

Interview with Bil Moss  
Interview 2 of 3  
April 30, 2009

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Bil presented me with a chronology of her life up until 1979 in response to the interview questions.

Kristina L. Walker: It looks like you've written down a number of details about your family, which is great. Is there anything you want to add to what you've written here?

Bil Moss: Not really. Just that it was kind of a fractured family. We aren't real, real close. Particularly since I've been away from Detroit since 1951. I've visited back and forth. I'm not as close to my brothers, I'm closer to my sisters.

KLW: And your brothers are still in Detroit?

BM: Yes, I just lost one this week.

KLW: I'm so sorry.

BM: I lost one in 1971. The other two are in Detroit. He was a diabetic. It finally went into Renal Disease and he died on Monday.

KLW: I'm sorry.

BM: Anyway, if there is anything, in the future, you want clarified or you want explained further, we can work from there.

KLW: (Reading chronology) Your favorite subject was math?

BM: Yeah, and you know why? Because I had a teacher. That's about in the eighth or ninth grade. You know how tall I am now so you know I wasn't too much taller then! But I was taller than my teacher. She was a German lady that had a particular way of teaching that I have been very appreciative of and have expressed over the rest of my life. What she did, was she gave three exams a week and they were averaged. She set up her room so that every Monday she changed your seat. The persons who kept their average up, got to sit farthest to the back. The kids in the center were the average kids. She spent the most of her time with the kids in the front. And the kids in the back helped with the kids in the center.

KLW: That's great.

4:48

BM: It was and these are little ways to do things that she told us. You know, how to keep information in our heads, that I still use today. That was when I was in eighth grade. Contrary to many of the female teachers that I had at the time (you know eighth and ninth grade when boys are becoming big boys) she never had any trouble. The only trouble she had in her room was kids competing to stay in the back. She didn't have the absentee program because if you missed a test, the average naturally went down. If you're averaging three - with two tests,

you're going to fall and you're going to lose your position. She didn't have the behavior problems, she didn't have the absentee problems; she did have kids competing for good grades and she did have kids learning to help other kids. She spent lots of time sitting next to the kids and helping those kids down in the front row that needed that. So, I've always thought that was a tremendous model.

KLW: Well, my husband teaches eighth grade so I'll have to tell him about that seating chart idea. That's great.

BM: Back when I went to school, there were a lot of single, female teachers. She must have spent a great deal of time. She gave three exams a week, every week and changed the seating chart *every Monday morning*. You about knew where you'd be, when you got your papers back. I've just always thought it was such a [good model] – particularly now, when a lot of our kids don't do very well in math. That's why I remember her name, and my social studies teacher's name (Mr. Glover), I remember because, I went to a school where most of the teachers were women and he was African American. She was Mrs. Keonigs.

KLW: Having not looked through what you've written here, any stories you want to mention?

[phone rings]

You've included a lot details about your family in here, too, which is great.

BM: I have little tidbits of stories. I'll be 77 this year so these things come and go [laughs]. I remember when I was in handwriting class. I don't know if kids have that nowadays.

KLW: I think I may have been one of the last ones. They taught us cursive.

BM: Well, penmanship but they also taught us how to write a letter. Our family qualified for assistance at Christmas time. I was being taught how to write a letter and so I remember my first academic success besides just grades, was that I wrote a letter to the Goodfellas at Christmastime and because my mother went to the eighth grade and she wanted us to apply so that we would get this assistance. As a result of that letter, we were awarded (I don't know if that's the correct term). This great big truck, during Christmas week, came around to the (what they would call now, the low-income families) and left these large boxes for each child. They had, a doll for girls, underwear, a dress, shoe coupons and after Christmas, you went down to this huge store and got these brown loafers.

KLW: You didn't have a choice, they were brown?

BM: They were *all* the same shoe. I hated them! I always remember that because my family made such a ta-do about being able to write a letter and get a response.

KLW: How old were you then?

11:32

BM: I must have been maybe eight or nine. It was before middle school.

(Reading) It says "I'd like to talk a bit about growing up in Detroit. What memories stand out from your childhood?" Those are some of the memories.

(Reading) "Can you tell me something about your grandparents?" That's on the paper that I gave you.

Another thing that stands out about my dad was that he always (we didn't have television at that time) he always listened to the news. He sang in the church choir. The union meetings - every month. And I remember he did that. I look at that as some political community.

(Reading) How the black activist leadership emerged.

You know this was helpful to me because I haven't really looked back over how things, and why things, happened and where I am [now].

KLW: Good, I'm glad.

BM: The exercise kind of helped me look back and say "Well, what did you learn. Good? Bad? What experiences did you have?"

Now the Mother's Day Riot [of 1969]. I was at home being a wife and a mother. I'm not really sure how that happened. But I am sure that lots of things were going on before that happened. There were marches, there were employment and housing issues, lots of things as a result of that. The thing I remember most about this happening, the riots of '69, is that because of Harold [Moss] and Tom Dixon and maybe a couple of other people, they were able to keep the situation from escalating and assisting the police in dealing with the young people that were involved.

14:46

KLW: So, let me make sure that I understand. The original incident with the police was with one couple, right?

BM: See, I'm not really sure how it started. I believe that you are correct. The police approached one couple and some other people got involved and there was a possibility for it getting out of hand.

KLW: So, that was immediately on that day that they were worried things would get out of hand? Not in the following days. When you spoke of Harold and Tom controlling it, that was that evening?

BM: That's what I remember.

KLW: Did you know it was happening at the time? Or did you just hear about it later?

BM: I just heard about it later. And as far as I can remember, it's gotten far more significance lately than it did then.

KLW: Really?

BM: Yeah, but like I said, I wasn't involved, so I don't know. When we decided to stay in Tacoma, we did everything together. And we got involved in everything together. The difference, though, was that I was always Harold's wife doing the "skut" work. The recognition did not come to me. You asked about women being recognized. I was the chairman of the committee that started the housing thing and got it passed through the city council. In fact, I was the NAACP housing chairman, the men didn't think that anything could happen so there wasn't that encouragement from the NAACP. It came from the people that I got together and the council and the other people that were involved.

*Then*, after it was passed through the city council, even one of the hierarchy of the Tacoma NAACP talked against it because he didn't feel that he had to vote for his rights. Because it went to referendum. It was defeated in referendum.

I was always there. I was always in the background. I feel I was being supportive. I marched, I wrote letters, I copied stuff for the groups I was involved in. But it was the men folks that were out front.

18:40

KLW: Was that frustrating at the time?

BM: Well, no, you have to remember that back in that day ([laughs] you weren't even born), a woman had a place, it was expected that she would support her husband. There was always a female role. During the march, make sure – you were more than likely on the committee that helped set up the food stand. That kind of thing. I typed. I did a newsletter.<sup>1</sup>

I really, because of my fractured beginning, what I really wanted was a close family. That's what I perceived that I had up until I divorced the first time. So, almost everything that Harold was involved in, I was there with him.

Let's see, social clubs we'll get there later. Part of the emerging civil rights movement – after I graduated from high school and I passed the civil service test for stenographer and was assigned to the health department in Lansing, Michigan (which was about 82 miles from Detroit). There I met and made friends with some older people. We used to have these deep discussions about the way things were going on. I was always on the defensive because I had not experienced some of the things, or they had not been identified as racial to me. We used to have real debates. I used to say "If you go to school, and you get good grades, and you keep out of trouble, you won't have any [trouble]." I hadn't had any trouble that I recognized. I really hadn't been exposed to too much.

22:40

When I was about six or seven and I got spit on. My mother had a fit. I couldn't understand why she was so upset. We weren't taught about prejudice directly. Although, when things [happened] on a national level, like Emmett Till and hangings and the Klu Klux Klan. But to

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<sup>1</sup> Bil authored the NAACP Newsletter for XXX years.

us, as a child, that was something that happened somewhere else. We lived in a neighborhood that was transitioning but it was still mixed enough that you knew all kinds of people.

KLW: You started saying something about the black activist leadership in Tacoma and how that emerged?

BM: I just felt that {pause} as far as a women was concerned, was that I was involved but never recognized. Because Harold and I were close, sometimes I would read his speeches or type his speeches. Wherever he went, I went. The first time he was persuaded to run for city council, he got a lot of support from the League of Women Voters and other political groups, urging him to run and he lost. Four years later when he ran, I coordinated his campaign, and he won. From then on, he's won five campaigns, all of which I was involved in. Even after I had a second marriage and the first year Harold asked if I would coordinate his campaign. I hadn't been married very long and my new husband said, "Hell, no!" [laughs] But the next time he ran, he asked both of us, so we both supported him and got involved in his campaign.

26:25

Most of the experience has come from just being involved. No special training, just being around. I have always been interested in current events.

I've always been interested in young people. When I was on the YWCA board, I got involved with a group of young people at McCarver School. They had the first teenage group that we met and worked. Then, when I was with the NAACP, I had the first youth council, that was a number of young people that I work with. When I was with the sorority, I had two groups of young women. Mentoring, introducing young women to society. I've always been involved with young women.

I had the good fortune of people wanting to mentor me as I was growing up. When I came to Tacoma, there was the first black social worker in the state of Washington, who had come to Tacoma to be a teacher (and could not be hired), but was hired by the state to be a social worker. Took me by the hand and took me to the League of Women Voters, Municipal League, got me involved in those kinds of organizations.

I became attractive to people to mentor because I was a black woman, I was exposed with Harold and when we started to integrate, I stood out and people started to mentor me into positions. Mrs. Arams, whose husband was the vice-president (at Weyerhaeuser, I believe) got me involved on the YWCA board and years later, I became their bookkeeper. And later I was involved with the Y[WCA] teen group.

30:45

You see that I mention them there as my adopted family. The reason I included them in there was that they became like family to me. Over the years, I maintained the relationships with them. Some of them have passed [along]. I have always been a rather shy person.

KLW: That's hard to imagine with all that you've done.

BM: Really? Well, that was one way to get around it. I kept busy and then I didn't have to face anybody.

KLW: The woman you mentioned who was your mentor and the first social worker in Tacoma, what was her name?

BM: Helen Stafford.

KLW: I want to say that someone in this class interviewed her a couple years ago.

BM: She died when she was a hundred and one. I think it was three or four years ago.

When we first came, she was on the board of the NAACP. I don't remember exactly how we got involved in the NAACP but I remember and Harold tells this often, when we attended meetings, it appeared that, when we attended the meetings (you know how you join an organization and then you have great big expectations and you attend meetings and it's almost like nothing happens) and so I guess he was complaining and she [Helen] said to him "Well, we were waiting for you!" [laughs]

But she organized the City Association of Colored Women, she organized the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority in Tacoma, she organized the Tacoma Chapter of Links. She received an honorary doctorate from UPS. I think it was the first honorary doctorate to a black woman.

It was that kind of person, and there were two or three other people, that took a mentoring role in my life. I think it's because of the people that we met, that we were involved in the things that we were and chose the path in life that we chose. When I came here in 1951 in December, Harold was in the service and he was discharged in 1952 and we had planned on going back to Detroit. He replaced himself in the military. He was a dental technician. So he had a job. We had all got out of high school and we went everywhere. There weren't a lot of friends left back in Detroit. They'd gone off to college or gotten jobs elsewhere. So, we decided to stay here. And it was through this community adoption, we were directed along different paths.

KLW: Were the majority of your friends through your connections with the military?

BM: No, he was in only four or five month after I got here. We had just married so we didn't do a lot of socializing. I didn't meet a whole lot of people – he did because he was working on the base. He would bring home people, I would fix dinner for people. I don't think we developed a relationship with people on the base. Most of the people were people who were living here. There weren't many African Americans living in Tacoma at that time.

KLW: You said we'd talk about social clubs later, are you ready to do that now?

37:00

BM: Yeah, we can go ahead. It's because a lot of the stuff that happened, happened after 1979.

KLW: Then maybe we want to talk about after 1979?

BM: I'm trying to think of the first organization I was involved in – it was the Contessa Club. That was an organization of black women who had as its main project an orthopedic guild. It

became the Contessa Club because we were raising money for the guild but we wanted to do other things. If we stayed the Orthopedic Guild, all the money had to go to the Orthopedic Guild. So, we created this Contessa Club so that we could do other community things.

I was the chair of its Sweethearts Ball. That was another relationship with young women. We had three months of preparation and training. Then these girls, about 16 or 17 years old were introduced to society. We used to do that stuff. We don't do it anymore.

KLW: The event was these young girls, 16 or 17 years old, a sort of coming of age? What did they do at the event? Did they bring a date?

BM: They went through a training session, how to eat, how to address people, how to use all kinds of things, except we didn't talk about birth control then. How to be nice young women. We had this formal affair, they had young men escorts, white dresses, flowers. There was a program that went with that. Fathers presented them. That was our main project. People would contribute money to us in order to defer the expenses of putting that on. It was at the Winthrop Hotel that has that beautiful ballroom. We did it a number of years in that ballroom.

KLW: Why is it called Contessa Club?

BM: I didn't know until later. That's a Spanish word for girl or lady. At the time, that came from a young woman in the club who had mixed heritage. She suggested that. Her name is Ray [Raynola] Blackshear, she's 86 years old now. It sounded good to us, so why not? It was positive, it was catchy.

KLW: That was a black women's organization?

BM: Yes, we had about 20-25 black women. We did things at different holidays, Christmas, Thanksgiving. We had two main projects. We still made contributions to the Orthopedic Guild. We were the only black orthopedic guild and there were a number of guilds. There are still orthopedic guilds that support the children's hospital, Mary Bridge. I think our organization still exists. At that time, we were the only black guild.

42:33

KLW: It was intentionally separated?

BM: Yes, so that we could do other things. We were doing other things, but then we were approached that we could not do that. If we're raising funds and doing things in the name of the Orthopedic Guild, then the resources need to go to the Orthopedic Guild. We decided that we wanted to do more than support the Orthopedic Guild.

KLW: What other social groups are there?

BM: On that first sheet that I gave you, there's a whole list of organizations that I've been involved in.

44:08

KLW: Are there any particular projects that stand out to you?

BM: The sickle cell project.

KLW: Yeah, you told me about that last time. That was a big project. And I actually saw an article in the library with your picture on it about the sickle cell project. I will make a copy and bring it. I don't know if you've looked through the old articles in the library. They have an amazing system, well it's not an amazing system, it's just folders, but they've saved so many articles. You can look by topic and there was a folder on "Women's Social Clubs" and your picture was in there.

BM: During those early years, one of the concerns of publicity was that the only time black people were mentioned was when they did something wrong. Or it was put next to the obituaries or sales. So, it was a big deal for a while relative to positive publicity for African Americans.

KLW: Was it always the case?

BM: That was the typical case until after people started working on it. I don't know exactly when that changed. I wasn't involved but I understand that it was through communication through the NAACP and the Ministerial Alliance. It wasn't all that long ago that things changed.

I gave some names there, 12<sup>th</sup> Street is now changed to Earnest Brazill St. I was responsible for changing that street name when I was on the city council. But he was very active and a leader during the time that we first got involved in the NAACP. In the marches and employment issues. His nephew, was the first person to get a job as a result of his efforts. And that was as a box boy at one of the grocery store – on the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and K Street. He was extremely active and in the forefront of a lot of the changes, which indicated that before 1969, there were things happening.

48:52

[Takes phone call about upcoming trip to Portland with local leaders (including Tacoma School Board and Tacoma City Council members) to look at Self Enhancement, Inc. (SEI), an afterschool program that works with underprivileged kids.]

58:35

[Shows photo of a group on train platform]

BM: This picture is of Harold and me before we were married. That's when Harold left for Tacoma. We were married the next year and I came to Tacoma.

KLW: Did you know you were going to get married at this point?

BM: No, we had just met. He has twin sisters and I graduated from the same high school and I met him during that summer of celebrations of graduation. I graduated in June and this was August.

KLW: You said you wrote letters back and forth?

BM: Yes. That's the way we courted. Actually, we'd only known each other a couple months. He came home for two weeks in December and we got engaged, and then got married in September.

KLW: So, maybe you knew you wanted to get married?

BM: I don't think that I was thinking about getting married, but having a boyfriend. I hadn't had any real boyfriends before then.

KLW: Were you there when they actually hopped on the train and took off?

BM: Yes, that was the morning that they took off. We were all there. They put them on a troop train and brought them from Detroit to Fort Lewis.

1:01:04

KLW: Had you heard about Washington before you came here?

BM: I thought it was Washington, D.C. [laughs]. That's how much I heard. I came here on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December. When I left there was so much snow on the ground. The week before, when I was supposed to leave, it got delayed. I had never been on the plane. And I got here and there was no snow. And it rained for – I guess I thought it rained forever. That year it did not snow. I was here a number of years before I saw snow.

KLW: Then you spent Christmas away from your family as well?

BM: And it wasn't like Christmas because there was no snow. I think we spent Christmas riding around, showing me [around] and looking for a place to stay. We finally found a little apartment.

KLW: Did you have a car?

BM: No. I think we got a car. No, we got a car when Harold got out of service.

KLW: Did you take the bus then?

BM: Yep. This was a long time ago – 55 or 56 years ago.

KLW: It's nice to know that it was rainy here, even back then.

KLW: So, if we go to 1979. What was happening then?

BM: If you look on the sheet I gave you. I ran for city council for the first time in 1979. Actually, in 1975 I ran for council and in 1979 I ran for council. In 1983, I became, this was through a friend, I had just gotten my masters at UPS.

KLW: So, you were at UPS between what years?

BM: '75 and 1985?

KLW: Because you got your bachelors and your masters.

BM: In 1983, I became the manager of the Group Health clinic in Federal Way. I told you about that, I didn't know where Federal Way was. [laughing] It amazes me sometimes how naïve I was.

I was there for six years, first black female. You know how it is working with doctors! I learned a lot there. I was responsible for all the staff, with the exception of the doctors, radiology, pharmacy, physical therapy, all the regular Group Health thing. I was there for six years and I was promoted out of there to be somewhat of a recruiter for minorities in this region. I did that for about four years before we got a new director who indicated that [for] what it was paying me he could hire a pharmacist.

So, I left here. I got licensed to substitute teach. I did that for about six months, I didn't like that because I was stuck in the classroom.

I've always liked to shop for clothes so I struck up a relationship with the City of SeaTac's mayor [Doug Sutherland]'s wife. Over time, we'd become quite close, and she asked me if I would manage his campaign. He didn't have any money.

KLW: And you had already coordinated several of Harold's campaigns? So, you were an experienced campaign manager.

BM: Yes, [but] he was the first one to pay me! He had been the mayor of Tacoma and was then at City of SeaTac. I notice when they talk about him, they never talk about SeaTac. He was later county executive. It was a result of that successful campaign that he asked me to be on his staff, an assistant to the executive.

KLW: Can I ask about Tacoma in 1983 when you're getting out of school? What are the differences between 1953 when you're buying a house and 1983?

1:10:03

BM: You mean, whether it was easier? I think today, people say there's open housing now, live anywhere you want. I think today is much easier but I think there are still some places that have trouble with people moving in that are different. I think over the period when we lived in this house and when I graduated from UPS, I know that there had been a large expansion of potential for people because I remember that when I graduated from UPS, I gave myself a graduation party. I remember I had a number of friends that were at that time living down on the Narrows. At one time, we were the furthest west in Tacoma and there was nobody of color living on the Narrows. At that time, I know I had at least a couple friends that had moved down there. I know one friend that had trouble acquiring their home. The other friend had been in real estate and had been involved in business and lived there. They all lived on the same street – Karl Johan [Avenue]. The third friend was a technician that worked with Harold and they all lived - that's the way, that was the fear, "well, if one person moves in, then the

whole area will become”. . . That’s what I was told here, I told you about that little escapade. That’s what I was told here and here it’s 50, almost 55, years later, and there’s still not a half a dozen families of color living in the area. I think only two on this street.

Those three families lived on Karl Johan (off of 19<sup>th</sup> Street and 12<sup>th</sup> Street) and one of them is still there. The ability to buy a house was improved in most areas.

KLW: Did you sense differences in the schools when you were substitute teaching compared to when your kids started?

BM: Very much. I think more what I sensed the difference in was the teaching assignments. When I went to school, I did an English class at Stadium, and the students knew where they were supposed to study, they came in, they sat down, they did what they were supposed to do, I had no trouble, no behavior things. When you’re a substitute teacher, you get all the problems, people take advantage of you [laughs]. I also taught at Foss. Actually, I had to call the principal because one of the students called me a “bitch” [laughs]. The students were more rowdy. My impression was that was not the school, that that was the relationship that the teacher had with the students in that particular school. I imagine that similar situations maybe would happen at Stadium would happen too if the teacher was not well-organized and did not have a relationship with their students.

1:15:30

There was only two schools, high schools, Stadium and Lincoln. Lincoln was the school in the south end – well, it’s still there. Since I’ve been living here, my children went to Wilson and then Foss was built. Wilson, Mount Tahoma and then Foss. Mount Tahoma is still in the south end. I did a lot of stuff when I was at Planned Parenthood. The first place that I was actually allowed into the classroom to give presentations was at Mount Tahoma. The teacher that did that was state superintendent up until this year [Terry Bergeson]. She allowed me to come into her classroom and to discuss birth control and Planned Parenthood and that kind of thing. That was at Mount Tahoma. I did a little of that even at UPS because I was invited.

KLW: So you ran the campaign for Doug and became his executive assistant?

BM: Well, Assistant to the County Executive. It is a management job. He had four and my specific area was the county council. I was the executive staff that worked with the county council. That was necessary because at that particular time, the county council was mostly Democrat and he was a Republican. There had been a lot of problems between the county executive and the county council. So, when he became County Executive, he was a person who had worked well with a variety of people when he was mayor of Tacoma. He got along well with lots of people regardless of which group they belonged to and so one of the things he felt was that he needed to have someone to work directly between him and the county council. I was it until it kind of worked itself out and then I became his working with his human resources kinds of issues.

KLW: So you had already run for city council at this point so this wasn’t anything new when you ran in 1999?

BM: No, it wasn't but it was 20 years since the last time I'd run. And it was new in terms of that when I ran for the primary, you ran in the district, but everyone for the general ran citywide so being the director of Planned Parenthood (which was a negative kind of thing because of birth control) and African American and female, it was a difficult thing. And the second time I ran in 1979, my campaign headquarters got burned.

KLW: Can you tell me more about that?

BM: It's another naiveté of mine. I was on MLK Street and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. I was using the Black Businessmen's Association building. They had allowed me to set up my campaign headquarters. My understanding is that a bus driver (the first time) had a regular route and had seen the smoke. So, that time, it was just minor. But the second time it happened, it was major. I had just begun to move out of that because of the first time. I had begun to move my stuff back home and the building burned down. But the thing was, I will always remember, Channel 5 came over. It was a Sunday, I met them down there and they wanted to do a big story on it. I had been told, don't get involved complaining about it. So, I followed that and I told them I didn't want them to write anything about it and they didn't. But that building was later demolished.

KLW: Did you find out who did it?

BM: No, there was no investigation. The first time I ran, the thing that happened. My birth name is Williebelle. I think that people, those people involved, didn't think that I'd do very well. So they didn't campaign at all in the primary up until the last three days. And there came out a brochure, I used to have a copy of it but I don't know where it is, a brochure and it was a comparative thing and on one side was this male opponent. It was just the two of us. So it was the person I was running against and me. You know, Williebelle is a good southern name. Then it had, experienced, them with this much and me with this much. Then it had occupation, which just had Planned Parenthood, all the negative stuff. And that ran for three days – Monday, Sunday and Saturday. In the newspaper. And that was all the publicity that he did – and I lost. I had won handily in the primary in the district. He hadn't campaigned at all. He just took it for granted, that "I don't have to do any work."

That was the first two experiences and the reason that I ran was, Harold and I had divorced, he had to give up his position in the city council because two reasons. The Urban League was a 501 (c) 3 organization that received funding from the state or other governments. That was a conflict to be on the city council and to work for the Urban League so he had to either give up the city council or give up the urban league. They still can't do that. Then, he married and moved to University Place or Fircrest. Somewhere out of the city. So he had to give up his seat. I was asked, or urged, to run because I had the name, which didn't set well with Harold. The expectation wasn't too high that I would win. But I did win very handily in the district. But then when I had to go for the general, I had to go city wide.

KLW: What made you decide to run again in 1999?

BM: It was an open position and I was again asked to run. In fact, at first I said no. I was asked to run because it was an open position and there was no representation on the council. So, I ran. And I ran against a young women who was at that time engaged to a fireman and that's really hard because the firemen are the people that put out the signs and they give you a lot of money. I couldn't get union support from them. I got it from the Teamsters because I have a personal friend who is Teamster but I couldn't get any other union support so we just exploited the Teamsters [attention]. Every profession that belonged to the Teamsters, we just listed like we had union support. By that time, I was fairly well known. I had been on the utility board, and I had a fair amount of support. But it was a hard race. It was so close that it took a couple weeks after we had to wait until we got in the overseas vote and I won by just small amount of votes.

1:28:23 END INTERVIEW