

## Lon Holbrook interview on Atiyeh

An interview of Lon Holbrook regarding Oregon's Governor Victor Atiyeh, recorded on June 6, 2017. Holbrook was a member of the State Police, was part of Atiyeh's security team, and often served as his driver. The interviewer, James Moore, was as professor of political science at Pacific University and was Atiyeh's biographer.

The interview includes discussion of: Holbrook's role as a driver and security detail; Atiyeh's personality and preferences, including his preference for black Buick Skylarks; Atiyeh's Middle East trip, including security challenges and the governor's interactions with local leaders; the Rajneesh movement's impact on the governor, including a potential poisoning incident; Atiyeh's personal qualities and the challenges of managing his security and public appearances; the legacy of the Rajneesh movement's hierarchy, practices, and controversies, such as the poisoning incidents and its guru's Mercedes accident; Atiyeh's role in managing the movement's impact, including the governor's interactions with state police, tribal leaders, and the public; anecdotes regarding Atiyeh's fishing trips at Warm Springs, his relationship with tribal police, and his experiences during President Reagan's visits.

Note on the text: This transcript was made through AI in 2025, with some manual corrections. It has been provided in order to facilitate research, but the text does contain errors and inaccuracies. Users should check the transcript against the recording before quoting the speakers.

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[Recording begins mid-conversation.]

James Moore 00:00

Stories. Stories are always good. And then I'll have, I have specific questions.

Lon Holbrook 00:06

You need more light over there? No, no, this is fine. I

James Moore 00:11

have specific questions about like, when you traveled overseas, you guys pulling people over, which even made the New York Times,

Lon Holbrook 00:23

you know, that kind of stuff got me in trouble, big time, some of that stuff, you know, the maybe I should give you some background. You're recording me now. Yep, you're on first of all, one lonely, old state cop isn't going to do much to save the governor and prevent assassination. That's just not going to happen. Yeah, let's be realistic, yeah. Towards the end of his term, he, I'm giving you kind of some background. Towards the end of his term, I had, I agreed with the Secret Service to come do a survey. They call it on his security, see what they thought, and in the end, they said, You got to have at least a five or six man detail, or don't do anything, don't even be involved, because you're going to be in trouble. And, well, that's just not realistic, at least for us. And that kind of that changed everything after his administration, right? So then Goldschmidt, for whatever you want to think of him, that was, that was kind of the evolution from there, and it was not the same. Yeah, I don't think my relationship, relationship with the governor, was probably unique in all other governors, I guess. And because there was something similar with Hatfield, was it Margie? What was his wife's name?

Unknown Speaker 00:32

Speaker 1 00:32

Oh, Antoinette, that's right. Antoinette,

Lon Holbrook 00:32

I'm pretty much most of the time. I'm it so if he needs speech up in front of him on a podium, I usually put the speech up there right? That was one of my many duties, and most of this stuff while I'm doing this and I'm even further away from being security, right? Just ain't gonna happen, yeah? But that's that's just the way it was now when, when the governor started his term, he was assigned a state policeman, and he was it, like many people you see this time and time again, he had a problem with women, so there's some sexual harassment involved. And he was gone within four or five months, yeah. So then, then the governor said, well, and all this time, Denny Miles and some of the rest of the staff were saying, You need to have somebody to help you. I mean, that's the way it is. And he's kind of a furrowed, tight guy, yeah, so finally he he said, Okay, why don't they just send us a few guys down, and we'll alternate, and we'll try out three or four guys and see if one really would work. So three of us actually did it quite a bit, and a couple other guys, some for about three, three or four months at the most, and then he decided, for whatever reason, probably because he liked the way I drove more than anything. He said, Well, let's have Holbrook do the job. So I was working patrol at Salem, Salem patrol office at the time, and I was about a seven or eight year Trooper, and pretty naive, and in fact, knew zero about politics and all that kind of stuff. I No clue. Yeah, so you're throwing a babe into the whatever woods, or whatever you want to call it.

And I grew up a lot during his, especially first couple of years, not grew up in the sense of. And mature, but knowing what that world is like, yeah, and that kind of how things started rolling. And right away I was supposed to the deal was I was supposed to go sit in the headquarters of state police, and when he needed a driver, I was supposed to come over, similar to what I had been doing for trying out. And he's going to hand me the keys when you go down, get in his car and go someplace, right? Well, that's about as awkward as they come. You just that just doesn't work, yeah. And the whole time his staff is saying this is dumb, really dumb, but governor saying, I don't want to create a lot of problems and so on so forth. But I never did go into headquarters. I stayed right the governor's office. When I took that job, there was a desk there. They had hired a there were a special little detail of Governor's guards. They didn't get paid as much to Trooper, but they they sat in a guard shack at the house. They were security through the house. One of those guys was the day shift security in the Capitol building with for the governor. So the theory was I wasn't really needed there. And I called bullshit on that from the get go. And I assumed, then I was, I was in charge of all those guys and whatever else came down the pipe relating to the governor. I assumed that role. Mostly, I took that upon myself, really. So I'm going to do this job. This is what I'm going to do. And and from there we started. We just kind of marched forward. they all had special relationships with their drivers, right? It's really what they were, right? Bob burkin, Newell and the same with Straub and McCall, and I don't know any further back than that, is what, and they all kind of had drivers. I don't think any of those people were nearly as involved as I was with Governor Atiyeh, beyond driving and security, which respecting mill as I just said, but my relationship was more

Unknown Speaker 01:41  
I'm a facilitator.

Lon Holbrook 06:47

In the end of that, I increased the security in the sense that I called troopers from patrol cars. I arranged for them ahead of time to be at the locations where we were going. They were going to take a look at the place and secure parking spot, that kind of stuff, yeah, and let us know if there's a problem going in. Yeah. Well, that's better nothing, I guess. And we did that.

James Moore 07:13

Yeah, the governor tells a story about you guys going to Eugene to Valley River Center. Good example, walking right in the middle of an operation where you had to pause for a bit,

Lon Holbrook 07:26

yeah, and, and part of the problem with the governor and the staff really was a problem, but maybe a good problem, but he had this, this affection for state troopers, very much so. And you probably saw that and talking to him, and that one of my many duties was to pry him away from some state cop that I had there and get him out there with the people he's supposed to be with, talking to, like the sponsors the event stuff, you know. And and he reluctantly would go do that. And he tolerated me because he knew, I guess we never really discussed that, but I not unlike Denny or Gerry, not unlike Lee Johnson. He was a little different, but I was totally I was into taking care of Governor Tia, his everything, if he needs cigarettes. In earlier parties administration, he smoked. I had cigarettes for him if he needed them, if he needed

anything. That was me. That was that's what I was. I just took care of him, and I didn't talk to him. I didn't start this conversation unless he initiated the darn thing. And nobody told me that. I just figured out that's probably what you should do. Don't be bugging him with your BS. So and the result of that, after God, I don't know how we evolved, but things would happen. Sometimes the people at the event would be less than favorable for towards him, they'd be kind of antagonistic and stuff. And it really, it hurt him when that happened. I don't know how much, but you could tell it hurt him.

Yeah, and he'd get in the car, and we'd start for home, usually, typically at the Benson hotel in Portland, and we jump in the car, and we were heading south, probably going too fast too because we were both tired and had enough of this stuff. And after a while, the governor would, he'd sit there and stew, and then he'd say to me, Well, long What do you think? And I said, well, they weren't very nice to you in there. And he said, Yeah, well, what do you think? And I my, my pet phrase was governor. You know what I think, fuck them and feed them dog food. That's what I usually say. And he'd sit there and chuckle. And. And it kind of bringing back to reality. I think, in in that way, I think that really did help really, quite frankly, and it wasn't, I wasn't all that serious, and he knew I wasn't serious, but that kind of brought, brought in perspective, you know, let's move on here. So that was kind of fun. He one of the things I'm kind of rambling too, I guess, but one of the things I had to kind of break him of, if you will, is looking out the window and waving at people. And he'd love to do that early on anyway, yeah, they they'd spot him because he's got his face the window, and we're going too fast, right? Besides, it's not a very good for security, because just one car going down the road. So I mentioned to the governor. I said, Well, there's two things here you're gonna have to figure out if, if you're gonna do that, you're gonna have to lighten up your schedule so we're not going down the road too fast because we're getting too many calls and too much flack for you, for you speeding down the road, and that's what happens.

Reluctantly, went along with that. He understood he had to quit looking out the window like that and waving at people. So if people kind of thought they spotted him, I would made it in my driving, I made it damn hard for them to really get a good look at him, right? They're gonna have to go pretty fast or do some pretty fancy maneuvering to really take a look at him, because we're gone. Yeah. So that's usually kind of how that shook out early on, kind of relating to that. He liked this little Buick, black Buick Skylark. Thought that was really cool car, the perception and just the whole persona. I don't know what you'd call it, but he liked that, but it wasn't a practical car. If you'd load Mrs. A and the Governor and I in there with our luggage for two or three days, it damn near impossible. You almost needed a roof rack or something. And he finally said, and I kind of worked on him for quite a while. I said, you know, I can get a Ford, any kind of Ford, including the Ford Lincoln, for a lot less money than you're paying for this little skylark or the state's paying for it. And you say, Yeah, but I just don't like the way it looks. Well, whatever. So we ended up with the new, new Mercury finally. And we had that for like a week, and it was a big car, when it was bigger murderies, and it wasn't black, it was like a green color, right? And it got smashed going to the Portland or the Hillsboro airport to pick us up. It got smashed. That's another thing. I'd arranged for state police to be shuttling stuff, right? That was one of my main duties, yeah, and that was the end of that brand new car.

So he finally said, I said, Governor, we gotta, we're gonna have to afford here, like a Lincoln. That's the only thing really, let's, let's get serious. All right, so that started the Lincoln Zen. In fact, we were without a car because of that crash, and we were driving the superintendent's old car, the State Police superintendent's old car. In the interim, we had this Ford getting prepped back in Detroit again for about half the money that that skylark was costing because that's a package Ford Motor Company had. So I jumped on a plane with another guy, and the two of us went back and got that car. Not real sure how smart that was, either, because driving a new car out of the factory isn't really all that smart a thing to do. I don't think we did it anyway in the car hill together. And, matter of fact, kind of a fun part of that story. There was a section of freeway at the time, and I think that was then 84 or now it's adn that that section of freeway that went across the nation, in Utah, they still had a wide open two lane, kind of like a State Highway. It really wasn't a freeway, but that was the last of non freeway, freeway, yeah, and we had just passed a whole bunch of cars. We weren't fooling around. We were going home, and here comes a Utah State patrolman at us with moving radar sure as hell, and his eyes are getting pretty big. And we had just passed a whole bunch of cars, so that the guy that was with me, I happened to be driving at the time. He said, Well, what do you think we should do? And I said, might as well just keep on trucking close to state line eight. Anyway, he saw what the hell, because it took that guy a long time to get turned around right, and by the time he got turned around, there's a lot of distance he couldn't make up. So we never saw anybody again. We got to the state line, we slowed down because we, you know, sure as Ellie's going to call down the line and say, look out for this Lincoln.

And another fun thing I used to do, but out of necessity, I'd put the number one plates in the suitcase. And when we go back to the governor's conference, a lot of the stuff you've probably heard and I'd put them on the Lincoln that I'd rent back in Washington, DC. And the average person would look at that plate and say, Wow, Oregon shipped their car over here for this. This is something special. So and all I did was put plates on a rental car. That's all I did. In fact, we tried to get into a parking lot at one of those fancy hotels in DC, and they were, they waved off the department of the Secretary of the Interior. There was in one of those little Chrysler limos at the time, they wouldn't let him park there, but they looked at our plane, let us Park in there, and the governor said, you know, that's pretty cool. That's all right. And, and that, you know, people triple Park in DC, yeah. And that helped to that plate, yeah. But you really couldn't leave the car unattended, triple parked, or wherever it was, because you got to keep an eye on that thing. Now, I didn't run those one plates. He wanted to start out. He wanted to put those on his car all the time. And I convinced him this is not a smart thing to do. Do that on special occasions and parades and that kind of stuff, and don't do it just everyday traffic. Again, the same problems, him waving out the window, right? Security and problems and complaints just stupid. So we said, well, what? What get? What's my latitude here? What can I have? And I said, Well, I think he came up the idea of VGA two to zero, and that was February 20, yeah, but that was his initials, so he thought that was kind of cool. And it was at that time. It wasn't the state, Oregon hadn't got to VGA two to zero, right? So it's an odd play, yeah? But still, it didn't look that much out of place.

And then we just had a regular plate, just this random plate, like anybody would get. So all three of those plates were, were good for I had registrations from DMV saying good for any car that the governor is in, kind of thing. And and I kept all those plates around, usually in the trunk of the car, even sometimes I remember I didn't get them switched like I should. I'd have maybe not the one plate, but maybe two different plates on the car. But back, I even had a trooper tell me one time That's not legal. And I said, Show me where that's not legal. Have two different plates. You couldn't find anything. It was, it's legal fact that at that time, that was Anita Howard, was the spokesperson for DMV, and she came up, she approached, she wanted to talk to me at the governor's office. And I went out and talked to her, and she said, law. And she said, we've made a decision at DMV the commission, if I have it right, the DMV Commission, or whatever Highway Department commission, they passed a policy. Is it? I'm not sure what it it's making a state role anyway, yeah, that that legislators and these other people that have these fancy plates can only have one plate because some of these legislators are abusing their plate privileges. They're not renewing when they should. So you or the governor, have to decide which plates you want to have, because I know you got three or four plates. And I said, Benita, that's really doesn't make any sense. First of all, the state of Oregon is paying for all those plates. It doesn't change anything. She said, Well, we made the ruling. You got to do this. So she left. She's announced to me, that's the way it's going to be. So I went in to talk to Gerry. Told her what, what had just happened. So she said, Okay, I'll take care of it. So she called, I think he's Harvey. MUMA was the director of DMD at the time. I wasn't there for the conversation. I didn't stick. Around for it. But I'm sure it went like, Harvey, how do you like your job? You know? And it wasn't long that Benita Howard was back up there. She said, Well, what plates would you like to have? You know, that was the end of that, right? Some people, and they get bureaucratic. They think they pretty well call the shots. Yeah, it's incredible sometimes.

James Moore 20:20

Did you make a safety argument to her about that?

Lon Holbrook 20:23

Oh, yeah, I told her what was going on. Yeah, all the reasons, and she didn't care. We made the rule this way it is, yeah, well, I didn't tell her, but you're gonna have to make the rule, another rule. This ain't working right. And that was kind of how that went. Not sure what I should I'm rambling on and jumping around, but no, you're doing great. You wanted to talk about the Middle East. Yeah,

James Moore 20:53

yeah. So first question, 1984 I want to hear about that trip when he went to Saudi Arabia and Syria, and that one, did you also go with him when he went to Taiwan and then to Syria, his around the world trip.

Lon Holbrook 21:12

I don't know that he ever went to Taiwan and Syria. Yeah,

James Moore 21:15

he did. He did I do? He was Assad had asked him back after he'd already committed to Taiwan. There was a an era of American legislators or something. Denny went

Lon Holbrook 21:28

on that I did not, okay, okay? And actually, we kind of felt that out on the on the big trip we took, you know, how much value was I right at those trips, you know, you kind of weigh that for the cost and everything, and somebody's gonna well, for instance, in Syria, I think I had more people, more bodyguards than the Governor did, those Syrian guys, and I think more because they're watching me. They're not really cared about whether I got killed or not, and I don't know the real value of me being there, other than the governor, again, would have somebody to help him that was there. There were times like when you go into Egypt, for instance, they required us to, each of us, to exchange a certain amount of European currency. I mean, you had to that's forced. When you go into the country, you got to do that. Then when you leave, they only allow you to turn back so much a lesser amount. And I stayed up two or three hours longer than anybody else did, to try to get all that money turned back into the Egyptians, the money we could get out of the rest of the people, everybody else slapped Denny in the governor and, and Mrs. A was in Egypt. I think she met up with us later. Anyway, yeah, yeah, and, and that's what I usually addressed her. I called her Mrs. A, and that was another thing it comes to sitting in the car. He would, I'll go back to the Middle East a minute. He would, he would insist, almost always, in sitting in the right front seat, and she would then be in the back seat, right and, you know, sometimes I felt kind of, she in this, in a sense, is really without a husband for eight years. Yeah, and my wife, in a sense, was without a husband for eight years too, because I wasn't home. I was my average work week was almost just short of 70 hours, not counting the nights that I never came home, right? Hotel, motel, you name it. Yeah. And she virtually raised our daughter for those seven plus years on her own because I wasn't there. Yeah, I, you know, I was there part of the time, but not very often. Yeah, and that part I always regretted, but my wife had the same respect for the governor that I did. And she said, Well, this is something that has to be done. We're going to do it. So it's kind of the attitude she took too. Anyway, back to the Middle East, the some of the things that may have happened there that were,

James Moore 24:20

well, you go there and you're first in Saudi Arabia,

Lon Holbrook 24:23

right? And I don't have a gun either. Yeah, exactly.

James Moore 24:27

You don't get a gun until Israel,

Lon Holbrook 24:29

that's correct, yeah, Denny, tell you this or something. Well, it

James Moore 24:33

just comes up. I think the governor might have told me to, well, that's

Lon Holbrook 24:37

the other thing. The Governor was probably as interested as to what I was doing and what I was thinking as anything else, I thought that was interesting, because relating to that and everything else, the relationship I had with him was probably different than any other state. Cops around any other governors in that I had total freedom and I respected and appreciated that I could virtually walk into any meeting he was having. I could sit down or just walk in there or whatever, and nobody would tell me I couldn't be there, because, far as he was concerned, I could do whatever I needed to do, whatever it was. He would sometimes look around and wonder, is there a security problem, or why is he here? But other than that, I mean, he didn't say, What do you want, or anything like that. He just sometimes he'd wonder, and there are occasions when I kind of interested what was going on in the media, went in there, sat down, right? That's fine. He had that freedom. And there was, to my knowledge, nobody really had secrets or held anything back from me. And I had full confidence of everybody, because they knew darn well that I was totally 100% governor at the end, taking care of me. And I did again. I wasn't a politician or anything else. I just I'm his facilitator, I guess, if you will.

And that that special relationship was, that was pretty special to me, I think, yeah, quite frankly. And I learned a lot about how things work and what goes on, and learned, of course, a lot about him and how honest and how decent of a man he really was, and how much he cared. And I don't think most politicians aren't to that degree that he was. I'm sure of that. And sometimes I had to really fight to not get upset when somebody's really razzing him about, you know, I remember Mark, Mark Hass, who's now a senator. I think he was asking some pretty snooty questions at the time he was working for one of the TV stations. And I kind of like to smash these nose for you know, this the thought my mind, that's all you know. But anyway, back to, back to the Middle East, mostly I just the only, like you just said, the only gun I got was in Israel, and I got that from the Marines from the security detail at Embassy, and I had to take it back just before we left. But I'm not too sure if they gave me a five shot revolver or some damn thing. I'm not sure how much help that would be either. But anyway, I had one for whatever use it was. But you just you can't travel, even in those days, you can't travel with a gun overseas. Now stateside, I at first, I didn't fill out papers. You have to do anything. But then early on, I had to submit a form that when you checked in, that I was armed. So then when I'd get on the get on the plane, the sometimes the pilot would call me up there into the cabin, and they tell me things like, you know, those bullets make big holes my airplane. And I said, Yes, sir, I know. I don't intend to discharge that in this airplane. I'm just packing it with me because I need it when we get to the airport. Okay, I understand that. He says they usually say couple of captains took my gun away from me and kept it in the cabin. That's okay. I asked him if I could get it back before, you know, time to fashion before we went down the gate. Yeah. And that wasn't a problem. So what? The Hell yeah, and, but back, I'm gonna keep trying to get through the Middle East. Part of that, keep deviating from that. But the we were pretty damn beat on that trip. And one of the funny things we ended up in Cyprus, which you had to do to get to Israel from Arab country, you got to get that neutral place. In

James Moore 29:22

fact, I don't know if you just saw but President Trump was the first flight direct from Saudi Arabia to Israel.

Lon Holbrook 29:28

I will not surprise

James Moore 29:32

first time ever. So that's interesting.

Lon Holbrook 29:37

Well, the Israelis fought highly enough of him that they allowed that to happen. Yeah, yeah. And have to, I don't know if that could go the other way. If they get into Saudi from Israel, I don't think they'd that's an interesting relationship, too, isn't it? A major terrorist financiers. Is also a major ally of the United States. You know, how do you how do you deal with that? No, that's goofy. That's the way things are.

James Moore 30:09

That's the way things are. That's why I teach the Middle East and have a good time. But

Lon Holbrook 30:17

that we were laying on the beach in Cyprus and just exhausted, and I was laying on some kind of towel or blanket or something, and I looked up the governor, and he was looking around with his camera, looking through the viewfinder and stuff. What the hell is he looking at? And then I started looking around. Well, hell, they were topless. I'm sure they had anything do with it. Mrs. A finally caught him, kind of scolded him a little bit. We all kind of laughed. That was interesting. The perspective that we got on that too is especially we were, you know, these various leaders or guides or whatever you want to call them, they would lay all kinds of propaganda on us, especially in Syria, about what happened at Kuneitra if I pronounced that right and Golan Heights and that kind of stuff. So we're seeing and hearing all these stories from the Saudis or the Syrian side, and then later on, we're in Israel, looking at the other side of Golan Heights and hearing all of that dialog from that tour guide over there. And I thought that was kind of interesting. Another impression I had, and I'm pretty much a pro gun guy, that shouldn't surprise you. But, and while we were in Jerusalem, there was some terrorists throwing grenades around, and very quickly, the shopkeepers pulled their guns out and shot him. They've all got guns in Israel. That's just the way it is. That's survival there.

And they didn't wait around for the army or police or anybody they, of course, more than likely, some of the shooters were part time army, like everybody has to anyway. So I thought that was kind of an interesting situation where it'd be at stateside, people would be running around, and eventually the cops would show up. Occasionally, somebody shoots a bad guy before the cops get there, but not very often. But in that location, it's totally different situation. In fact, I laugh about not laugh. I shake my head about some gun free zones you have here at stateside. What good is a gun free zone? That's always what I've kind of questioned. What good is that? Does that make you feel good or something? You think that that's going to keep a bad guy from coming in here and shooting the hell out of everybody? No. So maybe you're thinking, if you have a concealed weapon, we don't really trust you, even though you have a permit. So maybe, just for safety's sake, we won't allow you to be here. That's the only good a gun free zone could possibly be. But it is a, if you will, an enabler for the bad guy to come in here to shoot the hell out of everybody. It's really what it is. So I, personally, I I don't really adhere much to those gun free zones and stuff. I don't flaunt or show guns or do anything like that, but I don't go very many places without a gun. I'm quite a waste from a gun here in the house, but I feel fairly secure here, you know, I'd have to run into another room, yeah. But that side note, I'm getting way off track here the do you want to hear some more about Middle East? Well,

James Moore 34:05

the, let's go to gun in Middle East, when the governor is given a gun as a present by the governor of Homs, yep, and then he passes it to you to

Lon Holbrook 34:20

Well, naturally, again, I'm the guy that does things, changes the money, or whatever it takes. So I had most of this you've heard, but you're gonna hear, from my perspective, I had been told by the State Department in DC that that we could put things in the diplomatic pouch and send it back safe side and not. They didn't qualify it as papers. They said things, yeah, so I boxed up this, this pistol that this governor gave him, as well as a bunch of stuff. We bought over there in the in the souks or whatever, some tin stuff and that they've been hammered on. You know, I boxed that up and I sent a diplomatic pouch from the Syrian Embassy, our emcee. And it's interesting the side note, the acting Ambassador told me that I couldn't do that. I won't allow that, he said, and I didn't pursue that. Pursue it because I had already sent that stuff. It was already gone. He didn't know I had done that. So why telling? You know, I just left it alone. And that was the famous line where it ended up in DC, and that guy calls Gerry says, Did you know there's G, u n, and then in one of those packages that that was sent, well, I'd put it there. That's how that had happened, yeah. So they just UPS it back to state side. It was there when we got back to capital, yeah. But that's really how that happened. One of the guys on that, one of the sponsors, I think it was, I don't remember what country, he asked if he could put a bunch of cigars in the pouch, Cuban cigars. And I told him no, but I don't know if we had like the gun and some other stuff in here, I made that much difference. But if I were to be asked again, I probably would have said, Sure, what the hell? You know, I kind of regretted that, I guess. But these people had paid big money to to go along on this trip is the Israel trip especially, and you should be somewhat grateful for that, I suppose, because they're paying for me too, as well as governor. And I think Pat Amedeo was on that portion of it. And Mrs. A was in Israel too, yeah. It's interesting, his staff was the majority of those people were pretty much 100% Governor Tia. There was a few that were kind of looking out for themselves too. I guess there always is around politicians,

James Moore 37:22

just, I'm in the middle of that portion of the book was Betty Modlin, 100% of Tia person. She was brought on by Lee Johnson, but then she stayed for the whole time. Did you find her to be a 100 percenter? Or was she? No, okay, she, because she, she was the assistant to Lee, then the assistant to Gerry, and that worked. But by the end, apparently they had just really bad,

Lon Holbrook 37:51

yeah, relations. And I, if you were to ask me, and I would have thought that Betty was, wasn't there the whole time, but she was, yeah,

James Moore 38:00

she came over. She worked with Lee at the Department of Justice, okay? And then came in. He's, she's,

Lon Holbrook 38:11

and we're talking about Governor Johnson, too,

James Moore 38:13

exactly the When did, when did you come on? So he was already there. Firm. Did you see tension from the beginning when you came on? And

Lon Holbrook 38:26

I would have been there a little bit after five or six months?

James Moore 38:32

Yeah. So you're kind of the summer ish of 79 Yeah,

Lon Holbrook 38:35

yeah, and not too much. I think it was driven home. I mentioned this car situation. We just had to get another car. And Betty heard me talking to somebody about another car, you know, I was negotiating with Ford or somebody I don't remember now. And she told Lee Johnson that I was looking for another car for the governor. And Lee called me into his office and said, Lon, you are not getting a car for the governor. He's gonna have to make do with the one he has. So that answers your question. And I, she was pretty much Lee Johnson. That's what Betty was. And I, I just ignored him, you know, I didn't argue with him or take him on. I just ignored him. And I'm not sure why I did that, that I felt that safe, because at that juncture, I don't know that I was as firmly in position as what's the word in Scotch or some darn thing. Yeah, that that I could have been that brave. You know, I could have been history because I ignored Lee, but here,

James Moore 39:58

because people like Pat. Video and Shirley. Woodrow, Denny, Jim.

Lon Holbrook 40:05

This is my wife, Karen, good to meet you. Jim Moore, to be frank,

Unknown Speaker 40:10

did you bring your sleeping bag? Did not with the amount of stories he has to tell you, maybe that's

James Moore 40:16

okay. I even have extra batteries

Lon Holbrook 40:20

planned ahead see go any other room. I already told him he couldn't look at you naked in the hallway there. He wouldn't watch it, really.

James Moore 40:30

But those, those, those people, in effect, ignored Lee from the beginning because they'd been hired by the governor, or even before Lee had come. On,

Lon Holbrook 40:42

yeah, so. But, you know, even had, I wouldn't say that she was 100% Governor Vic. She was, she was a liberal Democrat, yeah, yeah, so as it will. But I mean, not near the degree that the foundation for the governor. And I think he probably would have, has said this too, would be Denny miles, Gerry Thompson and lon Holbrook. Those three people were, were literally his solid foundation for different reasons. Yeah, Danny being political and a jack of all trades. And same with Gerry, actually both of those and me lot less political, but more personal. You know, that's kind of how that went. But at the same time, there were people like the schedulers, Susan bieberheimer and early on Glenna. Glenna was a scheduler, and kind of kind of decided if they governor would, somebody could come see the governor sometimes, and, you know, that kind of thing. So those people were very supportive, too, but not to the same degree. I guess Susan bibleheimer was just she, she arranged for the trips, the departure from from the Governor, from Glenna. She resented. This is, in my opinion, and I liked on it, frankly, but she had a lot of trouble with the campaign on the re election, yeah,



and, and who ran the schedule and who did what? And she really dug her heels in there, and you saw that? Oh, absolutely,

James Moore 42:38

yeah. Because there's a couple of stories that Denny tells because he was running the campaign right, but he never told the governor about why something had happened, and it was yeah, so. And

Lon Holbrook 42:49

there's some stories he told me and told and I was not to tell the governor if it was germane to some I need to know, and that, yeah, oftentimes did happen, but yeah, that that was going on, okay? And it's Carol, I think G was, was his scheduler for the campaign, worked for Danny. And there was another time, and Danny's probably mentioned that somehow or another, a photographer down in Springfield or sweet home. Did he tell you that story? Yeah, okay, well, the governor's that was, why are we driving all over the place? He was pissed off. Yeah, he was tired too, yeah, so that, yeah, it kind of shook out. But,

James Moore 43:34

um, one last Middle East thing. Did you know that there was the no negotiation pledge that Gerry had to sign before you went, that if the governor was kidnapped, that there would be no negotiations for his release.

Lon Holbrook 43:49

I didn't know anything about that. Okay, guess I didn't need to know. I guess, yeah. Well,

James Moore 43:55

nobody knew except Gerry Denny didn't find out until, well after the governor was out of office,

Lon Holbrook 44:06

well, I'm not surprised the I guess you know that. I guess that could happen in the foreign countries. God knows what they're thinking, or what they're going to even those days. Well,

James Moore 44:23

you were the real fear was Syria and Lebanon are tied at the hip. And Lebanon, that's where the hostages were happening and all sorts. And

Lon Holbrook 44:32

he wanted to go to Lebanon in the worst way. Yeah, that's right. Mother was from, yeah, well,

James Moore 44:39

and I'm under, you're almost there. Yeah,

Lon Holbrook 44:41

right on the board. But he finally, finally consented that he wouldn't go there. But he really wanted to, everybody in the world said, Do not go to Lebanon. Don't go there. But he wanted to, in a sense, I don't know whether it was gullible or. Reckless. But sometimes he and his convictions, and Lebanon was a good, good example. And by God, I'm going to go there, you know, kind of he was a man of principle. There's no question of that. But, but again, his relationship with that. My relationship with him was, Oh, whatever. You know, occasionally I'd screw up, believe it or not, like the time that she had not she the governor had a, like, a state of the state speech, but I think on his on his second term, he's now addressing all the department heads in Wilsonville, and like I told you, one of my many duties was his speech would be on the podium when he'd get up there to talk, And I put the wrong speech up there, and I didn't know it, and he started to start into his speech, and he kind of stopped, and he looked up at me and kind of frowned, and then he just winged it, because he didn't have any speech there. He had the preliminary stuff. It's pretty standard that the time. But then when he got into the meat of his speech, he didn't have it. It was gone, and it was that didn't really relate what he had in front of him to what he had to say. And he was somebody there knew that the speech was the wrong speech, or something Gerry or somebody, I don't remember now, but he was little irritated with me, but he just moved on. And to his credit, he just went ahead and made a great speech and winging it, yeah, and

James Moore 46:55

that, it probably felt good to him, because one of the things when he moved from the legislature to running for office in 74 he really chafed at the fact that he had to write all the speeches in the legislature. He'd get up and talk. And he was known not as a great orator, but he knew what he was talking about. He made coaching arguments, so it probably might have felt like going home

Lon Holbrook 47:17

and that was again, overall, that was kind of his problem. He wanted to drive. That was one of the things. Yeah, he wanted to be in control. He had been all his life, and it was hard to have somebody else drive. It was hard for him. So he kind of taught me to drive, in some sense, like he wanted to drive. That was kind of a compromise. And so. And he had said many times, a typical state cop really is a terrible driver when it comes right down to it, because, because cops are looking around at other people in violations of what's going on, and they're not driving like they should. So I had to get broke of that from the get go, and they are also they're not very good at getting through traffic. They'll pull in a long line of cars, where this other lanes got one or two cars, right? But the hell you doing over here? You know? So I'd learned very early on to get get through the traffic and move not necessarily to be speeding and traffic, but to get through it anyway, as fast you can. So those are all things that played into what I had to do, right? There was a couple of times, like one car almost hit us and I swerved and missed him, but spilled hot coffee on the governor. That was kind of a bummer. He didn't blame you for that, but those things happen, I guess. And the time that you talked about it, Eugene, more to that story that one of the patrol office in Eugene called us on a radio and said, there's a term that state police, I don't think use any more 12 three inside. That means come to this office. No more discussion. Come to this office. And they said that to us, and I, I had them repeat what they just said, this is not right. And they said it again. So we drove to that office. That's how we learned that there was something going on at the at the hotel, at the valley river, or something or other Springfield or some, no, it was Eugene someplace there anyway. But so he just sit there and Bs with the whoever's working there at the office he loved to do that anyway, except he was a little unhappy because he couldn't be on time to where he's supposed to be. The there were times when, again, that he was always BS and with the State Police, when, when he was supposed to be over here doing something else. Yeah, but that there was even times when we were we'd be someplace and we just had downtime. There were just nothing. So he said, Well, let's go over to the state police office over there. So there was, there had been more than once we literally walked into the office unannounced. And it interesting reactions you get when you do that. Here's the governor. One of them was in Cottage Grove into that usually it was station commanders, if it was during the day, which it usually was, so there'd be some lieutenant in there. And they ad libbed, pretty good to their credit. Some people go, here's the boss. But one guy in Cottage Grove, he he had just his wife, had just had a baby, so he offered the governor cigar and stuff. Govern, hey, this is great. Sat around bullshitted for a while. That was that's kind of interesting. Most people, that's a side that probably people don't really know about. But there was another one where, down in that same area, pretty close to Eugene airport, there was a train that hit a car or motor home or something. Governor said, let's go look at that mess. I said. I said, Governor, there's some things there. I always called him governor, that's what I called him. There's probably some things you really don't want to see. Oh, I think it'd be all right. So he, he walked down the track a little ways and saw some blood and gore. He said, I see what you mean. Let's get out of here. You know, he believed me after just seeing some of that, yeah, this isn't the right side of things that one would want to see. He says, you know, yeah, you're right. Let's get out of here. Yeah, so we did in this. The troopers at the at the scene, they're not going to run him off. He wants to be there. He's there, you know. They might say to me, God, you really want him here, you know. But in fact, that happened on that one, but that was kind of interesting. Okay, what

James Moore 52:10

so tell me about pulling people over.

Lon Holbrook 52:15

That was really stupid. I should not have ever done that. And why I did, I'm not sure, mostly because he wanted it done. But

James Moore 52:25

did you have a siren you can put on the car? I

Lon Holbrook 52:27

had a siren. Had lights and siren and stuff. But it so easily if I'm out of the car dealing with this guy. And now what happens if there's a fight going on, you know now the boss is gonna get hurt, just sure as hell, because he's gonna get out and try to help. That's how stupid that was. We only did that maybe twice, and usually I had another trooper with me, but I always regretted doing that. Why did I do that? And there was, there was another time we followed it drunk to his house, and we drove by. And I'm sure that's the governor. Told that story a lot of times too. We drove by. We didn't drive in the driveway, but we turned around and came back. Big St Bernard is up with these paws on the door cell of the car, looking in the car, and the governor commented, yeah, that's man's best friend there. And the trooper got in the driveway and talked, I think he arrested that guy, but that probably wasn't too bad, but we really shouldn't be doing any of that stuff. We followed a car that was speeding one time, and a drunk that was really bad, drunk in and off out of the inner the median area. Bryson Mudd would be flying. And we followed from a distance. Kind of kept track of him, finally got somebody in on the car. And I guess that's that's not quite as bad as stopping them anyway, the most that stuff, I didn't dare tell the superintendent about, because he would have really kicked my tail for it, and rightfully so, too, the one of the times I did, I did get in a lot of trouble, is Senator Mike Thorne was involved in that. And he trying to think of the details. One of the troopers who were helping, helping us in Pendleton told the story about Mike Thorne's daughter and boyfriend were seeing at this drug house that they had staked out so they'd seen her coming and going, and they said, it sure be nice to somebody tell Mike Thorne about that. And she She was a beautiful girl. You. It turned out she she worked for the State Department Head down here eventually, I guess, I don't know, but

James Moore 55:05

the executive department now, is that where she is? Yeah, she's had the Department of Agriculture

Lon Holbrook 55:09

forever. Well, after, after that occurred, I got to thinking, Okay, now how do we tell Mike Thorne about this, obviously, the lieutenant in Pendleton, maybe or maybe not, conjunction with Superintendent and decided not to say anything or get involved. Now, this had all been adjudicated. It's not going to screw the criminal case up, but just politically to be involved in any of that. So I told Mike Thorne, what just preliminarily was to what happened and suggested he go down to the patrol office and talk to the lieutenant there and get the story. And that's what he did. And as a result of that, he he pulled was that Katie? Was that her name? He pulled her out of school, I think the school that she was going to, I mean, it was a major change in their relationship with their daughter and that turned out well and good, but, and I still hadn't say anything to Superintendent. What are you going to say so later on. Now, the State Police is in there. They're talking about budgets, and Mike Thorne was the chair of the Ways and Means or something, and if I've got that right. But anyway, John C Williams was a superintendent at that time, and he was talking about having trouble with Mike Thorne and passing their budget, and Governor called the superintendent and me out into the hallway in that meeting and said to me, in front of John C, did you tell him about what we Did for Mike Thorne? And now it's all shit, because now so lieutenants really pissed because I have didn't tell him, so there's a communication problem there. Well, I couldn't tell him. Well, needless to say, the next day, I was summoned to the to the Public Service building, and I knew I was in trouble when the the major and the captain that that I worked for took me into this superintendent's office, and they sat way off to the sides, so I knew I was in trouble then, and he chewed my ass out and said, If I ever did that again, and well, that was the end of that thing, thankfully. But that could have been pretty nasty. Yeah, I don't know how else I could have handled that, though.

James Moore 57:45

Yeah, yeah, he would affect, have kind of two directions, right? And what do you do?

Lon Holbrook 57:53

And Mike Thorne would, quite frankly, was, was, was, even though he's a Democrat, he was a friend of Governor Diaz. Oh, yeah. And, you know, that's, that's the beauty of those days, that those relationships that he had, even though he was another party, that's a serious relationships and in a trusting and professional way that they, they related, and that that's pretty cool. I don't think there's as much of that goes on now. No,

James Moore 58:22

no, no, yeah, there were. It's fascinating, because when the governor was first in the legislature, he was always in the minority, but the Democrats would appoint Republicans as chairs of committees, and then if they deserved it, well, if

they deserved it. I mean, nobody got anything unless they deserved it, right? Bob Smith, not budget Bob, but Congressman Bob, yep, becomes the Speaker of the House in 69 and that ends in the house, and within about four years, it ends in the Senate as well, where Atiyeh is so that partisanship comes in. But he's, he's of that era. So he becomes governor, and he takes the party identification off of the applications for, for any of the jobs, and he hires, you know, Bob Oliver, for his staff, for his staff, and for, for all this, all the state stuff that he could show. I didn't, I didn't know that. Yeah, he took it. He took it off of there. Bob Oliver is a Democrat. Pat Eva is a Democrat. He just, he hired who he wanted, because he saw them as competent and those kinds of things. So it's just, it's just fascinating. Then Goldschmidt comes in, and it's, you know, he does the dry rot thing, but it's, just straight,

Lon Holbrook 59:41

yeah, there's more rancor and anger and stuff going on there. I

James Moore 59:45

just found a thing about Goldschmidt when he was the Secretary of Transportation back in DC. He's called before the Senate because Goldschmidt has made it clear he's not going to release department of transportation money to people who oppose President Carter and are demo. Kratts, who are like Jane Byrne, the mayor of Chicago. He said Chicago's not going to get any money because she doesn't support him. So he was doing that before, and then brought it with him, and it just kind of stayed so just just fascinating to look at all this. So switch gears. Tell me about the rajanishis. What was different about your life, what was the same about your life as that whole thing unfurled?

Lon Holbrook 1:00:28

First of all, it was a big concern of the governor's staff, and I don't know what percentage, but I took a lot of those calls from the old residents of Antelope. And those residents there, they didn't have anybody to talk to. They were desperately looking for help. We're scared. We're scared for our lives. We're scared for we're afraid of losing our house. We're afraid of everything. What can we do? Can you help us? And that's the kind of the discussions that, and what do I tell them? You know, we're we're trying to do the best we can. The governor is and his staff, but I can't give you anything more than that at this time. And that was very awkward. So real down here, after talking to some of those people, you got, God, sure wish I could help him somehow. You know, that was going on for about, well, probably really heated up for a couple of months there maybe longer the

James Moore 1:01:41

there's kind of a big 1982 was a really bad year, and then it then came on again in 84 and 85

Lon Holbrook 1:01:52

I recall one of the I don't think legally, you could do that, but they had actually laid war plans with the National Guard, and they were actually setting up shop at chantico. I think it was, and I think there's some legal problems there, but they kind of worked around that. But, you know, I don't know where they're going to run tanks in there, just what would happen. But there was some of that actual preliminary staging going on in shanco by the National Guard and God knows who else. And that was in addition to the state police that there at the end, there were like 2020, detectives or something on in Rajneesh, when it when it came apart. They were a little concerned about that. And then there was that time he was a captain. I believe maybe he was a major who I didn't get along with at all. I had a lot of problems with him later, but he he was the kind of the commander that area, and there was that kind of made it more interesting. Pardon me, pancreas, no Moines, okay, yep, and he was the same one that he was eligible to retire, and he was the one that was involved in a contractor building offices, and he accepted somehow or another, some motor home, and some other things, all of which were felonies. And so he was gone, and he was out of my life. That was a good shot too, but that's nothing to do with the governor, but just kind of a side note. The there's probably a ton of things as time wears on that I've forgotten or can't remember. One one of their crazy things, it was almost funny is one time Denny and the Governor and I were motoring out Eastern Oregon. And usually it's not near as pressing out there. There's not as many events you have to go to when you're there. But we were motoring down the road, and there's a patrol car ways behind us, not within sight, though, but there's a coyote running around right along the road there. And Governor said, I bet you can't get him. So I stopped and I shot at him, and I remember Denny plugging his ears in the car, because there's a lot of, could be a lot of noise in that car. And I said, in all seriousness, I missed him, and I had this pistol. You're not going to hit that guy with a pistol, you know, but Denny and the governor were booing and hissing at me when I said that we went on down the road. But that was, that was kind of a I would have got in trouble for that if anybody know too, but

I'm not hurting anybody you know, but it's against the law to discharge a weapon from the public highway, right? So you really should. It out not to do that, but, and actually, I took him squirrel hunting one time, say, hunting, squirrel shooting those little sage rats. They get an alfalfa especially, and they just create all kinds of hell. And those, those ranchers when I'm all dead. So I knew some people there in Condon. So after the parade, we loaded into a pickup, the three of us, this rancher and in the Governor and I, we went out to this, this ranch and it was abandoned, but there were a lot of squirrels there, and the governor plinked away at the squirrels. That's not something you'd tell the news people either, right? That'd be terrible. He's killing those squirrels, right?

James Moore 1:05:46

They could be in the the musket competition in Southern Oregon, but not shooting squirrels. Yeah,

Lon Holbrook 1:05:52

and, and I always thought twice, we went to Merlin, I think they had a deal there, and they were shooting mortars, and they put bowling balls in mortars. And we'd stand out there and watch that, well, the finger holes and the thumb hole in the bowling ball, that would whistle, yeah, when it's flying through the air and it shoot it out of this mortar. And you and I'd watch real seriously, because I want to know where it was coming down absolutely. And I thought that was kind of interesting. He had a collection of those guns, those old antique guns, and he had, I don't know how many, but they're in this walk in closet that he had. And he had little dowels, and so they wouldn't bang together, yeah. And those are all arranged. And he'd like to tinker with them and take them apart and fix them and take the rust off of them, that kind of stuff, yeah. If he had time, he'd like to do that, yeah. And of course, you got built in security there. That's what the hell you can keep yours. It's pretty valuable all those rifles. Yeah, they love those kids and grandkids. Got all that stuff. But

James Moore 1:07:11

he said that was part of his therapy, yeah, cleaning guns. A little gun oil under his fingers, he felt better. And

Lon Holbrook 1:07:17

he always was interested in what kind of gun I had, because early on his administration, everything was different. How should I say it? We didn't have there weren't cell phones. You couldn't talk on it from the car. Yeah, on the towards enemies administration. There was a shared radio net that we had in the car, other anybody else that was on that same system could listen. It was shared like a party line on the phone, and there was some communication over that. It would have to be pretty limited, and I don't think they even call. They weren't supposed to call him Governor either. When they talked to him on that phone. Not many people did, Gerry and Danny, probably, but the and the guns were different too. I had a revolver. It wasn't till towards a maybe at the bitter end, that I had anything but a revolver. That's just what we had, yeah? And a big heavy thing, yeah? But eventually the courts went to Whole different weapons, but there wouldn't be any really good way of communicating with the governor. It would have to be drastically different now, with the cell phones and computers and all that didn't have that stuff in those days, I

James Moore 1:08:40

just was reading, because that's also part of this how the governor's office worked. There were codes so the call on the radio, and if it was like code red, that mean, immediately get to a phone and call, and if it's code yellow, next time you stop call you, that kind of thing. So you're, well,

Lon Holbrook 1:08:58

similar to that. But of course, that was my responsibility. I was on the receiving end of that, and the governor, and I had all kinds of signals. And I remember vividly one time he was during, I think it was during the campaign, he was giving a speech in Portland, and Gerry, think, yeah, it was Gerry. She wanted to. She had to talk to him now. So now she tells me this. So now I'm, I think I had pagers then, and she paged me. Told me that she had to talk to him when I called her and I say he's giving a speech, he's right in the middle of it, she said, now, so now I'm standing in front of him in the audience, and I'm giving the signal you need to put your speech down and get over here, get on the phone. And he looks at me like if. It, and I gave him the signal again, he said, so he made excuses. Left the podium in the middle of his speech. It's pretty awkward. And then he went over and talked to Gerry. And he did. He questioned me the first signal, but then he because that's the relationship we had, and he said, That's first time that's ever happened to me. I think he said I had to quit the middle of the speech, but then he went, but he handled it really well. He went back up, back into his speech, and think he told a little story to go along with that as to what happened. And audience was appreciative of

that. They laughed and stuff and quite often, I think I told you my reaction, or what I would tell him when he was having a bad day, but quite often he he'd asked me how the how the audience, how it went out from the audience, because I could kind of feel the audience and the undertones, what was going on. And again, it's usually just him and I there, yeah, so if he didn't handle it, I handle it. You know, that was the end of that.

Occasionally, Denny or somebody else would be along and all that part, it would be a lot easier if that was the case, but usually it was my responsibility to get him the cigarettes or to tell him he had a crummy speech or whatever the hell it was. So that was just the way that communication was in those days. Yeah, I got to thinking how radically different that would be now. In fact, Karen and I were talking. We just got back from Ben, we were watching our granddaughter in a tournament over there, and got a new trailer and we just landed back in here yesterday evening, and it was I wanted to go to a concert that my granddaughter was in this afternoon, and it's a good time to talk to you, too. So it all worked out pretty good. We just got here, and I'm at 70 years of age, we better get out and do some things now, because we don't have too many more years left to do that exactly, exactly. But that's the conversation we had had. We were coming back. God, how things have changed from communication wise, how you you can ask your phone where to go, or where something is, and that's not I had none of those aids when I was trying to keep that schedule. I had to know and judge how long it took me to get from point A to point B, right and they wouldn't allow me to build in much cheat time there. Yeah, I just had to just flat when, when Susan or Glenna before that, when they'd come up with a schedule, they'd hand it, they'd give it to me and say, Okay, now, what do you think? Can you keep this schedule? And also, I had to have transportation on the ground to meet the planes right?

Sometimes it'd be like three different planes or three different moves, and especially during the campaign, so I had to have, have to have state police there to grab us, to get us to another spot. And so I kind of got the final approval on the schedule, because I was the one that had to keep it. And I remember vividly the last day of campaigning, which was not the election day, is it is the day before whichever, but the last campaign day. We were supposed to fly into LeGrand. We couldn't get in. There's too much snow and stuff, so we ended up in Pendleton, and I had put a hurried call in. I don't know how I even did that from the plane, but somehow or another, I got maybe before we no we had to divert from LeGrand. Anyway, we're going into Pendleton, and I told him to have a car there at the airport for us, the state police car. So I had some detectives. I ended up with some detectives. Car with didn't even have studs on it, and that was the transportation to go back to the grand that night. So I've got street tires going over the cabbage Hill and all of that into LeGrand, and we got there some of the crazy stuff. So we crawled in and got like, three hours, four hours sleep, and the governor is sitting in the lobby, and there's another state police guy that was going to come pick us up and the reason, a lot of the reasons why we had state police, if it wasn't me, it was another state cop driving, because we would have control over what was going on, right? If you had some volunteer do that, right, some things happen, right?

Anyway, the ride shows up. You. And governor was just exhausted, and he looked at me, and he said, long. He said, I don't know if I can get out. And I said, Governor, you've made it this far. You're getting up. We're going clear to the bitter end. And he kind of chuckled again. And he I, he just kind of tongue in cheek, I don't know if I can get up, you know. But he chuckled, got up, got the car, and we put the day in to his credit. And as beat as I was, he had to be more tired, because there's more pressure on him than there was on me. Yeah, all these speeches and all these people, and I just had to worry about if he was okay, you know, and the transportation, but that that was kind of how, just the look on his face, I don't know if I make it through the day, yeah, but I put it in perspective again, just like the fornicating and feed him dog food. You know that just that's the commoners approach to this is what we got to do, yep. So he appreciated that he always did yeah,

James Moore 1:16:03

in January, 1985 so it's his last time when he's going to speak to the combined legislature, because it's the last session He'll be out in 87 the night before that, he's giving a speech, and he gets deathly ill, goes to the hospital. They don't know what it is. They pump him full of fluids. He gets up, he's able to give a speech the next day to the combined legislature. Denny, Gerry, to a certain extent, Dolores think that it's an attack by the Rajneeshees, because this is we're just beginning to find out about the possibility of the Rodney, she's poisoning food and stuff like that.

Lon Holbrook 1:16:46

Yeah, they were putting stuff in the salads. Yeah, yeah.

James Moore 1:16:50

Did you respond differently after that? Or

Lon Holbrook 1:16:56

did you You mean, when you got sick, we take him to the hospital? Yeah,

James Moore 1:16:59

now, did you look at it as

Lon Holbrook 1:17:04

No, I didn't. I didn't connect the dots up to that possibly Rajneesh stuff. No, I just, I just got him to the hospital and made sure there's somebody there had spent the night with him make sure there was, you know, Jupiter, some troopers had to hang around there, yeah, but there was nothing. I never connected up rosne East, potential problems with that. I don't know did. I can't remember if we did determine what was wrong with him. No, they never

James Moore 1:17:39

did. But two, two interesting things off of it. I talked to Mike Sullivan, who was the DA with the rajneeshees, basically. And he definitely was poisoned, yeah, yeah. And when I told him that story, he said, wow, that's exactly what they did to me. Although he was in the hospital for days,

Lon Holbrook 1:18:00

where would they have got to? Where were they got to his food? Boys?

James Moore 1:18:04

Well, it's been described that the thing the night before, it was like a dinner, and then he was going to give a speech, and he got up to give a speech, and he just got white and felt awful the worse he's ever felt. And not you guys could

Lon Holbrook 1:18:18

have been so, no, I didn't know that.

James Moore 1:18:23

The second part of it is Barbara Roberts has been sworn in as the new Secretary of State just a few days earlier, and so she's at home because, you know, it's Sunday night. Why would you not be home? Gerry called her and said, You need to know that we took the governor to the hospital tonight, and Barbara Roberts doesn't remember what came after that, because, as she said, I basically fell on the floor because she didn't. When you become Secretary of State, you don't think, Oh, I'm the successor to the governor. I interviewed Barbara Roberts, and she didn't. I hadn't put this together yet, but she was telling that. But the day I interviewed her was like two days after Kate Brown had become governor, when all of a sudden we were really conscious of, that's what, what's happens with the Secretary of State?

Lon Holbrook 1:19:14

So, yeah, yeah, that chain of command all that, yeah, the No, I didn't. I was totally unaware of anything like that. Okay, the involvement that he had directly with the Raj nations, there were two occasions that I recall that actually they came to the Capitol building right, and I maybe should have done geared up more for security than I did. I would have, I think I had four troopers in the in the room with Governor, and I, you know, how much battling can you do in a room like that? But I didn't frisk those guys. I. She, she, when I say guys, she was probably the worst of the lot. I didn't pad any of them down or do any of that stuff. And I don't know if the governor would allow that, but I did have a lot of bodies there just in case. But who knows, you know, but they, they didn't show any hostilities at those times. Now, we were at some events where there'd be red shirts that show up. So some of those events, hell they could. And for that matter, they could have been non red clothes at some event we wouldn't know about either, right? Who knows? You know, it could have been plants. I know Gerry's husband at the time, Al Thompson, his I think it's his mother threw in a whole bunch of money and ex wife. Was that what it was? Yeah, yeah. She went aboard with the Rajneeshees. Yeah. I know you know more, a lot, lot more about some of this stuff than I do putting together.

James Moore 1:21:06

I think that that's going to be the thing about this book that jumps out at people, because the state doesn't realize that the governor was doing a lot of stuff because

Lon Holbrook 1:21:15  
he didn't want it. Didn't want to know, no, it's not the waves that

James Moore 1:21:18  
the way was wired and, you know, you were talking about the calls from people in Antelope, you know, he was really torn. You know, the Rajneeshees have as many rights as you have right, and that's the right to have a gun, it's the right for freedom of religion, it's the right for all this stuff.

Lon Holbrook 1:21:39  
And they formed their own police department. They've got the mayor and all that stuff. Yeah,

James Moore 1:21:44  
yeah. So he was, he was torn,

Lon Holbrook 1:21:47  
just as I was, yeah, probably more. So, yeah, yep, exactly. But at the same time, he knew there was some bad stuff going on there, yeah, yeah. So that was Al's ex wife that was there,

James Moore 1:22:03  
yeah, and apparently she's still in bubble. Women, yeah,

Lon Holbrook 1:22:11  
like say this, the guru jumps aboard the plane and gets the hell out of there, and Sheila goes her way, and everything breaks up. Now all these people that have thrown in their life savings, yes. Cause, you know, where are they at? You know? Well,

James Moore 1:22:25  
it turns out that the in Australia and then in Europe, because the rajneeshee, the Bhagwan, changed his name to Osho, yeah. And so there are still Osho coffee places and Osho centers all over the place, and apparently Al's ex wife is still involved in one in Portland,

Lon Holbrook 1:22:48  
in Portland. Yeah,

James Moore 1:22:51  
so, but it's just, it's just like a group of people, a little small group of people who come together and meditate and stuff like that,

Lon Holbrook 1:22:56  
yeah, so there's still little niches of those everywhere. Yeah, yeah. I'll be

James Moore 1:23:02  
damned Yeah. But it just doesn't have the same hierarchy, and it, crucially, doesn't have Sheila Sure, who was trying to make it into something.

Lon Holbrook 1:23:11  
Do they have free sex and all that other stuff? I

James Moore 1:23:14  
don't know. I don't know. To go to Australia and find out. Yeah,



Lon Holbrook 1:23:18

right, yeah. Now, did you ever go to Rajneesh perum? Have you ever been there?

James Moore 1:23:25

No, I haven't been Antelope, but I haven't gone out to the

Lon Holbrook 1:23:31

interesting some of the stuff there, and some of the stories about that too, was the, you know folklore, and just like that poisoning thought, you know that may or may not have happened. Who knows? We know some people did, in fact, get poisons all that. In fact, they've had some convictions on that, if I remember, right. But the one story that we heard was armored, one of the armored Mercedes that that he take a joy ride in the guru hit a cement truck and came out better than the cement truck did in the crash the other year that started. Yeah, we got that from the State Police, yeah. And he, to the people's credit, around there, they knew he was driving these Mercedes around, and nobody tried to kill him, to our knowledge. Yeah, yeah. I'm really surprised, yeah.

James Moore 1:24:26

Mike Sullivan tells the story because he mad dresses, where the bog one would get in his car every day and drive and then turn around there. And so there were a bunch of hecklers there where he was going to turn around and to state trooper. I had the name somewhere, but whoever the state trooper was pushed somebody out of the way just because there was a car coming through. Yeah, and so the everybody's up in arms. They all end up in Mike Sullivan's office. He basically says everybody shut up

Lon Holbrook 1:24:58

and they were discusses. Troopers helping the bog one kind of thing

James Moore 1:25:02

this because the bog one thought. People thought that this trooper was pushing them out of the way. The townspeople thought that the trooper was helping the bog one, yeah, and they just did just

Lon Holbrook 1:25:13

the hysteria was just big time at that time. Some of it was rightfully so, too. Kind of you think about it, they're loading all these homeless and on busses and taking them over there. And, yeah, what a mess. Yeah. And those are just what we know about all this stuff, yeah. And never did find the guns either. They had all these guns. Never did find those. Yeah, don't know what the hell happened to them. Yeah, they drug the pond there, and they prowled around in the hills. Never found them. They had all these automatic weapons and all this stuff. Yeah, don't know what the hell happened there. Yeah, I looked at I drove out there and looked at those structures long after the fact. And it's incredible. Some of that stuff, and all these, these waves of manufactured homes, they've moved in there, oh, yeah, mostly from someplace Albany or someplace down there that somebody made a lot of money on that deal. Well

James Moore 1:26:15

said Money Shelton, who sold all the cars to him,

Lon Holbrook 1:26:19

the Mercedes, the Rolls

James Moore 1:26:21

Royces, or, yeah, okay, the Rolls Royces. But then he Bonnie Chilton would run out. And so the Bob wanted by Rolls Royces from Texas and places and have them driven out, right? It's just wild. Gerry tells about in all of this, but pretty early on, and he's like, got tenser. She kept getting these phone calls from business people around the state, saying, Don't crack down on them. We're in a huge recession, and these are our only good customers. So that kind of political

Lon Holbrook 1:26:56

besides coming Never mind the rights that people have anyway, yeah,

James Moore 1:26:59

yeah. Just, it's just a wild thing. So I think that that chapter is going to be the one that that's going to really catch people's attention.

Lon Holbrook 1:27:07

It's long enough to go where the average person on the street doesn't know what you're talking about. No. Talk about Roger nice Brewer.

James Moore 1:27:15

In our archives, we have students who go through and catalog things and stuff, and none of them have ever heard of the racists, even if they're from out in that part of the world, they did. They've never heard of them. And then they go through and their eyes hit big. I believe it absolutely we've got, among other things, state police would fly airplanes over to take pictures and see what was going on. So we've got all those snapshots. And there was, there was an attempt outside of Antelope to build what they called the man camp, to have taken the Antelope, which had whatever 80 people were in it. It would have had like 800 people in this man camp. And so they were doing things you can still look at Google Earth and look down and see where the man camp was supposed to be, and see the shapes who was in this camp. This is where they were gonna the it was gonna be for people who were true believers. But it seemed like it never came through. But it seemed like, as they continued to bring the homeless in, that they would have had put more of them there as well. Okay, but they were also having a problem, because Rajesh Puran was being challenged. Dave from Meyer said, You're not really a city. Yeah. So they were beginning to move stuff over to Antelope, because Antelope was a city, and they eventually took over the city council and the school board, and that's eventually because of Dave Coronavirus ruling the Feds wouldn't let them get the database the lads, yeah, and so they said, okay, great, so we're now running Antelope, so we'll get it through

Lon Holbrook 1:28:58

there. Yeah, because they had that Antelope police force there, yeah, and all that, yeah, which scared the hell out of the poor old people that were still here, yeah, yeah, yeah, which were calling me and anybody else that listened to them? Yeah, yeah.

James Moore 1:29:12

Vern Duncan spent a lot of time there because the school district, who runs it, and the the local said, well, we don't want our kids to go to a Raj Nishi school. So the rajneeshees, who run the school board, have got to pay for our kids to be bused to wherever they would have gone the next school district over which, you know, it's 4050, miles away, and so Vern is in the middle of all that stuff. And just, it's just wild.

Lon Holbrook 1:29:43

Well, I thought, still, I thought, thought it was incredible that the war camp they were setting up in shanico to try to do something. And, yeah, and they worried about the 20 some odd state cops that were inside that thing when it broke loose, too. You don't know what would happen to them. Yeah, yeah, because we're talking a lot of people, you know, yeah, it's a lot of people, and 20 state cops with the few pop guns they got in their pockets aren't going to be able to do much, you know, they're going to be history if they're not careful. Yeah. Well, I didn't have a lot to do with that, other than just the calls and the meetings that I would listen to and all of that.

James Moore 1:30:27

Now, why would you get the calls? Would they just come into the governor's office and they just hand them

Lon Holbrook 1:30:32

to you? Yeah, somebody's got to listen to them. Yeah, Gerry would get calls, I'm sure, and Denny, but more calls than I got. But a lot of times somebody has to do it, yeah, have Holbrook do it. That's kind of the way it was. There was there was another time there was a demonstration, and Lloyd, I think it's Lloyd Barbet, if I got it right, he had to think about watching. And Albany and he and the crew were up there demonstrating one day at the governor's office, and they had an over modulated Geiger counter. And he set that on his on the receptionist desk. They were just trying to make get attention, is what they're trying to do. And I put up that too. I let it go too long. I shouldn't have. I had some additional people on the other side of the door, behind the receptionist. They had to get through them to get to the governor. And

of course, I was there. But the receptionist finally called, and she said, I'm out here by myself. Do you suppose you could come out here and help me so and she was right, leaving her as bait out there. So I went out there, stood by the desk, and I made him turn that Geiger counter off, just making all that racket, I think I turned it off.

I took it away from and then I looked over my shoulder, and it looked to me like a guy was trying to go through the door, and it has a lock on it, electronic lock that I had installed for the receptionist would have to let you through that door. But I thought he was trying to get into where the governor was. So that was the end of that. While he was, I guess, trying to chain himself to the door handles. What he was doing, but I didn't realize that. But now channel six is there filming right there, and I grabbed this guy, and I grabbed him by the head and neck and kind of hip through him away from the door, and he was going along with program. But when you twist somebody's neck, the body usually follows along, if not their spine is severed. Anyway, he hit against the like parallel of the ground. He hit against kind of a one of these closet doors that don't have handles on them and push them and they pop open. He hit against that. It really sounded bad. Crash, and he just kind of slithered down up wall. He didn't ask for that. He just wanted to get arrested. He didn't want to throw it against the wall. And I thought I was going to get in trouble for that too, because, champ, I was the lead story on Channel Six news, because they were right there, boom. And nobody ever said a word to me. I never heard any more about that.

And I think that usually the DA in those situations, they just dismiss the charges after a while. But I told them, then I said, Okay, guys, if those of you want to be arrested, hang around and I'll accommodate you. The rest of you, you have to leave. That's the way it is. And I think five or six of them stuck around and they got hauled away, and that was the end of that. But I thought I was going to be in trouble for throwing that guy against the wall. Yeah, and the governor's inside the house or inside his office, and he hit the wall so hard he could hear that out there, that crash and that that was one of the things that sometimes he'd get a little irritated, because he he'd like to be in control. But when we're doing things and not telling about it, he kind of say, you know, I am the governor here. I get to know these things, you know. And it was in time that Gerry probably told the story Eddie's house, there were some more demonstrators there, and I don't remember what their cause was. And eventually, I think Gerry was out, was there actually with the state cops and whoever else we had there as well as I was, and they ended up arresting these people, which is all they one day wanted to do, was get arrested anyway. But the governor called out and said, When are you going to tell me what's going on here? Because he was in the house, and I recall that it's kind of. We had to remind ourselves telling what's going on. He is the governor. Yeah,

James Moore 1:35:05

he didn't like surprises. Surprises. Did he ever drive himself? I'm thinking specifically when Tom McCall died, Audrey called the governor, and he says that he got there as soon as he could.

Lon Holbrook 1:35:24

Yes, occasionally he did, and that's the judgment call that I would have to make. You have to let him have some of his own privacy and his own life, especially knowing that he likes. He wanted to drive once in a while and stuff. So he would, I'd hear about it later. He'd go out like he got a Christmas tree one year and tied it on top of the Lincoln, or whatever car he had, and came back and put the tree up. And I didn't know about that. It wasn't scheduled. The guards told me about it. Think they told me as he was driving away. But again, we don't have a lot of security around him. You got to make that judgment call, yeah, but there were times there for one year, so I was getting beat down so bad that I was having trouble staying awake. Yeah, so there were two or three different times when I just couldn't drive anymore. And I'd ask, usually, we're coming home from a long day, and I'd say to the governor, do you think you can drive? I've had it so he drove two or three different times like that, and he actually enjoyed it. I think, Oh, good. I get the drive for a change, you know? Yeah, and I couldn't, I was done for and eventually I got another full time person to help me. And again, they said, Well, he's just going to stay over in headquarter. You're gonna call him once in a while. Well, there were times like Mrs. Attia she, I remember one time she had to go to Sandy to make a speech coming back late at night. You don't want to send her up there by herself. So we had, we had a state police radio put in her Mercedes, an older Mercedes for those occasions. She'd like to take that car up there. And so I'd have, usually, Daryl, this guy that helped me quite a bit, he would drive her up to that event. And rightfully so, you know, she shouldn't go up there by herself. It's either that or governor staff takes her up there, you know? But again, I, I really felt kind of bad for, not unlike my wife, she was, like, kind of almost divorced. She didn't have it, yeah, didn't have a husband, yeah, really,

James Moore 1:37:54

just when, when you drove them home after his turn was over. She was just so excited to get home.

Lon Holbrook 1:38:07

She was, yeah, well, he always talked about that was, that was a big, big issue for him to watch us drive away from his house, yeah, when we dropped him off. Yeah, that really hit home. He talked about that all the time, yeah. Just realized I'm not the governor anymore, right? There goes my car. There goes my state cop, right? So honestly, could

James Moore 1:38:32

have the license plate he wanted. X, Gov,

Lon Holbrook 1:38:35

yeah, yeah. And there wasn't anybody telling me he couldn't have exactly, mainly me. Okay, what other track you want me to go down? Um,

James Moore 1:38:47

I think you've covered a lot of tracks.

Lon Holbrook 1:38:53

There were things that you know like that, fornicate him and feed him dog food. That wasn't anything that anybody knew about. You know that just right, that was between him and I, yeah, exactly.

James Moore 1:39:06

Um, did you ever see him really angry?

Lon Holbrook 1:39:13

Yeah, he was angry that time that you talked about, when we backtracked that picture there, he was angry. Then there were a couple of different times. I don't remember what the causes were, but him showing anger is not like maybe me showing anger. You know, you just if you didn't really know him, he might not even know he was angry. But occasionally he would be put off. I think there was one time he was kind of angry with Lee too, probably more than once. But again. When you're talking about Lee, I didn't really know him real well, the governor that is with Lee that I don't know what that slop over was, but it was like, what a couple years at the most year? Yeah,

James Moore 1:40:13

it was, well, 78 he's hired in December, and he's out in September of 81 so it's basically the first two legislative sessions, and they were, there was an active move to get rid of him. I haven't peg it down, but it's like late 80 early 81 Lee Johnson, for instance, was up to head the BPA for and that didn't work, and announced in the summer that he was, he was leaving all through negotiations, basically through Jack Faust was his good friend, and the governor said, can it get me to

Lon Holbrook 1:40:51

so they were, he was kind of the intermittent. He was in between in that situation, yeah,

James Moore 1:40:59

yeah. It's fascinating because the governor, I mean, he hired people who he thought were good and competent, but his first choice to be Chief of Staff, which not a good one, well, but his he he wanted either Lynn Newbery or Gerry. Yeah, he told me, in 2014 twice, that it was Gerry. He told that he did a thing with the Oregon Historical Society in the early 90s. He told them it was Lynn Newbery, but whatever it was, those were his first two choices, and Lee wasn't even on the list. And so it's not that's a that's a total mystery as to how Lee bubbled up there. Denny has hypotheses, but there's no verification of them, so I'm not going to use them, but, um,

Lon Holbrook 1:41:42

Danny may be the smartest person I've ever known. I'd say that right off the top. And I learned a lot from Denny, especially in the political world and all of that kind of stuff. But practically, too, he pretty damn smart,

James Moore 1:42:01

and he was learning a lot then too. And he was a, he was a young guy who, as he freely admits, was probably in over his head when he started, and he began to put things together. And, you know, work, how do you how do you work with that big of a staff? Really did all sorts of other just really, not

Lon Holbrook 1:42:23

unlike me, actually, I probably was in over my head when I started doing that stuff. I didn't know anything about politics or any of that stuff, you know. And it's a lot of it's just on the fly, yeah, and lot of it with was with Denny's help too. He Denny was really pushed hard to get a state cop to help the governor, a full time regular person. He probably more than anyone, by far, said you got to have somebody that's part of our team doing this. This is crazy, and the governor fought him a long time on that and didn't help any with the first state cop that he had kind of had a problem that really kind of hurt it too, yeah, but, but just for the common sense of just getting from point A to point B is what you have to do. He needed somebody that not a stranger, somebody's part of the team, right? No, that's what Denny pushed for. Pushed really hard, yeah. And finally, the government gave in. But there's no question of the loyalty of Denny and Gerry.

You know, 100 and you know, you hear people say 110% but how do you how do you do more than 100% but those two very much so we're unequivocally Head and Shoulders loyal to the governor. Yeah, no question about it. And there they were, both really fun to be around all the time. I remember there was, there was times when we had, they even broke out a bottle of brandy or something at the sign he died one of the sessions. I don't remember all of what was going on, but they everybody had a drink or something. I don't think the Governor did, but Gerry and Denny did. I don't think I ever saw the governor drink anything besides some Psaki. Is that I pronounce it just because that's part of the ceremony or part of the deal. I think that's the only time I ever saw him drink anything, yeah, the only advice he had was at smoking nearly for quite a while there, yeah, that was it, yeah, and he was, he was as exactly the way that you would look at him and think. He was he? That was him. There was nothing false about him. He's as solid and as honest as could have been. Yeah, when he died, irony of it was I was my part time job as a photo radar band, even though I'm 70 years old. But it pays good. It's just a part time job. I can if I don't want to work for six months, I can tell them that, and that's a great job.

But I hadn't been working that particular night, and Suzanne called me. She said, the governor's in the hospital. He's not very good. He said, We're she said, we're up here at St Vincent's. So I just parked the van and got my car and drove over there. I was pretty close in Beaverton, and he was, kind of, he was in a comas, sort of, speak, but he could, kind of, he reacted a little bit when you talked to him, and I did. I squeezed his hand, and he reacted so that that was good for me and his brother and Dolores his brother's wife. Those three were in the room, and then we came out. I came out of that room after I was just in there for a little while. And and Mrs. A recognized and knew me too when I went in, though, and she was been kind of slipping too at that time, yeah, but she knew me hook, line and sinker. But I walked out of there, and Tom and Suzanne, who now have to make decisions. They asked me, What do you think? And I said, Let's go in the room in here. And I said, quite frankly, he would not want to be like he is right now. You got to let him go. He's lost control, and he does not want to be in this situation. And Suzanne was the one that was kind of digging her heels in. And she said, Yep, we agree, you're right. So then they told the doctors, right after that, that I was kind of, I kind of pushed them over the edge, I think, and they respected that. So they told the doctors, just, let's unplug him and let's go from there. I don't think he lived very long after that, matter of a couple hours or whatever it was, but that was pretty hard time too, really.

But those memories of him and any staff, and not just Denny and Gerry, there's some other really great people and relationships that I had with those people, especially Susan beebelheimer, that I worked very closely with. You know that that was pretty special, really was, and the dedication of those people, how hard they worked, pretty cool, really, yeah, and some of the stuff that would go on, the they'd start talking about, and occasionally there were things that affected the state police, and I couldn't go across the street and tell the state police, yeah, that that's going to stay here, and that's the way it is. Yeah, and a lot of, I don't think anybody in the state police realized that that kind of stuff goes on. No, they're just being they're being placed. Yeah, I'm sure they didn't realize that. There were times they were talking about the state police. I'm sitting here too, and hell, I can't tell them. I can't tell me, but really, I just move on. But you know that confidence so that that's pretty important. If anybody had a sense that I'd run across the street and tell a story what I just heard, that that's going to be trouble. Oh yeah. But nobody ever questioned that, because I didn't, I

wouldn't even consider it. But there were times when, sure, be nice to tell the state police that this was coming down the pipe out this kind of hit you where it hurts, right? But you couldn't do it the and there a lot of times I'd walk into a room, and I think I mentioned this before, but nobody ever tried to boot me out of there or anything, but the governor always would look around, and not always, but usually wonder, Why is he here? Now you can just see his face, but as long as I'm not giving him any signals, he just move on, you know? Well, whatever you. He was, he was, he was, like a second father to me. Really gets right down to it, yeah, I think about we talked about the communication, or the lack of how easy it is now to ask your phone where something is, or how to spell something, or we didn't have any of those things in God, that had been a lot nicer. But at the same time, there would have been people bugging the governor all the time if you had that stuff. And there were times he'd sit over there in the seat and write his speech on the way to wherever we were going. He'd put the speech together over there, yeah, and I, I marveled at that. How in the hell can you do that? You know, but he did.

James Moore 1:50:48

I get learned skill from those campaigns. I get car

Lon Holbrook 1:50:51

sick trying to do that sometimes, that he would do, it occurred to me, you know, I'm just like other people. Is the hard line into our house.

James Moore 1:51:04

You said, when you call, I called you on the hard line.

Lon Holbrook 1:51:09

And usually I don't want to answer that. It's usually some salesman want me to buy something. Yeah, but I was going to hit on there was something else too that him

James Moore 1:51:22

working in the car, thinking about speeches. Yeah,

Lon Holbrook 1:51:35

hell to get old and forget. I think I forgot stuff even when I wasn't old, though. Oh, there was one time towards the end of his administration where they were roasting the governor, and I know it was towards the end because of the superintendent at the time he, whoever was putting it on wanted me to be one of the roasters. So now Dave Frohnmayer, Norman Paulus, couple other big wigs and Lon Holbrook were going to be the roasters. Well, who do you think that they were looking forward to doing the roasting the most, it was me, because I had inside stories, right? And I did, really didn't say that many Jim sellers, a speech writer helped me a little bit, but mostly I just told some stories, but they really thought that was funny. But the superintendent of the State Police was nervous as hell about that by his state cop over there roasting the governor. It was all in good taste the and I didn't say or do anything that would make him mad. I knew better than that. One of the stories I told was the old joke about the bureaucrat shows up at this, this ranch or farm, whatever it was, and says that I want to, I I have this card, and I'm an important person, and I'm going to go over here and I'm going to fish or do some damn thing however you want to tell you the story. And I can do it because I'm a bureaucrat. Here's my card. And I kind of molded that into the governor doing that. And pretty soon the bull is chasing him, and, and he yells out, help me. Help me. And the rancher said, Show him your card. And that's the way that story goes.

You've heard variations of that several times, I'm sure, but they like that story because I plugged the governor in this as a bureaucrat, right? That was kind of fun. And some similar stories too, but the he didn't usually, he didn't get very mad when you or get upset that. He showed it a lot. But occasionally he would, but and usually Part of my role was if there's somebody creating a problem, if there won't let go of him, or, you know, they're close to him, and he can't separate from him. My role was to take care of that, yeah, and I would occasionally step on somebody's instep or do something to distract them from him to me, and he could then get away. And one of my other major roles was to tell him that he has to, it's time to move. We have to leave right because he can't do that. I mean, they get upset now I'm shouldering that blame because I'm now taking him away from their important thing, whatever it is, and they're not happy about. About that. So they're they, in a sense, kind of get unhappy with me, and that's okay, as long as it isn't the governor. So that

was a role that I would have to take. Yeah, and he, he knew that he had to move when I'm telling him to move, probably knew before that. I'm not telling him, but I'm suggesting that he needs to move. And he, he also understood that just something you have to do, yeah, and people would get irritated with me. That's the way life was, but that was one of many things that I've had to do, yeah. And I don't think anybody, at no time did Denny or anybody set me down and tell me, this is my role, or this is what you do or don't do it. Just it's kind of like you just said, like Danny, maybe early on, you just learned on the fly figure it out, you know. And it didn't have anything to do with being a state cop, really, and just figure it out and try to get through to whatever you have to do at the time.

Yeah, sometimes being a state cop help though, when you get see when you're dealing with people like, in like, hostile situations, like in Portland, for instance, if you have a crowd of people and some agitators and they're creating trouble, you have to people are watching very intently. They're watching. So how you do that? You get real close to them where they can't see what you're doing, and you talk to them about their mother wears combat boots or whatever you're going to say, maybe a pinch him or do something, but not anything obvious, and you get him to swing at you. And now this crowd of people, well, they understand that. They understand why you just arrested them, but they didn't see a pinch him or anything. That's kind of how that works. Well, that same story that would happen, not a lot, but occasionally with me, and usually they're not getting arrested, they just are now diverted away from the governor. And I didn't pinch very many people, but I did step on the instep of their feet occasionally. Yeah, that happened. The fun.

Another funny thing is, a lot of times Denny's a pretty good sized guy, and they, they would mistake him for the security and me for the aide or whatever. And it was kind of fun to watch that. There was also the story about we were in Medford, and there wasn't any place to eat in this banquet room, it was packed. People really loved their governor in Medford and Roseburg and Baker City and much more so in Portland, big time. Anyway, we were at Medford, and I'd already sent two state troopers down to a coffee shop down the hallway to get some lunch. And I stayed there at the banquet. And then he came out and said, There's no place to sit in there. He said, Where did the troopers go? And I said, they're down there in the coffee shop. He said, Well, where are they at? It's pretty big coffee shop. And I said, just go in the door and look along the wall. They're sitting there someplace. He looked at me, and he went down there. And later on, he said to me, how did you know where they were sitting? You didn't go down there. I said, they're steak cops. They're sitting there with their back to the wall someplace. That's what they do. Oh, he said, I never thought about that, but he really wondered how I knew where they were, and that's just a way.

That's just one of the nuances of being a cop. You don't sit out in the middle of the room where you can't see what's going on. Even to this day, my wife gives me trouble for I pretty much know the people that are around us where we're sitting, and things about those people I'm watching them. And I don't know why that's a learned trade or just what causes that, but I've always been that way, ever since I've worked for plays. I think that's just a cop thing, yeah, frankly, yeah. But yeah, if something starts going to South, you know, those, those traits are real helpful when you're trying to take care of the governor too. You kind of watching people, and not necessarily, obviously, but you know, just kind of looking around and making note of what's happening. And sometimes the governor had asked me about something or some person later on, and I'd usually know because I'd been looking at them. But at no time did anybody ever sit down and say, Oh, Brooke, you need to do this and this and this. I. Yeah, occasionally somebody would say, need you to help, help do this.

But at the same time, I had to temper that with what the governor would allow me to do, right? And he's so darn independent, and so not bull headed, but stubborn. I guess some of those things. Maybe early on he was hesitant let happen. Then eventually he realized, well, it would be easier if hob did that. If he takes care of the small stuff, I can take care of the big stuff, right? And that relationship kind of blossomed as time went on, yeah, because I didn't start out taking the speeches up and put put in the speeches at the podium for him and doing all those other little things. I didn't start that way. We started by I showed up to the office. He'd come out, hand me the keys, and we'd go down, get in the car, and he'd tell me where we had to go, and that was it. And then everything evolved kind of from there. And he wasn't. He really didn't want to be a bother. He didn't want a lot of state cops instead of being police officers trying to take care of him. He didn't want that going on. That's just the way he was. As time went on, he kind of relented and realized some of that had to occur. So that that's kind of a evolution, if you will, from him. But he was always, even to the bitter end, he would always be over talking to some Trooper that I had there instead of doing what he's supposed to do, always we're doing that. And he would, he would, you could shake him free from that, but yeah, he still would do it

James Moore 2:01:42

right. Were you there in the day that Williams and Miller brought him in a uniform?

Lon Holbrook 2:01:48

Yes,

James Moore 2:01:50

I have the pictures of that. Yeah, he finally got to be the commander in chief. Yeah?

Lon Holbrook 2:01:58

And that paddle was the big, big thing. Oh, yeah, up the creek without a path. I don't know where that is now.

James Moore 2:02:04

It's actually on display at the university. Oh, okay. And actually talking to Tom Atiyeh Couple of years ago, the person that that came from, when it was down on a, you know, a trip on the road, on the road. He was saying, What am I ever going to get my paddle back? It's, we've got it. It's in our archives. It's on display right now. Actually,

Lon Holbrook 2:02:30

really, yep, was that one of the voices or something, one of the was that, where the paddle came from?

James Moore 2:02:35

I'm not sure. I haven't, I haven't traced down exactly that, that particular, you know

Lon Holbrook 2:02:41

there was, there was a old sheriff. Boyce was his name, and they had some of those jet boats and stuff there at Gold beach or wherever it was. And he was notorious for giving hitchhikers haircuts and stuff, if you've ever heard any of those stories, but they'd pick those are the days illegal to hitchhike. Well, the deputies would, they'd come into their county, and they'd actually haul them into jail. They'd arrest them for hitchhiking, and they'd get a bath and a haircut. That was all part of the deal. So their hippie hair they didn't have anymore. They got cut off. That went on quite a while. The sometime in that process, two deputies at pistol river got in a famous shootout with two guys at this cabin and killed both of them. And there was all kinds of stories about that too. That's, you know, and what's going on in Grants Pass having nothing to do with the governor now, but there's no sheriff's deputy sheriffs there at all in Josephine County. And that's an interesting thing that's going on there. And I don't the only law they have at all. I guess there's one or two road deputies now is state police, and there's not a lot of state police there to help them either. They

James Moore 2:04:08

took out that the state police place at the intersection of i five years ago. Yeah, so there's not they're probably all out of Medford or something.

Lon Holbrook 2:04:18

It's just nuts. And somehow or another, they've gone all this time and they still don't have any sheriffs companies there. And how do they they're taking care of themselves. They have these, all these vigilante things going on and that's interesting.

James Moore 2:04:35

This last election, in May, they finally, the county people finally voted a little bit of money to not shut down the jail.

Lon Holbrook 2:04:44

That's a mandate service. They have to

James Moore 2:04:47

well, but you can, you can shrink it, like everything else, which is what they did. But they finally said, Okay, so here's \$3 million over two years or something. You can have a jail for for the jail for other stuff, limited, yeah, but a jail, yeah? Yeah, one last question. Been doing this for a long time now. Did you see anything with the governor and the tribes,



Lon Holbrook 2:05:12  
relationship, relationships,

James Moore 2:05:16  
stopping in at Warm Springs on the way to other places? You know, anything like that, or anything that jumps out at you. Well,

Lon Holbrook 2:05:27  
he was very, very close to Warm Springs, and he cherished going over there every year to the pahla Bucha days that was, huh,

Unknown Speaker 2:05:39  
it's right about now. And,

Lon Holbrook 2:05:41  
yeah, and he, he looked forward to going down to whiskey Dick, I think it was called fishing hole, where they went, Mm, hmm. And there's, there's a story there. That's a good story. He, he two stories. Actually, one of the days we were down there, he'd just go down and fish for one day. Usually he'd go to their piomshaw celebration and do a parade and do all that. But he was there with the tribal chiefs and while, while he'd fish over there at the big Eddy, they'd come in with these trucks, and they'd have a kind of a big feeding of those that were there, and it'd be the attorneys, excuse me, from bend, represented them. And they were usually some or all of them would be there, and they would be fly fishing, mostly fly fishing, although the I remember one of the tribal members was using a trouble hook or something, and but they can do whatever they want on their side of that river. And there was one year where the governor was standing there fishing, throwing his fly out there, having a great time, and a boatload of attorneys came floating over there, and they were, they had all liquored up, and they were giving him a shit about, hey, white man, you can't be over here fishing. This is, this is tribal area, and I don't think they knew who he was, but one of the tribal police guys, and that's a whole different breed of cat, I'll tell you. He's sitting up behind the governor, and he's got bandoliers on, and I think he had some darkened stuff under his eyes in a m 16, fully automatic. And he comes up at levels 16 at these guys, says, You guys better get the hell out of here. They are. Dug water and got out of there really quick.

And I just, I just sat there laughing. That'll teach him. At the same time, there was one year, maybe the same year, here comes a patrol car driving in there, and once again, it was Gerry. Had to talk to him, and he wasn't about to be bothered with anything about work. He was there fishing with the Warm Springs, the thing he liked to do, and he sent me up to deal with whatever it was. So I had to drive out someplace and use a phone. He called her. She said, he won't come out well. He said, No, he's dug in, Gerry, it's way it is. She said, Well, tell him this, and we need a decision. So I went back down, got his decision, came back, called her again, and that was pretty much into that. But that those that happened occasionally, but not very often, do you have patrol car probably should have been on that road either. That car drive in there to try to get the governor's attention. I don't know how they even found him. Quite frankly, it's not a normal place to be. There was another time at the lodge at Kah-nee-tah. He was in an upstairs room, and I think I had a room next to him, and one of the other tribal police had a room the other side of me. And they're pretty proud of their governor in that Warm Springs bunch. And there were some kids underneath us having a kegger of some kind. And Cliff Jenkins was that policeman's name. He went down here. Said, you guys got to knock it off. There's nothing that you guys no more noise, nothing. And they said, Okay, so then they cranked up again. They're making noise. He went down there and took their keg away from and kicked him out of the place. They said, You can't do that. They said this, we have our rights. He said, You don't understand where you're at. You're on the reservation here, buddy. You guys are out of here. So they booted him out. Thought that was interesting. And there was another time he was like the assistant chief. He was one of the clickers.

We were there for a Mason indoctrination kind of thing. And part of that, they do some top secret thing that only Masons can see when they're initiating their new members. And and they came out and announced to me, and this clinka, this tribal Assistant Chief, I think, is what it was. They said, Well, you guys can't go in there. It's, this is Mason's only thing. This is real serious stuff. And click has said, maybe you don't understand, you're on the reservation. I go where I want to go. You can't tell me that. I can't go in there. And he went in there and watched that ceremony. I didn't

but I thought that was this mason telling this Kalika that he couldn't go someplace. I'm thinking to myself, I ain't got to work. Yeah. These, these are, these are, they are in their own countries, in essence, what they are, yeah, and they got to understand that that's what's happening here, as well as the dumb boatload of attorneys telling the governor he couldn't fish there. That was almost hilarious, but you know, there was, I'd leave him there again. That's a judgment call of giving him his own privacy. I'd take him over there, and I think Smith was his name. One of these porters was an attorney. He'd pick him up and take him in one of his private fishing clubs, and that was the shoes river too, and it was behind lock gate, everything else. They'd take him in there, and he'd stay there for usually it's one night. He'd fish for a couple days. And there were, usually there'd be State Police Cadets that would come down the river. And after the first year he did that, they knew that I'd alert him as to when he'd be there, so he'd always be able to talk to them and stuff as they come through there. And that was kind of interesting. And occasionally there'd be regular state cop in one of those rafts coming down there too, but, but I just left him there, and he was on his own.

You know, it's, I could have pressed it and said, I've got to be there governor, but I couldn't really justify that in that case. You know, nobody knew he was there, especially, you know, what the hell? Let it go. Yeah, and that's just part of the relationship with him. Just make that judgment as to whether distanced yourself. Now, I don't know what that team does now. There's, there's five or six state police teams as a result of that secret service survey that are with him now, and there's not all the time, but there's people have days off and you in the Secret Service said you got to have at least two cars. You got to have your lead car and in the not the client, but whoever you're protecting. So there's two cars involved in your motorcade, at least two and that well, that you asked me about mad. There was a time when, when he was riding with, I think it was President Reagan, and he was in his motorcade, and we went up there and we put him in the motorcade, and I stayed with him, not he got into the President's limo with President, and I think I got the car behind him with all these secret service guys and everything and I asked this the state police captain that was at the end of the motorcade to let the governor's car in there. Because when that motorcade goes through, screws up traffic. Yeah, if the governor's car is in that mess behind, it's going to be lost for a while. Yeah, well, the captain just ignored me, wouldn't let the car in. I didn't know that had happened, and the governor stood around for about half an hour waiting for his car. And he was not a happy camper that time. That was something that I was kind of shouldered some of the blame, but I sure got that Captain in trouble for that stuff at the same time, there was another, the in fact that President Reagan was coming in that like two weeks later, into Portland, and the first time we tried to drive to the Benson hotel, and the Portland Police and Secret Service stopped us about three blocks from the Benson, or wherever he was staying, the President and said we couldn't drive To the hotel because the governor's car had been secured, quote, so you can't drive up there, so he had to get out and walk through the rain to go to this hotel where the President was he wasn't real happy about that, and I was probably less happy about it. And one. I was there the first time I noticed they were securing the cars at the hotel, where they told us we couldn't go. They were wanting and doing everything under the cars. So the second visit, I went to the...

[Recording ends.]