

CENTER FOR FLORIDA HISTORY ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEW WITH: EDGAR H. PRICE, JR.

INTERVIEWER: JAMES M. DENHAM

PLACE: BRADENTON, FLORIDA

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M= James M. Denham (Mike)

E= Ed Price

E: [Resume discussion of 1968 senatorial race between Leroy Collins and Ed Gurney] Well, it was a trying and difficult time because it was very hard to raise money, for one thing, and you had people all over the state who had never voted Republican in their lives, and yet the one thing, ...they put out flyers all over the state, really rough ones, with Roy, showing him marching down the street at Selma with Martin Luther King. That was the biggest one. A lot of those kinds of things. They spread 'em everywhere. People in his own home town, his own county, all of 'em, that was what it was all about. It wasn't about who could make the best Senator or had the best program, best policies, it was about one thing, and that was the march itself. That's what it was all about. And that's what beat Roy.

M: And the connection to Lyndon Johnson?

E: Oh yeah, if it wasn't for Lyndon, we wouldn't have had the Civil Rights Movement. He stuck his neck out, though, and I was proud of him for doing it. I was a district delegate in Los Angeles when Jack Kennedy was nominated, and then I was a delegate at Atlantic City when Lyndon was nominated after Jack Kennedy was gone. I got to know Jack Kennedy when he came down to speak to Gator Growl. George Smathers was his best man when he got married, you know. And, of course, Kennedy and Smathers were good friends forever. When I went to the Kennedy nomination out there as a district delegate, Governor Collins was the chairman. He did a magnificent job out there.

M: That was 1960.

E: Yeah.

M: You can see the newsreels and you can see Governor Collins up there.

E: Yeah. He did a magnificent job. He really did. And, of course, all things being equal, he never stopped doing good things after he was. He always stayed involved, always tried to do what he could to help the things that he had started, junior colleges, and that type of thing. Then I got him to serve on as a director on our Tropicana board, and he continued to be Of Counsel to a major law firm. He, without a doubt to me, is the finest

governor Florida has ever had, and probably Reubin Askew, Lawton, and Bob Graham, followed in his footsteps. Reubin Askew looked upon Roy Collins as a father; I mean he was his mentor. More young people went into politics in this state because of Roy Collins' leadership and example than any other man, I think. A man who goes into the Governor's office is measured by the people he appoints, what kind of people they are, and you could look all over the state and see the judges and the people that served on major federal and state agencies that Roy Collins appointed, and they were all outstanding. It was like Reubin. Reubin appointed the first black person to the Supreme Court in the State of Florida. And Lawton ended up appointing the first black judge to the circuit here, who was a person that I had recommended, because he was the most qualified.

M: Well, let's cut it here and the next time we meet, we can pick up at about 1959 when you got the hankering to run for office.

E: That's when I really got close to Lawton. Before that, I had known him through Senator Holland but didn't really develop any closeness until we elected to the Legislature at the same time in 1958.

M: This is James Denham once again at the office of Ed Price in Bradenton, Florida. Today is August 13, 2003, and I'm with Ed Price once again to continue our oral history of his life and his memories of Lawton Chiles. The last day we were together, you discussed your early childhood and military service, and your business life up to about 1958 when you decided to run for public office. Today I'd like to take us up to that point and get some of your memories of Lawton Chiles. But before I do that, there are three people that would have come into the picture before that time that I'd like to ask you about. Ed Ball is one, and I think we discussed a little bit about him. And two African Americans that had a very important impact in Florida; Robert Saunders and, of course, Harry T. Moore. Let's start with Mr. Ball? But first, is there anything from last time's discussion that you'd like to go over?

E: I don't remember exactly what we talked about, but Mr. Ed was a friend. My father had known him well in the early days and I met Mr. Ball when I was fairly young. I was born in Jacksonville and lived there from time to time but I guess it was only after I became involved in business after World War II that I really called upon him to be helpful in some ways. I think one of the things I remember most about him during the war, and I might have told you this, was when I was stationed at Apalachicola, in the old Army Air Corps. Mr. Ball gave us his suite at Wakulla Springs so anybody from Florida could use his suite any weekend we wanted to go down there. He provided us with meals and everything else, which we thought was great. After the war, when I first started working back in Manatee County as manager of the Florida Gladiolus Growers Association, I was trying to develop some packaging to handle every size glad. Mr. Ball, through DuPont in Jacksonville, owned the big St. Joe Paper Company, and he invited me to come to St. Joe. I went up and stayed with him at the chateau; that's what he called his place up there. Mr. Ball, notwithstanding all the stories you hear about him, was the most courteous man, a real gentleman to be around. He always liked to have a little touch of Bourbon and I don't drink, but he didn't let that bother him. I had a good time with him up there. And they helped us in the St. Joe Paper Company to develop this box, which we later used in the business. Then, after I became Executive Vice President of Tropicana, which was back in 1955, I guess, our company was growing so fast that we

didn't have any cash available. Our cash flow was terrible and our ratio was probably inverted 1:2. I went to see Ed Ball at the Florida Bank in Jacksonville. He had just built the new bank building and was so proud of it he took me all over the building. The elevators were big enough to drive a truck onto, and he had all this beautiful marble from Italy. He set up a financing plan for me with all of the Ball banks throughout Florida. They had a bunch of 'em in those days, where we could take warehouse receipts for financing without having to put any funds in the bank. They became our primary source of money even though we had many, many banks throughout Florida that financed us.

Later I went onboard early as a Director at the Florida Chamber of Commerce. At that time the headquarters were in Jacksonville, and Mr. Ball sort of ran the place. It was a little clique up there, and the first thing I did as President of the Florida Chamber was to help get the Florida Chamber office moved from Jacksonville to Tallahassee, where it belonged. Mr. Ball wasn't a bit happy about that, he felt like it ought to be in Jacksonville. But he was always a friend and while I didn't agree with him politically many times because he was a strong supporter of the "pork choppers", and when I was in the legislature, I was opposed to many of their proposals.

M: Well maybe once we get you elected we can go into some of those things and bring Mr. Ball into them.

E: I've always enjoyed the fact that I knew Mr. Ball. I think he was one of Florida's outstanding characters, and probably one of its distinguished citizens. Later on, I was a trustee of Stetson University, and Jessie Ball DuPont provided the business school and a lot of money for Stetson University.

M: I benefited from her too because I attended symposiums and some other things that her foundation endowed. Before we get you elected, what about James Haley? You referred to him earlier, that you'd known him. Can you comment on him? By the way, his papers are at Florida Southern.

E: That's great. Well, obviously, growing up in Sarasota, we all knew each other. It was a small town in those days and Jim Haley was my Legion baseball coach when I was a real young kid. Later on, we knew the Ringlings and everybody else, and as we went along, we got to know each other and kept pace. Jim, in the early days, ran a garage in Sarasota but he married Aubrey Ringling and, of course, he became the titular head of Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey. They had the fire in Hartford and Jim served a year in prison; he took the whole thing on himself and served a year in prison as the one responsible, when he was no more responsible than anybody else for it. It was an accident. But I kept up with him after he got elected to the Florida legislature because I was interested in what was happening with the crime scene in Florida, all over Florida. They had created the Haley Committee and Jim had hearings all over the state that helped bring about legislation that helped provide a way in which laws in Florida dealing with crime could be enforced.

M: Was that in the 1949, 1950 area? Along the same time as the Kefauver hearings came along?

E: Yeah. And I knew Estes Kefauver for two years, by the way, and his wife, Nancy. I had a chance to be in Washington with them.

M: Is it fair to say that that was the Florida version of the Kefauver hearings? Would you say that that would have been triggered by the embarrassment of the focus on organized crime in Florida from Kefauver perhaps?

E: Yeah, and I think that had a lot to do with it.

M: Okay. So he obviously used that as a vehicle in which he could run for national office.

E: Right. And I supported Jim when he ran for national office.

M: And he was a member of Congress for many years.

E: Yes, he was. In fact a group of us had gone up to Washington when he retired and presented him with a photograph. I know I've got a picture of four of my fraternity brothers that we met up there at Jim's. All of us had supported Jim real strongly. His secretary was Alice Meyers, who lives in Palmetto. She's a historian for that part of Florida, in Palmetto. She really ran the Haley office in Washington. She was with him the whole time he was up there.

M: Is she still alive?

E: She is and she's very active in the Palmetto Historical Association. If you ever want any information on Jim Haley, she's got it all. She was his executive assistant.

M: Let's go back to your career then. Can you remember the circumstances around which you decided to run for office? Were you already Vice President of Tropicana at that time?

E: Executive Vice President of Tropicana. I guess I told you that I really got interested in politics while I was in high school. I helped create student governments, was President of the Student Body for several years, those types of things, and that got me tuned up and I know coming along, my dad knew some of the governors and senators and that type of thing, and I got to meet some of 'em in the early days and got sort of interested in it. As far as running for the State Senate is concerned, one of my best friends was Joe Bill Rood. We were freshmen together in college. He is from Bradenton, Manatee County area, died a few years ago. We went out to help Joe Bill get elected to the State Senate. It was Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte counties, the old 36th district. He got elected by about 150 votes out of the three counties. We went out and worked for him all over, door to door, in all three counties. He served in the House first and then he served in the Senate, and after serving in the Senate for just one term, he didn't like it all that much and announced that he had decided to retire. I had worked with Governor Leroy Collins by that time and helped Dan McCarty get elected Governor, and Roy Collins was sort of my mentor. I was so interested in many things that were happening in the state and that needed to happen when he Joe Bill decided to retire, and Roy sort of encouraged me to run for that office. Notwithstanding the fact that I was real busy with Tropicana and a lot of committees all over the state. I decided to run, so I went out and met all the newspapers immediately, in every one of the counties, and gave speeches all over the three counties. I didn't talk about politics; I gave them the Tropicana story. I didn't make it a purely political thing, just kept myself known. I got

a commitment from all of the newspapers, daily and weekly, so when it came time for qualifying, nobody qualified against me, nor did they qualify against Jim Haley, and they wrote it up in the papers that Jim Haley and I both were elected unopposed.

M: Wow.

E: It was fantastic to me, in the biggest senatorial district in Florida at that time, to be elected unopposed. It was a real honor, and I appreciate it.

M: That was 1958. So your first session would have been right after Christmas.

E: 1959. Of course, I was a little bit in politics before then, serving on the Board of Control, which is a predecessor of the Board of Regents.

M: Sure, so you knew at least a lot about education and legislation. Can you comment on the Senate people, in 1959 when you first served, in a general way, who you knew, who you didn't know, who were some of the young people coming in with you at that time, the people that you kind of gravitated to?

E: Well, at that time the legislature, the Senate particularly, was split up. What they called the "pork choppers" were primarily senators that represented rural areas, smaller areas.

M: Like you. Or were you in one of those districts?

E: No, I represented Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte, which was the largest senatorial district at that time. But the "pork choppers" had almost taken a blood oath that they would stick together on everything. I mean, it didn't make any difference if one of 'em was opposed, they had agreed to go along with the majority on what was happening. They would have you think that the 13 others of us who went up; some of the newspapers categorized us as the "lamb choppers". But some of 'em came from small areas themselves; they just had a different philosophy than the "pork choppers" did. We had many strong battles on the floor of the Senate. Notwithstanding that, many of the "pork choppers" were really good people, fairly representing their constituency and what they felt was right. What we were opposed to was the lack of apportionment, where there were pine trees representing people rather than representatives. Judge Dill Clark, the Senator from Monticello, and they only had about 6500 people in Jefferson County, was as strong as the Senator from Dade County. They only had one Senator from Dade County in those days. We were very much separate on many things. But at the time, at the end of the session I was on the conference committee and it wasn't unusual for me to join with one of the "pork choppers" to help get appropriations for the judiciary or take care of junior colleges, that type of thing, and yet we'd be strongly opposed to each other on many other things; we were philosophically different. One of the interesting people there that I enjoyed being with was Charley Johns 'cause I worked for Dan McCarty, a good friend, who died six months after he was in office. Charley Johns was President of the Senate and at that time, we had no Lieutenant Governor and the person to follow the Governor if he died in office was President of the Senate. Supreme Court ruled that he was to be called Interim Governor, which he was. Charley was an interesting person. I'm opposed to capital punishment and had campaigned on it even though it wasn't popular at all, and Charley was just the opposite on that. We were opposite on many

things. The segregation/integration situation was one that separated many of us. The ones that were over with us were people like Doyle Carlton and Jack Matthews from Jacksonville, and Scott Kelly and the others were on the other side of that issue. It was a hard side to be on but at the same time, we were. I think some of the presidents of the Senate, like Randolph Hodges, a “pork chopper” from Cedar Keys. He was a good president. Dewey Johnson represented two different counties in the Senate over a period of years, and many of those folks that I got to know so well were really fine senators, but we just plain disagreed. We could argue on the floor of the Senate and in the committees, and it got sort of violent sometimes on appropriations and that type of thing and on reapportionment. But we could go out at night and meet at someone’s home or something. They’d invite us for dinner and everybody was pleasant. I’d known Doyle Carlton, Jr., since he was a youngster and I enjoyed serving with Doyle. He was one of those who was a leader. John “Jack” Matthews, whose father was a Supreme Court Justice and also in the Senate, was one of the others. Of course, as I told you before, I knew Scott Kelly. My seatmate when I went up was Sam Gibbons, later to be a congressman for many years. In those days we had Don Fuqua and a lot of the people that became congressmen later. I served with Reubin Askew; Reubin came from a part of the country that was supposed to be “pork chop” land, up in the Panhandle, and yet he was just the opposite. We didn’t have electronic voting in the Senate in those days. Everybody had to stand up and say “yea” or “nay” and Reubin, being Askew, was the first one that had to say “yea” or “nay”, he never hesitated. A lot of people thought Dempsey Barron was a “pork chopper”; he wasn’t. Dempsey came from a smaller area and was an independent more than anything else, but he worked with us when we had to band together to get reapportionment through. Dempsey was with us when we had to cast a vote to keep the Last Resort Bill that Roy had vetoed. We had just enough to uphold Governor Collins veto. I think that was one of the most important things to happen in the legislature, as far as I’m concerned.

M: Who would you say were the leaders of the people that put the Last Resort Bill forward in the first place? Was it Charley Johns?

E: Charley was certainly involved having many jobs, and there was Doc Melton from Lake City. I’m trying to think of some of those that represented other areas at that time that were all involved in it; Charles “Bill” Pearce from Palatka, and Irlo Bronson from over in the Kissimmee area was one of ‘em, and, of course, James E. “Nick” Conner from Brooksville, who later became President of the Senate, was one, and Wilson Carraway from Tallahassee, who was a banker and later President of the Senate, was a member of the “pork choppers”. And Representative George G. Tapper from Port St. Joe, and Bob Williams from Marianna, and I mentioned Judge Dill Clark, and, of course, there was Harry Stratton. “Red” Cross, J. Emory Cross, from Gainesville was one but at the same time he was a fellow that always joined with us on things for education and that type of thing. Bill Shands was his guru who used to be in the Senate.

M: Would you say that that group, as far as identification with the “pork choppers” was hard and fast, or was it a shifting group?

E: No, it wasn’t shifting at all. We just knew they took a blood oath if something came up.

M: Was there a list, for example, of these individuals or was it all tied to the district?

E: No, it was a list

M: It was a list of people rather than districts.

E: And we all had a voting list for every bill that came up. We had their names all down there and you had to check off. You knew who was who. But, if legislation came up that affected the University of Florida or something, "Red" Cross definitely had to support that, but if the "pork choppers" came forth with something that hurt them down there, he didn't have any choice but to vote with them.

M: It was that hard and fast.

E: Now, we didn't do that, those of us on the other side. I mean we were independent in that we voted for a bill on its merits, but we stuck together on certain things, on the segregation/integration issue, on apportionment issues, on education, and many other things.

M: So, even though Reubin and Dempsey Barron were from those "pork chop" areas, they'd still cross the line now and then.

E: Absolutely. We couldn't have gotten reapportionment through without Dempsey. We formed a committee of the whole when Nick Conner was president in my last session and we let him act as chairman. We told him we'd let him act as chairman if he wouldn't be involved at all, so as not to insult him, and he acted as chairman for the rest of the time. It was the only time a committee of the whole that had ever been formed in the Senate. And we conducted the Senate's business, and we carried it on out.

M: You know that I've spoken to Scott Kelly; he says hello by the way. Also, Thursday I spoke to Terrell Sessums, and he went through, I think that his first introduction to the Florida legislature was as Sam Gibbons' assistant, I believe, in that year. He tells a story about a meeting that he thinks you would have attended at the Cherokee Hotel regarding the Last Resort Bill. Do you remember a meeting in Scott Kelly's hotel room, for example? A meeting that you would have been able to attend?

E: I don't really think I attended that meeting at Scott's. I knew about the meeting but I don't think I attended the meeting. A group of us did get together, and we got together down at the Capitol.

M: The way that Terrell told it is that you swore to hang together and override the veto if necessary.

E: Well, we didn't, those of us on the other side, while we had formed a committee to whole and met together, we adopted plans and programs which we all voted to agree to. But we didn't get into the "blood oaths".

M: Also, that session obviously, Governor Chiles was elected to the other branch.

E: Reubin and I were elected at the same time. They were elected to the House and I was elected to the Senate. Reubin came over to the Senate in time for me to serve with him. Lawton didn't come over 'til I got out in '66, but we worked together though.

M: I know that both Houses met pretty well separately most of the time but did you have a chance to interact socially?

E: Oh, definitely. I had interacted politically because much of the legislature, a lot of people or at least some of the media wanted to have, felt like we only needed one House in the legislature. I always felt you needed two. Where you might not win in the Senate, you could make it public and it could get down to the House and, at that time, get a chance to get it killed. Lawton was one of those we always depended on to do that. We met together as Senators and House members. Sometimes we had joint committee meetings. I can recall very definitely when I was trying so hard as Chairman of Higher Education to get the Johns Committee killed. I got Lawton to help me out at the House down there and Wilbur Boyd, Lawton's best friend, was in the House, they'd join together. Wilbur was in my legislative delegation so we had a lot of things in common. Whatever legislation came up, it was not unusual for us to get together in a social atmosphere and discuss what was going on.

M: When was the Johns Committee engaged and when did it really go about its major activities, hearings?

E: Well, I guess it started in '61 and we got it abolished in '65.

M: That's quite a while.

E: We were all deeply concerned because they almost destroyed the University of South Florida. I'd been on the Board of Control when we created the University of South Florida in Tampa and it was very meaningful to me. We brought John Allen from the University of Florida to be the first president at \$15,000 per year. The worst thing about it was the way in which it was engineered, having special agents involved and that type of thing. They set up a newsman up there, got him framed in a hotel room, charged him with a sex crime, and all those kinds of things because he had been very critical of the Johns Committee. But we killed him on the Higher Education Committee by refusing to approve appropriations to have him continue. And Lawton was involved in that.

M: One of the groups that the Johns Committee was very much focused on was the NAACP in Florida and their efforts to force them to deliver mailing lists of members, and those kinds of things. One of the people involved in the hearings was Bob Saunders. Do you remember ever knowing or working with him?

E: Yes, I do. I remember him very well. He was an outstanding man.

M: He just died. I went to his funeral. I got a chance to work with him and knew him in the last couple of years, and he's got a marvelous autobiography which he just wrote and which I'd like to see that you get a copy of. He succeeded Harry T. Moore, of course.

E: I knew Mr. (end of tape)

E: Many of the lobbyists and a large number of legislators lived at the Cherokee Hotel. Many of them had hotel rooms there and had free breakfasts, all they wanted to attend. And the lobbyists, most of the legislators, most of the senators, both the “pork choppers” and the rest of us, were sort of independent in this period. I didn’t accept anything from a lobbyist when I went to Tallahassee. The lobbyists provided free booze, free boat rides, and trips to New York and many other places. I can recall when I got up there to the house that I had rented for my family; there was a case of whiskey on my back door. I found out where it came from and sent it back. I got a rotisserie from a man that was in the racetrack business from Fort Lauderdale. I sent it back and wrote him a letter and told him I just made it a habit not to accept anything of that nature, insulted him but that’s the way I wanted it. And I never did [accept things]. So I didn’t go to a lot of those things.

M: Would you say the Cherokee was the place where all of that happened?

E: It was, but not after I got up there. After I got up there, lobbyists started meeting in Joe’s Steakhouse and the Silver Slipper, those two places more than any other. The Cherokee was already about gone at that time.

M: And I think that’s torn down now isn’t it? Would a lot of the legislators stay there?

E: Yeah. Farris Bryant, later to be governor, lived there and my predecessor, Joe Bill Rood, had the room adjoining his; they were great friends, and Jimmy Pratt, a legislator from here. They were all good friends with Farris. I’d known Farris a long time, and had to battle him later on, on the floor of the Senate.

M: Yeah, I want to get into that. So, golf, fishing excursions, were there women, booze, those kinds of things going on?

E: Yeah, and they had a camp they used to take ‘em to and they’d take ‘em on the Suwannee and whatever. We heard some rather naïve legislator’s wife one time say, “You know we haven’t had to buy a meal since we’ve been up here”. My wife was horrified when she heard that, you know, but that was just the way it went. But, on the other side of the coin, there were some lobbyists who were very valuable and very good. The lobbyist for the Truckers Association, Major Tomassello from Bartow, he knew more about trucking and what laws were needed and what was needed in the legislature, and he would never attempt to apply any pressure whatsoever. He would be glad to come to your office and explain to you everything about it, never tried to twist your arm or anything like that. And so many times, the way I voted on that was what Major Tomassello had told me, I subsequently verified it to be the case. There were other lobbyists, of course, that felt like they could seduce certain people with money. Those people, I just didn’t have anything to do with. But there were some very good lobbyists. Now I think one of the things I always enjoyed every year more than anything else was my good friend Verle Pope who was known as the Lion of St. Johns and one of the greatest senators to ever serve in this state, and who later became president. Every year, Verle gave what he called the “teeth of diamonds, veins of gold” speech. It was on the small loan lobby, which is one of the worst things in Florida.

M: Kind of loan sharks?

E: Yeah, oh, they're loan sharks. And at that time, a man named Raeburn Horne, who used to be a senator, was a lobbyist for 'em.

M: Any kin to Mallory Horne?

E: No, he wasn't. The Press Corps sat right above us in the Senate in those days, with a little glass enclosure up there, and when Verle got ready to make his speech that he gave every year, Raeburn would hear about it and he'd get all of his companies, he was supporting in the gallery up there. Verle would go up to the water cooler by the well of the Senate, turn around and look to be sure the press was all in place up there, and then he'd get up and give this speech. He'd talk about the terrible lobbyists for the loan sharks with their "teeth of diamonds" and "veins of gold" that would come up and try to drain the gold and every piece of change out of all these little people of Florida. He'd just give a tremendous array. He was a great orator, really was. And oratory was still a business in those days. And he'd point up in the gallery up there to 'em so there was a great battle that went on between some senators and lobbyists, and that type of thing. And Verle was, again, he was one of the most knowledgeable men I've ever known, a fine legislator. Like Jack Matthews was known as a constitutional lawyer; he knew the Constitution backwards and forwards and one thing you had to know in the Senate, of course, were the rules of the Senate. And Turner Davis, who was a "pork chopper", one of my real good friends; he knew the rules better than anybody in there. And by getting up in the Chair, why they could turn the crank on some of those votes and they'd go through like that if you didn't know the rules and were able to stop them.

M: Well, 1960, the next year, was a very important governor's election, and obviously the big Kennedy/Nixon presidential election.

E: I was a district delegate to the Kennedy nomination in Los Angeles.

M: In 1960, Doyle Carlton ran against Farris Bryant, or at least that was the runoff. Can you comment a little bit on that race or Doyle's campaign?

E: Well, I gave the kickoff speech for Doyle in Wauchula. We had more people there for any kickoff that's ever been had in Florida. We brought several busloads from Manatee County over here. I introduced Doyle and, as I say I had known his father, Governor Carlton, so well, and I'd known Doyle since he was a boy, too. But serving with him in the legislature was a real joy 'cause Doyle was a strong, outstanding man in many ways. We had a lot of things in common. We both were old Army Air Corps, and both Baptist deacons, and just good friends. I believed in the things that he believed in. TV had become popular then. Politics were changing. When I ran, it was door to door and meet the people and that type of thing, ads in the newspaper and so forth. But politics had been coming along, TV had come into being, and Doyle was not charismatic. He didn't come across good. He got the support of probably 90% of the daily newspapers in the State of Florida, and still got beat. Farris had one ad, "It's Time for Bryant". It ran 30 seconds, that's all it was, and he just ran it over and over and over again, "It's Time for Bryant". Some of Doyle's ads were not good and he had some songs that were involved in the campaign that were not good. A lot of people worked hard for him, including me, and I was a member of the Senate. When you go and work hard for another candidate,

you're putting yourself in jeopardy, but that didn't bother me because I wanted to see him get elected.

M: I would imagine that it was a real study in contrast. Here was Farris Bryant, Harvard lawyer, very articulate, well mannered, well groomed, and then you had Doyle, the great Floridian but yet the father who was Governor, and yet the cattle guy with a cowboy hat on.

E: Doyle was a cattleman, but he was always well dressed. He wore good clothes, and he was well dressed, he could fit into the Tampa social scene, and of course his wife, Mildred, was a Woodbury. Her father started Hav-A-Tampa Cigar Company in Tampa, so Doyle was in that social scene in Tampa, too, and he could go in either one of 'em. But what he loved to do better than anything else was chase cows. And y' know, he'd rather wear cowboy clothes when he was doing that. But Farris in his own way was a rather dry person himself with his own speaking, but he was articulate. I mean, he could bring forth all of his points and that type of thing.

M: I think Burke's called him "prissy".

E: Yes. He was in the Navy and he was a real bright guy, but he was prissy. That's a good word.

M: Yeah.

E: I'll give you information that when Roy Collins walked in the room bells rang and lights flashed. When Farris walked into the room, nobody knew he was there until he got introduced.

M: Now, in that campaign, segregation obviously was a big question and, of course, one of the major points. I had a chance to interview Doyle, before he died before Christmas.

E: Oh, I'm glad you did.

M: He mentioned what I already knew basically, but he said it once again, it was the segregation issue. He said that he would not pull his kids out of school if schools were desegregated.

E: And a number of us joined with him at the same time and said we wouldn't.

M: And, of course, the Last Resort Bill had just been going on a year earlier, so that was obviously a question that Farris Bryant wanted to hammer home, and he basically told the truth and stood up for what was right. Do you really think that cost him the election, or do you think that it was what you were saying already?

E: Well, it certainly had something to do with it, it was just like later on when Roy Collins ran for the United States Senate. There's no doubt that his walk at Selma cost him the election, period, when all the flyers went out. Well, when Doyle had made the statements that he did...

M: He didn't evade it at all. He said it straight.

E: Not a bit. And there were many of us who joined with him. But they had flyers out at that time too and some of 'em were really terrible, awful things, and it definitely hurt him, there's no doubt about it. But at the same time, I think probably that Bryant ran a better campaign than Doyle did.

M: Now, one of the things that occurred during his administration, you were in the Senate at that time, too, was the St. Augustine uprising in 1964, I believe, near the end of his term. How would you evaluate his handling of that?

E: I thought his handling was inflammatory. I thought he did a disservice to the people of the State of Florida. And my good friend, Verle Pope, who represented St. Augustine, had to go home and battle against him, which he did. Verle strongly battled against him, but all of us that were trying so hard to bring some order out of chaos in Florida and make things smoother in that direction were horrified at Farris' actions in St. Augustine.

M: Wasn't it also true that he went to Washington to testify before the Congress opposed to the Civil Rights Act?

E: Yeah.

M: The sheriff of St. John's County, I'm trying to remember his name, it's an initial name, anyway, kind of a bad actor there...

E: Yeah, sort of like Willis McCall.

M: Yes, very similar in nature to Willis McCall. Before we get to the 1964 campaign, is there anything between 1960 and 1964 legislatively that you'd like to mention with regard to either you or Lawton Chiles' activities? I'm trying not to jump too far ahead.

E: I would probably have to go back and look at my legislative records to even remember, but certainly we had some key issues in the 1963 session and 1961 session.

M: Election of 1964 between Hayden Burns and many, many others, excluding Scott Kelly, that special election, that two-year election. Do you have any memories of that election in 1964? Who did you support in that election, do you remember?

E: Is this the Robert King High?

M: Yes. King High and Burns. And I think Scott Kelly was involved.

E: I supported Robert King High and I was one of his early supporters. Scott wanted to run. I've got a picture after Scott agreed to come over and help. The plane landed at Sarasota Bradenton Airport with Ben Hill Griffin and Scott and Robert King High, and I joined them there. We flew to Gainesville and appeared before the University of Florida student body in support of Bob King High. That was after Scott decided to come on board.

M: Now was that in '64 or '66?

E: Y'know, I can't remember.

M: I think it might have been '66 because it was the same kind of scenario, I think, in '66 because Burns had to run again and High was in the picture again.

E: Well, Burns ran against, let me see, Hayden. What was the relationship between Hayden and Doyle Carlton?

M: I don't think Doyle Carlton ran again after 1960, I don't think.

E: Oh, I remember now, what I was thinking about. Hayden definitely ran against Bob High, Robert King High.

M: Right. I think twice. I think in '64 and '66. And then he beat High in '64 but then lost to High in the primary because in '66 Scott came in on the side of High.

E: Well, we helped him lose.

M: And then Kirk, of course, comes in.

E: Representative Wilbur Boyd in the House and me in the Senate, I wrote a story that appeared in all the newspapers in Florida called "The Birth of a Bond-doggle". Burns proposed a bond system for the highways of the State of Florida, which had some merit, but what he did was he made it so that all of the friends of the Governor who were contractors, engineers, and developers, would get all the business. Wilbur Boyd and I created those who would fight against it, I fought it in the Senate and Wilbur fought it in the House. So it went to referendum for the people of the State of Florida and we really worked all out, just like the advertisements and the news articles and whatnot and, lo and behold, we beat Hayden and it was turned down. And I think that's what lost him the election.

M: So that was before the next election.

E: Yeah.

M: Now, was Scott Kelly an ally of yours in that fight, too?

E: I don't think Scott got too involved in that, to tell you the truth. I know I gave a speech on the floor of the Senate which started the birth of the bond-doggle and, y' know, I told a story of how the governor called me down in his office and everything else and tried to get me committed to go along with him, and I actually refused and some people from Tampa came up who were involved or gonna be involved with building these highways and with the bond issues, and the bond people and they were sittin' up in the gallery, and I pointed them out too to the Tampa Tribune.

M: They have an interest here, in other words, right?

E: Wilbur put in an innocuous bill to name a little road out here at Terra Ceia Island called "Boyd Lane". That's where his father came from, his father was in the House, and all of the House members wanted him to, so he put it in and we passed it in the Senate

and Hayden vetoed it. This was one of the most stupid things he ever did because we got his veto overridden by 100% in about two hours.

M: Now, wasn't there, before or after this, probably before, an investigation of the highway building under the Burns' administration, and wasn't it exposed that there had been a lot of graft and so forth? Was this before you killed the bond issue or after, do you remember?

E: I think it was before.

M: Okay. So this was a lead up to that, okay. Would you like to take a moment then before we get into Lawton more extensively, to reflect a little bit about your legislative career and your accomplishments in the legislature that was from 1959 to 1966? What are some of your fondest memories, for example?

E: Well, I think while I was a freshman senator, I was an older senator. I was 40 years old when I ran for the Senate and we had the "pork choppers" and just the rest of us. I think I was really proud of the fact that, at the end of that session, I was in a tie with Travis Gresham in Fort Myers, who was a "pork chopper", and we were co-winners of the Most Valuable Freshman Senator. We had in those days the Allen Morris Awards, which are the most cherished awards to be gained, and later on, when I ended up my final term, I received the Allen Morris Award as the Most Valuable Member of the Legislature, which was voted on by both houses. That shows the type of relationship that we had together, like the relationship I had with Lawton and others down there, the House had to vote for me as well as the Senate. As far as legislation is concerned, we created one of the things that I enjoyed doing very much, the College of Law at the Florida State University, and we killed off the Johns Committee, which was a great thing, and I put in a number of general bills. I'm just trying to think, I was on 11 committees when I was a freshman senator, and I did a lot of work for agriculture, and I later served as Chairman of the Citrus Commission, as you know. And I was involved in a number of fields, but I think the opportunity to be Governor Collins' floor leader as a freshman was one of the things that I enjoyed as much as any. And I put in the bills to create the Ringling board of trustees, Ringling Museum board of trustees, and the board of the trustees for the School of Deaf and Blind in St. Augustine for Verle Pope, whose mother and father were both mute. But it was a wonderful eight years and I wouldn't have missed it for anything. I enjoyed it, made a lot of great friends, feel that I had the opportunity to do some good things for the State of Florida and help kill off some bad things.

M: What were your worst memories? What are some of the worst things or the bad things that you can remember? Or were there any bad things that stick out as far as disappointments or things that you'd rather not remember?

E: I guess that most of the bad times came during the different types of bills that were put in on segregation and desegregation. And the activities of some of the media, the activities of some of our citizens with regard to that. I just can't remember right at the moment anything being so bad that I wasn't able to overcome it.

M: Sure. Can you remember the first time you met Lawton Chiles?

E: Spessard Holland, Governor Holland, was a good friend, and I think he introduced Lawton to me, before Lawton went into the legislature, when I was serving on an agriculture committee, I'm pretty sure it was in Lakeland. It was either Lakeland or Winter Haven, I can't remember which. And he introduced Lawton to me then and also I got to meet Rhea at that time. That was my first chance.

M: So that would have been probably in the middle '50s.

E: Yeah.

M: Okay. Do you remember when you heard that he was going to run for office, were you surprised by that, and did you know Roy Searles who he challenged?

E: Yeah, I knew Roy.

M: Can you comment a little bit on him?

E: Roy was a lobbyist and one that I did not agree with at all. Y' know, Winn Dixie had a tremendous lobby in the State of Florida...

M: He was a lobbyist turned legislator.

E: That's right. And everything we had ever heard about Lawton was good, and I think that back during the Dan McCarty campaign Lawton was involved in that along with us _____ so many of over here. I was delighted to see him run because Wilbur Boyd ran for the House at the same time. Wilbur was my close friend and he and Lawton were already friends at that point.

M: Isn't it true that Searles was really kind of a power at that time, and if he would have been elected he might have been in the leadership?

E: Roy Searles was one of the leaders. With the "pork chop" just as heavy in the House as it was in the Senate, he could've probably become speaker.

M: So don't you reckon that is was probably a surprise, kind of a big surprise...

E: It was a great shock to Searles when Lawton won, but you know that was the way what later became known to be the He-Coon snuck up on people, and he did the type of campaigning in those days that we did in those days. He still went and met people everywhere they were and, you know, it's just like his Walking Lawton days, wonderful.

M: So, I guess that first session, when you both were in the legislature for the first time, was when you really got to know him.

E: In the 1966 session, after I had retired, I came to Tallahassee to receive the Allen Morris Award as "The Most Valuable Member of the Legislature in the 1959 Session. Lawton was the one from the House who escorted me to the podium to receive the award.

M: Super. Super.

E: He was a good orator, too, by the way. People always thought Lawton didn't have a lot to say sometimes, but when Lawton got on the floor to speak, he could do a wonderful job, and did a good job.

M: Do you remember if he had any people, even in those early years, that worked with him? Did he have any aides or press people? I know that the staff in the stage legislature is pretty minimal, but do you remember in those very early years anybody that would have been an assistant of his, say, like **Tara** would have been to Sam Gibbons, for example?

E: This is where the Wilbur Boyd family could come into play for you and help you out an awful lot. Of course another fella' down there at that time who was close to them was **Bob Mann** who later became a Supreme Court Justice and what not. But he was all in the Chiles group. Lawton and Wilbur and Mallory Horne were the trio. They were the ones that stuck together on everything down there, Mallory later became President of the Senate after serving as Speaker of the House, the only person to serve in those positions in the Legislature. And Mallory is still going. I talked to him not too many months ago on the telephone.

M: Well, put in a good word for me and tell him that I might be giving him a call.

E: I think he would 'cause he could answer the question you just asked me about anybody particularly helping Lawton in those days. Of course, those of us who were fighting for all these things were helped materially by the Capitol Press Corps, who were down in the sub-basement in those days, and Martin Waldron and Allen Morris and Barbara Frye, United Press and Maurice "Mouse" Harlan from up in Pensacola; all these people. They were for all of the good things and against the bad things. And they helped Lawton a lot, as they did me and they did many others. And they helped Roy Collins a lot. 'Cause I spent a lot of my legislative life during Roy's term helping get his legislation introduced. You asked me a while ago what were some of the good things, well, one of the best things I remember is that I introduced the Chancellor Bill in 1958. We didn't get it passed until '65, but we got it passed. And Jack Matthews and I wrote the Board of Regents Bill, and we got that passed. That was major legislation, and it was something that I really enjoyed.

M: Would you say that the help that Alan Morris and Company gave you was to write and clarify your positions in a way that would have been understandable to the general public?

E: Yes. They wrote columns about us. They were the ones that were in the news end of it and wrote news stories, but Martin Waldron, who wrote for the *Tampa Tribune*, switched to *The St. Pete Times* where he won a Pulitzer Prize for one of his columns. His wife, Ann, was covering the House and Martin covered the Senate, and Allen Morris' "Cracker Politics" was one of the most popular columns that had ever been in the State of Florida.

M: Along that line, as far as newspaper people go, can you comment on, say, Malcolm Johnson?

E: Well, Malcolm, you know, is the editor of *The Tallahassee Democrat*, and I'm going to give him credit where credit is due. I didn't agree with a lot of Malcolm's positions, but I do believe that he was his own person. And he told it like he thought it was. We didn't always agree with that because he joined hands many times with some of the legislation that we thought was some of the worse legislation.

M: Were there any other people like him, say that wrote for *The Herald* or *The St. Pete Times*?

E: Well, Jack McDermott wrote for *The Miami Herald* and did a good job. He was fair. Of course, he also supported some of the policies of the "pork choppers", which was his privilege as a newsman. But I think Allen Morris, again in his columns, did a lot to talk about the people involved and I know he wrote several columns that I treasure to this day.

M: When was the first time you met Rhea? Do you remember the first time you met Rhea?

E: I think I met Rhea just about the same time I met Lawton, but I didn't really get to know her until they were up in the legislature. And, of course, I knew her brother in Miami who was an architect. I was involved on the Board of Control when we were trying to get Shands Hospital built and all that kind of stuff, and looking at architects and builders and everything else.

M: Now, if you've already mentioned this in the context of your other remarks, that's fine but, can you remember anything that you and Lawton worked personally on together in terms of legislation during the years you were in the Senate?

E: I think the most important things we worked together on were education bills at the Board of Regents, that type of thing, and also the tremendous support and help he gave us in combating what we felt was an evil Burns Bond Bill. But all of the legislation having to do with agriculture which was, as far as I'm concerned, one of the three stools of Florida's economy, tourism, agriculture, and whatever, Lawton was always helpful on that. I put through legislation to get a two hundred, fifty thousand dollar appropriation to combat red tide; Lawton was one of my key people and he got all the people together from the House where we joined hands to get it through. And that was while Farris Bryant was governor and Lawton was leader on that in the House. And then many of the bills that came up, legislation that came up, that had to do with things that affected business and tourism, Lawton was involved in and so was I.

M: You mentioned that Reubin Askew had always been kind of a person that's known for keeping his own counsel and being a good colleague but really having his own mind. Would you say that he and Chiles worked together on things? Do you have any comments about that their relationship?

E: Reubin was very definitely one of my closest friends, and I admired him. He was a young fella' when he came up there. He came from a very poor background and he and Lawton had a lot in common. Of course, Lawton didn't come from as poor a background as Reubin did but, at the same he came from what I call the blue-collar background, and certainly Reubin did. And they definitely worked together on things in the House. And

when he came over in the Senate, well anytime we wanted to get something that had to go by both houses, why Reubin and I would get Lawton and Wilbur and Mallory and some others, and Terrell and people like that to join in. They definitely worked together. I had the privilege later on, after I got out, of being Reubin's non-paid business consultant for eight years and that's when Reubin asked me to serve on the Florida Citrus Commission.

M: Is that when he became governor?

E: Yeah. But they worked together and they were close friends and they both represented the same type of lifestyle and that type of thing. Reubin, y' know, they used to call him "Mr. Goody Two Shoes" sometimes because of his lifestyle because, when he went in the mansion, some of his predecessors might have had a lot of booze, Reubin didn't allow that. You went over there and you got orange juice or tomato juice or whatever.

E: Well, you know, when Reubin ran, he and Tom were not close at all, but everybody told Reubin...

M: ...compatible.

E: ... Nobody knew Reubin. Everybody was, "Reubin who?" y' know. He came from up there in Pensacola, Escambia County in the Panhandle, and I had worked with Tom Adams all over Florida to help revise the agricultural laws of the state and help get 'em implemented. Tom was the one that the "pork choppers" sent to me right after I got elected. He came to my house to try to seduce me into becoming a "pork chopper". I knew him real well and I laughed at him, and later on I worked with him because he was a brilliant guy. So they convinced Reubin that he had to have somebody that knew everybody else in the state, so he took Tom Adams as his Lieutenant Governor candidate. And, of course, Tom was elected and Tom was a strong-willed guy that didn't really want to be told what he had to do, to be reporting to anybody as a boss and as Lieutenant Governor. Well obviously, Reubin was his boss.

M: There's not a whole lot to do as Lieutenant Governor either, really.

E: No, but Tom, it was alleged, had used state employees to do certain things and what not, so when all this came up, why Reubin was really catching the flack from it and he had to do something to get Tom to make a statement and to step down finally. So that's when Reubin called me and asked me to come to Tallahassee and I went and stayed in the guest room downstairs for about seven days, didn't come out in the daytime so the press wouldn't know I was there, and had Tom out to meet with me to help see if we couldn't work a compromise on the thing and work out a statement, which we ultimately did. But it was at that time, Terrell was Speaker of the House and I went down and sat down with Terrell, and we discussed the whole thing and decided what was the best way to go, 'cause Terrell was a strong supporter of Reubin Askew too.

M: And it had the potential of ruining his career, at least his governorship. Well all of that happened before a guy named Lawton Chiles was elected to the Senate. First off, before you get into the United States Senate race, Claude Kirk, of course, came out of the 1966 election fiasco to become Governor.

E: He was the worst thing to happen to the Republican Party in 100 years.

M: We all know about his bombastic characteristics, and of course he had an interesting relationship with Manatee County, too, for a while.

E: Yes, he did. He sat down there in our school board and ultimately went to Tampa, and a fella' that I'd known at the University of Florida, Ben Crichman, who's a federal judge said that you either clear that thing out or you get fined a thousand dollars a day. So that cleared it up. But Claude, today I'm a friend, I mean as far as he's concerned, but we didn't get along at all and by the time that I was out, I was president of the local Chamber of Commerce and I was around giving speeches against Claude Kirk, and I made it plain anytime I was called upon to give a speech, 'cause I'd been a State Senator, that I was speaking for myself and nobody else, and one of my fellow members of the board here, who was Kirk's campaign manager wrote a letter to all the newspapers and everybody else saying I ought to either stop speaking against him or resign, so I called all my board together and told them I didn't want to harm the Chamber in any way and that I certainly was not going to stop speaking against all the bad things I thought Claude Kirk was doing, and so I did resign. But I stayed on the board. And I got a lot of credit for that, but Kirk wouldn't allow me in his office when he was governor. It was sort of funny.

M: Was this before or after the Manatee County fiasco?

E: Before. But later on, y' know, the man should be a standup comic and he is really so funny.

M: He is.

E: When I was on the Citrus Commission, we opened up our theme park over in Disney World. It was a private opening and Claude was there. He marched down the street with loafers, no socks, and all this kind of stuff, and really was ridiculous but, in later years, he was sort of the piece de resistance over in Bartow, I think it was, when we had a roast over there, I think for Chesterfield Smith, Claude just took the house down. But one of the pilots for Florida that flew all the state planes around told me that one of the first things that Kirk insisted was that they set up a bar in the back of his airplane and be sure there's plenty of gin there for martinis, that type of thing. And he said he was horrified at that but he didn't have any choice.

M: Now, even today, people don't really understand, or really know the total motivation behind that Manatee County School Desegregation Act. Do you have any speculation; was he just trying to draw attention or was he trying to gin things up in terms of, you know, his right wing base, or what was he really trying to do there?

E: Well, everybody was at a little bit of a loss to know what he was trying to do but he just wanted to prove to the people of Florida that he was more powerful as governor than anybody else in this state and that he could come down here and take over a county school system and direct the sheriff of that county, who was a strong supporter to go to the superintendent's office up there and lock him out and that they'd run the

superintendent's office and the school board until they got the things resolved that they wanted resolved.

M: It was almost a George Wallace standing in the schoolhouse door kind of thing, right?

E: Exactly.

M: Okay. In 1970, were you surprised when you heard that Lawton Chiles was going to run for the United States Senate?

E: As I recall, when Lawton was a younger man, he really admired Senator Holland tremendously. And Senator Holland was very good to Lawton, was kind to him, helped him, and Lawton really felt strongly about what was happening in the country, as he did in the State of Florida. And so I felt that, more than anything else, when he decided to run, he had discussed this thing pretty thoroughly with Senator Holland, with Chesterfield Smith, with some others like Burke Kibler and people like that, and they all felt a little dubious as to whether or not he could get elected, but they felt that certainly he was entitled to run, and they ended up supporting him.

M: Obviously, Senator Holland's help was the issue, and he I think had wondered whether he was going to go for it again, I think.

E: Well, when Senator Holland retired, you know, I think I told you I flew to Washington and asked him to come serve as a director on Tropicana's board and at that time he had already said he was going to get out, y' know, was not going run again. And he asked Chesterfield if it was all right. Chesterfield said, "yes, go ahead".

M: Do you remember any of the other people that were rumored to be interested in the seat or running in the...

E: In the United States Senate at that time?

M: ...Democratic Party. Yes. Bill Gunter for example?

E: I served with Bill Gunter in the Senate. Bill was extremely anxious to get elected and went around trying to get a lot of support from a lot of us who had helped Bill in other ways at other times and, y' know, he ran a strong campaign. And some of Lawton's friends in the legislature went with Bill, and some with Lawton. But, who else was in that campaign, I can't remember?

M: I think Sam Gibbons was thinking about running. But in terms of the race itself, let's see, it was Shultz, was it Schultz that was, in the primary, that is?

E: Well, Fred Schultz from Jacksonville...

M: Fred Schultz, exactly.

E: ...former Speaker. I knew Fred real well, too, and helped get him appointed to the Federal Reserve Board later on when Jimmy Carter was President.

M: Yes. Oh, Farris! Farris Bryant, of course.

E: Okay. That's right. So that was the big thing, Farris. That was the big deal there. And anytime you'd speak with Lawton, you got to speak with Rhea 'cause if there was ever a team in the governor's office, that was it. Rhea was his strongest political advisor, his confidant and, as he said when he gave his inauguration speech, he said, "My closest friend, my confidant, my advisor, the love of my life, and now your First Lady, Rhea Chiles". And it was that way 'cause Lawton didn't do anything unless he discussed it with Rhea. And they were strong. Well, when they came up with the idea of Walking Lawton, why Rhea went with that.

M: What did you think about it when you heard about the walk?

E: All of us were, well right in the beginning, we were a little concerned. But even then, back in those days, politics had still not reached the point where personal relationship was totally gone and gone to the boob tube, and, as he started and we saw people in the Panhandle, and Lawton was certainly not from there, but as he started and we saw some of the crackers begin to come out and to band with him and to bond with him, why we thought maybe he's really hit something here. And, with every step that he took and every place he went, more and more people gathered. And I know when he came down here, we got all of our group together, met him at the foot of the Sunshine Skyway and walked him on in, that type of thing. So by that time, it had really formed in a big way. The other thing that I admired so much about Lawton, and I worked in all of his campaigns, I raised money for him and went out and got people in several counties for him, was that he would only allow, right to the end, a maximum of a hundred dollars campaign contribution. In the beginning, he wanted ten dollars. He never got over a hundred dollars in his campaign.

M: I was reading press clippings yesterday. *The Bradenton Herald* actually was writing stories regarding his mental conflict about having to up it to a hundred dollars and that he was wondering whether to do it or not.

E: I'll bet he was.

M: I guess that would've been in '82, when he was running. But he finally capitulated and went to the hundred dollars.

E: Went to the hundred dollars. Also, there were many campaign contributions that he, like Reubin Askew, wouldn't take, and I was involved in Reubin's races very much. There was a lot of pact money he wouldn't take at all. Period.

M: Now early on, who were some of the people that you remember who were working with him very closely in terms of his staff and his press people who were trying to get the word out about the walk and making sure that, you know, the newspapers were on hand, and that kind of thing?

E: Who was the one in Lakeland?

M: Charles Canady?

E: Charlie. Charles Canady, probably more than anybody else. And we all knew Charley. As I recall, when Lawton first decided on this, I heard from Charles Canady, I think, before I did from Lawton. But I think he was the one who put together all of the staff and everything else. And Rhea, of course, had family relationships in Dade County with her brother. She knew a lot of people. And Lawton, after all, had served with legislators from all over the State of Florida, so he didn't mince any words when calling on them. And so many of his strong campaign supporters who were doing the nuts and bolts work were legislators or former legislators.

M: Now, Jack Pridgen is another name that comes up. Do you have any memory of him, working with him or talking to him?

E: Not too much. Knew him but that was all.

M: Now, who would you say, in Bradenton/Manatee County, besides yourself, would have been really behind him?

E: Well, I think the strongest person behind him was Wilbur Boyd. I mean, because of their close friendship and, I mean they were like brothers more than anything else, and after that, why, we had Joe Bill Rood former State Senator, and Bill Grimes, former State Representative, and outstanding lawyers here. We had different people; anybody that had served with him and anybody who had supported him in his state races supported him here. I had a list of 250 women in Manatee County that I contacted and that many of them were highly supportive of him because one of the things I worked on in the legislature strongly was to support the junior college system in Florida, helped Roy Collins with 'em. Ultimately, I got appropriations passed for capital outlay and operations for Manatee Junior College from the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Lawton worked strongly with us in the House on that to help get those through. Well, we had the support of education folks here, both K through 12 and junior college, and people from the University of Florida. The Gators here, they got out and supported him. So, I mean, he just had a whole raft of people here that were helping him in that way.

M: Now the teacher's strike in '68 came along. In 1968, everything kind of unraveled in America; you had the Democratic Convention going crazy in Chicago, you had the height of the Viet Nam issue, you had Lyndon Johnson and, you know, not running again, you had riots everywhere. Were these issues discussed at all, as you recall, either in Governor Askew's or Governor Chiles' campaigns?

E: Of course, Governor Chiles served in the Korean War. I mean, he was in the service during that time and I think that, as far as the campaigns were concerned, some of the international issues didn't get a great deal of play. Most of it had to do with whether or not they were going to have organized gambling in the State of Florida or whether you weren't, which many of us worked against when I was in there.

M: And what I've read about the campaign, the theme of Chiles seemed to be "the government is out of touch with the people and my goal here is to meet the people through walking the state and to somehow bring Washington back to the people".

E: Well, he had a job to do there and that was to be sure he didn't do anything to insult the memory of Senator Holland. And he was clear about that, when he said that they are not dealing with issue people and they are not taking care of the people and so forth. He defined it as to who was not doing it and he put the burden on certain people, and certainly put Spessard Holland into the category of one who had tried to help the people, like when he got rid of the poll tax. Why, Spessard Holland did something that was very difficult to do in those days and helped the African American people more than anybody else.

M: So obviously the teachers were really for Lawton and they had been a real supporter of his all along. Do you remember the campaigns that Fred Schulz and Farris Bryant were running at the same time in the primary? Do you remember anything specifically about their campaigns?

E: Well, I think Farris stuck pretty well to some of the positions he had previously taken.

M: Experience.

E: Yeah. And Fred just ran on his track record as being a Speaker of the House and that type of thing, and being a successful businessman in Jacksonville, which he was and is, and Farris, I think, had pretty well used up a lot of his popularity with some of the folks that had heard him before.

M: You mentioned the walk here in Manatee County and meeting him at the bridge and all that. Can you remember any other specific highlights of the walk, any of the places that you would have gone to out of Manatee County with the walk?

E: Well, y' know, we'd come through a little section like Rubonia out here, which is a basically black area. There's a fella' out there named James Gordon and they call him the Mayor of Rubonia on the filling station out there. When Lawton came through, well then all the people gathered around and the Mayor of Rubonia would come and speak for him, and that type of thing. And he was looked upon by people in minorities as someone who would stand up for them and would try to help them arrive at equality, and those types of things. So I think that he was able to get votes from people who normally didn't vote, and able to encourage them to register and to get out and vote. And he'd met a lot of the poor people as he walked through certain areas, and people who were not looked upon as leaders in politics, and he generated a lot of voter enthusiasm that way from people who didn't vote before. And I think that's one of the things that he did.

M: Did you ever get a sense that he and Canady, for example, strategically planned this route, trying to figure out exactly the route, because it did zigzag a good bit, or was it kind of by the seat of the pants?

E: No, I think they planned it. I think they planned it, and I think that Charles...with his help...and the people he had helped, for instance...found out where in the Panhandle they had some friendship with this sheriff...or that county clerk...or this county commissioner...

M: That newspaper, this newspaper...

E: ...this newspaper, and did it that way.

M: Yeah. His Republican opponent was Kramer.

E: Bill Kramer from St. Petersburg, yeah.

M: Can you comment a little bit about him? He was a mainstay in Republican politics in the state.

E: Bill was an outstanding Republican, and he was a real Republican. I mean, he had been a Republican. He wasn't a Democrat who...

M: A convert, yeah.

E: ...and he was highly thought of in St. Petersburg and Pinellas County.

M: Was he a native of Florida?

E: I don't think he was, but he had lived in Pinellas County for a long time but Bill was not a person who was easy to get to know. He wasn't a person who could easily project himself, but he had a good background insofar as all that he had done has been, I think, honorable, and he was a decent man. But he certainly, I don't think, had the personal characteristics to make him a good campaigner. And Lawton, with all of his quaint sayings and all of his folksy attitude and all of his honest relationships to people, he came across as somebody that you could talk to, somebody that you could converse with on the same level regardless, whatever that level was.

M: So the real hurdle was getting past Bryant in the primary, even though already, by the late '60s, things were changing, a lot of people going to the Republican Party. That still had not really hit that hard yet. Correct?

E: No. At that time, why, we still had Democratic officeholders. Say, like, in Manatee County today, you've got two, a woman on the County Commission and a Chairwoman of the School Board, the only Democratic elected officeholders in our county. And this is a county that is always strongly Democratic. But when I went in the senate, there was one Republican senator, Frank Houghton from St. Petersburg, and in the next session, Bill Young was elected to take his place and we adopted Bill into our group, which he was glad to do to help because he believed in the things we did. But we put his legislation in for him. Jack Matthews and Verle Pope and I put his legislation in for him. So, I mean, it was strictly all Democrat in those days so when you ran at that time, you were not running to get party against party, you were running personality against personality.

M: Now he won. We all know he won the election, and you've already mentioned that you worked for Governor Askew on an ad hoc basis in those years. Can you summarize your other work during this period with Tropicana and maybe some other governmental advisory groups you may have been on at that time, from 1970 until let's say 1980.

E: Well, I think the chairmanship of the school board trustees, the chairmanship of the Citrus Commission, was really interesting. I went to take the place of a man who had

been suspended and, y' know, we represented the biggest industries in Florida on the Citrus Commission. That was valuable and worthwhile.

M: What were your dates there?

E: I only served two years because my second session as chairman was the time when Reubin was ready to run for his second time as governor. I didn't want any hint of conflict of interest, so I resigned as chairman so that I could go fulltime helping Reubin Askew get re-elected. And, of course, it was funny because Ben Hill Griffin was on the Citrus Commission when I was chairman of it, then Ben Hill ran for governor, y' know.

M: Oh yeah, that's right.

E: And Ben Hill ran for governor and got his second wife to be his Lieutenant Governor candidate.

M: I'd forgotten that.

E: Which was funny. Later on Supreme Court Justice **Horace** Drew was on the Ethics Commission and he decided he had had enough and he needed to get off and spend some time for himself. He was getting older, so he retired and Reubin asked me if I would serve on that. I said, "I'll serve on it just to fill out the unexpired term", because I didn't want full term. I served on the Ethics Commission, and that was worthwhile, and I was able to recommend some legislation to try to give it some more teeth. I served on agriculture boards all over Florida at that time, and the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association and Florida Citrus Mutual, I was on the boards of all those. And when Governor Collins was in there, I had surveyed the state during freeze damage for that type of thing. At the time I was still serving as Chairman of the Citrus Commission, I was Chairman of the Florida Chamber of Commerce at the same time, and sort of staying busy with it. And with Tropicana, I had the opportunity to help bring us public back in 1970, along in there. I'd never been involved in that before and I enjoyed it. I also went to Europe in 1965 the first time as the only member of the Citrus Industry to go to their new food fair outside of Cologne. I took the first bottle of orange juice, pure orange juice, that had ever been seen in Europe, and sold the first 15,000 cases to a French firm over there and ultimately built up the business between Tropicana and Europe, starting off with that 15,000 cases to, within a short period of time, doing thirteen million dollars worth of business in France, and in Germany, and Sweden, and Switzerland, and Belgium, and all those countries over there. That was an enjoyable time. And it was during those times with Tropicana that my responsibility too was to go out and raise the money to keep us operating. That's when we set up our warehouse and financing, and I visited all the banks in the state, visited Mr. Ball, and that type of thing.

M: Did your work ever take you to Washington?

E: Yes, I went to Washington a number of times. Of course, when I was President of the Florida Chamber of Commerce, they called it president rather than chairman in those days, every year in Washington, why we had a big dinner up there for all of the congressional delegation and all their chief staff in a hotel and the Chamber of Commerce put it on, and the chairman was always the one that was the main speaker and the master of ceremonies. My year up there came on the same night that Richard

Nixon canned Ehrlichman and Haldeman, so I called a recess of the dinner and went up in Sam Gibbons hotel room upstairs with others and we sat up there and listened to it on TV and, when they got through with it, when Nixon got through with his speech, then we went back down, reconvened, and finished out our dinner.

M: Wow.

E: And that was an interesting experience. Locally, I've served as a chairman or a board member of practically every civic service and charitable organization in the community, and I spent a lot of time on those kind of things 'cause I like it, Red Cross, Salvation Army, United Way, and all those types of things.

M: The Florida Delegation when Lawton went in, in 1970, there would have been Lawton, and the other senator would have been Paula Hawkins, correct? No, no, it wasn't Paula Hawkins because she came in, in 1980 with Ronald Reagan. I'm sorry, it escapes me right now, but Congressman Haley, did he and Lawton have any kind of knowledge or relationship with one another?

E: Oh, they knew each other real well and, of course, they were friends. That I know. I don't think that they really did a lot of things together, 'cause Jim's main things up there were the Veteran's Administration and Indian Affairs, which was important, but particularly the Veteran's because the Veterans' hospitals in Florida are a direct result of Jim Haley's activities, no doubt about that.

M: Now, I've already told you we have his papers and there's a lot of Veteran's Administration stuff in there. Did Lawton ever confide in you about some of the challenges that he had in his first term, what it was like adjusting to the Senate, what it was like living in Washington for the first time? Did Rhea like that kind of thing? What it did to the family?

E: I think that Rhea did what she always does. She found something to do for herself, and what Rhea did with Florida House up there was a miracle in itself. She took over something that was practically on its last legs and made it into the only thing of its type in the United States. Florida House is something very different.

M: Did she move up there with him right away, do you remember?

E: I think they kept living in Florida for quite a while, and I think in those days it wasn't unusual for the Congress to leave Thursday afternoon and come back Monday.

M: Okay. Fly back and forth.

E: That happened a lot, but as far as Lawton's concerned, I think he spent his early days getting himself in a real strong position by being quiet an awful lot and listening.

M: Learning a lot.

E: An awful lot, and then building up relationships 'til the time that it ended up with him becoming Chairman of the Budget Commission, which is one of the most important chairmanships in the Congress.

M: Do you remember working with him on issues that were important for the Citrus Industry? Do you remember talking to him from time to time?

E: Yes, we had trouble with tariffs and that type of thing. We always called on Lawton to be helpful to us, and he always was.

M: I was reading press clippings again yesterday, and there was OPIC, O-P-I-C, off overseas, it's some kind of organization that was put together to promote business overseas or something, and they were funding orange citrus overseas, and he raised a ruckus about that, I think. Was that something that you remember, those kinds of things?

E: I don't remember that too much, to tell you the truth. But I do remember when we were trying to find ways to create markets throughout Europe, that he was very helpful. And of course the Citrus Commission was involved in all of this, and the Florida Department of Citrus, and he always helped us on anything having to do with agriculture, it was important. And then of course, the great work that he did in the Senate started there with the children, with infant mortality and helping the children, but later on he just, like his last session as governor, he did a tremendous job to set up things that would go on for our lifetime, and these were in regard to children.

M: Now you mentioned that you were in Washington when the Nixon... (end of tape)

E: ...the Nixon deal?

M: ...the Nixon issue...

E: Well, I went to Washington a number of other times. I served on the board while I was with Tropicana. I served on the boards of the Florida Power and Light Company, General Telephone Company of Florida, Florida Citrus, Cypress Gardens and was six years on there. Dick Pope, Sr., was a great friend from the time I was a child. Young Dick by this time had taken over the company and I served over there for that period of time. And every year, FPL particularly, we'd go to Washington and have a meeting of all of the congressional aides and then meet with the delegation the next day for lunch. Now there were some who always went to Washington for those and I know when I went up there one time, Claude Pepper, who was a good friend, was Chairman of Rules, and they asked me to work with Claude to try to get him to help us see that some legislation got brought up before the body, that type of thing, and I sat with Bill Young, which a fella' that worked for us as a lobbyist in Washington took umbrage at because he wanted to know what I was doing with this Republican, y' know. I said, "Well, he's not only Republican, but he's a strong member of this House and he's a good friend".

M: With just these visits to Washington and so forth, and also your maybe talking to Lawton on the phone, who do you think he would've said were his closest colleagues that he enjoyed working with in the Senate, both parties?

E: Senator Jackson, I know.

M: The late Scoop Jackson?

E: Yeah, the late Scoop Jackson. He was definitely one. And I think I'm gonna have to let you get that from the Chiles family.

M: Okay. No problem.

E: The Chiles family, Charlie Canady. Have you talked to Charlie?

M: Well, I've talked to him but Charlie has decided that...

E: He's not going to have much to say?

M: ...well, yeah, right at this moment anyway. He's writing, I think, his own stuff. We've had some nice conversations but we just haven't done any of this yet. And we're pledged to keep in touch, that kind of thing. What do you think he liked best about being a U.S. Senator?

E: I think here again that Lawton also felt that he could make a difference in this country with regard to fiscal policy for one thing. He was deeply concerned about our fiscal policy and still was when he left. That was one of the reasons for him getting out. He was just discouraged.

M: Right. Now bloating deficits really didn't begin to emerge until 1980, and that was the time when he became involved in the Budget Committee. I'd like to go back to that a little bit, maybe in a minute.

E: But [Lawton] truly felt what he said in his campaign. He felt like the congressional delegations had drawn away from their constituency on a personal basis, on a head-to-head basis, and that you couldn't see the forest for the trees. And I think he really believed that. And he tried very hard. Usually it was your House member that took care of the constituents at the local district. Lawton operated like a House member in the Senate, because he took care of his local constituency too and handled many problems of that nature. The other thing was that he wanted to do everything he could to help the child, from the infant right on up, with education, with insurance, and with all of the subsequent things he set up.

M: Same kind of thing at the national level he'd been trying to do at the State level. Who do you think were his enemies? Do you think he had any enemies?

E: Well, you know, Lawton was not well known in many parts of the state, so he really didn't have any strong enemies down here at all. All he had for people that opposed him were the people who were supporting one of the other candidates.

M: Right. And that was mainly just because of the other candidate.

E: Mainly just because they were supporting the other candidate. But Lawton really didn't have any enemies that I knew of at all. And some of the actions he took in the Florida Legislature and the positions he took might have generated some animosity, but I don't really think that he had any strong enemies.

M: Now, Lawton was never one, as far as I can tell, to campaign for people or against people very much, or to bring people in to campaign for him. In 1976, when Jimmy Carter ran against President Ford, do you remember if he was active at all in that campaign?

E: I don't think so. I was active in it, and I was on the Carter Finance Committee. I wouldn't get active in it 'til I went up to Tallahassee and met with Jimmy Carter before he ran and found out if he and Reubin Askew were going to be alright 'cause they had had a difference of opinion when they were governors and...

M: They were governors at the same time, weren't they?

E: Yeah. And I wanted to know how Reubin felt about it, so he went over and met with Reubin and Reubin said everything was clear, so I helped him. But I don't ever recall Lawton being really involved in the campaign.

M: Okay. I don't remember him either, when I was growing up, as a person that was a real Party man, I mean going out and supporting the Party.

E: Well, I was raising money for Carter, and I had to raise a lot of it in different places, and Polk County was one of them, but I didn't use Lawton in any way, shape, or form to do it.

M: Now, in the late '70s, Bob Graham became Governor. Can you remember if they had any close relationship before Bob Graham became Governor and Lawton became Senator? He's a little younger than Governor Chiles.

E: Well, did Bob get up in the House, I mean up in the legislature before Lawton left?

M: I think maybe, just a little bit but not a whole lot.

E: Well, y' know, they got to know each other there, I'm sure, and I know that they were friends, I know that, but I don't really think that there was any strong relationship. It later came about.

M: What do you think that Governor Chiles' Senate legacy would be? Obviously he became head of the Budget Committee, but can you reflect a little bit on what you consider his Senate legacy would be?

E: I think that he was a person who took care of the little people of Florida. He took care of the types of businesses and industries that provided jobs and he didn't have any relationship to fat cats and he didn't try to seduce the Corporate boardrooms and to help big companies, utilities or anything of that nature. And I'm a former director of a utility. But he dealt primarily with the big people. And I think that he helped a lot, I know, while he was in Washington because he served on a special committee on the aging and helped the elderly people of this state in trying to do the things that maybe the organization like AARP does for 'em today. And he was concerned from the beginning about the growing deficit, the Federal deficit, and that thing disturbed him tremendously. He spent an awful lot of his time working on that. And the other thing that he'll always

take out of there is, he became a national champion for children, and that was the greatest legacy, as far as I'm concerned.

M: Even at the national level.

E: Oh yeah, while he was there he helped create the National Commission on Infant Mortality while he was in the United States Senate, and that was just a precursor of the things he would do as he later had an opportunity to serve as Governor of the State.

M: Were you surprised when you first learned that he was not going to run again in 1988?

E: Well, you know, he was going to run. And I'd already sent out letters raising money, and had raised quite a bit, then he made the decision not to run, so I wrote a letter, put him really on the spot. He kidded me about it later. I wrote a letter to all the people that I'd raised money from, and I said, "I think you know Senator Chiles well enough to know that the last thing he would do would be to take money on false pretenses and I know that as soon as they settle up these little expenses that they've had so far, which are minimum, that he'll give everybody a share of their funds back". And I sent a copy of it to Lois and Charles Canady. I think Canady liked to blow a fuse but it didn't bother Lawton. And he did, he sent all the money back to the people and what not. So it did surprise me that he wasn't going to run again. But he told me personally. I talked to him. He called me and I talked to him, and he said, "I just really have reached a point where I'm so upset about the inability to do anything about the fiscal policy of this country 'til," he said, "I just don't want anymore of it". And you saw the video that I gave you.

M: Sure. Sure did.

E: ...when he and Rhea first went up there. But it surprised me.

M: It just consumed him. It just basically wore him down to the point that he was...

E: ...just worn out with it.

M: Yeah.

E: And Rhea probably had something to do with it, 'cause any action he took, Rhea had something to do with it. And she's getting quite active again today in Democratic politics down here in our county.

M: Obviously, that speaks to his frustration with the budget process. Did he ever express any opinions of Ronald Reagan? Did he hold Ronald Reagan responsible for those kinds of problems? Did he like Reagan on a personal level and not like his policies?

E: Lawton was not one, at any time in the State legislature or as United States Senator or as Governor, to make too many public pronouncements about people, why he didn't like 'em or the reason he didn't like 'em, or anything else. He was just not that way. He would work against them and do everything he could, but as far as Reagan was

concerned, he was real deeply concerned about Reagan leading us back into a bad fiscal situation and he just deplored that tremendously, and he did so publicly, but he never said anything against Reagan, the man.

M: In 1989, 1990, Bob Martinez had been elected earlier on, were you surprised that [Lawton] was thinking about running for governor?

E: I was a little bit, to tell you the truth. Before he actually announced it, I knew it, but I was a little surprised because when we gave him his life membership in the Chamber there, y' know, why, I talked to him at that time and he was going to do many other things and he stated he wanted to still be involved, still help the state, but never anything about getting back into politics, so that sort of surprised me.

M: And some other campaigns had been up and running. I think Bill Nelson had already pretty much committed to run and, do you remember, was it Whitehead who was Chair of the Democratic Party then?

E: Yeah.

M: Do you remember what his reaction was?

E: He's always been a pragmatist, and as I recall, I think Charlie said that, y' know, he was surprised that he was going to, but he thought he might do well.

M: Okay. Were you involved in that campaign?

E: Yes. In fact, I helped him raise money. Whenever he would come here, I introduced him and I contacted people around the state in the various places where I served on a commission, on committees, on boards and that type of thing, in his behalf.

M: I think Bob Martinez had done something to alienate some of the tax people. Do you remember it? I know it was an issue in the campaign.

E: He should have stayed hitched and stuck to his guns but...

M: Do you remember whether Lawton Chiles' health was an issue? The Prozac business, had that come out by that time?

E: It didn't hurt him. In my opinion it didn't.

M: Okay. Do you know the extent of his treatment?

E: Oh, I talked to him about it because I wanted to know what Prozac did and what not, you know, and he just said that he had suffered depression, which is not uncommon in this country. All this fiscal stuff was really driving him up the wall. But he said [the Prozac] was very helpful and it was just like, if you got high blood pressure, then you'd have to take medication to help you, and that's all it meant to me and I think to a lot of other people.

M: Okay. Can you evaluate his first term? In other words, had the Children's Initiative come into full force within the first term as governor?

E: Well, he started working on it when he was governor the first time.

M: And the tobacco?

E: No, that was his last term that the tobacco issue really surfaced, and he felt like one of the greatest things that happened to him was the Florida Kid Care Act. He did that in the 1998 legislature, and that expanded to a Florida kids program statewide and provided healthcare coverage to nearly 256,000 Florida children. And ever since he started boosting prenatal and infant care services as a United States Senator and before that, he brought that into the state to try to preserve families and protect all of our children. And I think that was the thing that he did more than anything else to help this state. Of course, he was involved in business too, through Florida Enterprise and Florida Department of Commerce, things of that nature, and I think that he did a lot to help get private firms to be partners with government to help support the buildup of our economy in the state.

M: Now, by 1994, when he ran for re-election, the demographics had been changing in Florida since his early years in politics, and everything was going against the Democratic Party. At the same time in 1994, the Bush dynamo was kicking in. President Bush had basically installed his son into a big real estate empire in Miami and he'd gotten all this money and support from the Republican Party, and here was this good-looking, young, rich, smart, glib, 1994 Republican nominee. It didn't look really good for Lawton really in 1994.

E: Tough-looking campaign? It was a tough campaign, and I think that, at this time, so many of your Democrats, particularly in the Florida Panhandle, voted for Republican fully. A lot of them hadn't switched to the Republican Party like they did down here. But we had a goodly number of people who had switched to the Republican Party down here who supported Lawton; they had supported him as Democrats and still liked him. And I know I worked with a mayor who's a Republican and a county commissioner who's Republican who strongly supported him. And some of the places that he went to on his Walking Lawton in earlier days, he made friends as a Florida Cracker and this started him making the sayings that he did, and doing this folksy thing, and ultimately by stopping Jeb in his tracks, y'know, with the He-Coon!

M: In the debate in Orlando?

E: Right. So I think it was a tough campaign, but I think he was able to show, too, the great experience in government, in the United States Senate and as Governor that he had, and here was a young man who, with all these attributes you talk about, had no experience whatsoever in government. He'd even served in a little thing up in the Department of Commerce up there that didn't amount to anything, and he'd never been elected to anything, and he just showed the difference in a proven track record against taking the chance on somebody that you knew the devil that you knew you'd rather him than the devil you didn't. But it was a tough campaign.

M: But he won, and that seemed to pull the base together and he was gonna run on that and that was gonna either win him or lose it so he did get did win, narrowly. Again, that's about the same time, immediately upon the inauguration for the second time, that he really began pursuing the Tobacco Initiative.

E: Yes.

M: Can you comment a little bit on that and your memory of that or even any advice that you may have given him on that?

E: Well, I didn't give him any advice on it. He had a lot of advice coming from attorney friends and all the consortium of attorneys that had been put together and what not, but he knew what he wanted to do and all he wanted to find was a vehicle, and a procedure, and a method to do it. And, y' know, it was 11.3 billion over 25 years to reimburse what the state spent each year treating Medicaid patients with smoking-related illnesses and setting up that pilot program to do everything possible to reduce the use of tobacco by minors.

M: My sister's involved in that.

E: Well, that's just wonderful.

M: They've cut it, you know.

E: Yeah, well, we're getting so chopped up now 'til it's terrible. Of course, being a former member of the predecessors Board of Regents, why, I was disturbed enough about abolishing them, and I helped Bob Graham with that amendment too. But, I think that was one of the biggest coups I've ever seen.

M: And guts! It took a lot of guts!

E: It took a lot of guts, a lot of guts. And you could not believe the millions of dollars that were spent lobbying against him. I mean, millions of dollars. Of course, he always helped us; too, opposing organized gambling. I belong to an organization of citizens that oppose organized gambling in the state.

M: We're nearing the end of our ability to talk today. You've obviously thought about this. Would you like to summarize what you think would be Lawton's legacy for the State of Florida and future generations? I know that's not an easy question to answer, but would you like to just say one last thing, or a summary?

E: Well, I think that Lawton Chiles can be remembered as a man who had a real inner feeling that he wanted to help the children of this world, not just this state but this world, and that he entered politics so that he could be of an influence in bringing about some change in what was happening, and that he subsequently was able, in the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate and the United States Senate, to do what he thought was best for the welfare of the most people, starting with the children. And, of course, he ended up by bringing about this billion-dollar tobacco bill, which provided the funds to do much of this in the state. So I think he'll be remembered as a decent man, a good man of moral, good moral character. As far as I know, there has never been a

blemish on his reputation of any kind, so I think he was a good governor, a good United States Senator, and a good human being.

M: Great. I think that's probably a good way to end this deal today at least. (end of tape)