for a quorum.

MM: I think so.

RG: I don't think I explained that to you, in both houses. And that's why the Democrats could break the quorum when we were in recess all those days...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...because we didn't have two-thirds votes. I think we had...one thing I forgot to add I think we may have had twenty-seven, twenty-eight votes. We might have had another one or two like that but I closed it without letting Jim Lewis, notify him that he could vote. And then I knew the next thing I had to do, which I forgot to tell you, was announce the vote.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: I was not gonna turn around and look at the board. (laughs) Because Frank is yelling at me (laughs) and the Senate.

MM: (laughs)

RG: So I guessed. Votes 27 to 22. And I hit it. (laughs)

MM: (laughs) Wow.

RG: I think that's the Republican votes that we had. (laughs) [3:34:00]

MM: Yeah, yeah that's funny. Well, this, you kind of just answered too but has this political shift affected how the IGA had evolved, the Indiana General Assembly evolved?

RG: Oh yeah. No question.

MM: Yeah.

RG: Oh yeah. I mean it's uh Tea Party influence. Uh, uh, oh shoot, I'm searching for a name. He and I both served on Franklin College board together. He was an editor for one of the major newspapers...Tomison, Dan Tomison. He often wrote a column and he was the, he was one of their editors and he was also Master of Ceremonies, this is probably before you were born, when Reagan, they had that roast, you know...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...whatever they call it,...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...in D.C. , and he said I'm sitting up there with Reagan [3:35:00] I know he did not know that Nancy was going to come out in that makeshift wrap and sing *Second Hand Rose* and it changed her whole image at that time. But he was Master of Ceremonies I mean this guy was really up there. And so he told me after I had gotten beat and I ...what's he saying...he said you're just the first. I'm thinking he apparently foresaw or knew about the Tea Party (chuckles) you know, because I'm thinking what do you mean I'm just the first? What?

MM: Um hmm.

RG: I mean I didn't ask him but I thought that's interesting. I thought a lot about that.

MM: Yeah, I bet.

RG: Yeah. And I, uh, I ...people, you know, they...one woman ran against me one time and she was a nice lady from Franklin, [3:36:00] a young woman, young baby, and she was really convinced she was winning. Senate Democrats had her winning no question. Well we had a debate and I, this was a nonsensical follow up by me but she would always use that she was, you know, a she was in what was it, kindergarten or second grade when I was first elected. You know, seven, whatever it was, who cares. Ok. And so I followed her and I was up next and I said you know, I said the closest that I can figure it you were in junior high the last time that Indiana beat Iowa in football in Kenick Stadium. (laughs)

MM: (laughs)

RG: It made no sense at all but the audience laughed. (laughs)

MM: Yeah.

RG: Like isn't this silly? [3:37:00]

MM: Yeah. It is.

RG: Yeah. I thought it was pretty clever of me.

MM: (laughs)

RG: It was sad. She had her work all picked out...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...and we beat doggone near two to one. It was, she was, she just couldn't believe it. She was dumbfounded.

MM: Well, I think the last official question that I have here, I know that you're not a Hoosier from the start...

RG: No.

MM: ...but you've been here a long time and served here a long time what if any enduring qualities do you think Hoosiers people still have or hold dear?

RG: Oh, they're very stubborn. They can be very likeable. They can be very hospitable. And that's changing now. I mean we, you know, we had a governor who wanted to stop immigrants from coming into our state. Muslims. And I thought are we gonna put up, you know, [3:38:00] guard shacks all along our borders? I mean, he, Mike finally had to back off from that but I thought my gosh, wow. Practical, innovative, oh my, the talent that's come out of Indiana. I used to have a speech of influence called Indiana I gave a lot of times, you know, the Red Skeltons of the world, all of the movie actors and actresses, you know, put a tiger in your tank, that was started by an ad agency of a guy that worked in that agency was from Indiana on it. There were just a whole raft of things that we were, that Hoosiers pioneered. Good Lord. Music, you know Hogie Carmichael, and all. (laughs) And I would list all of these...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...it was about a 44 or 45 minute speech.

MM: Wow. Uh huh.

RG: Ma and Pa Kettle. Ma was one of the suburbs of Indianapolis. [3:39:00] And uh, I mean, you know, education, Purdue, IU, you look at our college of higher education, both public and private. Outstanding. I mean the Hanovers, the Wabashes, you know, the Notre Dames,...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...the IUs and Purdues and the Ball States. My gosh uh oh and who had the uh late night show?

MM: David Letterman.

RG: Yeah, thank you. I saw the plaque up there one time when I was visiting Ball State.

MM: Um huh.

RG: It's a room dedicated to him.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: The room is dedicated to all the "D" students signed David Letterman. (laughs)

MM: (laughs) That's really funny.

RG: Yeah. I saw it. Yeah. And it just continues. [3:40:00] Oh, one thing that really shocks a lot of people. Kitty Litter. A guy up in South Bend.

MM: Really? I've never heard that one.

RG: Yeah, well the president of the bank, he was on a trip I took with Bob Orr when we went to China.

MM: Hmm.

RG: And he told me, this was a good friend of his. I'm not clear if his property was on Lake Michigan or where it was but it had a sandy beach. And he noticed that cats were going down there and using it a lot and it was kitty litter. It wasn't sand.

MM: Yeah.

RG: It was something. And so he started packaging it and selling it. (laughs)

MM: Wow. I did not know that. That's funny.

RG: Isn't that, I mean you can do that with any state obviously. I mean Meredith Wilson came from Iowa for heaven's sake, the music man, you know. But it, [3:41:00] yeah, so, you just gotta look at rattle, rattle, boom, boom.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: That was a Hoosier. That was a commercial.

MM: Um hmm. Yeah, on the...

RG: Things that happened to your car parts.

MM: Yeah.

RG: I'm thinking of more and more of them as I go through. It's a just a fascinating list.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: So uh and there's a lot of pride in Indiana.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: You know, the wars that were fought here, if you will, against the Indians.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: The Battle of Tippecanoe. Yeah it's just the, and uh just the evolution of our state government I found fascinating.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And that's why they relocated [3:42:00] to Indianapolis is more in the middle of the state.

MM: Right.

RG: And the good old legislature whoever was in charge, it was a state official that moved all the records.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: And he also put some private goods into the wagon and drove it up to Indianapolis. Legislature found out about it and they gave him a bill for his private goods. (laughs)

MM: That seem like a fitting Indiana Legislature story to end on there. Oh, that's funny.

RG: As I say there are times when we can be very very progressive...

MM: Um hmm.

RG: ...other times not so much. But, you know, the toll road for heavens sakes, it just uh, the Indianapolis airport. Didn't I see it just a few weeks ago, I think it was rated the number one airport.

MM: Oh really? It's a beautiful airport.

RG: Yeah it really is.

MM: Very accessible.

RG: In convenience and customer sensitive...

MM: Yeah.

RG: ...and so forth.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: Yeah, [3:43:00] so there was really a lot of decent things that's come out of this state. Yeah. Yeah. So.

MM: Well, I, I feel like I could ask you more questions. I feel that you can't quite encapsulate a thirty plus year career in like four hours but we have talked a lot today so.

EG: Yeah we really have. You've been very good.

MM: Well thank you. Well thank you so much for answering the questions.

RG: I don't handle these things nicely because I'll get off on tangents and then I'll forget where I was...

MM: (laughs)

RG: ...before I got to the tangent.

MM: But the tangents are important too so you have to kind of keep the stories.

RG: Yeah and the uh television, I was never comfortable with television. Isn't that interesting?

MM: Um hmm.

RG: With Barb's work at the station and Brenda's career.

MM: Yeah, yeah.

RG: Particularly in the earlier cameras when you could hear them whrrr. I would want to talk faster and faster.

MM: Oh. (laughs)

RG: (laughs) To keep up with it.

MM: Oh that's funny.

RG: I just. I just was not [3:44:00] comfortable and a teleprompter I never learned how to use.

MM: I think that would be difficult.

RG: So.

MM: I want to revisit the consent and release form, or the release and everything fine with that?

RG: Yeah. Fine.

MM: Ok. Well thank you so much for having me up here...

RG: You're welcome.

MM: ...and taking the time to talk with me. I really enjoyed it and have learned a lot.

RG: Thank you. I almost want to go downstairs and find my Indiana speech and tell you more.

MM: Yeah.

RG: About people here cause it really, I mean there's a lot to brag about.

MM: Yeah. Um hmm.

RG: Yeah, there really is.

MM: Um hmm.

RG: So, anyhow...

MM: Well thank you so much again. I really enjoyed it.

RG: You're welcome. Thank you.

MM: Ok, well I will turn this off.

RG: Thank you. Thank you.

3:44:45