

ILOHI Interview with Thomas McComb

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Interview by Ben Baumann

Transcribed by Ben Baumann and Otter.ai

MP3 File, Sony

Thomas McComb=TM

Ben Baumann=BB

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BB: [0:00:00] All right. So, before we begin, I would just like to state for the record that today is October 14, 2020. And my name is Ben Bauman, and I'm here in Indianapolis, Indiana, and I'm speaking via phone with Thomas McComb. Who is in is it? Westfield, Indiana or Noblesville?

TM: Noblesville.

BB: Okay, Noblesville, Indiana, and we are doing an interview for the Indiana Legislative Oral History Initiative. So just to start off, when and where were you born?

TM: Fort Wayne, Indiana.

BB: Okay. And what?

TM: October 19, 1936.

BB: Okay, perfect. What were your parents' names?

TM: John and Margaret McComb.

BB: Okay. Where is your family from originally before Indiana?

TM: Ireland (Laughs).

BB: Ireland? When did they get to Indiana?

TM: Gee I don't know.

BB: Okay.

TM: 1800s, something like that. [0:01:00]

BB: Okay. (Laughs) Fair enough. All right. And what were your parents' occupations?

TM: Well, my father was a President of (Unintelligible) Corporation, which was an automotive repair and supply company. And my mother was a house maker, homemaker.

BB: Right. Okay. Did you have any siblings at all?

TM: Yes, I have. One sister. And a brother.

BB: Okay. And who were the most influential people in your childhood?

TM: Well, I guess my dad and also my first-grade teacher, I suppose. [0:02:00]

BB: Okay. And why were they so influential?

TM: Well, my, my dad was a good good buddy to me. And the teacher was well, she just taught good citizenship.

BB: Okay. Sure. Now, what understanding if any, did you have about your family's political views growing up as a kid?

TM: They were all Democrats. I'm the turn coat?

BB: Oh, okay. Did you talk politics much with them as a kid growing up or?

TM: No, but I listened to them.

BB: Okay. Sure. Now, what schools did you attend [0:03:00] as a child and teenager?

TM: Well, I attended Lakeside Elementary School, Forest Park. Seventh and eighth grade, and Northside High School. In Fort Wayne.

BB: And how would you describe your educational experiences overall?

TM: Good.

BB: Did you have any favorite subjects or extracurricular activities?

TM: Well, I was very proficient in music. And vocal music, which I did not come to recognize until I was in oh maybe a freshman in high school.

BB: Yeah. Interesting. That's great. [0:04:00]

TM: Everybody in the family said I could sing as a little kid. But didn't mean much.

BB: Right. Okay. As a child, what were your views about the state of Indiana or being a Hoosier?

TM: Oh, I don't know that I had any particular views.

BB: Okay. It's just kind of Yeah. Didn't process didn't think much about that, I guess.

TM: Pardon me?

BB: I guess you probably didn't think much about that, I guess.

TM: No.

BB: Yeah. Let's see. Did you go to college?

TM: Yes, I did. Went to Indiana University in Bloomington and Indiana University Law school Indianapolis.

BB: Okay. And what was your bachelor's degree in?

TM: Business Marketing

BB: Cool. Okay. Now, [0:05:00] I guess, what was your thoughts about graduating from law school? What did you want to do right away? Did you think about like, what type of law you'd get involved with? Or?

TM: Well, I, frankly, I had been in the insurance business. And I did not take the law school education to practice. I wanted to use it in my own business. So, I never did practice. Nor did I want to.

BB: Yeah, okay. Cool. Okay. And let's see, when you were in college, were you a part of any clubs or organizations or sports teams?

TM: Yeah, I was a member of Kappa Delta Rho fraternity. And I was in the I was a soloist [0:06:00] in the singing Hoosiers.

BB: Oh, cool. Wow. That's neat.

TM: Yeah, that was a great experience.

BB: I bet. Wow. Did you get to travel around with them at all around the country? Or?

TM: Oh, yeah. And we were married. I was in school, and they were going to Korea. In the summer. I forget what year it was, but in the summer, and I couldn't go cause I really, we were as poor as church mice. So, I got a internship position at (Unintelligible) department store in Cincinnati, which I had to take. Because of the financial situation. George Crater was director of the Hoosiers, [0:07:00] he was the man that actually started them. And when they started, it was all men's Glee Club. And then it

turned into a mixed choral group. Well, George was not very happy with me that I couldn't go. But they and his wife still invited Norma and I are for dinner and played rich. (Laughs)

BB: Okay, there you go. Wow. Let's see. So how would you view your college experiences overall?

TM: Basically, it was enjoyable. It was hard because I had to work also. And my wife worked in the registrar's office, at the university. And [0:08:00] but overall, it was, well it was a tough experience, but it was good. You know what I mean?

BB: Yeah, yeah. Now, did your awareness of politics change as you got older, and you went through college?

TM: Yeah, I became active. I guess it was a morality race. And in Bloomington, and became active in the Republican Party. I had been a member of the Young Republicans in school. And that's really where I got my political start.

BB: Yeah. And what did your parents think about that?

TM: Well, my father was dead. He died when I was 12 years old. [0:09:00] My mother was apolitical you know. But I think she was a Democrat. (Laughs)

BB: Yeah. Okay. Now, what was your first job out of? I guess it was just what was your first job out of high school and college?

TM: Well, in high school, I had a couple of three jobs, I started out as a kid about 12 years old, working in a restaurant peeling potatoes and bussing. (Laughs) It's after my father was killed. And then oh, I worked at a jewelry store and at a shoe store. So, I got I got quite a bit of experience in the retail area. [0:10:00] And then out of college, my first job was with a provident Mutual Life Insurance Company in Philadelphia. And that was selling and I, we were made in Bloomington. And then I got involved in the Jaycees down there and I don't think the Jaycees are around anymore. But that was a young men's organization. 21 to 36. Children Chamber of Commerce they call it.

BB: Okay, interesting.

TM: And then we stayed in Bloomington for a year. And I really got active for the Jaycees. And then they asked me, the company asked me to move back to Fort Wayne, to open an office there, which I did.

BB: Yeah. [0:11:00] Okay. Interesting. Now, if you don't mind me asking, you mentioned that your father was killed. What exactly happened?

TM: He was in an automobile accident.

BB: Oh okay. Yeah. Sorry to hear that. Now, when did you start thinking about getting involved in politics as a politician?

TM: Well, it was back in Fort Wayne. And I became involved in a morality race up there. A man by the name of Harold Zeiss was running for mayor. And he had been a friend of my mom and dad's he and his wife. [0:12:00] And I had written to him back in college, saying, I don't know whether you're Republican or Democrat. Which was very naive. But I said, I'd like to get involved in politics. And he had been Superintendent of state police. Yeah. Under Governor Harold Handling. Well, he then went back to Fort Wayne and ran for mayor. Well, one night, after dinner, I got a call and said, "we're meeting in my house, can you come over?" So, I got involved, and I was then co-treasurer of his campaign. And that's how I really got involved. And from there on, then I decided I wanted to run for the legislature, which I did. And won the primary and the general election. [0:13:00] So I was in the House for four years. And then I ran for the Senate and was in the Senate for four years. And then I decided that enough is enough. And retired.

BB: Yeah. Okay. Interesting. Now, yeah, I want to get more into your politics, but first off, when did you get married?

TM: Got married in 1957. February the ninth.

BB: Okay. And what's your wife's name?

TM: Norma.

BB: Okay. Do you have any children at all?

TM: Yes, we have four children. A boy and three girls.

BB: Excellent.

TM: And we have nine grandkids. And four great-grandkids.

BB: Wow. All right. [0:14:00]

TM: Three, three of the great grand kids are triplets.

BB: Wow. That's incredible. Oh my gosh. How did your family influence your career as a politician?

TM: Oh Very little.

BB: Very little. Okay, yeah.

TM: I mean, my wife was behind me, you know? But my dad was gone. And my mother, as I said, was kind of apolitical

BB: Yeah. Now, as you initially became involved in politics, what were the key issues or legislation you championed or wanted to fight against?

TM: Well, in my first term, I was asked by some people to [0:15:00] sponsor a bill, which was called the Telecommunications Bill, which hooked all of the state universities together by telecommunication. And then later other schools within the within the state or were to participate. That that was big, big bill. And I was very happy to sponsor that. And then I also sponsored no fault insurance, and I was Chairman of the Insurance Committee in the Senate, and also the House. But in the Senate, I sponsored a no-fault insurance, which fell like a rock out of a sky.

BB: Yeah. [0:16:00] Interesting. Now, did you have any national political heroes or state or local political heroes?

TM: Well, yeah. (Unintelligible) Our congressman from the fourth district. And I very much enjoyed (Unintelligible) and Vance Hartke. Vance Hartke was a Democrat from Evansville and was in the United States Senate. And he and I became very good friends. Yeah. Okay.

BB: Yeah. Okay. Now did you emphasize anything in particular, when you're campaigning to get elected to the Indiana General Assembly? [0:17:00]

TM: You got the microphone on don't ya?

BB: Yeah, I have. Yes. I have the recorder on.

TM: (Laughs) Probably a lot of BS like everyone else.

BB: Fair enough. (Laughs)

TM: Well, you know, sales standbys. Proper representation. And you know, the people are the are the bosses and so on.

BB: Yeah, okay. So your campaign strategy is pretty much like everyone else's you think?

TM: It didn't deviate. I mean, what else you do you do you know.

BB: Right. Do you remember who your main opponent was?

TM: My what?

BB: Your main opponent? [0:18:00]

TM: Oh, well, when I ran for the House, we had, we had five representatives elected from Allen County, at large. And in the Senate. We had let's see there were three of us from Allen County. And geez I can see the guy, but I can't remember his name. Senator Claighorn, I think.

BB: Yeah, okay. Now, did you have any, like, important issue in your mind before you got elected that you wanted to change in Indiana or?

TM: Not particularly. [0:19:00] Not that I can think of offhand.

BB: Yeah, sure. What about your first election day? How did that feel?

TM: My first election day?

BB: Yeah. When you got elected.

TM: Oh, I was elated. Yeah.

BB: Yeah. And what was it like when you walked into the Statehouse for the first time?

TM: Well, the first time was we had Dr. Bowen, Otis Bowen was Speaker of the House. And he was a former governor then too. And we had a Republican caucus before this session started and in which time, we elected our leadership. [0:20:00] At which point then we did elect Doc Bowen as speaker. So that was really my first entrance into the, into the House. But then, you know, going in the first day of the legislative session was, your kind of in awe.

BB: Right now, we're your expectations for the legislative process more or less complicated than you expected?

TM: No, they weren't. I had, I had done in the Jaycees, I had been president of the Fort Wayne Jaycees. And I knew Robert's Rules of Order pretty well. [0:21:00] And that's, that's what's followed. So, I didn't have any problem with that. Yeah. Okay.

BB: Yeah. Okay. So did you feel then that you didn't really have to learn too much about the ins and out state politics? Because you were already familiar with it?

TM: Well, no, no, not to say that. I did have to learn how to become a politician. (Laughs)

BB: Okay. Fair enough. Yeah.

TM: You know, within the, within the decorum of the of the group.

BB: Yeah.

TM: So, you know that wasn't hard to learn though

BB: Yeah. Okay. Did you have any political mentors once you got settled into the Indiana General Assembly?

TM: Any political what?

BB: Mentors?

TM: Oh, sure. [0:22:00] Both Democrats and Republicans. You know, our session, our sessions back then we're not filled with a vitriol they are today. And, you know, as a freshman, I got help from both sides. You know, if I had a question, I could go to a Democrat that I trusted. And I get a straight answer. Or to a Republican. So, it was much different than that it is today.

BB: Yeah. Now, why do you think it's changed so much?

TM: Well, I think society is, has had a lot to do with that. Society in general. [0:23:00] There's more vitriol in our societal situation today than we've ever had. And it flows over into the government.

BB: Right. Yeah, it's,

TM: It's too bad. It's sad. And, you know, before you called, I was listening to the Barrett hearings. And it's a same old garbage in there, and they just try and make you make somebody embarrassed. I guess I don't know.

BB: Yeah, right. Yeah, I've heard several legislators I've interviewed in the past from around the time you served in the 60s and 70s say the same thing in terms of how much different politics is today [0:24:00] than it was back then.

TM: Oh, absolutely. You know, we were friendly. And, in fact, I, when I was a freshman, we had, I think, 67 Republicans in the House, so there was an overflow. And some of us had to sit on the Democrat side, which I chose to do. So, I sat in the last row on the Democrat side. Well, boy, I made a lot of friends with the Democrats.

BB: Yeah. Okay. Fair enough. That's cool. Now, how did you know the needs and wants of your constituents?

TM: Well, that's through the political process. We had [0:25:00] open forums. You know like the Chamber of Commerce would have them and different groups. And you hear what your constituents are concerned about. And then if you give a damn about it you try to do something about it.

BB: Right. Yeah, it makes sense. What were the regular interactions like between the different members of the General Assembly, formal and informal?

TM: Very, very good. I mean, you know, a lot of us go out to dinner together, Democrats and Republicans. Frank O'Bannon, who later became governor. He was in the Senate. And he and I became great friends. [0:26:00] And in fact, I even financially supported Frank, when he when he ran. So, you know, there was a, there was a mutual trust and understanding between the parties.

BB: Okay. Yeah. Makes sense.

TM: Now, not to say that we're always on the same page, because, obviously, as Republicans, we had our own platform on what we wanted to do. And they had theirs. However, these things were shared. In other words, they didn't do anything to sabotage our you know policy situation that we wouldn't want it done, nor did we do anything to damage them, [0:27:00] or then talk about it. You know get up on the floor and castigate it. Ordinary separates involve.

BB: Right. Now, what about the differences between members of the House and Senate?

TM: Well, the house as it is in Washington, is more of a fluid body. I mean, anything and everything comes before them. And they might pass anything and everything. The Senate is much more deliberative. In Indiana, there are 100 members in the House. There are 50 Senators. So, in the Senate, [0:28:00] you know, we took a little more time. More deliberative, I should say.

BB: Now, what did you think of the process of generating a bill? Did it seem like it was pretty straightforward, or was it complex or?

TM: No, because we had the Legislative Services Agency, which worked for both the House and Senate. And you gave them the background of what you wanted. They wrote the bill. And then they gave it to you to peruse, you'd make any changes before it was finally printed?

BB: Yeah, so they fixed it up. Was it complicated [0:29:00] to garner support for your legislation at all? Or was it usually you kind of knew who to go to or knew beforehand whether it would get support or not?

TM: Well, no, it wasn't an easy process. You know, you had to, you had to go around to individuals and talk up your bill. That's the way you got things done. You can't just have a bill and have it or just before I start talking about it, yeah. Not knowing who the hell is going to support it?

BB: Yeah, of course. So how was legislative business conducted outside of formal votes and committee meetings?

TM: Go to dinner, having a drink. You know that type of thing.

BB: [0:30:00] Did you have a pretty good idea of how people would vote prior to actually voting?

TM: Sometimes. Not always. Sometimes you know you had just an easy bill, which was not complicated. And you didn't really have to talk it up much, but if you had something that you knew was going to garner some headwind. Then you had to politic.

BB: Right. What about party leadership? How influential were party leadership when it came to whether certain bills would get passed or not? Or even, you know, brought up in the first place.

TM: Very. [0:31:00] Absolute power.

BB: Did you ever have any conflicts with party leadership?

TM: Oh, hell yes. (Laughs) And in the Senate, Phil Goodman from Fort Wayne won't help get I and Phil and I had clashes often. You know about things, but it was it was par for the course.

BB: Yeah. Yeah. Makes sense.

TM: I couldn't take it for granted. Just because he and I were from the same town. They was gonna favor what I wanted to do.

BB: Yeah. What would you say the public does not know about how the Indiana General [0:32:00] Assembly operates?

TM: (Laughs) About 100% they don't know.

BB: And why is that?

TM: I don't think they care.

BB: Okay. Yeah. Just lack of interest.

TM: Yeah, until something involves them. For example, in Fort Wayne, we're in the lake area, you know, Angola and so on. Lake James. All those lakes up there. Well, you know, people were getting cut up by speedboats. Swimmers and skiers and so on. And kids 12 years old we're driving our 100 horsepower [0:33:00] boats.

BB: Oh my gosh.

TM: So, I sponsored a bill that you had to be 16. In order to have anything over, I think it was 10 horsepower. And man, you should have heard him. They came out of the woodwork. I thought I was going to get skinned up and tied to a tree. And I got phone calls at home on weekends when I was home and so on. But, Roger Branigan. Democrat governor was, was in at that time. And I got the bill passed. And both House and Senate and I was in the house at the time. And I got a call from the governor's office [0:34:00] one day said, "Tom, can you come down here." And I had never been in his office. And I said, "Why certainly governor." So, I went down and there were some guys walking around his office, he said, and Roger had used pretty tough language. He said, "You guys get your asses out of here." He wanted you to come in. I sat down across from his desk. And he said, "The reason I called you down here was to talk to you before I vetoed your GD bill." (Laughs) And I said, "Oh Governor." He gave me the opportunity to sell him. And of course, Roger was a Democrat. [0:35:00] And he let the bill go with without his signature. So apparently I sold him. for Or he liked me, one of the two.

BB: That's funny. Interesting. Now, how did your legislative service affect your family life?

TM: Well, you know, my kids were growing up and behind my back.

BB: Yeah, yeah, definitely.

TM: And you're gone all week. You're home on weekends. And, boy, you know, it's and then you're still not free because you're getting telephone calls at home.

BB: Yeah, true.

TM: It's, it's tough on a family.

BB: Yeah. Yeah, I can see that. [0:36:00] What were the most controversial legislative issues during your time in the General Assembly?

TM: Oh, boy. I'm sorry Ben, I, you know that escapes me.

BB: That's okay. No problem.

TM: I'm 84 years old. My memory isn't so good anymore. I know there were some.

BB: Yeah, that's okay. Not a big deal. It's whatever you can remember. That's all that matters. So not a big, not a problem. Now, do you remember a piece of legislation that took a really long time to get done or?

TM: I'm sorry, I can't remember. [0:37:00] Some, some took much longer than others. But specifically, I can't remember.

BB: Okay. What about what was your proudest moment as a legislator?

TM: Well, I guess, I guess getting that Telecommunications Act passed.

BB: Yeah.

TM: That, was a big piece of legislation and, and a boon to the universities.

BB: Yeah, sure.

TM: Yeah, that was, and that took a while because it cost some money. There were millions of dollars involved in the hookups, and so on. [0:38:00]

BB: Yeah. Now, what would you say was the biggest hurdle you overcame during your tenure? Or not sorry, not tenure, but just during your time in office?

TM: I guess, understanding. You know what I mean.

BB: Yeah. Okay. It's a complex job.

TM: You think you know it all sometimes and then you come to Jesus.

BB: Yeah. True. That's right. You get a wakeup call. Every now and then I guess. Yeah. What, in your opinion is the most important work of the Indiana General Assembly?

TM: Well, [0:39:00] it's to provide for the safety, welfare, financial, health wellbeing of the state. And if I've missed some there, probably others but those are four important ones.

BB: Yeah. Okay. Now, I know during your time of service Unigov was a topic that was being debated. What do you remember about Unigov?

TM: Well, I was called over to visit Dick Luger's office one day. And was given a little primer. On what Unigov was and so on. And I wasn't the only guy. [0:40:00] I think he talked to probably 150 legislators. Mostly Republicans. So, but gave me, because I really didn't understand it. Until he gave me a primer on it. And then I did. And I backed that.

BB: And so why did you think that Unigov was important?

TM: Because of the complexion of Indianapolis. Much different than Fort Wayne or South Bend or Evansville. They had, they had much more to deal with as a as a largest city and as a capital city. [0:41:00] And it just made sense to me that that form of government would work. Because prior to that, as you know, it was all the same throughout the cities. So Dick Luger convinced me that it would be a good thing for Indianapolis and I supported it.

BB: Sure. So, overall, looking at your time as a legislator, how would you summarize it?

TM: I'd summarize it as a grand experience. I enjoyed my time there 90%. [0:42:00] And I made a lot of friends. Other legislators and lobbyists. Some that I trusted and some that I didn't trust lobbyists that is. But you know, just a lot of people that I still cherish and remember, and a lot of them are gone.

BB: Do you have a favorite story or anecdote from your time as a legislator?

TM: Yeah, I do. It was funny. It was in the Senate. And I was up on the floor trying to promote my no-fault insurance bill. Now are you familiar with what that was?

BB: A little bit, but it'd be good if you explain it for everyone that ever listens to this. [0:43:00]

TM: No-fault auto insurance. So it meant that whoever was in the accident, there was no fault. On the other party. So, both insurance companies would pay their own damages. That was it in a nutshell. Well,

I was on the floor. Just sermonizing like crazy. And I just got asked a thousand questions and finally I threw the bill in the air and I said Sinara and sat down and it brought the Senate down.

BB: Yeah. You just got tired of being up there I guess?

TM: (Laughs) I knew I was dead. But boy, did they laugh

BB: That's funny. [0:44:00] Wow. Do you remember what the vote count was on that?

TM: There was none. (Both laugh)

BB: Just give up (Laughs).

TM: Yeah, my ship sunked.

BB: Yeah. Oh, that's funny. Wow. Well, wow, okay. So maybe a good transition then is what lessons if any, did you learn as a legislator?

TM: What Lessons?

BB: Yeah.

TM: Patience. Friendship. Don't talk too much. Be a good guy.

BB: Yeah. Okay. [0:45:00] Do you have any regrets as a legislator?

TM: None. The only regrets I had Ben, were what I said earlier, my kids grew up behind me.

BB: Definitely. Yeah. Yeah, I understand.

TM: Yeah, but all my good friends are now gone. God, I'm the only guy out of all the House. We had five House members that I was a member of. From Allen County. And we had three senators. All the rest of them are gone on both houses. So, you know I've lost some very dear friends.

BB: Yeah, I bet. Yeah. [0:46:00] What advice would you give to future legislators or even current legislators?

TM: Well, I'm not going to advise any current ones because they have their own thoughts.

BB: Sure. Okay.

TM: But for a young guy starting out, wanting to do this. Don't rush into things and think you're going to make it on your first try. I did. I was lucky. But things are different today. And, you know, the opposition as weak as they might have been, when I was there, has now gained strength. And so you don't have a

run of the mill candidates from the Democrat side anymore. [0:47:00] And you've just got to keep a level head and campaign. Like, you know, thinking, you might lose. You don't think that but you campaign like that.

BB: Right. Right.

TM: So it's, it's a little different.

BB: Yeah, that makes sense.

TM: Was that you were talking about a young guy. Was that your question? Getting into the Into the fray?

BB: Yeah.

TM: And as I said, as I would say, to a young...don't get discouraged if you don't make it the first time around. [0:48:00] If you're still sure that you should go back and do it again. And if you're worth yourself, you're gonna make it.

TM: But, you know, I can't or nobody else can, can say, oh, you're gonna win. Because you're so handsome.

BB: Right.

TM: It's just it's just, it's just a hell of a lot of hard work. I mean, nights out going to different rallies and, and, you know, that type of thing. Now, now, today, more than the person to person cuts, they're using the media more. Which seems to me to be a shame because, you know, if a politician can't shake hands [0:49:00] there's something wrong.

BB: Yeah, true.

TM: So it's, it's a People to People thing. Now electronic thing.

BB: Making those connections.

TM: Absolutely.

BB: Yeah. Good advice. When thinking about now, the state of Indiana as a whole, how would you say the state has changed over the course of your lifetime?

TM: Well probably a little more progressive, and I mean, a little more liberal. But not much, not much. I'm proud to be a Hoosier. Because [0:50:00] we are endowed with a sense of conservatism and not packing the court. (Laughs)

BB: How has the Indiana General Assembly changed?

TM: As I said earlier, what I wanna say contempt among members. I think I use the word vitriol.

BB: Yeah. You did. Yeah. Before.

TM: Before and I, they're they don't seem as friendly. As we were. On both sides of the aisle. [0:51:00]
And I, as I said before Ben, I think that's, that's due to the societal norms that we got now.

BB: Sure. Yeah, things have definitely changed, I guess with the age of the internet.

TM: Yeah, yeah. And guys can't get there. People can't get their noses out of their phones.

BB: Yeah. Yeah, true.

TM: When I speak to somebody, I want to look at him. And look at me. Not at their damn phone. These things are sure they're, they're a blessing, but they're also a bandit in disguise.

BB: Yeah. I think you hit the nail on the head there. That's true. Technology definitely has its downsides.

TM: Yes, it does. Yes, it does. I haven't been back the legislature. [0:52:00] But I suppose, well, I know.
Without even supposing they're allowed to have their phones on the floor.

BB: Yeah, yeah, probably.

TM: So they're missing half of what's going on.

BB: Probably true. It probably can happen. Yeah. Let's see here. Last couple questions I have for you.
Now, you mentioned conservatism. What other enduring qualities do Hoosiers still have her hold dear?

TM: Well, I think compassion for their neighbors and the citizenry in general. [0:53:00] Financial
Integrity. The health of our economy and our people. Those are some things I think about.

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

TM: I want them to know a lot more about it. They don't get it from the newspaper. In fact, I don't even
know how many people read the newspaper about the assembly when it's going on.

BB: Yeah, true.

TM: It's probably the sports page and the comics.

BB: Yeah.

TM: But, you know, we had some damn good reporters back then. Gordon Engelhardt, from the Louisville Courier Journal. [0:54:00] And well Jesus. I can't remember his last name. But that was one that we had two newspapers in Indianapolis star and what was the evening paper? Anyway, he was the evening paper. We, we had we had good people back then, and they write they write a true story. You know, whether you liked it or not, it was it was a true story. It wasn't a bunch of BS.

BB: Yeah, I guess [0:55:00] a lot of complaints about today with the media is that there's just a lot more opinion pieces now instead of just news.

TM: And it's bonafide. I mean, the complaints are bonafide. The news media is so liberal today. They can't see the trees from the forests. And they have one point of view period. And that seems to be unless you're in a small town with one newspaper. That seems to be the trend all over the country. This this liberalism with the news media.

BB: Interesting. Yeah. Well, that's about all the questions I have for you. Is there anything that you remember that I didn't ask about or?

TM: [0:56:00] No, you're pretty thorough, Ben.

BB: Oh Okay. Good. Excellent.

TM: And, and if, if are about 20 years younger, I might be able to remember more. (Laughs)

BB: That's okay. That's all right. You did pretty well. It's, uh, I think your memory is working pretty well. So nothing to worry about there. Thank you so much for for taking part in this project and being willing to do an interview and stuff it means a lot and it's gonna be really helpful, I think for the project so.

TM: Well, you're welcome.

BB: Take care.

TM: Bye

BB: Bye.