

ILOHI Interview with Pat Bauer

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Interview by Ben Baumann

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai> and Ben Baumann

MP3 File, Sony

Pat Bauer=PB

Ben Baumann=BB

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BB:

All right. So before I begin, I would just like to state for the record that today is February 8, 2021. And my name is Ben Bauman, and I'm here in Indianapolis, Indiana, and I'm speaking via phone with Pat Bauer, who's in South Bend, Indiana. Is that correct?

PB:

That's correct.

BB:

All right. And we're doing an interview for the Indiana legislative oral history initiative. So just to start off, when and where were you born?

PB:

I was born at Holy Family Hospital in LaPorte, Indiana.

BB:

Okay. And what were your parents names?

PB:

My dad was Burnett Bauer B-A-U-E-R. My mother was Elien Cryabauer.

BB:

Okay. And I noticed that your name has an initial "B" before it. What's your initial stand for?

PB:

My dad's name was Burnett, so they named me Burnett, but I didn't [0:01:00] know till my eighth grade that my name wasn't Pat because everybody called me Pat.

BB:

Okay. Sure. Fair enough.

PB:

So when I had to do official papers, you know, they say Burnett's, so I just started going B. Patrick Bauer.

BB:

Yeah. Okay. Makes sense. So where was your family from originally before Indiana?

PB:

Well, my dad came from North Dakota, and he went to school at Notre Dame. My mother, my mother was from Kalamazoo, Michigan. And she went to the University of Michigan. And this is way back when and she had a master's degree. So St. Mary's College hired her to help there (Unintelligible) program and my dad at that time was a Notre Dame grad. My Dad went to Notre Dame and then he went to graduate school. And they met when he was in graduate school. [0:02:00] She was gotten a job as a really the theater director or whatever. St. Mary's College and she recruited him for part in a play because she started up to that time. This was 39', 43' half of that time. Women played men's roles as he told this nonsense. That was ridiculous. We're all those men are across the street. She recruited Notre Dame students so she recruited my dad. Oh, so that's when they started. They met each other and eventually got married. And highlighter of her career there was probably when they had a movie about the Gipper. The President Ronald Reagan he was President Ronald Reagan played Gipper in that movie. And Gipper one of these first all American. And later about 24 or 25 [0:03:00] he's still just getting out of Notre Dame where he graduated was still at Notre Dame when he got some disease, or some problem at Memorial Hospital down himself down which was three miles, St. Mary's Notre Dame or across the street from each other. So my dad, my mother helped supply all the girls for St. Mary's to be outside in the snow outside Memorial Hospital, Gipper was about three stories up and they were outside his window praying in the snow. So she provided all those girls. So as they were walking a mile and a half to two miles from his campus, to St. Mary's only 31 highway. Limousine pulls up and it's Ronald Reagan asked me if they want to ride into town. So she and my dad rode with Ronald Reagan's star into there and [0:04:00] I am a Democrat. My dad ran as a Democrat. My mother was for Ronald Reagan for President

BB:

Wow. That's cool. Interesting. Okay. And what was your dad's occupation?

PB:

My dad, Willie, he was like he studied accounting and it was sort of first time to go get a county, but then he got into sales and he was selling Colagen and Laporte. Another Company, recruited him to be their franchise, it was called Lindsay and he. So he a dealer for us. Distributor and he was one of the top water softeners distributors in the country. [0:05:00] Lindsey, Lindsey and Colagen slugged it out who was number one. And my dad was number one in Indiana and parts of Michigan for a long time. Many years, he was in the water softener business. And then he got interested in politics. Winning State Rep. Here in St. Joe County. And here is he won. You had five at large. He went by counties. It was in the 60s. And so five from St. Francis from Marion County. He had 15, 11 from Lake County and other counties. St. Joe had five at large. And he won three times where we won 64', 66'. [0:06:00] And then at 66', they changed it to double numbers, two numbers. And by the way, some Senate races were two district sometimes, two. But anyway, it didn't get to single member districts. My second 10 years. 1980 and then 81 session, I think you'd have 1979 session in 80' election was single member.

BB:

Yeah, okay.

PB:

I don't remember anymore. But we did. They were first we went to two member districts and St. Joe and the big cities, three members of them going from county wide multiple districts to [0:07:00] single districts in the 1980s. When we went to say well, districts and multiple districts like when I first ran two member districts, it became a single member.

BB:

Okay, interesting. All right. And let's see, going back to your childhood a bit. Did you have any siblings growing up?

PB:

Seven sisters and a brother.

BB:

Oh, wow. Okay, so quite a few siblings. All right. Cool. That must have been a pretty, pretty wild household to be in I guess. Were they all close to age?

PB:

I was second oldest. Get to enjoy the entire family when I left there was seven. Maybe, it was when we lived on the farm. Granger is now all shopping centers and multimillion dollar homes. By the way, [0:08:00] you could run from Granger and still be the representative for South Bend. And I remember, five member districts. And that was one day that 15, I told you 11 or 15 at large in Marion County, and 11 at large in Lake County. So that went to twos and threes, depending on your county was like we had to two member districts here. And a single district after the five. Marion County had three five member districts. And then we had this one I ran in the 70s. And then it was I don't even remember. Yes. And then in the 80s we went to similar.

BB:

Okay, yeah, that makes sense. So, how would you describe your childhood overall?

PB:

[0:09:00] Lived on a farm. Farm Boy, basically. We had the biggest nicest barn around. Big, big red barn you can see miles away. A basketball court on the second floor. Oh man, I always remembered. Clay High School won a state championship in the mid late mid 50s. And the guy later on helped IU win the national championship was from Clay, Western Clay. He would come to our barn and shoot around if I said his name you'd have to know his name, slipped his name right now. He came up to our barn and I was about five years old and he included me let me play. You would even know his name you [0:10:00] because he was number one, in IU. But he then became a pro basketball player. I'll remember his name. I think it'd be above a 1956. IU won a national NCAA Tournament that year and he was a player. Not sure the year, but in the 50s.

BB:

Yeah, I could probably look that up. [0:11:00] That would be if he's on the national championship team, then that would narrow it down quite a bit. From IU. I mean, that's, that's

cool that you had a basketball court in your barn. Was that like a place where lots of people would like to come and shoot around with you?

PB:

They came from all around.

BB:

Yeah. Wow, that's, that's fun. Now, did you play basketball at all growing up?

PB:

I played for St. Mary's campus grade school, which was on the campus of St. Mary's College. And I played 7th and 8th, and I made the freshman team at St. Joe. But when the debate team came out, I had a choice of either being sports editor, or the paper or staying on the debate team at that time. [0:12:00] it's I knew I wasn't getting a lot of playing time. Even that I'm only five foot five. So they sometimes worry I hurt my head went up and and hit the rim. But I love basketball. I play and that's when basketball... Well, still pretty huge. I like it when everybody got in that state tournament. Everybody got in that state tournament.

Because when your state champion in the 50s and 60s, maybe early 70s. You were in a tournament that every school in the state had played it. There weren't four or five winners.

BB:

Yeah, that's true. Who would you say was or who were the most influential people in your [0:13:00] childhood?

PB:

Oh, my dad, I think he was number one because he was into sports. He actually started, I went to a parochial school. We started the basketball and baseball teams there to get, it was part of a league that was called Inner city League and they got to be a one time a pretty big deal. But he was into all those sports. He went to Notre Dame and stuff like that. So I guess I'd have to say my dad. But I have to say the other thing I was in place when I was a little kid. My mother was head of drama at St. Mary's. I got into plays and probably a little kid or something. [0:14:00] So I did that. And my senior year of high school, we were the first I was the host of the first Junior Achievement television show in the nation was on WMDU and you had to go through the contest for all. So that was a half hour show. Or every week. Most of my senior year, but that was the first (Unintelligible) I think because of my mother's place like a little kid. That several plays at St. Mary's and when St. Mary became you know, when you started, I was in St. Mary's Place three or four others biggest employees when I was there. I don't know. If I was going to end up being I probably ended up I don't know what you call, [0:15:00] acting, but didn't pay off in the beginning so ended up well, they needed teachers. So they asked me to teach English in a school. And I got that first within the first couple of years. Once you're elected, you have to take a leave of absence. And your employer has to give you leave or half a year on the state to keep the job then I ended up with I was in education for 33 years and it's 15 as a teacher and 35 years, 15 as Assistant Superintendent [0:16:00] 20 some as teacher I became assistant. And then I worked for Ivy Tech as vice president Ivy Tech statewide on they were only really centrally located. They had their major location in Indianapolis. Go throughout the state. Many areas got dual credit,

they only had a battle to get dual credit with little Vincennes. Every school when I left were every high school in Indiana. And when I began, we were in maybe two schools.

BB:

Let's see. Growing up, how aware were you your family's politics? Was it something you guys talked about a lot or?

PB:

Well, Kennedy, [0:17:00] every Catholic kid in the nation with any brains, had Kennedy being president 1960. But I was before that. My dad first ran for office. He ran for township trustee, which was once a big deal because every township school was run by the township trustee. This isn't the 50s. So before Kennedy, Kennedy made it even higher goals, I guess. 54', 56' my dad ran for township trustee lost by 100 votes and when people vote the other way he would have won. But in those days, there was a slating and there was you didn't just go out there and race, you paid all these dues. He, I guess went door to door and that's why he came so close. That those days of township trustee was [0:18:00] very important because they ran the school. And he would had, I don't know, 10 elementary schools and a high school and have middle schools so. And that was probably the most important part of the trustees job later on and got the welfare. But there was some there back in the end, but not much. Then they changed that all mid 60s.

BB:

Yeah. Okay. And let's see while you were going through school growing up. Did you have any favorite subjects at all or?

PB:

Well, I read a lot. I was about five years old. My dad went to some auction and he bought I believe six or 700 books. [0:19:00] And among those books were the Nancy Drew mysteries. Maybe 12 or 15. I started reading those at five, six years old, I lived in the country. Kids my age we had scout we did manage to play football field and I guess my company that visited me and my home basketball court. But yet, I don't know reading was a big deal. I read Nancy Drew mysteries I remember I read every one it was an existence because that was a whole collection. And other I just think in some other Robinson Crusoe, all those kind of books. Some are which are considered children books, like Robinson Crusoe and a few of those others and adults read them too. So I started reading a lot. [0:20:00] Other than playing basketball, football. But we used to play football in the pasture right behind the barn. And all kids from all over the neighborhood would come and we went into this. I went into school to St. Mary's campus on the campus of St. Mary's College. You met all these other kids from around the Notre Dame area and so we make up teams and these people come out try to challenge us on the basketball court or on the field. So that was one (Unintelligible), and we had a lot of people going back and forth around the country so football and basketball pre prime.

BB:

Yeah, sounds like your family farm was a pretty popular spot in your neighborhood.

PB:

[0:21:00] Oh, my Dad jad square dances up there to called sqaure dances. They were a big deal.

BB:

Wow. Like an entertainment district almost there, yeah. Interesting. Okay. Now, what were your views about the state of Indiana or being a Hoosier growing up?

PB:

Well, when I was a kid. I thought to the eyes of basketball more than anything else because America did all star all state national championship. From the high school, in my area. And then from IU and the university. And of course, we lived in the shadow of Notre Dame. So football, sports was really big deal.

BB:

Yeah, sure.

PB:

And then farming. [0:22:00] We had a farm we lived on a farm. And by the time I was 11, or 12, I was driving a tractor ran hay bales. And I was helped or did 4000 bales of hay in the barn. The hay was going for a dollar bill. I was gonna I had a pony that I wanted to buy. Some horses. And there's these Tennessee Walking horses I saw for sale, for \$1,000. So I was looking at it. Well, lightning hit the barn. It blew all my hay burned up. My dad had become a friend of Charlie Finlays. When we were two or three years old that family lived nearby in the same housing area. [0:23:00] And my mother and Mrs. Finlay shared a hospital room where they both had their first child together plus lived in the same neighborhood so he's got to be a pretty good friend of my parents and all that when he was an insurance salesman and days and night worked in the steel mill. He got an idea because this insurance doctor. So he talked to my dad about it. So he and my dad, he drove my my dad with him to go to Chicago to sell to a big insurance company. My dad went to coffee house and waited about an hour and he came out says my name Bernie I'm a millionaire. And he really likened me to a lifetime friend, his sister two years younger me, it ended up going to every World Series game the first time (Unintelligible), [0:24:00] they have gotten a World Series. And she became the hostess on the plane players on one of the hosts on...the player's land when they travel that back and forth. She went to one of the games of the World Series.

BB:

Yeah. Wow. That's cool. So where did you attend college?

PB:

Notre Dame.

BB:

Okay. And what was your major?

PB:

Communication Arts. There was a TV show when I was a senior plus the other German High School paper junior and senior year. And I like to...if your an editor of the school paper you

could go to two week journalism class in Bloomington. Bloomington, I think most famous paper, Hyde College paper. [0:25:00] And they were known that that was a great experience.

BB:
Yeah, sure.

PB:
I was torn between IU and Notre Dame. I ended up getting a Masters at IU.

BB:
So and how do you view your college experiences?

PB:
That's great. Great. People. Some great professors.

BB:
Yeah, that's good. Did your awareness of politics change as you got into college and graduate school?

PB:
And I graduated from high school in 62'. So Kennedy was a huge Irish Catholic.

BB:
[0:26:00] Yeah. Okay. Now, right after college, what was your first job was teaching or?

PB:
Almost from the beginning. Masters and then yeah, that's the beginning of it yeah.

BB:
Yeah. And when did you get married?

PB:
I got married, when did I get married. Not for a little while. Had to wait for my wife. I got married in my 30s. And I was on the road. Because once I got in the legislature, I not only worked there, but I traveled and my job. [0:27:00] There was no big hurry. But I met my wife at Jesse Dickinson Middle School. And Jesse Dickinson was one of the first black state senators and Jesse Dickinson was my mentor. Because I'd say my life I lived in, write down the heart of town, in an apartment, which is also in the black community area. Jesse Dickinson state senator somewhat of a legend, come over to my voice and discuss legislature wherever he was. in Got to be pretty good friends. My dad 1965, which by the way, the Democrats happened to be in the majority. And then Jane Dickinson Jesse Dickenson's son was one of the legislators from South Bend [0:28:00] who came in as a freshman with my dad in 1965 session, and they got to be great friends. And so when I won his father, who was beginning of that, he was like 16 years house and senate. And so he, when I ran, he sort of became one of my mentors and all that Jane had moved to Indianapolis to go over the YMCA of Indianapolis. And anyway, I don't know what the bottom line was. I found my way to Jesse Dickinson Middle School.

BB:
And, yeah, go ahead.

PB:
And that's where we, we met. After a few years, she decided to go out with a politician.

BB:
[0:29:00] How many children do you have?

PB:
Three.

BB:
Okay, cool. Let's see.

PB:
One of them is a state rep.

BB:
Yeah, that's right. So the family tradition continuing there. And it's what third generation now state rep?

PB:
Yeah.

BB:
That's cool.

PB:
But she worked in a state house for four years. So when I was speaker and afterwards. She worked there for years and she helped. You know, when we went on the air, when we transfer for you know, while I was speaker that we started doing the cameras and everything. And I was, every year I drive down south to go to the [0:30:00] Oh boy I can't remember it now. It was South of Indiana. They got a casino there. Anyway, I gotta remember this. Well, I have to drive from Indianapolis down, eventually. And so when you get about halfway or two thirds there its an easy stop. My wife and a couple other people stopped at this little small town diner. And as I walked in, everybody stood up clapping. I looked around. What had happened is we had gone on this live feed and we're now on TV. We have (Unintelligible) help do that. When it first came out. Everybody was excited about it the (Unintelligible). [0:31:00] This is the first time I went out to an outlying area. Then I realize the power of television. I don't even know if they get that much attention anymore.

BB:
Yeah, that's an interesting question. Yeah.

PB:

I'll tell you because I could go anywhere in the state. During that time, people know who I was except for those beginning years atleast.

BB:

Yeah, yeah. True. Yeah. Now, when you first got elected, what were the key issues or legislation you wanted to champion or fight against?

PB:

Right from the get go I was a big environmentalist. Some of them from my dad, but [0:32:00] I also got it from living out in the country and hoping they weren't going to take it all. Which by the way, they have now. The environment in my freshman year, my dad had championed, anti-phosphate bill you know the phosphates in the detergent, you could go on the Tide detergent. And right on the box. it's 70% phosphate that was causing great problems. Grows it choked up the lakes and streams. It was actually an international problem. But it was a national problem. And they put me on Public Health and Environmental Affairs was a joint committee. And I did introduce it a few times. Made it aware, maybe [0:33:00] made it enough attention that when I introduced it, and I got put in Public Health, Environmental Affairs the chairman knew of it. And he said to me, "Well, I'll tell you, I'll give you a hearing." Well, I knew that every creature in the world and then you've got every environmental group at that time, Isaac Walthlake was very big. We remember all the others, but I remember the leader of (Unintelligible), and his wife. Very excellent. And that and that my freshman year I got anti-phosphate bill or limiting phosphate bill passed. Doc Bowen was speaker and he even before I went personally request and I put it there. He said "I'm going to go look and all that." [0:34:00] But he didn't do anything but they were trying to get him to stop and I will tell you the money people were coming at her left and right. He played it straight man. And it passed and so the next year and next couple of years, detergent ads, came here with tons of money. And Doc Bowen, of course was freshman year and then the next year we had annual session I was on the first annual session. I began we used to be every other year for well every other year and with only 60 straight days. My first year was the first annual session and we went back the second so then they all they bring in all these big guns. I can't remember the name but I used to I probably shouldn't use her name anyway, but I was a bachelor and you know, once you come up to the top, the Hilton was a dance area and we got some nice one. [0:35:00] They do everything to get you to. And they were given money out and they're trying to put pressure on everybody. We managed to stop the repeal. Long story short, they tried a few years when it got put into effect. When Bowen got to be governor went full effect. Anyway, maybe we can have an international ban or national ban. Within a few years,

BB:

Yeah.

PB:

Later years, two, three years ago, I got the first ban on microbeads in the country.

BB:

Yeah, okay. Wow.

PB:

That's now everywhere. It was we were the first.

BB:

Yeah, can you explain microbeads are so people listening this in the future?

PB:

[0:36:00] I can tell you is gleam toothpaste. People, they have little red dots on. Those little red dots are really small plastic things. What they really did is they put when you're brushing your teeth, it gave a little body to microwave. Anyway, and a lot of different products have those scrubbing powder, all that kind of stuff. Cause problems in a person. The fish would eat it, then you eat the fish. Created cancer. And we were the first nation to ban that to begin an international national international ban. [0:37:00] Same thing with what 50, 45 years earlier add on it 15. Many years earlier for. I guess 45, 46.

BB:

Yeah, that's pretty cool that you can make your international impact even from your state.

PB:

Both of those yeah.

BB:

Now, what was it like the first day you were elected? How did you feel?

PB:

I thought that was a pretty nice chamber. It's really an impressive place. It was very impressive. I liked the debates. I liked the speaking. I liked the challenges. Because you know I've been on the TV show [0:38:00] but I also did a lot of plays. My mother had been a director of plays. Not only same area that she did little theater, little theater was a big deal. Before television started dominating 50s and even early 60s. She was added to Laporte Theater. And she came here and did turners, which I don't know if you're familiar with them, and they really advocated athletics and things like that. And every turners would have a play the stage in a play. I think it was originally in a sort of a tournament. So they had some the push sports. And I would say culture. So they always had a basketball, weightlifting, bowling. I remember that. [0:39:00] We set a stage for dinner here and it was St. Mary's Place.

BB:

Yeah, that's cool. How did your feelings change with each time you got reelected?

PB:

Well, it's always it was always a challenge to remember the new lineup every time. So and I didn't get a frequent majority in 1975-76. I was Chairman then of Public Health and Environmental Committee. We did some, I think some good work then. Which one are you asking? I think as I went through those different 10 year periods, you also went to different...[0:40:00] My first term was a five member deal. Second was two member until my 11th or 12th year when I went to single well, I guess it went for 20 years (Unintelligible) for 10

years. And then later you're at they're there to say so. And then what. I love the whole process. I like the committees. We can debate things out. Smart salesmanship. My dad was in the sales business he sold...He was a distributor and a salesperson for water conditioning units and things like that. He knew that and I used to do (Uintelligible), we talk to people. [0:41:00] So that was the same thing you do when you're trying to sell your bill, you got to first get the chairman of the committee hearing. If you are the chairman which I had got to be for two years in environment and health they were blended together in those days. And I just thought, the whole process part salesmanship and making persistence.

BB:

Did your campaign strategies change over your political career?

PB:

Well, I figured I had to go out a lot the first year and so I never anytime. I mean, it's just you got to go full. Can't take anything for granted.

BB:

Yeah, sure. It makes sense. I mean, you had I guess you went undefeated your entire time. So it worked out

PB:

[0:42:00] 25 elections? Yeah. Probably a dozen primaries at least.

BB:

Pretty impressive record. Yeah.

PB:

Yeah, that is, I think the first state reps. It might be the national.

BB:

It'd be hard to beat. Yeah.

PB:

25 elections now Senator might have pick up a little more. So I think that might be the national.

BB:

Yeah. Yeah.

PB:

I think in the number of elections, that might be definitely.

BB:

Right. And when you first joined the General Assembly, I suppose that you...did you feel pretty comfortable with the legislative process because of your dad's history in the legislature? Or?

PB:

I'll tell you one thing, most, most almost [0:43:00] all people in politics are gregarious people, because they got to go out and sell things. I think like, the chairman I worked with, they're all Republicans they're very friendly. They were always accommodating because of the bill ahead philosophy that there is a good working relationship. And most appropriate person goes out and sell people on themselves and get elected, generally as an amiable or somewhat (Unintelligible) personality. And so you're working with people that know how to treat people. I guess that's what I'd say. So in general, I think you know, it can get tough sometimes. When he was a majority you got to look back but now, it's only maybe 5% or 10%. [0:44:00] It depends on how small it's about the day to day.

BB:

Did you have any political mentors in the General Assembly? Anyone like political mentors and the General Assembly or did you not need any or?

PB:

My dad was a mentor. I found some of the members that had been there before and especially the ones that have been present, helpful and helping talk to learn from others just from knowing whether they were even exchange [0:45:00] ideas and that goes bipartisan. Every bill I passed have bipartisan we were never in a super majority. So we had to win no votes over and if the Senate been Republican I could offer I'm 50 years (Unintelligible) and some of those people Kinley I think I'll tell you the budget area, because I was on that, you know, 12 years. And then if I wasn't, we had coat numbers close enough, this co author and bills I was minority budget and things like that. But all all the years that I was chair of Ways and Means or author of the budget, I had to deal with Republican Senate. You know, therefore, you had to learn to get along with them. And I got to like, [0:46:00] I mean, I first met Borst at Mills, who had been running the Senate for probably 12 years before and the world by the way.

BB:

Gotcha. Yeah.

PB:

I mean, we'd have all night and I'd be Chairman of the Budget Conference Committee all night, and we go for three four weeks. We'd stay up all night. I'd have to do it and do it. Sometimes, people you know that the whole world centers around that budget.

BB:

Oh, sure. Yeah.

PB:

People come at three o'clock in the morning.

BB:

That's a process.

PB:

But that's the only way because they have been there when I first got here, they've been so used to running the show. [0:47:00] You aren't gonna have me tell them what to do. [0:47:00] I was the chair and author of this bill in the house. No, I don't have to go we go and finally we get a deal I go over time, but everybody got the job done. After a while, both Borst and Mill became close friends. But we got to I mean, I I respected them and eventually, I guess they view that back to me. Plus we became friends because you worked so many hours together. In the end, you can accomplish great budgets. And maybe after a while they understood they were too because they get accolades for some of the stuff that was done because they're a part of it.

BB:

[0:48:00] Right, right.

PB:

Then, even the people they pick not because they've been out of control. Like not just Warren Mill, Borst, Meeks, and Kinley. And then you know another guy Pat Kylie and I were 50-50 and he was the Chairman of Ways and Means before I was I think it took I guess two paths I guess together but things could have been worse because we had a tie in the house and we still got I think a great budget. And then we had for me the opposition party. The whole time everything I was [0:49:00] Ways and Means Chair and we still managed aside got a big budget. We built IUs all over the state. There was only one real IU Bloomington and of course Indianapolis was built all the beginning guys part of that was because IU regionals were all basically it you name it Terre Haute. But also and then the other. I think other higher Ed was we built Ivy Tech together. I'm gonna say together whether Republicans, but in my time, and the leadership leads me into that has given great [0:50:00] education and learn the skills are that everything has to be done in the end in this state bipartisan.

BB:

Right. Yeah.

PB:

Because the Senate has been forever Republican and we have managed to. Well, it doesn't have to be now, but I think they do less accomplishments when they don't have that bipartisan.

BB:

That's interesting. Yeah. Yeah.

PB:

We did, thankfully, we had the majority in the Senate over there are more advancing and more compelling and more vibrant for our future than they do when they're both Republicans. They might do some kind of a pro state thing that we'd never consider some certain element of benefit. [0:51:00] The rest of us would like to get people progress. Programs help everybody I think it did, took that balance between the House and Senate.

BB:

Yeah. That's interesting. How did you know the needs and wants your constituents?

PB:

It was great communication. I mean, they call me. Write me. Some knock on the door. So that's one thing. And you know, the other thing that they don't they don't have anymore is we had a news reporter there every day. So you don't do that anymore. And most of the other newspapers had somebody there. And so people got to know things. And then [0:52:00] for a long period of time. We had WSVT TV and WINDYU down there almost every day. Now they don't go up at all. Not anymore. It's really true of the others too. Watch a TV or so many other ways of doing it. But they don't. There's reporters out there where there's always to talk and get the in depth. Now they still have some very good reports. There's no question but their AP or their local.

BB:

Yeah, that's interesting. I never really thought about that. But yeah, that makes sense that without having local reporters from your area, it's harder to get information that's not general. And specific stuff about your particular [0:53:00] part of the state. Do you remember what the first bill was that you sponsored?

PB:

That was the phosphate bill.

BB:

The phosphate bill okay. And how would you describe the interactions between democrats and republicans in your time and the general assembly?

PB:

Well, I started my...I think it's always been....I've always been able and most the time they were able to talk to me. I mean, but you still have to sell your program or bill or what you're doing and I find most people that get in the general assembly [0:54:00] are people people because they had to go out ask people to vote for them. I think its good.

BB:

Yeah, that makes sense. Now, did you see any change in the relationship between Democrats and Republicans over time? Or is it pretty much stayed the same since you started and retired from the General Assembly?

PB:

I can't tell you now because I'm not there. The same basic place.

BB:

Okay.

PB:

It is better to be in obscurity.

BB:

Oh, yeah.

PB:

But the (Unintelligible) is the individual [0:55:00] that come I think most people earn the trust of their people back home or go out meet with people. They have to be somewhat persuasive. So I think that type of person comes in the legislature. And so you can communicate to get there.

BB:

Yeah. But that's interesting. Okay. Yeah. I've heard some legislators in the past I've interviewed who said that they kind of felt that the relationship between the two parties had started to break down over time, and it wasn't as easy to work with each other. But yeah, that's interesting.

PB:

Let's say that. Well, I think having a super majority is beneficial to the poll at the end, not helpful even to the individual legislator republican or democrat. Because you [0:56:00] can become less potent in your ability, even if you're in the super majority. I mean, they don't they don't need 51 out of 70 or whatever. They have 75. So, you're important. When you have a close number between the two parties, it's more valuable to every member. Because you're needed more. When you have a supermajority. There's many of the majority they don't need and not a minority. But that's the job when the minority has to work harder and get the good points out about a bills. I want to sell the bad points about a bill that they're turning around if they're trying to ram it through. Twice, three times as hard.

BB:

Yeah. Okay. And how [0:57:00] did you garner support for legislation that you wanted to put in place?

PB:

Well, first, you gotta get something, hearing from the chairs. I try to give all the information I could tell people that were forced to contact that person. I mean, I work basically, the chairman of a committee in charge of the bill. That's why I think it's supposed to be I mean, it's way we do things. And I think most successful people in the legislature know its a committee system.

BB:

Yeah. Sure. And how is legislative business conducted outside of committee meetings and formal votes? Was it like talking to people in the halls or going to dinner with them? Or? [0:58:00]

PB:

Yeah, yeah.

BB:

Yeah. Okay. Did you have a good idea of how people would vote prior to actually voting?

PB:

Sure. To try and get a vote count.

BB:

Now, what was it like serving as part of, you know, leadership in the house versus just being a regular legislator?

PB:

Where you can work and focus completely on your committee work and on your bills. And when you're a leader, you have to worry, not be worried but can be concerned about others and their bills. And they're, how they're doing and helping out. So you, [0:59:00] you have to become a helper, everybody, and you need to also try to help steer them in the right direction.

BB:

Yeah, that makes sense. And how influential is party leadership in terms of making decisions?

PB:

How influential is party leadership?

BB:

Party leadership?

PB:

How influential was a leader?

BB:

Oh, sorry. How influential was party leadership in the General Assembly.

PB:

A Leader does is put how he leads. I think there's been good leaders most of the time.

BB:

Yeah. That's good. What were some good example was during your service of people coming together from both sides of the political spectrum to put legislation down? [1:00:00]

PB:

I mentioned the environmental bill.

BB:

Yeah. That one got lots of support.

PB:

Those first in the nation I had a couple of those are pretty big deal. Well, the DNA bill took me three years. And it was a really big deal. In the end, democrats and republicans, senators and house they call it Caucus Chair of the Republicans was a giant. He was a chair of the committee, I was ranking minority member of the judiciary. [1:01:00] And he was my co-author. And he, he was wonderful. He was wonderful when he held. I mean, it was really a battle we, you know, the author, and he went on as co-author. And we did it two years in a row. And then also many games to surprise us and stuff. And went out together and the senator from Bloomington, who was a blessing. We were able to do it, because there's a lot of the people that helped, because you

don't get a bill through like that I don't know why it was controversial but it sure is powerful. [1:02:00] In the end, we we had a strategy, and we have worked out very well. We had a bill in the house going in the senate a bill going in the house and some people it was strange, there were two people on the Senate committee that are hurting their own people and somehow flipped out on us, so we had to readjust and get over that. It was so many, but it was not just a one year period, really two years. That's when democrats and republicans and senate and house leaders or principals were pretty well together. We had a senate bill and house bill. And we had the backup in case, one got backstabbed. [1:03:00] Except in the senate committee, a couple of people totally, total flip flop, but we managed to land on our feet, because we had the back up bill.

BB:
Right. Okay. Sure.

PB:
It's more complicated than that, but it's not. And we had to work, like, slowly and it became. It's wonderful. And you know, the reports are just so positive.

BB:
Yeah, that's good. Yeah, that's great. Now, what was the backstory on that DNA bill?

PB:
I want to just say, there are people that spent 15 years in prison that were exonerated by DNA. We had one of them come testify. [1:04:00] And, in fact, they are these national what are they called. My wife and I went to a national convention. It was a conference, Atlanta national conference. And they have booths and my wife met this woman that daughter had been raped and murdered and burned to death. And she had spent three, four years working to get the killer committed, and she just put her whole life in that. There was DNA they used to prove who the killer was. And she had gone she was on [1:05:00] a national mission to get that passed. So I went, she came down and we went down and talked to that woman. So my efforts, tried it. Got it out of the house. We came back and I went to the next one. So her mother, again, and then more people standing up. And people get convicted of murder for nine years. And this cleared me and our kitchen people. And I mean, that was a battle that had to be won. Champions became a champion with that so democrats and republicans can work together. I can remember, I was a ranking member of the judiciary, he was the chair. He was my co-author. [1:06:00] And at the end, it didn't matter who the co-author, because of the sponsor, it was from Bloomington, senator from (Unintelligible), and she stuck through it. And her husband, prosecutor, and lawyers. But he was very ill while he was (Unintelligible). And after that, and then a trial. I'm sorry, that prosecutors association got behind it to that one that I'm glad you brought that one up.

BB:
Yeah.

PB:
So I mean, that's that's an example. If he gets something he's just (Unintelligible) is for one thing, but persistence. And it's just never giving up.

BB:

Yeah, definitely. And so that DNA bill, it kind of [1:07:00] like I remember reading about it a little bit. I guess, like kind of expanded who you could collect DNA from to catch criminals?

PB:

Yeah, people that are wrongfully prosecuted, are free and people aren't guilty are found.

BB:

Yeah, that's, that's really interesting. Let's see here. What, what would you say the public does not know about the Indiana General Assembly and how it operates?

PB:

Well, it's all changed because they don't really have as much viewing of it as I can't really, I think it's a little less today than they used to because it's not as publicized. [1:08:00] I mean, they could they have access to if they go out of their way. Before it was right there in the front. So it was it was ongoing. Mean, it's available if they want it. They get called they can. But it's not given to him. Like before it was delivered to them and their daily paper wasn't. It's not a TV, like it used to be.

BB:

Right. Yeah, definitely a different time there. Yeah. How did your legislative service affect your family life?

PB:

So I had a great wife. And she, she understood, without her I couldn't have done it.

BB:

Yeah, okay. Sure. What would you say was the most controversial legislative issue during your time in the assembly? [1:09:00]

PB:

We had some great battles.

BB:

What were the highlights?

PB:

I'd have to go year by year.

BB:

Wow. A lot of them I guess, alright. What would you say were the main ones?

PB:

Somebody would have to remind me, because I can't remember right now. There was a lot of battles. We were 50-50 twice. And then we were 52-48 and we had a lot of those close ones

[1:10:00] go over those years were there. I mean, I try to think of any others because it was it's a big one, but I really...environmental laws are big, but they weren't (Unintelligible) as much.

BB:

Yeah, makes sense.

PB:

Once people said to you remember this and Beaumont give you 15 minutes?

BB:

I understand.

PB:

But my battles are environmental bills and budget.

BB:

What piece of legislation would you say took the most time?

PB:

Oh, how about the budget, [1:11:00] it took us almost the whole state suit, which I remember everybody was governor, and they were going to help destroy (Unintelligible). They weren't not gonna give us a budget. And I remember we might close. By coming in, if he came and showed him a three year old, 32 year old kid. They had it for a number of years. And they're just gonna kill any budget. So this it was a battle royale that was. So there's this national coverage, see legislation. And so my wife met the person whose (Unintelligible) help find DNA and work through years. [1:12:00] At San Francisco, Willie Brown was the speaker, very legendary speaker of California. So he was there. He was the host of this national congress. You gotta say whatever you do, don't let your state shut down. He talked about California, passing a budget, and all that, how everything stopped. The state was in a stalemate, and went on for weeks on when he was still going on during that conference. And he said "No matter what you do." Well, that was the one that we almost did. We almost went over the line. He was there with a state that was shut down. I remember that. [1:13:00] And I did that I had to I did in my end. Every one of those members mentioned make some (Unintelligible) And I'm probably missing one or maybe the other. But they weren't well, but the battle that year was anger over (Unintelligible). And that they were going to shut that state down. We came with an hour. That was probably the most intense.

BB:

Yeah, sounds like it. What would you say was your proudest moment as a legislator?

PB:

Oh, we just reviewed about five or six.

BB:

All right, fair enough. Yeah. Many proud [1:14:00] moments. Now, what, in your opinion is the most important work of the Indiana General Assembly?

PB:

I think they have to distribute a fair budget, that first of all guarantees a good education for kids all over. And also, one thing we haven't been doing is protecting the environment. That's something we should need to do. But education is important to everyone. But you also gotta remember our health and our future and protecting and not abusing our environment. And also, I just have to say, redistricting. Because the public deserves a chance to elect somebody that's competent and not just there because his (Unintelligible) managed to compile a district [1:15:00] that excludes somebody that should have been part of that community, or you know, just lopsided everything. So I think the next big on coming up is the fairness and legitimacy of the district.

BB:

Yeah. Okay. Now, let's see, turned towards some more specific questions about different pieces of legislation that I kind of I found in the newspaper archives that we have. Let's see, do you remember, apparently, like this is in 2002. Do you remember a situation where there was, I guess, a little bit of controversy about one of your campaign donors apparently had some like ties to the gambling industry or something. And some people were worried about how it could influence a bill? Do you remember anything about that?

No.

Okay. Yeah, I wasn't sure if you would, since that was almost 20 years ago, [1:16:00] but I figured I'd mention it Anyway. Let's see. In 2007, I guess there was a debate over an amendment that would ban same sex marriage. Do you remember that debate at all or?

PB:

No, let me think what year was that?

BB:

2007.

PB:

I don't know. I wouldn't doubt somebody just to get attention.

BB:

Okay. Apparently it was said in the in the paper that you refused to allow a House vote on the amendment, I guess. And some people were upset with you or something like that.

PB:

I refused to do what?

BB:

To have a House vote on the amendment.

PB:

Sometimes they're not germane.

BB:

Yeah. Yeah. Right.

PB:

Sounds like it's right from here. [1:17:00]

BB:

So you stand by the decision that's right. Yeah. It was interesting. Yeah. But yeah, some people in the newspaper I guess were...some of the Republicans I guess, complained to the newspaper about that.

PB:

Well they were German or germane. Maybe they were on the bad, bad, bad German back when. But it was. I will tell you without knowing what the situation was, I'd say it would be ruled not germane.

BB:

Yeah. Yeah. That makes sense.

PB:

They used to throw crap in all the time. And you got you got some people that are so far out the door. Usually. On that too often.

BB:

Right. Interesting. Let's see. What about this, [1:18:00] I guess in 2009, there were some reports, I guess that you were involved in trying to strengthen restrictions on the role of money in politics from lobbyists and stuff. Do you remember that at all, or?

PB:

Yeah, we were gonna have limits here and there. I did some eliminate a lot of things. I said you had to wait a year before you got a job.

BB:

Yeah. Now, how well do you remember the legislative walk out of 2011?

PB:

I remember very well.

BB:

So can you describe to me what the situation was with that and what exactly happened and why.

PB:

There decided to destroy unions. We decided not to draw attention to it. So we stayed out until they were running over rules just dominating. And so we stayed out until we tried to get some

[1:19:00] pressure going the other way. We did our best and finally we decided that we couldn't do it so. That was some people in our caucus. It wasn't easy to do for us. We lost pretty (Unintelligible) because you aren't there. Sometimes things are somethings wrong you that are trying your best in whatever we can to stop. Yeah, I think right now. In this state, or more. I think bigger what could I say. It's a real blow to the weakening of our building trades. And they are they can't do as much as they used to be able [1:20:00]. But and I, you know, we knew it was coming if we had too many numbers against us for this, this state if you have to work this day very hard to win as a Democrat. Because I don't know we just the money is more than money. A televisions expensive. And you can beat a veteran legislator, like they (Unintelligible). They just want expensive television. And we had a guy that ran Minority Leader guy, and very good listener. You do the bombing through television you can knock out somebody.

BB:

Wow. Yeah.

PB:

[1:21:00] Right now we'll I think we have one Democrat from the south. 12, 14,15, 16.

BB:

Wow. Yeah. That's crazy. Do you feel now...I think, was it that you guys left and you went to Illinois during that walkout? Is that correct?

PB:

Yes.

BB:

Now, why did you choose to go there exactly?

PB:

Well, they couldn't send the police, which would took the command of the governor.

BB:

Okay. Interesting. Yeah. And do you feel that it made a difference at the end to help get you a better compromise or anything? Or?

PB:

Well, I think it may have [1:22:00] because it's on that issue. Other issues they might be tempted to do. It was a price. It was not. It was a, it was a hard thing to do. And it was something that I think people should realize it had to be done. Because it's so easy just to ram something through. And do anything you want. If you don't demonstrate that it was sacrifice. Some that are worse than others some would rely on the salary and the expenses and the expenses and other jobs to be a part time, which is what we're supposed to be [1:23:00] doing full employment, but for some reason other some who might have been in that situation, or they should have.

BB:

Yeah, that makes sense.

PB:

That's all I can say about that. But I do think that the state's worse off than they were.

BB:

Yeah. Okay. Let's see. I also read in 2012, that there were some reports, I guess that some Democrats were interested in challenging your leadership in the House. Do you remember that at all, or?

PB:

Yeah, they did. And I will say, I was on the DLCC Legislative Campaign Committee. And in 12', in our election, [1:24:00] we I gotta figure if it was 10' or 12', that we went nationwide, I think. I think nationwide, the Democrat's guy. We had supermajorities and most of our southern states that went to super minorities. They couldn't break. And the DLCC had out of 99 leaders, either speakers, pro speakers, senate pro tems, or minority leaders. Out of 99 potential people in the state. I was one to 16 in democratic legislative (Unintelligible) the National Democratic legislative Campaign Committee, focused on money for state legislative races. [1:25:00] I averaged over 5 million plus every year raising money for the campaign. And that year, I think it might have been I gotta tell you what year, I think from 10' to 12'. We were still in the majority, or we went in the minority and 12'. If you might be right about the year. But anyway. So we went, like I just told you in that year, I think, I believe it was 12'. We went all over this country. And we were the highest number 40 to 51, we were the closest and the highest of all these former speakers, seven or eight of us, that 16 panel, and a couple of the pro tems, [1:26:00] and the rest of them might have been minority leaders that were put on there, because you're getting it. I was the only one that got that I am that close. But some people said they could do better. Meanwhile, that was a major conduit to national money. That's where you got your bigger dollars. And I would get 1 million more a couple of years before that. And as a member of that, and they sort of honored me or praised me for having the closest 40 to the magic number. I mean, that meant all these others had gone from majorities in some cases, super majorities to minor. Minor numbers. So they use that, about it and everything. They want to take over the campaign for the next thing. So what am I gonna do? [1:27:00] I decided, also, here's the other thing and none of these people understand it. Well, some of them might have they tried. You travel, you travel the state and you traveled to DC you travel to Pittsburgh, you travel to raise money, you're not going to get the big check. And sometimes unless you missed it, they didn't do that. So we went from that 40 to 31. I left that position I was trying to get back to 51. But I knew that I had a excellent chance of 46. Going up to 46. And I was working on trying to get enough to get up higher, and (Unintelligible). As soon as that happened. All those pledges were cancelled the amount of money it was gone. So they went [1:28:00] from 40 to 31. Then they work themselves down to 29. And now, unfortunately, I think they're 26. And I didn't know any of this last campaign. I don't believe about anybody I just don't know. I stayed out of except for the one seat. One seat here, because I'll tell you why. No one told me. A couple of good friends of mine got beat. But they never called me anything. I don't know if they saw it coming.

BB:

Yeah, yeah.

PB:

I mean, I don't know. Because you see, the people that are in charge have never done any of that. I mean, if you don't see, but I saw it coming because I take polls. Now polls costs money, you gotta be able to go get that money.

BB:

Right, right.

PB:

There's an art to that. [1:29:00] And it's not sitting on your but. But also they haven't made contacts. You know, I had been before I became speaker I have been Ways and Means Chairman for two speakers before me. And for both of those speakers. I had worked to get the majority so they could be Speaker I could be Ways and Means Chairman. So I had a hell of experience. So they thought they could do with no experience. And then you have to recruit, a part of my life's in sales and a number of years, I've had to sell people to vote for me. So I go to the district, recruit the candidate. Then I go back and do press conferences, and then I'd be on their back. They never did that. You made it look too easy. Well, they weren't looking. [1:30:00] They took a look at this last campaign, the governor's candidate, Lieutenant Governor, candidate. They did not say. And by the way, the person that was put in as a minority leader, take my place was the lieutenant governor candidate. She is now suffered her second devastating defeat. When you go from 40 to 31, we were (Unintelligible). And by the way, everyone was predicting we would get to 46. I was the one had to convince some people we go to 48. Because that's why we would ask more funding to get those. Did you see what I'm saying? So it polls you do this. And you saw that. And so they went from 40 to 31. She was my oh, my God, she was a lieutenant governor [1:31:00] candidate list. That proves they're not they don't know. They know not what they do.

BB:

That's interesting. Let's see. I read that you were involved in some large reforms to the state tax system. Do you know much remember much about that?

PB:

The reforming of state tax system?

BB:

Yes.

PB:

What we did was reform. I can't tell you specifically. Because it's pretty it's minutiae. But in fact, I wish I could just remember. This better, by the way?

BB:

Yeah, I hear you. I hear you fine.

PB:

The other one was starting to fade on. Battery phones.

BB:

Oh, yeah,

PB:

I did. We did a lot of tax reforming. I mean, [1:32:00] that was part of my ways and means is tax and budget. I forget all that.

BB:

No worries.

PB:

I did a lot of tax adjustments deals if you want to call that. School formula. That was basically the biggest battle. Doesn't seem to be much of a battle anymore. But that's basically it, used to be a mix and effect between state and local, the local don't get hardly anything anymore compared to with these. Mix doesn't matter as much, and is complicated.

BB:

Let's see. What about your legislation called "Who's your RX?" I guess that was that was used to lower prescription drug costs. Do you remember that?

PB:

[1:33:00] I can't really, I don't have that in front of me. I was on public health. Chairman of Public Health Environmental Affairs in 1975-76. So I was on committee, and I was on that committee more than half the time I was in the legislature. So I got involved in some of that.

BB:

Yeah. Okay. All right. Well, let's see, we're at our last set of questions here. They're kind of more big picture oriented. Now, you are the longest serving member, I guess, ever in the Indiana House of Representatives. What made you want to be part of the General Assembly for that long?

PB:

I think where I was at what [1:34:00] I could do with the most effective place I could be. And even in the Super minority, I was able to get things done. I didn't like, like it, and ask for it. But I think I was able to get things done. And I wanted to be there in a position where I could. People give me pause for saying you could go to Congress, you could do that. I look about what I could do in Congress in the next two years. And what I could do in the statehouse, or at least came out plus here. So are they, I thought that was the office. I knew I that was an office I was able to succeed and do things for people and the others did take time maybe. But I thought about it and I was asked to do it a couple of times. [1:35:00] US Senate probably the other position I would have gone for but nobody offered me \$10 million.

BB:

Yeah. expensive process.

PB:

The only reason you get six years.

BB:

Yeah. Wow.

PB:

Time to get something done. Fourth, fifth and sixth year.

BB:

Now. I guess for a lot of people is probably fairly. That probably makes sense, I guess I suppose. But why? What made you officially decide to leave the Indiana General Assembly? Did you feel like you kind of reach the milestone? You were there like 50 years, so?

PB:

Well, my wife wanted to live life with me here.

BB:

Make sense. [1:36:00] Yeah.

PB:

Well, at the same time. During that time, I did 33 years, out 35 years at South Bend schools, and 16 or 15 years. So there's another 48 years. So I mean, I didn't just do a state rep. Maybe after its not a full time job. So I was a teacher for most of that time. Well, I told young years. And I was eventually became Vice president statewide of Ivy Tech, and I helped it grow. And we build credit from about four or five schools to the whole state. Hundreds of high schools throughout the state.

BB:

[1:37:00] How would you summarize your time as a state legislator overall?

PB:

Well, there's no question that we are on the Budget Committee, State Budget Committee, a five member panel, which I was maybe 20 years, 20 years. And that takes a lot of time. And then leadership takes a lot of time. So I think it takes a lot of time and therefore when you're the regular legislative and is four months, one year, three months and the next. But then if you have those other assignments, I'd say for five days, I'm gonna say I better say for yeah, for maybe four hours [1:38:00] or four days, every month during the offseason, I call it for the month, and maybe it'll be fine. But you have to go hey, usually you don't just go to the budget committee, travels the state three days on the road every now and then you may have a fourth day to deliberate code mainly capital projects. I was on that for a long time. And so away from my wife and away from home. We had these delightful tours, visiting prisons.

BB:

Yeah.

PB:

And you know, were in (Unintelligible) looking at oil contamination, [1:39:00] I mean, you did it everywhere you went to every major state facility in the state. So I mean, that was going to be part of my life. Then you got the leadership, which is more than a decade after about 40%. I got about 5-10 more minutes.

BB:

Okay. Sure. Yeah, we're almost done here. I'll just wrap it up. A couple more questions. Let's see. What advice would you give to future legislators or even current legislators?

PB:

What would I give advice to newer which one?

BB:

To future and current legislators.

PB:

[1:40:00] Who I'd have to do it from a perspective of what the Democrats are already. I think just sitting in that chamber is a possibility of doing good. And you have tools that you can do it, you have, ideas that work, you can do secondary amendments. That's one way. You also have committee. And committee work should be the heartbeat. And so on the committee issue work on those committees. And you offer an amendment if its appropriate. I think you do need to talk to the chairman. And you do so. The other members....And by the way, your word is your bond.

BB:

Yeah, okay. Yeah. That's good.

PB:

You vote no, when you should vote [1:41:00] yes. I mean, know your votes. I think most of them do that.

BB:

Yeah. Okay. How would you say the Indiana General Assembly has changed over time?

PB:

I don't know that's tough. Probably where it has changed if include the word adjust. You have to adjust. Two years is different. Because there's a different lineup. who's in power. Who's not. Its that the adjustments, so you have to be willing to adjust.

BB:

Yeah. Okay. Let's see. Last question here. What do you want Hoosiers to know about their role in relation to the function of the Indiana General Assembly?

PB:

[1:42:00] I think people should know they can call their representative or email because he's your representative. Or she is your representative. And by the way, you'll get a better response from me quicker than you would from a congressman because you know what? They're one of 430.

BB:
Yeah.

PB:
I'd say you shouldn't do, either. But I guess they are a shorter trip.

BB:
Yeah. Makes sense. Well, thank you so much for for, for doing this. I really appreciate it. It's gonna be a good, good addition to the to the project, and especially since you were there so recently, so it's been really, really interesting.

PB:
How far back are you going?

BB:
Well, the earliest person I've interviewed [1:43:00] served in 1961. And I basically I, I interview anyone who's around, that served in the General Assembly, about their experiences. So if you ever have any names about former members, I should interview you know, feel free to let me know and I can make sure to get them on my list. So.

PB:
You know I was a five member group for many years. Historical Commission. Garton was on it. I was on it. I think my dad was on it before I was we used to get more briefings all the time. I know he'd go down a library and see that group. See those names. You'll see. I think that's the name of the Legislative Historical Committee. There were five of us. [1:44:00] Garton on for a long time I was on there. My dad was on before I was ever because you know, he was on state senate 26 years.

BB:
Yeah. Okay. Sure.

PB:
There's an example of a very close friend of mine.

BB:
Yeah, yeah.

PB:
I mean, I told you I can't finance people did, though Bob Garton and I became ver close friend of mine too.

BB:
Yeah, okay.

PB:

You know what I, I one moment he have not brought up this governor (Unintelligible).

BB:

Okay. Yes, yeah.

PB:

Yeah, because I was my wife and I were in a National Congress, the state legislative speakers, in a way. I've just gotten there. Let's say I'm gonna make up the night we got to the next morning I was still there gotta call the donor. And you gotta get back. [1:45:00]

BB:

Yeah.

PB:

So I had to go. All the way back and then I tell ya Governor Kernan. I mean, he wasn't governor then. He was very upset and emotional, Garton. Everybody was shook up. And that was for three or four days that were really really traumatic and Judy O'Bannon was absolutely a saint and wonderful. She really helped. And that was a time that people don't know about. I was a speaker and the president pro tem approved Joe Kernan. [1:46:00] That was a really moving time Judy O'Bannon was there. But so anyway, I just thought I'd throw that in.

BB:

Yeah, no, definitely. Okay. Okay, perfect. Thank you so much.

PB:

Bye

BB:

Bye bye.