

Denny Miles Apr. 2016 interview on Atiyeh, part 2

The first 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: Denny Miles' transition from political consulting and his experiences with administrative "blacklists"; Miles' thoughts on how the Atiyeh archives might be further developed; Moore's methodology for writing Vic Atiyeh's biography; Atiyeh's legislative career and his transition to the governorship, highlighting his diligence, practical problem-solving, and "clean desk" work ethic; his focus on practical solutions and reliance on good people, regardless of party affiliation; the effects of the Recession of the early 1980s on Atiyeh's work; a comparative analysis of Atiyeh's leadership style versus Governors Mark Hatfield and Tom McCall; Atiyeh's legislative focus on complex issues including returnable plastic milk containers and nuclear power; Atiyeh's opposition to creating a sales tax in Oregon; the use of unconventional campaign strategies, such as comic books; lessons learned from Atiyeh's campaigns; the importance of preserving historical records and the role of biographers in shaping public perception.

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

Yeah, I guess it was the Denny Smith campaign. And I said, Who needs this? And I decided I wasn't going to do political consulting any longer, and I applied for a real job, and I was more than qualified for it, and it was a state parks PR person, and I thought that'd be kind of fun. Turns out that State Parks was just riddled with all sorts of problems, and it was good that I didn't get it, but Pat Amadeo is former secretary. Was the Secretary to the director at that point. And I said, Is this one of those jobs that you have to call the second floor corner office about? She said, quote, not this one, unquote, meaning a lot of others, they had to call and get approval, just like Leo Hagstrom thought he had to do on something like that. And I wasn't even considered.

You know, I was on some sort of a blacklist. There is in the in the Goldschmidt stuff in the archives, a memo from, oh, come on, Fred Miller saying he had, quote, taken care of the miles problem in economic development. It was my wife had gotten fired, you know. And that was just, we don't want Denny miles, his wife, working in state government under Neil Goldschmidt. All right. Well, again, there are people who look at this, this is your job, but the average citizen out there doesn't know that it's totally different now, and they think that this is the new normal, and maybe it is, but they don't realize. And people, I guess, what I'm advocating for here, Jim is, as you're writing your book, you are writing for an audience that doesn't understand the sometimes the frame of reference and that some things that you and I might know or understand, they're not going to know and understand. And the I'm sure you already are finding yourself writing on, your editor will probably start taking it out. You're finding yourself writing, you know, unlike today, or unlike most situations, or, you know, it was different back then, and people did this.

I mean, the fact that everybody in the office smoked would be just, you know, amazing to people today, and would probably be looked upon as being very negative. Well, it was pretty negative, but it was common. It was the way things were. People senators would hold their cigarette outside the bar because you couldn't smoke inside the bar, but you had to be inside the bar in order to vote, right? So the cigarette was out here, and then it would very quickly go around when they went back to the side aisle so they could smoke. I mean, that was, that was common practice. So it to me, it's a really important aspect of what you're doing is that that people will not have a sufficient frame of reference and understand how different things were, that that getting out of your sleek black Buick Skylark and stopping at a wait station to get to a public phone so

that you could return the call of a reporter who really wanted to talk to you just, it's not in people's minds at this point. No, they don't understand that. That's extraordinary kind of action. Yeah. So anyway, what do you want to talk about, besides all this stuff that I've been going on and on and on about? So as a biographer, I have this is a memo that I wrote to the governor.

James Moore 03:01
Uh huh. David, good.

Denny Miles 03:04
But he didn't, didn't do it. He didn't reach it. Didn't reach it didn't, didn't get that record.

James Moore 03:12
So okay, as a biographer, as a biographer, coming at this because the governor basically like the way that I kind of called it like I saw it, and have a broad knowledge of things. Yes, I find myself. Have

Denny Miles 03:30
you read this draw book? Oh, yeah, okay, I would assume that, because anybody who reads it is going to, is going to recycle the damn book. So we don't, we don't want that.

James Moore 03:38
No, yeah, okay, we're not doing that at all, right. In fact, I've been reading a lot of OSU press things, and so you're talking about the editor. What the editors can do, they have a really light editorial touch. Is that? Right? Yeah, there's. And so I've got a system with readers and things like that. That's becomes even more important, okay, because that well, but,

Denny Miles 04:00
and just real quickly, 3030 seconds, obviously, we are committed to that independence, incredible independence and and by its very nature, one makes judgments in doing a biography. And however that comes out. It comes out. You know, Gerry and I both reserve the right to say Jim missed it on this one or whatever. And you would understand that too, and have a friendly and positive disagreement on something like that. But if you wanted, I don't know, quiet, off the record, whatever, you know, I've got 15 pages or 20 pages or whatever. And while I've got really good sources on this, read this and just tell me what you think. I don't promise to change a period or a comma. I'm open to that you could, yeah, okay, so and talking

James Moore 04:46
to Gerry, she's, she is the, the only thing that I'm going to have Gerry really look at. I'm not sure I make just for the whole thing, but, um, the Rashi, she thing, right? Because that's going to be the, that's going to be the thing. What kind of a. Timeline do you have on this whole thing? Whatever timeline I want. I want to have it done next year. Okay, that seems reasonable, but I'm not going to talk to the OSU editors until I'm ready to go, because I have one day a week to work on this. If you give me a deadline, I won't make it. It's just that simple. Okay,

Denny Miles 05:16
then so I'm interrupting you, and I apologize. I am very unhappy with and this can go on the tape. As far as I'm concerned, I'm very unhappy with the development efforts of Pacific University. I mean, I have the capacity of writing \$1,000 check every year if I wanted to, and thanks to PERS and my incredible hard work in state government and Oregon State, and I'm not even talked to. I mean, ever since Kelly left, they're not raising any money, I don't think, for the Atiyeh project. And so, you know, do we have the funds available, or do I need to lean on the Provost and the president to get the damn development people off of their butts and bring in more money? Because they're raising money for, you know, three different pots, basically, the

James Moore 06:00
book, the book is funded. It's fine, okay? The we've got two other pots, one of them is going along according to projections, and then we want to do fellowships. That's where we need work, okay? And, and the newsletter that you didn't get in Christmas time just stuns me. But that brought him, that brought in money for those pots. Okay, we're not even the book. Is fine.

Denny Miles 06:25

Okay. Are we gonna, are we gonna be able to do a run of hardcover books as well as the standard OSU press?

James Moore 06:34

We haven't gotten that far. We're hoping that that's we'll talk to OSU about

Denny Miles 06:39

that, and are we going to have enough funds, whether it's hardback or soft back or whatever, to provide to the libraries around the state that I

James Moore 06:47

don't know that the main expense on funds is a little bit for me, but I hired a research assistant right who I'm paying real money okay for, and so he's that, and I think we're gonna be fine. I know with a straw book, they actually got a grant that paid for putting them in all the libraries. Okay? And so what we'll see when we get to

Denny Miles 07:10

that. And don't forget and you know this, but don't forget that, that you're gonna have to take some time, or they're gonna have to give you some time, or pay you to do right to get around and promote this book. Books don't sell themselves.

James Moore 07:22

Yeah, exactly. And gonna have to go out to make speaking out with the Eamon Bundy lawyers and trade, trade anecdotes. Yes. Okay, yeah. Back to the point. I'm so so as a biographer. So here's what I find myself doing. Is I do first, just the energy thing. I know, I know energy. I consulted the BPA, but now I really know energy. And so my question, because you worked with a TIA in the legislature there for the last couple of years, he said he's an established force. At that point, he's run for governor. He's already planned on running for governor. I don't know if that was explicit to you or not? But he had already made that decision in about 7576 right? But he not, not big, but he had talked to Al, you know, Thompson and other people saying, If I do this, you know that had already taken place. But he then becomes governor. And being governor is a very different thing than being in the legislature. How did he learn new stuff? How did he learn I mean, he comes in with tax expertise, he comes up with some a lot of pieces, but all of a sudden he has to do like I did. He's got to learn energy from the ground up. How did he do that?

Denny Miles 08:40

Good question. Well, first of all, by being a legislator and by being diligent as a legislator. I mean, a lot of legislators only come to the floor for the vote and or for a call of the house or a call of the Senate, they spend most of their time choosing or eating or in their office, or they're not that diligent. They don't work that hard. I mean, I learned very quickly in 77 that you had more respect for Ted Halleck than, I won't mention the name of somebody who maybe you agreed with a lot more. Well, I didn't agree with anything that Ted Halleck said, but he was just one hell of a hard working state senator. Yeah, and incredibly bright, and I love outspoken. And he was there, he was working. He wasn't screwing around. And and so if you're there, there's just a whole for 20 years, you're there, and you're there for all the floor debates, not just the committees you happen to be on. And I that's a wonderful list. You have all the committees that he served on during that time. But if you actually attend, and in 77 he didn't miss commit, I mean, he's you look at the roll call, and he was there and and you knew where to find him. You know, he was in Senate room. Whatever kind of thing. Because he was the revenue committee was meeting, our trade and economic development was meeting. And so he Wally

James Moore 10:05

Carson's description of the seven and six person is, and his wife was there when I interviewed Wally. But we didn't have any time to ourselves at all, right. Beau put us on everything, right? Yeah. And that's Yeah.

Denny Miles 10:18

Was part of all that. Part of the deal. Yeah, part of the deal. So anyway, so that, I think, I think he already had a lot of that. So let me, let me put something out there that that he Any, any, you know, introduce more

human resources bills, I guess, than anybody else. And so, you know, he was deeply involved in something like that. Let me just talk about two examples that hopefully will illustrate and address your your question. One of the things that I came in with in 77 was some research that had been done at OSU on returnable plastic milk containers. And it was sort of my beyond sending out press releases and helping other caucus members with communication. I mean, well, you know, first of all, Bob Smith didn't even talk to me, and George Wingard was kind of his own aloof self, and so on. And jernsted didn't need anybody, and Wally didn't need anybody. I mean, so I didn't have a lot of work to do for others, but, but so I came in, and it was my job, basically, then, to shepherd that process. And I didn't know what I was doing, I didn't know how it worked, but I learned about legislative council and all this kind of stuff.

But then it was my job to explain all this really complex research that I had access to at Oregon State, how these plastic materials absorb urine and petrochemicals, and you never know how they were used, and that then transferred back into the milk and that kind of stuff. And to me, it just boiled down to number one. He was interested in Oregonians and the safety of Oregonians. This was not just a ruse to hurt the dairy industry. This, in fact, was something that was, in fact, a real public health issue. And he's just a bright guy. He was not stupid. I would hesitate to use the word naive when I get back to he was just so trusting of others that that became a problem. But if he trusted you and you were in looking out for his best interests, he was a very quick study on things like that. The same thing with regard to nuclear power, which he couldn't pronounce, but he he ended up understanding, yeah, and, and we at that time, you know, Trojan was a huge issue, and we had these regular drills down in room 50. Did he tell you the story about our first drill in room 50? You know, room 50 is now completely different, but the emergency services office was just next to it. It's now being used by the as a press room. And you had all these plywood things, and you opened them up, and there were phones labeled state police, emergency services, you know, and everybody. And so the whole idea of this, and you dragged out these big, long cords, and you put them on your table, and you have the name tag. And so, you know, you had all of the important people for any kind of a disaster would have the telephones.

So we got there and the state police phone number had been switched over, and it was the guest services up at the Capitol guides office. I mean, literally, half of the numbers had completely changed. They just hadn't bothered to do it. And you know, it was kind of an interesting PR issue, because, you know, we had to explain that this evidently, had not been and it was for a Trojan kind of practice drill. That's when General Miller, who came up in one of your earlier Rajneeshee stories, he came up to me, and, you know, he's a kind of a stocky guy, and really old, old style, and he got in trouble. He brought in booze from Reno on National Guard helicopters and things like. We had to shut him down on a couple of occasions, but he came over and he grabbed my arm and he said, if there's a fight, I'm on his side. It's just and also, when I called him up and said, you know, General Tom McCall is dying, and I've been asked to coordinate with the military, even though I'm working on the campaign right now. And he was, was a pause, and he said, standing tall, sir. I mean, I could, I guess maybe I could have done well on the military. I like that kind of but yeah, so he learned about that he would, he could, he could explain to you, to the day he died, how a nuclear plant runs, and what can go wrong with it, and why that's important, and why a wind direction has to be given consistently the same way, and you have to add the word from to the wind direction so that people don't get it 180 degrees out of phase, kind of thing.

So he understood by being briefed on it, and by understanding it and by going through the drills himself. And I don't think any other governor would actually physically go through the drills themselves and and, you know, the the NRC see people, you have to have a failure. You have to have a plume, yeah, if you're going to have a drill. But the PGE people were so smart that they could stop. Up anything. So they said, Well, you just lost your pump on the cooling system. Okay. Well, we have a backup pump. Okay. Do you want to take time to get that all started up? Or do you want to know that you're going to lose that one too? And we might as well just lose it now? And they go, Okay, well, we solved that problem because we got a fire truck, and the fire truck has got a coupling on it that will couple to that and we can pull water out of the Columbia River and backfill, damn it, your fire truck just broke too, you know, kind of thing that's a nice flow. Yeah, right, exactly. Yeah. So anyway, he just was smart enough and bright enough and had been through enough legislative experience that it was, it was of interest to him that that's the case. Now, did he rely on Pat for natural resources, information and stuff? Absolutely. Did he rely on Bob Oliver for? Did he rely on his staff for, for to do the homework and stuff? But mostly he relied on them to bring both sides of the story to his desk. You know, here's the strong argument for this, but here's the strong argument for the other side of

that. Here's where I think you ought to come down, because that's where you are on it. That would always be a part of the discussion. I don't know if that addresses, yeah, so

James Moore 16:09

was he someone who took briefing books home. I mean, he works long hours, really long hours,

Denny Miles 16:16

and his desk is always clean at the end of the day, always

James Moore 16:22

so but, but was, did he have a personal life? I mean, is he just immersing himself in this stuff, or is he, you know, 20 years of being really involved in legislature, he's he's prepped, but there's going to be things that you know, he just doesn't know. So

Denny Miles 16:43

see, I can't think of an example where, where that surfaced, okay, where he was clueless about a specific issue, yeah, now, mistakenly overly loyal, yeah, all the time, yeah, but, but not really understanding technical issue, whether it be in agriculture or whether it be in forestry or whatever. I mean, he knew, I mean, he's the guy who told the timber industry, much to their chagrin, that they should be marketing Oregon two by fours because we had better quality wood than other places, and we ought to be stamping it, and we ought to be that they ought to tax themselves to do that. And they said, No, we're not going to do that. But he was smart enough in his business dealings that he knew what he was doing with regard to marketing and things like that, and sitting in the cabinet meetings was the best way to know what's going on in state government and know what's happening. Some of them were just bring and brag sessions where people came in and took credit for good things that were going to happen anyway. Sun came up this morning. It's all my doing, but most of it was really stuff that he could burrow in on, him sitting him sitting in on the budget meetings himself and and querying people on it. He already knew a lot, but he learned a whole lot more by actually sitting. Because I don't believe he was ever on Ways and Means. Was he? No, no.

James Moore 18:06

He's always on the tax side, yeah. And does some really cool stuff. 1961 session. He's the head of the food or the dairy, and there are price controls on dairy. And lo and behold, they had to put price controls on gas. So I got a great quote from him and said, Well, we let that cow out of the barn. Guess I've got to put price controls on gas too.

Denny Miles 18:29

By the way, the milk bottle, bill didn't pass it. It ran into Bill Markham, Oh, yeah. Well, there you go. Who? Who explains to me on a regular basis that he's really sorry about that, but he has a lot of cows and a lot of dairy people and but they also stopped using returnable plastic milk jugs too. So it effectively was taken care of because they knew it was going to come back. And it also got some news articles that said, Vick at the non invite, not thought of as an environmentalist, is right, you know, and certainly a big supporter of the dairy industry, but he felt that this was a public safety issue, and yeah, so he got some good press. That's

James Moore 19:05

a there's that's kind of a recurring theme, especially people who ended up working really close with him. He just surprised people, because there was a side to him that you just didn't know, and it's you're part of the problem that you had with him all the time. He wouldn't, toot his horn, right? He just was who he was. But, you know, Roy Hemingway's classic example. I mean, he thought he was going to be fired because the commissioner had been fired, right? And he goes in, and not only is he asked to stay, he's encouraged to do this, that and the other. And when he and other people say, you know, the fish are really important part of this, he was terrified that this guy too, he lobbied against in the legislature, and Vic lieutenant said, that's the most reasonable thing in the world. Of course, we're going to do that. So it's just, he was just always. Doing that right?

Denny Miles 20:00

Yeah. And partisanship really did not. I mean, he was a partisan. He certainly was. He wanted to elect Republicans. Yeah, it was all about Yes, but, but when it came to running state government, it was the best

person for the job. That's all it was, yeah. And unfortunately, some of the people he appointed, you know, did much better when the Democrats got in charge. Oh, yeah, Fred Miller included, who we talked about earlier. Yeah, they were more natural people there. But he, you know, again, just a very bright guy, and whatever was practical, whatever was going to work, was what he wanted to have happen, yeah, you know, everybody says he was the right person for at the right time because of the financial crisis and all the budgets and things like that, that the what if the counterfactual history book that would be fun to write would be, we didn't have a national recession. And you know, when you look at 79 and you look at all the energy stuff that he was doing, and, and, and, okay, if he that would have all been done by 81 and there would have been and if the economy were roaring, what other kinds of incredible things could we have done if we weren't busy just keeping the ship upright? Yeah,

James Moore 21:07

and the thing is, because of the dominance of energy and then how quickly the economy took that over, right? There's no articulation from him about grand plans or ideas, and he didn't. Often would, he wouldn't have those he'd go in and say, Well, I have an idea. We want to make it better for business. So we want to do this out of the other. We want to make it better for the economy, to do this out of the other. But, yeah, you know what would have happened.

Denny Miles 21:39

But remember, he, I'm trying to think when in when he became a member of the legislature who

James Moore 21:48

was governor, brand new McCall or brand new Hatfield? Okay?

Denny Miles 21:52

Because he didn't serve in the legislature with Mark Hatfield. Then, no,

Speaker 1 21:57

no. Okay, no. So

Denny Miles 22:00

again, an incredibly bright guy, Mark Hatfield and all so he had Hadfield, McCall, Straub and so, big idea people, mostly, yeah, government, mostly

James Moore 22:12

McCall and Straub, right, yeah.

Denny Miles 22:16

But in terms of of the, the big picture and the, you know, the legacy builders, the people who are hoping to be remembered by history as the big, big legacy, that there will be these five things that, you know, saving the beaches and land use planning and all this kind of stuff. And McCall just stole ideas, as you know, I mean, he didn't he, I don't think there is an original idea that came out that he didn't just pick up from somebody else and realize that it was a good idea. And sometimes it took him 18 months to figure out sometimes he was opposed to it. Yeah, exactly. He was against it, for God's sake. And the governor tells the story about writing back with him to Washington, DC to talk about LCDC. I didn't even understand it, let alone so anyway. But the point is that I think that Victor Atiyeh looked at the job of Governor as being less of the big picture, grandiose splash legacy kind of thing than it was running the biggest and most important corporation in the state, and that he can be accused of getting too deep in the weeds of the minutia of running state government, but he knew what was going on and what had to be done, and he would still have the people implemented. He would hire good people, let them do their job until it became known to him that they weren't doing their job, which didn't happen that often.

And so I think he just knew what was going on, and he had that information, and he did not want to be a Hatfield, he did not want to be a McCall. Did not want to be a Straub. His vision of being governor was not having And ironically, what it has created is this incredible legacy. I mean, you know this, I don't want to butter you up here, all right, but the fact is that this book is going to be, with the possible exception of Floyd McKay's Sprague biography. I mean, it's going to be one of the few real biographies of an Oregon leader,

rather than a self written, you know, all of the books that Mark Hatfield did and rock on the rim rock, or ranch in the rim rock, and even Brent wolf book, which was an attempt at doing a real definitive and did a pretty good job of it. And so ironically, he was not looking for a legacy, and the book and the archive, and what he actually got done under difficult circumstances is going to be an incredible legacy. Yeah, yeah. And so it's almost like if he'd been striving for that, he wouldn't have got it right. And Straub kind of strove for that and didn't get it. McCall got it in really back backwards sort of way. Yeah. It's

James Moore 24:53

like, you live in PR turns. We live in Tom McCall state, but we don't. We live in the Catia state exactly,

Denny Miles 24:57

exactly. And Mark Hatfield. Was really just doing it, getting ready to be a United States Senator, very simply. I mean, that was his plan from the graduate school days in Palo Alto. So, all right. Anyway, if that answers your question, I don't want to take no rambling here. Okay, that's

James Moore 25:12

good. Something came to mind, but I couldn't remember what it was. I got a phone.

Denny Miles 25:17

Yeah, exactly. I I can't remember what it was. Well, I will say to you what I've said to you before, and that is while they may be telling you about what an appropriate length is. No,

James Moore 25:37

no, this is I'm 30% done, and I've written 340 pages.

Denny Miles 25:41

Wow. Okay, you were, you're following the advice of writing long word, yeah, yeah. Okay, yeah.

James Moore 25:47

And, and, you know, whatever happens with those you press and Isaac and Marina talk OSU press, you don't have to worry about, and I'm not going to deal with them directly, and because I can't do a deadline, right? It just isn't going to happen. And so well,

Denny Miles 26:02

early on in this process, I did talk to them and their Acquisitions Director, or whatever her title was, at a coffee shop in Corvallis, and they and I talked to, you know, the one in Bend, and some of the much more just private publishers rather than real publishers kind of thing. And obviously they are incredibly eager about this project. Yeah, they were five years ago. Oh, yeah, yeah.

James Moore 26:28

And they, I mean, because my readers, beyond my wife and my the guy in pain, the librarians, are getting what I have. And so they're and so they're excited too. They're, they're very excited, especially Marina,

Denny Miles 26:43

their process, oh, she's a princess, yeah, their process then was that they would get a, a, I don't know if it's draft or first run or whatever, and so on so forth. And they would send it out to three unnamed people, yeah, who would read it and comment on it and so on so forth. And I thought, I won't tell you exactly the words that went through my mind, but they were not positive words. And I thought to myself, well, if they're on this campus, either retired or not retired. I mean, I have no idea where you are politically, but I do know where Bill lunch is, and I do know where some of the other people on that campus are. I mean, they're Marxist, basically, and it'll

James Moore 27:25

be fascinating to see what they say, and also then what that process is like, in terms of me saying, you know, you know, they can go take a flying wing. Well,

Denny Miles 27:37

we encounter this. We don't have a contract with them,

James Moore 27:40

right? Okay, no, no, no. But I told you when I wrote the Oregon encyclopedia on Vic, which was done before he died, and then we put on the death date afterwards, one of the comments, one of the anonymous comments that came back, was about the unitary tax really cost the school systems. It was a really negative thing. And the editor asked about that, and I said, well, from the work that I've done so far, and you have to realize that my sabbatical is coming up, I have not dived deep into this. At worst, a wash, and it most likely didn't make any difference at all, but that's the narrative, right? And so it didn't, nothing was changed. And it's just a couple of words, because it's right, they gave me 500 and the guy went to 750 right? Whoo.

Denny Miles 28:36

Unfortunately, people know about that website. It's a wonderful website. Oh

James Moore 28:40

yeah, I use it all the time, this kind of stuff. And it's also amazing, what's not on there, because it's their own fads, right? But that, then that's fine, but, but that kind of stuff, you know, I said, you know, until I get done with the book, I can't give you a strong answer. Well, I've read the unitary. That's the first chapter I wrote. It's also the shortage chapter, right? And if there was anything within a year, it was more than made up, right? More than made up. It was just a total red herring. But when you send it out to the anonymous readers, they remember. So I will be fascinated to see what the anonymous readers say, and I may actually sit down with Les beforehand and just talk to him about all this stuff, because the racia sings, I've got to be the one that gets it out. So I've been talking with Eva [Pacific University's archivist]. If I think Gerry's going to give me a ton of stuff, I have a ton of it already, but will she allow us to scan it here? And I talked with Eva, there are things that we may want to put our own embargo on in information, just in terms of legal things, but also just things. For instance, Gerry talks very openly about a. Al's ex wife.

Denny Miles 30:02

When Bob Oliver on the Dwayne samples thing, dated Dwayne samples ex wife? Yeah, there's a, there's a memo in the in the in Gerry's binder that she's going to give you, uh huh, that basically from Bob to the governor that says, you know, I supposedly was introduced by Ron Schmidt to this gal who worked in pious, Schmidt, Westerdahl, and I had no idea of her connection with this, that or something else. I mean, it's, it's a, it's a bit of a cya memo, but it's a legitimate thing. Oh yeah. Covering your ass is not a bad thing to do with the governor. Make sure he's aware of it. There's another great memo, speaking of Pacific University and things like that in there, and hopefully now Gerry doesn't take her black marker through that one by taking it out of the binder. But there's this memo about quote Paul Phillips had a bad day, and he had a bicyclist run into him and then he gave his business card to the to the bicyclist. And that was not, we weren't supposed to do that on private matters and, and, I mean, it was not rule, but it was just like, you know, you don't use the governor office to influence things. And, and then he walked out of a restaurant without paying totally, totally, all on the same day. All on the same day. It's great. So then he wanted to run for the legislature and stay in the governor's office. Oh, yeah. And I had to resign from the governor's office just to run the campaign, let alone, you know, can't do that. No, yeah. So, yeah, well, that also, but,

James Moore 31:35

so, so when? When, when this goes when the book goes out to the anonymous reviewers, they're going to remember their own Rajneesh experience and their own milieu, yeah. And this ain't it, right? This has never been told, right? And so it's just gonna be fascinating to see what those how that comes.

Denny Miles 31:53

And I think officially, it is the unitary method of taxation, not the unitary tax, although everybody knew it as the Oh

James Moore 32:00

yeah, yeah, no, and that's right, that's in there one thing that, when you were talking about context and the milieu and that kind of thing, the people who've read it, like Eva came up and said, I never really understood how the property tax and the sales tax and all that, yeah. Well, there you go. And the fun thing is, or even was the first place to have this kind of tax and that kind of tax, right? We it was called the sales tax. The

gasoline tax was specifically called the sales tax up until the 1950s right? And then we stopped using those words. We don't have a sales tax. So either

Denny Miles 32:40

way, I guess, I guess it would be from a political side of things, and talking about the business community and and, you know, the the on the I think, I think you have to say that supporting the sales tax was also A mistake. But it might, might have been a mistake that needed to be made. I don't know. I mean, it was like everybody, I guess, has to, at one point or another, try to pass the sales tax. That seems to be

James Moore 33:10

the thing to do. Yeah, exactly. Do you know the history of the legislature in the 1960s probably not everybody in their mother had a sales tax proposal. Is that right? Yeah, this is how, this is Bob, how Bob Oliver cut his teeth. He was hired right when Vic came, he was hired. This is first job, yeah. So he knew Vic from day one, yeah. But his, he said, especially from about 61 to about 67 he was just busy all the time. Was always Yeah, 67 because he goes to work for McCall. Then everybody had a sales tax plan, yeah, and Vic was there all the time, because Vic, in his way, he didn't want a sales tax, but by God, he had to understand it right in order to cast a principal vote against it.

Denny Miles 33:51

And I think it's just incredible. I think he was, he was talked into changing his position and supporting the sales tax by leaders within the business community.

James Moore 34:02

Yeah, there's a lot of pressure. There's also the competition with the OEA, lot of negotiations going back and forth. There I have it in that chapter, Vic eventually blames Danielson for the collapse of the whole thing, right? But, and this is I actually did this on k2 with the legislative leaders because of the big tax that's coming up. It's exactly what Vic proposed when he won in 1982 really to a t his would have raised 1.5 billion biennium in today's dollars, they're talking 5 billion. So it's bigger, but it's in the same ballpark. And you could just see when I said that. Mike McClain, I can't remember who the other guy was. Their eyes just kind of like, Huh. It's like, you know, different time. But this is not a wacky, weird idea. And lo and behold. It's exactly what Hatfield proposed,

Denny Miles 35:03

exactly. Well, the you've heard the quote from the boss, there is really very few new ideas.

James Moore 35:07

Oh, yeah, yeah. You know taxes as well. There's only about five ways to do it. There you go,

Denny Miles 35:14

right, right. And you can then just figure out what the decimal multiplier is going to be and and there is no such thing as a fair tax, and all those kind of thing you again, I think you've got this. But his ongoing opposition, until he flipped, was that the biggest problem with the sales tax was it was insidious.

James Moore 35:35

Yeah, he called it a hidden tax, right? Which is bullshit, but that's what. That's what do you really think? Jim, no, it's very in his my wife read that, and she said it makes perfect sense why he would think that. But how can he think that? And his whole point was that at the end of a year, you have an idea. You know what your income tax is, but you never know what your sales tax is, right? Whereas the it's psychologically, it's rejected their verse. When you pay a sales tax, you always know it, but you don't know the accumulative effect, which is his argument. And so, so it's just a it's a fascinating thing, but it's, it drove him to to eventually, and I there's no evidence about why he flipped.

Denny Miles 36:31

I think he just went through enough badgering. And I think it, yeah, that very easily could be it, business community, Yeah, screw it. There's a lot of pressure. I'm not going to run for office ever again, right? If I'm ever going to do it, I might as well do it now, yeah, and then he then, I mean, again, I've said Paul Newman is a genius. Did you ever talk to Paul?

James Moore 36:47

No, no, I'm not at a stage to talk to him. Okay,

Denny Miles 36:50

yeah, but, but, you know, Paul Newman's a genius, but the comic book was just Yeah, and I was not involved in

James Moore 36:56

that campaign. I think that in the in the in the chapter is a single line. It was a comic book right right over your picture of it right there. Yeah,

Denny Miles 37:04

hard to find. Yeah. The other bit of political meal that's hard to find is a Charlie phone when he was running, who was a kind of an analog to Vic Atiyeh, but he was in Nebraska, and when he was running against rock and Bob Carey for governor. He had a brochure, and Paul Newman was one of his consultants, and he had a and you've seen the capitol in Lincoln, Nebraska, right? It's called the prick of the prairie. It's got this wonderful dome up here with a with the seed soar at the top. I mean, yeah, I'm sorry, what were they thinking? Was some architect laughing away or whatever. But he had a brochure that when you opened it up, the capital tower

James Moore 37:45

rose up like this. That's great. It was a dynamic

Denny Miles 37:50

brochure. And if you held it, you know, it rose up normally, but if you held it upside down, it kind of came up and did this, you know, kind of thing, okay? And it is an incredible collector's item. I mean, that's the 1909 svdb of political collections. You know, it's just amazing. So that's, yeah, I the sales tax just, it just seemed, I guess I'm going to disagree with you, because, yes, you know about it, but if you took a little straight pin, a sterile straight pin, and you went, you'd know that you'd been stuck by a pin. It would hurt. But if you combined daily stick pin things and put it all into one stabbing, it would hurt more. It wouldn't hurt more, you'd be aware of it more than you would be. Yes, you'd be aware of each of those little things, but, but we are only aware of it because when we go to Washington, right, we pay it, and it's a surprise, surprise, and so, Whoa, yeah, I forgot, Damn it's the sales tax. What

James Moore 38:58

I ended up doing is because he was coming of age and taking over the business as the income tax switched to being an annual payment, right? And the reason they did it as an annual payment is they said, We'll do withdrawals from people's income, and so they won't scream as much.

Denny Miles 39:26

What was it before that? It's quarterly,

James Moore 39:28

and you didn't pay it the year you paid it the next year you paid your in advance. No, you paid it in post. So 1938 you pay your 3938 taxes in quarterly payments.

Denny Miles 39:40

So the first income tax was like miles and Associates, income taxes you paid estimated the business, businesses

James Moore 39:47

you didn't know, not even estimated you were paying last year's income taxes this year. Whoa. What a deal. And so the biggest one, they actually flipped it, which is 4344 was, what do we do with the year? We're going to make. Yes, yeah. And we're fighting a war. So income tax was, I had the numbers in here, but it was like \$2 billion to like \$85 billion in two years because of the war effort. Wow. And so what do we do? But young Bush is taking over the business, so he's seen this from a business side as well as his his own

income side. So he's seen the greatest switch from hidden tax to open tax or whatever it is, right? It's happened. So I what I think, is he's looking at this as a business owner.

Denny Miles 40:32

You realize you get 10 books out of all, yeah, any one of these

James Moore 40:37

topics, you could write an entire book. Yeah? No, it's great stuff and things that you know, it's like Earl snow people just have no idea. They have no idea in the world. Yeah, it's just fascinating. So one last anecdote. I'll turn this off once we're done.

[Recording ends.]