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INTERVIEW WITH: EDGAR H. PRICE, JR.

INTERVIEWER: JAMES M. DENHAM

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M= James M. Denham (Mike)
E= Ed Price

E: [Resume discussion of 1968 senatorial race between Leroy Collins and Ed Gurney] Well, it was a trying and difficult time because it was very hard to raise money, for one thing, and you had people all over the state who had never voted Republican in their O L Y H V D Q G \ H W W K H R Q flyers all over the state, really rough ones, with Roy, showing him marching down the street at Selma with Martin Luther King. That Z D V W K H E L J J H V W R Q H $ O R W R I W K R V H N L Q G V R I W K L Q J V People in his own home town, his own co X Q W \ D O O R I µ H P W K D W Z D V Z K D W , W Z D V Q ¶ W D E R X W Z K R F R X O G P D N H W K H E H V W 6 H Q D W R U R U L W Z D V D E R X W R Q H W K L Q J D Q G W K D W Z D V W K H P D U F K L W V I W K D W ¶ V Z K D W E H D W 5 R \ was nominated, and then I was a delegate at Atlantic City when Lyndon was nominated after Jack Kennedy was gone. I got to know Jack Kennedy when he came down to speak to Gator Growl. George Smathers was his best man when he got married, you know. And, of course, Kennedy and Smathers were good friends forever. When I went to the Kennedy nomination out there as a district delegate, Governor Collins was the chairman. He did a magnificent job out there.

M: That was 1960.

E: Yeah.

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

governor Florida has ever had, and probably Reubin Askew, Lawton, and Bob Graham, followed in his footsteps. Reubin Askew looked upon Roy Collins as a father; I mean he was his mentor. More young people went into politics in this state because of Roy &ROOLQV¶ leadership and example than any other man, I think. A man who goes into the *RYHUQRU¶V RIILFH LV PHDVXUHG E\ WKH SHRSOH KH DSSRL and you could look all over the state and see the judges and the people that served on major federal and state agencies that Roy Collins appointed, and they were all outstanding. It was like Reubin. Reubin appointed the first black person to the Supreme Court in the State of Florida. And Lawton ended up appointing the first black judge to the circuit here, who was a person that I had recommended, because he was the most qualified.

0 :HOO OHW¶V FXW LW KHUH DQG WKH QH[W WLPH ZH PHH you got the hankering to run for office.

(7KDW¶V ZKHQ , to Lawton. Before that, I had known him through 6HQDWRU +ROODQG EXW GLGQ¶W UHDOO\ GHYHORS DQ\ FOR Legislature at the same time in 1958.

M: This is James Denham once again at the office of Ed Price in Bradenton, Florida. To GD\ LV $XJXVW DQG ,¶P ZLWK (G 3ULFH RQFH DJDLQ of his life and his memories of Lawton Chiles. The last day we were together, you discussed your early childhood and military service, and your business life up to about ZKHQ \RX GHFLGHG WR UXQ IRU SXEOLF RIILFH 7RGD\ ,¶ and get some of your memories of Lawton Chiles. But before I do that, there are three SHRSOH WKDW ZRXOG KDYH FRPH LQWR WKH I ask you SLFWXUH EHIRU about. Ed Ball is one, and I think we discussed a little bit about him. And two African Americans that had a very important impact in Florida; Robert Saunders and, of course, +DUU\ 7 0RRUH /HW¶V VWDUW ZLWK (G %DOO ,V WKHUH D GLVFXVVLRQ WKDW \RX¶G OLNH WR JR RYHU"

(, GRQ¶W UHPHPEHU H[DFWO\ ZKDW ZH WDONHG DERXW E had known him well in the early days and I met Mr. Ball when I was fairly young. I was born in Jacksonville and lived there from time to time but I guess it was only after I became involved in business after World War II that I really called upon him to be helpful in some ways. I think one of the things I remember most about him during the war, and I might have told you this, was when I was stationed at Apalachicola, in the old Army Air Corps. Mr. Ball gave us his suite at Wakulla Springs so anybody from Florida could use his suite any weekend we wanted to go down there. He provided us with meals and everything else, which we thought was great. After the war, when I first started working back in Manatee County as manager of the Florida Gladiolus Growers Association, I was trying to develop some packaging to handle every size glad. Mr. Ball, through DuPont in Jacksonville, owned the big St. Joe Paper Company, and he invited me to come to St. -RH , ZHQW XS DQG VWD\HG ZLWK KLP DW WKH FKDWHDX W there. Mr. Ball, notwithstanding all the stories you hear about him, was the most courteous man, a real gentleman to be around. He always liked to have a little touch of %RXUERQ DQG , GRQ¶W GULQN EXW KH GLGQ¶W OHW WKDW up there. And they helped us in the St. Joe Paper Company to develop this box, which we later used in the business. Then, after I became Executive Vice President of

GLGQ¶W KDYH DQ\ FDVK DYDLODEOH 2XU FDVK ably ORZ ZDV W
inversed 1:2. I went to see Ed Ball at the Florida Bank in Jacksonville. He had just built the new bank building and was so proud of it he took me all over the building. The elevators were big enough to drive a truck onto, and he had all this beautiful marble from Italy. He set up a financing plan for me with all of the Ball banks throughout Florida.
7KH\ KDG D EXQFK RI µHP LQ WKRVH GD\V ZKHUH ZH FRXOG
financing without having to put any funds in the bank. They became our primary source of money even though we had many, many banks throughout Florida that financed us.
Later I went onboard early as a Director at the Florida Chamber of Commerce. At that time the headquarters were in Jacksonville, and Mr. Ball sort of ran the place. It was a little clique up there, and the first thing I did as President of the Florida Chamber was to help get the Florida Chamber office moved from Jacksonville to Tallahassee, where it
EHORQJHG 0U %DOO ZDVQ¶W felt like I ought to be in DERXW WKDW K
-DFNVRQYLOOH %XW KH ZDV DOZD\V D IULHQG DQG ZKLOH
PDQ\ WLPHV EHFDXVH KH ZDV D VWURQJ VXSSRUWHU RI WKH
in the legislature, I was opposed to many of their proposals.

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

(,¶YH DOZD\V HQMR\HG WKH IDFW WKDW , NQHZ 0U %DOO
outstanding characters, and probably one of its distinguished citizens. Later on, I was a

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

M: Wow.

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

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

things. The segregation/integration situation was one that separated many of us. The ones that were over with us were people like Doyle Carlton and Jack Matthews from Jacksonville, and Scott Kelly and the others were on the other side of that issue. It was a hard side to be on but at the same time, we were. I think some of the presidents of the 6HQDWH OLNH 5DQGROSK SRUG´HUVRP &DUGDU .HLV +H ZDV D president. Dewey Johnson represented two different counties in the Senate over a period of years, and many of those folks that I got to know so well were really fine senators, but we just plain disagreed. We could argue on the floor of the Senate and in the committees, and it got sort of violent sometimes on appropriations and that type of WKLQJ DQG RQ UHDSSRUWLRQPHQW %XW ZH FRXOG JR RXW KRPH RU VRPHWKLQJ 7KH\¶G and everybody was pleasant. ,¶G NQRZQ Doyle Carlton, Jr., since he was a youngster and I enjoyed serving with Doyle. He was RQH RI WKRVH ZKR ZDV D OHDGHU -RKQ ³-DFN´ 0DWWKHZV Court Justice and also in the Senate, was one of the others. Of course, as I told you before, I knew Scott Kelly. My seatmate when I went up was Sam Gibbons, later to be a congressman for many years. In those days we had Don Fuqua and a lot of the people that became congressmen later. I served with Reubin Askew; Reubin came from a part RI WKH FRXQWU\ WKDW ZDV VXSSRVHG WR EH ³SRUN FKRS´ C

E: Reubin and I were elected at the same time. They were elected to the House and I was elected to the Senate. Reubin came over to the Senate in time for me to serve with K L P / D Z W R Q G L G Q ¶ W F R P H R Y H U µ W L O , J R W R X W L Q ¶ E

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

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

E: Many of the lobbyists and a large number of legislators lbyi9

(<HDK RK WKH\¶UH ORDQ VKDUNV $QG DW WKDW WLPH a man named Raeburn Horne, who
XVHG WR EH D VHQDWRU ZDV D OREE\LVW IRU µHP

M: Any kin to Mallory Horne?

(1R KH ZDVQ¶W 7KH 3UHVV &RUSV VDW ULJKW DERYH XV
a little glass enclosure up there, and when Verle got ready to make his speech that he
JDYH HYHU\ \HDU 5DHEXUQ ZRXOG KHDU DERXW LW DQG KH¶
supporting in the gallery up there. Verle would go up to the water cooler by the well of
the Senate, turn around and look to be sure the press was all in place up there, and then
KH¶G JHW XS DQG JLYH WKLV VSHHFK +H¶G WDON DERXW W
VKDUNV ZLWK WKHLU ³WHHWK RI GLDPRQGV´ DQG ³YHLQV RI
drain the gold and every piece of change RXW RI DOO WKHVH OLWWOH SHRSO
just give a tremendous array. He was a great orator, really was. And oratory was still a
EXVLQHVV LQ WKRVH GD\V $QG KH¶G SRLQW XS LQ WKH JD
great battle that went on between some senators and lobbyists, and that type of thing.
$QG 9HUOH ZDV DJDLQ KH ZDV RQH RI WKH PRVW NQRZOHGJ
fine legislator. Like Jack Matthews was known as a constitutional lawyer; he knew the
Constitution backwards and forwards and one thing you had to know in the Senate, of
FRXUVH ZHUH WKH UXOHV RI WKH 6HQDWH $QG 7XUQHU 'D
of my real good friends; he knew the rules better than anybody in there. And by getting
up in the Chair, why tKH\ FRXOG WXUQ WKH FUDQN RQ VRPH RI WKRVH
WKURXJK OLNH WKDW LI \RX GLGQ¶W NQRZ WKH UXOHV DQG

0 :HOO WKH QH[W \HDU ZDV D YHU\ LPSRUWDQW JRYH
the big Kennedy/Nixon presidential election.

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

M: In 1960, Doyle Carlton ran against Farris Bryant, or at least that was the runoff. Can
\RX FRPPHQW D OLWWOH ELW RQ WKDW UDFH RU 'R\OH¶V FD

E: Well, I gave the kickoff speech for Doyle in Wauchula. We had more people there for
DQ\ NLFNRII WKDW¶V HYHU EHHQ KDG LQ)ORULGD :H EURX
County over here. I introduced Doyle and, as I say I had known his father, Governor
Carlton, VR ZHOO DQG ,¶G NQRZQ 'R\OH VLQFH KH ZDV D ER\ W
WKH OHJLVODWXUH ZDV D UHDO MR\ µFDXVH 'R\OH ZDV D VW
We had a lot of things in common. We both were old Army Air Corps, and both Baptist
deacons, and just good friends. I believed in the things that he believed in. TV had
become popular then. Politics were changing. When I ran, it was door to door and meet
the people and that type of thing, ads in the newspaper and so forth. But politics had
EHHQ FRPLQJ DORQJ 79 KDG FRPH LQWR EHLQJ DQG 'R\OH
come across good. He got the support of probably 90% of the daily newspapers in the
6WDWH RI)ORULGD DQG VWLOO JRW EHDW It ran 30)DUULV KDG RQ
VHFRQGV WKDW¶V DOO LW ZDV DQG KH MXVW UDQ LW RYHU
%U\DQW´ 6RPH RI 'R\OH¶V DGV ZHUH QRW JRRG DQG KH KDG
in the campaign that were not good. A lot of people worked hard for him, including me,
and I was a member of the Senate. When you go and work hard for another candidate,

(<¶NQRZ , FDQ¶W UHPHPEHU

0 , WKLQN LW PLJKW KDYH EHHQ ¶ EHFDXVH LW ZDV WKH because Burns had to run again and High was in the picture again.

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

M: , GRQ¶W WKLQN 'R\OH &DUOWRQ UDQ DJDLQ DIWHU ,

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

0 5LJKW , WKLQN WZLFH , WKLQN LQ ¶ DQG ¶ $QG W WR +LJK LQ WKH SULPDU\ EHFDXVH LQ ¶ 6FRWW FDPH LQ R

E: Well, we helped him lose.

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

E: Representative Wilbur Boyd in the House and me in the Senate, I wrote a story that

E: Spessard Holland, Governor Holland, was a good friend, and I think he introduced Lawton to me, before Lawton went into the legislature, when I was serving on an DJULFXOWXUH FRPPLWWHH ,¶P SUHWW\ VXUH LW ZDV LQ /DN and I was either Lakeland or :LQWHU +DYHQ , FDQ¶W UHPHPEHU ZKLFK $QG KH LQWURG got to meet Rhea at that time. That was my first chance.

0 6R WKDW ZRXOG KDYH EHHQ SUREDEO\ LQ WKH PLGGOH µ

E: Yeah.

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

E: Yeah, I knew Roy.

M: Can you comment a little bit on him?

E: Roy was a lobbyist and one that I did noW DJUHH ZLWK DW DOO <¶ NQRZ WUHPHQGRXV OREE\ LQ WKH 6WDWH RI)ORULGD«

M: He was a lobbyist turned legislator.

(7KDW¶V ULJKW $QG HYHU\WKLQJ ZH KDG HYHU KHDUG D that back during the Dan McCarty campaign Lawton was involved in that along with us

E: Well, Malcolm, you know, is the editor of The Tallahassee Democrat DQG ,¶P JRLQJ WR JLYH KLP FUHGLW ZKHUH FUHGLW LV GXH ,¶V SRVLWLRQ GLGQ¶W DJU , GR EHOLHYH WKDW KH ZDV KLV RZQ SHUVRQ $QG KH WRO always agree with that because he joined hands many times with some of the legislation that we thought was some of the worse legislation.

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

E: Well, Jack McDermott wrote for The Miami Herald and did a good job. He was fair. 2I FRXUVH KH DOVR VXSSRUWHG VRPH RI WKH SROLFLHV RI which was his privilege as a newsman. But I think Allen Morris, again in his columns, did a lot to talk about the people involved and I know he wrote several columns that I treasure to this day.

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

(, WKLQN , PHW 5KHD MXVW DERXW WKH VDPH WLPH , PHW know her until they were up in the legislature. And, of course, I knew her brother in Miami who was an architect. I was involved on the Board of Control when we were trying to get Shands Hospital built and all that kind of stuff, and looking at architects and builders and everything else.

0 1RZ LI \RX¶YH DOUHDG\ PHQWLRQHG WKLV LQ WKH FRQW but, can you remember anything that you and Lawton worked personally on together in terms of legislation during the years you were in the Senate?

E: I think the most important things we worked together on were education bills at the Board of Regents, that type of thing, and also the tremendous support and help he gave us in combating what we felt was an evil Burns Bond Bill. But all of the legislation having WR GR ZLWK DJULFXOWXUH ZKLFK ZDV DV IDU DV ,¶P FRQFH

V X S H U L Q W H Q G H Q W ¶ V R I I L F H D Q G W K H V F K R R O E R D U G X Q W L
they wanted resolved.

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

E: Exactly.

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

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

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

E: Okay. That's right. So that was the big thing Far
And anytime you'd sp[illegible] with Rhea "caus

E: Charlie. Charles Canady, probably more than anybody else. And we all knew Charley. As I recall, when Lawton first decided on this, I heard from Charles Canady, I think, before I did from Lawton. But I think he was the one who put together all of the staff and everything else. And Rhea, of course, had family relationships in Dade County with her brother. She knew a lot of people. And Lawton, after all, had served with OHJLVODWRUV IURP DOO RYHU WKH 6WDWH RI)ORULGD VR on them. And so many of his strong campaign supporters who were doing the nuts and bolts work were legislators or former legislators.

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

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

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

E: Well, I think the strongest person behind him was Wilbur Boyd. I mean, because of their close friendship and, I mean they were like brothers more than anything else, and after that, why, we had Joe Bill Rood former State Senator, and Bill Grimes, former State Representative, and outstanding lawyers here. We had different people; anybody that had served with him and anybody who had supported him in his state races supported him here. I had a list of 250 women in Manatee County that I contacted and that many of them were highly supportive of him because one of the things I worked on in the legislature strongly was to support the junior college system in Florida, helped Roy &ROOLQV ZLWK µHP 8 OWLPDWHO\ , JRW DSSURSriations passed for capital outlay and operations for Manatee Junior College from the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Lawton worked strongly with us in the House on that to help get those through. Well, we had the support of education folks here, both K through 12 and junior college, and people from the University of Florida. The Gators here, they got out and supported him. So, I mean, he just had a whole raft of people here that were helping him in that way.

0 1RZ WKH WHDFKHU¶V VWULNH LQ ¶ ame along. In 1968, everything kind of unraveled in America; you had the Democratic Convention going crazy in Chicago, you had the height of the Viet Nam issue, you had Lyndon Johnson and, you know, not running again, you had riots everywhere. Were these issues discussed at all, as you recall, HLWKHU LQ *RYHUQRU $VNHZ¶V RU *RYHUQRU &KLOHV¶ FDPS

E: Of course, Governor Chiles served in the Korean War. I mean, he was in the service during that time and I think that, as far as the campaigns were concerned, some of the LQWHUQDWLRQDO LVVXHV GLGQ¶W JHW D JUHDW GHDO RI SO not they were going to have organized gambling in the State of Florida or whether you ZHUHQ¶W ZKLFK PDQ\ RI XV ZRUNed DJDLQVW ZKHQ , ZDV L

0 $QG ZKDW ,¶YH UHDG DERXW WKH FDPSDLJQ WKH WKHPH government is out of touch with the people and my goal here is to meet the people WKURXJK ZDONLQJ WKH VWDWH DQG WR VRPHKRZ EULQJ :DV

E: :HOO KH KDG D MRE WR GR WKHUH DQG WKDW ZDV WR EH insult the memory of Senator Holland. And he was clear about that, when he said that they are not dealing with issue people and they are not taking care of the people and so forth. He defined it as to who was not doing it and he put the burden on certain people, and certainly put Spessard Holland into the category of one who had tried to help the people, like when he got rid of the poll tax. Why, Spessard Holland did something that was very difficult to do in those days and helped the African American people more than anybody else.

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

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

M: Experience.

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

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

(:HOO \¶ NQRZ ZH¶G FRPH WKURXJK D OLWWOH VHFWLRQ EDVLFDOO\ EODFN DUHD 7KHUH¶V D IHOOD¶ RXW WKHUH QD the Mayor of Rubonia on the filling station out there. When Lawton came through, well then all the people gathered around and the Mayor of Rubonia would come and speak for him, and that type of thing. And he was looked upon by people in minorities as someone who would stand up for them and would try to help them arrive at equality, and those types of things. So I think that he was able to get votes from people who normally GLGQ¶W YRWH DQG DEOH WR HQFRXUDJH WKHP WR UHJLVW

(«WKLV QHZVSDSHU DQG GLG LW WKDW

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

M: Wow.

E: $QG WKDW ZDV DQ LQWHUHVWLQJ H[SHULHQFH /RFDOO\
board member of practically every civic service and charitable organization in the
FRPPXQLW\ DQG , VSHQW D ORW RI WLPH RQ WKRVH NLQG R
Salvation Army, United Way, and all those types of things.

M: The Florida Delegation when Lawton went in, in 1970, there would have been Lawton, and the other senator would have been Paula Hawkins, correct? No, no, it
ZDVQ¶W 3DXOD +DZNLQV EHFDXVH VKH FDPH LQ ZLWK 5RQDOG 5HDJDQ
escapes me right now, but Congressman Haley, did he and Lawton have any kind of knowledge or relationship with one another?

E: Oh, they knew each other real well and, of course, they were friends. That I know. I
GRQ¶W WKLQN WKDW WKH\ UHDOO\ GLG D ORW RI WKLQJV WK
ZHUH WKH 9HWHUDQ¶V $GPLQLVWUDWLRQ DQG ,QGLDQ $IIDL
SDUWLFXODUO\ WKH 9HWHUDQ¶V EHFDXVH direct result of WKH 9HWHUDQV¶
-LP +DOH\¶V DFWLYLWLHV QR GRXEW DERXW WKDW

0 1RZ ,¶YH DOUHDG\ WROG \RX ZH KDYH KLV SDSHUV DQG
Administration stuff in there. Did Lawton ever confide in you about some of the challenges that he had in his first term, what it was like adjusting to the Senate, what it was like living in Washington for the first time? Did Rhea like that kind of thing? What it did to the family?

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

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

(, WKLQN WKH\ NHSW OLYLQJ LQ)ORULGD IRU TXLWH D ZK
unusual for the Congress to leave Thursday afternoon and come back Monday.

M: Okay. Fly back and forth.

(7KDW KDSSHQHG D ORW EXW DV IDU DV /DZWRQ¶V FRQFH
days getting himself in a real strong position by being quiet an awful lot and listening.

M: Learning a lot.

E: An awful lot, and then building up relDWLRQVKLSV µWLO WKH WLPH WKDW
becoming Chairman of the Budget Commission, which is one of the most important chairmanships in the Congress.

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

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

M: I was reading press clippings again yesterday, and there was OPIC, O-P-I-C, off RYHUVHDV LW¶V VRPH NLQG RI RUJDQL]DWLRQ WKDW ZDV S overseas or something, and they were funding orange citrus overseas, and he raised a ruckus about that, I think. Was that something that you remember, those kinds of things?

(, GRQ¶W UHPHPEHU WKDW WRR PXFK WR WHOO \RX WKH were trying to find ways to create markets throughout Europe, that he was very helpful. And of course the Citrus Commission was involved in all of this, and the Florida Department of Citrus, and he always helped us on anything having to do with agriculture, it was important. And then of course, the great work that he did in the Senate started there with the children, with infant mortality and helping the children, but later on he just, like his last session as governor, he did a tremendous job to set up things that would go on for our lifetime, and these were in regard to children.

0 1RZ \RX PHQWLRQHG WKDW \RX ZHUH LQ :DVKLQJWRQ ZKH (tape)

(«WKH 1L[RQ GHDO"

0 «WKH 1L[RQ LVVXH«

E: Well, I went to Washington a number of other times. I served on the board while I was with Tropicana. I served on the boards of the Florida Power tiSÊcjANExuQaDKRQ

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

(, G R Q ¶ W W K L Q N V R , Z D V D F W L Y H L Q L W D Q G , Z D V R Q

take out of there is, he became a national champion for children, and that was the
J U H D W H V W O H J D F \ D V I D U D V , ¶ P F R Q F H U Q H G

M: Even at the national level.

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

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

(: H O O \ R X N Q R Z K H Z D V J R L Q J W R U X Q $ Q G , ¶ G D O U H D
and had raised quite a bit, then he made the decision not to run, so I wrote a letter, put him really on the spot. He kidded me about it later. I wrote a letter to all the people that
, ¶ G U D L V H G P R Q H \ I U R P D Q G , V D L G ³, W K L Q N \ R X N Q R Z 6 H
that the last thing he would do would be to take money on false pretenses and I know
W K D W D V V R R Q D V W K H \ V H W W O H X S W K H V H O L W W O H H [S H Q
P L Q L P X P W K D W K H ¶ O O J L Y H H Y H U \ E R G \ D V K D U H R I W K H L U
to Lois and Charles Canady. I W K L Q N & D Q D G \ O L N H G W R E O H Z D I X V H E X
Lawton. And he did, he sent all the money back to the people and what not. So it did
V X U S U L V H P H W K D W K H Z D V Q ¶ W J R L Q J W R U X Q D J D L Q % X W
him. He called me and I W D O N H G W R K L P D Q G K H V D L G ³, M X V W U H D
Z K H U H , ¶ P V R X S V H W D E R X W W K H L Q D E L O L W \ W R G R D Q \ W K L
F R X Q W U \ µ W L O ´ K H V D L G ³, M X V W G R Q ¶ W Z D Q W D Q \ P R U H R
you.

M: Sure. Sure did.

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

0 , W M X V W F R Q V X P H G K L P , W M X V W E D V L F D O O \ Z R U H K L P

(« M X V W Z R U Q R X W Z L W K L W

M: Yeah.

E: And Rhea probably had somethin J W R G R Z L W K L W µ F D X V H D Q \ D F W L R
V R P H W K L Q J W R G R Z L W K L W $ Q G V K H ¶ V J H W W L Q J T X L W H D
down here in our county.

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

E: Lawton was not one, at any time in the State legislature or as United States Senator
R U D V * R Y H U Q R U W R P D N H W R R P D Q \ S X E O L F S U R Q R X Q F H P H
O L N H µ H P R U W K H U H D V R Q K H G L G Q ¶ W O L N H µ H P R U D Q \ W K
would work against them and do everything he could, but as far as Reagan was

0 2ND\ &DQ \RX HYDOXDWH KLV ILUVW WHUP" ,Q RWKHU Z
Initiative come into full force within the first term as governor?

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

M: And the tobacco?

E: No, that was his last term that the tobacco issue really surfaced, and he felt like one of the greatest things that happened to him was the Florida Kid Care Act. He did that in the 1998 legislature, and that expanded to a Florida kids program statewide and provided healthcare coverage to nearly 256,000 Florida children. And ever sinc,000 Fl(a)8(k)-10(i)5-Rf

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

0 *UHDW , WKLQN WKDW¶V SUREDEO\ D JRRG ZD\ WR HQG
tape)