

Denny Miles Apr. 2016 interview on Atiyeh, part 1

The second part of an interview of Denny Miles regarding Oregon's Governor Victor Atiyeh, recorded on Apr. 5, 2016. Miles was Atiyeh's Press Secretary during most of his governorship. The interviewer, James Moore, was as professor of political science at Pacific University and was Atiyeh's biographer. This is one of several recorded interviews between Moore and Miles.

The interview includes discussion of: the Atiyeh administration's hiring and management of speechwriters, such as David Olson; Atiyeh's early days without a speechwriter; the challenges of managing creative individuals; Atiyeh's dedication to volunteerism and personal involvement in daily operations; Atiyeh's approach to media leaks; his preference for simple meals; his commitment to family privacy; Atiyeh's relationships with his family, including his sons-in-law; his decisions regarding state contracts and appointments; the initial appointment of Lee Johnson as Chief of Staff, later replaced by Gerry Thompson; challenges faced during the Rajneesh crisis; Atiyeh's commitment to transparency; Atiyeh's relationships with key staff such as Gerry Thompson and with contemporaries such as Monte Montgomery; and the evolving role of Oregon governors' Chiefs of Staff.

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.

[Recording begins mid-conversation.]

Denny Miles 00:00

Well, I don't know if this, this is of interest only to me. This was the communications staff when, when we had a speech writer, when we didn't have a speech writer, actually,

James Moore 00:11

this would be really good. I've taught David Olson contacted us.

Denny Miles 00:15

David Olson is -- I mean, he's dead. He got caught in a in a he was former channel two reporter. He was in a love triangle and got stabbed to death by the jealous husband. Jim is truly my best friend other than my wife, and so we maintain connections. And David Olson has great stories. David Olsen has stories about, you know, the bet he had that he had that he could get the governor to quote Shakespeare in a speech. And David is a is an intellectual, just a wonderful, wonderful guy. Speech writers are very interesting. They're harder than hell to manage, and so you basically have to hire them, and with the understanding that you're not going to manage them, yeah, either they're creative, and the more creative somebody is, the more difficult it is. Well,

James Moore 01:04

he tells a great story about getting hired, because you he went through the process, and then you brought him in, and he was just as prized as hell that you guys called him. And so you took him in to meet Gerry, and Gerry just scared the hell out of him. And then what I've talked to Gerry about, he said, I can't believe that, Gerry, you're intimidating. You know, you're intimidating. And then when you took him in to meet the governor, both of you took him in to meet the governor, the governor has got the stack of stuff and he's smoking. Kind of was this. And he said, I have the exact line in here, but it's something like, I have no objections walking out. David said, you turned to him and said, I don't know if you caught that, but that was a job offer.

Denny Miles 01:56

Well, you know, we were early on, we didn't have a speech writer, yeah, and, and, in fact, Lee, as you heard me already tell the story many times, was really unhappy that I had been hired well before he came on board and was trying to get gene modeling involved. And then Bill Sanderson was a possibility. And I don't know who Bill is or was. I don't even

know if Bill's around anymore. Again, two very talented people that it was all more of an effort to bring in people that were loyal to lean right, necessarily to me, well, Sandy was going to be the guy who we were going to hire, pretty much, and because he'd written some speeches for us before. He was involved in the inaugural speech, for example, and he wrote this two page, single space list of demands that were all, by the way, okay, you know, a self correcting typewriter, an office that the door closes access to a secretary, you know. I mean, it was the stuff that you he would have gotten without a problem. He was, all he had to do was say, you know, can I get this kind of thing? And we would have given it to him, but he wrote it in such a style of, you know, these are my demands, and if I don't get these, I'm not going to even look at this job kind of thing. And so, yeah, so we're sitting, I'm sitting in the boss's office, and he says, What do you think about Sanderson? And I said, Well, you know, he's got an immense talent. He's incredibly creative. I think he'd be a great speech writer. I don't think he would fit into this office. I don't think his style of making these kind of demands. He said, these are all things he would have gotten had he simply accepted the job and said, Can I get this? Can I get that? We would have fallen over. But that kind of attitude is not going to fit in with the team approach that we've got here. He didn't get hired as a result of that. But yeah speak, the more creative someone is, the more difficult they are. In terms of, let me take a picture of this. Okay, just so I have, I could actually print one off. Oh, no, it's okay.

James Moore 03:51

I have this technology to use it. I

Denny Miles 04:03

here's a check, a bill from the San Antonio Hyatt Regency from the Alamo bowl days. It's amazing how papers get Uh huh. That's great. And I had multiple copies of this, and so I just pulled one out before I gave it over to Eva. That was the you know, stick with the talking points. This is our message for the end in the campaign. You're again things you're already aware of Jim 1982 Yes, yes, that he began his elective service as in the House of Representatives on January 12 of 1959 and he ended it on January 12, 1987 to the day he. Exactly 28 years. Yeah. Okay, so that's a bit of that. He became governor at 11:42am on January 8, 1979 and eight years and four days later, at 1156 Neil Goldschmidt, or the person who succeeded, took his oath of office. So, you know, the the recording of all that, and of course, that's why his exact time of death is also recorded, because that's just the way he was. Yeah, kind of thing, exactly, okay, now again, A, B or C or okay, yes, no, or whatever. Okay, for example, you already know and have a copy of the administrative note on inauguration day of the purpose of the administration, right? Hire good people. Give them direction, get out of their way. I'd rather have to sit on them once in a while than have to kick them in the tail every day to get them started. Right? Okay, up a creek without a paddle award, certainly. And you have all the stories connected with each of the awards

James Moore 06:04

that I don't think that we do. There's a new exhibit about it's now out. Oh, really. And we actually heard from Tom yesterday that the guide on that trip is still kind of miffed that the paddle didn't come back to him. Oh, that's interesting. So

Denny Miles 06:19

I heard that one exactly? Well, the two that immediately come to my mind. John Williams got it when he lost the governor. He said, I want to find out what this what this security thing is all about. So long take a day off. I'm going to be lawn I'm going to be a security guy. Well, you develop as a staff person. You develop this incredible ability to keep you always know where he is. I mean, it's like a radar, GPS tracking system or something like that. And John didn't have that, yeah. And all of a sudden, Governor gone. He doesn't have him in sight. And so he got that public utility Commissioner, Lobdell, yeah, John lode, I think it was, or come on, it was another name on the battle. Names are always flopping out of my mind. But anyway, he's the one who was testifying, and they were just harassing the hell out of him during some testimony and and he said, Look, my job is tough enough, and I don't have to take this shit on the record almost as good as Sheila and you are going to do this, you know, yeah, and yeah. So that was those were two. And then we had to make sure, of course, that the governor was the last. So we cooked up a whole bunch of things on that, okay, the belief in volunteerism and the story of probably digging an outhouse at Cape cap camp. Merriweather. Have not heard that one? Okay, so I'll give you that one on tape, if you like. They'll say nice things about me when I'm gone. I actually said that at the service placing his own calls where he would, instead of saying, This is Governor Atiyeh, I'd like to talk to Leo Hanks room. He just called Leo. He would call the number and and he would say, Leo Hanks from please. And, of course, yeah, agency head palace guards said, I'm sorry. Mr. Hagstrom is unavailable right

now. May I take a message? Yeah, haven't called the governor just a minute.

James Moore 08:18

Yeah, again, that goes really well when, when I talked to John younger, he went to the archives, because Victor would answer those letters in person, right? And so John just pulled out several letters that he had worked on with Vic, and Vic wrote the final version, and yep, picked up. And it's the same kind of thing. That's great,

Denny Miles 08:36

well, and then the what goes with that is the answering calls on a holiday. Uh huh. Have you heard that story? Okay, these are ones I really want to make sure you have you they you may have not have room for any of them, but you need to have them, and they need to be recorded on something. One day you're a peacock. The next day, you're a feather dust. Okay, ate a lot of meals at the Capitol coffee shop. The come on down story. I told it the thing, he took a taxi to White House events. But other people literally took their, you know, their limos. Some had their limos flown in, yes, yes, and we took a taxi. But you know about Mr. Kim? Mr.

James Moore 09:13

Kim, I know. No, no, okay, Mr. Kind of familiar, but Mr.

Denny Miles 09:18

Kim was, that was the was the driver for Vice President Bush. HW, well, a smoker. He was not a drinker. And you know the story about where he says he had his own anti drinking program because he went with a bunch of lobbyists. Yes, they got drunk about three different ways, right? Yeah, depending on whether Roger Martin told you or whether the governor tells you, it comes out a little bit different.

James Moore 09:45

I also have from Ed when Victor decided not to drink gin anymore. Okay, call it. That's

Denny Miles 09:52

good. That's good. And I can't tell you exactly when he quit smoking, but he did quit after he got out of the governor's office, yes, and he said he was going to and he. Did, and he said, I just, I didn't quit. I just didn't have a cigarette, and then I didn't have another cigarette, and then I didn't have another cigarette. And so it wasn't like any special program in patches and things like that. Anyway, they they hated drunk drivers, and so they would actually pull drunk drivers over and tell John Williams said, No, you will you have a radio. We gave you a radio. You'll do that. You've heard that. Okay? Artistic school doodler, you know that? Green Bay Packers, massive file of favorite jokes. I do have a copy of that file, by the way,

James Moore 10:30

good because I don't know that Tom has given it to us. When it was the government, was very clear that that was going to come to us, but he's gone now. So if things aren't in specific writing, that's just the way

Denny Miles 10:47

unsigned executive orders. Baker City tie tech. You know that? That's that gem is in Baker City, and he's wearing a tie tack and zillions of pictures. Yes.

James Moore 10:55

And I actually contacted Jack Omen because he used it in his caricatures. Yep. And but Omen said, you know, I've got 4000 cartoons all over the place, right? So I might, I might try to dig it up from a specific editorial cartoon and say, Omen, do you have this

Denny Miles 11:13

jacket? Jackson should have told you, in his Kennedy accent, his great Kennedy invitation, he and I were at a party at Wayne Thompson's house one time. We both have an affinity toward Stan Freiberg, and especially Stan frebergs United States of America, the first early the early years. And we were at this New Year's Eve party, and somebody said sorry. And then and I said, Sorry, doesn't do any good, Charlie. And he immediately started, and we started doing dialog and

songs, and people were looking at us. I mean, I've got it memorized. He has it memorized. End of story, okay, Baker City couldn't pronounce nuclear lifetime fishing license, departing from his prepared text. Hey. He wanted to know how to, how to, in fact, get attention to a speech he was giving, and it was the legislative speech. It wasn't like it was a state of the state. It wasn't. And I said, Well, there's a simple way. And he said, What do we mean? Simple Way? I said, Well, we just don't put it in the text. Well, if I want people to, you know, focus on it. I should put it in the text. No, it's just the opposite. Exactly. They're going to read along. Okay, Milton, what are you going to do? Right? He departed from his, you know, the handle it, story and where that came from, the blow up, the sign certainly, literally needed to be locked into a room to make fundraising calls. Yes, Jim Campbell always had the priority, because he was usually calling in with a joke. We made a do you know about the bet that he paid off with a dinner at lomlet.

No, okay, I don't need to give that on the tape, but just for your information, and we don't even remember what the bet was all about. It was something at a governor's conference, because Pat and Gerry and somebody else were all there. But it was the stakes. Were a dinner at lomlet, which then existed at that point. And I just, you know, gave I got more out of that because I just kept coming after him. Oh, you know, I'm going to get my dinner at long lead and so on. And he would go, yeah, yeah, okay, fine, and so and so.

So when we got there, they had arranged, because McDonald's was just catty corner from long lead at that time. And so I ordered, you know, the most expensive thing I could possibly get, and so on and so forth. And they brought in this huge silver platter with this big dome thing on it. Oh, Mr. Miles here, and they took it off, and it was a Big Mac. Great sense, the California couple that visited his office, yes, daily public open houses, media availabilities, capital press award. His go to gift for charity auctions. Was a brown bag lunch with the governor. I mean, there was, whenever they asked for anything, it was okay, a brown bag lunch with me. And it gave him a chance to meet with some people too. After the 82 election, his advisors, not me. His advisors said, you don't need to do this. Travels to this back breaking travel schedule any longer you you can't run another term. Said, No, you don't understand, do this because I want to do it.

Yeah, the reason he wouldn't look at congressional positions, I'm, I'm guessing, is the Middle Eastern Ambassador positions would open up, and the press would ask about it, and he would, his classic line was, you know, I'd consider that as long as my office was in Oregon, because he just didn't want to go to Washington, DC or go to leave Oregon. Quarter million miles of travel within the state, the parade and fossil they went around once. They had so much fun. They went around a second time, right? I don't believe any governor Oregon has a history of more in his 20 years of experience legislatures, I don't have you found a governor that had more than 20 years or had 20 not yet. Okay, not yet. Well, you have blue books now, and also copies of all the biographies of all the governors of the state of Oregon, the tax plan debate with Richmond, when rich came back saying, yes, Governor, turns out you're right. I don't know that. You don't know that. Okay, that's a good story. That's a good one. We have to separate the essential from the desirable. That's just one of these phrases. I. What the budget story? When the guy said, you know, Governor, it's only \$30,000 Yes, okay, let me see what that was in your checking account. Exactly. I think it was Mike Thorne, his wife, who was the one who told him absolutely that this job, corroborated, this job is tougher than you made it working

James Moore 15:22

title of the book. Oh, good. And I, when I talked to her, I actually played him saying it, and said, I said, so is that you and she, that's me. Have

Denny Miles 15:37

you had a chance to talk to Goldschmidt at all? No, he is really

James Moore 15:41

under the radar out there. Yeah, well, kit Sauber appears to have just resurfaced in a gettable way, right? So I'm expecting to be able to talk to him. Goldschmidt, I hope I can talk to him. But who knows? I mean, I talked to Pat with that was a hard get, I bet, but he and he wouldn't let me record, but he gave me really good stuff, good and now it's Bob and Jim. Oh, he calls me up. He's pissed Jim. This is Bob. He's pissed

Denny Miles 16:09

at me because of things that I've said about the Columbia Gorge.

James Moore 16:14

Oh, yeah, no, I totally have his side of the Columbia Gorge, and I that may be the next thing that I work on. It won't be until May, because I basically have one day a week to work on the book.

Denny Miles 16:26

Okay, well, talk to Gerry about the hot tub next. Put that on your list of questions, because he was unavailable, because he was in the

James Moore 16:33

spa. Yeah. Well, we heard from Tom yesterday. Tom was at the Athletic Club, and Bob was there, and then headed into the hot tub where he Tom knew his wife was sitting, and Tom just basically ran after him to be there. And Leslie was saying, Yes, he had no sense of personal space.

Denny Miles 16:54

The tape really is not running right. It is, it is, that's fine. It is all I will all I will say to you then, is that I personally know one of the people who he was a basher with.

James Moore 17:04

Oh, I when this whole thing broke it explained behavior that I had seen when I was in fourth grade. Yeah, yeah. And so I can name them, and I actually, I didn't, you know, it's that wasn't what our conversation was about. But I said, So do you know? Do you remember these people? Oh, yeah, all the women were all easy on the eyes. Yeah, still.

Denny Miles 17:28

And the most important quote in the inaugural address, as far as I'm concerned, the plain fact is that given the light to see the truth, our people will decide their destinies better than any elite, elected or not great. That is a core value. Commitments to diversity. You've got sense of history. Gave you that information, and all the time specifically recorded. And the fact that 815 on July 22, 2014 and that was, you know, Tom and I texting each other, basically because I was home. And then you have the data that talks about the fact that the recession in in in 82 or 80 the 80s, if you will, was worse than oh yeah for Oregon, okay,

James Moore 18:25

okay, good, well known. And what the graph that I'm hoping to use is actually the the Oregon economic people have got a great one that compares what we just went through with that one. Yeah, same exact patterns, but the 82 one is just so much deeper and longer to get out of well so, and

Denny Miles 18:43

it's because we were so much more dependent on timber and housing and, yeah, all of that kind of stuff. Now,

James Moore 18:48

doing the background for the chapter that I'm working on, I just went through 20 years of blue books just reading. So what do they say about economics? How many people were in the house when he was there? How many people in the Senate all that kind of stuff? Fascinating to me is it appears that the big turn in timber was not just 82 it was 74 all of a sudden, the timber proportion of the of the manufacturing goes from like 57% by the late 70s. By the time he's in office, it's in the upper 30s. So that the that oil crisis slow down is a huge hit, and then the 82 recession is like the nail in the cost that board feet, though, or is that this is in people who are working, so it's an economic impact there, but there's automation going on. That's not gonna say a lot of automation. Yeah, so, but if you're a worker, yeah, yeah, it whether you lost your job because we're selling less or so, that's something I've never heard people talk about. So I'm going to really explore that.

Denny Miles 19:47

But anyway, the key numbers were the double digit numbers that just stayed up at various times. Okay, so I've got a couple marked here that I'll go in a little more detail on. I want to. Real quickly at this you've heard enough about Trader Vic and have all of his travels. You know you have this list,

James Moore 20:11
and I have Chuck Beggs claiming the Trader Vic moniker

Denny Miles 20:14
was his. Yeah. Okay, maybe the Bustamante list is slipped into a bunch of of artists. You haven't heard that? No, no, okay, the G you in in the pouch, okay, the huge sword that he had lon and I ship back or bring back from Syria. I've not

James Moore 20:43
heard about the sword. Okay, I do, however, have from Pat Amedeo the fake scrim shop.

Denny Miles 20:49
Yeah, I couldn't tell from the notation on the online about that gift whether she made it clear that it was fake. Oh,

James Moore 20:56
I don't, yeah, okay, I'll, I'll look at that. And yeah,

Denny Miles 21:00
because he was taken, I've

James Moore 21:01
got her quotes, and so I can just put them up there,

Denny Miles 21:06
the leaks, and how the Governor and I approached dealing with leaks. You've

James Moore 21:10
given me some details, but I want more. Okay,

Denny Miles 21:15
sleek, black limo, which was basically sleek, no limo, no black. Yes, it was a black Buick Skylar. Yes, you got that. Didn't respect family privacy. They found out when suit one of Suzanne's weddings was and it was probably the most pissed he was ever at any short sleeve shirts, tuxedo swimming pool. Oh, the tax revenue plan. When it was we called another meeting with all the leadership, and we opened up the whiteboard in the conference room, and the one from the previous crisis was still up there, the solution, and unfortunately, all of those cans has been emptied, and so we couldn't do that. Have you heard that one? No, I have not. Okay, we'll try and make these quick. You don't have a lot of time. But something I didn't know until after he was out of office, that he told Gerry that if we were taken hostages, we were not to be negotiated for that clearly, why didn't he tell me? God, I was lon and I were there, there exactly yes, right? They had to approve all the colors of any, any important kind of thing. Got that okay?

James Moore 22:32
So when I talked to Carol Whitney, she did not encounter that in 78 but she did encounter that. He gave Delores and Suzanne free reign to do that right with her right.

Denny Miles 22:45
Love being governor. Incredible respect for the position, long hours, weekends, legislature, long term relationship with the tribes. You've got all of that.

James Moore 22:56
Do you happen to know when his relationship with the tribes started

Denny Miles 23:00
in the legislature, and he was, I believe he said he was the, the person that created the Indian commission.

James Moore 23:09

He absolutely did. I'm trying to get so why? Okay, and so hypothesis. Sam Johnson,

Unknown Speaker 23:19

yeah, they were close.

James Moore 23:21

They were close because, have you talked to Becky at all? No, I've got a tracker down. She's now on her board, actually, okay, I got to track her down. And I'm not sure she would know, but there's something on 71 is when the commission is formed. Donna

Denny Miles 23:37

Zhang was Sam's legislative assistant. Oh, that's a positive. That's

James Moore 23:43

a good that's a good way to go, too. Okay,

Denny Miles 23:48

almost done here. Affirmative action, not a food. Gourmet, bacon, bacon, bacon. Basted eggs, hash browns and toast and coffee. Yeah, whether you're at the Imperial hotel in Tokyo, whether you're in Beijing, the job was to find a place that had that

James Moore 24:11

frustrating for Delores, who liked to cook gourmet stuff you wouldn't eat it. Collecting,

Denny Miles 24:16

collecting autographs for Ruby Lewis,

James Moore 24:20

heard obliquely, but, yeah, fill that in. Fill that in.

Denny Miles 24:23

Okay, well, since, well, I'll put it all in one spot. Artistic abilities, doodles, volunteerism, they can't remember the thing we're going to use. Oh, he, he, he bought into this. It wasn't something I taught him, but that Governor is a title you don't lose. It's like being a colonel in the south, right? The story that for me was in 77 I said, So, is it Vic, or is it Victor? And he said, my name is Victor. And then I said, Okay. But you realize that Vic is much better for political purposes. It's more approachable unless he said, Yeah, yeah, I know. But he said, my really good friends call me Victor, and of course, Paul always calls him Victor.

James Moore 25:13

Bob Oliver said that you use it in the office to kind of filter through Yeah. People call and say, I need to talk to my good friend, Vic. Yeah, you're not.

Denny Miles 25:21

Yeah, it's like bud Gibbs the register at Oregon State, they went to their good friend. What was his real name? It was and it wasn't bud. I never called him Vic or Victor. He was either governor or the boss period.

James Moore 25:39

Since you I'm having whenever I see Kate Brown, which isn't that often anymore, but she's the governor, right? You know she's not Kate, although the last, the first time I saw her, was in a very public place, and she came almost running over and jumped up and kissed me cheek. So you're the governor.

Denny Miles 25:55

I don't, I don't, I don't understand that. I mean, it's, it's just, it's like, and, and when, when any governor walks in the

room, I stand and I just, and the governor finally, our governor finally, just said, no, no, please don't do that. The dedication of the old Wolf Creek tavern. Yes,

James Moore 26:16

got that. Were you on that trip? Oh, yeah. Oh, I would like to hear yours, because I have it from Oh Ding Dong and Roseburg.

Denny Miles 26:26

Bill Markham, Bill Markham, yeah, yeah, because Bill is an important part about that Lon Holbrook telling the pilot that the Salishan airport was right there.

James Moore 26:35

I don't have that. Okay. I joke biology. Yeah, the best Bill Markham line in that particular story is it was raining harder than a cow peen on a flat rock.

Denny Miles 26:53

True tech Shively carrying a long gun during the 1977 session in right in the front door. I'm just bringing it up to show I don't have that.

James Moore 27:08

So, yeah, okay. I

Denny Miles 27:20

Yeah, okay, let's just get started. I'll get I'll try to roll through these pretty quick. Okay, all right. Now go with this list first, because I circled the ones you see how organized I am. Ruby Lewis was one of the three people who was there on day one and on the last day. Now, I was on vacation. I was in Lincoln Nebraska on that day, but I was on the payroll that day, and Bob Oliver and my and Ruby were the three that were there from the very beginning to the very end. And she's now living, I think, up in Longview someplace that general area. And she was an autograph collector, so he was constantly collecting autographs for her and then deliver a famous people kind of thing. And I don't know what, which one she has now, and I don't know whether she and or her heirs would be willing to pass them on to the university or not. Yeah, but it was a it was a big part of his activity in in meeting people. So we were in a National Guard helicopter. And in those days, you had to have some military action or activity involved. So there was always maybe a stop in Eugene or something to take a quick look at an armory. Okay, now we can get back in the in the helicopter.

So we're in a in a three helicopter flight. And we are going over each little pass down into Southern Oregon to get to the Wolf Creek tavern to dedicate it. And in the process of that, the ceiling just kept coming down. I don't know that it was peeing like a cow on a flat rock or not, and that we get to the last one, and they kind of come up to it. So as I remember, I'm a pilot, and so I know that this is not a fun situation to be in. And so we got the inner off, inner phones on, and so on. And the pilot says, Governor, I don't know that. I just took a second look at that pass. I just don't know if that's one we want to try. What do you think? And Governor says, You're the you had all the bars on your shoulder kind of thing. And so then Markham says, you know, let down here, right down here, because, of course, he's from Riddle, and I believe the town is Glendale. And he says, Let's go down this other Canyon and we'll land at the school.

So you gotta remember, you're at this school yard. And all of a sudden, three National Guard helicopters without any notice. I mean, it's a scene out of Apocalypse Now for and the kids come out of their eyes. So I go with Bill. We're walking up and walking away to get a bus, and the superintendent is coming down the hill, and the superintendent says, God damn. That, Bill, what the hell you doing? Landing in the middle of March and we're walking with him back up to get a bus, and Bill finally says, look, I've got the governor with me, and the superintendent wheels literally just and left us to go down just to talk to the governor, obviously. And so Bill and I go up to arrange for a school bus. So we get down there, and here are these crowd of kids around, and the National Guard guys have got anybody who looks like they're about 16, 17, you know, looking in the hell you too, could be flying one of these helicopters. They're recruiting, and people are sitting in the chairs and so and so forth.

And so we go, and we start going into classrooms while we're waiting for the bus. And in the one classroom the

governor, this is a developmentally disabled classroom. And he says to the guy says, What do you and she's sanding this board. And he says, What are you making? This looks very interesting. And she says, I'm making a smooth board, very good. That feels very nice and smooth and so on so forth. And then somebody in another class comes up with her peachy and says, Governor Tia, would you sign this? And of course, she's used to people wanting signatures. And he says, yeah. Why would you like me to sign that? Well, if I go home tonight and tell my mommy that Three helicopters landed at our school and the governor got out and came into my class and visited, she won't believe me, and if you sign this, I have a chance that. And he said, Well, I think the word will probably get out. This is not that big of a town, but I'd be delighted. What's your name. And they proceeded to sign it. So then we take the bus over the last little bit in the lowest gear that school bus had on the on the freeway, and we came down and did the dedication. And there's no press. I mean, this is a dedication of a State Park facility kind of thing. And then snoozer, right? It was on the schedule, and that was about it. So I proceeded to call Sue Hill and call the wire services and tell them the same story. So it ended up did make some press, because it's obviously a cool story, and a lot of flying, of course, and, and that brings up the next book you should write, by the way, and I've got a file on that as well. And that's the plane crash in outside of Lakeview. I Oh yeah, I'm one of the few people who knows exactly where it is, because I've been there. And it took me two trips, but I found it. And well, Earl Snow,

James Moore 32:15

who clearly is the most popular governor we've ever had, by far right, and it was going

Denny Miles 32:21

to be United States Senator. And according to Travis, when that occurred, Mark Hatfield calls from Palo Alto and says, We got to move up our schedule, yeah, yeah, because he had his schedule all figured

James Moore 32:32

out there in graduate school, and they just basically packed up and

Denny Miles 32:35

came back here, right. Yeah, right. So anyway, yeah, lawn knew more about where airports were than some of the volunteer pilots we had at various times. And so at one point it's bad weather, and at Salishan, and that's a hard airport to find in the first place, and the guy says, I'm not totally and Lon says the airport is right below us now. So

James Moore 32:55

on that. So volunteer pilots, you're flying around the state when people are basically donating their planes.

Denny Miles 33:04

In 70 in 74 before I was involved, absolutely in 78 Yes, with at least a chief pilot who was like a chief volunteer. And Carol would know more about that than I would. In 82 I went one step further, and that was we had a chief pilot. We had actually several chief pilots, and the pilots and the aircraft had to be approved by them before we would put the sitting governor of the state of Oregon into a volunteer airplane. And so we had standards that were set. And Carol G the scheduler, just knew she had a list of the approved and if somebody called up and was willing to donate, and most of these donations in 82 were twin engine air, you know, lumber, lumber company executive fully icing, protected and all that kind of stuff we but there was a time, and the governor tells the story. He may not have told you where in 74 I think it was that he's flying in like a Super Cub over in Eastern Oregon, and the cars are going faster than the Super Cub is. And there's the whole thing surrounding the governor Snell and Cornett and Farrell was legislation that then followed that they couldn't all travel together, right? So we went to a land board thing in Rome, landing on a gravel strip, and Norma had to go on a different airplane at some point. And I don't know what that status is now, because they've changed the whole succession and everything else since then, during the 77 session Ted Shively, of course, he thought nothing of it. It was perfectly legal, and it was a long gun. It wasn't being concealed or whatever.

And he just walked in, and I think, knowing exactly what the reaction would be. And by the time he got to the Senator's desk, there were three state police officers, retired state police officers, with their, you know, slightly, slightly too big for their suits and with a hard spot right here on their suits, because they had their sidearm with them, following right behind. Him, and he kind of grinned about it, and the senator grinned about it, but you know, that's the only time that today, if you did that, I think they would stop you at the door. They have ways of stopping you at the door. And Ted

Shively was just a fascinating guy in the first place. He was, he was the stereotypical gun nut, even though he was not a gun nut. So I don't think I marked it, handle it, answering phones.

The Richmond story. You haven't heard this one, or you've heard part of it. I have not heard this. They're in a meeting, and it's about a tax plan. And it was one of those things of, you know, okay, we're going to tweak this here, because we need the revenue, and because he, in fact, did cut budgets and increased taxes. Virtually every time we had we emptied tin cans initially, and then it was a matter of doing both, which both were unpopular, and three times in 82 as you're aware. So here's the governor who's served 20 years, I think, on the revenue committee, and here's rich Munn, his person, who was the revenue person for the legislature, and then was the head of the Department of Revenue under Atiyeh for a good part of the time. And they're having this discussion, and the room is full because it's like an important kind of thing, you know, kind of, there's no legislators there, but they're discussing what would happen if you did this and did and it is very esoteric. I mean, we are everyone is lost. Everyone is lost, except for rich. And the governor and Rich is going well, no, now governor, he's being so, almost condescending, but he really, he was just being so play governor. No, you remember back in we changed that, and that would tweak this, and that would push this over here, which would have the effect of causing this to modify.

No, Rich, I tell you, that change doesn't do that. It does this, that and something else. And he's not wanting to quote, win an argument, because he's works for the governor, right? So he finally says, okay, Governor, let me. Let me do this. Let's do a run tonight, which was code for, we're going to work to computer people all night long and pay a lot of overtime. And in those days, of course it was, you know, IBM cards and spinning tapes and and big green bar things. And a run came back with something about this thick, because you could tell by legislative district what the impact was going to be, which was an important part of the whole revenue thing. If this was going to have a disproportionate impact on the chair of Ways and Means, or the chair of the revenue committee, and of course, they were all Democrats, you were in big trouble. So you had to look at it that way. So Rich is over, and they run. And I took all night to do what we could probably do on our watches today.

Which gets into that whole thing I would like to talk a little bit about. Which is the milieu that we were operating under. I mean that people think nowadays, will you go to the PC and you look up on the No, no, this was mainframe computers in a air conditioned room in an old the old Revenue Office running all night long to come up with this big stack that you could then go through and circle things to see. He came back, and he was so Cha grand and Rich will tell you the story. He said, Go, you're right. That's exactly the way it turns out when you do the computer run. So literally, just knowing that system so well better than Richmond did, and that the computer ends up proving him right. Yeah, it blew us all away.

James Moore 38:31

Yeah, okay, I find by 1963 the newspaper is the reporters are referring to him as the Republicans tax expert, really? Yeah, that's very, very appropriate, which is exactly when he says it happened, because Clarence Barton was the main guy. Clarence becomes a speaker, and everybody began to look to Vic for the tax stuff. So it fits exactly with his room,

Denny Miles 38:53

because he actually went to the committee meetings. Yeah, you know, I mean, a lot of people just didn't bother if they were gonna be an important vote, whatever. But he sat there and listened to people and learned about it, yeah, and I didn't know squat. I came in in 77 I didn't understand what property taxes paid for and what the property tax limitation would do, and, you know, all of these kind of things. And I had to go to school on that just as a as a flunky his his story that he would tell about how important volunteerism is. He says he's in the bottom of a hole on a rainy day digging a hole, and I think it was for an outhouse, but I don't think he ever said maybe it just was due a story, but he said, and the rain and the mud is dripping down his neck, and he's digging this hole at Camp Merriweather, and his thought was, there isn't enough money in the world to pay me to do this job, and yet I'm enjoying what I'm doing here. And he said, and that is the key to volunteerism is that you do it because it's something that makes you actually feel very good that you're making this kind of a contribution. You.

So placing his own calls, I kind of told you that story and that because, and it happened over and over again, and we said, and he would just reach over and push a button because he didn't know the number necessarily, and he would push a button, and we'd say, Tell them who you are. And they'd say, you know, so and so there. And they would go through

the same thing every time we said, See, see what happens when that happens, okay? There was this day where the state government was off in February, you know, president's days and president's birthdays and so on so forth. And everybody else was working, the federal government was working, and schools were in session, and you could mail things, and you had to pay at the parking meter. But state government had a holiday. Okay, so the office is empty, except for the boss and me, and I'm far enough away that normally I wouldn't hear things going on, but in this case, I was, it was dead quiet, and you and we were both catching up more than anything else, and the phone at the front desk is ringing off the hook, ring, ring, ring. We didn't have voicemail or anything like that. It was none of that kind of stuff. It was a big button phone with a cord this big running to it and and he finally came down.

He says, Is there any way we can deal with that phone out there? And I said, I don't think so. I don't think that we can turn that phone off, or that bell off and kind of thing. And he says, well, it's just driving me crazy. I shut my door, but I could still hear it, because it was closer to his office than it was down to my office. And he said, Well, I'm gonna take my workout to the front desk and I'm gonna answer the phone. You know, I think that you won't get a lot done. And he said, Well, it's better than just hearing the damn thing ring all the time. Okay, so now everybody, most everybody who calls the governor's office wants to talk to Governor, and the front desk job is to get them to the ombudsman or the affirmative action or to transfer them over to an agency or something like that, or to an assistant to the governor. You know, it's rare that you know, one in a 500 calls that comes in is going to go directly to the governor, and we didn't, you know. So he's picking up the phone, and I'm only hearing half the conversation. I'm hearing his half obviously.

Governor Atiyeh doesn't answer. At governor's office, he goes, Governor Atiyeh, no, this is Governor Atiyeh. No, ma'am, this really is Governor Atiyeh. I'm in the governor's office and I'm talking to you now, and this would go on call after call after call, and he would be sitting there taking notes about so and so call back this person regarding whatever, and something like that. And then finally he came in and he said, I can't keep this up. This is ridiculous. I'm going to go in and close my door and maybe put a blanket or something over over that telephone. So Governor Tia, Mr. Kim, somehow, rather, when we went back to Washington, DC one time, this is, this is early on, because this is be when HW was vice president, and HW and the governor were compadres, not less so than, than Gerry Ford, right? But still same. Yeah, yeah, kind of thing.

And there's actually two stories deals with Bush, but Mr. Kim was his driver nowadays, and he was just a chauffeur. He was not a secret service. And I'm sure that has all changed, and I'm sure that you've got to be packing heat, kind of whatever. But he was a wonderful, wonderful man and, and basically the Vice President said, Well, why don't you take my car, since you're just here with taxis, you shouldn't be in a taxi, and Mr. Kim will drive you around. Well, they became great friends. We have pictures, I'm sure, over in the archives of the governor. And Mr. Kim and they corresponded back and forth and and he would always give him Pins and Things that were related to that.

We went back there when HW was getting ready to run for president, and the Vice President has an office in the West Wing, and so we were in the vice president. Normally it would be over in the executive office building. So we're in there. And you know these two mild mannered, very similar personality people, but with great senses of humor. Now I had told any politician, and I would continue to give this advice to anybody. If you're meeting with somebody important and you envision that that picture will be on your wall someday, do not do a grip and grip, because that screams this was opposed picture, and it does not say that. In fact, you had an important meeting with an important person. I get in 87 I gave that advice to Governor Kay or of Nebraska when she was meeting with Reagan, and she said, I've received lots of political advice. So much came back. She was just floating high. She just worshiped Reagan and and she's, that's the best political advice I've ever had. And because I said, you know, sit down. You're gonna be in the Oval Office. Oh, yeah, sit down and be talking to him. You know, I don't care what it is, but make it look like you're having this exchange of ideas on the Middle East or some darn thing. And, oh, she got this wonderful picture. It's still on her wall, I'm sure, on Brent Boulevard.

So I'd given advice to the governor. To Gerry on this subject many, many times. And so they've come in with the photographer, and it's literally set up where there's a couch and the Vice President is here, and the governor is here, and I, or Gerry is here, is there, and I am down here, and they come in and the picture they take is like this, okay? And, and, you know, we're all just together, and there's not so I went to Craig Fuller, and he's getting ready, you know, he's asking for the his endorsement, so that he can carry Oregon and all this kind of stuff, which, of course, was going to happen, but you're going through the motions. And so I said to Craig afterwards, I said, when the meeting is breaking up, can we

get individual pictures? And I could have said, Can I have an office in the West Wing for the day? I could have got, we could have gotten anything, but I said, just individual pictures. Oh, sure, sure. Official photographer comes in. Governor gets up, grip and grin. Gerry gets up, grip and grin. I get up and I go. And he starts, the Vice President starts to do this.

And I go, Mr. Vice President, that's going to look like every post picture in the world. And he goes, Okay, Denny, I'll look like I'm briefing you. He gets it. He knows exactly what I'm doing. Yeah, and Barbara and my late wife, Molly, and even Holly, my first wife, point out that I ruin this incredible picture by telling the story every time somebody looks at that picture, because it's clearly a post picture. That's not looking like a post picture, but it's worth it, right?

Anyway, the governor didn't get it. Okay? Mr. Kim, I will talk to Tom see if we can't the joke file is just a joke file. I mean, it's, I know, but it's, it should be a part of the archives. Yeah. Okay, French restaurant, I kind of told you that one, but basically they delivered me a Big Mac instead, and then I finally did get my dinner. That's good, Richmond. I think that may have covered our list of things. I wanted to make sure you had. Okay, cool. But, oh, good. Oh, okay. Oh, leaks. I'm sorry. There's, there are two other pages here. We had, we had leakers in the office. And since there is no incontrovertible, is that right? Incontrovertible? Incontrovertible. Without Barbara around, I'm dead. She's the former journalist and Fordham, phi, beta, kappa, I'm the OSU c minus student, evidence of who those are. So I'm not going to tell you who. Yeah, difference, but it just drove the boss crazy. Yeah, you know kind of thing. And I said, Well, there's an easy way to solve this problem, and it's the septic tank answer. What do you mean the septic tank answer? I said, Well, when they're looking for a leak in the septic tank, they flush fluorescent dye down the toilet, and then they go out and wherever it shows up, sometimes use a black light wherever it shows up. You know where the leak is. Well, okay, well, we're not going to be like flushing dye down somebody, are we? And I said, No, but what we're going to do is, if we have a suspect, we're going to give them official, real information. That's a little bit attractive, but that we really don't care whether it's released or not, and we're not going to give it to anybody else. Oh, and if it shows up in the press from the source in the governor's office or a source of whatever, we're going to know exactly. So we knew exactly who talked to who. We had it all mapped out, and we didn't fire anybody over that. I didn't wouldn't fire anybody anyway, but we would, we would have the ability of identifying who we could trust in the governor's office and who we couldn't trust. Oh, he said, Look, I have. I'm open to everything. I have never used my family in any campaign.

Now you may have found and this may prove to not be the case, but he said, I don't do the standard family picture with my kids and all this kind of stuff. And as a result, my kids life is their private life. And Suzanne has said, when she gets married, and I forget who she was getting married to in that time. She wants it to be private and have no press there. And so the fact that she was getting married was known by the press, and this is that post Watergate era, and they took it on as a challenge, and they, in fact, busted it. They told everybody when it was going to be, where it was going to be. Suzanne was in tears, and the governor was just very upset about the whole thing. We did literally come in, like heads down, about, oh, we got another revenue crisis and so on. And we used to have, it's now out of the office. They moved it downstairs or something. But it was this nice piece, and it had a whiteboard that was closed most of the time, and you'd open it up, and that was where the tax plan and the revenue plan was written on and so on so forth.

And we just, we said, okay, here we go again, another verse, another chapter. Governor goes over, opens it up. And it's the last one that we just had completed that that with a little tweaks of, you know, this has gotta be point five instead of point six and things like that. And we, we. Didn't know whether laugh or cry, but it made an impact on us, literally. Bustamante. Bustamante was one of Suzanne's husbands, and he was an artist, not a renowned artist, but an artist, and nice guy, by the way, and so the governor in a speech to like the art commission or some arts group just decided to test everybody just a little bit, or maybe make some fun. But people, when you tell the story, to think he was making fun of them. That wasn't his intent, but it could have made fun of them, and in the speech, and David may be the one who helped him with this. I don't know, I can't remember, but I remember that he went through and he said, you know, we're all familiar with the great artists of the world. And then he will Cezanne, Renoir, Bustamante. And he just, you know, right in the middle, put this in there, and they all were just going, but I'm sure afterwards, did you hear Bustamante kind of thing? But they, you know, the emperors, no clothes kind of thing, new clothes. They didn't want to bust and say, Well, excuse me, Governor, who's Bustamante? Well, he's my son in law.

No, okay, when, when we had to get the pistol, which Jimmy has, evidently, was given to him by the governor, that he found in the governor of homes between the seats. Yeah, okay, we had to get it back right from Syria. Well, you don't just take a pistol, because we were going to Israel and we were going to do all this other kind of stuff and handle it, you

know, take care of it. Well, we put it in the pouch. That was the secret way to get stuff back State Department. Well, the State Department didn't like that at all. And Gerry tells the story of them calling up and they said, how, why they did this way? I don't know, but they were just raging mad misuse of the pouch. And we got to, you know, you can stop this and all. And by the way, are you aware of the G U N that is in the pouch? And she said, You mean a gun. Yes, yes. They put a gun in the pouch. I mean, that's just outrageous. They said, Well, did it cause any problems? No, it wasn't loaded or anything like that. But then it was the example of the ultimate insult. But Lon thought it was a great idea. He would also, he bought a sword, and he brought it in. This is and we had to figure out a way of packing it to bring it home. We would when Lon and I would get into a hotel, the first thing we did was ask people, because they had many boxes, and I would bring along a roll of filament, tape, because we knew the boss was going to be collecting, buying, doing things like that. And so that's great. Okay, I'm going to give you two documents. Okay, this is my take on the Columbia Gorge National Scenic gig. This is fantastic. This is my part of my little

James Moore 52:55

document that I told you about. So this is the same conditions, or is this just straight to me?

Denny Miles 53:02

You can quote, I'm quoting mostly other people in there. Okay, okay, I just, I really wanted to know personally a long time ago, actually, and then some books came out recently, and I updated it. I just wanted to know what, what really happened, because we were reporting on it from the side of the governor and everybody, this is one of those issues. It's like Rajneesh. The Rajneesh issue, had it gone sour? And it could have, as you know, gone sour, big time. Had it gone sour? Dave from Meyer, Norma Paulus. Turner was a straight up guy. He'd have taken whatever heat was necessary. But all these people who now are out who afterwards, Dave obviously is not doing anything right now, and Norma can't, but they all like to beat their chest about all they did for the Rajneesh problem. And of course, the governor's policy was to stay quiet and not even meet with them. And so he was as low profile as you possibly could be. But the same thing on the Columbia scenic thing, that was a lot of local opposition, especially on the Washington side of the river, and the governor convincing John Spellman, and the governor basically keeping the president from vetoing it, and all of that we know again, we didn't make a big deal because the governor told me not to make a big deal of it.

And so I wanted to make sure that what I had. And now, of course, the environmentalists see it as one of the greatest things in sliced bread, and certainly Mark Hatfield and Bob Packwood had a lot to do with it. It was federal legislation, as did the delegation in the state of Washington, as did our congressional I mean, the members of Congress, but Bob Packwood wanted more control by the federal government, and you know, he doesn't like to be told that now, because he doesn't see himself as a big government kind of guy all the time, and yet, that's exactly the position he was taking. And he and Hatfield were sparring back and forth on that whole issue. And Hatfield, to some degree, also was kind of much they're oriented that way in Washington. They think that they do a really good job back there and that they should be the ones telling. States what to do. Well, that wasn't the governor's position at all, and so he doesn't get, in my opinion, as much credit for having it crafted in the right way. The people who wanted it not even to happen were mad at him. The people who wanted it to be a total federal government National Monument status were unhappy with him, and yet he figured out a way to make it happen and keep it from being vetoed. Would it have happened later with another president, absolutely. But the fact that it happened then, I think, is he gets the lion's share. Now, I'm certainly biased

James Moore 55:33

just that context because I've been trying to figure out this. I don't think this deserves a whole chapter. No, no, but it's, it's the last page of that idea. Then puts it into a nice opposition to Opal Creek, where Opal Creek doesn't happen under him, Opal Creek happens later, right? So, but there's nice, well, what is his Opal Creek is just tied up in family, too,

Denny Miles 55:59

right, right, right, and you're aware of the story of Willamette Week and Opal Creek and the Jawbone Flats and all that kind of stuff, they had a freelancer who I can't think of his name, but he was a freelancer, not a regular reporter, and the only press the Governor did not want to meet with, and this had to be an exception. Who's Willamette week. He said, I don't care if I ever eat with those sons and bitches, yeah, and, and pretty much told me that he was going to be busy anytime they wanted to meet with I said, well, they come to your meeting. He says, that's fine, but in terms of a private sit down meeting with them, all they're doing is getting information to screw me over. And I'm not about to put up with that. And it's kind of true, you know, most cases. So I forget who was publisher and who was editor at that point, but it

was, you know, Meeker, one of the people that are still involved in it.

So on this side, he calls me up, and he says, we got a guy who says that the Hewitt connection with Jawbone Flats and, you know, basically Delores father and on all of the various mining claims that the governor benefited financially because he was the person who cleaned up the estate after he died. And, you know, it was a total blue sky, bootstrap scammy kind of thing. And he kept finding stock certificates, and he's going through these papers and trying to get a hold of people. And he said, just a nightmare to do. But you know him well enough to know that he was doing it absolutely by the book and straight up and all this kind of stuff and and so the thing from why week to me was, you know, we need to meet with him. And I said, Well, you know, he's got a really a tough schedule right now. Yeah, we knew. I mean, they knew we were blocking them out. And he said, but here's the ultimate threat, you know. Well, we have to go with what we have if we don't have a chance. And I said, Okay, here's what I will do. I will advocate for the meeting if you come with this contract reporter. Well, I don't normally do that. I said, I understand, but you're going to make the decision whether the story runs or not.

And I can tell you there's nothing there. I know, personally there is nothing there. And if you tell me, if there's nothing there, that you will not, you know, just run a story because you've got something, and you might as well throw the grenade in the room and watch the blood spatter against the wall. Oh, okay, so I said, if you come and you listen to the questions and you don't like what the answers are, or something like that, you obviously First Amendment, all that kind of stuff, it's fine. So this contract reporter or freelancer brings in literally a box with hanging file folders in it. He's been working on this for a year, and every question he asks the governor has an immediate and direct answer, no, that's not true. That actually was filed over here and done this way. And you know, he had incredible knowledge of it, and debunked every allegation of any kind of misdoing whatsoever. And so as we're walking out and the Freelancers walking out ahead of us, and I went over to whoever was publisher, editor. And I said, What do you think?

And he said, we're not running a story. And so that was the connection with Opal Creek. But there's the Lord Deschutes that the governor was involved in with regard to wilderness. He said, It's not a question is whether we have wilderness question about how much, and the issue on wilderness was we had rare one, rare two, rare three. You know, the rares are killed, still going on, yeah. And now we've gotten to the point where we have an area that's got a bunch of roads on it, and it's been logged and everything else, but we're going to destroy the roads and we're going to let the forest go back naturally, and we're going to make it into a wilderness area. I mean, it just, it's like, okay, Wilderness is a really good thing, he would say. But it's a matter of whether we turn the entire state or not into something like that. So we have to make those good decisions. And then, you know, all the story about the forest plan and things like that, right? I also looked at the judicial stuff. And so this is this, again, is just great. It's more, it's more a matter of places that you could go find. Other information on his initial appointments to the court and exist. Gillette, now retired. I ran into him at one of the old fogies meeting out at Lake Oswego, yeah. And he proceeds to tell me, in chapter and verse about the great appointments that were made by the governor, you know, getting somebody from Eastern Oregon, getting someone who practiced law and wasn't just a jurist, you know, bringing in a real seasoning to the court with regard to that. And it's a part that is boring as hell, yeah, but it's something that often isn't, isn't looked at that much,

James Moore 1:00:35

and it's something that did not primarily go through the appointments people, right? It's partly, it's, this is what he would call Jack Fauci and other people

Denny Miles 1:00:44

in and Wally Carson, well, but after

James Moore 1:00:49

Wally became caught on the court, you

Denny Miles 1:00:50

couldn't, couldn't do it, then it didn't do it. So this was just more on openness. And again, you can quote whatever you want from that. I have no problem with that. Okay, so this was and you didn't get back to me, so I didn't know if you wanted to play that my game of you can take a look at this and ask me all the questions you want, but let me just use it as notes, and then this, these words do kind of follow under the rule that you and I had, okay, give it to you, but I want

to talk through some of these things. And then we need to

James Moore 1:01:21

get on the table. Will be there. And, yeah, no,

Denny Miles 1:01:24

it's fine. It's as far as I'm concerned. And some of these have to do with what I believe were mistakes, because I think that's something that the governor would want. And it's all my opinion. He may not have thought these were mistakes. He thinks it's a mistake that we didn't blow up the sign, for example, to his dying day, and probably now, right? Thinks that we should have blown up the sign

James Moore 1:01:48

before you get started. Yeah, just one thing that I just discovered, okay, mistakes. So he when, when he became governor Atiyeh brothers, and, you know, he was Atiyeh brothers, they made it very clear they would have no state contracts. Right

Denny Miles 1:02:02

before that, when he was in the legislature, they won a contract for the ceremonial office, and it got bad press. And he said after that, we are not, we're not going to go for any state contract,

James Moore 1:02:16

exactly. So I just discovered that, yeah, and so I've got to go to the tea brothers and say, Do you have contracts on this? And I'd want to go through the archives and find out, because they were the low bidder. So what were the other bidders? You know, that kind of thing, right?

Denny Miles 1:02:29

Good point. But it's just no. He told that story regularly, that that it was far better for them to simply not do business with the state while he was a state senator, and certainly when he became governor, you know he, I think was he still listed as president of Atiyeh brothers?

James Moore 1:02:44

Yeah, he was up till the end. But they, it was weird, because there's the president of Atiyeh brothers, but then they held, the brothers held different positions on the board, right? It would rotate around, right? Who's the president of the board, who's the secretary, and it wasn't

Denny Miles 1:02:57

that long after he left office that they made the decision. And the way he would tell it to me was we didn't want to be in a situation like we were when dad died. They wanted to pass it on. And that's when the whole business of him wanting his family involved, and the others had more votes, and the others were

James Moore 1:03:19

exactly right, of course, yeah, yeah. And that's what the actually, the process there that they're going through now to pass it on to the next generation. And right? But same thing. And did you know Ed sold his house? No, because when Tom was shutting down the governor's house and all the stuff with that. Ed looked at that and said, I can't leave my kids to do that interesting. So he sold the house and moved he lives with just across the highway. Donna Campbell lives over there too, but, but he saw the experience, and he said, I can't, I can't do that to my kids. Yeah, what

Denny Miles 1:03:58

an amazing guy. Ed. I didn't get to know Richard that much. But Ed, was he such an he's just such a wonderful human being. Richard pain in the ass. Well, I didn't, I honestly didn't know. I never got to really know Richard, but, and primarily because Ed was always so incredibly supportive. Yeah, and Richard really was unhappy that that there was a brother who was involved in helping the state and not helping the family business, yeah, yeah. So,

James Moore 1:04:27

and he also very cognizant of the fact that they gained a lot of business, but they also lost a lot of business. Sure, sure,

Denny Miles 1:04:34

absolutely. Yeah. Okay. So some of these are mistakes. Some of these are just kind of the milieu, and both Gerry and I have expressed to each other the concern that people don't understand what was really happening, technology wise, size wise, and everything else in terms of state government in 1979 to 1987 and so a part of this is to get on the record, if you will. Some of those points. And it also goes into a little more detail about what I think are some mistakes that were made, starting off with Lee Johnson So and these are my notes. And again, you can have these afterwards, if, if you don't mind just using whatever I say here. Okay, so initially, the Straub people came to us and said, you know, or Straub himself said in a note, you know, I recommend you point two transition people, one, general transition officer and one, one of the documents, the book, the box that is not taped closed that I just delivered to Eva, you should probably get over there in the next week before she really puts it all away someplace, because there's some really choice stuff in there. There's some Bardsley polling information. There's there's a note from the Governor, when Norma starts to run for governor and starts to trash the administration, in his handwriting that says, I am sick and tired of this shit. You get a hold of Norma and you tell you know, it's written out in very direct language.

So yeah, there's, there's some good stuff in there, and some stuff that you may want at least. I mean, I'm down to the point now where Barbara said, shouldn't this go in your own scrapbook? And I said, my scrapbook is now at Pacific University, and they have more stewardship over than my great nephews are going to have, or anybody else in this world who's going to care. And she's personally going through all of her mother and her aunt stuff right now, and she understands that. But I just, I've just gotten rid of it all. I figure if I want to see it, I'll it'll be cataloged. Somebody will have it already. Okay, so we appointed Travis and Travis cross and Lynn Newbury, both people the governor knew very well. Lynn more than than Travis. And Lynn did all the budget stuff, and Travis did everything else, which was mostly personnel at that point. And the story that the governor tells that you probably already have, which is, you know, Lynn and Lee Johnson come in with the whole plan for tax and revenue, and he sit there and listen, and not his analysis. Let me tell you what we're going to do, kind of thing the first time that Lee Johnson may have realized that the governor really meant it when he said, Look, I'm going to be much more involved in the detail and things like that.

And so Travis, in some respects, was kind of a mentor to me, although there was times when the word was that Travis was suggesting that maybe it was time for Denny to go. Now that there's a long list of people who were out saying it's time for Denny to go, most of them came around at the end of the whole thing, saying that I was, he said, modestly, one of the best people around, because I actually had credibility with the governor and could talk to him and convince him of things and I knew what the hell I was doing, obviously. But having said that, Travis was still kind of a mentor, and there's a picture over there in the archives of a photographer wanted to have during the transition, a picture of the governor with the state flag and the US flag has a background to it, and then he backed up and took a picture of Travis and me holding the two flags, which is a cherish, cherish picture.

We had lunch, and he said, Denny, he said, Am I missing something here? The governor elect just does not have a list of people that he has been thinking about for X number of years he ran for governor in 74 he started running for this position many, multiple years ago, basically in his head, and yet, he doesn't have a list of people. I mean, he knew who he was going to fire. He fired Dan Goldie the day after the election, brought him in summarily and for his execution, into the campaign office and said, you no longer have a job. And when I'm sworn in, you're sworn out, kind of thing. But he didn't know who to replace him with at that point. And I said, Well, I said, I've known him just since 77 but and and so he had, you know, according to my understanding from the boss, he kind of wanted Lynn Newberry to be the chief of staff or the executive assistant. But lent told him, even before the election, don't ask me, because I can't do it. And then he wanted Gerry Thompson, and you've heard her story about how Travis sat up, said you could have any building you want, and all. But you know, Travis was basically an old, old sexist coup from the old days, and didn't think about appointing women Chief of Staff.

And so that was kind of ridiculous, and I think it was what I call through a lot of materials and discussions we've had the influentials, or the influencers, or whatever these behind the jack Fauci, the Doug heiders of the world that were trumpeters and were close to him. But by the way, you know the story that before the election, they all wrote down in the primary election, all the trumpeters wrote down who was going to win the primary, and they put their name on it, and folded it all up, sealed it, put it in the thing, and then they the idea was, after the election, they were to open it up

with the winner in the room. And none of them picked the win. None of them, not the entire group of influentials, picked him to win. Um. Yeah, and so I don't know how or who, and you may know, but how Lee Johnson came to the top. Obviously, very, very bright guy, but not suitable to be executive assistant or Chief of Staff. I've got

James Moore 1:10:16

from Victor and some other things I can do the top three, possibly four. But Lee Johnson doesn't pop up, right? So I have no idea. I have no

Denny Miles 1:10:26

idea in the world well anyway, and as a result, he didn't really have, with the exception of me, and Shirley didn't have and bringing over from the campaign. I mean, Paul Phillips was an assistant ombudsman, or something like that. Carol Whitney was affirmative action director for nine months or less, or something like that, and so the and none of the other people in the campaign wanted jobs, you know. So there was no pressure from to somehow or other bring Carol Whitney in his executive assistant, although she might have thought so, and yeah, and I didn't know how the system worked or anything else. But then when Lee came in, Bob Oliver, who was, you know, the consummate professional, worked in multiple administrations, Jim Russell and Pat Amedeo, came in, I think, at the recommendation of Bob Duncan, who was, you know, very, very close to the governor, even though of a different political party probably more aligned with him politically than a lot of Republicans were at that time. And so all these people came in that weren't necessarily personally loyal to him, right? And they were in many ways loyal to Lee, but not him. Betty maudlin comes in, who'd been Lee's close assistant for years and years and years. And so we had an organization that was focused more on the executive assistant than on the governor, and that started going south in 30 days. I mean, it really, you could sense it. And I was not invited to meetings. And the only time I was invited was when I was told how I was to advocate. I refused to do that.

James Moore 1:11:58

So the outside evidence I have is the Kelly wood nomination. Yes, you have. Lee is threatening people in the Senate, right? It's like, you kidding me, but

Denny Miles 1:12:10

yeah, well, there's a there's a news article that talks about him as being the hatchet man, and he denies it. But anyway, having said that, not involved with the search Jack first, Roger Martin, probably more so than anybody else. Oh, in Lee's defense, obviously the smartest guy in most rooms. First of all. Secondly, he had, he had come of age in bigger environments with Bob Davis and Ed Westerdahl as McCall's Chiefs of Staff, and Keith burns and Bud Kramer as governor Straub Chiefs of Staff, and they pretty much ran state government for their governors. They kept Bob Straub out of things. McCall just didn't want to be involved in things. McCall was up here looking down at the world and thinking of big thoughts and so on so forth, while Westerdahl and Davis ran things or tried to run things, and they pretty much ran state governments. So that was the model that Lee brought in. So in his defense, the governor says he made it clear to them that was not going to be the case. More than once, I was in a meeting where Lee and the Governor and I were there, maybe other people were there, and Lee would go, Governor, Governor, you got to back me on this, because I've already said it, and if you don't back me on this, my credibility is going to be shot with the Democratic leadership and so on so forth. So you know, it's like you got to support me here, because otherwise I'm going to be useless. And maybe the governor should have but I never saw him doing this as Lee, I'm sorry. You've just ran down a completely dead end. That's not where I want to go, and so I can't now, if you like, I'll explain that we had some miscommunication or something like that, and they have my full faith and all. But you know, more than once he was begging to be backed up on some silly ass thing that he had done on behalf of the governor.

James Moore 1:14:08

Do you know if Gerry knows these stories this, she was not the time she was she's not there, yeah, but she did when she was hired. Do you know if there was a communication about that kind of stuff? Well,

Denny Miles 1:14:17

you've seen the memo, the transition memo from Lee to to her, yeah.

James Moore 1:14:24

The reason I ask is she is encountering similar issues. She doesn't, does not do anything the governor doesn't want her to do. But the negotiations of the Rajneeshees are intense, right? And there's a lot of the Rajneeshees and John Mathis, the Federal mediator, saying, Well, this is what I said. This is, this is what, what is going to happen. And she's rock solid. No, the Governor and I are exactly the same on this, right? You can't do that. And it seems like a counter to that. Kind of relationship, that kind of understanding. So just she was

Denny Miles 1:15:05

aware that there had been problems, and she was aware of the fact that, basically, Lee had been fired. I mean, the governor calls Jack Faust and says, Help me out of this. Yeah, and, and Jack, being the the trooper takes care of it and calls up Lee and says, You're not, you're no longer going to be the executive assistant. You're probably going to be able to be a judge someday again, if you want to be but, you know, that's it. You're not going to run. BPA, yeah, and a few other things. Oh, that would have been so. So Gerry was aware of that, because now the governor is more specific than ever when he hires her. Yeah, you know I need to be kept in the loop. I need to not be surprised. I need, you know this, he hated surprises. You're going to get a binder that I called Gerry last night or yesterday afternoon. I said, the binder that you gave to me to look over. Do you want me to give that to Jim now? And she said, I've got to look at it. I can't just and it is, but I can tell you what's in it. And she said, Tell Jimmy's going to get it, or tell the archive that they're going to get it. And it's from the day one. She is writing him daily memos with things like, they swept the floor in your office that day. Not, not exactly that, but things like, I mean, it's so into minutia that it's an insight into any time the governor was not in a cabinet meeting, which by then, because we're talking cherry 921, of 81 Yeah, yeah. So he's doing a lot more traveling at that point. Yeah.

And, and so anytime there was a Cabinet meeting, either Bob Oliver or Gerry would write a summary. And if Gerry talked to somebody, stub Stewart called and said this, and so and so wonders if you're going to take care of this person and the strong recommendation for so and so to be appointed to whatever, and all this kind of stuff. And she's just she had a typewriter hidden in aside her desk, because being a big time executive in those days, if she had a typewriter, and you were a woman, right, you were a secretary, right? So she had it hidden down where people couldn't see it. When they came in for meetings, she'd pull it up. She was expert typist, yeah, was able to type out these memos. So it's just full of those kind of memos, keeping him informed more so than I think, was even even necessary. And then during the campaign, he would return them to her with notes on it, like yes, or I need to talk to you about this or and what it shows more than the else again, is his incredible involvement in details. And I guess that I would even personally say more so than he should have been, because it it burdened things down, it slowed things down.

And agency heads, you know, the often quoted thing of you hire good people, and you let them go, and you and you stay out of their way. Kind of thing didn't seem to apply to the CEO, CEO, Chief of Staff, kind of position that he wanted to be, and he was involved in that, and that's what he wanted to do. And it worked out. I mean, things worked out, but it probably slowed the process down in many cases. And the thing that Lee says in the memo, in the transition memo, of, you know, Daryl Rawls getting in to see you, and you know, that just undercuts, number one, your chief of staff. And number two, they can when they can make the case directly to you on an argument that maybe you shouldn't even be involved in, and then they get your support and they run off. And that's true. The people in any kind of an intergovernmental kind of education at the Harvard Business School or or the Kennedy School or something like that, would say, don't do that. But it turned out, you know, and because he did know everything, and he was able to stand up in front of the media on a weekly basis and pretty much respond to everything. Very few things did, we have to quote, get back to them on something like that. Very few things. Okay, so in my mistake, it was, it was, and you've heard the story about Mendel's Yes, okay, there were just the influentials again. They just thought they misjudged him, and they thought he was going to be easy to control, and they didn't know the stubbornness factor. So

James Moore 1:19:16

the very first time I talked to him on tape after we he talked about the ground rules, which were none, and the assumptions which were exactly my assumptions. This isn't about Vic Atiyeh. It's about the times of the guy named that kind of stuff, right? But the very first story he told was the business community and how they wanted him. And he listened and said, well, but a, you've always been weird. And B, no, we have to go do this. And standing up to them and how they were just flustered,

Denny Miles 1:19:46

they all thought. And many of them then proceeded to go out of business. Many of them got over their heads, and their companies are no longer around. And they were the they were the most bombastic and the loudest and so on. And they'd sit. And they would just berate him. I mean, we're talking about lack of personal respect for the office, let alone the individual. And so, you know, labor loved him, but never endorsed him, and would never even come close to him, right? And he would demand that we would list all these things he had done and the state and for the state employees, he was probably the one of the nicest guys, nicest governors ever for state employees, and yet they just treated him like dirt. And the business community was looking for all this control they thought they were going to be. They now were in office, you know. And it was a quid pro quo kind of thing, although many of them, the ones who were the most helpful in campaigns, were the least demanding. You know, the Clarice poppers of the world and Roy Livermore's of the world were, you know, they were the ones who had the great respect. And, you know, Roy Livermore was on the safe board and treasurer of the campaign when we stole \$81 million from safe I mean, talk about and we just never talked about it. Yeah, you know, Roy, you

James Moore 1:20:56

told me a story that it was like an issue for a day or an afternoon or something, well, and Roy came in the next day, and we just kept going.

Denny Miles 1:21:04

He just gritted his teeth, yeah. And I knew where he and was, but basically I said, I know where you are on this, and I know that's a problem for you, but it has nothing to do with what we're doing here. And he said, You're right. And then was gone, yeah, right. And then he was the absolute loyal soldier. And, you know, I looked at budgets for the campaign as you know, big chunks going here and going here and and keeping it so that we didn't go into debt. Because that was one of the rules. And there was only a two rules, basically, win and don't leave me in debt. Yes. And great articles

James Moore 1:21:36

from 74 about every candidate being in debt, yeah,

Denny Miles 1:21:40

yeah. He said, Do not leave me in debt. If you leave me in debt, you're gonna, I'll haunt you for the rest of your life, kind of thing. And, and that was, as you know, part of the reason for the radio window mistake was we were holding, holding back. And Roy was the one at the end was saying, you know, we can raise more money. We can do we need to spend more money. Mr. One

James Moore 1:22:00

more question before we go on. Yeah, would Monte Montgomery be part of this business group, or is he his own special

Denny Miles 1:22:07

case? He is his own special case. Okay, because

James Moore 1:22:11

I've got great stories about him, and I've got notes that the governor kept all the legislative notes from his first two years, first first two legislative sessions, really, every one. So it was a great one from Ed fatally. Don't you ever pursue the thing like quickly from day one, but Karen's

Denny Miles 1:22:30

were the, were the, you know, every other, I would say, and I wasn't in those leadership meetings, yeah, but just from dealing with them in a public basis, with the exception of Grattan Karen's and Ed Vadely, we were very fortunate in the Democratic leadership, given the fact that it was Democratic leadership the whole eight years, you know, very cats and Captain kits, yes, yes, yes. And they were at least responsible, and they realized that the state was in trouble, and they were working for him Cairns and fade. They were looking to screw the governor every time they could. I mean, they were just absolute hard ass partisans about the whole thing, and probably still are. I don't Ed fail. He's got to be

James Moore 1:23:11

dead, but he died last year. Yeah, yeah. And what is still around? Yeah, Grant and still around Ed Fauci Lee in his his

will left money to the city of Eugene for outdoor concerts in the summer. Yeah. It's like, huh? No, the reason I asked about Monte Montgomery is just because he, as it's late, kids harbor is, is the President of the Senate by this point, right? But there's, there's a couple of cases where, where he is just a mean person in terms of telling people how he Lords it over the governor and that kind of stuff and so and so. Is he his own special case, or is he part of this business coterie at this point, we've we've talked before

Denny Miles 1:23:57

and and I've pointed out my my role as his quote, resident cynic and and because he had a personal blind spot for loyalty to friends that was not returned, and loyalty that hung on too long and when money started getting into legal troubles, and they were, you know, doing depositions and all this kind of stuff and so on. He said, just, it can't be. It's not the money. Montgomery, I know well, money was a manipulator. Is a manipulator, and I don't know. Did you find out? Did he ever serve one night in jail? Or did he simply,

James Moore 1:24:36

I haven't pursued that part of it, okay, but the fact,

Denny Miles 1:24:39

the fact is that what Monty would do with everybody was basically try to schmooze them over and manipulate them. And that was his style. That was his style when he was a politician and and so he you'd call his office at it, was it AOL or whatever, and he'd be at home and. The secretary would pull this ruse. Well, just a minute, let me get the your call into the office, you know kind of thing, and then you could tell, if you were at all savvy about how telephone systems work, that you were being transferred to his home phone, yeah, and, and, and when he was in the office, the story is that his secretary said, maybe even in court records someplace, that he would joke about how he was could manipulate the governor, and how he could get anything he wanted from the governor and and you know, that just isn't for us who were personally loyal to him, to maybe to a fault, but you just It's unbelievable that someone would do that, but that was his history as Speaker of the House and everything else. Yeah, it's crazy. Yes, yes. Okay, so Glenna was, was never got on the campaign, but, but was brought in and then kept on way too long. She leave her own accord. No, okay, no, no, she, she went through a process of, well, there's a campaign story when we sent the governor to to Sweet Home, and then back to Lebanon, and then back to Lebanon, and I found out it was Glenna, and I just didn't tell the governor who it was. I just took the took the arrow and or the sword and fell on it, yeah, but Glenna started doing things that were basically for Glenna and not for the governor, and it got worse and worse and worse, and she wasn't doing a very good job. And so all of a sudden he got, you know, a really good secretary, and he found out what life could really be like. Yeah, on that. No, she didn't.

James Moore 1:26:32

These are floor notes from his first two years. Wow. So you can scoop up and they move, but it's just a gold mine. Yeah, no kidding. Later on, he would only keep the ones that that were actually pasted into the scrapbooks, so he's editing them here. He just kept everything.

Denny Miles 1:26:53

Wow, that is cool stuff. He had a mistaken belief that you could hire really good business people in state government, and that they could run government like a business. Well, I personally believe you cannot run government like a business, and that one of his mistakes was hiring really good business people. So he hired Tom Matarossi to I think, be the executive department initially, or it might have been Jim Bedingfield. But anyway, Mater Ross is what the story is about. And he would, he came in one day, and he was a, you know, classic, stereotypical, fiery Italian guy who ran a forest products company down in Klamath Falls, or someplace down there in Southern Oregon, and he was just mad as hell. And he said, Damn it, Governor.

He says, he says, you know, in my business, when I tell somebody to do something, if they don't do something, I fire their ass here, they look at me and basically tell me, I'm going to be here after you're gone, and I'm going to do it my way, and I can't do anything about it. What's the stupid part? And he just was ranting and raiding it, and it's true, oh yeah, it's absolutely true. And so it just almost never worked out when we brought somebody straight from the private sector in, and it gets back to that business of the business community sitting around that border control table, thinking that the governor should be able to do this and be able to do this and be able to do that and so on, and him explaining to

them that, no, you understand that the Constitution says, you know, and I can't just do that. And, well, I don't know why you can't. You know, you're the CEO and that kind of stuff. And they're, quote, not getting their way, and as a result, being very petulant about the whole thing. But yeah, mistake of bringing in and bringing in really good people, bedding field and Matarossi and others out of the private sector, but setting them up for a situation that was not going to work out.

Now, are there examples where people have come out of the private sector, yeah, but most of the time they were serving as legislators or whatever, you know, Stafford, Hansel, Bob Straub. I mean, you can go through people who have done that, and then on the other side of that, he pulls the exact opposite and makes a brilliant appointment in Leo Hagstrom, who's a lifer and who knew everybody else who'd been brought in by previous governors to run the Department of Human Resources had been these outside big time, people from out of state, and they were going to come in and, quote, reorganize. How many times has that department been reorganized? And Leo just knew how to run the department, and he also understood the governor. And speaking of anecdotes, you've heard the anecdote about the hiring of Dave Fiscum. When he came into my office, when Leo came into my office early on, I don't know. No, no. Okay, very quickly, Leo comes in, sits down. And this is just every, every meeting was like this. Came in, sat down, lit a cigarette. The governor comes in, sit down, light a cigarette. You know that just that was, and I've never been a smoker, not even once. And, and he was very nervous, and he said, so, so Denny, I've got this position, head of. Public Relations for DHR, I've told you,

James Moore 1:30:02
okay, yeah, get into this. Yeah, absolutely, got it. And we

Denny Miles 1:30:05
were the ones who took the governor, took the party, the designation off of all of the appointments. Yeah, you know, there was, what, two boards or commissions that required a partisan balance, like the Ethics Commission or something else, and that was the excuse for, right? And it's back on there, I'm sure. Yeah, I mean, it's back on

James Moore 1:30:22
it was on there the day you guys left. Well, not quite it turns out, talking to Joe Thorn, no one had gotten a key to the office, and nobody knew how to turn on the lights. She had been around so she knew where to find the state police, you know, and say Hi,

Denny Miles 1:30:44
can we get I thought the governor said that he handed Neil Goldschmidt may have

James Moore 1:30:47
been but they showed up for work the next morning and no one could get in, and no one knew where the lights they

Denny Miles 1:30:52
probably changed the locks. Would have been good standard operating procedures. But okay, so I lost my train of thought. Leo, heck from okay, we've already we finished. Finished that anyway, he he was, in fact, vulnerable to miss being misled by people, right? And with the best of intentions, he just didn't seem to have the instinct that there were bad people out there who were willing to take advantage of the governor, because that concept was totally foreign to him, right? Totally

James Moore 1:31:23
so. So Glenna. Does Glenna just kind of drift into not being effective, or let me, let me, or does she get I'm the assistant to this guy, and I'm, you know, bigger than than this. I mean, first,

Denny Miles 1:31:38
first of all, let me tell you that I wouldn't have ever been able to have worked for the governor as governor, had it not been for Glenna. Glenna, I mean, the governor kept thinking, Why in the world would he leave his position at Oregon State to go to work on my campaign? He didn't know that I had one year notice and that I was going to be out of a job. And I didn't tell him. I didn't tell my dad. I told my wife. I told my wife I was the only person that really knew it that I can tell anybody now I don't care, because it was really a good thing. So so she and I were close in the sense of she

never did anything mean and nasty to me in any way, shape or form, but she did have, in many ways, some tacit control over his schedule, although Gerry would point out that no, the schedule was put together by the governor and the Chief of Staff and assistance to the governor, somebody could get in through her, and she started actually controlling phone calls more than she should. And you know,

James Moore 1:32:34

this is all his committee assignments, 1971 wow. Glenna Hayden, committee clerk, right? So that's probably it.

Denny Miles 1:32:43

Well, and she was the, she was the caucus administrator, yeah, yeah, seven, yeah, and, and all she really did was sit in there and write quotes down from floor speeches given by Democratic senators who would be six. Yeah, exactly. Well, she would write down what the, what the what the potential target seats were, where we at least had a chance of winning? Yeah. And I thought, Okay, well, this must be how it's done. But I couldn't figure that out. I was busy working the milk bottle, Bill and and other things. So as part of this resident cynic role, and I'm randomly going around to a different things I've told you about the red phone. Okay? 373783333, and we knew it was him, period. That was it. Who else had the red phone? Nobody, okay. That was the whole point. The governor didn't even know what the number was, okay. He had a button that said Denny, okay, and it was and he had two buttons on his winter street phone. One said Denny office. The other said, Denny home and and he didn't know what those numbers were, and he just pushed the button. And I said, Yes, sir.

And after three rings, Tim Marsh, or whatever, this was, my assistant at the time said, you know, Denny's not here. That was, that was, I thought it was one of the coolest things I did. It turned out to be a very, good thing. I mean that you talk about communication and not allowing some intern to answer the phone and not realize that it was the chief executive of the state of Oregon, you know, not going to happen. Another mistake, the infamous 1978 Woodburn meeting. And you've heard that story from Roger. You've heard it from the governor. Roger continues to say that it was just an honest effort to try and keep Tom McCall from winning. And when he when you tell him, the governor thought it was a total setup and that he was betrayed by his good friends, and again, those were the quote, influentials, or the influencers and that kind of thing, oral history errors, okay, yeah, one of the things I've done is give you my printed copies of the oral history. Because, okay, because they're online now, yeah, anymore. So they're all spiral bound, and you can, you can have them and do what you want with them.

The boss tells the story of the man who died on the cross 2000 years ago. You've heard that story. That guy didn't that guy. Die on the cross that was not in the Oregon editorial board, that was in a media availability. He was talking about the energy facility siting Council, and they asked some reporter asked him, you know, what attributes are you looking and he went on for like, four minutes describing, you know, absolute integrity, you know, intelligence on just this incredible description of this. And there was this 10 second pause, and then Hany Willis, who is incredible sense of humor, was the one who said, Governor didn't that man die on the cross 2000 years ago? And it was the end of the media availability. I mean, people, it was just so perfect. And it didn't happen in an Oregonian or an editorial board meeting.

Okay, same section talks about Bob Smith being appointed the head of the executive department. He was the budget and manager of the budget division initially, not the head of the EVA game, the head of the executive department, but he's talking about it initially. The governor says we referred to Ted Kulongowski as a labor lawyer. No, we referred to him as a union lawyer because union lawyer just sounded much more sinister than labor lawyer, or union attorney, or any of the other possible connections. So he was always a union lawyer right there. If that's negative campaigning Ted, that's what it is. You know this, but Jim, please double triple check. Editors have a way of changing things, and they do it at the Statesman journal, when Barbara worked there and so on, so forth. You know it is D, o, l, O, R, E, S, Oh, yeah. And make up a big sign for whoever is going through your various galleys and drafts and stuff, you know, do not change it. This is the proper spelling. And you might even go into, you know, this is the Spanish spelling of this word and whatever. And it would be the, the ultimate classic mistake. And so I bring it up here to cover my butt with history along

James Moore 1:36:56

those lines, yes, had a really good time with Roy Hemmingway. Mm hmm, whose name is misspelled through the

entirety of the Bob Straub book. And he has not read the Bob Straub book and said, Well, when you do, your name's dispelled every single time.

Denny Miles 1:37:12

It's unfortunate. Bob Straub simply was a better Governor than that book.

James Moore 1:37:18

Yeah, the book points out. The book leaves you with governor who was diffuse, not served that well, except by this guy's dad, yeah, yeah. And, but a great treasurer, yeah. And it's like, you know, there's a lot more I'm kicking this up just with what I'm doing. It's like, you know, the Bob Straub, there was a lot going on here, and when I talked to people, there's just universal respect for Bob Straub, yes, yes, absolutely. So it's just fascinating. It's just fascinating.

Denny Miles 1:37:52

He and I would run into each other at the West Salem Roths, and this was when he was just starting to go downhill, and and I would come up, and I would say, Governor Straub, Denny miles, Governor Tia staff. Oh, yes, Denny and so and so forth. And about the third time that I did that, one of the few people you had to look up to when you Well, yeah. I mean, he was, he was a formidable Yeah. But the about the third time he said, you know, a lot of people just call me Bob, but you always refer to me as governor, and you don't even necessarily say governor, Straub, I'm I'm Governor, you know, and I'm no longer governor. And I said, Well, you know, that's a title you keep for life. And he goes, Yes, and it shows great respect for the office. And I said, well, obviously I have great respect for the office, and I certainly have respect for you, and yet I was on a campaign staff that defeated you. I have referred to it, and I don't know if anybody else does or not, I've referred to it as kind of the Red Baron syndrome. I don't care if somebody has a total disagreement with me, or if I have any respect at all for their ethics, or whatever, if they have run for office and, or, most important, if they have actually served in elected official office. I respect that office and, and I may pull my punches with them personally and everything else, but damn it, if you've been governor of the state of Oregon, you know there's, it's probably only one exception to that, and we know who that is, but And he basically smeared the office, in my opinion, so in the governor's as well. So, yeah, it's, it's, he's, he was a wonderful guy. Do we do New York Times? You know? I, I have a friend who gets the New York Times, and I get the Wall Street Journal, and we trade clippings back and forth. There

James Moore 1:39:41

was a an amazing piece by John McCain along exactly these lines, opinion piece, the last us Lincoln brigade person just died, like 802 or something, and John McCain wrote this really amazing piece about respecting, I don't know, the integrity of this guy. He said, politically, we would disagree on. Probably everything Lincoln, Lincoln brigade. This is the people who went to fight the fascists in Spain, ah, and so and so he wrote this piece saying, you know, this is someone who went to fight and die for his ideals for strangers. You know, this is an amazing person. But he said that respect for you know what you have done and who you are just amazing. Right?

Denny Miles 1:40:25

The the review in The Wall Street Journal on the latest book on John Quincy Adams points out his you know joy and happiness of the years that he spent after President in the House of Representatives, and how much more he enjoyed that elected office than anything else, and the review ends with what Barbara calls a gold coin, meaning you save a really cool little tidbit for the end of the story. And it points out that when he died, that one of the members of the committee that planned his memorial service was a young House member and from Illinois, Abraham Lincoln, and so yeah, it's, yeah, I want to go take a really good class in American history. Okay, you know about the danger thing. And you know that it says this is from the oral history problems. Again, the ad that Ted complained about, the so called Dangerous ad, was not pulled after a week, as the governor said it was only a week. It was only a week.

And you know, the story is, it wasn't only a week because I didn't want Ted, and think that we pulled it because he told us to Okay, not a correction, but an amplification of Delores role in the campaign. The governor talks about that, but one of the things he didn't talk about was her system of working a room, she would get a roll of stickers and stick everybody she talked to got a sticker, and so she could look around and see who she hadn't talked to and get over and talk to them. Page 314, the engineering firm was ch 2m Hill, and later he writes, in another reference to ch 2m Hill, who was on the Arab trade mission. It's no fault, and I don't know how to say or spell his actual name or whether he's even around, but

he spoke Arabic, and he was of Arabic descent from an Arabic country, and was representing ch 2am Hill, which did have business in Saudi Arabia and in Egypt. The governor hand corrects where he talks about flights on page 318, between countries. And he hand corrects it as an error. He says, Damascus, that we could not, in fact, fly from Damascus to Tel Aviv. We had to go to Cyprus. Okay? The whole, the whole business about the Tom McCall thing and the Benson Hotel on 78 Brent Walt has it wrong. I think I told you that before, has the governor told you that story? Or have I told you that I

James Moore 1:42:52

got this from about four different angles? So tell me your Okay, the story? Okay,

Denny Miles 1:42:57

well, he went down there and he says, You know, I went down there because I thought, well, you know, his ego will be really crushed, and Tom will not handle this well, and he was doing it out of respect, and so on so forth. My personal opinion is that Steve Young talked him into it because Steve was trying to win a Republican general election and was hopeful that Tom McCall would at least back off and not, you know, do something really stupid or whatever, and, and because it was Steve and the governor who went down there, it was not anybody else, and he didn't tell me he was going, or I would have thrown my body in front of the truck to keep him from going. And then again, Wolf tells a completely different story. But basically, what was seen on television was only a tiny, tiny part of it. They then go upstairs, and McCall just unloads on Kim Skerritt. And, and she's still around. I mean, she married Agnes Duncan, and she could tell the story herself on something like that, and, and one of the most, really difficult, and he probably was well stoked with bourbon or whatever, if Tom was Tom. But, you know, a disaster, a mistake, if you will, from all sides. But Brent has it wrong. Okay, let me just quickly look. Sheila called to wish you well. Okay, I'm sorry, I have to look at this and I would, it's only my bride. Are we okay? On yours, we're doing great. Okay. Okay.

And of course, McCall immediately announces that he's not going to support either, no matter who would win, because he's going to go back to k2 and Tom Dargan was always his, his backup on something like and he and I then had a really good relationship. He called me din. And only two people in my entire life called me din, Tom McCall and the campaign manager for for K or in Nebraska, who I've fell madly in a. Love with but I was married. She was married, and so we decided not to do anything about it, but, and who's now gone unfortunately from breast cancer, but, yeah, she called me den as well. Okay, Dwayne samples. And I believe it's d u, a n, e, although it's occasionally shows up elsewhere. And I don't know if you've delved into this yet or not. Okay, then I'll just give you my side, and you can use that for whatever it was. Start us off with the fact that Dwayne samples was is like he stand in California. He's out now this incredibly bright, incredibly smooth, articulate president of his fraternity, Stanford grad, who went to Vietnam and came back screwed up. And whether that's delayed Stress Syndrome or any other kind of thing is open for debate, but we did familiarization tours out there, and I had done one out at OSP, and I met him, but I knew the story.

Shirley Woodrow went out and did a familiar and came back and said to Bob Oliver in a personal staff meeting, you know, Monday meeting, I think they were, you know, who is this? Duane samples, and why is he in prison? I mean, this guy is bright and he's articulate, and, you know, I just don't understand this. And Bob just quietly went to his office and pulled out the because he'd been asking for commutations. He'd been turned down in 79 and came back, gave him the file. And, of course, the murder and the and the wounding was just heinous, you know, intros being spread out around the floor and all this kind of stuff. And surely, just, yeah, you know, gave him back the file and said, I'm never going to say hello to this guy ever again kind of thing. But my bottom line take on it, because I was, you know, I was just simply doing it from the press side is that he was ill advised by some state psychiatrists, and he was ill advised by people that did not provide him, including, oh, Come on. Marion County District Attorney, nephew of Van Dyke. Dick Van Dyke, Van Dyke anyway, who was who was very ambitious and wanted to do things, who did not provide him with the counter advice. And so all he heard were the people who said this guy had delayed star syndrome. He's not a threat. It shouldn't be a problem. And the governor never quote pardoned him. He says that in his oral history, that was the pardon. He commuted the sentence to 20 years. He never got out of prison at that stage because he still had several more years to serve. But it wasn't a pardon, it was a commutation. And then, of course, the commutation was reversed, and all of that made even bigger news, and that led to the 60 Minutes interview with Mike Wallace, which led to me commandeering the schedule for a week and and getting him onto the cutting room floor, which he never appeared in.

So be bland. Yes, yeah, that's right, yeah. And I of course, make jokes about that, about you the gut, all he needed to do

was be boring. And that came naturally to him. That's a joke. Again. The mistake was not commuting the sentence. The mistake in my mind, was made by getting poor advice from others and not getting the right people. You were talking about how the governor makes decisions. Well, the basic approach with any governor, but especially this governor, was to provide him with the right people, the right information on all sides of the issue, so that he could make a really good decision based upon what he wanted to do as governor, we talked a little bit about labor union relations early on.

I grew up in a trucking company, small, very small, one, two people, two or three trucks specialized in heavy hauling. Blue, white transfer. My dad worked for system and and West Coast and ran truck line, and you know, all these other places. My grandfather was the oldest living employee of consolidated Freightways when he died on the job, basically on sick leave at 82 years old, he was like the first real employee that the partners of consolidated Freightways hire. And so trucking has been, I mean, he he ran wagon drayage for Buffalo Bill Cody in Wyoming, and was a cowboy in Montana. You know, that's my grandfather. So it's in my blood. And when my dad started his own business, I was about five or six years old, and he went down and all the guys in the union hall congratulated him and said he had to hire them now. And he said, Well, if I need somebody, I'll be glad to hire a union guy. No, no, no, you're a boss. Now you can't haul freight. Bosses don't haul freight. And he said, quote, If I have to put a turret with a 20 millimeter machine gun on the top of my truck, I'm going to haul freight. Well, stupid thing to say to unions in 1950 you know, just really stupid. But he was too small and too likable for them to do anything about.

So I come with a with a bias here, okay, but I. Said, why aren't we doing a right to work thing? I mean, that's, aren't we just ripe for that right now with the economy the way it is and everything else, I mean, and Well, number one, he didn't want to really piss off his, quote, union friends, which he didn't have any organized labor friends. He had built fast and he had, you know, couple of other very tiny little locals here and there and so forth that we, you know, put in every ad of endorsements so that it would look like we had support from organized labor, but we didn't have support. And he said, I've got too many this is long before the economy went to hell. I've got too many things to do, too much importance. And this would be, in fact, blood on the floor kind of war, because that's the way it is. Well, I am curious as hell as to what to happen now, because now what the entire North Midwest is is right to work, and all of the South has been right to work for a long time. And so I guess Oregon's political leadership's not going to allow it to happen, and there's too much money in unions. But he was dead set, and always dead set against doing anything with regard to right to work. Not that he didn't believe that that was a good idea, but he said it just, you know, we can't. We have too many things to do to fight that battle, fight that war.

PERS, I think you will find if, and I don't know whether that was a mistake or not. I I would say it's a mistake, but that's my personal bias. So he probably made an incredibly wise decision in terms of getting all the things done that he had to get done, because it would have been, he would have spent all his time and all his political capital on that kind of thing, probably lost. And you know, then that's what he would be known for, PERS. PERS was really healthy. When he left office, PERS had five board members. They then went to nine or whatever it was, and pretty much packed it with union members. And they kept coming to us during these times, saying, look at how healthy PERS is. We need to be like, that's our money, and we need to be giving it to state employees now, you know, full disclosure, I get a nice purse check every month, and I work really, really hard for that PERS check. So I'm certainly biased in terms of that, but the trouble that PERS is in now is not only because of, you know, investments not really paying off, but it's, in my opinion, and this is where actuaries and experts on this need to step up, but that the board, later in the in the Goldschmidt administration, started giving things away, and that's when the rules got loosened, and that's when the guarantees started happening and and so, you know, timing wise and everything else, I think that's worth, yeah, okay, okay.

On the milieu that's out there, 1979 the reporters. First of all, there was pounds of reporters down in the press room. The Oregonian had three people. The Journal had three people. The Statesman, the Capitol Journal had their people. There were two wire services. There were two people that did nothing but provide radio clips to radio stations all over the state. Every television station had their own private office in what was the press room at that time, and is now a lobby center and and they were all going to be Bob Woodward's. They were all looking for some huge scandal someplace along the line les sites, who's a good friend. Now, he didn't talk to me at all. He always talked to Gerry. Gerry, Lynn, fine. We don't have any problem with that, you know. But he thought that was a big deal that he could talk to Gerry. And I said, you know, okay, well, Gerry may not know some things that I know. So, you know, you you do it. He's, well, I'll talk to both then, or something like that. But that doesn't exist any longer.

And so if people think that what we were operating on is anything at all, like what's happening now, or what was even happening 10 and 15 years ago, before newspapers started going in the toilet, it was a whole different environment. And this business of doing weekly media availabilities is something that just would be unheard of today. No Governor since Governor Atiyeh, could possibly make that happen. Now they have dueling statements issued by emails back and forth and the press gets lets them get away with it. Yeah, so that milieu is completely different now than it was back then. Um, um, oh, I came back from Nebraska in late 87 I went to Nebraska to help K or set up her new office. And then went to Washington, DC when she appointed David Carnes to the United States Senate, when Senator Zorinsky died in office and decided I didn't, with all due respect to my friends in Nebraska, did not want to live in Lincoln, Nebraska, and certainly did not want to live in Washington, DC.

And so I came home, and I came back, and I went down to the press room, and I don't know whether it was AP or who it was. I think it was AP. And I said, What in the heck is going on around here? I said, you know, the governor's wife is sleeping with the security guy, and the governor is having sex with all these different people, including state agencies, including oral sex and in the economic development department and and I said, and I'm not seeing anything coming out of the news media, so I'm going from, you know, everybody wants to be a Bob Woodward to and here was their answer, Oh, Denny, that's a personal matter that has nothing to do with state government. Well, baloney. It has a lot to do with state government. And turns out it did have a lot to do with state government and and, you know, they just completely and now maybe it was because he was a Democrat and he was a god and all this kind of stuff. But even since then, with with kids, however, as you may know, keeps little bound black book diaries. And was every time you had a meeting with him, he was writing in it. And I said, you know, that's an open record, and it's got all sorts of stuff in it, I'm sure. Oh, it's his personal diary. I said, He is creating it in public meetings, in his own hand, it is an open record. Oh, no, we're not going to go for that. I mean, what happened? They'd become lap dogs. And I don't know when it happened or how it happened, but it happened, it wouldn't talk to Willamette Week. We've already talked about that.

James Moore 1:56:21

You've heard Lucky's lean is apologetic about that. At this

Denny Miles 1:56:26

point, apologetic about what about the way Willamette Week was with the governor? Well, they're still the same way with any Republican. I mean,

James Moore 1:56:34

they don't have to be a Republican that way with any government. Well, that could be. They're just anti, anti establishment. I mean, at this point, Republicans in the state are goldfish in a bowl. Yeah, they're just too easy. You know, they do it with anybody well,

Denny Miles 1:56:48

and Republicans are, I mean, with well a, they're rare, and B, the kind of Republicans, whether you agree with them or not. I mean, the Tony Meekers and the Bob Smiths and the Wally Carsons, and they're not around. They just don't they. They fail at at recruiting good people. In other words, we don't have a bench, as they say, and they don't worry about it. And Democrats have such a registration edge now that it's, I mean, we're, yeah, my lifetime is pretty well doomed. Yeah, did a post

James Moore 1:57:19

legislative session thing with legislative session thing with legislative leadership, and Mike McClain was there, and I have no respect for Mike McClain.

Denny Miles 1:57:27

Well, I'm sorry nobody does. No, I'm surprised. Why is he still

James Moore 1:57:30

there? I have no opposition, but it was, you know, I was, I was in and out, and, you know, they were gabbing, but I had to, had to get out of there, and I didn't really want to talk to him anyway. But you know what? When, when Atiyeh was around, it was Atiyeh and Roger Martin running for the governorship, kind of on a wing and a prayer. And now we've

got fare Oli and McLean, and it's like, like, You guys aren't fucking doing anything well. And you know, in the old days, you would be saying, well, then what? Step forward and do this? And it just, it's just the culture has changed radically, right? Just amazing. That's what I've been talking about. Packwood. One of the things I reeled them in on was, you know, Vick Atiyeh is the last person who defeated a sitting governor. You defeated Wayne Morse. What the hell is that all about? And so, yeah, it was great. And his, his answer was great. It was, you know, he was an up and comer. He was he knew he wanted to try for something. He thought, If I don't embarrass myself by losing too badly to Morse, I'm gonna set myself up in the future, and he wins by 3000 votes, right? And your back kind of thinking just isn't there. Plus Bob

Denny Miles 1:58:45

Packwood knew the tactical and operational aspects of a campaign, yeah, yeah. And Wayne Morris didn't care about no running a campaign. He was just Wayne Morris, yeah.

James Moore 1:58:56

He was just Wayne Morris, yeah. Neither was Wayne Morris. Meeting Bob Packard for the first time. It's at the Pendleton Roundup. And the reporters know that Wayne Morse doesn't even really know who Bob Packwood is, right and reports it There he is right over there. So pack wood walks over and so it's all covered. You know, well, heard your name. Oh,

Denny Miles 1:59:20

as long as long as we're getting in anecdotes that are beyond your book. I was at the ksrv, ksrv, Ontario, Assistant news director, and I'll start with the end. Bob Packwood came to Malay county first after he was elected because Malaysia county gave him the greatest margin. And even mellow here county didn't give him that big of a margin. By the way, you have the Einstein book. You have the list of every legislator all the way back to provisional days, of which there is, in fact, a more that I'm sure is an old relative here someplace along the line. Yeah, ours came later. Okay, anyway, well, but you might go back, they're all connected someplace. Yeah? So I remember that when he came back to Mel here County and made his first official visit as a senator elect, I think, or maybe it was as a senator. But the only time that I met Wayne Morris was when he came to Mel here county to campaign, and his campaign in Malheur County was come to the airport, sit down, do interviews with the Argus observer and ksrv and k, y, e, t, from Payette, Idaho, and then get on an airplane and get the hell out of there, kind of thing. And so he and I had a little, in those days, not even a cassette recorder. I had a little reel to reel recorder that had 15 minutes of tape on it if you ran it at normal speed, kind of thing.

And I set it down, and I'm just, you know, a snot nosed kid, recent graduate of Oregon State kind of thing, and I don't know squat, and I sat down, and he said, Okay, well, let me know when you got it set up, okay? And I got it set up and I hit it, and it's, it's going in front of him, right? And I go, you know, Senator Morris, welcome to Malheur County. And that was the last word. I said, Denny, it's really good to be here, and I got to tell you what I'm here for. And he just took off. I'd never asked a single question. The interview went longer than 15 minutes, and I'm sitting there holding the microphone, and he's talking, and the tape is going, the tape is run out, and he can see the tape is run up, but he can't run off. Yeah, he can't stop Yeah, yeah. Just unbelievable. Okay, back on point.

You need to spend some time, obviously, talking to Gerry about the Rajneesh situation. I know she's turned over to you a lot of stuff there in just because I actually worked hard to not know the detail of what was going on so that I didn't have to be telling lying to the press was not something I did, and so I knew the big picture kind of thing. And you've heard the story about one reporter who said you guys are blowing it. Yeah, there's guns over there and all this kind of stuff in the chapter, yeah, exactly. Well, whatever it's, it's a It amazes me how close that came to being just an incredible disaster. I mean, with military units, you know, quote, practicing or drilling in Clarno, to all of the weapons that they had and to the sickness that the group, the core group, had, and to me, personally, just looking at it from the outside, it's a matter of the governor's commitment to the rights of the people in antelope, the people in Wasco County, but also the people in Burgundy. I mean, the Rajneeshees themselves, because they were the criminals, were a relatively small group, and those people who really knew what was going on is a relatively small group. It's my understanding that Senator Kitzhaber and Stephanie Fowler, a reporter from channel eight, went over there and stayed overnight. And if they did, they were bugged. Yeah, we got the tapes. Okay, well, that's what, that's what I was wondering, whether or not those tapes,

James Moore 2:03:09

I don't know. I don't know. You know, Bob Oliver has this funny story about that, when lawn eventually comes in, because Bob and his wife went over, right? But she shouldn't have done no no. But long comes in and says, God, you guys are poor. So well. Anyway,

Denny Miles 2:03:28

I just to me the take home message for me is different than what it would be for Gerry, because for Gerry it's going to be, this is how we did it. This is what the boss told me to do. Here was the person who was really the person we dealt with, and Katie was the one who, you know, was our source, and all this that kind of tactical stuff. But to me, it's the bigger picture thing of he was as concerned about some formerly rich person who was there wearing an amulet around their neck as he was about the farmers of Antelope and everybody else that's very--

James Moore 2:04:04

just read this paragraph and it'll flip to The next page.

Denny Miles 2:04:15

Yeah, they were armored personnel carriers. I

James Moore 2:04:25

Yeah, scroll it up like that. I and then the tagline, which Gerry didn't even know, the Feds paid for it, yeah,

Denny Miles 2:04:57

well, they paid for it because I. That I'm surprised she didn't know, because I even knew that that was the whole idea was that we were able to call it Training, and we made it a federal government deal as a result of that, because the training was paid for by them. So and the only other connection I had was what sitting with the governor in a Taiwan hotel room when the Bhagwan was making his run. You guys were in Damascus. Was it Damascus? Yeah, you sure was

James Moore 2:05:22

a Taiwan week trip. So you're hearing about the plans to arrest them and what the Bhagwan might or might not be doing, but then you guys are in Damascus when

Denny Miles 2:05:34

that's a clarification, because I thought for sure it was Taiwan. No, no

James Moore 2:05:39

big issues with Taiwan the only because of the recognition thing, the only country in the world where we didn't have a secure line, and so Gerry couldn't do her usual thing, which is go through the State Department and get a line, which is in Damascus, is where you guys are, where she's reporting as she hears things from the FAA, she's calling and saying, This is What's going on, right? So you're in, you're in Damascus, but they're still talking in code anyway. Oh yeah, absolutely, absolutely, right, yeah, because this end you aren't sure about ever well. And

Denny Miles 2:06:09

I remember having a conversation with him was the shortest a year the ambassador in from my hotel in Damascus, and he says, Now you do understand how this telephone system works here in this fine country. And I said, Yes, sir, I would say this to anyone that I'm about. Said, Good that just wanted to make sure that you'd been fully briefed on this, the darn Damascus, the times of meeting with with Assad, that's totally sidebar to this thing. But I was amazed at how incompetent our CIA underlings were the people who came in and who then debriefed us when we got back. They didn't know squat about what was going on. We knew more by reading National Geographic and Time Magazine than they knew about what was going on and then and the governor in his oral history and telling the story about Kuneitra, if that's how you pronounce it. That's how we were pronouncing it anyway.

And then talking to Henry Kissinger, and getting the stories, and the Henry Kissinger anecdote about, you know, where the table will be ground, and then the chair for Syria will be this, and for the Palestinians will be this, and so on. And the flags will be this tall, and there'll be light coming in this window, Mr. President, is there anything I have not asked you

that I should have asked you. Well, yes, you didn't ask me whether it's going to be there, and I'm not. Okay.

Columbia Gorge scenic area, we talked about that later. Okay, I'm just going to read this milieu, Jim, this is your area. I'm about to describe things you already know I do so not because you don't understand the milieu of 1977-87 period of time, but to make clear, from my perspective, I am asked by others in the administration, their questions show a lack of real understanding about the differences in the overall environment during this time in office and how governors operate today. By comparison, we had a tiny staff. I think our staff was a third less than what Straub staff was. I was paid half of what Michael Hartfield was. Was being paid. I was being paid the going rate for top Flack, but I was, you know, they were, they were just spending money like drunken sailors. By comparison, the governor's office budget was cut from the Straub administration. Straub had and we stopped, and now they're rampant hiding Governor staff in agency budgets. I mean, it's just expected now to do something like that, because they're reporting directly to an assistant to the governor or a deputy chief of staff.

We didn't even have a deputy chief of staff, and yet, they're in the Department of Human Resources budget someplace, and the head of the department Human Resources is simply housing them and paying for them. And that's that Ways and Means has to know that's going on. The Ombudsman concept at its core is a government official who is behold only to the chief executive, but who is able to hear complaints by citizens and so on so forth. You know that? What is it? A Scandinavian concept of some sort, and that whole concept is totally gone. These people are case workers. They're they're paid by the agency. They report to the agency. They're called ombudsman. But it's not like somebody can go to an ombudsman and expect to be a whistleblower on something that's going on in that agency. I mean, again, it's a whole different world than what was going on. The governor loved having an ombudsman because he would pick up on things that under no other circumstance. And so you got people like Jackie Winters who are pretty savvy about state government. She can filter out the wackos from the potential real problems, and we can drill in on the problems. Well, what a wonderful tool current governors, and I don't think governors from our successor forward, really utilize that as as we should have been utilized with near single or actual party, a single party rule in Oregon government the years 87. People forget how a Republican governor has to operate with a Democratic majority in both houses. Boss was well suited for that role.

We were fortunate. We only had a couple of House and Senate leaders, Cairns and fade Lee, who were maliciously partisan. But still, it was Atiyeh's extensive legislative experience, the effective use of vetoes and veto threats and blessed crazy Larry Campbell, who was, you know, sometimes hard to get along with, as a person, personality similar to mine, who basically held together that caucus on vetoes. You know, if you want to be able to threaten a veto down the road, then you got to uphold a veto that you don't want to uphold. And that saved our buns during on several situations. The that the recession was, in fact, worse than there was in this most recent Great Recession. Media or a shadow of themselves, the governor now has as the governor should have a multi person crack security team, motorcades, front cars, back cars, lead people, advanced people going up and things like that, rotations so that they're actually working reasonable shifts. We had lawn, and it was only late in the administration that that Daryl came in for some relief. And you know, that was just insane.

But again, how do you go out and when they're calling a Buick Skylark, a sleek black long limousine, you know, if you're going to add security people, when no Governor before has had more, and we found out recently that the state police, in many ways, kind of thought that was a dead end position, that they didn't really put that good of a person in there. Well, of course, lawn turns out to be an incredible person. I'm really biased in terms of that paying rent on the winter Street mansion. You know, that's just again, insane. People don't realize now, with Mahoney Hall, and you know, Gerry Frank went on Mahoney Hall, you've heard that story.

Okay, when we entertained legislators, we was assumed that about 70 would show up. We had to do it in like three shifts, because the living room was just about as big as as this room we're in right now. I purchased one of the first personal computers associated in some way with the man named Atiyeh. It was a floppy drive IBM PC for the 1982 campaign, which was basically a word processor and a very rudimentary database manager in the office, I think we had two mag card word processors, so the card had the form letter on it, and you'd slide it in, and they were in a big cabinet. And again, today, people are working with things this big that have 400,000 times the computing power of a simple little word processor. That you knew that the person was an important and influential staff person because they had their own IBM quote self correcting, meaning, you push the button up here and it would put up the tape, and that was like the

creme de creme kind of thing. No email, no cell phones, no internet, no social media. The only person to have an expensive to purchase and pay for by the minute car phone was the chief of staff. The governor had a state police radio, 9595 the Chief of Staff eventually got a radio, and her call was 9590 but you don't really have routine communication using a state police radio. Late in the process, they installed the state police radio in Delores car. Have you heard about this? No, it had a very odd problem. Every time you keyed the mic, the windshield wiper did a cycle. I think they fixed it eventually, and they never really used it a whole lot, but they did install a radio in the car that she used because she was out doing state business and things like that, and, and it was so hilarious. I mean, you literally wanted to call on the radio just to check in when you were with her, just to watch the windshield wiper go.

Everybody smoked. It was like mad men only in politics. So, and that's just the surface, yeah, the fact is that that when, first of all, nobody knows who Governor Atiyeh is, because you're talking to somebody who's who's younger than I am, if you're talking to them, and they haven't been in the state that long, and they don't remember and so on so forth, and so they don't know how special that whole time was they don't. And we've not had a situation where we've had a completely Republican legislature with a Democratic governor, and so they nobody understands, you know, one party rule is getting to be like, oh, yeah, that's, that's the way government runs. I don't know this for a fact, but I would allege that right now in the civil service system there, the Democratic patronage has dropped down to about the 10th level in state government. And that if anybody were to look at registration figures and compare them with the registration averages in Marion County and Polk County, that you would find that state governments being run at the very lowest levels, by Democratic patrons who are not patrons, by those who they patronized and because there was a time when I thought about any consult...

[Recording ends.]