

## Bill Markham interview on Atiyeh

An interview of William Edwin Markham (1922-2021) regarding Oregon's Governor Victor Atiyeh, recorded on Apr. 28, 2015. Markham served as a Republican in Oregon's House of Representatives from 1969 to 1999. The interviewer, James Moore, was as professor of political science at Pacific University and was Atiyeh's biographer.

The interview includes discussion of: Atiyeh's legislative career, his involvement in the timber industry, and his efforts to balance the state budget; Atiyeh's international trade trips, particularly to China; his personal life, including his family and health; anecdotes about Markham's legislative career, including his work on the House Revenue Committee and his efforts to pass a bill limiting jury duty for older individuals; the impact of redistricting; and the rise of partisanship in Oregon's legislature.

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

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[Recording begins mid-conversation.]

Bill Markham 00:00

...At the airport on one of those new concourses, there weren't very many people there, and about two legislators, if I remember, right? But he and I always got along good.

James Moore 00:14

uh huh, yeah, with when he died last year, there was a family service, and then the big memorial at the Capitol, and the big memorial at the Capitol had Atiyehs from all over the place, and those who flew in the right place were kind of amazed to see Uncle Vic standing in the airport. Yeah.

Bill Markham 01:02

Well, how long were you with norm?

James Moore 01:05

I spent about an hour and 10 minutes talking. He was then going to sign a bunch of letters for the capital foundation, but Doug Roberts was giving a talk on O and C money.

Bill Markham 01:24

So he was, you say, Doug Roberts was, he's

James Moore 01:27

over there. He was over there talking about O and C money. And so he was going to pop in and listen to norm. He's talking, it's to a group over at the Ford Foundation. All right. I joke that is there still O and C money

Bill Markham 01:54

that certainly has government money out your package and mine, you can't cut any timber, and this county depended on it more than any Yeah,

James Moore 02:09

absolutely,

Bill Markham 02:16

but the environmentalists won. I was in the pirbur logging business, so I know a lot. Oh, good.

James Moore 02:28

So when you were, when you were in the legislature, you represented riddle,

Bill Markham 02:33

well, represented motion Douglas County.

James Moore 02:39

So it's like this southern part. Did you go to the coast? Well,

Bill Markham 02:42

when I first ran in 68 when I won, there were two representatives. They represented all the counties, okay? And then they along came redistricting, right? And I lost the city a rose bird with a damn near kept arresting cow, including Ridge for

James Moore 03:06

Okay, that's how Gary Wilhelm is described in his district, because he was Klamath Falls, But he was just Klamath Falls. So did you know the Tymchuks in Reedsport?

Bill Markham 03:25

He worked for my wife and I, Kerry [Tymchuk] did, for about three sessions in Salem, okay, when he was going to school down the street, and also law school, yeah,

Unknown Speaker 03:42

quite a guy.

Bill Markham 03:56

You got quite a job there, running that out,

James Moore 04:01

given the way they were going through executive directors, clearly, something's working, because he's now been there for A few years.

Bill Markham 04:08

Well, again, here we're going broke. I go ahead, you got a lot of eating to do there.

James Moore 04:39

Well, love nibbling. It'll be perfect.

Bill Markham 04:49

Where'd you go to high school? Medford, if you're from down there.

Unknown Speaker 04:53

Yeah, yeah.

James Moore 04:56

So I don't know if you've paid attention to county commissioners or. I watched the local news, but my dad was a county commissioner in Jackson County in the 1970s

Unknown Speaker 05:06

guy named tam in 1970 he

James Moore 05:09

was there actually 74 to 7875

Bill Markham 05:12  
to 79 I'm sure I knew him, but doesn't ring a gong. Yeah, many years ago, yeah.

James Moore 05:19  
He was the anchor man at Kobi television there,

Bill Markham 05:35  
when you hope to write this book,

James Moore 05:36  
I hope it comes out next year. I it. I'm in the process of writing right now. I've got enough stuff so that i i go into sections and write. And actually the first part I wrote about was Victor and his sports because he got a contract from the Green Bay Packers in 1944

Bill Markham 06:03  
Yeah, they played at Oregon. Didn't the army get him? He had a

James Moore 06:11  
yeah, sometimes football injury that turned into a cyst. And so he was, he was poor up. His twin brothers went in and they were captured in the Battle of the Bulge.

Bill Markham 06:22  
I remember that, yeah, and

James Moore 06:27  
one of his older brothers is still still with us, to a great source of family information for me.

Bill Markham 06:41  
Did Mrs. Die recently? She's still going there. She's still going

James Moore 06:46  
dementia. And she when Vic fell, she had fallen last summer as well, so she was in a rehab place, but now they've got her in a place everybody's happy with

Bill Markham 07:02  
how police she is, yeah, she was really not too well, or the last for all this happened, George,

James Moore 07:13  
no, no, she's been in I'm not sure how long, but I think it's been like maybe three or four years. And then last summer, just before Vic fell, his nephew was in a plane crash. Did he survive it? Yeah, he survived it, but he's also in a rehab place

Bill Markham 07:49  
all beat up. Yeah,

James Moore 07:52  
it was back in Arkansas or someplace, so it took a while to get him back here. I

Bill Markham 08:06  
It is a store long since gone. No,

James Moore 08:09  
it's gone to the third generations. One of Vic's nephews runs it is a viable it's a Bible visit. They moved it out of downtown maybe 10 years ago, so it's out in the suburbs now, kind of where the business is

Unknown Speaker 08:27  
and it's cheaper.

James Moore 08:31

And apparently there's one of the the fourth generation is interested in keeping it going. So yeah, and then Vic's brother, or Vic's son, Tom, has his own rug business. He married someone who speaks Chinese.

Speaker 1 08:57

What kind of business? A rug business as well? Oh, oh, and the rug, but, yeah,

James Moore 09:03

separate, and he married someone who speaks Chinese, and so they get rugs from China.

Bill Markham 09:14

I didn't know any of his children. How many did he have?

James Moore 09:17

He has two. Suzanne. They both spoke at the service. Yeah, so there was Suzanne and then her older brother, Tom. And Tom looks exactly like Vick's father. You

Speaker 2 09:40

Yeah, you better, you ready? You better, it'll work. I'm not going to work. Worry

Bill Markham 10:00

about you're not exactly underway Exactly exactly. Well, let me just say this. And then I wrote down and I was thinking about it. Oh, good. My first recollection of Vic was he was in the Senate, and I think it was my second term. He and I ended up my wife and I and he and and his I don't think his wife ever came down. I don't remember now, but I didn't think so. But at the same apartment house, okay? And that's where I got acquainted with him. And I think he was chairman of the tax committee at those days. They call it tax instead of revenue. And he was trying to explain to me some of the tax and it was just completely Greek to me. If you don't, you got to get in there and understand what's going on. Yeah, and I was new at the game, so maybe it was my freshman term, I don't remember, but we got along, and that's what's important. I just don't remember much else about that, except where I met him and he him. And in one instance I had he was a gun collector, yeah, and I looked I was invited to his house one night for a cocktail party, and I got to talking to him about guns. So we go upstairs in one of the bedrooms, one of the closets, and just full of them. And shortly after that, that summer, I guess it was why he and I met up down to Grants Pass at that. You know, this side of Grants Pass four or five miles is a gun club, right? If you've been in it, yeah, and I used to use that politically real well.

When they had their big Memorial Day, or whatever it was, 1000s of people buffalo eats, they'd roast a buffalo on the ground. Oh, great. That was their draw, yeah. But anyway, they had a shoot with black powder. I never shot a black powder. Ever had one my hand? Well, I ended up shooting against Vick for the title. Hell, he had to load the gun for me, but I beat him. He didn't like that very well. I kind of got a kick out of it, but he's a good man. I really liked Vic. And the only time that he probably swore at me, and I don't notice I swore at him, but not face to face, was when we were so short of money. I've forgotten what years it was. It's probably in there already, and we were about 45 \$50 million short to balance the budget. And was my worry as a governor, he had to figure out how to right, although I thought it should have been up the legislature, but it didn't seem to be at that time. Yeah, and I had made a public statement because I heard that committee, it was worrying about it. I guess you'd call it the Ways and Means Committee were eyeing the workman comp reserve fund, yeah. And I made a public statement, not that I wouldn't put up for that, because that's for injured workers. Sounded good. Plenty good. Yeah, I assume now that look back at it, but I really didn't like it, and I must have been on the revenue committee, and he wanted me to vote for that. I knew he did, but it was two or three times I saw him in the hall, and he said, Bill, like you when I get moment, I'd like you come in the office and talk to him about it. And I nod my head, and I wouldn't win, because I knew what he wanted to try and twist my arm, and I think that. And then he sent me notes twice to please come and talk to him. Well, I just threw him away, so he probably, but anyway, he got the money, and I lost on that issue, and that's fine, but they finally recovered. The money took him about

12 years and three times the time he got the interest into it. Yes,

James Moore 14:47

I talked to Ted Kulongowski, who was actually the one who was attorney general and signed off on it. \$70 million had become 240 years old. Like, yeah, that. A

Bill Markham 15:02

anyway, that was the only real difference opinion that he and I ever had. What else should I know about him? Well, I had a delightful time with him, and so did he. You know where the wolf Crick Inn is. Have you ever stopped there? Oh, yeah. Well, that was a real pile of junk that the state bought. I used about fainted when I knew that state parks were going to buy because I thought, my God, a good fire would be but it did have historical significance. I applicants. What tore it apart was there's a couple that was a real hot bed in there for the marijuana growers and users that and down toward the coast from trans fat and should jump up and help that young lady help her eat it. But anyway, two families of those really way out, you know, I mean, extreme out, were living there, and they just tore it up. And I thought it was too bad, because it had historical significance of General Grant, or whoever stopped there, yeah, all that stuff. Anyway, they bothered, and the state spent about a million bucks, and they took, just took it apart, right down to the big rock Foundation, maybe you're wireless, and then rebuild, and that's what they got. And it looks nice. It's got most of the significance, except it's got a modern kitchen. You know.

Anyway, came the dedication, and Vic call up the garden, told him he wanted transportation. I guess that's the way it worked, from his view, and I was going to go down with him. So the next thing I know, we got three helicopters show up out the one to pick up the governor. I came to where the reflector pool was, or that area, and that created a stir for but anyway, that's and it was bad weather. So we fly up the valley at, I don't know, 600 feet or some it's overcast all the way. And I said to Vic, we may have trouble getting over the when you get to Glendale, then the first real hump shows up. I said, if we can get out of Canyonville, over that mountain, will be all right until we get to Glendale, or out where the freeway was. Well, the chopper pilots, they said, No, we can't get through there. So they were got ready to turn around, go back. And I said to Vic, let's, let's just go up here, about three miles to Glendale, where the high school is, and land these birds and we'll get a school bus. And so he tells the head pilot, so that's what we do. And we created quite a stir in Glendale with three choppers landing on that football field in the school superintendent's office was an old building right off the edge of the field, and God, he came storming out. Wonder, what the hell is going on? And I knew him, yeah, so I jumped out and told him what was going on. And I said, on top all this, we need a bus. As soon as he cooled down a little, realizes significance of it. Where I out came the bus.

And the guard people wanted to go, hopped in. And, you know, some have been one going, I don't remember now. So we take the bus over there. And, God, it was raining like a cow peanut on a flat rock. So he made his speech under the, you know, right over the steps, and it all worked out. And then we went back to Glendale. I think they had a little lunch or something. There. We went back to Glendale and the school superintend I think I'd like to talk to Governor about maybe he'd like to talk to the kids, because they were all excited by that time those choppers sitting out there. So they had, he had an all school auditorium, and Vic spoke to him, and we had a good time around there, and gotten the choppers and went back to sale, yeah, but he enjoyed that. But anyway, that's about the only other thing. Yeah, actually, oh, I beat him enough. And, no, he beat me. We before, before all the do-gooders got crazy. You know, the lobby used to do a lot more for legislators and. Weren't buying boats, I might add, nobody ever tried to my boat, but once and that son of a bitch learned not to do it a second time. He was kind of a shady character. Anyway, from Portland, he represented the three balls alone. There was half a dozen after Portland, and I didn't particularly care for him, but he sent me a check for 100 bucks, and one day a bill came up. Had something to do with him. He sent a note in to me while the bill was being talked about on the floor. Remember me, and I jumped up.

James Moore 20:47

I think even then that might have I

Bill Markham 20:49

got on the phone. I told my wife to bring me down a check. So she brought one down. I made it out going for 100 bucks on outside. And I said, you can stuff this up your ass, and don't ever come to my office again, and you know that word gets around real fast. Yeah, I don't know how he'd tell it, but that's the way I told him. But anyway, that's another issue. I

meant to give you this. What's the other one? There aren't many of these left over.

Unknown Speaker 21:20

Oh, girl, that's great. Yeah,

Bill Markham 21:24

that's, that's when I first got to the legislature. I yeah, I found who was the guy flew in a very good friend of mine. You see, I'm getting, I'm old. I'm 92 and a half from Hood River. Oh, Ken, turns down. Yeah. Ken, yeah. We were both pilots in World War Two. Uh huh, that's wonderful. Oh, and he had a card with that on. I said, Where'd you get that? And I said, the state printers. So I hopped over the state printers, and he said, the legislature, legislative administration doesn't like these anymore because these cost a lot more of the picture on them. And I said, Well, that's their problem, not mine. I want a bunch of me said, Well, I got about double amount you want, and I'll give them all to you after I print them up. So I got a whole bunch. That's fantastic. You can have this too. Oh, good. Thanks. Yeah, that's wonderful. That's wonderful. So I was around the legislature about 30 years. Yeah, way too long. Show us a little instability up here. But frankly, my wife and I, our kids were grown or almost grown, or in college. I guess one of them was at Air Force Academy, and the second one was at Oregon State. In fact, he played basketball there. Then the third one had already graduated in high school, and he went to Lewis and Clark. I said, Why don't you pick an inexpensive school like Southern Oregon, right? You get the idea. Yep. I don't know how people educate kids anymore, the cost of them. Oh, yeah, higher ed, it just seems impossible. And the only reason that is skyrocket. I'll show my colors. Here's a good Republican. It's the teachers union. They just keep escalating costs.

James Moore 23:14

Except in college. There aren't really good unions

Speaker 1 23:17

well, but some way they do it well, it's

James Moore 23:20

because there's a national market for Fauci

Bill Markham 23:23

Yeah, somebody has to start it, yeah, where there is a union, yeah.

James Moore 23:27

And that's why, when you look at salaries, University of Oregon and Oregon State are actually they look pretty high, but nationally, they're about 30% below the normal on

Bill Markham 23:38

the salvage, yeah. But education wise, education wise, they do well with what they got. Yeah,

James Moore 23:44

great.

Bill Markham 23:48

But anyway, how'd I get off on that guy? You were

James Moore 23:51

in for 30 years. Your kids were older, yeah.

Bill Markham 23:55

But actually, I enjoyed the work. And I worked at it. I can tell you flat out that, and I got a lot of things passed that even now in my brain I can't remember, but one thing I can tell you about, when you reach age 65 this state can't tax you on your Social Security. Got from the federal government because I wrote the oh yeah constitutional amendment long before I ever looked at it from a personal basis, right? But nobody knows that, yeah, except me and half a dozen other

people. Yeah,

James Moore 24:35

he was talking to Jack Faust and Faust, he was close to Bob Packwood, yeah, he Vic appointed him to the LCDC. He's

Speaker 1 24:47

a lawyer, yeah, he's a lawyer. Up in Portland, you must be quite old. Oh,

James Moore 24:51

he's, I would bet he's early to mid 80s, yeah, yeah. But he was talking to somebody who was asking so. Has Bob Packwood done that's big for us, because, you know, Mark Hatfield's name is on everything. But he said, Well, you know, on your taxes, when you can deduct your income tax, and you know that's Packwood's gift to you. All the states of sales tax are subsidizing what you get. But that's not a monument.

Bill Markham 25:25

I remember going to him on an issue once, and he was very he was very upfront with me, I lost an election in the middle of that 30 years when President Nixon did his trick on us. Oh, yeah, in 74 just about wiped out all the Republican legislature. Yeah, I lost my six votes, I think. And I, I had an idea the guy had done a bunch of cheating on that. I went to him and he said, Markham, I know how you feel, but you can't prove it. So, yeah, just get ready for the next election. The next election, I beat the son of bitch by 3300 votes. There you go. He was a union goon from the schools. Oh, yeah. All I had to do was show his voting record the public down here. Just hopeful. Yeah, you couldn't believe the crap he voted

Unknown Speaker 26:22

for. So

James Moore 26:23

1968 to you're in the house the whole time, so always to your church. And

Bill Markham 26:32

by choice, by choice, yeah, I had several opportunities. I could, you know, obviously I could have gone to the Senate, right? I mean, I could have, I could have beaten chips offer when he was in the house, but I was enjoying myself in the house, and I thought, Well, why do I move? Yeah, absolutely. And as I look back at it, maybe

James Moore 26:57

there is always that

Bill Markham 27:00

John and I are this far apart politically, but we're relatively good friends. I was like the guy on a personal basis.

James Moore 27:10

One thing that Vic talks about is when it went from multiple member districts to single member districts, it was a different way of governing. Did you? Did you notice that? Did it have an impact on you? Among other things, he said he got nastier letters from his constituents because they felt he was their guy.

Bill Markham 27:32

I don't remember that, but particularly, and I remember when it happened because, like I say I and another guy represented was Al flagel, liberal, son of a bitch, I'd tell him. So if he was sitting here, I'm not kidding you, he was the kind of a guy he was, I don't even Did you know the name Al, oh yeah. He had a transfer business here in town, you know, moving furniture, and here I got quite friendly over baseball. Literally second I fired filed for election, he wouldn't talk to you. Son of a bitch when I beat him the first session. I got to tell you this boring.

Unknown Speaker 28:24

No, you're not. It's good.

Bill Markham 28:28

He was one of the big shots up there in the Senate Democrats. I think he ran the Tax Committee. I'm not, don't remember now, the three member committee in those days in the Senate side. What the hell was the bill? Oh, it was inventory tax. You know, what an inventory tax? Oh, yes, most people don't, yeah. You know, this guy's got an inventory here, yeah, at the end of the year, you got to declare the value. Yeah. Well, I thought that was very unfair on the business community, and I'll tell you why, because I was in the business in sawmill and logging, and we log and put up a big deck of logs just so we could keep the crew busy in the bad weather, right? And then they'd come along at the end of the year, and the SAS tax assessor didn't his fault, and there won a bunch of money just because you're not making any money anyway, but you're keeping the crew, yeah, so I put together a bill that would do in the inventory time. And of course, flagell didn't have any inventory in his business, right? And he held the bill up. I didn't have any trouble selling it in the house, and so I got smart, and I hired two or three students across the street there at Willamette, and that's maybe when Carrie came. And Jimmy, kind of he wasn't with us the first term, but I knew his family very well. Over reached. His dad was a mayor for years. Yeah, his son was mayor for years, exactly. And I wrote a letter saying to every businessman and in the county what was going on in the bill. And if you feel as I do, that this is an unfair tax, you write call or wire your senator flag who's holding it up, and he just got inundated. You can imagine, I hired these girls to go through the Yellow Pages, and everyone they could dream up, had an inventory, sent him a copy of the letter. It just blew him right out of the water. How did you get started on that some of these things come back exactly.

James Moore 30:51

That's good. That's very good. So you didn't notice a big difference when you went from multiple member districts. I

Bill Markham 31:02

didn't really notice any because, yeah, it was all area and run anyway, yeah? Except here I had to concentrate my first term on Rosenberg, right? It was the city, yeah. But anyway, that's it didn't bother me at all.

James Moore 31:21

Um, I were you involved in supporting or opposing any of the big 1971 73 measures, the land use bill, the what the land use bill?

Bill Markham 31:33

Well, I was dead against that, uh huh. And I can tell you flat out, there were lies told on the floor of the house so that would be local control by local people within their county and their own consulate. And I made that very blunt, this bill does not allow that. Well, they we lost it by one vote now, but the other side absolutely told the lie. Well, that didn't do me any good, but do the best you can exactly. I was in the timber and logging business farming, you know, and I think, I think it went too far, and I still do, but that doesn't mean I'm against land use planning, yeah, but this is the most severe in the country, and still is, I believe. Oh, yeah, yeah, absolutely. Anyway, there's one of them. I had a strong opinion. Yeah.

James Moore 32:31

Did you when you were in the house during those years? Did you ever work with Vic on anything? Mean, he's the leader of a caucus that gets smaller and smaller and smaller in the Senate side, yeah. On the Senate side,

Bill Markham 32:44

I don't remember that much, pretty much, you work your bills, your butt off, you get them through your own house, and then if you can get them through, then you go to work over on the other side, right? That's the way I would Yeah, yeah. My particular way, and nobody else seems to do it. But I'm glad a bill I like the way I saw the highest go knock on the door of any of the legislators. I don't care which party they're in. Say I'd like five minutes or time I'd explain it to me. And I said, perhaps you can't support this, but we can. I want you to understand it, and I made a whole lot of friends in the Democratic Party doing that. Yeah, because it works. Yeah. They're on the on, you know, a lot of them are on the edge, on what the bill is going to do, and you're on a first name basis. And it's hard to do unless you make an effort to go around and get acquainted, right? I learned this the hard way the first session. Yeah,

James Moore 33:50

absolutely did you. I've talked to several people, some who agree and some who disagree with it. That say that in the legislature before some point, say 1985 there was enough people who wanted to solve problems rather than take issues and make them partisan. Did you find that to be the case, or was party?

Bill Markham 34:17

No? The only time I saw that was, and it happens every session is a partisanship on the Democratic Party. They're more liberal and Republican, and it always crops up. I think, okay, I felt that way. That's not a very good answer to you. No, that's, that's

James Moore 34:40

your observation. Is good. Vic becomes governor. Did you well? You were you were worried about your own election that you lost by six votes in 1974 when he was running. The first time in 1978 he becomes governor, beating straw. You. Yeah, and then there's the 1979 session. And the 1979 session has been described to me as kind of the high point. There was income from taxes flowing into the state. So that's when there's a lot of there's a big surplus, and money is given back to the taxpayers. We put the kicker in place all those kinds of things. Were you involved in any of the negotiations on on that money going back to the taxpayers? Oh,

Bill Markham 35:32

yeah, I was on the house revenue committee several times and enjoyed that work. You learn something real fast but I worked with

James Moore 35:46

Deb's pots,

Bill Markham 35:48

you know. And I knew Deb right, personally. But again, you just said it. My friend

James Moore 35:55

Ken turns to Yeah, there we go.

Bill Markham 35:59

I worked with him on that thing, on the kicker side of it, and we finally got that into the bill, and it went over 2% we had to kick it all back. We had lots of arguments about that, as I remember, but I was very proud of that thing, and still am. And it's amazing how these democrats just go crazy. Think you're going to have to send back a few bucks to the guys that paid it to begin with. But I'm showing my partisanship, I suppose. But it may be the only one the country. But it works. Uh huh, it holds down spending that was the whole goddamn idea. Yeah. Do

James Moore 36:49

you remember where the idea for it came from?

Bill Markham 36:55

No, I don't. Who do you? Who tells you? Do you have a No, other in mind. No, we're just, I don't remember Uh huh, because it started in the Senate. If I remember,

Unknown Speaker 37:05

okay, okay,

Bill Markham 37:09

because I remember going over there and visiting with what's his name several times. He had turns to that an interesting thing. He never was in the Army, Air Force. Oh yeah. He played for the Chinese or something. He was in the Marine Corps, okay, when the war came along, uh huh, and, or even before the war, I guess it was Chiang Kai Shek, the Chinese Republican, yeah. Well, he made a deal through the name of that general, I can't say it now, that was his air aid in China to get these bunch of aircraft over there the P 40s, and they offered money to both the Army Air Force and the

Navy Air Force and the Marine Corps. Anybody wants to come. Was a good salary. It was double over. Plus the fact you shoot one down, you get 500 bucks. And of course, young bunch of guys, a bunch of them volunteer, and he was in the Marine Corps at the time, and so he got on the boat San Francisco, and over he went, and he shot heavy red up on him, and shot down a couple dozen or dozen, at least, if I remember right. And then he came home, and the army tried to get them all to join up the Army Air Force, but he said no, and he made a deal with one of the big aircraft manufacturers back in New Jersey. I hate to admit it, but I just don't my memories failing me. And I don't like that at all, especially having to admit it.

James Moore 39:05

But believe me, when I started this project, I said to Vic, I would have asked me 15 years ago,

Bill Markham 39:09

Republic Air Air Force, they produced the P 47 which was a very wonderful aircraft. But anyway, he went to work with him.

Unknown Speaker 39:23

How'd they get off on that? Kendrick said, yeah, yeah.

Bill Markham 39:27

Oh, I said he never. He wasn't in the military, yeah, but in effect, he was, yeah, the first start over in China, yeah, that'd be quite an

Unknown Speaker 39:37

adventure. Oh, absolutely.

James Moore 39:42

Um, by the end of 1979 the economy starts caving in, and by 1982 we're in, you know, the mills are shutting down all of that due

Unknown Speaker 39:57

to this. Back to Denver.

James Moore 39:59

Yeah, well, it was due to the there wasn't demand. And then that hit the timber industry. The environmental stuff was beginning then. But it really comes in stronger by about 1984 85 but it just, it just, you know, all this coming together,

Unknown Speaker 40:17

economy wants to help. Yeah,

James Moore 40:22

there were a lot of special sessions.

Bill Markham 40:24

Yeah, there were more special sessions. There were regular sessions. Yeah,

James Moore 40:28

yeah, talking to norm, he was saying he was getting pretty tired of them, but especially 1982 had three different special sessions in it, there were special sessions later on to repeal the unitary tax, you know, just all sorts of things. You got great recall. Well, I've also been researching this. I've been researching this too. You've been what? I've been researching it. Oh, yeah,

Bill Markham 40:57

yeah, good. You did it, right, yeah.

James Moore 40:59

So in new were you? Were you still on the revenue Committee during those, those times when the economy was really going

Bill Markham 41:08

I don't think so. Okay, I don't remember. Now, I've been on Sudan, many committees. Yeah,

James Moore 41:14

yeah. You. In 1982 there was a really long special session in January. And in that special session, basically there was a the legislature met, and then instead of a journey, you kind of suspended things, and then came back. And so it ended up being officially 37 days, but it's like 48

Bill Markham 41:47

days. We took a break to get our breath so this, yeah,

Unknown Speaker 41:51

yeah, yeah,

Bill Markham 41:55

figure out how to screw the taxpayers and raise taxes, or something I've forgotten.

James Moore 42:02

And it's shortly there by the fall, is when they do the safe the workers comp,

Bill Markham 42:10

yeah, well, they were desperate for money, yeah, they

James Moore 42:13

were desperate at that point. Earlier on, there was in 1981 there was a supplementary income tax surcharge put in. Yeah, did you fight that? Or did you say, you know, this is what we have to do. I

Bill Markham 42:33

you know, I can't sit here and tell you how I voted, but if we were plum desperate, I probably held my nose and voted. Uh huh,

James Moore 42:43

yeah. The way Vic describes it is, they had already cut, it was a \$600 million hole, or whatever it was, and they had cut 300 million. And he looked at it and said, if you cut another 300 we're gonna really, you know, hurt a lot of things. So

Bill Markham 43:03

he went through a lot of tough times. Yeah,

James Moore 43:05

yeah, he really did. Did you pay attention as he started going on international trade trips and became Trader Vic, I

Bill Markham 43:16

didn't and was not involved. You're not involved in that. I should have got involved, maybe, but I didn't looking

James Moore 43:23

at the number of people who went on some of the trips. There's especially a couple with China where they were focusing on logging things, so types of equipment and training people and all that kind of thing. It.

Bill Markham 43:44

I was over to China on one good trip with Mei Yi and Larry. Larry Campbell, Campbell up here, Eugene, he was the

speaker at that time. We had a great time over there. We paid our own way to get there and back, but when we got to China, they really rolled out the red, yeah, that's great. And we actually did pay for our own airfare. We didn't stick it to the taxpayer, believe it or not, yeah, yeah.

James Moore 44:20

I was interested to read that the first real connection with China that we made was May, yee's home province.

Bill Markham 44:29

See that ring? Uh huh. We shopped somewhere May was on the trip. I used to kid her about May, it's about time you and I take a slow boat to China. And I used to tell her that once in a while, before we, before I ever thought about going over there because of the song, yeah, and she had, we were good friends. Never saw her husband, Harley at all, ever she kept him hidden, or he, well, I knew what he was doing. He was over. China about half the time. He had about six live ins with him over there, but that's another issue. I suppose I was jealous, I don't know. But anyway, May was along, and we were out on one island just off of China, where they don't even there's no street cars. There's no cars out there, just a business place. I don't know what the island was, maybe four square miles or something, all kinds of business. And they took us out there, and I wanted to get a hunk of Jade, and I saw this stone in the window, and this, you know, about every eighth store was in this stuff, among other stuff. But I went in there and I know, bargain like hell. I didn't get anywhere. I've forgotten the prices. But I went out and I said, may I want you to buy that stone for me? And she went in there, and she came out about 10 minutes later at 1/3 the price that he wouldn't come down to for me. I said, thanks. May I took it home, had the jeweler make the ring. Uh huh, but it's a good memory. Yeah, that's wonderful. That's wonderful, except the thing doesn't shine like it they Yeah, it's very dull. And it costs a lot of money to get that shot. They have to grind it down again. Yeah, well, I don't care about that. Yeah, absolutely, it's a good keepsake, yep.

James Moore 46:40

So any other memories of Vic? Well, he was governor that jump out at you?

Bill Markham 46:45

No, the ones I do to remember was sufficient with them. Did I finish that? No, no, we I started talking about the lobby and get Yeah, Pacific Power and Light forgot who their main lobbyist was then. But he was been around there for many years, and they were awfully generous to Republicans. By money, I mean generous instead of \$50 250, or 400 Yeah, and almost got along with them. I can remember the first time I went to the out to a bar at night, my wife and I why there was I went up the bar for something, and I forgot maybe, maybe my wife wasn't with and I sat down, this guy turns out to be that lobbyist. So I bought him a drink, and Eva fell out of his chair. I mean that. So we got along pretty good after that. Well, spent dollar too, yeah. But there was a great restaurant out in south, south Salem, maybe you remember the name of it. I don't. Well, it's not important today, but it was kind of a hideout for the good guys. Booze joined, whatever you want to call it. Now, how they get off on that story? Fishing? Oh yeah. Well, anyway, they he like this silly car lined up about six or seven of us to go trop fishing up in Canada, and we got on the plane, and I don't know Salem or Portland, and it was twin inch, and I was a pilot in World War Two, and I knew a little bit about flying the way we went we get up there, and I had hunted moose in the same general area a couple of times. I used to hunt a lot when I was younger, because I was making good money and whatnot, but we had a bet on it. Vic was in the same boat. I was who get the best trout? He got about a 19 inch trout, and the best I could get was about 18 and a half, and we're arguing over who had the longest fish, and they're both beautiful fish, but he won the Young but then when I got even with him with a shootout, I reminded him, right,

James Moore 49:18

that's wonderful. Did you go fishing with him after he left office, no,

Bill Markham 49:21

but he used to do a lot of fishing. Yeah, we're on the east side, and then that main river over there, yeah, what I read about, yeah. Remember him. Tell me about one time he was sitting his feet up on the bank or up at a cabin, whatever they had there in this boat went by, had about three guys, and they all dropped their pants and bent over. What do you call it? Mooned him, yeah. He got such a laugh. He said, if I'd only had a BB gun,

James Moore 49:55

that sounds like floating down the Rogue River?

Bill Markham 49:58

Yeah. I. I've done that once. Yeah, interesting. Yeah, that rain most the time. So well. I wished I had more I could offer you. What will

James Moore 50:13

you done? You offered me a lot any sense about how people thought of him as an ex governor.

Bill Markham 50:24

Well, I always thought that the Oregonian was particularly nice to be personal opinion, because I always read the Oregonian for all my life, until about a year ago, I changed the Eugene rag. I couldn't have done it, but I did just because they did a better sports job on Oregon although I'm a Oregon Stater, because my kid played baseball and basketball, one of my kids for three or four years at Oregon State yeah and unfortunately, he went on, became a brain surgeon, and I talked him into coming down. I had to work at it. You know, he used to have a doctor of the day. Every day they had a doctor of the day, and he'd be introduced the House and the Senate, and I wanted Mike to do it, and he just very reticent. He finally did it, and he knew Kitzhaber in medical school. Oh, yeah, so I took him both to lunch, and he told me, said, You know, I never did get very long. Would get along very good with kits offered school because he was such a liberal. And he said he would pardon me for making it. He said he wore a beard down to here, and would challenge on some of the craziest ideas in medicine. Yeah. He said I'd had to, had to endure, to listen to it. But anyway, I like John and Mike. Didn't dislike him. He just

Unknown Speaker 52:11

well, whatever. Yeah, yeah.

Bill Markham 52:15

I feel bad about kits offer I do. I really do. I think that woman must have showed him some kind of sex and didn't dream of in his life. That's a quote, but don't

Speaker 3 52:27

put it on the book. How

Bill Markham 52:30

could he get hooked that bad? Yeah, it's just beyond my belief. Yeah,

James Moore 52:38

it's really interesting. When he started his third term, he had a very different personality than his first two terms. I mean, he campaigned for other Democrats. He never did that before. And people said, Wow, this woman really must have changed his life. And he was, yeah, they were together. I think they started being together maybe three or four years before that third run, yeah, yeah. So they known each other for for before that, but I think they became a couple,

Bill Markham 53:07

2006 2007 blow my mind, the way he got, you know, he's, he's a bright guy, yeah, that he'd get hooked like that, yeah, after being single for what? 3040, years? Yeah, 30 years, or whatever it was. Yeah, I wanted to get I was terribly partisan when I first got elected. I didn't, I thought you had to be, and I was about I wondered how I was going to get along with these democrats up here. Really, I was a little nervous about it, yeah, but I figured out how to get over that. But I was gonna say something pertinent. But I guess I lost this on what I was gonna say,

James Moore 53:54

partisanship, getting over it, yeah, but there was something on one, kids, Hubbard,

Bill Markham 54:02

it doesn't come back. Yep, yep. It may I'm a You better eat your carrots. Well, I think I'm gonna have these peppers. You gonna take them with you? Eat them on the way home. Yeah. Where are you headed? Back to Medford.

James Moore 54:16

I live in Portland, so I'm going down to Medford.

Bill Markham 54:20

That's your old home. Did you go to high school down there? Yep. What year did you get out? 77

James Moore 54:28

so I'm interviewing Bob Smith tomorrow

Bill Markham 54:29

morning. How is he? I haven't seen him, and I

James Moore 54:33

don't know. I've heard all sorts of people have said they haven't seen him in a while. So we'll all I'll find out

Bill Markham 54:41

he lives up on a hill there. Yeah, is that where you're going to

James Moore 54:44

meet him? No, I'm going to meet him at his office, just kind of by the airport. Where is

Bill Markham 54:47

it by the airport? Yeah, I got to know Bob real well. I had a small airplane for a number of years. I used to fly over and spend some time with him at the ranch. Yeah, he was speaker of the house when I first went there. He's kind of an impressive guy. Let himself get eats too much, but I got to be careful what I said. But I think he still tries to run a lobby company, yeah, one of his, one of his boys, runs it, or, yeah,

James Moore 55:25

like Paul, there was a younger, a young man answered the phone.

Bill Markham 55:31

So his boys aren't young anymore, yeah, exactly. Probably a hired hand, yeah.

James Moore 55:38

So, yeah, yeah. Bob Packwood still doing his company. And as someone pointed out, he can just have one client, and that's good enough.

Bill Markham 55:49

He commands a lot of money,

James Moore 55:53

as long as the 1986 tax reform is still basically the law we have. He's the guy,

Bill Markham 56:00

and don't they drag him back there about every two years and talk to a bunch of them.

James Moore 56:04

They do and but apparently, what he does during when Congress is really meeting, he just he lives in DC, and apparently he plays a lot of contract bridge, and then when they need questions answered, he goes and deals with

Bill Markham 56:20

them. That's a pretty good way to live out your life. It's probably making two, 300 grand a year, yeah, or more. Who knows? Who knows and who cares? Yeah. Well,

James Moore 56:34

this has been very good. I have fond

Bill Markham 56:36

memories of the legislature. My wife and I really enjoyed it. She became I made a speech when I left the legislature. The only thing I think about one of my comments was, you know, folks, I was a Speaker Pro Tem for eight years, and I told every speaker, I could have been a speaker anytime I wanted to, but I had other things to do, other than play politicians, but I sure as hell knew my way around. But what led me to this? I'm trying to think your speech. Yeah, I remember my opening statement was, or after I got into my statement, saying goodbye to the group was when I first came here. I think there were 9000 lawyers in the state of Oregon, and I'm leaving now and leaving you with 30,000 lawyers. Do any of you feel better about it? But

Speaker 1 57:36

that's true. Oh yeah. It's just incredible. Are you a lawyer? No,

Bill Markham 57:43

I enjoyed telling that story once in a while, but my wife, after we'd been there three or four sessions, and she knew the routine very well, and she was a good secretary, and she became the teacher for all of each session that we'd start. Well, I hear a whole whole lot of in the house. There'd be 60 new women or more, damn few had men in those days. Yeah, and she'd hold class for about three days and teach them all this stuff. So she was extremely well liked around the legislature, and that didn't hurt me a bit either. Of course, I don't know, I don't know how I got into that, but we, between us, we really enjoyed ourselves up there. That's wonderful. But my kids weren't very enamored

Unknown Speaker 58:40

with Yeah, they really weren't Yeah.

Bill Markham 58:46

And I was on the where Smith is still on it now, the Oregon State Capital Foundation, right? I was on that for 10 years, and finally, I just year ago or so, I said, I'm getting a little tired. Was driving up here and back in the same day, and then we got kind of bogged down and trying to figure out how to save the capital. Yes, you'll probably know a little about that. All they got to present, present the legislative bill for a half a billion dollars, and they can have, they can remodel the whole thing and and the consensus is, if we do it, then we got to move the legislature out for four years. It is such a mammoth thing. Yeah, other states have done it. Well,

James Moore 59:39

Washington had to, because their capital broke in an earthquake. Yeah, yeah.

Bill Markham 59:45

I was up there a couple times, spoke with the Senate in the house at different times on whatever,

James Moore 59:50

yeah. Did you notice I talked to Wally Carson, great, and randomized Wally was talking about at some point in. Everybody was arguing about income tax, sales tax, income tax, sales tax. And then he went to Washington, to Olympia, and the parties were exactly the opposite. He said, I never knew the Columbia River had such a powerful political effect.

Bill Markham 1:00:15

I remember while he was in the house, when I first got they went to Senate, then he got appointed to the judgeship, right? Next thing, you know, is on the Supreme Court. And the next thing he's the chair of

Unknown Speaker 1:00:26

it for years, yeah,

Bill Markham 1:00:30

and when, when the session had started, every morning, he's sitting in the basement there at the cafeteria, talking to legislators. You know, they they always got something they want. Yeah, most of us always gotta adjust the salaries for all my judgment. Well, I had a bill into the hell did it do? And he didn't like it. What the hell was that? How can I forget such an interesting topic? Now it may have come to me later, but, and I didn't do a good job of keeping my records, and I looked back, and that's the way it goes. Yeah, Spilt Milk. But, oh, it was, it was a bill to put a limit, if I remember right on what age you could, would have to not have to serve jury duty. Okay? He didn't like that bill at all, yeah, and I put it in before he and he came over to and talking about it, and I said, Well, Judge, I said, I have people living up these canyons here, and I do you know, up at Drew or up south um core, the North UMCOR, Diamond Lake and whatever, old people. And I said, they get a goddamn letter from the county. Whoever writes them for the county, they got to show up for jury duty, and here they have to get up at four o'clock in the mornings and then drive in the dark for an hour and a half after they feed themselves, to sit in here and say, well, we don't need you today, but that's the law. And I said, That's bullshit, and these are older people, so I put in a bill to well, he had a bunch of reasons why it had to have everybody on that pool. You do not, and so we disagreed, but that's all right, but I'll get to the damn point I'm making here in a minute. Of course, the bill would always come up and just your committee.

Well, there's six out or seven out of nine are lawyers, seems like always, and they probably should be. And I got my act together, and I went and telling my story about how important it was that we should have a cut off of 65 and if you pass 65 you shouldn't feel is the cut off being called for jury duty. And I, I had a good song and dance put together about it. I just mentioned a little bit about it to you, and they're sitting there kind of half ass agreeing with me. Of course, I knew all of them, unless it was a new one. And I get believe next judge Carlson, would you like to come up? Of course, he'd been number two on the list, and he'd go up and go and always explained all these things about how it wasn't good policy. And of course, who's going to vote against it. So he screwed me about two sessions in a row doing that, and we got so we go up hand in hand and sit there, both of us and talk about it, but then they'd vote later. Of course, you mark him. This is my bread and butter, and he had laughed. And so I guess it would be about the third term. I don't give up easily. I rein, brought the bill back, put a new date on it, and ran it in, and it would go through the same damn day.

And it was getting toward the end of the session, and I went over and worked the bill on the floor of the Senate, because I had it on the house. And then I went to the judges, to the governor's guy that reads all the bills. You probably know him. He's a black man. What was his name? He's a lawyer. I think he even worked for Vic, but I forgot, but that's beside the point of color. Anything by that. And he said, We don't have any problem with the bill. That's all I need to know. So what I did, I took the god they'd already should can my bill. I. Took it and put a new date on it, and talked to the chairman of the committee, and walked into his office and whatnot, and I got that bill passed the last day of the session, and I took that son of a bit. Oh, what happened then I'm smuggling way back to my office, and I get this phone call Carson, you son of a bitch. What are you doing? I said, I'm going to come over and have a signed copy of this just for you. So I go to his office. Here it is. He's about half mad. He said, How'd you do it? And I said, I'm not going to tell you a damn thing judge, you know it all, but we've always been good friends. In fact, my son, who was a medical doctor at the time, was, shouldn't he bring this up? But was camped with his wife over whatever that just over on the east side there, out of bend this way about a sister somewhere. And he heard this kid in the middle of night running through the camp there scream and hollering. And he got up and the kid was overdosed badly, and Mike put him in a car and hauled him in to Bend to the hospital, but they couldn't save him. And of course, he heard about that, not through me, and he didn't. The boy didn't survive, which is tragic, but that's another issue. But I really liked you. How has he looked? Is he in good health? Yeah, he's

James Moore 1:06:43

in pretty good health. He's funny. Do

Bill Markham 1:06:46

you see him occasionally?

James Moore 1:06:48

No, I mean, I've seen him in the distance before, yeah, but sitting in his house and talking to him and his wife and their dog. So yeah, he was, he was in fine form,

Bill Markham 1:07:01

and he's got quite a retirement. He's retired brigadier general, yeah, yep, yep, that's what you get for staying in the reserve. Yeah,

Unknown Speaker 1:07:16

forever and ever and ever, whatever

Bill Markham 1:07:19

exactly I should have done that, and I would have liked it if I lived up in the Portland area, I would have gotten in the reserve or National Guard Air stuff. But yeah, I couldn't, you know, old 99 was a long grind. In the old days, I was trying to make a living anyway, yep. Well, it's been fun. Yeah, I don't know if you've pumped Enough bullshit.

James Moore 1:07:45

Oh no, no. This is great. This is wonderful stuff.

[Recording ends.]