

INTERVIEW WITH ERLAND CHARLES
MAY 22, 1975
AT THE HOME OF MR. CHARLES
BY KAY FRANEY

I am Kay Franey and I will be at the home of Erland Charles. The date is May 22, 1975. Mr. Charles has agreed to discuss with me the 1948 election in Morris and Stevens County.

Okay, when you talking about elections of '52, you asked a question somewhere in there about why the election? Why did he vote or portone the turn out at the...I don't remember where you asked the question.

Q: Yes, I remember the question.

See here, like you asked about what reaction was there towards Henry Wallace, if any. Why did he do so poorly? Did anyone in Morris see him come to Benson? And how you feel about Stassen and get out to vote and why not? Was most of Morris Republican or how many parts of Morris were and so forth? Here, this is just a fast glance for your information about, here's the vote in 1952. Republican vote, presidential year (3,500). I assume that's an Eisenhower vote in 1952 in Stevens County. To a low in 19...to 2166.

Q: Was that Eisenhower's or...

No, that would be the gubernatorial, that would be the year Freeman won, Freeman won the gubernatorial that year. I don't think he carried Stevens County. But that was a vote get out. Then in '56 another presidential year, Eisenhower running again you see it's 2604.

Q: That's still lower.

Yes, but you must remember that the Korean war was going on here. There was a back lash, we were only five years out of World War II. We were back into Korean Conflict in 1952, so there were a lot of Democratic votes here. We went into '58 and we had a poor gubernatorial candidate in the Republican party by the name of George MacKinnon.

Q: Who ran against him?

Orville Freeman and Orville was up for re-election. We had a two year governor office. This is the governor election in '58, and this is the presidential and governor election. Here in '58 it's just a state wide election. Here we are and it's 1960, which is the year John Kennedy ran...

Q: Which was a close election that year, right?

As I recall, he won it by a 112,000 votes.

Q: On the county level?

No, 112,000 nationally, the popular vote. John Kennedy received 112,000 more than Richard Nixon. Now there's still a big argument over whether this was a honest election, because in the state and down in Texas also, we found more voters than they had people living in the precincts, in Chicago. And yet through the Democratic machine, you couldn't challenge it. See Watergate would not have occurred had there been a Democratic President doing the same thing, because both Houses of Congress are Democrat. Nor would it have occurred if both Houses of Congress were Republican. Or even one or the other, because no matter what the House did the Senate wouldn't. But here you had a Democratic majority, a strong majority in both houses, the Senate and the House of Congress, they naturally hated him and they nailed him.

Q: Well, yes, there has to be some kind...

But a lot of the things he was guilty of, and I guess he was guilty of it, I'm not doubting that, but so were his predecessors. Now that doesn't mean that they shouldn't be brought to task for it, I'm not arguing that, I'm just saying that it would not have occurred.

Q: Had it been stopped along....

No it would not have occurred if it had been John Kennedy or Lyndon Johnson or Hubert Humphrey or whoever, because they were majority. They'd just shove it under the rug. You must remember the majority, in either the Senate or the House, chairman all the committees, the Election Committee, etc.

Q: Now what years were you....

Was I active? I would say I got started in organized party work probably about 1958. Then I ran though, well I was active for about twelve years. '56 perhaps in here.

Q: What years were you County Chairman?

From '59 to '62, '63, but you see I was a district chairman for seven years in 19 counties. This is the Who's Who in American Politics, '67 and '68. There's one out every year, but I'll show you briefly. What class are you in?

Q: This is for Historical Research. It's part of getting a history major, you have to do some kind of research on the local level, which is where history is suppose to be anyway.

Oh, this is suppose to be a historical thing, I thought it was a study in....

Q: Well I wanted to get a Political Science major once but....

Here, Charles Erland W.

Q: Chairman 6th District, State Central Representative Committee.

State Central Committee, State Central Republican Committee.

Q: Born Montevideo. 6th District starts in '61 through '68.
Executive chairman. Chairman of the 7th District, this says 6th district.

Well, I was chairman of both districts at one time or another. We redistricted in 1962. I was chairman of the 7th District and then we merged and I won election in the 6th District.

Q: Was that the year that Richardson was beat in....

Hervey, yes, I was around when he was defeated.

Q: He ran in the primary against a Democrat, Carl Iverson?

And Jim Morton.

Q: Chairman Stevens County Representative Committee. Oh, there was a committee?

Republican Committee.

Q: '59 to '62 chairman of Stevens County Financial Committee. Precinct Chairman Stevens County. This is your education?

Yes, and military service.

Q: You been a farmer mostly?

Mostly, I've done other things but I've owned this farm for 23 years.

Q: Jaycees?

President in Morris. That year I was a Jaycee president, 6th Congressional District Chairman and Stevens County Republican Chairman. I had more jobs to do than....

(158-10 min.)

Q: What year was that?

1961 or '62. That was two years.

Q: Aircraft owners or pilots. Do you have a plane?

Two of them. This boy here is a spray pilot. We have one Super Cub that we spray with, then I have a Money Executive that is a business plane.

Q: You were a member of the CIO?

Yes

Q: Did you work then?

I was just a machinist at the time. I was 17 years old. I am a member of the CIO, but that's quite a bit broader now. Every year they add something to it. Look at the other Charles, Robert Horn Charles, assistant secretary of the Air Force.

Q: You're in good company, aren't you?

There are only two Charles. That's quite a book. I imagine they have it at the school out there.

Q: I thought you were chairman in 1952, I don't know where I got that?

I was, Stevens County Republican Party and the District Chairman.

Q: When did you first get the chairmanship then?

1959. Here this'll be a kind of history of the thing if you'll scan this briefly.

Q: Oh, what....

Oh, that's a letter, must be 1968.

Q: This is to the Sun and Tribune?

Yes. Must be to 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 newspapers probably. Would you like to read it?

Q: I'm confused, you say you were in '59 or '52 or still....

Well I was a county chairman, for this county, in 1962.

Q: Oh, I said 1952.

Oh, '52 I was not. I think Ed Morrison probably was.

Q: Well do you suppose he probably was in '48?

I doubt that he was in '48, but Ed Morrison would have a very good knowledge of who was. I've forgotten, I would've known ten years ago. When I was the chairman here I would've been able to tell you who the last seven or eight or nine were. I would've, but I completely forgotten.

Q: Does the Republican Party have any better records than the DFL?

Any better records?

Q: Yes.

It's very difficult to have a very long continuing line of records. Constitutions are formed and put in someone's hands and the party leadership

changes and, good heavens, if you tried to find one I don't know who would have it. The continuing process, the money, the books, the treasure books are turned over, etc. All of my material is personal, never belonged to the county. I haven't taken my files and handed them to anybody, they wouldn't be interested. It's past history you see.

Q: Oh, well that's what I'm looking for.

I know, I've thrown tons of it, I still have tons of it.

Q: Do you have records of meetings, campaigns, minutes and stuff like that?

No.

Q: Would the present chairman, then?

Now you're interested in just county, today, I have scabs of them for District.

Q: Well, I started out doing it on the city of Morris and I found that there weren't that many people who were active in '48.

No.

(245-15min.)

Q: Who are still around? Delbert Anderson?

No. Jim Gebes.

Q: '67, still have your blanket?

Yes, never has returned it. He was a district chairman also with me.

Q: Where was he district chairman?

From the 1st District. I served four terms and he served one. There's just scabs of stuff in here from all through the years, here's Charles and Goldwater.

Q: Where was this?

That was me and this is Cliff Summers, president of the Owatonna Bank. This boy was from Morris. I look a little younger there.

Q: I understand that you got on TV. That's what Arnold Strand was telling me.

Who was?

Q: Arnold Strand. I lived with Marilyn Strand, his daughter.

Oh, is that right. Arnold Strand? Oh yes, a number of times. This is a National Newsweek phototgraph of a national convention.

Q: In what year?

In San Francisco in 1964. Ten years ago.

Q: This was at the national convention.

No. This was at Minneapolis. Look who's doing the talking?

Q: Sure. That's how you get into politics, right, by talking a lot.

Well, here is myself and Frank McGee, remember him on CBS I mean NBC.

Q: Oh yes, he died.

Yes that's him, the two of us. That was on TV, on the Huntley Brinkley.

Q: I can remember that night, no I can't, I remember '68.

Frank McGee. He was interviewing me here and that picture was taken by a local newspaper editor, a small town editor that just watched it on TV and got his camera, Polaroid, and took a whole series of pictures.

Q: Did he put it in the paper then?

Yes.

Q: What editor was that?

Hancock, Hancock Record. He was asking me about those pictures once. He said you know when Frank McGee died, he liked Frank McGee. So did I because he was an easy going, very intelligent fellow, very well rounded and he was a political person to me. This was 1964.

Q: Candidates and delegates.

This is all the delegation of the State of Minnesota to their national convention.

Q: Oh there were how, one, two.....

Twenty-six.

Q: Oh, the rest of them are in here?

No, that's all of them isn't it. Well maybe no. Sixteen that were elected, ten more to be elected at the state convention. Us sixteen we were already elected. This was my chairwomen at the time.

Q: Are most of these people chairpeople?

This man is a federal judge.

Q: Charles Johnson.

Yes, this man is a Rochester attorney, I think he's a district judge now.

Q: Arthur Swen is a district judge?

Yes. You know Art Swen isn't he, I think, isn't he a judge down there now.

Q: I was just wondering if he was related to the Swen of Swan County?

From Where?

Q: Swan County, Swan Township that's what it is.

Swan Lake?

Q: Yes

He's from Rochester. This fellow I see every now and then. This fellow is president....gonna be....I think now is the president of Ottertail Power.

Q: Robert Bakewood is Ottertail Electric Company? Wer're going to have to talk to him, he's been over-charging us.

He's been what?

Q: He's been over-charging us.

Oh, is that right. This fellow is a dentist, Stokes. This is a doctor of veterinarian medicine at the University of Minnesota. This fellow is a Cargill lawyer, he made a lot of news during that Russian wheat deal.

Q: John Roy Carl?

I saw him in Aspen, Colorado two years ago and I said "John, I didn't know you skied." He said, "I didn't know you skied either." California Republican Assembly. I don't know what all this is. Oh, H. Carl Anderson.

(234-20 min.)

Q: H. Carl Anderson, yes, I've been reading about him. He was given fifteen thousand....

Fifteen hundred....

Q: ...to pay after he quit Hill.

After a charge.

Q: After he quit Hill? Is that the scoop?

Yes, that's the Washington Daily News. That was after he quit his job, or at the capital. Apparently he was given....

Q: Oh, 6th District re-elects Hancock man! This is in what year?

What year is it?

Q: 1965. The West Central Daily Tribune.

That's uh, from Willmar. I made a lot of noise.

Q: So how old were you in 1948 then?

'48 I would've had to have been around 21.

Q: 21. You voted for the first time in that election?

That was my first election, you're right, that I voted, first time I voted. Voted for Thomas Dewey.

Q: Sure. Makes sense.

With the kid I took to the election, or the ballot box, and the kid was going to vote for Tom Dewey, he walked in and voted for Harry Truman. He was typical. See here's a.....

Q: Were you living in Morris then?

No.

Q: No. Okay. Charles re-elected, this was 1965 again. The Hancock Record.

Charles re-elected Willmar. That's, let's see, the West Central Daily News. Wonder why that's in here, must have been some convention or something in here to make me keep this paper. Let's see, what else was I going to show you? Oh boy, it's terrifying. That was our state chairman.

Q: Who's that?

Bob Forsythe. This man is dead.

Q: Who's that?

Ken Burns from Brainard, MN. Here you'll get a, oh here, it tells about Erland and McGee.

Q: We're sorry but we're unable to pick up the audio portion. This statement was made by the Huntley-Brinkley team as they covered nearly five sessions. Erland said NBC had been unable to get the transmitter working. Technicians have worked on it to no avail. Erland said he examined the portable unit tightened a connection here and a connection there and lo and behold it worked. Allright ¹ behind the cameras, too.

Yes, but I tell you, I'd forgotten that, I haven't seen that....

Q: You just took care of it?

Yes, I remember that, because he'd been trying all morning for an hour and a half to get on the air and never made it. Everytime they would interview, McGee and he, the damn equipment wasn't working. They'd have a picture but there wasn't any sound. H. Carl Anderson fight, here were three guys running for the district chairmanship. They were running against me. He was a Montevideo mortician, he was a St. Cloud manufacturer, and I was a Hancock farmer.

(438-25 min.)

Q: And the farmer got it. You were criticizing H. Carl Anderson. That sounds, that's interesting you know.

Yes, it headlined the morning paper in the Minneapolis Tribune. Yes, I made a lot of noise when I was in politics.

Q: What were you accusing H. Carl Anderson of?

Well, I think it was over campaign finances. He was running as an Independent, not a Republican, not as an endorsed candidate. Then he came back and said he would run as a Republican non-endorsed candidate, and we already had a candidate. The endorsed candidate always gets the party treasury.

Q: Yes, how long was H. Carl Anderson in? Can you remember?

How long was he in, 24 years.

Q: From 1940 or '38.

From '38 to 1962.

Q: Probably because he was on the Appropriations Committee.

Right.

Q: The congressional district was redistricted?

Yes, and that's what really got him. Then he got into that Billy Sol Estes coal transaction deal. Billy Sol Estes was a big wheeler and dealer from Texas in the commodities, in storing government commodities. He was big in the anhydrous-ammonia fertilizer, nitrogen fertilizer field and he had mortgages on anhydrous tanks that didn't exist. H. Carl Anderson and his brother owned a coal mine in the state of Washington. He sold Billy Sol Estes some shares in that coal mine, and the only reason he bought the shares in the coal mine obviously was to have some influence with the congressman. But he never got to use it. Do you remember Drew Pearson?

Q: I see, he didn't like H. Carl Anderson, did he?

✓ No, he never liked H. Carl Anderson. I liked H. Carl Anderson. He called me from Washington D.C., I was down at the Lemington Hotel. He told me he was going to give up the Republican nomination, he'd already been nominated, and run as an Independent. I told him not to.

Q: Why did he want to do that? To attract other votes?

Well, he was a little ticked off at the Republicans, or some of the Republican Congressman.

Q: He was, from this state?

✓ Yes, Clark McGreg^aor was one. They were a little embarrassed by his Billy Sol Estes scandal. He vowed to run as an Independent. He gave up the nomination to run as an Independent and was defeated in the primary by Robert Odégard. This was in 1962.

Q: You were head of the district then, which includes more than one county?

Right. We carried 19 counties. St. Cloud, Brainerd, Marshall, Litchfield, Willmar, it goes clear to Rockford.

Q: It still does?

It goes to Hennepin County, it did then. Now it takes in Carver and some of those in the new 6th. It goes right to the doorstep of the Twin Cities, it takes in some western suburbs. Now we are in the 7th, which is 28 counties and goes all the way to the Canadian border.

Q: When did that happen?

1972.

Q: Somebody told me that the districts are supposed to be redistricted every two years.

(545-30 min.)

No, every ten years. What's your home town?

Q: White Bear Lake.

You're in Ramsey County?

Q: Yes, let me think of his name. I know who our congressman is. I can't think of his name.

Joseph Karth.

Q: Yes, Clark McGregor stuck in my mind.

Well he was in the 3rd District in northern Minneapolis. Anoka County. Clark is working for some airline now. He quit as a congressman to run against Hubert Humphrey in the Senate and then he ran the Nixon campaign.

Q: He was embarrassed.

Well actually they never nailed him for anything.

Q: No they didn't, he just....

Kept his nose clean, he's a lawyer so I suppose he's smart.

Q: So H. Carl Anderson lost in that election.

Yes. He lost the primary, he didn't even get elected as a Republican, and he was the incumbent.

Q: He wanted to be Independent, right?

Yes, but then he changed his mind, and said that he would run as a Republican. The only way he could do that is go into the primary and he lost.

Q: This was after he changed his mind?

Yes, he changed it twice.

Q: Then he was defeated in the....

Look at all the headlines in those days.

Q: Three actually campaign for top 6th District GOP post. Well that must have been....Charles.... You got a lot of coverage over this, it was an exciting year.

I made a lot of noise. There's Rodney Briggs, used to be the dean of the University.

Q: Yes, we named our library after him.

Oh, how young I looked.

Q: That was you, when?

In 1962.

Erland Charles interviewed by Frank McGee. No wonder Arnold remembered it.

No wonder what?

Q: Arnold remembered it. It was more that just a minute on TV, it was covered by every paper in the area.

Well, twelve million viewers. I was standing at the urinal in the men's room in San Francisco and the guy at the next urinal said, "Don't I know you." I said, "I don't think so, where are you from?" He said, "Colorado Springs," and I said "what do you do in Colorado Springs," and he said, "I'm an Air Force Colonel at the Colorado Air Force Academy."

Then he said, " I know where I saw you, you were on TV."

Q: I suppose he was a Republican.

Must have been.

Q: You were in Montevideo in 1948?

No, I was born in Montevideo. My mothers home town was Montevideo, so she went home to have the child. Her sisters and bothers-in-law lived there. We lived in Hancock at the time.

Q: Can you think of any answers to any of these questions?

Yes, I can think of answers. This is the St. Paul Dispatch. I knew him quite well. Gene Newhall, I liked him. Here's the 7th District.

Q: It was 7th District until what year?

This county was 7th District until in 1962.

Q: All those years. I thought it was suppose to be redistricted.

It was, 7th District until '62 and then it became 6th District and then it went back to the 7th District. We lost a congressman in the State of Minnesota in 1962. We used to have nine districts, but our population growth didn't keep up with other areas in the nation, so we lost a congressman. The other areas that grew faster gained congressmen. So we made eight congressional districts out of nine. The ninth congressional district became the seventh. The 8th remained the 8th, which is the iron range. You've heard of Henry McNight haven't you? You know McNight, Jonathan, the town of Jonathan. Well, he was the founder. He died two years ago. This is me and Henry McNight, he's dead also.

Q: Who's that?

(663-35 min.)

from Olivia. He was a fabulous guy, a big real estate developer. He served later in the Minnesota State Senate.

Q: Where was he from?

In the Minneapolis area, probably Wayzata.

Q: It looks as though you cornered the action around here for a while.

I did. See here, a political note pad, this is a Star and Trib.

Q: Who is the Republican district and county chairman now?

Which district are you talking about? My old district or my new district?

Q: The district that includes Morris.

He's from Moorhead, he's the mayor of Moorhead, Duane Hoeberg.

Q: That's district or county?

That's district chairman.

Q: And county is?

Marlene Loona is the district chairwoman. The county chairman is Paul Stark.

Q: Where's he from?

Either in Framnas or Swan Lake Township. Here's a press conference I held many years ago. This man is a Mankato attorney this guy's from Lakeville. This guy was governor.....

Q: Elmer Anderson?

Yes, and this Arnold Thompson, Morris Tribune, this guy was probably from Glenwood, here was the Hancock Record. This guy, Gene Newhall, was from Minneapolis. I don't know who was running it, either he or I, I think I was.

Q: Stevens County Courthouse.

There's Elmer Anderson and myself.

Q: Wasn't Elmer from Brainerd?

No, that's C. Elmer. Here's where the elite meet to eat, at a \$100 a plate.

Q: Did you get free tickets?

No, I don't think so.

Q: Honoring Dr. Walter Judd. Who was Walter Judd?

He was a congressman from Minneapolis, District. Here we are, P. Kenneth Peterson. He was a railroad and warehouse commissioner, mayor of Minneapolis, legislator, and a state party chairman. Did you ever hear of John Rouslo, congressman from California. He was congressman from Nixon's district, I think he still is congressman. Times have changed. Look at how we wore our hair. Really cut short, women's styles haven't changed that much, have they?

Q: Well they used to be longer but now it's going back to short. Republican Headquarters. Were you in the cities a lot of these years?

Was I ever.

Q: It must have been tough farming.

It was. Here they come out in the cornfield and took my picture combining corn or something.

(795-40 min.)

Q: County GOP president. You succeeded DeWall?

Yes.

Q: That was in '62. Before DeWall maybe it was Ed Morrison?

No, I succeeded DeWall in '59 and prior to DeWall it was probably a man by the name of Davidson, or someone from Otter Tail Power had it. Prior to that it was probably Ed Morrison. He was county chairman at one time in either '52 or '54. He would have a great deal of knowledge of what transpired back in '48.

Q: You don't know who was before Morrison? I suppose he wouldn't be around now.

He would know.

Q: "But don't give your wife all the credit." Why was your wife behind all your support?

I don't know. Otter Tail Power. When I was a delegate to the National Convention I had a huge box of correspondence and I would read them all. From West Virginia, California, New York, and from all over Minnesota telling you how to vote and why. The other day in this John Messinger program "Happy Hour" they were talking about how atrocious handwriters they were. If they really wanted to impress somebody, they would sit down and type. And I thought to myself, in instances like that, and often in the correspondence I would get I would pay more attention to a long meticulously handwritten letter or note that I ever did anything typed. I know he did it personally, not his secretary. Men like John Pillsbury, chairman of the board of the First National Bank in Minneapolis would write a letter and do it in long hand. He had a battery of secretaries, but he would sit down at his own desk and pencil a note. When someone took the time and effort to do this, I took the time and effort to digest what they were trying to tell me.

Q: There's a whole lot of Stevens County campaign material.

Yes, but it doesn't cover the years you're interested in. It covers about five or six years, and it's just in parts. I was searching for an election diagram that shows the vote in counties in different years. State wide

candidate ranking by authority, what year.
Jones

Nixon congressman
This had to go back to '60.

(949-40 min.)

Q: This is Congress?

This is state wide candidate ranking, how they stacked up for votes. You covered some of that but this is twelve years later than what you're searching for. Now, there's the districts. Seventh District, but we've got county histories too. History of voting.

Q: Why is everything since 1952?

Why?

Q: In your records....

I suppose in the first year, for sixteen years we had a Democratic president. In '52 Eisenhower was elected. We were going back ten years and it wouldn't have helped us to go back twenty.

Q: Has the area gotten more or less Republican?

Are you talking about what area?

Q: Stevens County

I would think it's less Republican than it was at that time. Nothing has changed in the permanent residents, but there has been an influx of people. There's been an influx of Democrats. College teachers and so forth.

Q: Is that the university mostly?

Yes, I think so. If you look at a map of this county, you'll find that the western half of the county is primarily Democrat. Everything to the east is Republican.

Q: What's to the east, small towns?

No, Morris, but all the townships to the east are more Republican than all the townships to the west. This is a better area.

Q: Better area, how?

Better farmers, better land, more money and traditionally a more stable society. Less auction sales, less moving, less farms sold and less absentee farmers and so forth. A man came up from Redwood Falls to buy a farm and he always ended up out in the western part of the county some place, Alberta, Chokio, or west of Donnelly.

(1069-45 min. end reel 1 side 1)

REEL I SIDE II

He wasn't really all that great a candidate.

Q: He wasn't? But you said Hancock was Republican and Donnelly was Republican.

Just about all those towns were. Hancock is still Republican. Morris, outside of the college, now we have the eighteen year old vote and we didn't have that then.

Q: Do you think that has effected that?

Did you read the pole in the paper today?

Q: That college students are still leading to the left?

Fifty percent of them are Independents. So we're both losing, both political parties are losing. We're not gaining strength we're losing it. The Independents are becoming wider, I don't know where it's all going.

Q: Morris has become more Democrat?

I think so. I think Morris is more Democrat than it ever was. I think though that this county is still Republican.

Q: Even though McGovern carried it in sixty....

McGovern didn't carry it in '72.

Q: Yes he did, by forty votes.

I don't think he carried it. Are you sure?

Q: I went down to the auditors office.

And McGovern carried this by forty votes?

Q: Yes.

In 1972.

Q: It could've been less votes.

It could've....I doubt it.

Q: Really!

Did he, I don't remember that.

Q: Consider the University.

Yes, but I don't remember that.

Q: Consider the.....

That's only two or three years ago. Nixon carried it in '68. You think McGovern carried it in '72.

Q: I'm pretty sure. You find that hard to believe.

Impossible to believe. He carried every county around here maybe. Nixon carried the state of Minnesota.

Q: Yes.

He carried the state of South Dakota.

Q: Yes.

As a matter of fact, the only state McGovern carried was the state of Massachusetts. One state in the whole nation. No, I find it very hard to believe. I don't remember that at all.

Q: I think so.

Somebody else said that once. Why wouldn't I remember that, if it had occurred?

Q: Maybe you repressed it.

No, I don't think so. Maybe I was looking at the overall picture....I don't think he did. He carried it?

Q: I think so.

Stevens County?

Q: I think he did.

Do you know that half of the Democratic Committee at that time didn't vote for McGovern.

Q: I didn't know that.

He was that controversial. That's why I doubt that he carried it. There was a big split within the DFL ranks right here in the county over McGovern. They couldn't stomach him. The people that sat on the county committee for the DFL did not themselves vote for McGovern. Supported Nixon.

Q: Of course, they were the older Democrats.

They weren't old.

Q: Well not that old. Consider the eighteen year old vote.

Yes, I don't have any figures on that. I should look that up.

Q: It's interesting.

Yes, that would be damn interesting to find that out, that something blocked out of my mind like that. Here we go--Stevens County.

Q: Fifty-two and fifty-six...this is the voting tally.

Stevens County in 1952. Adley Stevenson had 1579, Eisenhower...

Q: 3000--that's almost twice.

In 1956 Stevenson, Eisenhower 26. In 1960 Kennedy 24, Nixon 2710.

Q: They were darn close.

Yes, But 53% isn't close. 58% isn't close. 67%...

Q: 67%, 52%, 58%, 56%, 53%.

(74-5 min.)

Yes, let's look at Swift. Swift is radical. Stevenson got 3200 to 35, 51% for Eisenhower. In 1956 Eisenhower lost it.

Q: Yes, 41.5.

And 41.2 in 1960. It's a Democratic county.

Q: Why do you think it's more Democratic?

It is or it used to be.

Q: What's the reason?

What's the reason? I don't know. Every new movement that comes in, The National Farm Organization, the Farm Holiday or any radical group that comes along, are on the kick.

Q: Could it be that it's a poorer county?

It shouldn't be, parts of that county are far superior to this. Newspapers have something to do with it I suppose.

Q: I was reading Jim Youngdale, he was interviewed by the Historical Society. He said that the whole area was hit hard by the Depression. That could account for the people.

Swift County wasn't hit any harder than Stevens County.

Q: Oh, it wasn't. Do you remember Jim Youngdale from 1948?

I've met him.

Q: You've met him?

I've set at the same table as he has at a congressional....He ran in 1962.

Q: He ran in every election.

Somewhere along the line, yes. He ran for the Democratic nomination or something when I was a district chairman. He was somewhat of a radical.

Q: I think the first time he ran was in 1948. Can you remember back that far?

Yes, against H. Carl Anderson. '48 or '52, one of those years.

Q: It was '48.

It could be, he was quite young then. The guy's bright, very bright, but very misguided. He backed, for example, Henry Wallace for president.

Q: That's right he was the only....

Yes. And a man, as liberal as Franklin Roosevelt was, threw Henry Wallace out as his running mate. Wallace was vice president of the United States at one point. He was not chosen for that job again because they considered him dangerous.

Q: For what reason?

Because he was a Russian lover.

Q: Russian lover?

Yes, he was a pinko. He was a real ultra leftist, so far that he frightened Franklin Roosevelt.

Q: What did he do to frighten these people so much? This was just after the war?

Right, and during the war he thought we ought to make accommodations with Russia. We ought to share atomic knowledge, we ought to do all these things. The American public answered his question when he ran.

Q: Do you think the Civil Rights plank that Humphrey and Truman wrote tried to steal it's thunder as far as ^{eligible} candidate.

No.

Q: No?

Nothing, the whole thing was a matter of loyalty.

Q: Wasn't he a lot stronger at one point than when he actually was elected. At one point they were really afraid that he would steal away a lot of the Democrats.

Steal away?

Q: Yes, take them away.

No. The fear in American was that he wasn't a loyal American. I mean the guy would give the country to Russian on a silver platter. They never worried about his political view as far as domestic issues. The fact of his warped mentality was a little close to communism to suit the average man on the street.

Q: In what way?

In just all his utterances and gestures. Even the people that bagged him, the former governor, Elmer Benson from Appleton was an avid Wallace supporter, and he's a real leftist.

(152-10 min.)

Q: Didn't he....

He was so far out that he wouldn't fit in with the leftists yet today.

Q: You don't think so? Wasn't Wallace Agricultural Secretary?

Yes, and a pretty good one.

Q: So he was good then.

He was making agricultural policy he was not making international policy, foreign.

Q: What was so bad about that, how he wanted to accommodate Russia and share atomic secrets?

Well, as a matter of fact, we did have people in our government at that time, Harry Hopkins was one, who were shipping strategic materials and parts of atom bombs and everything else to Russian through Great Falls, Montana. He'd sign a note clearing it by HHH, Harry Hopkins. He was another one, but he died before we could investigate him and pin him to the wall. He was one of Roosevelt's cabinet members. No, there was quite a number of them whose loyalty was being questioned. You want to run for public office go to Russian and do it, that was the attitude of the American public. No his civil rights, his this, his that, had nothing to do with his defeat his patriotism did. Good God, we just got out of World War II. Look at the number of veterans that were home voting, 13 million of us.

Q: Weren't people saying that some of the farm programs were communistic.

Yes, he was kind of socialistic.

Q: Yes, Elizabeth Bentley came around here, I think that was her name. She testified with Whittaker Chambers and was saying something about the programs. I don't know what she was referring to but that they were communistic. That seems a little far out to me considering who she was talking to.

Well, you must recognize the fact that when you start to change the movement of government, you can't go radically from the far right to the extreme left in the period of two or three or four years, you do it by degree gradually.

Q: What about the Depression?

What about it?

Q: Wasn't that the reason for moving so quickly?

It was the reason that put a lot of leftists in the government that would never had made it in normal times. Roosevelt would not have been elected had it not been for the Depression, and the people he would appoint and then the bureaucratic bureaucracies that he built. I'm not trying to tell you that REA was all that bad. It was a self-sustaining thing, the lives that we have here were paying for. But the only quarrel was that they were getting low cost government loans, but they had to pay interest and repay it. The interest rate was cheap, but each individual co-op had to pay the government back. The government didn't give them that money, they loaned it to them, and it was loaned quite reasonable at that time. It was loaned below market interest and the government itself was paying more to borrow the money from you than they were charging the REA for it. In other words, if they were going out and paying 3 & 4 percent interest for money, at that point they were loaning it to the REA for two.

Q: So the slack was taken up by taxes?

Right, but most of these REA loans have been repaid, all the old ones certainly. None of these REA's ever went broke, they've been managed well. Now here's another point. The private utilities would like to see us hand them over to them. Well now that they're built....

Q: Co-operatives?

(233-15 min.)

Sure they like to see private power. But, hell, when they had the opportunity to build the private power they never did. They didn't come out in the rural areas and build any private lines. Now that they're here and they're feasible they'd like to buy them. Buy them with what, your money and mine. They buy it with dollar down, IOU, and a government loan. They don't have the money to buy REA, they're not that big, none of them. Otter Tail couldn't buy REA. REA is as big as they are in every area. Now, I'd like to buy it too, if it's going

to be thrown up on the auction block. I'll go borrow the money from the government to buy it and throw my name in the ring. What entitles Otter Tail to the...so it's ridiculous and never happened.

Q: So you think that all this talk that these programs were communist were just a product of the quick transistion.

No, I'm not saying that they were not. They were not really saying these programs were communistic, they were saying that they were more socialistic.

Q: Which was bad to them?

Yes, and some of them were. You'll never know the amount of freedom in America that I've known.

Q: I won't?

No way.

Q: Freedom not to have electricity?

Freedom of anything. There are more city ordiances in the city of Morris that tell you what you can not do. I bet there's a hundred percent more than there were twenty years ago.

Q: Well sure, that's a product of progress.

Is that progress?

Q: Well, if we want electricity.

Is it progress? Is it progress for the government to tell me what I can't do, continuously. Everytime the legislature meets there's a thousand new bills passed, about four thousand are introduced. That used to be the trend. They never remove any old ones, they just add a thousand new ones every two years. I don't know, I might be the biggest criminal in Stevens County, but I don't go through all my piece mail, but they affect me, almost every one of them. You see what I'm trying to tell you. When you graduate from college you become a worker. I can remember when Social Security was a cent and a half. The employer paid three quarters of a percent and the employee paid three quarters of one percent. Now look at what it is. And it was on the first \$1200 you earned, then it went up to 18, then 24, then 36, then 48. Good God, what's the top limit? Do you ever stop and think about the amount of taxes that are going to be taken out of your check from the time you become gainfully employed until the time you can retire. It will be some forty years, probably forty-two, that you are going to have somebody siphoning out, in ever increasing amounts.

Q: I'll get it back.

They'll make a charity case out of you by the time you're 62 or 65. You won't have the opportunity to create any wealth. Inheritance taxes get higher. Even the ability of families to transfer funds to survivors is getting tougher. You'll never know the freedoms that I know, and I'll never know the freedoms my folks knew. It seems like everytime Congress meets or everytime the legislatures and the states met, they take something away from you. They really do. I had a hired man picked up for trapping without a hunting license. He said, "I'm not hunting." He had to have a hunting license to trap and a trappers license. He wasn't carrying a gun, he wasn't hunting. First you buy the hunting license and then you buy the trapping license. It never used to be that way, he didn't know it and I didn't know it. Society becomes more and more complex.

Q: I was wondering if you remember Stassen?

Yes, very well. I knew him personally.

(319-20 min.)

Q: You do know Stassen.

I haven't seen him for quite a few years.

Q: He's in Pennsylvania right?

He's a Philadelphia lawyer. I'm a very good friend of this nephew Bob, J. Robert.

Q: Is he a congressman?

He's a state senator. I've known him for fifteen years.

Q: Were you disappointed when they lost the nomination to Dewey?

No. Maybe some of the Twin City party, state party people may have been and some of his old haunchos. First of all you must recognize that Harold Stassen came sweeping on the scene in 1938. He won the election as governor of the state of Minnesota against Farmer-Labor. It wasn't Democratic Farmer-Labor, it was Farmer-Labor. He won by the biggest majority in the history of the state. He defeated this guy from Appleton, Elmer Anderson. Governor Stassen was 32 years old.

Q: The youngest governor, ever?

Yes, and then he was re-elected. Then we were in World War II and he enlisted in the Navy. Resigned as governor and became a commander in the Navy of Halsey's Staff out in the Pacific. Ed Thye took over as governor, he was the Lt. governor. Then he came back from World War II and immediately began to run for president.

Q: Just like that?

Just like that. He ran for president a number of times, for the nomination.

Q: Was '48 the first time.

Right. It was the first election available to him after he got out of the service. Then he ran again in '52. Then he tried to run for the vice-presidency in '56 with a dump Nixon campaign, thought he'd make a better vice-presidential candidate or something. In 1960 he was on the scene, in '64 he was on the scene. So how many times is that, four times? When I was a delegate to California I was listening to the radio while I was driving. As I was going through the state of Nevada a news reporter was interviewing Harold Stassen. He said, "Mr. Stassen, you're alluding to your delegates and this convention, would you mind telling how many delegates you have at this convention or will have at this convention." Stassen said, "I'm not at liberty to disclose that." Well he didn't have any. The reporter was kind of on the spot, a little embarrassed. The next question was, "Well perhaps you could tell me what specific instructions you've given these delegates." He said, "I instructed all of them to vote for their favorite candidate, until the fifth ballot when they're all going to switch to Harold Stassen." The first day I got to San Francisco I ran into a guy at the National Convention with a great big campaign button that said, "Stop Stassen on the fifth." He didn't have one delegate.

Q: Did it ever get to five ballots?

Oh, he got nominated yes, but I don't recall that he even got one vote.

Q: Why do you think he lost in '48 and kept on losing?

Because he was trying to move too fast. You've got to remember that instinctively when somebody wants something that badly, I suppose you look at a candidate and ask yourself why does he want it and how will he use it. In Eisenhower's case, for example, the office sought him, he didn't want it. Harry Truman was another example of this, so is Gerald Ford.

Q: Well wasn't there a big difference between him and Dewey. People could identify with him...

You mean between Harry Truman and...

Q: No, Stassen and Dewey. Some people, especially Minnesota, would think that he would represent them better.

Well, this may be true. Tom Dewey was an eastern stuffed shirt. He still caucused with the power brokers at that point. He had more going for him than Harold Stassen. Look at all the delegates the state of New York has and Minnesota has 26.

(410-25 min.)

Q: Would you have rather voted for Stassen than Dewey?

At that time, no. Turning history around I would have rather seen Stassen run against Harry Truman. He couldn't do any worse.

Q: Than Dewey?

Well Dewey lost, although it was a close election. One vote in every precinct all across the nation would have changed the contest.

Q: Well, that's a large vote.

One in every precinct would have changed the election, that's close.

Q: It was, that's why I picked this election.

Harry Truman was sitting in a position as an incumbent, but had not yet been elected. He was sitting a little bit like Gerald Ford. American wasn't doing too badly at that particular moment, people were just a little reluctant to change.

Q: To change?

Well you have to go to a ballot box and think, "Well what the hell. I'm getting along, the kids are eating, ma's doing fine, we got a roof over our head and things aren't too bad. Why do I want to change?"

Q: Well how are people saying, as I understand, let's get back to normal we've been through two crises in a row.

Yes, but not in 1948, we'd been only through one.

Q: The Depression and World War II.

Oh, yes.

Q: There were price controls and social programs with the Depression on. The people thought where were the Republicans with all this on. Back to normal you see.

That's true. We did want to go back to normal. Then we got into the Korean War.

Q: That was after '48?

But then you see how it changed. The mood of the country figured you know, these guys can't stay out of trouble. So they dumped him. He didn't seek re-election, he couldn't have run for dog catcher at that point, Harry Truman. He was like Lyndon Johnson in '68. No he couldn't of, but he didn't want to anyway. I think Harry Truman making a big pledge to end the war in Korea and go to Korea personally had a big impact. Look at how he was re-elected, he was trusted. We were in a state of tranquility, we just wanted to catch our breath and we didn't want to go anyplace very fast. I think maybe the mood of the times was to get moving

again when we elected John Kennedy in 1960.

Q: The Republicans were the incumbent.

I think that here we'd went through a kind of nonchalant, serene eight years of Eisenhower. We weren't going anyplace very fast, thing were going pretty well. We didn't have any wars to fight, things were moving along in pretty good order. I think in 1960 we, probably as a nation looked ahead and figured hell, let's crank her up and get moving.

Q: They identified the Democratic Party with that. Do you think that's a fair characterization?

Yes, and then they went into the roaring sixties, and thought my god what have we did. Then they elected Nixon. Lyndon Johnson came in and passed more social legislation than Franklin Roosevelt ever did, in about four years. People began to examine the programs and began to start to pay for them and watch the federal budget double, and started becoming more conservative. They elected Nixon.

Q: Do you think the war had much to do with this?

The Vietnamese War? Yes, certainly. But everything else was catching up with him too.

Q: I think the Berlin Crisis was that year.

Yes, 1948.

Q: Did that hurt Truman or help him? Do people think he was responsible?

I think that helped him.

Q: It did! People wanted to get behind their leader or whatever?

Well I think he made the right decision.

Q: How about the Marshall Plan, did that help him?

That was somewhat controversial. But you must remember, not nearly as controversial as it would have been at the time had we known how far it was going to go, foreign side. We started initially to help 117 nations.

Q: To fight communism? (529-30 min.)

Right and get them on the road to recovery. We initially started the Marshall Plan to aid Europe. Then it got expanded to the point where we spent over \$300,000,000 on 117 or 120 nations. It went so far out of whack that it's interesting to me to note now that some of the biggest critics of foreign aid were the very people who were there to propel it in the first place. It's the liberals now that cut off the aid to Turkey. It's the liberals

that are screaming about bringing in the Vietnamese and spending \$507,000,000 on them, not the conservatives. It's all the bleeding hearts that have always been so liberal and so quick to hand out public funds to aid the distressed that are kicking up the storm. Even George McGovern says send them back to Vietnam, hasn't he.

Q: Did he do it because...

He did it because he changed his tune to some extent. Some of these people, like George McGovern have now become rather isolationists. These men who really thought that we ought to police the world and be the armed state for the world. We ought to fortress America. Plus *eligible* leveled and standing armies and armed foreigners and so forth have now changed their tune a 180 degrees. You show me the biggest dove in the United States Senate as far as Southeast Asia or some of these are concerned and I'll show you the biggest hawk as far as Israel is concerned.

Q: As far as what?

Israel. They're very inconsistent. When it comes to aid for Israel or support for Israel or money for Israel or arms or anything else they're all for it, by the difference in Jewish votes. There are not many Americans who have an aunt living over in Saudi Arabia. Saudi ~~Arabians~~ and people from Kuwait and Iran and so forth don't have very much influence in what's happening in the United States. But the Jews do. There are Jewish senators, Jacob Javits, Keating from New York was one. These people look after their own.

Q: Didn't the farmers kind of like the Marshall Plan in '48? I mean it was a good year for crops and the exports to Europe.

Lasted one year.

Q: The exports to Europe, government buying crops etc., didn't that help them make a profit?

You bet.

Q: So that would be popular around here. Did the farmers consider it a good thing?

Yes, I suppose. We had precious little to say about it at that point. It was just a matter of fact.

Q: Well I mean the way the farmers reacted to the administration and...

You mean that he would have supported Harry Truman because of it, the Marshall Plan?

Q: Well been happy with the administration anyway.

Happy with farm prices, yes.

Q: Was that a bad year for inflation? The whole period after the war, I've heard a lot about it.

Was bad for the Republicans?

Q: Bad for inflation.

(636-35 min.)

Inflation, oh certainly. Yes, but do you know what it was? It wasn't necessarily the Democratic Party's fault, I don't think. We voted wage and price controls out following World War II, rent controls and all that. The whole ~~ceiling~~ prices on meat, sugar and rationing ended. Now you've got to remember for four full years we had people earning more money at defense jobs etc., than they'd ever made in their life. They had very little to spend it for. They couldn't buy a brand new car, you couldn't build a home, you couldn't travel extensively. You could only buy a rationed amount of meat, you could only buy a rationed amount of sugar. So your spending was, therefore, quite controlled, so there was a lot of savings. Okay, now the war ended. All your automobiles are old and all your highways are old, your houses are getting old. Everything needed something, and we had the money. They had money to buy new cars, they had money to build a new house, I mean in theory they had the down payment and so forth. The GI's that were getting out, were getting out with mustering out pay and plus what they had saved and so forth. There was a great consumer demand in the period, just a big vacuum to be filled. In the years of '46, 7, and 8 we filled them, and we had a recession by '49.

Q: A recession. Why was this?

Well, first of all, we had taken 13 million Americans and dumped them out on the street, out of the Armed Forces. We had transferred in those period of years from a full war economy to a peace time economy, and it was catching up with us. The Marshall Plan no longer had any impact as far as agriculture was concerned because they apparently by that time were feeding themselves to a large degree. Farm prices fell in half. I can remember when flax went from between \$6 and \$7 a bushel clear down to \$4.

Q: That was in '48?

'49. I can remember corn was \$2.40 at a high and it went down to about a \$1 a bushel in '49. Barley the same way.

Q: Could you begin to see that by election time, in '48?

No.

Q: Not at all?

No, the prices fell in February.

Q: February.

In '49.

Q: In '49.

The prices held pretty high through the election. He did make a big campaign swing through the Midwest here and damned the Republican Congress for not releasing funds to build adequate storage for crops. Government loans for ever more granary bins you know. He made a big issue out of it. I don't know if it amounted to anything, because the farmers in that particular year were pretty well set.

Q: Well didn't they need storage facilities?

No, it disappeared after the election and I never heard it mentioned again.

Q: The issue?

The issue. Never heard it mentioned again, it was just a bunch of phoney baloney I think.

Q: You think so? Even though there were big crops that year?

Well what'd we do with them. They didn't sit on the ground. We put them in storage.

Q: Yes. Well if there was a shortage, would that be a problem?

What did we do with the crops from the year before? We had big crops in '48, we had big crops in '47, we didn't have any bigger crops in '48. Where were we putting it before. You see it didn't change that much in one year. We didn't destroy all our last years storage.

Q: Well wasn't there a need for more storage?

Well obviously there was a need for more storage but it got stored. We kept on building storage, we're still building storage.

Q: Well what was Truman talking about?

He was trying to excite the farmer into supporting Harry Truman.

Q: The Republicans limited building storage bins.

Obviously they limited what commodity credit could spend, probably. Didn't appropriate as much money. It might have been a figure of half a million dollars less than what he asked for, which would be nothing. We stored our crops in '48, there was no big problem.

Q: The farmers didn't react to that you don't think?

As a whole it's difficult to say that this farmer reacted and this one didn't. It's a matter of how intelligent each farmer is. Some of them would react to anything. You could tell him this is black, when it's actually gray, and he

he would agree with you. There are a lot of farmers that weren't so smart, they're gone.

Q: They're all gone?

There's nothing out there now but the hard nose professional. You must remember that in 1948 there was a different breed of farmer living out here then. I'm farming the land that six families used to live on in 1965.

(754-40 min.)

Q: Did you expand a lot since...

We have a 1,040 acres right here. Three miles long and a mile and a half wide. And one north of Donnelly. This would have been a fantastic operation in 1948.

Q: I heard that agriculture was turning into a business...

I got one tractor that cost nearly forty thousand dollars. You could buy a farm for less than that in 1948, the whole farm. Now a family farm would take you a half to three quarters of a million dollars. It has to be that much bigger.

Q: Why?

To run the \$40,000 tractor. It's just like why does it take more to run your household. I could go through your household and say, "You have a mixer, and a dishwasher, and an automatic washer and dryer and this and that." No wonder your light bills are higher. You have all the things that you never had 25 or 30 years ago. The automobile, you wonder why it costs more. It has air-conditioning, a tape player, an AM-FM radio. Good God it's not the same automobile. You read letters to the editor about farmers writing in and complaining about what a tractor costs now and what a tractor cost then. Why the tractors we have that they're referring to wouldn't pull our tractors across the yard empty. How do you compare?

Q: 1948 just strikes me awfully similar to this year.

Awfully what?

Q: Awfully similar. Inflation...

In a lot of respects you're absolutely correct. When you draw a correlation between 1948 and 19...

Q: Inflation seems to be just...

Yes, right. We had a president who was in like circumstances in 1948. A man who we did not elect as a president. We elected as vice-president and we didn't vote for him because he was very controversial and nobody had ever heard of him and he had a bad background. They voted for Roosevelt.

Q: Are you talking about Truman?

Yes. *eligible* gas machine and the whole bit. He was kind of a nonentity that swept with Roosevelt and did, in fact, become our president. Today we have Gerald Ford, whom nobody elected president. Now we have the shortage in commodities world wide such as we had them. We had pretty good prices and they began to fall shortly after that and we have that on the horizon right now. We had a high degree of inflation as you pointed out. There is a correlation. We just got out of a war, that's another correlation.

Q: Then there seemed to be a lot of hostility towards labor and I don't see that now. I wonder if that's because of the...

The unemployment. But if labor was riding high, I think there'd be hostility.

Q: Do you think, were you hostile to labor? Some people seem to think it was responsible for inflation because of the strikes and loss production. There wouldn't be as many products on the line.

(887-45 min.)

If you have increased labor cost on an article the only way you can offset it is to increase productivity. If you don't do that you're going to have to raise the cost of the article. Then the consumer has to pay the bill. When this goes right on down through our economy from the light bill to the water bill to the automobile to the food you eat to everything, the consumer starts paying for it in ever increasing amounts. The laborer himself is a consumer. His own check shrinks, his purchasing power shrinks. The laborer that is capable of increasing his productivity as he increases his earnings, doesn't cause inflation. If you were working for me and I raised your salary 33%, and you raised your productivity, I don't know what percentage you'd have to raise it certainly not 33%, but some percentage to offset it would not be inflationary. It just wouldn't.

Q: Was the large prime on inflation....

Was what?

Q: In '48 did labor not raise their production while wages were going up?

No, their wage rates were going up higher than their productivity. This is how we happened to get into the battle of the imports that we got. Back in those years we were not getting imports. You didn't see the foreign goods on the shelf, just little trinkets, knickknacks, junk. You didn't see foreign cars. There wasn't foreign radios, or foreign televisions, maybe a foreign sewing machine or something like that. This is something that came about through our high labor costs.

Q: People preferred to buy elsewhere?

Well, they bought cheaper elsewhere. Cheaper labor and a quality product.

As a matter of fact, sometimes backed by American money. For instance, we'd have a plant that would be building...

(965-48 min. end reel 1 side 2)

REEL II SIDE I

They own seven Gulf Stream airplanes and they're thinking about buying two more. They have their own airline. What does he do for them?

Q: It's so vague to me because I don't understand, but it has to do with market research. He works with computers, he has a degree in math and business administration.

He's a Republican?

Q: He used to be. He changed in 1972. He has a voting record that's been Democratic since 1968 I think.

He has? He's been Democratic and still works for Minnesota Mining. They're a bunch of Republicans.

Q: Oh, I'm sure they are. Look at the campaign contributions.

I used to know them quite well. He used to be our \$100 dinner chairman and our finance chairman and this and that. Oh yes, Burt Meyers, on not Burt Meyers but...I got a number of them.

Q: Do you think Humphrey was right when he called Youngdale a communist? Humphrey was fighting him...

He wasn't far from wrong.

Q: He wasn't?

No. At that time all those people got called communists. Youngdale, Elmer Benson, and Henry Wallace, they're all in the same pack. I guess we all felt this way. If it looked like a duck, walked like a duck, had feathers, was seen keeping company with other ducks, and clucked like a duck, why we felt that the creature we were looking at must be a duck.

Q: Why were there so many ducks flocking around? It seemed that half the population of the States for a while were ducks.

Okay, let's put it this way. In the early '40's here in American, or at least in Minnesota, there was the CIO. It was being saturated with communists. The Farmer-Labor party, the Farmer-Labor bunch, also had a lot of communists in it. Hubert Humphrey purged the party of communists. The CIO purged their ranks of communists. I worked in the CIO and some of the guys that I was around got the axe, union officials because they were so pinko. This was all after I left, about three or four years.

Q: Which was when?

I worked in '44, for Minneapolis Moline building shells.

Q: Minneapolis what?

Moline. It was a farm equipment manufacturer that had a war contract. There was a lot of communists in America then because it was fashionable. Russia was an ally, you could be a communist. The Cold War hadn't started.

Q: What does that mean? A conspiracy to take over the world or to change the internal economy?

What's this?

Q: When I hear the word communist. Is it an internal thing to change the internal economy or as a...do you think of it on...

(63-5 min.)

I think of it as a voguel thing. You see, it has a master, a foreign master. The communist party in America is tuned to the communist party in Russia. They call it the American Communist Party and this and that, but it gets its orders from Moscow. It would be like starting a Democratic Party underground in Russia, and running it from the National Headquarters of the Democratic Party. See we talk about our CIA and their communist party has been doing the same thing for years, only they won't blab it all over or give anybody a right to advise and consent.

Q: Do you think the CIA was or is as bad as the communist party.

Well one of the problems of a totalitarian regime always seems to be that it causes those who fear it to imitate it. Don't they?

Q: I think they have.

See, we did in Korea to some extent. We began to burn villages and destroy hamlets.

Q: Vietnam.

That's what I meant.

Q: So you think Humphrey was just trying to push out a lot of communists that had come in during the...

Humphrey actually did.

Q: And he was actually right?

Now I'm not trying to say James Youngdale was a communist at that particular point. I even think those who were accusing him of being communist would probably have to admit to themselves he was just a fellow traveler. He wasn't completely red, he was just a little crimson.

Q: Well, what was his platform besides his support of Wallace? Sounded pretty straight forward to me. He was for old age pensions and ninety percent parity.

A hundred percent parity.

Q: He was against the peace time draft. But the Farmers Union was too, right?

I don't recall that.

Q: He sounded pretty straight forward to me and I was wondering.

If the Farmers Union was against the peace time draft, they never said very much about it. They backed all the people that imposed the draft in the first place. The Democrats not the Republicans.

Q: There wasn't that much reaction about that and I was wondering.

No because the biggest Democrat in the neighborhood was the biggest draft dodger in the neighborhood.

Q: Who's that?

Well, just a neighbor you know. Never sent any sons to support the wars. But yet they kept, they were all Democratic wars. They thought the Democratic party was just lovely as long as somebody else did the fighting for them. Human nature.

Q: Nobody opposed the draft vocally then?

No.

Q: Except for Youngdale and the progressive party in the Farmers Union?

Well are we talking about peace time draft or are we talking about war time draft?

Q: Peace time draft.

No, it was not controversial, not a big thing. Should have been, but it wasn't.

Q: If you know now what you did then, I mean. Would you have opposed it back then if you knew?

I've always been opposed to it.

Q: You have?

Yes, always been opposed to it. In time of war it's necessary. I'm opposed to it for a number of reasons. Basically, I don't believe that we should stand with a career office corp and career soldiers. We pay for their wives having babies in military hospitals and commissaries, where they buy their food, retirement benefits, uniforms, travel allowances, 30 days paid vacation and pay day is a holiday and the whole thing and give them the fringe benefits of

of being in the service. Then have somebody else fight their battle when we get in trouble. It's always the unwilling citizen soldier in an overwhelming majority who has to go in and do the fighting, when there is any fighting to do. The hard corps career army man is back running the PX someplace or in headquarters someplace or something. The guy at the casualty list are always the unwilling citizen. This is what was wrong with Vietnam. I got in an argument in a bar in Minneapolis with a full Colonel over that. He said, "Well, I'll have to admit that these guys are just cannon butter." I said, "You're just sitting her in Minneapolis in a bar, you're nice and comfortable. You're a career professional. How come you aren't out fighting the only war you got? That's what I've paid you for all these god damn years. Where are you now when I need you? Leaning against the god damn bar in Minneapolis." He didn't like it very well.

Q: Oh, I'm sure.

(130-10 min.)

But that's the truth and he admitted it. But that's something--the 19 year old has to go out there. Some ninety day wonder, second lieutenant has got to be platoon leader. You're the hard noses professional that went through command schools, You went through World War II, you had to, to be a Colonel now. Here you are Korean War, and here you are now, you went through....this is your third war but you never got killed. You know he never got much exposure. You're the guy that needs it. Hell this citizen soldier doesn't need combat experience. Hell he's going to come home, he's not going to stay over there. But hell, you're going to be around I expect you to get combat experience.

Q: You prefer to see the people that are always there used? Instead of relying on these...

Save themselves man. First of all, let me say this. First of all, Eisenhower sent 230 weapons experts over and weapons to train the South Vietnamese Army. That's what we had there, 230. Then John Kennedy came along and the tempo stepped up a little bit. He was intrigued by a new form of Army that could fight brush fire wars. Limited warfare. The Green Berets came about during the Kennedy years. They were Army Special Services, they were sent to Vietnam. These guys were volunteers, they were career Army. Not only were they career Army but they were volunteers for Green Berets. Now I didn't feel very sorry for them. They were doing what they were being paid and trained to do. Each one of them had a Chinese Mercenary to guard him. That's a fact. To see that some gook didn't shot him. Each one had his own body guard. They got shoved into the thing and they loved it, you know. Big deal. Then Lyndon Johnson got to be president. Through the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution and so forth, he committed whole combat units. First company, battalion, division, whole army. Naval and air. It got to be a different deal. No, I've always been against the draft in peace time. Now I won't carry that quarrel against the military in war time.

Q: Yes. That was...

As a matter of fact, the 1964 Republican platform came out against the draft and wanted an all volunteer army. As a matter of fact, it was Nixon that put

the all volunteer army into the game wasn't it, and that ended the draft. That was a Republican thing, not a Democrat. Barry Goldwater is a general in the Air Force. He is military.

Q: I'm looking back on this labor thing. Do you think most people were kind of hostile towards this labor thing?

Yes, basically, still are probably. They have less sympathy towards labor than the larger urban areas, simply because there's more self-employed people in a rural area than there are in a metropolitan. Then there's the simple fact that those who are in the laboring force are not union. They're not reading the labor journals.

Q: They don't have that protection?

No, and I'm not sure that they want to. Some would.

Q: So their interests are completely different?

Completely different. You see we're different from the standpoint of wanting to more or less live with the status quo and not want to see abrupt changes in the rural areas. For example when daylight savings time comes out, it's the rural people that fight it. When the minimum wages come out it's the rural people, they always have it, they always used to have the minimum wage, depending on how many employees you had. The small businessmen with three employees or something was excluded. The only way to get votes to pass the damn thing was to pacify the rural areas. The rural areas used to have a lot of power, a lot of clout in the state house.

(231-15 min.)

Q: You don't think they do anymore?

No, not as much. Well they do, but not as much.

Q: I was wondering, that seemed to be a big issue in the senatorial race, that was the year Humphrey got in. Beat Ball. Do you think that that was influential? Well in this county, of course, Ball won.

You've got to remember, now you're talking about 1958 aren't you?

Q: '48

'48 I mean. This was not a presidential year. Yes it was.

Q: Yes it was.

Yes it was. I think probably Ball lost his own race. It went back to the personality of the men. His ambition, his ties back to Minnesota, his liaison with the people. Humphrey was an energetic campaigner, the other guy really wasn't. He didn't stay in touch with the constituents to the extent that Humphrey does yet today.

Q: What are the expenses of the campaign? He seemed to be running a lot of advertisements through the papers and I assume...

Who did?

Q: Ball. Maybe he did that through all the small town papers?

I suppose he did. I doubt that he spent as much as Humphrey did.

Q: This was interesting to me and I was wondering if you maybe could explain it. Truman carried the county and Humphrey...

Truman carried the county in 1948. He did, I had forgotten that, but I guess you're right.

Q: That's the second time that somebody said, "You're kidding."

Yes.

Q: J.C. Morrison said before, that the two people, their philosophies were similar regarding labor and these other things. They represented the same people, so if the voters were going to vote consistently they should beat both of them or support both of them.

Yes. George Ball wasn't all that known. Today you could go out on the street and say, "Who's your United States Senator from Minnesota?" and more people could say Hubert Humphrey than they could've at that time said George Ball. I think that's true. I think that's even true when Gene McCarthy defeated Senator Thye. You must remember that some of these people defeat themselves. With some of these candidates, it has nothing to do with issues. It's their own black lustre way of being in office. The people just kind of say, "the hell with him, we need somebody new." Irregardless of the party. Party can carry them to some extent but they can't overcome everything. Sometimes these people's staff defeat them by not getting the work done. You could write a letter to Senator Thye and never get an answer. You write a letter to Hubert Humphrey and you got a reply. You might not know what he's talking about, might be a form thing shotgunned out and doesn't hit the nail on the head. Thank you for your interest and I'm studying the matter and bla, bla, bla. He doesn't even say what matter. But at least he acknowledges it. He works the butt off his staff, the guy's energetic. I got a letter from him the other day for being kind to his administrative assistant on some occasion.

Q: Oh really! He is a politician's politician. Do you remember...

He used to attack me.

Q: He used to attack you. Do you remember when he came to Morris? I read in a paper that once he came and spoke by the Merchants Hotel.

In front of a dozen people.

Q: A dozen?

first name
George or
Joseph

Something like that. Just the Democratic hard corps.

Q: Twelve people in all of Morris at that time.

No, it was no big throng. No, I remember him standing on the street, it was not a big thing.

Q: You were there?

Not listening. Just looking across the street. The DFL party in this county was not really too tough to cope with in the years that I was active, I didn't think. I kind of thought they lacked imagination. They have kind of come to life now, they're a little more potent. We taught them a few things. They learned their lessons well. They did some things that we should have been doing. For instance, they merged in the forties to the DFL.

(322-20 min.)

Q: Yes, '44.

They went to sixty percent endorsement, and we were still fighting each other to death in the primaries. We had a forty percent endorsement. In our conventions it was possible, therefore, to have two candidates with forty-three percent apiece. We could have two endorsed candidates for the same office and end up in a primary anyway. After the 1958 election which we lost very badly in the state, we called an off year convention in the city of Rochester and changed the constitution to the extent that we could...would go for the endorsing, discourage primaries and have a sixty-forty. Sixty percent endorsement just like the DFL. So we copied them and put teeth in the thing and the party money went to the endorsed candidate. We then instigated a few other things. We had elected a new state chairman by the name of Ed Beaman, who went out throughout the state with his chairwomen. He told each county committee what the program was going to be for the next two years and turned to them and said, "Do you think that you can get this job done?" If they said, "no" he would tell them to resign. He got rid of all the dead wood, county chairmen that weren't producing. We built a pretty pliable party and we elected a governor the next election in 1960.

Q: That was after '58?

Yes, 1960.

Q: Who was elected in '59?

Elmer L. Anderson. In 1966 we had all the state offices plus both houses of legislature. Now the worm is turned you see because the Republican Party has been kind of *eligible*. It's kind of tied down again, it kind of runs in cycles. The leadership hasn't been good. One of these days, through anger, frustration, and so forth, you'll see a revival. There'll be the chant, "Throw the rascals out." You'll see new faces show up that were independents that are sick to their stomach over what's happening now. It'll just be a massive sweep, that's the way politics is. You'll see campaign chairmen that you never knew were Republican. You'll see independents that suddenly turn Republican.

You'll see, it'll come.

Q: Why do you think people in this county supported Truman and defeated Humphrey? I think Humphrey was only carried in Pepperton and a couple of townships.

Humphrey wasn't all that well known to them, I suppose. He'd just been the mayor of Minneapolis. And who the hell in Stevens County at that time knew who the mayor of Minneapolis was or cared?

Q: Ball was the incumbent?

Ball was the incumbent, had been for many years.

Q: Do you think Ball hurt his chances in the rest of Minnesota when he supported Roosevelt? I don't know if you remember this but I read somewhere that he supported Roosevelt in his third campaign.

He supported Roosevelt during which campaign?

Q: Third one.

Third one?

Q: Third time he was elected.

See the fourth campaign Dewey ran against Roosevelt.

Q: It could have been the fourth.

(418-25 min.)

The third one who ran against Roosevelt...Wendel Willkie. I didn't know that Joseph Ball had supported, I didn't know that. I might have been in the service or something. Yes, it would hurt him.

Q: It would?

It would kill him. They maybe wouldn't vote for Humphrey but they sure as hell wouldn't vote for Ball. It will kill you within a party when you jump over the traces. Kills you with the party hard corps, definitely.

Q: Well, it was a hard campaign. It seemed to occupy as much paper space and as much attention as the presidency.

Some of the colorful campaigns was this H. Carl Anderson. He had a lot of friends in this county. He had a lot of friends in every county. His congressman. He was a typical Senator Fogbound in Little Abner. Jack S. Fogbound. Did you read Little Abner?

Q: I don't remember Fogbound.

Joseph
George

He's their Senator or congressman. He's a typical H. Carl Anderson, Senator Fogbound.

Q: What does Fogbound do?

Well he is a kind of sleepy old character politician. Do you ever read Haggard the Horrible? Do you draw a correlation between Haggard and the events that happen in your life?

Q: Oh, sure.

Last week it showed him battling an army and the arrows were flying and people were hacking at him with swords. He says, "I'm going to get out of this damn business." Crazy Eddie says, "What would you do, go farming"? It shows an arrow going through his helmet, you know "zap" made a whole in his helmet. He said, "No, that's to risky."

Q: You caught C. Carl Anderson when he was being, I don't know, a little to political. He was trying to manipulate the party for his own ends. What was your opinion of him?

Personally?

Q: Yes, well as a congressman.

Very good.

Q: Very good, Youngdale said he was a...

Personally, he was different but what was that.

Q: I read in the paper that he was an enemy of the REA and the AAA. I'm not sure what the AAA is.

Agriculture Administrative Act or something. It's what we call the ASCS now. He supported REA very strongly. He supported all the agricultural programs very strongly. He was a conservative physically.

Q: But Youngdale called him an enemy of these programs. Do you know why he would do that?

Yes, he'd call him something, he was running against him.

Q: But why did he choose that issue? Do you have any ideas.

Why would he what?

Q: Why would he choose that issue? Do you have any idea?

No I don't, because I can't imagine why anybody would say that about him. This soil lab in Morris, MN is one of his baby projects.

Q: The soil lab up at the University?

Yes, up here at the north end of town. That soil center that Bob Holmes runs, is H. Carl Anderson. No, he wasn't conservative at all. As a matter of fact, agriculturally he was quite a liberal.

Q: Well didn't he have to be being this is...

Right, Right. John Zweck also.

Q: Was this the most agricultural area of the nation for a while? Somebody told me that.

Not necessarily here, but the Midwest certainly is. No, this is no more agricultural than Iowa.

Q: It seemed kind of inconsistent reading what J.C. Morrison said, that their inflation was a problem. The people in the agricultural areas didn't want to see the price supports go down. Like the Akin Act. I don't know if you remember that.

Mm-hm. Didn't want to see it go down.

Q: Didn't want to see parity go down, price supports go down.

Oh, certainly not.

Q: But at the same time they could, it was kind of an urban agricultural thing. We're not the cause of the problem, you're the cause of the problem. It just seems kind of inconsistent to me. Of course I wasn't back there.

I'm not following you. What do you mean, inconsistent with what?

J: Well that there was inflation and...

Are you saying that agriculture was responsible for inflation?

Q: Well people seem to be defensive about that back then.

(525-30 min.)

No, as a matter of fact, you must remember that for twenty years we paid the price of inflation. We were selling grain for the same price we had been for twenty years, for example, and labor had tripled in price. Everything had tripled. The only way they could do that is cheap food and cheap fuel. Then the worm turned. High fuel and high food. Everybody went bananas. In America we thought we could have unlimited supply of lumber cheap, an unlimited supply of oil cheap. And you had the inherit right from the moment you were born to cheap food. What gives you that right?

Q: Okay, what about people against price supports? You know, manipulation so that...

Well this is why they were against it. They were against price supports for

manipulating price. They weren't against high prices. These same people that were opposed to government intervention in agriculture opposed it because the agriculture program was run for the benefit of the consumer, not the farmer. It was to give you cheap food and fiber, it was to manage supply. Hell they only sold it to the farmer as protection, but they had to snicker all the way back to the capital because they were controlling the farmer. They already knew. They draw a master plan and say your quota for corn is this much, about ten percent more than necessary. The fact that we had surplus grain in our bins was because of government planning not any other reasons. They could have planned a ten percent shortage if they wanted to, just as easy as a ten percent surplus. But they didn't want that, they wanted an abundance of cheap food. That's how they did it, they were just conning the farmer.

Q: I'm not sure I follow.

When you have a whole year or two of supply on hand of a commodity, it's going to be cheap right?

Q: Sure and that's why they built storage bins.

That's how they did it.

Q: They built storage bins so that...

Right, Right.

Q: A surplus wouldn't be released on the market all at once.

Yes, but the government owned it. The government owned the commodities and they were releasing it. If the price jumped ten cents then they dumped it, and brought the price down again. They controlled prices with it. Now they can't because they don't own any. So they control prices with export restrictions.

Q: Didn't Stassen say at one point that the government was being dumb because they should buy for export. It shouldn't try to inflate farm prices.

It shouldn't you said.

Q: Yes, when they were buying crops to export. They should try to keep farm prices low.

It's possible that he might have said that.

Q: I think Truman used it throughout his campaign.

Yes, he probably said that. That won him a lot of support with farmers. You know, really kiss of death. You run out there and tell the farmer in the same vein that he had to work harder for less. It's just like walking into a factory and telling the worker that you ought to produce more for the same salary. Well it'd go over like a lead balloon. This price support thing by the government was for the benefit of the consumer, nobody else. They controlled the supply and the...

Q: They evened out the supply?

Well they owned it.

Q: But how would it benefit the consumer? I could see how it would protect the farmer.

Cheap food. You could have inflation but you didn't have it all the way down the line. Your food bill was never inflated, only be the cost of labor, packaging and transportation, that was going up all the time.

Q: I thought storage facilities were built so a farmer could get a loan...

When we talk about storage facilities. Storage facilities were in Hancock, Cyrus, Morris, Donnelly, and Alberta. Government owned storage, a hundred bins. Government storage and the farmer delivered his grain there.

Q: Because the government gave the farmer a loan.

(633-35 min.)

Yes, and at the end of the year he had a choice of paying off the loan or delivering the grain, at that price. So the government did in fact own the grain.

Q: The farmer got more money out of it than if he had sold it at a loss at market price?

No. I think he would've gotten along better without the loan program because he wouldn't have raised it in the first place, and it would have raised the price. In other words, if corn was fifty cents a bushel you wouldn't plant very much corn, and then next year it'd be a dollar and a half. You'd control your output. This way you're being paid to just produce.

Q: Oh I see. There was always a large amount of food on hand.

There was always a large amount of cheap food on hand, at a price that would just..well it was a program...The government would just sit down every year. This many farmers will disappear from the farm. That year that many did. They said 600,000 farmers are going to disappear this year. That was already programmed. Under this program there are 600,000 farmers that can't make it this year is really what they're saying. Anybody with any intelligence could see that. If you read a thing that the USDA said that 600,000 farmers are going to disappear this year, well then they're telling you this. Their master planners have sat down and said, "Under our program, under the hardship that we're measuring out to farmers, we're going to get rid of 600,000 this year." You see we're going to take more and more poverty and divide it between fewer and fewer people and then we're going to tell them they are having prosperity. In other words we're going to take the gross national product of agriculture and divide it between fewer people.

Q: You think people are being driven out of farming?

Well certainly.

Q: Well, just like...

Obviously. I'm farming the ground that six families farmed.

Q: Sure and that's not only because of their growing costs.

Pretty soon there will be just a few food barons in American that'll tell you what you're going to pay for food.

Q: Do you think that's a part of government planning to?

Just how many farmers in American do you think produce 80 percent of the food?

Q: I could see it happening but you're saying now?

Today, I mean right now. I'll bet you 30 percent of the farmers produce 80 percent of the food.

Q: I thought you said it was part of the cost of keeping a farm going.

It is, under those programs. It's just like Willies Red Owl. You got to keep those check-out counters busy. You know you can't buy a tractor and have machinery to run for only two days a year. You just have to run it hours and hours and hours. ~~and~~ land. You got a big combine it takes a lot of grain going through that thing. So you just get bigger and bigger and bigger to keep the equipment going, and if you can't, you're out. It's just like JC Penney verses Palmer's Clothing Store. Where Palmer will take and buy a shelf of overalls and maybe turn it once a year, he's got his money tied up for twelve months. Say maybe he turns it twice a year, in the meantime JC Penney turns it monthly. They'll take that dollar that they put in overalls and roll it twelve times that year. They take that dollar that they made over here selling overalls and put it back in new overalls for the new shelf. If they do that twelve times a year, they've made twelve dollars for each overall they've sold really. Not for each overall but for the space that overall took twelve times a year. That money is rolling. Well it's the same in any business and agriculture is no exception. If you had a country elevator out here and you only bought 10,000 bushels of grain, you couldn't hire a man to help you even. But if you bought a million bushels of grain and made five cents a bushel, see your dollars, with the same amount of machinery.

Q: Yes, I see it. That was the year of the Taft-Hartley Bill?

In 1948. I think he made a big thing about that with labor.

Q: Who did?

Harry Truman did. That was one of his major campaign issues. He said he was going to have it revoked, repealed rather, and he didn't. I don't think he made anything more than a feeble attempt. In fact, he turned right around

and used it. He was the first president to use it.

Q: Did people around here support the Taft-Hartley Labor Act?

Yes, I think so.

Q: It was quite an issue wasn't it.

Yes for intelligent people, run of the mill people no, they didn't even know what the hell it was. But the intelligent thinkers yes. It wasn't bad if you read the bill, it gave labor some privileges it just didn't take away. In fact it's never been repealed has it?

Q: I think a lot of its provisions have been legislative though.

Pardon?

Q: I'm not sure.

It's never been repealed. The government still steps in when there's a strike in the steel mills or the railroads or whatever. Every president has been using it.

Q: You seem to have an awfully good memory. Some people can't remember this but there was a second session of Congress called after the Republican nomination. The day session Truman called it. People thought, according to some things I read that this...

Yes, I vaguely remember it.

Q: They didn't know how to react to it, they thought it was a political maneuver.

(797-40 min.)

It was.

Q: Did people around here react at all to that?

I don't think so. Did it influence the campaign? No I wouldn't think so.

Q: Because of that he was able to call them a do nothing Congress. I think that was suppose to be...

Well he would have you know. They were Republican controlled. The Senate I don't think was, it must have been the House. Maybe we did control two, both houses for two years, but only for two years.

Q: Yes. I think the latest...

Only for two years. I'm trying to think when John Kennedy was nominated.

Congress was still in session. He went back and sat in the Senate briefly. Certainly would have been mid-year. Yes I remember Truman doing that. At that particular point the newspapers made a bigger issue out of it than anybody else. Editorials.

Q: There was one thing that I saw in the paper that just really intrigued me, and I've been trying to find someone that remembers it. The local Highway Workers Union put some notice in the paper that they would maybe have to pull out of the State Union because they were afraid it was being used for political purposes, that their money was being used for political purposes.

What year would that have been?

Q: 1948

I remember just vaguely. I didn't think it was that long ago. There has been a lot of complaint down through the years from more conservative members of the Minnesota Highway Union about the political influence in the DFL. They were somewhat rancid about it at different times. But I just don't recall that particular incident. I do know that the Highway Department had been purged of all political cronies in 1938. '39 I suppose following the Harold Stassen election. They had to pay to keep their jobs. The Farmer-Labor control of the Highway Department was so total in all departments that they just put their political hacks in. You had to be a DFL'er or a politician to hold a job. You had to contribute so much to the party every two weeks or out you would go. That was so crooked that outfit, that they just about stole the dome of the capital. That's why they were defeated as badly as they were.

Q: In what year?

1938. From '36 to '38 they were really corrupt.

Q: That was Benson?

Prior to that it was Floyd B. Olson, then Helmar Peterson. Helmar Peterson was a honest man, I think. Floyd Olson was but some of the people he had running around with him were a bunch of rabble. I met a lot of them when I was six or seven years old. We had a radical neighbor that was a farmer laborer. A naira do well that spent more time politicking than he did farming. He died a pauper. He was a drifter, a runner. Just no good. He didn't influence anybody, he was absolutely tripped on the...

Q: On the cord? Well that's interesting because I had heard that you know.

(923-45 min.)

Yes, it had occurred and it had always been there and they were sensitive to it because they were less than ten years away from the original scandal. They got gun shy. There was a *eligibility* for the state of Minnesota, that government employees couldn't fool around politics, there still is.

Q: Civil rights did that.

Not her

Q: Not here?

No.

Q: People didn't pay any attention to it?

I grew up a 150 miles from the closest Negro. I didn't know any Jews. I didn't know any Mexicans, any minorities, the womens' thing hadn't come along. Speaking of women civil liberties and civil rights, what should I say the womans' liberation movement. I'm for it, I'm a womens' liber. If they're working at the same job they ought to get the same pay. If we hired a new provost out at the University and it happened to be a woman, I think she ought to earn as much as the man that preceded her. I do think that for some of your freedoms you're going to pay quite a price. I'm not willing, I'm not really convinced, and that's up to you, I don't care. I'm not convinced that it all has been good for you.

Q: What's all been good?

Your sexual freedoms for example. Your older mothers and so forth can look and envy you. I look at you and I have to kind of pity you. Now you're getting into relationships that are less stable with men. You've lost your, the tools you had to get married.

Q: Tools? If tools were necessary...

But you see the mystery has been removed you know. He doesn't have to marry you, he's been sleeping with her for three years. What's the big deal? There's no big mystery about that thing you know, so he's not so excited to to race to the altar with you. Marriages today are shakier than they ever have been. Maybe it's because it's easier to dissolve. It's easier for you to go out and make a living if you do dissolve your marriage, maybe that's part of it. But I don't think that makes you a happier person.

Q: Yes.

Luther Youngdahl.

Q: Luther Youngdahl, sorry.

Jimmy Youngdale, I knew of him and only really focused my attention on him for a ...

(1066-end Reel II Side I)