

ILOHI Interview with Paul Roland

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Interview by Ben Baumann

Transcribed by Mary Kelley

MP3 file Sony

Paul Roland=PR

Ben Baumann=BB

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BB: Alright, so just before we begin I would like to state for the record that today is March 3, 2021 and my name is Ben Bauman and I'm here in Indianapolis, Indiana and I am speaking via phone with Paul Roland who is also in Indianapolis, Indiana, is that correct?

PR: Yes.

BB: Ok. Perfect. And we are doing an interview for the Indiana Legislative Oral History Initiative. So, just starting off when and where were you born?

PR: I was born in 1934 in Camden, New Jersey.

BB: Oh, ok. And what were your parents' names?

PR: My father's name is Frank Roland and my mother's name is Dorothy Roland.

BB: Ok. Now where was your family from before New Jersey? Had your family always been from around New Jersey for many years or...? [0:01:00]

PR: No, my father was born in Italy.

BB: Oh, ok.

PR: And came to the United States in 1910.

BB: Wow.

PR: My mother was born in Philadelphia and remained there until she died in um, 1937.

BB: Oh, ok. Interesting. And now did you grow up speaking a little bit of Italian at all or...?

PR: I did not learn Italian until later life.

BB: Ok, sure. And what were your parents' occupations?

PR: My father owned a news stand and a hard wo... hard bookstore. By that I mean hard backs that was before paperback books.

BB: Yeah.

PR: In Philadelphia.

BB: Ok. [0:02:00] Interesting. Did you have any siblings growing up?

PR: I had one sister three years older than me.

BB: Ok. And how would you describe your childhood over all?

PR: Um, my childhood was a very mixed childhood in that I was mostly with my father for many years after my mother died...

BB: Right.

PR: ...when I was three years old.

BB: Yeah.

PR: And my father taught me how to live, how to get along by myself at home. Over the years I worked at his newsstand and from age five throughout the years, many years, let's see, five until I was eighteen...

BB: Yeah.

PR: ...and as a result of that I met a lot of people [0:03:00] during those times' and I learned a lot that you don't learn...a lot of things you don't learn at school.

BB: Oh, ok. Interesting. And what understanding, if any, did you have about your family's political beliefs as a child?

PR: My father was a Republican and a Democrat depending on the individuals who were running for office.

BB: Ok.

PR: I had no real interest in politics in New Jersey.

BB: Ok. And what schools did you attend as a child and teenager?

PR: I attended grade school and high school in Audubon, New Jersey.

BB: Ok. Got it. Were you involved in any extracurricular activities [0:04:00] at all or...?

PR: I was involved in all in three sports. Not very good in any of them.

BB: Ok. (chuckles) Fair enough. Did you have any favorite subjects?

PR: No, I really didn't have any favorite subjects. I had some un-favorite subjects like math.

BB: Yeah, ok. That's a common one that many don't like. Um, Now, what did you think of your educational experiences overall?

PR: Are you talking about grade school and high school?

BB: Yeah.

PR: My sister preceded me in both grade school and high school and my sister was and is a very smart person.

BB: Uh huh.

PR: And I was told by several teachers that I wasn't as bright as my sister.

BB: (laughs) Oh no. Yikes, ok. [0:05:00]

PR: And after uh I entered college I remember thinking that I would like to see those teachers again to show them that I achieved some things that they didn't think I could when I was in school. When I was in high school.

BB: Right.

PR: In any event I think my, I would say that my education in high school was mediocre.

BB: Ok. Yeah. Got it. And uh, now where did you attend college?

PR: University of Pennsylvania.

BB: Ok. Alright. And what did you major in there?

PR: Well I went to the Wharton School and majored in business.

BB: Ok. And so uh, what made you choose Penn? Was there any other schools you were looking at besides Penn or was it...?

PR: I originally looked at Rutgers...

BB: Yeah.

PR: ...and my dad wanted me to go to Princeton.

BB: Ok. Yeah.

PR: I believed that I couldn't get in there so I didn't even apply. [0:06:00]

BB: Ok. Interesting. And with your business degree what did you hope to do after graduation?

PR: I majored in industrial economics and because my draft status changed immediately upon graduation in 1957...

BB: Yeah.

PR: ...I went right into the New Jersey National Guard.

BB: Oh, ok.

PR: And I met a young fellow there who's family owned a security's firm in New York.

BB: Wow.

PR: After I got out of the Army [0:07:00] I was thinking about the security's firm, but I took a job with All State Insurance Company in New Jersey and decided after a couple years there that I might be better off in law school.

BB: Oh, ok. Sure.

PR: And all my father's family, after they came from Italy, first came to Oakmont, Pennsylvania. And in that town, they met people from the same city in Italy they're from who came to Indianapolis.

BB: Right.

PR: All of my father's family were in Indianapolis in 1912 or '13.

BB: Ok. Interesting.

PR: My dad left Philadelphia in 1955. Came back to Indianapolis and reunited with his family here. And I applied to Michigan and Indiana law school and was accepted at Indiana University Law School Bloomington in 1961. [0:08:00]

BB: Oh. Wow. Ok. Interesting. And so, when you got to law school and after you completed your degree at Penn did your political views change much at all? Or did you develop more political views or...?

PR: I really as I said I didn't really have political, I don't know what you call it, a big political interest.

BB: Ok.

PR: Like my dad took me to the Republican National Convention in 1940 when Dewey was nominated...

BB: Yeah.

PR: ...because it was at the...was in Philadelphia at the Bellevue Stratford Hotel. And I sold newspapers to people who attended the [0:09:00] convention.

BB: Yeah.

PR: So that was really the only political engagements I had as a young person. But when I came back to Indiana a lot of my family, which had grown greatly, before I got back to Indiana...

BB: Ok.

PR: ...were uh Democrats.

BB: Oh, ok.

PR: I, I considered myself a Rockefeller Republican when I was in New Jersey.

BB: Um hmm.

PR: But when I got to Indiana uh regardless of how my family felt, I thought Indiana was truly too conservative for me so I became interested in the Democrat Party.

BB: Oh. Interesting. Ok. Wow. That's interesting. And so, what did you do after law school then?

PR: In my Senior year in law school I ran for the Legislature. [0:10:00] And I graduated that year and took the bar exam that year and was elected in uh in 1964.

BB: Wow, ok. Yeah. And what made you decide to run for the Legislature?

PR: Uh, after I got to Indiana in '61, I was hired by the Indiana Department of Revenue. And I worked at the Indiana Department of Revenue throughout law school and in '63 the Legislature enacted the sales tax and the adjusted [0:11:00] gross income tax.

BB: Um hmm.

PR: In '64 I was appointed to be the director of the income tax while I was still in law school.

BB: Yeah.

PR: So the head of the department was a fellow names Cliff Cosey. He was a fabulous gentleman and a great Democrat who would that same year when he suggested that I run for the Legislature, at the time I didn't realize he was going to appoint me the head of the income tax.

BB: Oh, ok.

PR: But as it worked out then, I don't know if you remember the Goldwater race in '64...

BB: Yes.

PR: ...and at the time I ran for the Legislature there were 15 people as a bloc who were elected.

BB: Right. [0:12:00]

PR: Instead of single member districts. So I was successful in the primary and then we were all successful in the general election.

BB: Wow, ok. Interesting. Now, in terms of your family life at the time, when, if at all, did you get married?

PR: I got married in 1967.

BB: Ok. So, kind of right after you left the General Assembly then?

PR: Uh, my last work in the General Assembly was late '66.

BB: Ok, ok.

PR: Right...I ran again in '66 and we lost to the Republican group and at that time I had just been hired by the Ruckelshaus law firm.

BB: Ooh. Ok. Yeah.

PR: And my uh my partner [0:13:00] William Ruckelshaus was in that group that got elected in '66.

BB: Yeah.

PR: So I kind of took his place in the law firm.

BB: Interesting. Ok. Wow.

PR: And he went on to Washington...

BB: Right

PR: ...with Nixon.

BB: Yeah, that's interesting. Ok. Now do you have any children?

PR: I have two sons.

BB: Ok. Cool. So, let's see. When you first got involved in politics what were the key issues or legislation that you were interested in at the time?

PR: We, as a group, were interested in bringing Indianapolis into the 20th century.

BB: Ooh, ok. (chuckles)

PR: It was so conservative as I said. It was so conservative here. As a matter of fact Indianapolis never took federal money for the schools [0:14:00] and that was the first thing I sponsored...

BB: Oh, ok.

PR: ...the Indiana legislature to take federal money for Indianapolis schools. Education in general was, I felt, very very much in the background here. I also sponsored the development of the uh architecture school at Ball State. So...

BB: Interesting.

PR: ...I was uh because of my Wharton background, Dick Bodean, who was the Speaker, appointed me to the vice chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

BB: Ok. Interesting. Wow.

PR: And apparently the chairman was a fellow from Anderson who had been a legislator for some time and didn't particularly care about holding the meetings.

BB: Yeah.

PR: So I got more into the education area as a result of that providing money for the Indiana schools.

BB: Um hmm. Ok. [0:15:00] And so you mentioned that I guess a big thing for you and your sort of running mates at the time of the General Assembly was about the how conservative Indiana was as a state. Do you think that Indiana has become less conservative over time?

PR: Yes, I do.

BB: Ok. And so what was so conservative besides I guess, you know, some of the things with education and policy and stuff at the time that you were running?

PR: Kind of like, for example, Indianapolis although it had several Democrat mayors...

BB: Um hmm.

PR: ...didn't do anything to help the uh to help develop the city.

BB: Oh, ok.

PR: At the time it was a city you know [0:16:00] not a...a city and a county...

BB: Right.

PR: ...before Lugar and Keith Bulen who took it to what it is now.

BB: Um hmm.

PR: Um, and Indianapolis was just a cheap place.

BB: Yeah.

PR: And I, I told my relatives, and I have a very large family...

BB: Um hm.

PR: ...the uh, my family's name is Corsaro...

BB: Ok.

PR: C O R S A R O. But my dad changed his name to Roland...

BB: Interesting.

PR: ...when he left Indianapolis to go East.

BB: Ok.

PR: Uh so, we passed some legislation which would allow Indian, Indianapolis to raise some taxes and to put more money into schools and put more money into developing the city.

BB: Um hmm. [0:17:00] Yeah.

PR: From that standpoint we were quote liberal unquote. The state remained, for the most part, conservative although in that '64-'65 legislative session there was some...there were more views

that were untraditionally liberal compared to the conservative nature of Indiana since um oh, I'm trying to remember the name...the governor before Pence uh who died.

BB: Oh, yeah I know what you're talking about.

PR: Oh, shoot.

BB: Yeah.

PR: His father was in the legislature the same time I was. From southern Indiana down in Corydon.

BB: Yeah, um...

PR: Frank, uh. [0:18:00] Frank, shoot. I can't think of it right now. Anyway, after Frank the state really just turned back very conservative.

BB: Ok. Yeah. Yeah, I understand. There's I guess maybe you're thinking like Frank O'Bannon or...

PR: Yes, that's who I'm thinking of Frank O'Bannon and his wife and before him even before him, Robert Orr. Robert Orr was not real conservative. He was compared to the true conservatives he was pretty liberal.

BB: Right.

PR: But it really after O'Bannon it's really gone back to the conservatives.

BB: Um hmm.

PR: Nature that.

BB: Yeah, ok. [0:19:00] Now, when you first got involved in state politics did you have any national political heroes or state or political people that you looked up to?

PR: Oh, no not particularly.

BB: Ok. What was your first election day like? How did you feel?

PR: I was elated.

BB: Yeah. (chuckles)

PR: Both in the primary and in the general election.

BB: Yeah.

PR: I was very happy for the rest of our ticket. We had a really good ticket I felt, very balanced between men and women.

BB: Um hmm.

PR: And uh I enjoyed every one of them.

BB: Yeah. Ok.

PR: I later, a gentleman that I owed a lot to guiding me was a fellow named Tony Mayo. [0:20:00] Tony Mayo was a county chairman, democratic county chairman and his family was from the same town in Italy as my family.

BB: Um hmm.

PR: So he helped me through the years...

BB: Yeah. That's cool.

PR: ...so in the sense of a person that I thought well of in politics was Tony Mayo.

BB: Right. That's interesting. Hmm.

PR: Uh, he was the Democrat county chairman at one time or at the time after I was out of the legislature. When I was in the legislature the county chairman was Jud Haggerty. And after him was Jim Beatty.

BB: Yeah.

PR: And the Republican chairman was Keith Bulen. And Bulen really didn't give one hoot about conservatism or liberalism. He was just after getting people elected.

BB: Ok. Yeah. [0:21:00] Interesting. Alright. And what were you thinking the first day you walked in the State House as an elected official?

RP: Uh, I was wondering what the committee assignments were going to be.

BB: Yeah.

RP: Because we hadn't really met Dick Bodean who was the speaker at the time.

BB: Oh, ok.

RP: And um he had, he had our caucus in November, you know, which is organizations day.

BB: Yeah.

RP: In November rather than when we first walked in the State House...

BB: Um hmm.

RP: ...but organization day is when he decided what committees you were going to have. He had a close relationship with a soul from Attica named Buzz Barker.

BB: Hmm. Ok.

RP: And he also had a close relationship with a fellow [0:22:00] from Terre Haute. His name I can't come up with right now. And that's...the two of them took me aside and said that Bodean wasn't going to bother thinking about the budget that I was going to be in charge of the budget.

BB: Um hmm.

RP: Well I really didn't have the time to think about what was going to happen to me.

BB: Yeah.

RP: What I was worried about was how the hell we were going to get the budget together.

BB: Right, right. Yeah, that's interesting. What were your expectations about the legislative process when you first started? Was it more or less what you expected?

RP: It...the process, and I'm not sure I understand what you mean by the process.

BB: Like uh, like you know, working with other legislators in committees and trying to create [0:23:00] bills and um...

RP: Yeah, my experience was very convivial. For example, the Republican chairman of the Ways and Means Committee before our election was a guy named John Koppas from uh from Elkhart.

BB: Um hmm. Ok.

RP: And Koppas taught me more and helped me more than the fella who was the Democrat chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

BB: Oh, ok.

RP: From that standpoint I had a very good relationship with the Republican side...

BB: Yeah.

RP: ...uh better than I had with the, well I shouldn't say better but the fella that was chairman he just didn't care about anything except having a good time at the uh at the reception rooms that were over at the Claypool Hotel.

BB: Oh, ok. Sure. [0:24:00]

RP: So, to put it all together I was um, I was concerned about legislative process. I was concerned about the budget and um I felt like I had a really good service during those two years. I was appointed to a couple committees that went on after the session and uh the '65 session was the long session so we got a lot done. And afterwards I went back to practice...I went to practice law.

BB: Yeah. Ok. And while you were serving in the legislature how'd you know the needs and wants of your constituents? [0:25:00]

PR: Basically through the experience of the legislators who were...had been there a long time.

BB: Ok.

PR: By long time I mean more than two-three sessions.

BB: Right.

PR: Especially from southern Indiana they were folks who had been around quite a while.

BB: Um hmm.

PR: And then in northern Indiana in the region area there were a lot of people who'd been there quite a while.

BB: Yeah.

PR: So I very [unintelligible] learned what was expected by those folks and the process of being more liberal they accepted in spite of things they wanted they were more...they were as interested if not more interested in turning things around in the state [0:26:00] to be more liberal.

BB: Yeah. Sure. Do you remember what the first bill was that you sponsored?

PR: Um. Frankly, no I don't. (chuckles)

BB: Oh ok. No worries.

PR: Because, mainly because I was so busy working on the budget stuff.

BB: Right, right. Sure. What was the regular interaction like between the different members of the General Assembly formal and informal?

PR: I would say that there was a very cordial session. Doc Bowen was leader of the Republican group. Who, (laughingly) you couldn't help but like Doc Bowen because if you got the sniffles he took care of you.

BB: Ok. (chuckles) [0:27:00]

PR: And in general it was very cordial. It was very cordial on our side among us except for a few people who wanted to advance their career and didn't care much about the session itself.

BB: Oh, ok. Interesting. How well did Democrats or Republicans get along?

PR: Very well.

BB: Very well?

PR: It was a very cordial session.

BB: Yeah. Ok. That's cool. What were the differences between the House and Senate and the members there?

PR: Um, the Senate had just turned Democrat and so their relationship with Senate, being [0:28:00] Democrat, was a good relationship between Bodean and uh...I'm trying to think who was the Senate leader...I can't remember who the Senate leader was. But he and Bodean got along well. And I think we did not argue about Senate bills that came to us and they didn't argue about House bills that came to them.

BB: Ok. Yeah. Sure.

PR: My recollection it that there were very few bills that went to committee and got changed between the two.

BB: Right. Ok.

PR: So it was cordial.

BB: Yeah.

PR: We had our Senate group. There were not any people who were looking...who didn't look at [0:29:00] ways to climb the ladder.

BB: Um hmm.

PR: But the Republicans had some folks who were interested in higher office.

BB: Ooh. Ok. Sure.

PR: I think they were more concerned about their popularity, if you will,...

BB: Right.

PR: ...than were about what was going on in the Senate.

BB: Yeah, I understand. How complex was it to get support for your legislation?

PR: Not complex at all...

BB: Ok.

PR: ...because if Bodean thought your legislation was worthwhile it got assigned to the quote right committee unquote.

BB: Right. Ok.

PR: But our committee got hearings, got out of committee and got passed. If he didn't like it, it got buried.

BB: Ok. Interesting.

PR: Which is just not...which is not unusual all is learned.

BB: Cray. And how was legislative business conducted outside of [0:30:00] formal votes and committee meetings?

PR: Say that again.

BB: How was legislative business conducted outside of formal votes and committee meetings?

PR: You know, I don't really recall any outside influences because I didn't go to these reception rites.

BB: Oh ok. Sure.

PR: I just, for some reason, I was too busy. It was, I'm going to go back with you. In my last year of law school...

BB: Um hmm.

PR: ...I'm running for the legislature, the primary,...

BB: Yeah.

PR: ...I've just become the head of the tax, the state tax, the State adjusted gross income tax, I'm trying to graduate from law school, to take the bar exam, and run for office...

BB: Um hmm.

PR: ...so my year was just hectic.

BB: Yeah, sounds like it. (chuckles) It's a lot of stuff. [0:31:00]

PR: So, I really...and I was also interviewing at times for the law firm.

BB: Ooo-kay. Yeah, yeah.

PR: You got that. That started in summer but it didn't go on because of the it going then in November to right to the Legislature.

BB: Right.

PR: And I didn't get back on track until after Legislature was over in late March.

BB: Yeah, that's interesting. Ok. Say you were busy. Um, now did you have a sense of how people would vote prior to actually voting on legislation?

PR: Yeah we did because Bodean ran the caucus very well.

BB: Yeah. [0:32:00]

PR: Since his concept of what was going to get through or not get through was pretty on point. He was probably...he I...we never had arguments in the caucus.

BB: Um hmm.

PR: We had exchanges of ideas with strong presentations. But there wasn't really any arguments.

BB: Right. How influential would you say party leadership was when it came to what legislation would get passed or heard in committees?

PR: Quit honestly I do not remember any um any arguments from the party leadership.

BB: Oh, ok.

PR: I was never approached by any political person [0:33:00] either locally or statewide.

BB: Right. Ok. Yeah. What would you say the public doesn't know about the Indiana General Assembly and how it operates?

PR: The public.

BB: Yeah. Perhaps during your time when you served or your impression of things today as well.

PR: The public...in Indiana?

BB: Yeah.

PR: The public, in my opinion, really doesn't care about the legislature until it meets. As opposed for example to Illinois which constantly meets.

BB: Right.

PR: Then the other states that do that. But because the Legislature only meets for uh [0:34:00] now a longer time but back then, you know, we were there for three months...

BB: Um hmm.

PR: ...and gone.

BB: Yeah.

PR: And you didn't think about it especially the off year. In the non election year nobody even thought about it.

BB: Right, yeah. I understand.

PR: Unless you had to go to a special session but even then there's not much attention. There aren't any...in those days there weren't these flaming bills that people thought...think about now.

BB: Yeah. Ok.

PR: In those days people were much calmer in terms of legislatures, legislators and the legislature.

BB: Yeah.

PR: Now there seems to be a fight about everything.

BB: Yeah, that's interesting. And why do you think that is? What has changed since you were in the Legislature?

PR: The growth of conservatism in the Republican Party [0:35:00] and the lack of results in elections for Democrats other than Evan Bayh.

BB: Um hmm.

PR: There hasn't been a...John Gregg, who ran for the governorship, really had a great campaign going. And unfortunately just didn't quite make it. But before John in the years between the time when I was there and John there wasn't much.

BB: Yeah.

PR: Other than Frank O'Bannon. Frank O'Bannon and John Gregg.

BB: Um hmm.

PR: The Democrats just kind of sat around and let things do nothing really.

BB: Right. [0:36:00]

PR: Statewide.

BB: Yeah.

PR: (coughs) Excuse me. Can you remember the Indianapolis News? Newspaper?

BB: Uh yeah, yeah.

PR: Well we had the News newspaper and we had the Star...

BB: Um hmm.

PR: ...and we had the uh Record and as you know the Star then was ultra conservative...

BB: Um hmm.

PR: ...the News was much less conservative but had some leanings that way. And it gave a lot better...and the Times, we had the Times as well. And the Times gave a much better coverage to liberal politics than the News or the Star.

BB: Oh ok. Yeah. Yeah, that's interesting. What would you say were the most [0:37:00] controversial legislative issues during your time in the Assembly?

PR: Oh. (pause) boy I'm sorry I really don't remember any...

BB: That's ok...

PR: ...controversial stuff...

BB: ...I guess that's a good thing you know (chuckles) if everyone was able to work together and not have any big problems. Um that, yeah I think it would be strange today for someone to say oh there's nothing controversial. So that's I guess that's a good. Yeah.

PR: (chuckles) Yeah.

BB: A change of pace. Yeah. (chuckles)

PR: Absolutely.

BB: Um, what legislation did you work on that took the most time?

PR: The budget.

BB: The budget, yeah. That's always a big one I think for legislators to work on.

PR: Yeah.

BB: What was your proudest moment as a legislator? [0:38:00]

PR: Um, I guess you could say it was after the Legislature met the Times named me the outstanding freshman legislator.

BB: Oh, ok. That's cool. What would you say was the biggest hurdle you had to overcome during your time in office?

PR: Um (pause) guess actually it was time. It was a time issue. Getting the budget done.

BB: Yeah.

PR: In the time period we had.

BB: Right.

PR: We had uh we had a couple issues that I remember particular with Purdue's budget and with I.U.'s budget. [0:39:00] The president of IU was Elvis Stahr who was not a educator at all...

BB: Um hmm.

PR: ...and the president of Purdue was uuhhh (hand claps) Hovde. Hovde was the president of Purdue...

BB: Ok.

PR: ...and he had been at Purdue for quite a while. And he was just entrenched.

BB: Um hmm.

PR: And he, he figured that he could come into the Legislature and get anything he wanted. One of the members of the Ways and Means Committee was a Purdue grad and he didn't appreciate Hovde at all.

BB: Um hmm.

PR: So there was some animosity there...

BB: Yeah.

PR: ...it was engendered by [0:40:00] Hovde's...his attitude was he was looking down at everybody.

BB: Oohkay, yeah.

PR: As opposed to Daniels who uplifts everybody I think.

BB: Right.

PR: So that uh the meeting with the Purdue budget was the only tough meeting we had.

BB: Um hmm. Yeah ok. What in your opinion is the most important work of the Indiana General Assembly?

PR: (pause) Uh, the most important work of the Indiana General Assembly.

BB: Yes.

PR: Funding the work of the State of Indiana. The employees, funding the state budget and funding [0:41:00] the important issues that um are served by the government and in my mind the most important issue right now is teachers pay.

BB: Ok. Sure.

PR: And I ought to tell you this, full disclosure,...

BB: Um hmm.

PR: ...my nephew is the head of the Senate.

BB: Oh really. Ok.

PR: Rod Bray is his name.

BB: Ooh, interesting. Ok. Wow. So, there's a family tradition a little bit. (chuckles)

PR: It is and I try to stay out of everything because of that.

BB: (chuckles) Yeah, yeah. Sure.

PR: But I really feel that they have to address schools, education [0:42:00] and teachers pay.

BB: Um hmm.

PR: Because Indiana still in the education area still going back to when I was there...

BB: Yeah.

PR: ...education doesn't do a good job.

BB: Um hmm. Yeah, seems like it's been a hot topic for a while in the State. Yeah.

PR: Well if it wasn't for Daniels we would be really down the tubes.

BB: Um hmm. Yeah that's interes... so were there debates about education in your time as well during the General Assembly?

PR: Well the debate was like I said was about Indianapolis not even taking federal money.

BB: Yeah, right, right. Yeah.

PR: You know, that got done in less than two weeks after we got there.

BB: Yeah, that changed fast yeah. Yeah, that's interesting. Let's see, how would you summarize your times as a state legislator?

PR: Um, I think in terms of [0:43:00] the accomplishments of funding the uh education and establishing the school in um at Ball State and here's an aside, one of my nephews, who's a Michigan kid,...

BB: Um hmm.

PR: ... went to the architectural school at Ball State...

BB: Yeah.

PR: ...so I felt very good about that and um just in general after we closed down I was on the tax, uh tax finance policy commission that we established and worked with them for the next two years and I was sad I couldn't continue to work for them after or with them after the Legislature because you had to change in, [0:44:00] in uh from democrat to republican.

BB: Uh hmm.

PR: That, that Commission could have done a lot more I think for education than it did.

BB: Right. Yeah, ok.

PR: So I think there is still a lot of work to do in that area.

BB: Sure, sure. What is your favorite story or anecdote from your time as a legislator?

PR: (pause) I'm kind of stumped.

BB: Oh yeah (chuckles)

PR: Favorite story or anecdote...

BB: (laughs)

PR: Well, ok, my favorite story is the bi-play between the legislator on the Ways and Means Committee and [0:45:00] President Hovde.

BB: Um hmm.

PR: Those two went at it about the Purdue budget...

BB: Ok.

PR: ...and Hovde was embarrassed by this legislator because the Legislature...the legislator found some accounts that he didn't believe were being used for Purdue education but rather for Purdue non educators that worked at Purdue.

BB: Yeah, ok. Makes you...

PR: And that embarrassed Hovde.

BB: Right. Ok. Yeah. What lessons, if any, did you learn as a legislator?

PR: The biggest lesson I came away with is that the legislature needs to meet, [0:46:00] I'm talking about my time,...

BB: Yeah.

PR: ...needed to meet more often than it was.

BB: Oh, ok. Sure.

PR: Because there were more issues to be addressed and the time limitation back then was really crucial.

BB: Right, yeah.

PR: You couldn't address...

BB: Yeah, that makes sense.

PR: ...real going forward and in into the future.

BB: Um hmm.

PR: Which is what I think is part of the legislative process.

BB: Right, yeah. Did you have any regrets as a legislator?

PR: I guess my biggest regret is that I didn't get reelected.

BB: Yeah. Sure. What advice would you give to future legislators or even current legislators?

PR: Uh, do your homework. [0:47:00]

BB: Um hmm.

PR: Once you know after the primary that you're going to be running for legislature whether you're a democrat or republican don't just be worried about campaigning but be concerned about how it works and what the general public needs are.

BB: Right.

PR: Because you got a lot of time from May to November and don't just sit back or go out and campaign. Put some time into learn how to use your time in the legislature well.

BB: Yeah. Yeah that makes sense. How has the State of Indiana changed over the course of your lifetime?

PR: It's gone from conservative to what those in my days were called liberal and back to conservative, biggest changes.

BB: Oh, ok. Would you say the General Assembly is still reflecting that today then? [0:48:00]

PR: Absolutely.

BB: How has politics changed? Is it...?

PR: It's much more conservative than it was when I was there.

BB: Would you say it is more divisive as well?

PR: More divisive. Well, the Legislature itself as a...as a group...

BB: Um hmm.

PR: ...is not more divisive but...

BB: Ok.

PR: ...it's more divisive politics-wise.

BB: Yeah, ok.

PR: For example this dust-up which just happened with the Black Caucus and the Republicans.

BB: Right. Yeah. Yeah. Let's see. Last couple questions. What, if any, enduring qualities do [0:49:00] Hoosiers still have or hold dear?

PR: (pause) Well...enduring qualities? Hoosierism is a big picture of welcoming people...

BB: Um hmm.

PR: ...with some few exceptions like Dan Dakich.

BB: Ok.

PR: Who can't stand anybody who comes from the East.

BB: (chuckles) Ok.

PR: But in a general sense they're very, Hoosiers are welcoming people.

BB: Yeah. Sure.

PR: I think that's their best foot forward.

BB: Right. Ok. Last one. What do you want Hoosiers to know about their role in relation to the function of the Indiana General Assembly?

PR: Take it more seriously when they are going to vote on who's being elected. [0:50:00]

BB: Um hmm. Yeah, I guess...

PR: It isn't just the top of the ticket that matters.

BB: Right. Yeah, I suppose the more involved people are the better off everyone is and what they want to get done by the government so.

PR: They need to they need to learn everything they can about things they want to bring to the Legislature.

BB: Yeah.

PR: So that they're not just treated as just dumb Hoosiers.

BB: Right. Yeah. Alright, well thank you so much for doing this. I really appreciate you taking the time to participate in this project and I'm sure it will be very helpful for the project to get your interview added to the collection and um thank you so much.

PR: Thank you. Alright, take care.

BB: You too.

PR Hope you're successful.

BB: Thank you. [0:51:02]

