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Interview with: D. Burke Kibler

Interviewer: James M. Denham

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Transcribed by: Jill Humphrey

- D: Once again, we're here on April 7, 2003, in your office, Mr. Kibler. Last time we were going through some of the governors of Florida that you knew. We talked about Doyle Carlton, or at least he was, of course a candidate for governor. We talked about Farris Bryant a little bit as well. And we were about to get your memories or your impressions of Hayden Burns, I think, when we finished up last time.
- K: Yes, Hayden I knew not as well as some of the others, though I did know him. I had several clients that were involved with Hayden Burns and were wondering what kind of administration he would have, and Hayden had a mixed administration. I think he was accused of a lot of things and probably was guilty of most of them, though I don't know that. He did some constructive things. He was strong on road building, which needed to be done and Hayden, I think, proved to be just overreaching in many ways, and he was political and poor in the bad sense of the word. He had a reputation for being a strong executive as a Mayor of Jacksonville and did a lot of things in that community that were worthwhile and people still talk well of, but overall Hayden Burns was not one of our better governors, in my judgment.
- D: Uh-uh. He was governor during some very tumultuous times during the civil rights movement and his handling, he was governor during the St. Augustine uprising in 1964, I believe, is that correct?
- K: Yes, he would have been governor in 1964 because, no, no, he would not have been, I think. Uh, Farris Bryant was governor in 1964.
- D: I'm sorry. Yes, you're exactly right.
- K: Claude Kirk was governor in the St. Augustine uprising, I think. He went there, isn't Rap Brown or someone up here?
- D: No, I believe Governor Kirk was, it was 1966 when he was elected. So I think it would have been Hayden Burns.
- K: Well, Hayden was, I keep forgetting Hayden was only a two-year governor, and that's right. He succeeded Farris and he had the option, I think we discussed this, and, but the

reason it happened once or twice when they changed the date of the election from an off-presidential election year and he had been elected for four years and he had the option of running, if they changed it, that he could run for another full four-year term and thereby be a six-year governor.

D: But if he lost, he'd lose.

K: But if he lost, he lost.

D: Okay, yes.

K: And that's what happened to him, as I recall.

D: Okay. So were you involved in state government at all at that time, as far as appointed positions? Can you remember? I know that that was the case with Claude Kirk, you were appointed by Governor Kirk ...

K: I was, I served, it wasn't an appointed position, it was, I was a General Counsel and attorney for the Florida Citrus Commission and that was during Farris Bryant's administration, and at that particular time, and it probably still is, there were those supporters of the governor that were shown preference probably when they selected who the attorney for the commission ought to have been, and they usually, will you note back, oft times would change, but, when governors change, sometimes not because sometimes the attorney would have supported the new governor. And I think that, they did not have at that particular time, in-house legal staff and it was interesting position, something I wanted to do for professional reasons. But I served into Hayden Burns' term because the Citrus Commission year, I think, ended as most state agencies, at the end of June, I believe. And I had thought somewhat about continuing on, but, and I had not really supported Hayden, at least I didn't support him very vigorously. I'm trying to think of who his, did Scott Kelly run in that uh ...

D: I believe so.

K: I think I perhaps supported Scott in the primary against Hayden, but I don't believe I supported Hayden. Many of my friends did and I was told I could have been reappointed for the commission, of course it was up to the commission but the governor appointed the commission members and it was the sort of thing that, uh, but I had done it for four years and I, so I, but I didn't do it, I didn't seek it. But Hayden, but I did serve, not that he, during the so-called administration, that's the only thing that I, the only position that I held, and he did not appoint me.

D: That changed with Governor Kirk. I think you were appointed to various positions under Governor Kirk. Is that correct?

K: Well, ves. The most significant one was...

D: Oh, I guess we ought to probably go back a little bit to the election of Governor Kirk. Were you supportive of Governor Kirk?

K: Yes. I didn't really know him. I had some friends in Jacksonville that knew him fairly well. He had been president of an insurance company ...

D: He came out of Jacksonville.

K: He came from Jacksonville, and basically, one of the, Keith Scales, I think, who had been a member of the Florida Citrus Commission, I got to know, he was from Leesburg, and I got to know Keith pretty well. He was a conservative. There weren't very many republicans as such then. There were conservatives and there were ...

D: Sure.

K: liberals, and as we, I think, discussed before, Robert King High, defeated Hayden Burns in the primary and he became the candidate for the Democratic Party in the general election and Claude Kirk emerged then by a group of Republicans, of course, but the ones that were significant in his election were Democrats that were conservative and did not want a South Florida liberal, as Robert King High was ...

D: From Miami.

K: was, and from Miami, that made him even more liberal. And so, Keith Scales, though, called me and said that a group of people that I knew in Leesburg, Orlando, and Ocala, and that kind of area, were impressed with Claude Kirk and wanted to know if I would arrange for him to meet some people in the Lakeland area. I had never met Claude at the time, but I agreed to do that. One of my closest friends, Jim Wellman, who had a construction company that did a lot of work with the phosphate industry, Wellman Lord and people that had been in Lakeland a long time will remember that. Jim was a very active citizen. He was, no good community effort met without Jim being heavily involved in it. He was also very involved in the political scene and he was a big conservative. He later was on the National Republican Finance Committee. But Jim. when I called him, and I called several others, Scott Linder, I think was one and Jimmy Sykes perhaps, those were three of my close friends and we did a lot of things and had interest in hopefully doing things politically and civically together, and we, Jim immediately offered a place he had out at his Wellman - Lord engineering complex for parties and all to have a reception for Claude. And that was the first time, really, I was around him. And Jim was so enamored with him that he became probably Claude Kirk's closest supporter, strongest supporters, and one of his close friends. We all became friendly with Claude and Claude was clearly the most interesting governor that this state, or really any state ever had, and he just, he's one that is hard to talk about him without thinking of a lot of amazing things he did and opportunities he had, many he missed ...

D: Go ahead and reflect on that if you'd like to.

K: No, no, Claude was just, he had no real political obligation to anybody. He came out of nowhere. He had a political advisor, I'm trying to think of his name, that had run several campaigns in other areas that were similar in context, and he developed sort of a bland series of white papers for Claude and had Claude campaign on a pretty high level by doing good things for Florida and being, and taking a moderate to conservative view on most things, and it was, as I say, it was sort of bland but compared to accusations that Robert King High and Hayden Burns had made, one to the other, all the bad things that most people would have thought about Robert King High were already out and Kirk, which was a little bit uncharacteristic of him, followed instructions from his campaign advisors ...

D: That is, that sounds ...

K: He had never been in elected politics before so he, and he did follow the script that, what they suggested that he do, and he won, I can't remember the margin, but I think it was a fairly decisive victory, it was thought of as an upset because here he was

somebody that had never been in political office before, but I think the margin was, I mean, it was, it was...

D: So the Democratic primary really hurt the Democrats.

K: And, oh, that about just destroyed them. And that's the first time you saw that a Republican could, would be elected to State office in Florida. And, of course, we know the pattern subsequently, you know the registration is still Democratic, I don't know 5:4 or something like that, but it's, Florida is basically more of a conservative state than a liberal state, I guess, is a better way to say it. But the decisions no longer were going to be made in the Democratic primary, whether to have a conservative or liberal governor. And Claude, he was, as I say, he was a very interesting fellow. He didn't have anyone that he really was obligated to very much. He had, a lot of people supported him and he didn't have but one or two people that put in massive amounts of money in his campaign, though Jim Wellman put in more than most, I guess, in the campaign. Campaigns didn't cost quite as much back then as they do now. And Claude was attractive. He was a very good speaker and he was a very bright fellow. He had a very, very quick and entertaining, he had, I had high hopes, I thought he would be one of the really fine governors and in some ways he was. He wasn't a bad governor. But he didn't have a very long attention span and became bored with being governor really after a while, in my judgment, and he decided he wanted to be vice president and then he decided, I think, he wanted to be president. And he went through these and he got a lot of encouragement in the national media and a lot of people, and he was a showman. sort of, as I remember the incident, I think you referred to about, in St. Augustine, but he was, Rap Brown, I think was a black activist that had, I may be confusing the area, but I think that was, that may have been Jacksonville ...

D: I think that was subsequent ...

K: I think it was Jacksonville.

D: I think that was subsequent to ...

K: And that was after the St. Augustine, I am.

D: Yes.

K: I think St. Augustine was when, you're right. But I do remember that, when he confronted him, he came and went to the, and people, you know, they thought here was basically a rally of Afro-Americans and it was thought it wouldn't be safe for somebody who would take a strong position, a white man to go into the neighborhood at night, and Claude went up there and confronted him and they didn't quite know what to make of Claude or what to do with him. And he also, during a schoolteachers' strike, he went down and confronted the teachers. He did a lot of things that got a lot of publicity, but overall, he came across ultimately as, I think, what was it, Forbes' Magazine, Malcolm Forbes was running it then, editor, and he had on the cover, I still remember it, a mean thing that wasn't exactly true, but it said, "Kirk – Jerk". That was the cover.

D: On the cover??

K: That was the cover of *Forbes*' Magazine.

D: Gosh, I've got to track that down. I've got to track that down.

K: But he had done some things that probably gave some credence to that kind of application. But Claude was, he had a chaotic administration in many ways. You know, he had the Wackenhut scandal

D: Yes.

K: had the war on crime. And he would go off on these programs and commit private monies to, to them, and get people to go along and they raised an awful lot of money. I think a lot of people during Kirk's administration thought Kirk was getting a lot of money, you know, that, and put to improper use, that he maybe profited himself. He may have, I don't know really, but I think not. I think Kirk liked to live pretty well. He liked to be entertained but, most of the things in his ambitions, he really wanted to do some good things. He wanted to do, clear up crime in Florida and the Wackenhut program did that It was an unorthodox way of doing it, and I don't know, it's been to some extent. reviewed and all and a lot of people didn't like Kirk. Liberal Democrats just despised him, and, but Kirk ended up, he'd take unpredictable positions. Kirk really wasn't doctrinaire conservative and subsequent, of course, to his being governor, he has been a Democrat two or three times, he has been an Independent, I don't know, he's been, he flip-flops back and forth, and he's kind of like some others that had a lot of talent but didn't have the consistency that was needed to be a viable, really political personage through their career. It's kind of sad in a way because Claude had a lot of talent and he's still likeable.

D: And another thing there was he was so young when he was governor, it was almost like he was just this..

K: Yeah, he was in his early forties.

D: It was, this was the beginning of a great national career.

K: And Claude, if he had not been so impatient and he'd had, but a lot of it was that, I don't know that he really, he wanted to do other things, I don't think he quite knew what he wanted to do, but he, suddenly he had been a successful insurance executive, had done very, very well and had been, and was, I think, maybe it was American Heritage, the company, I'm not sure of that, but it was, Claude just sort of came upon the scene there. He'd been, he was a lawyer actually, had went to the University of Alabama, I believe, and then he never had, I don't think he ever practiced law, but then he made friends readily and he just reveled in all of the people he got to know and he just, he enjoyed being governor, I don't mean to imply that he didn't, but I'm not sure he really wanted to do the nuts and bolts sort of thing, compared to somebody like Reubin Askew or Jeb Bush. Jeb Bush works very hard at being governor. He does a lot of things I disagree with, but he is a very, but he's prepared. Claude was just as bright as anybody who's been there, but he wouldn't, he didn't have the stick-to-itiveness about particular tasks. He'd get bored with them and just kind of ...

D: Now, one of the things that struck me was when I was able to call him and talk to him a number of times when I had him to campus, you know, it was not a situation where you call him, he's going to come. You have to call him continually and he would insist that I call him continually every week, you know, and this went on for about a month, and he was always very, very eager for everybody to understand that he was very strong on environment and how he was the first real environmental governor. Now, would you agree with that, or would you, would you, can you think of anything that any initiatives that he would have begun that might indicate that he was an environmentally sensitive governor? He even went so far as to brag ...

K: How about Nat Reed, probably, who, I think there's no environmentalist in the state or probably nationally that wouldn't give the very highest marks to Nat Reed, and Nat Reed was the, I think, what was the change agency named, it may have been the DER then or maybe the predecessor to DER. I think this was before ...

D: Is he still alive, Nat Reed?

K: Oh yes, Nat lives in Hobe Sound. I see him occasionally. He's a good friend. I should say that we were good friends, I just don't see him much anymore.

D: Now he would be a good person to invite for the lecture series, would you think?

K: Oh he would be a wonderful person for the lecture series. And Nat, as I say, now ...

D: Does he get out much? Does he speak much anymore?

K: I think so. He'd been very active in the Nature Conservancy and the Thousand Friends of Florida. It'd been his organization, I'd say, but, and Nat did start, I mean he was the strongest advisor on the environment that Kirk had and he had been and even now had impeccable credentials there, and a lot of the programs he started, the policies of the DER, now Claude was, he was not someone that would just do, as some of the governors in the past had been accused of doing, was giving, for instance the phosphate and other mining industries and other polluters, a free hand. Claude was tough in some He wasn't necessarily consistent but he would get tough, and I think he did believe very much in the environment, and Nat would not have stayed with him, for instance, if he hadn't been consistent with his programs. But, of course, most of the things, the agencies and all, the governor can support them and recommend them but the legislature has got to enact them, and he had a lot of problems with the legislature because then it was a democratic legislature and Kirk was, they were, you know, kind of afraid of him, they didn't trust him, they didn't know what he would do, oh just totally unpredictable. He would, he was, having battles in the press was something not many of the legislators wanted to get into with Claude.

D: Now did he appoint you to any positions.

K: Well, he appointed me to the Board of Regents.

D: That's what I thought, yes.

K: Yeah, and I enjoyed that. I ended up serving almost nine years and he, Claude was, he approached things very politically. He would come in and he wanted to have his people shown preference in getting appointments. I know he would talk to me about when I first was on the Regents, it was organized differentially then than it was subsequently, I was chairman of, I guess it was called the Building Committee. It was the one that had to do with the selection of architects for all of the state buildings on various university campuses and, of course, architects, you know, they wanted to get the contracts to design and build the university buildings. And I was realistic. I think those that supported the governor ought to have, certainly be looked at carefully, but in the last analysis, you were going to pick the best architect and listen to all the input. And we went through there and none of the folks, there would always be somebody from the governor's staff that would call me and tell me they'd want such-and-such appointed and for me to look at him, and then I ended up, I tried not to be prejudiced against them because of that. And then I remember Claude was up there, I saw a lot of him, and he

just became addicted. He said, "You haven't appointed a single supporter of mine as an architect". And I said, "Claude, they weren't the best ones there". And he said, "You may be a good Regent, but you're the worst god-damned appointment I ever made". But we remained, we were good friends. But he would get so, you know, he was direct. He wanted, he just thought that this was the way, and I would give him little lectures about, you know, that he, what he really wanted was a Jacksonian kind of democracy. He was a spoils system man. In the real world, sure, there's a little bit of that, but you never, never do that if it's not the best person. And Claude and me, we would have big fights about it.

D: Well, okay. It was a very tough election that he tried, a re-election attempt. By that time, the Republican Convention in '68 had met in Miami and gone and went and he was not picked as vice president. And the teachers' strike had come out in '68, I believe, and that was a tough go for him, and then the Manatee County conflict with the schools and he nearly, a lot of that nearly ended up in violence or pretty close to it, as I recall. Can you reflect on some of those things before we go on to Governor Askew?

K: All of those, I think, in your chronology, there was really, explains a lot of why he was not a stronger candidate for re-election. It was thought initially that somebody that had the visibility that he had and had the national media, and he was attractive, made wonderful speeches and a good campaigner, that he would, you know, that he, and he had a cross-section of both democrats and republicans that voted for him, that he would have been, probably should have been re-elected, and he should have been. But what he did, I think, and he became controversial on issues that would sort of, that didn't come across right, that didn't grab people the way he thought they would and, as much as anything, it showed a lack of attention to being governor, It seemed to many as if he really wanted almost to use the governor's office to further his political career. Now, all politicians do that, we know, but they don't do it so obviously and show disdain and disinterest for the position that they hold. We tell Claude, "Claude, you can be a wonderful governor, but you've got to be a good governor before you go to these other things". But he talked to people on the national scene and they thought they had someone that ought to be encouraged, and they did, and it really, I think, it ruined his career. He let that happen. Claude can't blame anybody but himself for it because he did not get that kind of advice from the people that supported him.

D: So you think his aspirations for the national position as vice president really, really hurt him here in this state.

K: Oh, I think that was no one thing, it was an accumulation of this, but I think that may have been the theme that came across in a lot of these others that he would take a position, took a grandstand position, that he became, it almost seemed apparent, that he sometimes was more interested in the show than really ...

D: The limelight.

K: ...than the substance.

D: That's not the kind of vice president Richard Nixon would have wanted. Not a chance.

K: No. No. No. No. And I doubt that he ever really, he had some people that were close to Nixon I think, I think Bebe Robozo probably liked Kirk and knew him well, because he was from Florida, and had that aim. As I say, Claude was a ...

D: And Miami being the site of the convention probably helped too.

K: Yes. That was the only national convention I ever went to. I didn't, I went because Jim Wellman was such a, we had a ...

D: Was there really at that time in the convention, was there serious talk of Kirk? Or was it ...

K: Not at the time of the convention.

D: By that time, it was not really feasible?

K: Kirk was not really ...

D: Okay, that had all died down by then? Well, we're moving into the 1970 election, not only for the, obviously Lawton Chiles but also Governor Askew. Can you reflect a little bit on that election before you get into Lawton Chiles' candidacy for the Senate?

K: Well, Governor Askew was really, I knew him but not real well. He was from North Florida, West Florida, really...

D: Pensacola.

K: West Florida, Pensacola. He had been in the State Senate and he had been a good senator, and he had good friends there, but he wasn't known at all and Reubin had sort of an, a couple of mannerisms, sort of an eye tic. He kind of overcame it to some extent later, but it was something, if you watched him a lot, it would drive you crazy, but, and he, I thought when I first saw Reubin that he was the most unlikely of all the candidates to win the Democratic primary, and then I doubted that he would support Kirk. I liked I would have normally supported Reubin, but I was obligated to Kirk. supported him before and I had accepted an appointment under him, so I worked for him a little bit, I mean, I say I worked for him, I gave him campaign contribution and certainly wrote a letter or two, but I wasn't, I've never been real, real active for most governor candidates, however, there were a few exceptions, Lawton was one of them of course. But anyway, Tom Adams, who then was a very I guess controversial fella, or had been, but he had a lot of publicity. I guess Tom was Secretary of State at the time, and he, I can't remember some of the things that gave him as much public attention as he got, but he was much, much better known. Tom had gubernatorial ambitions also and he had been trying, I think, to, I don't know whether he'd ever run in the primary before that or not, but he had been elected to State office and had a name recognition that was greater then than Reubin Askew, and a lot of people were surprised that Tom would get a, would take the second choice on the ticket, but he really gave enough attention to Reubin, and I think a little, I'm not original with this, but I think many of the political analysts think that Reubin probably wouldn't have gotten elected without Tom. But Tom was not the best fella to have as your Lieutenant Governor, and he made a lot of mistakes and he, you know, he had kind of a scandal to semi-scandals in using his people in the office to run errands for him and things like that, and there were some other things a little more serious than that he was accused of. I don't know whether Tom ever was involved, I kind of liked Tom, but he wasn't the most moral of public servants, I don't think. And Reubin, of course, took, I guess it was Jimmy Williams as his, when he ran for reelection, which of course, he was the first governor, well Kirk was the first governor, but he was the first governor who successfully ran for re-election and people weren't surprised very much, I think, that he cast aside Tom Adams and picked Jimmy Williams, who was from Ocala and a State Senator and had, and a fine senator, and had an

impeccable reputation. He wasn't colorful, but he was a very good public servant.

D: Were you involved at all in his administration? Were you appointed to anything that you recall?

K: Yeah, Reubin appointed me to, I should go back and review, I think, I get some of the, I think he appointed me to, originally to the Post-Secondary Education Commission, which was, they used to call it a 1202 or 1203. It was required that you had to have one really vocational education. This was, and the basis for the commission was to have one that could make recommendations on certain aspects of vocational education, as I recall, and Reubin, by executive order, expanded it and made it to fill a void that we had in Florida. We had no State agency that had as its charge to make recommendations and review all of public higher education, both public and private, and the Post-Secondary Education Commission did that. They didn't have a great deal of authority, but Reubin encouraged it and saw that it was funded relatively well, and we had a good ... became the Post-Secondary Education Planning Commission and it was the same staff but it was funded differently. It had a different charge. The legislature took that executive order and amplified, added to it, and it became and it is still now . . . . I think, is the name of the agency that is the successor of ...

D: And you were still serving on the Board of Regents ...

K: No, no, no, no. This was after my term on the Board of Regents.

D: Okay.

K: My term on the Board of Regents, I think, in 19, this would have been Reubin's second term, it was 19, I was on from '67 to '76.

D: Okay.

K: And this was, it was about a year after that when they, when this Post-Secondary Education Commission and later it became the Planning Commission, they called it PEPSI, and I served, I chaired both of those for a number of years and it was something that I enjoyed. It was, it had, it was different from the Board of Regents area where you had all of the universities out there, you were on the board that had jurisdiction over them so you were constantly being sought after to try to listen to their particular position. PEPSI didn't have a constituency, but it did some very important things and it gave, like the original charge of PEPSI was to create a master plan for all of higher education in the State, and Preston Haskell was the first chair of PEPSI. I chaired it later. I chaired the Post-Secondary, the original one before it became the planning commission, and I don't remember the timing of these, but, it seems as if I was on the two combined for probably a period of 10 or 12 years, maybe. And I enjoyed the involvement with that, but as I say, Reubin appointed me to that and it seems like there were some other things, but Grahams, I get into Grahams, he, high speed rail commission and there was a tax, unitary tax . . . for both commissions and things of that sort that I served on. But I think it was Graham appointments not Reubin's. But Reubin's and I became pretty good friends, and I have a lot of respect for him and I think he has been one of our better governors.

D: Who would you say was the best governor in the 20<sup>th</sup> century?

K: In Florida?

D: Um-hmm. And go ahead and go on up, you know, to the present if you'd like. We haven't talked about the rest of them, but...

K: Well, you know, it, I think probably that many would say, and I don't totally disagree, that Leroy Collins, because Leroy Collins was correct on a lot of positions that most people had not yet come to. That may be the true test of leadership, and, but whether he was, and he, he was certainly a fine person. I liked Roy very much, but I would not say he was the best governor. It, in some ways I think Lawton is, I wouldn't pick one, but Lawton and Reubin were both very good governors. Bob Graham, his second term, was a good governor, and then Bob Martinez was a good governor. But I don't, but I guess if I had to pick, if I had to pick the one best overall governor, I perhaps would, and a lot of my prejudice because he was such a close friend, would be Lawton, but I think maybe historians and all will look upon maybe Reubin as the best.

D: They say that Ruben was, was rigid, not very flexible. Would you agree with that?

K: Well, Reubin ...

D: Of course you want some of that in...

K: Well, he, you know...

D: ...in a leader, but...

K: Reubin was certainly someone you could talk to and Reubin would listen, but Reubin, when he took positions, it was hard to get him to change. He probably, but if I, I don't know, I think Reubin, like a lot of governors, I saw a change over the period of time that he was governor. I would say that he mellowed. Reubin was, sort of had the, well and then so I think Farris Bryant, both of them I think when they were elected governor, neither one were prohibitionists basically, and they both ameliorated, neither of them became big boozers or anything, but they, that of course didn't have anything to do with being governor, but I could see that, where Farris, I know, wouldn't have a drink. He just was, with his Methodist upbringing, he just felt it wasn't, with the time he'd been governor and he saw that was a social thing, and that you did, and...

D: Well, I think Reubin's background, his father was an alcoholic and died of alcoholism or had been very, very bad off, and that probably affected him quite a lot.

K: And Reubin, but Reubin was, Reubin was, but probably, I can see why people would say he was inflexible. But he had, but he really had high standards and he was, he was a good public servant. It was surprising to me that he decided not to run for the Senate, but he just, he called me and just said he ...

D: I guess that was in '86, right?

K: Yep. Yep.

D: When Connie Mack, that was the year...

K: When Connie Mack, Lawton, it was Lawton's, when he was going to run and then Lawton dropped out in December. It was one of those strange things. I remember Lawton calling me and telling me that he just decided he just didn't want to run again.

D: I guess that was '88 instead of '86.

K: Yeah, it would have had to have been because Lawton was elected in '70 and that was the end of his third term, 18 years, so it was '88, yep. And then, and Reubin, and Connie Mack had been announced against Lawton, and I know because he came by ("as a due"?) and then I talked to him. I said, "You know, he was, you know, I'm certainly, supporting Lawton and I don't think you've got any chance". And he said, "Well, I've decided I want to run and I know Lawton", and he had nothing but fine things to say about Lawton. He was, he said he was a fine senator but I think we would be better served with a Republican, but, you know, the things that you would normally say. And then when Reubin got in, you know, it was pretty well thought that Reubin would be a natural successor to Lawton's legacy there, and he, they were basically the same kind of moderate Democrats. And then when Reubin decided to drop out, he just couldn't stand the fundraising.

D: Yes, well that's what he told me. I asked him...

K: Well he told me, I was, we were...

D: The fundraising by that time in the '80s, late '80s, had become so extremely different than when he was governor, and he just said he refused to really try to adjust to the new process and it was just, I remember he told me that he sat down one day and had to, they went to him and they said, "Well you've got to raise so much money per day. You've got to raise this much money per day", and they broke it all down and he just ...

D: Well, I know, he got, we got, I was involved in a minor way. We had, I had I forget how many names and all that I was going to call and then when it came, we had a couple of meetings and Reubin said, "You know, you can have people go to these folks, but if you're expecting the maximum contribution". I can't even remember what it was then, but, I think you could give more then than you could later, I think it maybe was \$2500, but I'm not sure, but I said, but the large, I said, "You have to ask them for it. You've got to do that. You can...there isn't any doubt about it. And they want to know and they want to give you the money, they want you to...". And he hated making those calls so badly. And I think that was just the sort of thing that finally made him decide he just wasn't going to do it anymore. Because he would have been elected. He had been a good governor and he had a good reputation, and Connie Mack wasn't known. And I was surprised, really back then, but I didn't know Connie, I like him but what's not to like about him, but that he matured and grew so. He had a good business background and I hadn't known him and he was the president of a bank, I guess, down in Naples and his brother was a young lawyer, worked in our law firm. Connie, I liked very much. He's a, he really had wonderful political skills. I never have, I still don't quite understand why he decided to guit after just two terms. I know he and, he and Priscilla both had bouts with cancer and all, and that was, I think that may have had something to do with it, and he has been very active since then, like he's, I think he's active in the Moffitt Cancer Center. I know he's been active in American Cancer Center drives, and I liked him, I was a strong supporter of Connie's, but he was the most improbable...

D: So he ultimately beat McKay, didn't he, Buddy McKay?

K: He did.

D: And by a razor thin margin, I think.

K: Oh yes, 'cause Buddy was a close friend of mine, but Connie had been such a good

senator, I supported Connie and I know that hurt Buddy, so it's always tough when you have people that have full expectations, and Buddy, but ...

D: Well, we're finally ready to get into the Chiles race. I know you probably thought, well when's he ever going to get to that, but, can you, and we talked a little bit about the buildup to that, I think, in the last hour that we spent last week, about Lawton's decision to run and I think you'd mentioned Chesterfield Smith in that context. Can you remember the primary backers of his candidacy back in 1970 in Lakeland? In Polk County? Would there have been people that really would have been behind him and influencing him? Financially, also? In Polk County? Or were people shocked ... when he said he was going to run for Senator?

K: Well, I think, really, Lawton had a lot of friends, of course, but basically, a lot of his friends were Republican by then, that's when the wave had come along and there had been a change of registration to some extent...

D: Well, that's an issue in itself, I mean, that would have been a real hurdle for him to...

K: ...and so, and then that was, but I think mostly, his friends, like, didn't think he was a serious candidate. I probably didn't think he was a serious candidate at first, though Lawton, who was such a close friend, there was no question that I was going to support him, and I gave him money and I worked for him, and I had been very involved in his, on the local level of his campaign when he was elected to the House of Representatives and later in the State Senate. After his first campaign for the House of Representatives, which was, as I mentioned earlier he ran against Roy Searles, who was well established and was a big political upset by most standards, he didn't have a hard time. He had opposition, I think, maybe one or two times he didn't, I can't recall, but he never came, had narrow elections or narrow margins after that. He was always favored and he won. But, and he was a good, you know, State Senator, but in that particular campaign, no one really thought, and particular when Farris Bryant got into the race, and Lawton would not have run against Farris if Farris had gotten in earlier. Farris got talked into getting in because Lawton was a very strong support of Farris Bryant, and I was too. I liked Farris very much. And Farris, I never did really understand why he decided to get in as late as he did because, he was talked to about being a candidate earlier and he didn't show much interest. A number of us talked to him because he'd have been a fine senator, he was a good governor. But he didn't seem to have the interest, and then people in Jacksonville, I don't really know, I don't remember now, perhaps I did at one time but I don't recall who it was that really persuaded him to get in, but when Farris got in, he really apparently expected Lawton then to support him and Lawton wouldn't do it, and I didn't blame Lawton. We talked about that, but he said, "You know, I went to Farris", and he said that if Farris had gotten in, and "he told me he wasn't going to run, and my caveat was always I would not run against Spessard Holland" and Spessard Holland had indicated he was going to retire, but I think, as in most cases, he waited, you know, you don't want to become too much of a lame duck too early, I guess that was it. Now Chesterfield would know a lot about that aspect of it, about whether Spessard Holland ever really considered running for re-election again. I don't have any sharp recollection of any of that. I just assumed toward the end that he was not going to run. But it may have been at one time that he had decided because he loved the Senate. Senator Holland was, had served, I guess, four terms, a little bit more, just a trifle more than that. But once Senator Holland announced, at least he told Lawton that he was not going to run, then Lawton became active, but Lawton was not the major candidate by any means, and of course his walk was really, it really originated with, they kind of did it together, that it was just something to perhaps to attract attention. They couldn't raise enough money. They were just really, had a very, very tough time raising money. It was hard back then, and he didn't have the kind of base here that you would have thought, though he had a lot of support in Polk County, but he didn't have initially a lot of financial backing.

D: Okay. Did, do you have a feeling that, I can ask him myself of course, but do you have a feeling that Chesterfield Smith encouraged him to run? Or because he was at that time about to become President of the American Bar Association, is that right? So his support would have been...

K: Hmmm. Yep. Yeah.

D: ...very important.

K: Chesterfield was, I guess he was president, I think...

D: He was probably president in '72, which meant...

K: He was running for the American Bar then.

D: ...which meant that he would have been very influential, even...

K: Oh Chesterfield was influential in the Bar and all. I don't know how important, I mean, Chesterfield was certainly significant. He, and of course he lived in Polk County then, and he was very much involved in the local political scene and the State political scene, and Chesterfield had just come off being chairman of the First Constitutional Revision Commission since 1885, and so he was very prominent in many ways. And Chesterfield, of course, spent time, I mean representing the phosphate industry at the legislature, so he was well-known by all of the lobbyists, he was probably certainly the most influential of all the lobbyists there at that time and he knew all of the legislature intimately and with strong close connections with them, so his support in many ways would have been very significant. And I don't remember Chesterfield being an initial strong supporter of Lawton. When I say initial, I don't remember Chesterfield being one that persuaded Lawton to run. I'd almost think that, if he went back, Chesterfield would have persuaded him not to run because I believe Chesterfield probably thought, as did I. that Lawton would not get elected and he, and so he, I don't know who Chesterfield would have naturally supported, but I know that Chesterfield supported him and Chesterfield became a political confidant and an advisor, but, and Chesterfield and Lawton were close and good friends throughout, but Lawton was very independent. Lawton never, he'd listen quite well. He wouldn't ever tell you what he was going to do. I don't think he told anybody, except perhaps Rhea, that he would listen and a lot of people would talk with him and he'd nod and listen, and they'd think, "Well, he agrees with me". Lawton didn't agree with you. Lawton understood what you were telling him, and he'd ask questions to be sure he understood. And sometimes he would do what you wanted him to, but you didn't talk him into it. You had a position that he later took, decided was a better position. And he was, he was practical and all. He certainly wanted to please his supporters, and that sort of thing. He would listen and if he could agree with them, he would, but you never knew what Lawton was going to do until he'd done it. That was, he was absolutely as straight as anybody I've ever known in political office. And he was that way with Chesterfield. Chesterfield would almost get angry with him because Chesterfield had such strong ideas and Chesterfield thought his position was better than any other position, and he was a most powerful advocate for those positions. And he and Lawton were close. He was a lot of help to Lawton. But in the very beginning, I don't remember Chesterfield being one of those, there weren't very many, there were the folks that were in the local community, and some of his friends, I

know, that hurt Lawton. I can think of two or three that were basically, when he ran, I guess it was when Bill Cramer...

D: Yes, he ran for Bill Cramer, uh, against Bill Cramer...

K: ...I mean Bill Cramer ran...

D: ...he got the Republican nomination, yes.

K: ...and I know that several new Republicans had all supported Bill Cramer and a group that I used to play poker with, and they were, they had a big argument one night. They all were good friends of Lawton and Lawton, sometime when I'd have it, he'd come over and play with us. He wasn't a member of the so-called poker club, and I just jumped all over them for not supporting him. I said, "He's your friend. You support your friends". And there were two in particular, I remember, that would not support him and later they had their tails between their legs and they would try not to, to act like they really had, but they, but that was kind of reflective of a lot of people, I think, just didn't believe Lawton was a viable candidate. And I basically, I just liked him, I didn't think he was going to win. I thought, he asked me what I thought of the walk and I told him it was the dumbest thing I ever heard of. I said, "Lawton you're going to be out there if you really do it honestly, most of the time you're not going to be seeing anybody. If you walk all through the State now", because he wasn't talking about going from city to city, he was talking about, and for the most part he did, walking the whole length of the State, and I'm sure...

D: Um-hmm. Going to Marianna, and Live Oak, and places like that.

K: Yeah. He started at the very, I don't know what it was...

D: Century.

K: Century. And he, I think he really, I don't think he ended up walking all the way to Key West, but he said he was going to. Maybe he ended up in Key West. But he walked. I mean, he'd go out there and I kept up a little bit with him, and he'd visit with me out of his camper or something, a trailer that followed along there...

D: I think that camper still exists somewhere. I think I know where it is.

K: ...and he was, and you know, people in areas later on he kind of caught on and they'd walk with him some, but for the most part, you know, he walked it by himself and it just sounded to me like this is not a very good way to get enough, you'll get a little publicity out of it at first and then they'll get bored, but it was kind of a boring; a lot of things work, you know, just, it's fate, I guess, and he captured the public imagination and the rest, of course, is part of history, but...

D: Now once Senator Holland withdrew from the, retired, did he endorse Lawton or did he keep quiet or did he have any role at all in the campaign?

K: He had a close, I think, feeling for Lawton and he respected the fact that Lawton made it clear he would not run against him, but I do not remember the Senator taking a position, but of course, he would have still, during that time, been a...

D: That's right.

K: Sitting Senator, and I know he, I think in the general election, of course, he would have taken a position for Lawton. I mean, he was a strong Democrat. There was no question about that. But back at the time that Lawton was seeking the nomination for the primary, I'm certain the Senator didn't take an official position. But I think, and I, there may have been somebody else in there. I'm trying to remember the other candidates. I was looking the other day and I cannot rem...

D: You mean in the primary?

K: Yeah, yeah, in the primary, besides Farris Bryant, of course, but now I don't think, was Fred Schultz in that particular race, or was it a later one? I think...

D: I don't know. I don't remember.

K: Fred Schultz from Jacksonville, and he had been a Speaker of the House and I think, and he ran for Senate, and he may have been in that one too. I kind of think so because both of them were from Jacksonville, Fred and at that time Farris was from Jacksonville. But certainly, if you had to . . . I'd say that Lawton was the fourth or fifth down there. Bud Dickinson, I don't think, I guess he was Comptroller by then. There were a lot of contenders back then that...

D: Faircloth?

K: ...of, well yeah, well Faircloth ran for a lot of things. Of course, Earl, he ran, well I guess he was Attorney General, and then he ran for governor. Now he may have run for the Senate once, I don't remember that, but, and, Brailey Odham ran for governor two or three times back in the, that was back in the '60s and he, I think he ran for the Senate. He popped up two or three times. And I don't think Scott Kelly ever ran for the Senate. He ran twice for governor.

D: Now besides Charles Canady, can you remember any other people that were involved in his campaign that helped organize it? The people that would have been here in Lakeland? Does the name Jack Pridgen ring a bell at all?

K: Oh, Jack Pridgen, very much so. Yeah, Jack. I'd forgotten about Jack. Yeah, he was, Jack was also, I think, he's been a journalist with, for The Ledger at one time. He may have been a schoolteacher also. Charlie Canady, I think, was in the school system. Jack was, he came on the campaign and he handled the press releases, that sort of thing.

D: That's a name that I found at University of Florida looking around the archives.

K: And he was one that was on his staff. I mean in contrasting, these were people that were, ended up being part of the paid staff that, later on, Charles, Charlie Canady, and Jack Pridgen, and then there were two or three others, now Dean Saunders became very important, but I don't think, Dean was too young at the first campaign, I don't think he was there. He came later and, probably the last term or so. There was a Marla, that was a, there is a Marla family here in Lakeland and I'm trying to think of the name of the one he was sort of a...

D: Now, Dean Saunders, would that be the father of the...

K: No.

D: ...the state rep?

K: No, it is the state rep. He's the one that's in the, real estate broker...Gene Strickland just went with him into Saunders Realty.

D: Okay.

K: And Dean is, as I say, Dean is probably in his forties now.

D: Um-hmm about my age, isn't he?

K: I'd say you all were about the same age.

D: Yeah. Yeah.

K: And Dean, but he worked on Lawton. He was Lawton, I think he'd just gotten out of the University of Florida, probably, in I would guess it was in the '80s that Dean came on board. He wasn't, back in the '70s campaign, Dean would have been probably in grammar school.

D: Yeah, right. Now you mentioned before that the teachers were really for Lawton all along, even in the State legislature. Were they really energized for him in the campaign? Would you identify the teachers as a real support, a group of supporters that he had, per se, or...?

K: Yes, of course, teachers, you know, in my view, have never been very effective in their endorsement of candidates. They just don't seem to stay together or they don't vote very well, and the teachers' union leadership doesn't seem to represent what the teachers think very often. I'm not, but the teachers generally supported Lawton because Lawton believed in...

D: Of course we're coming around to that strike, too. That might have energized them a little bit.

K: They were, Lawton had, he didn't have a, in that '70 election, he picked up just bits and pieces here and there. Lawton was one that was always, he tended to take, to be the so-called social liberal and fiscal conservative, politician. And he believed in environmental programs, and a lot of positions that, actually, Claude Kirk took and Lawton took were not that dissimilar.

D: Yes, even though they were not friends.

K: They weren't.

D: In fact, some of the things that I've read, he campaigned against Kirk a little bit actually, even though they weren't running against each other, he campaigned against Kirk's re-election, even though...

K: Well he did because he was a close friend of Reubin's. They had been in the State Senate together.

D: That's what I was going to ask you. That's what I was going to ask you. That was the same election that Governor Askew, or Reubin Askew was running for governor. Do you remember any specific things that they would have done together or been

associated with together, or worked together on maybe while they were in the legislature? Or were they just really similar in their views?

K: Well, I don't remember the exact position, but they were part of that group that restructured our legislature generally. They went and, I mean, we at one time were, I think, thought of as having maybe the most progressive legislature in the country. We made the evolvement from the Poor Pork Chop days and the biennial sessions. Many people will review and look at it, and I always felt that maybe you could have too much government and that though you took away from the people a lot, but you had a professional staff, and that's happened. But in its initial stages, it was a very refreshing thing. You had some bright people that wanted to correct a lot of the abuse because it I can remember when I first would be up there, they would have a committee meeting, and the chairman would show up and somebody would raise a question and he said we'll consider it and said the committee votes against that, and then, I remember I was there one day, and he had been written up a number of times, when they said, "Well, how can you do that?" and he says, "I've got the (?proxy and you can lead 'em all out?)" and he was there that one time. Usually that didn't happen that way, but the proxys were there and that was all changed. You know, there are still enough abuses in the legislative system and in the last few years there have been some bad things that have happened in my judgment that are just not very, you know, it's not sufficiently transparent. Things are still done that there's no reason, well there was a reason for them, but it's not a good... but the legislature was reformed through the efforts of people like Reubin Askew

M: Were Senator Chiles and Governor Askew personal friends?

B: Donna Lou, Reubin's wife, Reubin, Lawton and Rhea were good friends, I think as couples, but they were not anywhere as close as some of the other people were, the Wilbur Boyds. Wilbur and Faye Boyd and Rhea Lawton were the closest friends, both socially and politically and anyway that you could think of, but Lawton -- you can follow Lawton through the United States Senate. He had strong friendships on both sides of the aisles. Pete Domenici, Republicans - he was one of our very close friends. Sam Nunn were close friends, Lloyd Bentsen. There were a distinct number, but as you look at his closest friend, they were basically strong, on the conservative Democratic side, but Lawton was a pretty good friend to Ted Kennedy, but they got a long well. Fritz Hollings who is certainly not a conservative democratic. He was a very good friend of Lawton's. During both the Florida Legislature and the United States Senate, Lawton was the sort of person that when people worked with him and knew they could trust him. He would not necessarily agree with you, but he would never - if he said he would do something, he did it and you never had to worry - he was the ideal of the brotherhood of the senate, the club. They got along well, he was effective and his greatest frustration was when he finally became Chairman of the Budget Committee and he finally realized - it took him a couple of years I guess, and that contributed, I think when he decided not to seek reelection, that you could just do so much in the Senate no matter what the position. There was so much seniority you got, you still were not going to do all the things that you wanted to do and I think he just finally, almost gave up.

M: Yea. Well, back to his campaign. It would have been a very, very exciting time in Lakeland obviously to have your native son running for the Senate. Were there any people in Lakeland that really got energized enough to go up to Tallahassee and go to where ever he was and walk along with him? Were there events that you could remember during the campaign that punctuated that walk, people in Lakeland for example that might have - didn't he have a birthday in Tallahassee as he was coming in for the State Legislature? One of my students, by the way, has written a paper on his

election and I think he had a birthday that he celebrated as he was walking into Tallahassee to actually attend the State Legislature. They timed it so that they would walk into Tallahassee, celebrate his birthday as part of the walk and then assume his Legislative duties. It was a big; I don't want to say spectacle, but kind of a big event.

B: I vaguely remember that. I was clearly not there.

M: But you didn't do any walking?

B: I was not a supporter of that, I thought it was something that he was wasting his time on. . . .

M: Did the newspapers cover the walk pretty well? The Lakeland Ledger? Did they do a like a weekly or daily column or --

B: Yes, my recollection is that they did. I guess the files would show that. I do recall that. I do recall specifically that the newspapers all over the state picked up on it and to some extent and that gave it emphasis to it and as someone had observed later, that the campaign just basically was a boring campaign and the personalities there were sort of drab and they picked up on this walk. It wasn't Lawton's personality, but later they got to know Lawton and he was an engaging person and he was the sort of person that you could -- it was good copy for him but eventually, they didn't think of him that way, it was just the walk and I think most of the press, I've talked to a few of the reporters and all that I knew and they said well, you know, it was just sort of a dumb thing, but there wasn't anything else going on, it was sort of the only game in own.

M: Did Rhea or the kids accompany him on any of the lags of the trip?

B: Yes they did. They would come and go - I don't know exactly, I'm trying to think how old his children would have been then in 1970, his children would probably have been like -- one child is the same age as my daughter I think and she was born in 1953, in fact she was older -- that would have made her 17 I guess at the time and Bud, a couple of years younger, would have been 15 -- well I say the, oldest child was, gee whiz, I got a so-called senior moment cause I know the child well. She lives in -- she's blind. It was a girl and Rhea had the measles when she was pregnant and their first born, she met her husband and they have a good marriage and amazingly and he's blind also. It's a very interesting story. They live in Orlando. They have an adopted child what in the hell is his son Bud, Lawton Chiles, Jr. and then Ed Chiles who has restaurants down in Bradenton and Ed was really more like Lawton in his political skills and all. It's a shame he didn't win. Ed ran for the Senate and Ed would have been a good senator a few years back, but I guess when Lawton was Governor. The children were - Rhea was very much involved during the campaign and Lawton always relied heavily on Rhea which started back when they met at the University of Florida in I think, student politics. Rhea was always the one that was -- she was more politically ambitious in many ways than Lawton was.

M: Do you remember any of the national issues that he would have addressed during the campaign? The Viet Nam War, foreign policy, civil rights, anything like that or was it just, here I am, I'm a fresh face, I've got new ideas, I've got a lot of energy -- what were the areas that he was --

B: I think Lawton took things that were you know -- Spessard Holland was a four term Senator and he was basically a southern conservative senator. Lawton was -- civil rights was not an issue per se then -- I mean in a sense everybody supported civil rights, it

wasn't like when LeRoy Collins was Governor. Brown v. Board had come and gone and everybody accepted that and all, there were still always what you might call some part of the so-called redneck vote and all that they really didn't accept and probably never will. It's not a factor in that election, and most people do accept, and Lawton was progressive in a sense. I mean he was a strong civil libertarian, but he didn't wear it on his sleeve. It wasn't a flaming banner with him, and there wasn't any doubt where he stood, it was just something that was important and he was always willing to compromise when it was possible and that sort of thing and most of his campaign was essentially that he wanted to improve things. He was certainly more liberal in positions if you started grading them than Spessard Holland, but he wasn't that dissimilar. He didn't take issue with positions. He was probably going to be to the left of Spessard, but he was going to be centrist all the way through and it is all in his record. I mean he pretty much always was, but I --Lawton was basically -- you need a fresh face, you need someone who can get things moving, can do things for Florida, that sort of thing. I don't remember any issue that he campaigned, but always one of his great issues was that there was too much money involved in politics. There were too many special interests. Lawton was always --

M: Even back then in the 70s?

B: Always an enemy of special interests and in 1970 --

M: Of course, it got worse and worse and worse --

B: In 1970 of course Lawton -- I mean, he had a terrible time raising money. That was his big thing and then when he ran for reelection in 1976, he had a \$10.00 maximum limit on contribution --

M: Wow!

B: \$10.00 -- now I used to tell him, Lawton you're making people be duplicitous and hypocritical and you know damn well there's no way you can do that. I bet I wrote a thousand letters for Lawton to people and friends -- I probably didn't write that many, but I wrote a bunch of them all over and asked them to send me \$10.00 and you there wasn't anybody I knew that wouldn't send me \$10.00, but the cost probably of doing it if you figured it up, the time you took you know, I doubt you would break even, but getting enough money that way was just a terrible thing. Finally a bunch of us talked to him about it, we can't go through that again and he raised it to \$100.00, but that was -- and never would take more than \$100.00 contribution, but as always you go to folks -- and you want to get support, but the practical aspect of politics, you'll get people to get in there with influence whether it be a labor union, corporation or whatever and try to get as many checks in, smaller checks are easier to get and so the reality of campaign financing had to be met, but Lawton believed strongly in that and that was a theme throughout his campaign.

M: Okay, so the election -- he went through the run-off with Farris Bryant, we pretty much went through that and the general election, everybody's got to be feeling pretty confident about that. Was there still a lot of discussion or rumbling about the long shot even though he had won the primary or was everybody pretty confident?

B: Well, I'm not sure, there certainly --

M: Because after all, Cramer was a fairly strong candidate.

B: Cramer was a strong candidate.

M: He had been a member of Congress for about a decade and Republican --

B: And you just had the election of a Republican Governor for the first time in Florida and here Cramer had been there -- it was certainly not a slam-dunk in the peoples mind. I thought Lawton would clearly win. But as I say, there were many of Lawton's friends who liked Lawton who supported Cramer because they were Republicans. They were new Republicans. During the Kirk campaign, in fact a lot of folks that became active in that campaign, they went out and persuaded people to change their registration. I had I don't know how many people try to get me to change my registration. I refused, I guess maybe Lawton, -- because of Lawton I just wouldn't.

M: Well, it's a big thing.

B: One think I will say for Claude Kirk, he never asked me to change, of course I guess he knew I wouldn't, but --

M: Well, so he did win and I guess it was a pretty exciting time for you and everybody else who had known Lawton, for him to go to Washington and for everything to be moving in that direction. Can you remember -- did you ever go to Washington very often?

B: I spent a lot of time in Washington, during that period before we had a Washington office and I had clients and matters involved in the U.S. Congress, so I was there; starting back in the 60s, I spent a fair amount of time in Washington. I would go and visit Lawton and I can recall another story you know of starting "Florida House." That was one of Rhea's ideas. I've got a picture somewhere, I used to carry a camera with me and I took some pictures of the house where it is now. You've been to the Florida House haven't you?

M: No, I have to say I haven't.

B: Well, you know where the Folgers Museum. It's directly across the street from that and it looks down and just behind the Supreme Court Building, you've got a direct view from the upper story of the Capitol. It's a gorgeous location. It's a couple of blocks long down there and anyway -- things like he got into that and I was trying persuade him that he was going to spend a lot of political capital and raise any money to do this and he knew how hard it was to raise money for an election and Lawton never was a good fund raiser really, but he would do the things and he wasn't quite as bad as Reubin, but Lawton just wasn't a fund raiser, he thought there was too much money in campaigns, it was distasteful to him but he understood it was necessary.

M: Well, we've gone about an hour and a half now and it's been real productive today. Could we continue next week?

B: Sure.