

CENTER FOR FLORIDA HISTORY ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEW WITH: Judge E. J. Salcines
INTERVIEWER: James M. Denham
LOCATION: Tampa, Florida
DATE: May 19, 2004

M=James M. Denham (Mike)

E=E. J. Salcines

M: I'm here today with Judge E.J. Salcines at the Second District Court of Appeals in Tampa, Florida, and we're here today to talk about his memories of Lawton Chiles, but also talk about his own upbringing in Tampa, as well as his education at Florida Southern. Good afternoon, Judge Salcines.

E: Thank you very much for the opportunity.

M: Once again, while we're here mainly to talk about Lawton Chiles, I would like to ask you some questions about your own background. What year were you born and where did you live when you were a child?

E: Okay, I am the son of immigrants that came to Tampa from Spain, respectively. They met in Tampa and I was born on the 18th of July 1938, here in Tampa at one of the Spanish Club hospitals known as the Centro Asturiano Hospital, which was part of the numerous mutual aid societies that the Latin community of Tampa had promulgated and devised. In fact, though the hospitals don't exist anymore, two of the great clubs have already celebrated their centennial.

M: Where were your parents born in Spain?

E: My mother was born in the Province of Asturias and my father was born in the neighboring Province of Cantabrian. My father was born in a very popular summer resort called Laredo, for whom Laredo, Texas, and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and we have different Laredos because it was an important seaport for the early explorers that explored the New World. In fact, directly across from my father's hometown [lived] the owner of the ship that we all called the Santa Maria that discovered this New World and of which Columbus was the navigator, the very famous cartographer, Juan de la Cosa. Juan de la Cosa was the owner of the ship and he was a great cartographer. In fact, the earliest map that we have of what is now the Americas, especially North America, is the Juan de la Cosa map. My father came from Laredo and my mother came from a very rural area in Asturias called Candamo.

M: Were there any other family members who came with them individually, obviously individual families of your relatives?

E: Well, understand that 99% of the Spaniards left Spain through Transatlantic Shipping. Most of those Spanish Transatlantic Lines brought them from Spain to Cuba, and then from Cuba, they got into smaller vessels and came to Tampa, New Orleans, Philadelphia, and other points. So, my parents, like 99% of the Spaniards that have come to the Americas

came from Spain to Cuba. My father, at the age of 14, was put on a ship by my grandmother and that ship brought him to Cuba where he already had two older brothers who were in the dry goods business.

M: What year was that?

E: This was 1914. He was born in 1900. My grandmother put him on a ship in 1914. He arrived in Cuba. He was living with his two brothers, sleeping in the back of the department store on a cot.

M: In Havana?

E: In the outskirts of Havana. And that's where he learns his trade. He becomes a dry goods salesman and that helps him when he came to this country, some almost four years later. He arrives in Tampa in late 1918, in early 1919 he is already working in a department store in West Tampa, and he is here when my mother arrived from Spain in 1929.

M: Directly from Spain.

E: Yes, but through Cuba, because remember the shipping lanes brought the Spaniards from Spain to Cuba, and then you changed vessels. That's why, if you went to Ellis Island, you had a very small number of Spaniards coming through Ellis Island because the Transatlantic shipping lanes went from Spain to Cuba, not from Spain to New York, with a certain exception. But the great numbers were coming through Cuba. Anyway, my uncle, Jose Rodriguez, my mother's older brother, was a cigar maker here in Tampa. My grandfather, my mother's father and my uncle's father, was a wooden shoemaker; that was his occupation. In Northern Spain, like in Holland, they used wooden shoes for work out in the fields and so forth. You had your wool slipper and your sock of course, but then you would use the wooden shoe out when you were tending the cows and doing the pasturing and cutting grass and so forth. When my uncle here in Tampa learned that his father had died, he then went to Spain and brought my mother to Tampa through Havana. My mother eventually became a naturalized American citizen, as did my father. They met and they married in 1937, the same day as my birthday, except I was born exactly one year later, July the 18th. They got married in 1937 and I was born in 1938. From that marriage not only came E.J. but there also came a younger son, who was born on the 18th of June of 1941, and his name was Joseph Manuel, in Spanish Jose Manuel. He unfortunately died in May of 1946 and then they were never able to have any more children so, in effect, I am the only child of these immigrants from Spain living in Tampa. My mother worked in a cigar factory with her brother. Then, after marrying, my father opened up his own dry goods department store. My mother went to work with my father in their department store called West Tampa Department Store on the corner of Howard and Main Street in West Tampa, and that's where Salcines Park is now located. The City has dedicated that area as a designated park and it carries the Salcines name in honor of my father and my mother. There is a historical marker at that park and it gives a brief history of my father.

M: Did you work with him in the store as a young boy growing up?

E: Yes, absolutely, a European upbringing, not any emphasis at all in sports. If you were not studying, and education was very important, your place was to be learning the trade of your parents, and in this case they owned the department store and that store would eventually become mine if I wanted to choose to stay in that occupation. I worked there from

childhood. My first occupation was really being a shoeshine boy. I was a shoeshine boy from the corner of Howard and Cherry in West Tampa, all the way to the corner of Howard and Main Street, where my father had the store, and I would generally shine shoes on Saturday morning to make money for the movies.

M: Did you have all your gear?

E: Oh absolutely.

M: Did you have the chair and everything?

E: Well, I didn't carry a chair. I carried my shoeshine box and of course I had to make enough money to buy the ingredients that you use, not only your brush and your cloth, but you had your shoe polish and you also had a liquid that we would put on the shoe before we would apply the polish, and then the sole dressing and so forth. So I had all of that. I still maintain that. I still shine my own shoes.

M: Now, in that community, were most of the people in West Tampa, in your neighborhood, mostly Hispanic?

E: Absolutely. The City of Tampa has two Latin Quarters. One is called Ybor City, which was never an independent city. Ybor City is on the eastern side of the Hillsborough River, which divides the city. North and south is the river, and Ybor City was on the east side of the river, and West Tampa, as the name tells you, is on the west side. But the City of West Tampa was an independent municipality from the year 1895 to 1925. The mastermind behind the Ybor City, Cigar City, was of course Mr. Ybor, Vicente Martinez Ybor, and on the West Tampa side, a man born in Scotland by the name of Hugh C. Macfarlane.

Mr. Macfarlane was inspired seeing what Mr. Ybor had done when he purchased 200 acres on the east bank and then developed a very progressive and very economically successful venture called Ybor City with the cigar industry. Mr. Macfarlane said 'well if the Spaniard Ybor did it on the East side, I can do it on the West side' and he bought, with a group of business associates, 200 acres and they developed the second cigar city, called the City of West Tampa. It was an independent municipality. It was chartered by the State and for 30 years, it functioned with its own mayor, its own city council, and so forth, but Mr. Macfarlane and the connection of the Scots were very, very important because they were the backbone of that independent city. West Tampa eventually was annexed into the City of Tampa in January of 1925 and at the time; West Tampa was the fifth largest city in the State of Florida, with a thriving economy. So we have here, in the City of Tampa, the story of two cities, two cigar cities, twin cities, Ybor and West Tampa. I was raised in West Tampa and it was primarily a Latin community. The dominant language in both Ybor City and in West Tampa was Spanish; composed mostly in numbers the population was the largest for that of the Cubans. But then the Spaniards had a very large population followed by the Italians and then a lot of Romanian Jews were in both West Tampa and Ybor City. We had, of course, Anglos, and we also had Afro-Cubans on both the Ybor City and the West Tampa side because a lot of Cubans of color had come with the cigar industry.

M: Were there Germans?

E: We had Germans, but as I recall in West Tampa, we didn't have as much a German presence as they had in Ybor City. In Ybor City, up to the end of the First World War, they even had one of the great clubs called the German-American Club on the corner of 11th

Avenue and Nebraska. And there was a recent article in the paper where there was so much animosity following the surrender by the Germans in the First World War that around 1919, a group of vigilantes attacked the German-American Club there on 11th Avenue and Nebraska, destroyed a lot of the treasures that the club had, and then the club sort of disappeared. We still have a German-American Club in Tampa, but it is certainly a much smaller one. The City of Tampa now owns that German-American Club location building, on 11th Avenue and Nebraska and it's an agency of the City of Tampa and they're doing a great job maintaining that building.

M: Obviously, this would have been a very, very close-knit community. You would have known everybody; they would have known you, your family.

E: Absolutely.

M: What were some of the things you used to do for fun growing up as a teenager? Of course, you didn't have much fun, you always worked every minute.

E: Well, I didn't work every minute, though my father was of European orientation and work was very important in their work ethic, but my wood-frame home, not far from a cigar factory that had become a cigar box factory, was directly in front of a playground called Rey Park, named in honor of one of the mayors of West Tampa who was a very prominent cigar manufacturer and partner of a very famous man in the cigar industry here called Cuesta-Rey Cigar Factory. So I would recreate in that playground and directly across the street, we had the theatre, the Royal Theatre, and we had the Spanish Club. My father, being a Spaniard, was a very prominent member of that club and there were always cultural activities going on there. The men used to have their card games going and dominoes and billiards and chess, and in some tables, they would play cards but with a European card, which was different than the American card games that we had. Theirs was more in symbols, very colorful as I recall, but there were card games that were popular in Spain and were played with that type of card. So when I was not in school and I was not working in my dad's department store and I wasn't shining shoes, I was either playing at Rey Park or going to see the two features that we had plus the serial plus the newsreel, that's how many people learned the news, through the newsreel, and of course the cartoon. So for 10 or 15 cents, I was able to spend a few hours in the theatre on Saturday afternoons and it was a very ethnic community. Like I said, the dominant language was Spanish. I was raised in a bilingual and a bicultural, actually a tri-cultural ambience, because the Italians were very close to the Spanish and Cuban. Very frequently our friends would invite us to their homes and there would be Italian dishes that I was not familiar with because my mother didn't cook Italian meals, and I would hear Italian music and Italian songs and Italian opera and during my early childhood I was very active in theatre. And Tampa had a very rich Spanish theatrical ambience and there were always theatrical and musical performances. Remember, we had no television back in the late 1940s and 1950s, and we always had in one of the theatres, there was always some theatrical group performing, amateurs not professionals. Periodically, there would be professionals that would come, mostly from Cuba because Havana was a very important capital.

M: Now was there interaction in your childhood and your growing up, did people go to Cuba a lot?

E: Oh a lot.

M: Did they go there for the weekend? Did they go there for a week? Did they see relatives there?

E: Yes, and in the summer –

M: Was there a lot of coming and going, I guess?

E: Yes, there was always activity in the summer. When kids were out of school, their parents would take them to see relatives that were in Cuba. At Christmastime, there was always a lot of activity going back and forth. Before my time, Tampa always had Mr. Henry B. Plant's ferries that were going between Tampa, Key West, and Havana. Then, as I was growing up post World War II, we had national airlines that would fly two or three flights a day from the old original airport on Tampa Bay Boulevard and Westshore. There was that airport and flights left every day two and three times, so it was not unusual for some businessmen to say fly on a Friday afternoon flight and then come back late Sunday night or first thing Monday morning. So there was a lot of interplay.

M: Kind of like flying to Tallahassee or flying to Atlanta or wherever.

E: Exactly. Or to Miami.

M: Yeah, or Miami. Okay. Obviously, you had a very rich childhood growing up, and you've already mentioned some of your best memories. What are some of your worst memories?

E: The worst memory was, and it's very vague in my mind but I think it was the worst, accompanying my parents when the soldiers were killed in the war. I have a much better recollection of the end of the war when the boys came back from Europe and from the Pacific, and some that never returned. My father's department store was the center of activity on the corner of Howard and Main Street. It was called West Tampa Department Store. It was directly across the street from the State Bank of West Tampa. All of the streetcars that came through West Tampa intersected; the two lines intersected directly in front of my father's store. So there was always a lot of activity. But since your question relates to some of the worst memories, there was a Western Union, a very small Western Union office behind the Bank of West Tampa, and it so happened that the door of that Western Union was in front of the back door of my father's department store. My mother was the seamstress. She was always at her Singer sewing machine fixing cuffs and fixing things that customers needed, and the lady that ran the Western Union office would call my mother and say 'Juanita, Juanita' and my mother would stop her sewing and would come out to the sidewalk and ask 'what's the matter?' [And the lady would say] 'I just got a telegram that Mr. Lopez's son was killed in Iwo Jima. I'm preparing the telegram for delivery'. My father, of course, knew who had the few telephones in that West Tampa area. He knew where the Lopez's lived. He would call the nearest phone to the Lopez's and alert them that very soon a bicycle would be delivering a terrible message to the Lopez family. So, even before the boy got there on his bicycle to deliver the yellow envelope with the Teletype glued to the yellow Western Union paper, there was a network of support. A moment ago you correctly said that it was a closely-knit neighborhood. Everybody knew [each other]. Of course we did. And even before the outcry of the mother or the sister or the father who opened the envelope, the most unwelcome person probably was the Western Union boy and his bicycle with his metal clip that would hold his pant so that it would not get stuck in the chain.

M: Now did you ever ride that bicycle?

E: Oh absolutely. On the handlebars. As I recall the bicycle, it was not a fancy Western Auto bicycle, it had no covers in the back wheel or the front wheel and I remember that his handlebars were narrow, almost like racing-type handlebars, just enough for my buttocks to fit right at the top there as a kid. [I] would enjoy that escapade in the bicycle. But those were probably the darkest memories because, again, it was very traditional in that I guess some authors would call that type of neighborhood a ghetto or a barrio, an ethnic neighborhood, we would always go to wakes. We would always go to funerals. We would go to the cemetery. I was an altar boy in my school; I went to a Catholic school run by the Salesian Sisters. The Salesian Order were the operators of St. Joseph Elementary School, where I went to elementary school. I did my first communion and my confirmation there at the wood frame St. Joseph Church. Consequently, I was the altar boy at weddings, but I always was the altar boy at funeral masses. And you see, going to cemeteries and so forth, and seeing life, not only the good side of life but also the grief and the torment of family members losing children, that was not only for World War II, but I was there when the Korean War started, so we had that same experience again in Korea. I would think that those were the darker things that I remember from my childhood. I was blessed with a very fine childhood because my parents, as immigrants who have had hardly any education, my father knew how to read and write. My mother barely knew how to read and write, but they were self-taught and they taught themselves in this country. And my father became a voracious reader who introduced me to geography and history. And I'll tell you about that in another moment what got me interested in history and geography and world events. But he was a frequent visitor to the library. The library was just half a block. It was the famous Andrew Carnegie, the oldest library that we have in Hillsborough County. It says at the top "Free Public Library", and my father was always getting books from the library and reading them, then he would share a lot of that with me.

M: Was your father interested in politics?

E: My father was never a political person but always in the background of political things, but mostly civic.

M: He was involved in public affairs, or civic affairs.

E: Public affairs. Civic affairs. Bettering community.

M: Now, you made reference to your father's work with war bonds. Would you like to mention that just briefly?

E: Oh very important. There were two people in Hillsborough County that were in charge of the World War Bond effort, because we had to finance the war. So we sold bonds. Mr. Griffin, who was the President of the Exchange National Bank, was in charge of pretty much the Anglo community and Emiliano Salcines, my father, as pictures would appear in the different newspaper, but primarily *The Tampa Morning Tribune*, *The Tampa Times*, *The Tampa Daily Times*, which was the afternoon paper, and then we had a series of Spanish newspapers that were published. If a picture came out of a boy or a girl that was serving, my father would cut it out and would paste it on the back of these, I now have something like 34 boards full of pictures, and then he would put those posters with the pictures in his picture glass windows. Every department store sold merchandise by putting their merchandise in the windows of the store. My father would decorate the window, not just with the clothing that he wanted to sell, but also with these pictures, and these posters full of pictures were

very popular because the cigar makers would come from all the many factories that we had, and as I told you, the intersection of the two streetcar lines was right there in front of my dad's department store, so people were getting off and on and they would be looking at their nephews', their neighbors', their friends' pictures. And many of those young men and women returned from the service and the mother or the father would show up and say 'Mr. Salcines, would you show my son or my daughter the picture that appeared that you had there in the window?' and my father would show them. And many times they would say 'can I have the poster?' and he would give them the poster. Fortunately, we have retained a good number of those posters, which were recently displayed in the Tampa Bay History Center during their big exposé` of remembering the Second World War in Hillsborough County.

M: That's great. Judge Salcines, I would imagine that all along, when you were coming up in high school, you planned or hoped, your desire, your dream and your parents' dream, was to go to college.

E: Oh absolutely.

M: Attend college.

E: Education was very important in my household.

M: Can you go ahead and talk a little bit about those dreams and aspirations, and that can kind of lead us into your decisions to go to college?

E: Education was very important in my household. Understand that my parents, I think my father had gone to the third grade; I think my mother had maybe accomplished the first grade. My mother came from a very rural area of Northern Spain. And my father was exposed because his father would write articles for a local newspaper so my father was more inclined in the letters. As I told you, he was always reading. In our library in West Tampa, we were the repository of all the Spanish literature that had been read by the lectores, which is plural for lector, which translates as 'the readers' of the cigar factories. The cigar factories had this institution of readers that really opened the mind [and] enlightened the workers because the morning readings were all the newspapers. All the readings were in Spanish. There was instant translation occurring in the many cigar factories, and the afternoon was always the great literature, not necessarily just Spanish literature. It was the literature that had been translated into Spanish and, come 1931, when all of the readers were kicked out of the cigar factories, and unfortunately that institution dies, those readers accumulated all of the books that they had and they dedicated it to the West Tampa Library, and they used to keep those books in the basement. So you could go to the basement of the West Tampa Library on the corner of Howard Avenue and Union, and you would go downstairs and you were introduced to all the great literature of the world written in Spanish. And my father was a constant visitor and was always reading. Now, when did I decide that education was important? I had no alternative. My mother and my father were always telling me 'in this country, the United States, the key to success is education and we will work 40 hours a day to see that you get a good education'. I told you that my father didn't believe in sports. He knew at what time I was arriving from school. So long as I was reading, so long as I was doing homework, I didn't have to get the broom to sweep the outside sidewalk or to sweep the store or the duster to dust the dust off of the boxes because there was no air-condition. There were two large doors, the front door and the back door, and it was a dusty world that we lived in before air-condition came along, and the duster was very important because when you picked up a box of shoes and you wanted to open the box of shoes to show the

customer the shoe, you didn't want your hands to be dirty, or you didn't want the customers hands to be dirty. Or if you rubbed the box next to someone's blouse or shirt, you didn't want it to get dirty so you were constantly dusting. And so long as I was reading, I didn't have to do my chores in the department store. And education was very important. And let me tell you how he got me started on history and geography. We used to have, during the Second World War, air raid practices. Everybody had to turn their lights off. Every block had a Civil Defense person who would put on his old doughboy helmet, only it had been painted white with the 'CD' symbol in front for Civil Defense, and with a canvas type of, it was a strap that went over the shoulder and it was a bag where he kept the flashlight or he kept whatever, and he would knock on your door if you had a light on, even if you closed the curtains. If there was a little light, he would 'turn the lights off, turn the lights off!' Okay? So my father would get my brother and me and lay down in his bed, remember these air raids were always after dark. So 8:30, 9:00 at night, all of a sudden the siren would go off and we would have to do this drill. So my father would take me and my brother to his bed. He would be in the middle. He would put one head over his left arm and the other one over the right, and the geography and history lessons would start. It was always a contest. 'What is the capital of France?' So there was this competition between my younger brother and me, 'I know, Dad, I know! That's Paris.' 'Okay, very good. What's the capital of England?' 'I know! I know!' We would be in this competition. And we would learn the capital of the different states. We learned the capitals of the different countries. We'd learn the rivers, the important rivers, and then history things. 'Okay, who discovered America?' 'What year did Columbus discover America?' One thing and another. Well I remember that very well because we would both fall asleep in our father's arms and then he would carry us to our childhood bed. And as I said, my brother died shortly after the Second World War was over in 1946, he died. But my father was always an enthusiast. We always received magazines and newspapers in my father's store. We would receive not only English language magazines, but Spanish language magazines that came to us from Cuba. So, my father always made me very aware of world events and history so I grew up –

M: Now was there any discussion in your household about Franco, Francisco Franco?

E: Yes, there were and I had occasion, at a very young age, to visit Spain and I saw Franco for the very first time in the summer of 1949. My father had taken me to Spain with the first delegation of businessmen and Spaniards that were able to return to Spain, because remember Spain had had the Spanish Civil War before I was born. It ended in 1939, so I was just a few months old. It actually had gotten started on my birthday but two years before, on the 18th of July 1936, Franco invades the Iberian Peninsula and the Spanish Civil War starts. And then it ended in 1939. Well, that was a very divisive period in Tampa. I don't remember it, but my parents and my friends have told me how divisive it was because most of the Spaniards here wanted democracy for Spain. They were against any type of totalitarian or dictatorship. They weren't particularly very monarchical because they had memories of their childhood, but I remember great discussions about Franco and that Franco had taken over Spain. But Franco was able to survive the Hitler takeover and because he was able to convince Hitler that Spain had been devastated with its civil war, it could not actively participate in the axis power. And we had a lot of anti-Franco sentiments in Tampa. Then I witnessed for myself what Spain was in 1949. I spent the summer of 1949, all of June, all of July, and all of August, 90 days we spent in Spain and my father took me all around, and I have very vivid memories of asking my father 'why are there holes in this wall?' and of course those were the holes from the bullets in Madrid, in different cities. I experienced firsthand the poverty that Spain was experiencing because the U.S. had punished Spain. Following the Second World War there was no marshal plan for Spain.

Spain had to get itself up by its own bootstraps. I remember the poverty, the hunger that there was. I had never seen people begging for food. I had never seen boys my age with the skinniest legs. It was the summer, so they were wearing short pants, and they looked like toothpicks. So I experienced that. During that summer, we were in a northern city called San Sebastian very close to the French border and there was a big fiesta and I saw Franco, which was the only time I saw him, a very small man in his military uniform. I have witnessed a lot of debate by the Spaniards who have gone back to Spain during the Franco years and so forth and realized how Franco, even though he was a dictator, even though he had done this *coup d' etat*, had brought Spain through some very difficult years. Today we look back, and we must admire how Spain has come through the transition, the very easy transition from a dictatorship, from a totalitarian government to a democratic [society] and the reinstitution of the monarchy.

M: Exactly. Good. So, you graduated from high school –

E: First of all, I was in this Salesian school, St. Joseph School. My father then bought a home in a different part of town and when we moved to that part of town on South Matanzas Avenue, between Azeele and Horatio, where my mother still lives, I then was starting the seventh grade and I started at Wilson Junior High, which is a public school, and that gave me another great exposure. Even though I was raised in a Catholic school and raised in a Catholic home, my father was very close to the Jewish community in Tampa because, before owning his own department store, he had worked for a very prominent Jewish businessman here who had a department store, named Mr. Salomon Simonvitz, and my father had worked for the Simonvitz family for 23 years in West Tampa and it is when they moved from West Tampa to Ybor City my father said ‘no, we have an established clientele, I’m going to open up my own department store’. So my father had always exposed me to the Jewish synagogues because he had a lot of friends that he had grown up with since he arrived in Tampa. So I was exposed, yes, to a lot of Catholicism, but then also to the Jewish faith and going to the synagogues. I get to a public school, and I’m exposed to a lot of Protestants. That gave me a very tolerant, actually a world attitude, about religions of the world, and respecting and tolerating different beliefs, different rituals. So I was at Wilson Junior High for three years and then I chose to go a military academy in Gainesville, Georgia, called Riverside Military Academy, and I spent my three years at that military academy. While I was at that military academy, the headmaster, who was a very strong personality by the name of General Sandy Beaver, used to say ‘don’t go to large universities, don’t go to big universities, find small liberal arts colleges because you will get a better education, the classes will be smaller, there will be a better and a healthier relationship with the teacher and the student’, and that stuck. So I graduated on the 28th of May 1956 from Riverside Military Academy and chose Florida Southern College. I arrived on campus immediately after Labor Day because all schools used to start immediately after Labor Day.

M: Were there any other schools you were considering?

E: Yes. While I was in Gainesville, Georgia, in the library I had come across a catalogue on a university called Tufts University. For some reason, I liked the pictures or something, and I had written off [to them]. I had [also] written off to the University of Florida. I also had considered the University of Tampa. There was no University of South Florida, even though the logo at USF says ‘1956’, that’s when the law passed. There was no university here in 1956 or 1957 or 1958. I graduated from Florida Southern in three years rather than four because I used to attend the University of Tampa. While I was at Florida Southern, I met up with two contemporaries from Tampa, one that I used to see at parties by the name of Joe

Capatano, and the other one was Al Garcia, whose father owned a Spanish restaurant here in Ybor City. That first semester, we lived in our separate dorms but the second semester, we were roommates and we stayed as roommates for the next three years that I was at Florida Southern. Eventually, Joe Capatano's sister married Al Garcia so they became brothers-in-law and we grew up from those days at Florida Southern as three brothers, really. We get along very well, we see each other frequently, and the successes of one are the successes of all, and the sorrows of one are the sorrows of all.

M: So you entered in 1957.

E: I entered in 1956, and I graduated in 1959.

M: Do you remember going over to Florida Southern before you left for Georgia?

E: No, I don't remember ever seeing Florida Southern before, but I certainly visited a couple of times before I selected [it as] where I wanted to go. I had some very good instructors, but there was a George Morris who was my teacher of American Institutions, like American History. It was [in] an old building directly across from the Administration Building where you all now have the monument, the historical marker remembering Frank Lloyd Wright. Directly across you have a modern, I think it is a communications building. Well that's a modern building today, but that used to be an old house there, and George Morris, whose wife was the secretary in administration to Ludd Spivey, Mrs. Morris worked there in the office but her husband, a tall, very distinguished looking [with a] small mustache, really got me turned on to American History. He would challenge me and I would come back. I still have some of my book reports and some of my special reports. He always used to tell me 'I know you want to be a lawyer, but you really ought to think more about history. Eventually, I declared my major to be Social Sciences rather than History or Political Science. I had two other very good professors in Political Science, Dr. Richardson and Dr. Richards. I became very active on campus though I really never used to spend weekends at Florida Southern. I used to arrange my schedule so that I didn't have Saturday classes, because Florida Southern used to have Saturday classes too. I don't know if they still do. But I used to arrange my classes so that I could finish Friday afternoon and many Friday afternoons, since I had no car, I would hitchhike. It was very easy back then. We didn't have an expressway, so I had to come through Plant City.

M: [Highway] 92?

E: 92. And back then, people felt very comfortable picking up what appeared to be a student. So I used to get to Tampa in no time. And Joe Capatano had a car so on Sundays we would ride back with Joe Capatano. I became very active on campus, not with social fraternities, but I was very active in honor societies. For instance, I got to be president of Pi Gamma Mu, I don't know if you still have Pi Gamma Mu on campus.

M: We do.

E: It's the National Social Science Honor Society. I was very active in Omicron Delta Kappa, the Leadership Honor Society. I represented Florida Southern Circle.

M: ODK.

E: ODK. We called them circles instead of chapters. I represented Florida Southern Circle at the National Convention that I went to with Dean Reddick, who was a very popular leader in the faculty there at Florida Southern. He and I traveled to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for a national convention.

M: Was Professor Burnett there then? Dick Burnett?

E: Burnett?

M: Richard Burnett.

E: I don't remember Richard Burnett. Anyway, I think they used to call us 'monitors' but we used to get credit. Everybody had to go to Chapel. If you were a freshman, you had to go to Chapel. And Capatano, Salcines, Garcia, and then we also had a number of other Tampa Bananas, the boys from Tampa, who would be giving out cards to those that attended, and you needed to turn in your card, etc. It was a way of controlling that you did attend.

M: Weren't there Cuban students there?

E: Yes, because, you must remember, there was a large recruiting thing since the Spanish-American War had taken a lot of protestant soldiers in the American Occupation Force in Cuba, which lasted a number of years because, between 1898 and the 20th of May 1902, when the American Occupational Forces left and then returned in 1906 again for another couple of years, there were a lot of Methodist soldiers. Consequently, the Methodist Church established in the rural parts of Cuba, a lot of Methodist churches that educated the rural Cuban boy and girl. So then there was a large Methodist presence in Cuba. We used to have teachers that used to go down and recruit. So we had a large presence of Cubans that were studying at Florida Southern College.

M: Now, did they organize themselves in groups, or were they spread out all over.

E: Not necessarily Cuban, but it was called the International Club. And if we looked in some of our annuals, you would find that there was at least one page dedicated to the International Club. We had a lot of Venezuelans, we had a lot of Cubans, we had Puerto Ricans, we had some Dominican Republicans, and we had some from Spain. We had a presence of Spanish speaking students.

M: Were there any of the students, in those years, that you were particularly friendly with that you remember and still know?

E: Oh yes, and I remember, though I have not had any contact with most of them, but there were two that were famous rowers and swimmers. They were the de la Guardia twins. They were twin brothers. The de la Guardia twins were very prominent in sports because they were excellent rowers, and we always had a good rowing team, and we also had a very good swimming team. And of course, Florida Southern's heart of activity was always the pool next to the Student Union as we used to call it. After Castro came into power in January of 1959, I lost all contact with the de la Guardia boys.

M: And they were back home by then?

E: They were not only back home, but they became very prominent in the Castro regime. And about 10 or 12 years ago, they were on television because they were arrested by Castro. One had the rank of Colonel; one had the rank of General. Right at this moment, I can't remember if they executed, was a public execution, one of the de la Guardia twins from Florida Southern. They used to put on programs. We had the Director of the Spanish Department, a lady by the name of Ada Pino Hamerick, and Miss Hamerick used to bring in speakers and visitors. And talking about visitors, I would frequently, through ODK, be an ambassador, you might say, welcoming different visitors that would come. For instance, George Smathers visited our campus. Spessard Holland visited our campus. Sam Gibbons, who was just starting as a very prominent State Government Senator or Representative, visited the campus. And ODK was always hosting. Of course, the most prominent person that visited Florida Southern that I had contact with and will always remember was none other than Frank Lloyd Wright. I think it was February of 1957. I was a freshman; I was the Commander of the Color Guard. And Frank Lloyd Wright, whose name meant nothing to me at the time, was coming and we were going to be waiting for the arrival of this most important visitor. Of course, our champion was Ludd Spivey and his assistant was a man called Charlie Thrift. This individual with a funny looking hat and his wife was always two or three steps behind him. Not only was there a nice welcoming ceremony, but then I was asked to accompany Frank Lloyd Wright with a small little delegation of students, and we would walk along with him and he would walk with students that were interested in architecture. With his cane, he would be pointing to the different cracks. As you know, one building is connected to another building by these low-level ceilings and we always wondered 'why didn't they build these ceilings a little higher?' Well, the genius behind this was Frank Lloyd Wright. He was a short man. He wasn't a tall man. But he would stop at all of the different pillars and he would show the cracks and he would tell the students why they had not mixed the cement just right or they had put too much water, or whatever. Now, architecture was not my thing, but this eminent architect would explain to our students why these different imperfections had occurred and I remember when Frank Lloyd Wright died, I participated in a group that put a marker to Frank Lloyd Wright. So I was on campus when he visited for his last visit. I was on campus when news arrived that he had passed away.

M: One of the professors you had at Florida Southern of course is the topic of what we're here for today, and that is of course Senator and Governor Lawton Chiles. But to you, back then he was Professor Chiles.

E: Professor Chiles, and over the many years, I always referred to him as Professor. Seldom would I call him Senator or call him Governor. Of course, I did that whenever the occasion occurred because of the protocol, but he was always Professor Chiles to me. And my recollections are very clear. I was taking Business Law and we had an old building, in fact one night when I went to the reception saying goodbye to Dr. Reuschling, I parked almost looking at the old wooden building that was the Business Department. It's up on a crest.

M: Is it still there?

E: That building is no longer there. But it was the Business Department and it sat up on a hill.

M: Is there anything there now?

E: Yeah.

M: Is there a building there now?

E: I think there's a building there now and let me tell you where it's at. We're coming down Ingram and just in front of the swimming pool; if you take a right there is a driveway where the faculty can park and where you now are able to park. That is the top of the crest.

M: Okay. That is, I think, the ROTC Building now, or something to that effect.

E: The ROTC Building might be a little further north, but there was a wooden building and there was like a hill to get up. We would be in class and many times we would see Lawton Chiles, who was one of our Business Law Professors together with Bill Ellsworth and he had another partner by the name of George Carr, and they would come up because they were never there together. They would divide the book by chapters. You would take contracts –

M: The three of them.

E: You would take torts, you take civil procedure, you take secure transactions, and by chapters, that lawyer would show up. That's my first experience with Lawton Chiles, George Carr and with Bill Ellsworth.

M: Now the three of them would have been how old at that time?

E: Well they were I think fresh out of Law School, so they had to have been 25, 26 probably, and I must have been 18, 19.

M: Now obviously this is an Undergraduate course. How many law courses would you have taken from them?

E: I think I only took one law course from them, but it was a Business Law course that introduced me to what I had always wanted to be. From the time that I was shining shoes, I already knew I wanted to be a lawyer.

M: So you obviously were very, very, very astute or attentive, I guess you'd say, in that class.

E: Not only attentive, but I wanted to see them in action, and at some point on one or two occasions I went to their law firm in downtown Lakeland. They were in the basement. They were just getting started. They probably had no clients and they were depending on whatever money Dr. Spivey gave them for teaching and splitting this course. But they were at the basement of the Thelma Hotel. Thelma Carr, George Carr's mother, was the Thelma who owned the Thelma Hotel and there was some basement area that was free, and that's where the three of them opened up their firm. And I went there on a couple of occasions to visit and actually to see what a law firm was like.

M: Now, did you ever go to court to watch the court procedures? Here in Tampa or during college did you ever attend court just to see what it was like?

E: I had a couple of court experiences that I want to relay to you. When I was at Riverside Military Academy, I was selected to be on the Honor Court. I was a Justice of the Honor Court for violations of the Honor Code and at that military school, the Honor Code was very

important. You didn't lie. You didn't cheat. You didn't copy. And I had to sit together with maybe another eight justices, cadets, under the tutelage of a West Point graduate, a Captain [Seman?], I visited on the Viet Nam Wall a couple of years ago while I was in Washington because he was killed in Viet Nam. I found his name and went to pay my respects and pray at the Viet Nam wall. Anyway, I had been selected to be on the Honor Court, and my father spoke to a gentleman who was a City Judge in the City Courts of Tampa, and as a high school student, I spent the summer of 1955 sitting next to the judge in the very building where I am right now. This used to be the old Tampa Police Department. And I sat there a number of mornings watching trials and watching evidence being admitted and suppressed, objections made and objections overruled, just to see the presentation of evidence. So when I was at Florida Southern, probably two years later, I was exposed to these lawyers who were young, and I wanted to be like them, but I wanted to see what they were doing. So I visited them there in the Thelma Hotel. I want to share with you my very first experience. It's ironic that this year we're celebrating the 50th anniversary of the famous landmark case of Brown vs. the Board of Education.

M: The day before yesterday.

E: Exactly. And all the month of May, the Bar Associations of the entire country have been dedicating ceremonies in memory of that 50th anniversary and the significance, meaning, and impact of that important decision. I was in the seventh grade at Wilson Junior High. Apparently, I was sick the day that the Sheriff came over and gave out little badges as being Junior Deputies.

M: Sheriff Culbreath?

E: Sheriff Hugh Culbreath, probably up for re-election and he was going to the different schools and giving little cards and a little tiny badge that identified you as a Junior Deputy. When I got to school the next day, all my buddies had little badges and I was impressed and I wanted one. The principal says 'I'm sorry, junior', Junior was my nickname in junior high school. I guess they had difficulty pronouncing Emiliano, because E.J. does not come up until Florida Southern College. No one ever called me E.J. until I got to Florida Southern because at Florida Southern I used to sign my papers 'Salcines, E.J.', because that's how we used to do it in military school. In military school, they never called you by your first name, you were always the surname. So the principal tells me 'Junior, you'll have to go to Sheriff Culbreath's office in the downtown courthouse; we've already sent back all the remaining badges'. So I couldn't wait for the school bell to ring that day to walk to the old minaret courthouse that we used to have. I went to the Sheriff's office and they promptly gave me a little card and they gave me a little badge, but while I was there, I wanted to see what it was like, so I started walking through that old courthouse and I went up to the second floor and I saw, through a porthole, that a trial was in progress and there was a person presiding with white hair, sitting very erect in probably a very uncomfortable chair, and I opened the door quietly and sat in whatever pew was closest to me. I noticed that the Judge of the court made some gesture, just head gesture to a person, who now I could tell you was the Bailiff of the courtroom, and that gentleman understood what the Judge was telling him with his head, and that gentleman very slowly went walking up in the front part and then through the side until I lost peripheral vision, and then a hand was put on my shoulder, and it was that man who told me, mind you I'm in the seventh grade, and he told me 'sit on the other side, you're sitting on the nigger's side'. So it was a segregated courtroom. Blacks would have to sit on one side. Whites would sit on another, much the same as later on we saw in the movie 'To Kill a Mockingbird' when the whites would sit on the main floor but in the balcony, the blacks

would sit because it was a segregated courtroom. So that visit to the Hillsborough County Courthouse, probably some time in very early 1951, was my first courtroom experience. And then, in the summer of 1955, at the Tampa Police Department, in the City Courts of the City of Tampa, I experienced actual evidence being presented and arguments being made, which was very beneficial to me when I returned that September of 1955 to Riverside as a senior, and then as a Justice of the Honor Court there at Military School. Then my next exposure was when I was in Law School, when I took a course called Trial Practice and it gave you practical application of the rules of evidence and how to lay the proper predicate and the foundation for the admissibility of documents and testimony and so forth.

M: Can you remember any classroom experiences or incidents about Professor Chiles or Professor Ellsworth or Professor Carr?

E: I remember that it was a lively presentation because we always had 'what if this' and 'what if that', and that normally was not available in other classrooms. But here we were learning principals of law. And there was always a classroom discussion, 'what if he had gone through the light and it wasn't red, it was yellow' and 'what if instead of going at 50 miles an hour he was going at 60 miles an hour'. There was always the exchange, which was of a different nature than you had, for instance, in Political Science or in History or in English. I took a lot of English courses at Florida Southern; that was my minor. But it was a lively, very practical type of exchange in the law professors' presentations of the points of law that were being made. I have hardly any recollections of Carr, but I do have recollections of Ellsworth and I have a lot of recollections of Lawton Chiles. It seems that, either through my activity at ODK or Pi Gamma Mu, we were always bringing in lawyers who were in political leadership roles. You had a very prominent senator in Polk County by the name of Scott Kelly, and –

M: I've interviewed him.

E: You have?

M: I certainly have.

E: And he has a brother who has had a distinguished career as a jurist in the Tenth Judicial Circuit. I remember not just the classroom, but I remember the outside visitors that we were exposed to.

M: You were only a student at the time, so you probably wouldn't have realized it, but do you remember any of Chiles' stature in the community or interaction in the community?

E: No. I must tell you that he was probably unknown from the point of view that he was just getting started. He was fresh out of Law School. He was teaching. I don't remember that I knew that he had been elected to the legislature.

M: That was my next question, were you in school in 1958 at Florida Southern?

E: I was in school in 1958 and I was in my senior year. And as I said, that senior year, I was active in ODK. I was active in Pi Gamma Mu, I was President of Pi Gamma Mu, and we were having a very successful, very active year. I don't remember Lawton Chiles' election. I just don't remember that. Remember, I was living in Lakeland but I was living as a student in Lakeland. I was not involved in the social or political life of Lakeland. I'm trying to think,

Lakeland had a mayor at the time that used to come on campus, and though I can't remember his name, he had a lumber company and he was the Mayor of Lakeland at the time. I also want to share with you one of the big banquets. The food was always served in the cafeteria, which was on the second floor of the Student Union Building. In other words, if I walked with you today and we went to the gift shop, directly over the gift shop was where the cafeteria was. And whenever Ludd Spivey had some big banquet, that's where it was. I recall that, as Ambassadors of ODK, we were always asked to dress accordingly and be there early and help people to their seats, and so forth. And I remember that three gentleman showed up to a banquet and they gave me the names and I don't remember that they told me 'Judge this, Judge this, or Judge so-and-so', but I went to one of the faculty that was there with the list of invited guests and these three judges had recently been appointed to the newly created Second District Court of Appeal with headquarters in Lakeland in the Citrus Building downtown, close to the square. All of a sudden, when I gave the names [to the faculty], this lady, who I think was Miss Iverson, quickly said 'oh, the judges of the Court of Appeal' and I of course assisted in seating those gentleman, never knowing that forty-some years later, I would be a judge of the court that they were the new judges of, this newly created District Court of Appeal.

M: Do you have any memories of Lawton that stick out while you were in school? How many classes did he teach, just one class a semester?

E: I think it was the Business Law Course. I think that was it.

M: That was it, just one class per semester.

E: I never took anything else from Lawton Chiles other than Business Law. Offhand, I don't know if it was just one semester or two semesters, Business Law I and Business Law II. I'd have to go back to a catalog or to some other document that the school would have. I don't recall.

M: So the time in those classes did nothing but strengthen your determination to be a lawyer?

E: Oh, yes. Absolutely. Then going to see him in his office, a very spartan type of thing, not the offices that he later had. And I pretty much lost contact with Lawton Chiles until I want to tell you 1969 or 1970. I don't know when he decided to run for the U.S. Senate. I don't have a chronology.

M: Right in that timeframe.

E: But it's about that time. I had now been elected the Hillsborough County Solicitor. That was the County Prosecuting Attorney who prosecuted all the felonies except death penalty cases, which was done by the State Attorney, so we had a dual prosecutorial office. Polk County had its County Solicitor; his name was Gordon MacCalla, and in Hillsborough, it was E.J. Salcines. I had just recently been elected County Solicitor and my childhood mentor and friend, Louis de la Parte, tells me 'you're old teacher, Lawton Chiles, is going to come to see me and I'm going to bring him up to see you'. And Lou de la Parte brought State Senator Lawton Chiles to visit with me and when he walked into my office, my Chief Assistant at that time, Chief Assistant County Solicitor Harry Lee Coe III, who had practiced law with Lawton when Harry graduated from Stetson. He had been a dear friend of Lawton because they had played baseball and football together. Harry Coe was a very prominent sports figure in the

Dreadnaughts of Lakeland, and so had Lawton. So when Harry graduated from Law School, he went to work for Lawton Chiles; this was 1963. Then in early 1964, Harry Coe and I shared offices as Assistant State Attorneys here in Tampa, because we were both working for the State Attorney in Tampa at that time, Paul B. Johnson. Anyway, when I got elected in 1968 and took office in January of 1969, it was sometime within a year after that, that Senator de la Parte called me and said 'your old buddy, Lawton Chiles, is coming to Tampa to see me and I'm going to bring him up to see you', and then Harry Coe saw Lawton and of course we get into a very lively reunion, reminiscing. I don't remember if it was on that visit, I know that there were subsequent visits, but at some point, he told me that he was thinking about running for the U.S. Senate, which was wonderful, [and to which I replied] 'we'll help you', and that he was going to walk the State of Florida. I asked him 'what do you mean walk?' and he said 'yeah, I'm gonna walk from one end to the other'. I said 'are you crazy?! I have been campaigning in Hillsborough County and I can't walk Hillsborough County. How the hell are you gonna walk the State of Florida? You must be nuts! You don't really mean that!' He said 'Oh yeah, I'm gonna do it. I'm gonna be known in every community, I want to walk through every community'. Well, I had to swallow my words because I was in the first walk with Lawton Chiles here on Florida Avenue, not far from where we are right now. Lawton Chiles, Elvin Martinez who is now a County Judge, Senator Lou de la Parte unfortunately now suffering from Alzheimer's, Harry Lee Coe my Chief Assistant, and maybe some campaign worker, I don't recall who else, but we literally walked with Lawton in his first walk on Florida Avenue, just walking up to people saying 'Hi! I'm E.J. Salcines. Let me introduce you to the next U.S. Senator, Lawton Chiles' and so forth. And the three of us, Elvin, Lou, and Salcines, were very active campaigners. We knew how to shake hands. We knew how to introduce ourselves. We knew how to give out cards. And that's a very difficult thing when you have no experience in it. The hardest thing for any young politician is to give out one of his political cards and introduce himself. But once you learn how to do it, you realize that when you tell someone 'I need your help', people will respond to those words with 'well why are you running?' and 'what's your philosophy?' and 'what do you want to do when you get elected?' and so forth. So people engage you, just like you engage them. It was very easy to go introducing Lawton. Then, over the years, I introduced Lawton many, many, many times, especially in political rallies. I was the Elected Prosecuting Attorney. I got elected four different times, so from 1968 until I left office, after losing an election in November of 1984 I left office in 1985, I was the State Attorney for Hillsborough County with a lot of visibility, so it was very easy for me to get selected 'would you introduce Lawton?'; 'will you be the Master of Ceremonies?', 'will you organize the political party?'

M: Now if we go back to that 1970 race, the first time you did that, how did that go? Was that done, I guess, in every community?

E: In every community –

M: There were people to whom Lawton kind of turned to do that with him.

E: Yes, and Lawton was a grassroots politician, that is to say, he just didn't raise lots of money. If I'm not mistaken, Lawton was one of the very first that set a limit. I don't remember if it was Lawton who had set the limit or Reubin Askew who had set the limit first, because they were both contemporaries.

M: Well, that first race, [Askew] was running for Governor and Lawton was running for the Senate. Same political cycle.

E: Exactly right. You're absolutely right. You're refreshing my memory that it was the same period.

M: Same election. They were both on the same ballot together, or that is he was the Senate and he was the Governor. Yeah.

E: So, with Lawton, it became a grassroots, I'm talking Hillsborough County. I was not involved in the Panhandle or in Miami.

M: But your experiences, though, probably mirror the other counties.

E: Absolutely, and what we would do, when Lawton was going to be available, we found out where large numbers of people would be, for instance, cigar factories. The cigar factories were still very active in Tampa. Lou de la Parte....-

M: Even as late as 1970?

E: Oh absolutely, yeah. And the cigar factories, the phosphate companies, wherever we had companies that employed a lot of people, we were there, if we had to be there at 6:30 in the morning, if we were there for the 5:00 shift, if we were there for the 3:30 afternoon shift, if we were there for noon when the whistle blew. We'd have Lawton there and we'd be there, and we would have our buddies from that particular company or neighborhood, because we walked a lot of neighborhoods. But what we wanted was to give Lawton the maximum exposure and Lou de la Parte had great credibility. Elvin had great credibility. Salcines had great credibility. We had our own political organizations that overlapped so we could get Lawton into factories that normally didn't want politicians interrupting, but we would work it out with the foremen, with the owner, whatever, and here Lawton would be walking along, Elvin would say something in Spanish to a worker and we'd introduce Lawton in Spanish. Lawton with his great smile was a people person.

M: Now this was going on in West Tampa and Ybor City.

E: West Tampa, Ybor City, and Ruskin. 'Cause we're not just limited to the cigar factories. We're now taking him to U.S. Phosphoric, meeting people out there at the three shifts, the Plant City Strawberry Festival.

M: Were there other people like you, for example, hitting Hyde Park?

E: Yes!

M: Were there other people hitting Ballast Point, Hyde Park, you know, some of the other areas that obviously have different kinds of folks?

E: And Lawton had a built-in group because he had been a State Representative so he knew the local State Representative that we had. He knew the State Senators because he had worked with the State Senators, so Lawton had a built-in network of people that he had served in the Florida Legislature and Florida Senate.

M: Now, in that first campaign, 1970, do you remember Rhea coming along for any of those events?

E: I don't really remember Rhea being with us in any of our campaigning. Now she might have been raising the kids, but I don't have a clear recollection that Rhea was with us. It's very possible that Helen de la Parte would have a clearer recollection. She was very close to Lawton, and to Rhea especially, and it could be that she has a clearer recollection. I do know that Lawton loved Latin food, black beans and rice, Cuban sandwiches, Spanish bean soup. Whenever we would have an opportunity, he would say 'let's go get some Cuban food', 'let's go get some Latin food', 'let's go get some black beans and rice'.

M: Were you surprised when you heard he was going to run for the Senate?

E: I don't know that I was surprised. I was more shocked when he said he was going to walk. I said 'are you nuts?! What are you talking about? Florida is a big state!' I had just campaigned; I had four opponents and was the youngest in the race for County Solicitor in 1968. It was a Democratic state at that time, there was no Republican opposition, so I had campaigned very vigorously because I was the last one in and I had to catch up. At the time, I was a Federal Prosecutor; I had been appointed by Robert Kennedy as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the middle district of Florida. I had completed a very successful four years of hard work.

M: If you'd like to go back to that a little bit, your first job out of Law School. We kind of skipped over that. I guess for the moment we can skip Law School. That would probably take us into another hour or something, but why don't we go ahead and get you out of Law School and then up to 1968?

E: Okay, I graduated from Law School in 1963, took the Texas Bar Exam, came to Florida, took the Florida Bar Exam. My wife gave birth to our first of two daughters that we have. Ellen was born like a week before I took the Bar Examination down in Miami at the Dupont Plaza. Back then, the Bar Examination all took place at the Dupont Plaza Hotel in Miami and then shortly thereafter, some eight weeks later, I got word that I had passed the Bar Exam. I immediately accepted one of two offers that I had, one was with Sam Gibbons' family law firm, the Gibbons Law Firm, and the other one was to work for Paul Johnson, the State Attorney, and I made an instant judgment decision to become a prosecuting attorney. I accepted the job. I worked for two or three weeks with a title of Research Assistant. The Friday before Kennedy was killed was when I appeared before the Florida Supreme Court, early Friday morning, whatever seven days before November 22nd was, and I got sworn in that Friday as a member of the Florida Bar at the Florida Supreme Court. I returned to Tampa and on that Monday morning, I appeared before a judge who swore me in as an Assistant State Attorney to Paul Johnson. That was an interesting day in Tampa history. That was November 18th and John F. Kennedy came to Tampa. I never did get to see John F. Kennedy because I was just sworn in. That was my first day on the job and the more experienced assistants all took off to one of the three venues where John F. Kennedy appeared and I never saw John F. Kennedy on that historic visit to Tampa, and it was his last visit to Tampa. The following Friday, I was having lunch with the State Attorney who had invited me, Mr. Johnson, and a gentleman opened the door and said, as we were finishing, 'they just shot the president' and I chastised that citizen, whoever he was, saying 'sir, you don't say things like that about the President of the United States', to which he responded 'no, no! It's true! Put the radio on. You'll hear it!' Well, we left the restaurant and got into Mr. Johnson's car and I said 'do you mind if I put the radio on, this gentleman just said they shot the President'. Well, of course by that time, everything had been interrupted. By the time we got back to the office, a young court reporter was crying and said 'he's dead'. So I remember those events very, very clearly. That coming spring, our boss, Paul Johnson, had a very,

very hard campaign and a young lawyer by the name of Paul [Entinori?], defeated Paul Johnson for the State Attorney's position and it was announced that 'I'm gonna fire all of you guys'. So I applied in the U.S. Attorney's office and in September of 1984, I got word that Attorney General Robert Kennedy had just appointed me to the Federal Court. I worked as an assistant U.S. Attorney from September of 1964 to the spring of 1968, and that's when I ran for the local County Prosecutor's office, County Solicitor, and got elected in 1968, took office in 1969, and then got elected State Attorney in 1972 when a constitutional amendment that Chesterfield Smith had been campaigning all over the state called Judicial Reform abolished the County Prosecutors, the County Solicitors, the City Prosecutors and put everything under the State Attorney. So it was a reorganized State Attorney office and I became the first State Attorney in Hillsborough County history under the recreated Article V Judicial Amendment.

M: So that would have given you a tremendous number of responsibilities.

E: Oh absolutely, we'd have to prosecute –

M: New responsibilities for that office.

E: Exactly, and we had to prosecute city ordinances of Plant City. We had to prosecute city ordinances of Tampa, Temple Terrace. We had to prosecute juvenile crime. We had to prosecute adult crime.

M: You must have had a massive office then. You must have had many –

E: It was certainly a much larger office than we had originally started off with. And then we had another phenomenon –

M: And what a big job. You were only how old?

E: When I first got elected, I was elected at 29, so this was four years later; I'm what, 33? Thirty-three. It was a very interesting and very exciting time to set up a newly reorganized State Prosecuting office. We also had an important decision out of the U.S. Supreme Court that had declared unconstitutional the death penalty statute because there was discrimination in the way. The Supreme Court threw it out in a famous Furman Decision. Then when Reubin Askew got elected, one of the things he wanted to pass was a constitutional death penalty statute and I became very active in that.

M: Anti-death penalty.

E: No, on the contrary, pro-death penalty.

M: Okay.

E: So Florida passed one of the very first death penalty statutes and we weren't sure that it was going to meet muster in front of the U.S. Supreme Court. Well, we found out in 1976, when a Tampa case, a case that we had prosecuted here by the name of *Proffitt vs. State* was selected by the U.S. Supreme Court, together with a case out of Georgia called *Greg vs. Georgia, Jurek vs. Texas*, and a North Carolina case, I think there were five different statutes, that the U.S. Supreme Court was going to examine on the issue 'Is the Death Penalty a Constitutional Form of Punishment?'. So, my case from Tampa having been

selected, Bob Shevin, who was the Attorney General of Florida at the time and I went up to the Supreme Court with different assistants and, working with the prosecutors from Georgia, Texas, and North Carolina, all divided our time and what issues we would focus on, and we made the presentation to the U.S. Supreme Court. In July, in fact some authors call it the Bicentennial Decision because just before the Fourth of July 1976, the Supreme Court said the Statute of Florida, the Statute of Georgia and the Statute of Texas are constitutional forms that are approved for death penalty. So we had at least met the standards that they had enunciated in creating a new statute. That consequently expanded the power of the State Attorney's office because now we were prosecuting death penalty cases and Spenkelink was the first to get executed in Florida. That was not a Tampa case, that was a Tallahassee case, but it was prosecuted by

M: So let's go back during 1970, that election with Governor Chiles. It must have been a pretty exciting time for you.

E: It was an exciting time. As you have refreshed my memory, it was a Reubin Askew/Lawton Chiles billboard ballot. I don't remember who else was on there.

M: Now, it was a difficult Democratic primary, a very difficult primary for Chiles because he was running against Farris Bryant-

E: Who had been Governor.

M: Who was the former Governor. Also in the race was Fred Schulz who had been Speaker of the House, I believe.

E: Exactly.

M: Sitting Speaker of the House, I believe. And maybe someone else prominent, I'm not remembering, so it was a very close, difficult primary. His Republican opponent was Cramer, I believe.

E: Bill Cramer was the Republican and Bill Cramer had been a very popular congressman here in Tampa. He was, as I recall, the lone Republican and he was not in the local scene. He was the congressman but Bill Cramer had been a very popular congressman and he had a very active administrative assistant whose name escapes me, but that gentleman was always in the Tampa area and always very helpful, so they had laid good groundwork for his –

M: Plus he probably would have had a lot of national support, big national guns behind him, with Nixon being President and so forth, I would imagine.

E: No. I don't remember if Nixon came down here, but Cramer certainly was well entrenched, well known. He didn't have any problem with name identification. People knew him. People knew the name Cramer and he was a very personable guy.

M: I'm probably trying to get you to think of things you hadn't thought about in a long time, but when Lawton won the Primary, were you real confident that he was going to win the regular election, or was Cramer's stature and his name recognition strong enough, plus whatever pull the President –

E: We were certainly always optimistic but we never ran with the attitude 'oh this is an easy race, we're gonna win', on the contrary. We always assumed it was an uphill battle.

M: Now in those local –

E: Remember, we had come through a very tight national election when Hubert Humphrey had lost to Richard Nixon.

M: Very close.

E: Very close, very close.

M: Back when they were organizing these events in Tampa with Lawton Chiles' office, do you remember any of the people in his campaign that you worked with, any of the campaign individuals? Charles Canady?

E: No, no.

M: Jack Pridgen?

E: No, I don't remember. I remember a lady by the name of Joanne Torres. Now Joanne lives in Sarasota, she's married, and Joanne went to work for Lawton in, I think, his very first office. I think she may have worked in Washington for a short while and then she came and worked out of the Lakeland office. She's still around and I can get you that married name. But she would know that first six-year term with Lawton.

M: She worked for him?

E: She worked for him, and I want to tell you that she might have worked for him in Washington for a short time, but I remember that she was in Lakeland, and he had a small office, I want to tell you in the Post Office building in downtown Lakeland near the square, actually not far from where the Thelma Hotel had been.

M: Which was torn down by that time, I believe.

E: And I'm wondering if the Post Office didn't buy the land from the Thelma Hotel and build the Post Office there.

M: So, a very exciting time. I'm sure you were –

E: Yeah, we were never confident or cocky that we were going to win because we had the experience of Florida experiencing a Republican winning for Governor in Claude Kirk. Then the Democratic Party winning the Governor's chair with Reubin Askew, but Nixon beating Hubert Humphrey, who had been a very popular Vice President to Lyndon Johnson and who had visited Tampa and was well known in Tampa. So we never ran with a cocky attitude 'hey, we're gonna win this'. We hoped that!

M: Do you remember where you were on election night, or do you remember anything about election night, if there was anything going on here in Tampa?

E: I sure don't. I sure don't. A friend of mine, who now practices law in Orlando, by the name of Robert F. Evans, Rob Evans, Jr., had been active in Lawton's campaign when he was Walking Lawton. I want to tell you that either I went to Lakeland with Rob Evans, or we saw each other, I just don't have a fresh recollection of that, but now that you've asked the question, all of a sudden Rob Evans' face is shining in my recollections and I guess I was in Lakeland, but I just don't have a fresh recollection to tell you. I'd have to probably call Rob Evans. Rob was the son of a very respected Chief Federal Probation Officer here in the Federal Courts of Tampa, but Rob Evans was also the nephew of Former Governor Leroy Collins.

M: Oh my goodness.

E: Okay? So, I'd have to call Rob over in Orlando and say 'hey, it's been a long time but can you refresh my memory? Why do I remember you at Lawton Chiles' Campaign Victory Party?' or whatever. Okay? And then at some point, I worked very closely with Lou de la Parte, and Lou, I want to tell you that in Tampa I think Lou de la Parte was Lawton's closest brother and I felt always like a blood brother to Lou. And Elvin Martinez had served with Lawton in the legislature and had become very friendly to Lawton and of course, Lou de la Parte was a very powerful State Senator. I don't know that he was President of the Senate, but he was President pro tem, so the four of us were very close. But that's all that I recall from the night that he won. I think we organized a Victory Party in Tampa, and I have a picture when I had hair and long sideburns and so did Lou and so did Lawton, and Lawton had lost a lot of weight in the election, and I have a picture where he dedicates the picture 'To my prized student' or 'To my best student' or words to that effect, 'Professor Chiles'. And I would send him notes when he was Senator and I used to know some of his staff people. Once they commented to me 'E.J., so-and-so told Lawton' when they were reviewing his mail said 'somebody called you Professor Chiles', and he smiled and he said 'that's E.J. Salcines in Tampa'. And that employee never knew that Lawton had been a Business Law professor at Florida Southern.

M: That's good. Do you remember anything that comes out or that is striking about his first term, his first six years? Did you ever go to Washington during that time?

E: I'm sure that I did.

M: Did he ever come here and maybe you were his host here in Tampa?

E: Oh yeah.

M: Anything during that six-year period that you remember?

E: I want to tell you that, almost every time that Lawton came into town, we'd see each other. It might just have been for three or four minutes. We might go get some black beans and rice at some Cuban or Spanish restaurant, but we saw each other when he came to Tampa. I was a very prominent political leader at that time as the State Attorney with a lot of visibility, and I would periodically go to Washington because I was either the Vice President of the National District Attorney's Association, or certainly was the State Director for the National District Attorney's Association, and I was up there on the death penalty issue. Senator [John Little] McClellan had me testify in reference to how we had built in safeguards in implementing the death penalty, or there were issues of the Law Enforcement Administration [Association?], L.E.A.A., to help police and sheriffs, so I would see Lawton. I

don't remember going to Washington that I would not take the time to go see two people, Sam Gibbons and Lawton Chiles. And if I'm not mistaken, it was Lawton's idea to create the Florida House –

M: Rhea's idea. Rhea, I think.

E: Rhea? Okay. And I got involved in helping raise money or something, I can't recall, but something to do with buying an apartment behind the U.S. Supreme Court or something and we finally did, and I went up there a number of times to that Florida House, okay? So I think Lawton and Rhea were involved in that Florida House.

M: They were the instigators, I believe.

E: I remember Lawton introducing me to some of his buddies in the Senate. Sam Irvin was a very, very respected constitutional lawyer who was, of course, in the center of the Watergate hearings.

M: And that, of course, was going on its second year.

E: Second year, or second term?

M: Second year after he had been elected, 1972, 1973, right?

E: By golly, that's right.

M: So he would have been real, real new.

E: So Sam Nunn was a very good friend of Lawton.

M: Did he ever introduce you to him?

E: Oh yeah. And it so happens that I had studied Law with a cousin to Sam Nunn and I remember one time while I was visiting with Nunn and Lawton, I brought up that I studied Law in Texas with a young man from Commerce, Georgia, called Norman Nunn, and he said 'Cousin Norman studied with you?' And all of a sudden, Nunn disappears then comes back with a book, a listing of all the Nunn family members, and he says 'here's Norman', okay? I remember that distinctly. Lawton also was serving with Dick Stone, who was a very popular State Senator from Miami who had later been Secretary of State Dick Stone, and I visited Lawton and Dick Stone. I even may have been in Washington for Lawton's inauguration and for Dick Stone's inauguration and, at some point Jimmy Carter was elected.

M: 1976?

E: And I am urged to apply for a U.S. District Judgeship and I really was not interested in a judicial position at the time, but the pitch was that within the middle district of Florida, which is a massive area that goes from Jacksonville all the way down to Fort Myers, the middle district of Florida had within its territory, the oldest European settlement in the United States, which is a Spanish settlement, namely St. Augustine, Florida, yet in the history of the Federal Judiciary, there has never been an American of Hispanic heritage on the District Court level, or for that matter, the Court of Appeal, and 'you ought to apply'. And I applied. And I went through a nominating process where many applied, but I made the cut. And I want to tell you

that it's Lawton and Dick Stone who recommended me to Jimmy Carter. My name went up to the White House and we were involved in, is it Iraq where the hostages –

M: Iran.

E: Iran? Iran and Iraq, I'm getting confused right now. Where we had the hostages and the helicopter was sent to recover and the helicopter crashed and it became one humongous fiasco internationally and Carter lost the election to Ronald Reagan. And that was the end of any hopes of getting –

M: So you were kind of on the bubble at that point and everything –

E: And the bubble busted and that was the end of that one. And then Ronald Reagan was elected and I guess that was around 1980, or around that time, and Tampa has a major disaster when the ship, the *Summit Venture*, hits the Skyway Bridge on a Mother's Day weekend. And of course the center span of the Skyway Bridge is Hillsborough County jurisdiction. So as State Attorney, I dove into that terrible tragedy, I think there were 34 cadavers that we recovered. I remember spending the entire weekend either at the scene or hosting Governor Graham or investigating John E. Lerro, who was the pilot that had gone on to the *Summit Venture* and all of a sudden there was a massive cloud of rain and he can't see the Skyway Bridge, and we didn't believe him. I didn't believe him. I thought he was high on drugs or something. How can you not see the Skyway Bridge, man? And then Channel 13 called us and said 'you all better come over here and take a look at what the radar film shows', and all of a sudden the Skyway Bridge disappeared, right in front of our eyes and we realized that this poor guy couldn't see it. We couldn't see the Skyway Bridge because it was a massive cloud of terrible rain.

M: Thunderstorm.

E: And that weekend, I spent with Dr. Peter Lardizabal identifying bodies because it was Mother's Day weekend and people flooded the Medical Examiner's office in Hillsborough County 'is my son there?', 'is my mother there?', 'is my brother there?', 'is my father there?' And the only way we had of identifying people was if they had a tattoo, a watch, a ring, or something, 'well he had a red ruby ring on his pinky, he always wore that' and a detective or deputy or a coroner would be in a corner and we would look over there as they were describing and they would give us the nod and we would say 'well can you step into this office here?'. Or 'well she had a chain' and so forth and we didn't have any body with that type of identification. But that was one of the great tragedies that we experienced. Then I had a very uphill battle for re-election. There was Republican opposition, Ronald Reagan had swept Florida, and I lost the November election of 1984.

M: So from 1968 to 1984?

E: From 1968, when I got elected, to November of 1984, when I lost the election and I was in office until the first week in January of 1985. Lawton had come down to campaign for me. Bob Graham had come down to campaign for me. It was a very hotly debated and very controversial election.

M: Who was your opponent?

E: My opponent was Bill James, who was an Assistant U.S. Attorney working in the office of Robert Merkle, who was the U.S. Attorney and who had targeted me as a target of the Federal Grand Jury investigation. That went on for something like three years and I lost the election. Bill James became the State Attorney. I went into private practice, and two months later, the 36-month-old Federal Grand Jury ends its term with no indictments and no reports.

M: So this investigation went on three years.

E: For three years, a massive investigation. In any case, I always felt the support of Lawton Chiles and always grateful, always took my calls. If ever I needed something, I could always call, certainly, Lawton Chiles, Sam Gibbons, and the office of Dick Stone, who were always very responsive to me. They were tuned in to the community and they would respond to community leaders. Like I say, I can't recall that Lawton would come into town and I not know about it and not see him, even if it was just to stop by and say 'how you doing, you doing okay, your family well?' and so forth.

M: Now, I know this might be troubling for you to talk about, but I don't really know a whole lot about this three-year investigation. It must have been horrible.

E: It was horrendous, it was not just horrible, it was horrendous because –

M: What were the primary causes of it?

E: What?

M: What were the things that were charging?

E: Well, it was mostly leaks to the press that grand jury investigations are supposed to be secret, but there was no secrecy about this Federal Grand Jury investigation. There was a guy that they wanted to get, and his name was E.J. Salcines. So every other day there was some leak that they had subpoenaed this record or that record or so-and-so was being asked to appear before the Federal Grand Jury. And at the time, there was an anchorperson with Channel 13, WTVT, Hugh Smith, and Hugh Smith would open up the six o'clock news regularly 'Channel 13 has learned that State Attorney E.J. Salcines is the target of a Federal Grand Jury investigation'. Well, that took its toll and come November of 1984, I lost the election. But the proof was in the pudding that the following March of 1985, when the Federal Grand Jury closed its three-year session, and Salcines had not been charged, Salcines was not the subject of a Federal Grand Jury report or anything, and had not reported Salcines to the Bar Association and had his license lifted, or some type of sanction. But I paid a significant price because politically, I was almost dead. Rigor mortis was starting to set in.

M: Because even though it doesn't turn up anything really, a three-year investigation, a three-year investigation.

E: And with all the powers of the Federal Government with all these agencies under Merkle's demands, because there were some Federal Agents that told me 'hey, I would go in to report', 'hey, I checked this out, there's nothing to it', 'you're an incompetent', 'get out there'. Then I had defense attorneys that would call me and say 'my client is being offered immunity or some sweetheart deal if he'll just turn in E.J. Salcines'. So you're at the mercy of some people who will do anything in order to get out.

M: Then do you think this was politically motivated, ethnically motivated? Looking back on it now, I mean, what would you say?

E: Well, I would have to think that –

M: You'd obviously made some enemies.

E: Oh, no question. But remember, the State Attorney is your most powerful political officer in your area because he can investigate, he can charge, he can prosecute. So if you have an honorable prosecutor, then there are no questions that you are doing things in an ethical, an honorable, and a legal manner. But if you abuse that power and you cross the line from a prosecutor to a persecutor, you become a McCarthy person. Now instead of being an inquirer, you become an inquisitor. Now, instead of being an inquiry, it becomes an inquisition. You can abuse the power of subpoena, the power of immunity, and you have all of the powers of the Federal Government, the Justice Department, the Internal Revenue, the Drug Enforcement, the Customs, Immigration, and all of that takes a toll on you. It almost bankrupted E.J. Salcines. As a public servant you get paid a reasonable salary but you don't get rich. We have always had a very modest existence. I know that when I lost the election, what savings my wife and I had been able to put away, all of the money that we had saved went into attorney's fees trying to defend myself. And thank God that my wife and my daughters went to work when I was out of a job. And thank God that that one year, which was the hardest year of my life, because here I had my license, here I had been the State Attorney for 16 years and the Federal Prosecutor for 4-1/2 years before, a total of something like 22 years, and I didn't have a single client because my name and my reputation had been so sullied that I would have people that eventually told me 'I wanted to hire you but I was afraid that if I hired you, since you were the target of a Federal Grand Jury, you were clean but I wasn't so clean, I couldn't afford being the target'. And many, many lawyers in town told me their experiences with their clients because of the pressure to get Salcines. I can't answer your question knowledgeably 'was it a political, was it ethnic'. I would have to say it was probably a combination. I was the highest-ranking Hispanic in the Executive Branch of Government. The Hispanic political power was growing. The Hispanic political numbers were growing. We not only had Puerto Ricans and Cubans and Nicaraguans, the numbers were growing significantly and I was the highest-ranking American of Hispanic heritage in the Executive Branch of government. And I was a Democrat. And this was a Republican takeover and I also occupied the most visible office in Hillsborough County, the State Attorney.

M: Do you think Merkle had any personal animus towards you?

E: He had to have had because he came at me with a personal vendetta. I had never crossed paths with Robert Merkle but it was a devastating experience to the Salcines family. I experienced the consequences of being targeted in your own community, being targeted by the Federal Government where people that had always been friendly were no longer friendly and where I no longer saw their faces, I saw their backs.

M: So I guess you learned who your real friends were.

E: Not only did I learn that, but I learned the price of service. I had a friend who also was targeted. He was the Tax Assessor of Hillsborough County. His office also was invaded one day by a bunch of F.B.I. agents under the direction of Robert Merkle and that young man

was so embarrassed that he would be singled out as doing something illegal. He was on a hunting trip and died of a heart attack. I remember when they called me, I think it was a Saturday that they called me to tell me that he had died, and my wife asked 'what is it?' and I said that so-and-so was dead and that he died of a heart attack on a hunting trip and if that happened to me, I wanted her to put on my tombstone 'What Price Service'. So it was a lesson that my best Political Science professors at Florida Southern had never taught me, the ugly side of political office and the abuse of prosecutorial authority, to the point that it became persecutive and not prosecutive. However, as quick as I am to tell you of that very bad experience, very heart-wrenching experience because you look at yourself in the mirror and you say 'I know I haven't done anything illegal, why am I being put through this? I thought in America this couldn't happen?' and you go through that experience. But when you overcome that and then, after all the smoke settles and people realize there was no smoking gun, they created the smokescreen and even the best efforts of every agency of Federal Government couldn't come up with a smoking gun. There was no gun. Then all of a sudden people who had turned their backs turn around and they say 'you know I thought you were dirty because I believed what I was hearing and what I was reading in *The Tampa Tribune*, but I realize that they were the bad guys, you were clean'. Well that gives you a great transfusion of hope in humanity, that people do see through these things. It may take a while, you better hope that your heart lasts to see it, but if you are able to see that, you see that people do see through these things. Like, for instance, it would not surprise me that if I could have been more aware, I probably could have seen that during Senator McCarthy's heyday and putting people through that type of inquisition and presumption of guilt, and then realizing 'hey, they weren't bad at all, maybe the bad one was the other guy'. But God has His ways of helping you through these things.

M: Well, we have a little bit more time on the tape, but we've had a good couple of hours here I think, and probably we can continue on.....