

## Bob Atiyeh Interview on Governor Vic Atiyeh

An interview of Bob Atiyeh on the topic of his uncle, Oregon Governor Victor Atiyeh, recorded on February 4, 2015. Bob Atiyeh was a driver during Vic Atiyeh's 1978 gubernatorial campaign. The interviewer, James Moore, was a professor of political science at Pacific University and was Atiyeh's biographer.

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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James Moore 0:01

Excellent. So talking to Bob Atiyeh in West Linn, Oregon, so first, tell me exactly your relationship to Victor.

Bob Atiyeh 0:14

I'm Vic's nephew.

James Moore 0:16

By whom?

Bob Atiyeh 0:18

My father's Ed [Edward Atiyeh]. Okay, so I've known Vic my whole life. Yeah. So when he ran for governor in 78 he asked me in probably December if I wanted to be his driver and aid during the primary campaign. And I said, Sure. What do I have to do? And then one of my questions was, Do I have to wear a suit and tie? And he said, No, that's a big deal. I just wanted to be out, you know, hiking and climbing, you know, in outdoor. I love the outdoors, right? Anyway, we started in early January, I think, and I drove for him during the entire primary campaign, and then at the end of the end of the primary campaign, I wanted out, and Paul Phillips took over. Yeah, he was a much better man for the job than me. Well,

James Moore 1:06

he's got the political Oh, yeah, absolutely, yeah, absolutely.

Bob Atiyeh 1:09

I was probably a bad hire, you know, but you never hire your relatives, your neighbors or your friends. It was interesting experience. We went to Hua Chang. We went to the Boardman coal fire plant, got inside the Trojan nuclear pirate plant, got to meet Tom McCall and Norma Paulus and Bob Straub and all the political bigwigs of the day, and drove all around the state and just had some interesting conversations with Vic in that five month period. Got to know him pretty well. I was 22 though I was young. Yeah. And then after I retired as a firefighter a couple of years ago, I realized that I had never sat down and talked with Vic about his time with Governor, and besides, to get you know family history from him, so I made a point of going over there every month or two, and I just sat, we sat and talked for an hour or two at the kitchen table, had some really good conversations. Yeah, and to go back, I was 5758 you know, when I was having the conversations with him. And to go back with an adult perspective and talk about the campaign and his time as governor was pretty interesting for me. I really glad I had that time with him, but there's so many questions that I never got to, yeah, it's just he went so fast, yeah, I was really getting into the really interesting, meaty stuff that I really wanted to talk with him about,

James Moore 2:31

and it's too late, yeah, and there's the people who politically know him, and many of them became very close friends of His. Said, in the last 10 years, he finally started talking about that stuff, about it, things that were, you know, Jesus ticked me off when we did this, or, you know, that kind of stuff. But he the, in fact, the anger kind of went out and it was a story. Yes,

Bob Atiyeh 2:55

you're right. That's, that's accurate, yeah, um, he there's nothing worse than being an old man and having no one to tell your stories to. I stories to. He really enjoyed the time, you know, hanging out and talking. He told me several times we talked about family history. I wish I had done when I was a young guy, what you were doing now, to get the history. But unfortunately, his father died when he was 21 Yeah, didn't have that chance. Yeah. And when you're 21 you don't think

to ask these questions. But no,

I'm sure you've heard this before, but I he told me, you know, his father died, and all of a sudden he's in charge of the family business. The age of 21 his two brothers are gone after the war in Europe, and he'd just gotten married Tom a few weeks before his father died, the old saying, you know, I kept my eyes open, my mouth shut. I mean, he told me that, if that's really true, I think he was around these tough old Syrian rug merchants. You know, these guys are pretty shrewd, and some little snot nosed 21 year old kid, you know, Vic was pretty smart. He didn't directly confront people. You don't do that when you're 21 he told me a story about Haddad, one of the old, experienced salesmen there. He was pretty tough, shoot old guy. And he noticed had dad was leaving earlier and earlier every afternoon, because you have to go gamble and drink. And so he's thinking, God, what am I having to deal with this? You know? You know I had, I can confront this old guy. He's gonna just blow me off. And so head dad came in the next morning. He said, Hey, Dad, not five minutes after you left, someone came in and bought this with the expensive organ rug and had that, you know, had a fit. Oh, my God. He never left early again. That's the way Vic dealt with it. He was really good. Didn't end run around him. But he got smarter than Yeah, so I would imagine that's kind of the way he ran the business. And, you know, Vic was pretty he was mature for his age. He was, you know, smart and true. And I can see him, you know, quickly taking the reins and doing pretty good job of the rug business. So the sequence of events, you know, my my father, my uncle, of twin brothers, they joined the military Vic and. That because of his ankle injury. Yeah, they take off to the east coast basic training. They get word that their father's had a heart attack. They get leave. They take the train back. My father, Ed says to Vic, hey, when we're back here, why don't you and Dolores get married. They've been together several years.

They put the wedding together. In a week,

they get married.

My father and my uncle go back east again. Three weeks later, his father dies, they I think they took another leave, came back. I don't think they were back in time before he died. I don't think they'd quite make it back in time. But in that short period, he gets married, his father dies, and he takes over the family business, and his two brothers are gone, and then within five or six months, they're captured, POWs, they disappear. So, I mean, you talk about some major life events in six months, big deal. And he'd give up his career. He wanted to go to law school, I think that fall, so you give that up, yeah. And then, you know, his brothers were missing in action initially, and then I think they got word they were POWs, but for a few months they didn't know if they were dead or alive. Yeah, Battle of the bowl was, was pretty big battle, and chances are they were dead. So, you know, as a young man, I mean, that had to have shaped you know who he was, yeah. So

James Moore 6:30

I have the history of the Atiyeh brothers. You've heard a lot of this stuff before. I've heard a lot. I've talked to your father couple times, yeah, yeah, yeah. He's

Bob Atiyeh 6:40

just a hoot. Oh, he's great. He's a great guy. He's sharp at 93 Yeah,

James Moore 6:43

he's really good. He's very sharp. In fact, I like, went and returned. There's a picture book of family pictures. Okay? I wouldn't return it to Okay, and I can't remember. I don't know which one of them, you know which, which of your siblings or you was going to show up, but he told me I could stay and put up the tree, decorate my brother was gonna there's

Bob Atiyeh 7:08

that one. Did he show you that one picture in his bedroom? It has thick and Dolores has newlyweds, and then my father and my uncle in their military uniforms, and their father and mother, they're all right together there. Did you show you that picture? That's a classic, classic picture. That's right when Vic and Doris were married, home on leave, just a few weeks before his father died. Yeah,

James Moore 7:30

yeah. Amazing scene. You can have pictures in the book. Oh, yeah. Okay, yeah. Victor gave us tons of oh, I can imagine. And we're interesting thing right now. We just found out that the Oregonian is selling off its million pictures in its archive. Whoa, it's a corporate decision from back east, etc. And so we're trying to put together a strategy of, how do we get what we need? But it's fascinating with pictures Vic gave them with no conditions whatsoever. So they are ours, but a lot of the newspapers and things, they keep the rights. So even if you have the picture, you can't publish it. Oh, okay. And so, and online you can. You can't put it up online unless you degrade it slightly. So it's not the highest. So there's, it's a weird word world that I'm discovering, okay, as we get in there, but Yeah, we'll definitely have pictures. Okay,

Bob Atiyeh 8:29

yeah, you introduced me to the guy at Vic's memorial service that had written the biography of Bob Straub. Yeah.

James Moore 8:34

Okay, yeah, yeah, absolutely. I asked

Bob Atiyeh 8:37

Vic, you know, when I went my conversations with him the last couple of years. If he knew about Straub taking lithium while he was governor, he was not aware of it, as most people weren't, and it really is a non issue. He was still functional. Yeah, yeah. Mental illness doesn't have the stigma now that it did back then. No,

James Moore 8:56

that time was, you know, 72 was when Eagleton, Eagleton, yes. And so this is, this is, you know, shortly after that. Yeah, right. So big, big deal at that point. And in fact, Betty Ford hadn't come out and said, I'm an alcoholic, or it was simultaneous with because she's the one who really kind of did the big breakthrough at that level.

Bob Atiyeh 9:19

Okay, all right, so Suzanne Vick's daughter told me one time, my dad's just lucky. And I think we were talking about the spring break quake and how he never had earthquake insurance. Didn't think he needed it, you know, just ridiculous to have earthquake insurance. There wasn't any damage to his home. He said, My dad's just lucky that way. And I thought about it since, and it's like he was really lucky in a lot of ways. Here you have someone who smoked two packs of cigarettes a day for 50 years, yeah, never developed COPD or lung cancer, has a mild heart attack, quits cold turkey, you know? But I mean, most people would have had bad health effects from school. Him that that's heavy smoking. And it was, it was terryton. So those things are like, high tar and, yeah, nothing. Just lucky. Paul

James Moore 10:07

Phillips talks about the first time he met Vic, because Vic didn't do interns. And Paul Phillips basically said, My God, I'm going to do an intern. And grudging, okay, we'll give you a week, and you know, Paul Phillips was around forever after that. Oh yeah, but Paul Phillips talks about going into Vic's office and he couldn't, barely see the man,

Bob Atiyeh 10:31

whoa, smoke. Yeah, most people didn't know that about him, that he was a heavy smoker. Oh yeah, he was governor. I don't remember him smoking in public, though he kept well hidden. I think you don't see. I don't think using pictures of him smoking, I don't think so either. Can't

think of what I've seen. But

another example, if you think about how lucky he is.

His entire political career, he only lost one campaign, and that was his job. Yeah, you know, when he first ran for governor in 74 Tom McCall was hugely popular. He would have run for third term, but he couldn't. His self appointed successor was Clay Myers, Secretary of State. Vick beats him in the primary. McCall so pissed off, he endorses Straub, who he had beaten himself twice. See, that's the only loss he ever suffered. But the fact that he beat Clay Myers in the primary, and then four years later, in 78 he gets in the campaign looks like just Roger Myers is his opponent in the primary. You know, pretty easy.

You know, in the middle of the primary, McCall enters

in, the entire mood of the campaign changed. When McCall wanted the campaign, he was like, Oh, God, we got to get serious. Now this is, you know, not good, yeah. People were very worried, yeah, because he'd been incredibly popular, yeah, beats McCall in the primary and then goes on to beat the guy who defeated him four years earlier. I mean, if you were placing odds the beginning of that campaign season, I mean, you wouldn't have given Vic very good odds. Yeah. And

James Moore 12:04

he talks about it in every statewide election. He started out as the underdog when he was the incumbent, because the economy was awful. Yeah, you're right. He was the underdog. You're right. And, and, you know, he loses 5545 the first time. You know, I was talking to one of his good friends yesterday, who said, you know, in that loss, people looked and said, This guy's going to be a winner. Just, just be personality, the way he handled it, the way he handled it, and everything, yeah. And, and then in 78 you know, wins by 10, 10% switches it around, yeah, and then against cool and gossip was a landslide too. It's a record. What was it? 6535

Bob Atiyeh 12:47  
or something? Oh,

James Moore 12:48

yeah, something like that. It's, it's the worst defeat in modern times until Bill Sizemore runs in. 98 Wow, when kits offer beats, you know, beats him. It was Wow. Size one, we got 30% of the vote.

Bob Atiyeh 13:00

Well, all the vote. Well, all the stuff that came out about Sizemore when he was running, all the bankruptcies and the dishonest stuff he'd been doing

James Moore 13:06

well, and the fact that he's he was a, he's a, he's a ballet major guy. He's not a politician, right? And so he just wasn't, yeah, he was more a function of the Republican Party, not coming up with a candidate.

Bob Atiyeh 13:16

I remember after he was lost in 74 Time magazine was doing a national summary of all the campaigns, and it said, you know, Bob Straub defeated crusty. Vic Atiyeh described it was crusty. Thank God. Screw you Time Magazine. You know, he's not crusty, but maybe Wayne Morris was crusty, but, but I do remember in the campaign in 78 he was campaigns are about image, yeah, there were surveys that candidates who wear white coats raincoats win more often than candidates that wear black raincoats. So he had to go out and buy a black or a white raincoat, because he had a black raincoat, and he had to get a new pair of glasses, and made him look more modern. And, you know, his old glasses were kind of funny looking. And he was a 22 year old. I thought, you know, God, this is like trying to package and sell a box of cereal. You know, it's like, and it's worse now, but, yeah, it's a lot of, unfortunately, a lot of politics is about image. Yeah, it really is. And then they came up with a slogan, it's time for a TIA. And I remember just sitting in on some of those strategy meetings, and he has some really good people around him during the campaign, super good. That was one of his strengths, that he would pick really good people. Yeah, any politician doesn't matter. Was a governor or a president. You're only as good as people you surround yourself with. And he surrounded himself with a lot of women. I remember he was getting a lot of crap from people with, like, you know, all of his key people were women. Yeah, I know his I don't remember the names, but the person who coordinated his calendar as a woman, his

campaign manager was a woman. Yeah, I've forgotten her name too, but yeah, I've got it here. Danny Miles was one of the token males, I think. But he came on about maybe midway through the primary. I remember his energy was just. Awesome. He was just such a great guy, my God. And he, you know, went with, continued with Vic for, you know, all those years, yeah,

James Moore 15:08

for all those years, ups and downs and sideways, yeah, yeah. He had to fight for his job several times too. I didn't know that. Yeah, one thing, talking to Denny and then Gerry Thompson, who became his chief of staff, right? Yeah. And they're basically his staffers forever, posthumously. Oh

Bob Atiyeh 15:23

yeah, absolutely, but

James Moore 15:26

kind of whenever there was a big change. So after the 82 election, Denny had run that campaign. He was the campaign manager, okay? And lo and behold, he had to actually fight for his job back as communications. I didn't know that. Wow. And so there was just a lot of because when you're governor, there's a lot of pressures from donors, from the Republican establishment, from the people who run state bureaus, you know, all this stuff. The pressures, yeah, are immense.

Bob Atiyeh 16:00

When I was talking to Vic one time at his kitchen table, he told me something. One time we were talking about the pressures of the job, and he said something really enlightening. He said, No one can put pressure on you but yourself, and that's how he handled the pressures of job. I thought, Wow, what a great way to look at it, because people always say, Oh, this so and so is putting pressure on me. Well, he wouldn't let people put pressure on her, yeah. And that was what I was really hoping to do when I sat down and talked with him, was just, you know, get facts and stuff, but just get, kind of get new to his soul, and kind of see the way he thought, and just what kind of a person he was, yeah, with the perspective of me being older now, yeah, and he was more than happy to talk, and we had some great conversations. That's

James Moore 16:42

great. You know, one thing that I'm investigating is because, how did he get like that? So talking to your dad, your dad says he was like that as a kid. He was, he was, yeah. So how much of that is personality, how much of that is the first generation immigrant experience? So coming from your granddad and grandmother, how much of it is having all this responsibility at age 21 yes. And in the business itself, there's all these hints about, well, you know, this is what you do in retail, you cater to the customer. And so getting those kinds of things, there's snippets, you're right, but it's hard to nail it down.

Bob Atiyeh 17:26

Yeah, and, you know, decades later, you know, I remember Vic just growing up. He was always very calm. I just remember him like at our Mountain House, he'd be sharp in an ax and just focused on what he was doing and just calmly doing it until he was done, and one time he was stung by a bee, and you know, he just calmly said, oh, you know, I got stung by a bee, and it's just kind of his nature. He was very calm that way. In the entire time I work for him as a driver and aid, we don't get pissed at me maybe a couple of times. I probably deserve it a lot more than that, over what

James Moore 18:02

scheduling not working?

Bob Atiyeh 18:03

No, no, it was I didn't do the scheduling one time he was going to practice for the debate, and we were downtown, pointing to a building, and we were kind of late getting there, and traffic was bad. Someone had pulled in right in front of me into a parking space, and there was two parking spaces, and they pulled and I assumed that's where they were going to stay, and so I pulled in behind him, and the person backed up and hit us, and which really kind of pissed Vic

often, but he had to get out. I did the old they didn't do any damage. But after it was a practice for the debate, and after the practice, the campaign staffers came to me and said, What'd you do to Vic? He says it was the best we've ever seen him. He was like,

we wish you like that more often. He was great.

James Moore 18:47

So pay somebody Yeah. Piss

Bob Atiyeh 18:49

him off more often, you know,

because he wouldn't get fired up enough. He was so low key, and they loved it, what they saw and

James Moore 19:01

the crucial debate in that primary or no, the 78 primary, no, yeah, the 78 primary, the crucial debate is described as Vic holding the coats of Roger Martin and Tom McCall while they bash each other. Yes, and Vic just occasionally jumps in and looks very gubernatorial.

Bob Atiyeh 19:19

I don't remember when Macau jumped in, there was rumors. He was thinking about it. I think I know in February, there was he jumped in. I met him for the very first time, the Dorchester conference, which was late February of 78 I don't remember if he had announced that point or not. You would know well,

James Moore 19:39

it was either late February, early March, when he jumped in, but it was late. It was very late, huh, like couple months before the campaign or something. Well, then the crucial thing is the deadline for filing is usually the first week in March,

Bob Atiyeh 19:49

okay, so, yeah,

James Moore 19:53

you know, by May March, 7 or something, or you're not

Bob Atiyeh 19:56

in okay? So yeah, that's, that's when you would have filed. Yes, let's put it. Remembered, yeah, yeah. I remember the mood was like, basically was holy shit McCall. They were worried about him, and he actually jumped in and yeah, they didn't think he would, you know, it was serious then, because Roger Martin, you know, you never want to underestimate your opponent. But they, they weren't too worried about Roger Martin, yeah. They were more worried about the general election with Straub, yeah. Then all of a sudden it's like, Who are you going to make it through the primary? Here? Because he was so wildly popular when he left office, yeah, in the media, he was, you know, darling of the media. They just loved him. And I think you've heard the story of the election night all the media was over at McCall's, yeah, you know, election headquarters and then when Vic, you know, turns out he was winning, they all had to come over to his headquarters. I'm sure you've heard that story, yeah. Everybody, all the media, wanted to see McCall when he was one of them, he was a commentator, I think, for one of the news channels. Okay, yeah. So, I mean, you know, he knew how to play the media very well. Vic told me several times after they were both retired, they would go do some PR deal, and, you know, McCall would command all the attention. He'd talk, and he had a big ego, and Vic would just kind of stand off on the side, and he didn't care. He just would smile about it. Just, Vic didn't have a big ego. He didn't need the constant adulation of the press. You know, he McCall did, but, yeah, Vic did. They were different animals, yeah. And I remember when the first time I met McCall at the Dorchester conference, I was walking into the conference. It was like a cocktail party or something. The very beginning of it, we walked in and there was McCall. And you know, McCall said, Hello, Victor. You know, that's the way he talked. They had a very cordial relationship Boston, real tall guy, I mean, real charismatic, yeah, I was in awe, like, oh, there's telling McCall, you know? I mean, my uncle was my uncle,

but, I mean, this guy was a legend to me, yeah, but he was cordial. He didn't in Vic were cordial. Even though they had their political battles. They were both Republicans, but Vic was more conservative than McCall. And at one point, McCall and he'd said something about the Atiyeh wrecking machine. You've heard that comment? Okay, I asked Vic what that meant. You said he thought he referred to some tax proposal of his. Do you remember what it

James Moore 22:17

was? Yeah, there were tax proposals. I is

because basically Vic, Vic was, was the business guy, okay? And McCall is trying to be more of a populist, okay, and so the big thing that kept coming back was dealing with corporations. So when Vic is a governor, one thing he does, he repeals a unitary tax, okay, unitary tax means that your tax on your entire global Right, right, right, yeah. And so initial fights over that, initial fights over sales tax, you know, there were a whole bunch of

Bob Atiyeh 22:51

things, okay, yeah, yeah, they had the policy differences, definitely. But, you know, he had a long working relationship with McCall, you know, and he was in the legislature the entire time McCall was governor, yeah, yeah. And then even before that, I think McCall was Secretary of State. I think, okay, so, yeah, yeah. Like, it went way back,

James Moore 23:12

see, well, tell me, tell me about the being out on the road. So, mean, you're a fly on the wall in a campaign, but it's just you and Vic in the car for for days, for days. So talk, tell, tell me about what Vic is like in the car. Does he sleep there? Is he doing homework? Is he looking out the window? Are you guys talking family stuff? I mean, what goes on? Those are the days before cell phones. Yeah, yeah. So exactly, just so you listen

to am radio. I mean, no,

Bob Atiyeh 23:45

not really, we talk, or we just drive. I

remember as a 22 year old thinking, you know, if this guy becomes governor, I've got this the fate of, you know, the politics in Oregon, in my hand that was, you know, pretty careful. I felt a huge responsibility. And there he was. He was he was like, winter time, we're going over the cascade passes, and there's one day where there could have been black ice, you know, he's cold enough. And I was driving pretty careful, and he was telling me to speed up. I think at one point I said, you know, I pulled over and I said he wanted to drive. And I think he started driving. There was only once it happened, but he was impatient. He always wanted to go break the speed limit, you know, go a little faster. You know, he was easy to get along with. He was, I know he, I remember him working on papers like reading, and he'd utilize his time. He would just stare out the window because he had so many policy issues he had to be on top of. So that's mainly what I remember him doing, was just reading. And if we were going like to Pendleton, there might be particular issues that were important to people that area. So he would brush up on him before he goes or gives a speech. He would work on his speeches. I remember him, you know, mainly just kind of being busy, and we, I wouldn't bother him. I'd leave him alone, and we'd talk, you know, but

James Moore 24:58

she's sitting on. In the front seat with you?

Bob Atiyeh 25:01

Yeah, oh, yeah, very easy to get along with.

Dolores was a little bit more prickly. She was

like, she wanted things to go according to plan, and she didn't like in confidence. And I remember one time we checked into a hotel that had been scheduled and they didn't have a reservation, and Dolores just was just seething at the poor young girl at the desk. She was scrambling around trying to find the reservation, and she was cutting her no slack, and it was almost kind of embarrassing, but Dolores could be very intense that way if things didn't go right. I actually got to do

with Dolores a couple times driving around, but she really wasn't with us that often. She joined the campaign later. But Vic and I very rarely, only other time I remember him getting mad at me, we were talking about the threat of nuclear war, and Vic was saying, just flat out, said, there's never going to be nuclear war, because we destroy the country that fired a nuclear weapon to us. And I said, Well, you know what about a terrorist getting their hands on nuclear weapon?

I kind of nailed him on that, and he

kind of got mad at me, you know, because I kind of nailed him. He didn't like to be, like, put in a corner, you know. But that was one of the few times he ever really got mad. He was tired. I mean, my God, looking back on it, I didn't have the appreciation as a 22 year old, he must have been under enormous amount of stress, and I was exhausted as a 22 year old driving around the schedule those guys have to maintain is unbelievable, unbelievable. I don't think you realize it until you're in a campaign for statewide office. One morning, we started in Pendleton, we ended the day, or no, we started the day in Medford and we ended the day in Pendleton. And you know, he was giving speeches, and, you know, talking to media all along the way. And

hell, he was in,

that was in 78 he would have been 5055

56 Yeah, I was not even half his age. And I was beat on weekends, just exhausted, but he had that drive. He wanted to be governor, and that's what just keeps you going. But I can't imagine how he did it. I mean multiple, multiple speeches and interviews, and I mean just constantly on the go and very little downtime. The only downtime he had was driving between cities and appointments, and you're always being scrutinized. I mean, you know, you you give a speech, and if you're tired, not on your game. I mean, you're, you know, given a speech before coming to people and, yeah. I mean, I can't imagine the

pressure you're under. Yeah.

James Moore 27:36

So how much media would you do in a given town, like hit the radio station, newspaper. I mean, have a press conference. I mean, what would, what would happen

Bob Atiyeh 27:45

there? Man, you're really making me go back, aren't you? Yeah,

James Moore 27:50

now we do have, I mean, there are meticulous records, okay? And we've got all of them in the archives. Oh, my God, there must be so I just this close from hiring a really, really strong research assistant, okay? But also I'm going to hire work study students to go through their first priority, actually, is I need to know everything about every international trip, yeah, which were a lot, and they're scheduled just like this. There are days when he had 60 to 90 events, and it's because they have everything, no, because they're not events. They're shaking a hand and passing you to the wheat growers, but stunning. Oh my god, it's, it's from breakfast starts at 630 and he goes to bed at 1130 oh my god, yeah. And it's just, it's just

Bob Atiyeh 28:33

the stress doesn't stop when you're elected. It just starting. You know, I mean, first you have a campaign. The campaigns definitely weed out the week leads, I mean, statewide campaigns, the national campaigns for president. I can imagine what those guys go through. Oh yeah, you got to be strong. You got to once you really got to want the job, yeah, yeah, for months, you know, almost, you know, year and a half. But if you really want the job, yeah, and everybody's waiting for you to make the stumble, you know. I mean, you're under enormous pressure.

James Moore 28:57

So media, so, so what

Bob Atiyeh 29:00

would a typical day, typical day, we might get up and maybe give a quick interview to like the local paper, and then he might give a breakfast speech to a group like Chamber of Commerce or somebody. And then we'd get in the car and maybe have a meeting with maybe a big donor or one of his county coordinators or something. And then we'd go up to Roseburg, and then, you know, might give a luncheon speech there, and then maybe talk to the reporter there, maybe real quickly, and maybe stop at a radio station, and then we drive somewhere, and, you know, basically the same thing for dinner. So it was a little bit here and there, yeah, that's kind of what I remember, yeah. But, I mean, it was definitely print and TV and radio and long wealth of speeches and Eva supporters, right? I remember one time it was near the end of the primary campaign and got, you know, money. It has always been involved in politics, but nothing compared to what it is now. I mean, imagine if you look back what the campaign cost in 78 it almost laugh at how cheap it was probably. Do you have any idea what it

James Moore 30:10

costs? I have for the general, okay. But the funny thing about Vic is Vic Vic because he basically gave Denny Miles, who ran that does 82 campaign. He said, You know, I don't want any

debt, okay? And Vic, yeah, and

so they there was, you know, issues with fundraising, things like that, okay, you know, a few \$100,000 yeah, there's now to do a credible campaign statewide. You got to have a million to get in, although they're House races. I mean, Brent Barton, just across the over here, million dollar house race, million dollar house races. That's insane. It's just incredible. So, but so, so hundreds, hundreds of 1000s of dollars. The trick is, Denny told me, because this is the day before the phone company was broken up. Okay, you were gonna get a hell of a deposit from the phone,

and so that's your that's your last payroll is right there.

You're gonna get like, 10 or 15,000 bucks. Great. I

Bob Atiyeh 31:11

remember, it was near the end of the primary campaign, and Vic had in the polls, had taken a slight lead over McCall, right, tight, yeah, which was unbelievable. He taken a slightly because, you know, McCall came in, and instantly he was the front runner. This must have been, really May, maybe in the primary was maybe, like the 20th, or something like, Yeah, three weeks, maybe before. But Vic went to a timber company in Southern Oregon. He was hoping for a \$10,000 campaign contribution, which was pretty sizable back then, and they they declined. The reasoning being is they hated McCall, and they assumed McCall was going to win. They wanted to save their money, keep their powder dry for the general when they tried going to try to feed defeat McCall so they want, they didn't. They didn't give him the money. Yeah, I remember Vic being very, very disappointed. He got back in the car and said, well, darn it. You know, it's like, that's about as upset as he really needed that money. Yeah, they really wanted to do a media blitz in the last few weeks, but ultimately, didn't matter.

James Moore 32:22

Yeah. Yeah. So that's the role when, when you're raising money, the candidate is the best person. Well, yeah, but it's also then a huge amount of their time, absolutely, energy, yeah, yeah. Let's see.

When he ran in 74

one of his own self critiques was, he was just this guy from Washington County, yeah, yeah. And he makes it through the party of East Clay Myers. He does all that, and he's in the general but when he was done with it, he felt, you know, I now know people around the state, yes. And so when you're 78 do you get a sense of that is, are there people? Do people know him? You know, in a cheaper commerce crowd? Definitely, definitely, besides the county

Bob Atiyeh 33:07

coordinator, definitely from the from the statewide campaign, yeah, people knew who he was. Vic, generally, Willie. He really liked to get out and meet people. It wasn't something he had to do. He really, even though he's kind of a quiet,

reserve, kind of private person. He really genuinely enjoyed going out and meeting people. It wasn't a chore for him. Yeah, I think he really liked the people that the salted the earth, people, you know, the farmers and I mean, he liked really getting down and talking to those people and the people that were real. He had a lot of compassion, too. I mean, I'm sure you hear that over and over again. He was a very compassionate person. And one of the things I read about him after he died, he was, they said he was conservative without being mean spirited. And I thought that sums it up right there. He was physically conservative and he was socially conservative, but he really genuinely cared about people, I think, when there was cutbacks in the budget, when during the recession, when they had to cut everything to the bone, didn't they start the Oregon Food Bank? I think is

James Moore 34:04

that, yeah, yeah, okay, it's, I'm not sure exactly if it's his idea or but it's under him that what became the Oregon Food Bank, right? Was put in place. He

Bob Atiyeh 34:13

was genuinely concerned. These were real cuts. They were going to cause real pain to real people. He was really concerned about that. Yeah. Really cared. Yeah. Very, very compassionate about people, really. I got that sense whether he was, you know, private or public. I mean, there was no difference. Vic was Vic was the real deal. He was the same thing. Whether he sat with him in his kitchen table where he was out giving a speech. He was the same guy. He didn't have a private persona and a public persona. He was, I'm sure you've heard the same thing too. He wasn't fake, he wasn't hypocritical. He was just, he just who he was. Yeah, one time I remember talking to him, he You see, he was elected in 78 took office in 79 Nine, early 80s, there was rumors of Goldschmidt running for governor, opposing him in the campaign. And I said, Are you worried about Goldschmidt running against you? His reply to me was, if I'm doing a good job, that people will elect me. If they don't think I'm doing a good job, they won't.

So no, he wasn't worried about Goldschmidt coming in there,

James Moore 35:21

his take on it is that he didn't let re election ever, yes, have an impact on any policy ideas. That's really true. And I'm going to really push the people around him on that, because I know they were freaking out sometimes. Oh yeah, but you know. So is that really the case? And as far as I can tell, it is yes, absolutely, yeah. And he also kind of freaked out because he wouldn't tell him if he's gonna run for re election and he could he talking to him, he hadn't decided he's doing he's doing other stuff elections. That's another thing we'll get that when we get to us. Vic, you know,

Bob Atiyeh 36:05

if he hadn't run for re election, I don't think it would have bothered him. If he wasn't having any fun, he probably wouldn't have or he didn't think he could do any more good for the people that were working. He probably would not have, you know, much as Vic, he wouldn't have run just to run, just because he liked the power. That wasn't him. He wasn't about that. He genuinely, I think he really ran because he thought he could do a good job and really help the people working. And he said, you know, all these bureaus in the state agency, I mean, he helped create half of them. You know, he knew how government worked. He really knew how to pull the levers of government. So he was a very good manager that way. Yeah, one of the conversations I was having with him, we were talking about all the former governors and what his opinion was. We came to Goldschmidt, and he just shook his head and said, you know, he knew the guy was a scumbag. I think even before all that stuff came out in Willamette,

yeah, the rumor mill and Salem but

remember one time he just, he just said how a growing man could take his clothes off and get in bed with a girl. He just, it, just trailed off and just shook his head. You know, it's just he couldn't imagine, you know, someone doing that,

James Moore 37:12

yeah, yeah. And he never spoke his name again, really, yeah, it's always my predecessor or my successor. Really didn't

Bob Atiyeh 37:19

know that. Wow, yeah, he had not a shred of respect for the man.

James Moore 37:24

Yeah, yes. I talked to people. I've talked to Vern Duncan, who was the superintendent about the construction was right across the river over there, and I was talking to guy that Vic appointed to the Supreme Court yesterday, Wally Carson, okay, all right. But everybody I talked to who had to deal with the goldsmith administration, it was just a completely different thing. Wow, it was the Supreme Court. People, they he would Vic was appointed this guy to the Supreme Court. And so I was asking about how that relationship works when you're now on different constitutional polls, and this guy eventually becomes the chief justice. And he said, you know, the main, main way that we work with the governor's office is on appointments. We'll tell them what we're looking for in Judges. We need somebody with more trial experience, more corporate. And so then you put together appointments. And, you know, so we're kind of coordinating on what happens there. They went over during the Goldschmidt era and sent somebody who knew Goldschmidt had grown up with him, played basketball with him, and the Goldschmidt administration said, We don't want to know what you need, and we're never going to consult with you on anything. Wow. That was, that was the thing. Vern Duncan talks about it as with Vic, you could go talk to Vic, you could always talk to the governor, and whatever was said there, the staff was going to carry out, wow, with McCall, you'd go and talk to the governor, and he'd say stuff, and the staff might carry things. With Goldschmidt, you never talked to the governor, wow. And you never got anything from the governor's office, wow. And this is the superintendent of destruction, independently elected by the entire state as powerful in terms of politics, unbelievable. And so, you know, it's just a different personality, hubris, different, different everything. Vic

Bob Atiyeh 39:27

did not have a big ego. He was very down to earth, as you know, yeah, yeah. Goldschmidt, you know, was in his political heyday, obviously, as mayor of Portland, yeah. And he surrounded himself with really good people there again. And a lot of the ideas that made Portland the way it is came from those really good people. He is

James Moore 39:46

Portland, like Vic is to the state, in terms of laying the groundwork that turned into this thing. You're

Bob Atiyeh 39:52

right, yeah, that's a good way of putting it. Yeah, right. And, you know, Carter tapped Goldschmidt to be his Secretary of Transportation, and then he came back. And I think worked for Nike, I think, but like her, my cousin George, you know, the was fighting disable the creek during the Goldschmidt administration, he was down in Salem quite a bit lobbying, and he told me rumors that the reason that Goldschmidt didn't seek re election is because his wife, Margie, found out that he was having an affair with Debbie Kennedy, the safe tourism director, and locked him. Director, and locked him out of the governor's mansion. But that's whether that's true or not. But Goldschmidt was screwing around. I mean, right and left, yeah? Besides, you know, having sex with that girl she didn't have a college age by then. But yeah,

James Moore 40:37

yeah, yeah, the stuff I've heard about Goldschmidt not running is basically because the marriage was gonna not just dissolve, but blow up, okay?

Bob Atiyeh 40:44

And I think the girl he'd been, you know, started sleeping with when she was 14 or 15. I think she was starting to talk to people, yeah, and he was worried about some of that stuff, you know, they were trying to quiet her, hush her up. I think they offered her like \$10,000 I think, or, yeah,

James Moore 40:57

the quieter whole story is out there

Bob Atiyeh 40:59

in Willamette week. He was really good experts. David, yeah, he got a poll surprised for that, really, yeah,

James Moore 41:04

wow, that not the guy who's doing all that is the one who's after Sylvia Hayes, right now, oh, my God. You know, the

kids hop people are saying, God, I hope there are no documents.

Bob Atiyeh 41:16

You know, I feel sorry for old Kitzhaber, you know, I mean, he did, he know some of the stuff was going on. I mean,

James Moore 41:21

well, the latest thing is, if he didn't know he should have his staff, you're right. The front page story, right? Actually quotes me, but, yeah, it's, it's, it's his staffers and lobbyists he's worked really closely with who are basically getting their jobs. And that's well beyond the line.

Bob Atiyeh 41:40

He's complicit in something that Eva is not outright illegal, is at least unethical and distinct. It looks bad, yeah, has the appearance of impropriety, yeah. And at worst, he's didn't know what was going on. Was out of touch. I mean, either way, it makes you look bad. Yeah, it's too bad, because it's really going to damage him politically, and it's going to lose he's going to lose a lot of his political clout. Unfortunately, clout,

James Moore 42:03

unfortunately, in his fourth term. Yeah? And it'll, you know, even if she's, you know, the Ethics Committee says you're clear or still a minor thing, yeah, these first two years of his last term, he's, he's toast. There's that

Bob Atiyeh 42:16

stain. Yeah? Yep.

James Moore 42:21

So we know the good stories about on the road

was he, uh, stopping at a cafe place?

Bob Atiyeh 42:29

No, because most your, most of your meals are at these buffets. Oh, it's a lot of rubber chicken. Yes, exactly. That's vast majority of what you're Yeah, I didn't, really, don't remember going to restaurants, because all your time is scheduled pretty tightly. You make the best use of your time when you're on the road. So, yeah, you'd, uh, it was all these buffets and giving speeches. Yeah, I remember I was, like, I was pretty active when I was 22 you know, climbing and hiking and running. And all of a sudden I was sitting in a car all day and, you know, all he could eat buffets. I was starting on the pounds. There

I've got a good story for you

that run out of gas on the campaign trail. Have you heard that story? Vic was up with Hood River. He'd gotten up there somehow someone had given him a ride or something. He was up there with Dolores, and he stopped into, I think it was probably Ken georgestead, I think. And he was pretty good friends, but really, really liked Ken. And yeah, he was at his house in the Coronavirus Valley. And so I was at the campaign headquarters in downtown Portland, and I was told, you know, you got to go pick up Vic at this time. We need to be he needs to meet a speech in the Dells at this time. And so, okay, no problem. So I'm watching the clock, and I knew I needed to get gas on the way out there. And the last minute, one of the campaign people gave, excuse me, is these three enormous tubs of like, campaign literature. She says, can you just drop us off at the post office? They're all ready to go. And so I was like, okay, so I drive into the main post office in northwest Portland and carry these big, enormous tubs in there, and you get a certain discounted rate if you pre sort everything, yeah. And so I take it to the counter, and the guy's like, an antagone, no, this isn't right. It's like, it's like, I'm, you know, don't shoot me. I'm just the messenger, you know. And he's going, No, so I have him call the woman at the campaign, and he's talking to her, and it's like, and then he holds the phone away from his ear, and it's like those cartoon balloons. You could hear her just chewing this poor guy a new asshole. And so then he hangs up, and he goes, Okay, I'll take it, but this whole fiasco would cost me, like, about, probably, you know, 20 minutes, half hour, you know, by the time I got there, and then I get on the freeway, and then, you know, rush hour traffic, and so, you know, I thought, Okay, I'll just get gas, you know, in Hood River. And then by the time I get there, it's like, It's time, I'm past the

time to pick up Vic, you know. So I, I find the house, and Vic is just. Hanging out with Ken. And I said, you know, Vic, we got to go, you know. And it's like, no, no, we're still okay, because he was having a good time with his friend, and you can arrive a little bit late at these political things. And I said, No, Vic, we really need to go. And it's like he just blown me off. And I wasn't assertive enough at 22 to say, Vic, I need to get gas, you know. So we drive back down to Hood River, and I'm looking at the clock and thinking, crap. Well, you know, we're gonna be late for this thing. And so I look at the gas Gage, and it's just like, barely above, you know, the empty right? I'm thinking, God, I think we can make it, you know. So halfway to the dowels, the engine starts cutting out. We ran out of gas, and so I blocked this out of the freeway. And so I get out there and just start hitch hiking. To me, it was like breathing. The summer I graduated from high school, I took off by myself and hitchhiked around the country. And the next summer I hitchhiked around British Columbia. And it's just people did that in the 70s, and yeah, it was no big deal, and I had a ride within a couple minutes. But Dolores was just seething that she had to hitchhike, you know, the indignity of having to hitchhike, and Vic just didn't care, you know. So there's this really nice young guy picked us up, and I said, say, Hey, this guy is, you know, probably gonna be the next governor organ. You can remember that you gave a ride sometime. So he took us exactly where we needed to go. And then one of the campaign, the county people there, he keep me right back with a gallon of gas and got me back on the road. Yeah, I got a lot of crap for that. I never, you know, told them why, you know. And even when I saw Vic, you know, a year or two ago, he brought that up, and I never, ever told him why. I just took my licks, you know. But I did run out of gas, and I shouldn't have, you know, I should have just said we got to stop. But, yeah, I didn't. Yeah, that's great. I'm

sure Paul Phillips never ran out of gas. Oh

James Moore 46:46  
yeah, well, yeah,

pockets or something, yeah, that's about the

Bob Atiyeh 46:55  
funniest story from the campaign. Yeah, that's great. One

James Moore 46:59  
of the fun things about doing this project is there are people who are telling stories like that that they never told Vic, or, you know, a lot of some people are telling that they've never told anybody, and it's just because the time has passed, right? And with a project like this, I mean, if you don't tell me, I mean, it's not like nobody's people aren't going to be writing another idea book,

Bob Atiyeh 47:21  
right? Well, Vic wanted a book written The Good, the Bad and the Ugly. He wanted everything ugly, right? He didn't want it white washed, right? Good for him, Yep, good for him.

James Moore 47:31  
And so Denny Miles is terrified. I'm going to find something on him. Well, you know, if you will, you run it by

Bob Atiyeh 47:44  
maybe not, you know, I, I wouldn't be worried if you're saying you're digging on Vic, I'd say dig. I don't think there's anything there. I really don't know.

James Moore 47:53  
And even if there is, and I found something that may be okay, it's not a big deal. Okay? It's the context of the time. It's totally in that, you know, when Vic and I were talking, and there's the only condition under which I would write this, and he, he came with me and said, This is the conditions I want. And said, Good, that's exactly what I want to do, what you need. It's him in the context of the time. Okay, it's got to be sure. Sure got to be the context of what was going on the 70s and 80s. You know. Why did this work? What are things that we could take that apply now or not, right? You know, all that stuff, right? The thing that that I'm going to investigate is during one of his Syria trips, this guy came up and was a wealthy Syrian and said, you go to the go to the bazaar and buy anything you want, anything I'll pay for it.

And the deal is because there are currency regulations, yes, the black market. He gives you his daughter's address in the United States. And when you come back, you send her the cash equivalent

Bob Atiyeh 48:59

of what you Okay, yeah, so it's currency smuggling, yes, yes. But

James Moore 49:04

is that the way that they did it? Is that illegal? Is it? I mean, I don't know, but it's for Vic that's just, that's just being a nice guy, that's just being right, just it's just being who he is, and saying, Yeah, I'll help you out all. We'll do this. So, you know, little things like that, was he

Bob Atiyeh 49:25

aware of the implications of what he was doing? Good question. I couldn't answer that for you. Knowing Vic, I would have to say, if he knew that it was illegal, he would not do it. Yeah, I would think that he wouldn't, yeah, if there was very ethical, very honest, very ethical. Yeah,

James Moore 49:45

one thing talking to your dad was, when Vic became governor a tear brothers had nothing to do with the state really, yeah, good for and I don't know that, but I'm going to do a little research to figure out if they had anything to do with. State before that. They might not, but, you know, right, if they asked them there, if they asked

Bob Atiyeh 50:05

to put new carpeting the capital or something, yeah, he was that, no, yeah, yeah, good for them, yeah. No, I would say, if you're trying to find dirt on Vic, I mean, wow, you know. I mean, he was a very ethical, honest person. And, you know, a sex scandal, money scandal, you know, I mean, an ethics scandal. I mean, I would be shocked if anything ever came out, yeah, I really would, yeah. He just wasn't that kind of person, yeah, and all of his business dealings. I mean, at the store, I always, you know, I never heard stories of him cheating people or, you know, he just, he just was a very, he wasn't that kind of person at all. Yeah, I think he was a boy scout. You know the heart, you know Boy Scout to the end,

James Moore 50:47

the person I interviewed on Monday, this reporter, who was with him in a matter, said, You know, I think of Vic. And he pulled up on his computer the Boy Scout Law, and he read it,

that's Vic. That's true. That's Vic. That's

Bob Atiyeh 51:00

really true. Really, really true. No, I never, ever heard him talk about, you know, like side deals, or, you know, we he didn't have, like, the Machiavellian type mindset in politics, you know, he was just, he just who he was. He was just a straight, honest, ordinary business guy, you know, very humble, and his mind didn't work that way. Well, if I do this, or, you know, I can get advantage this way. You know, he just, I never heard him talk that way. Yeah, one

James Moore 51:25

thing, because that was politically, he didn't do deals. Yeah, the legislature makes sense, Governor, yeah. And people were frustrated by that, because that's how you Oh, sure things, sure. But Gerry Thompson, his chief of staff, talks about dealing with the Rajesh and, you know, they were wanting to do deals on this side of the other, and Vic would never talk directly with them ever. Yeah, but they said, you know, you don't know my boss, he doesn't do deals. And there's, I can't remember what the incident was, but there was something that happened, and it's clear Vic did a no deal stand, and maybe not to his benefit. I can't remember exactly what it was, but the Rajneeshees came by the next day, or a couple of days later, and said, you know, he really doesn't do deals, does he? That was

Bob Atiyeh 52:12

probably, that was probably Ma Anand Sheela, I imagine probably, yeah, yeah. She was bad, bad news. And I know that when he went I'm sure Gerry Thompson and Denny Miles told you the story. When he went to Syria, went to Amar, he told them, under no circumstances do you negotiate, like, if he was kidnapped or something? Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. I'm

sure you heard that. Yeah. No, yeah. He made them sign me, signed a document. Yeah. I don't care what Dolores says, You will not negotiate. Yeah, yeah,

absolutely. And that

that the orders declaring Marshall on Oregon and carrying around because the Rajneesh use, that's pretty interesting too. Yeah, they came out at his birthday party. We were sat at the table with Gerry Thompson 90 miles, and we were listening to this Holy shit. I didn't know that it's a big deal. Yeah,

James Moore 53:01

it's pretty clear Gerry. Gerry's the key person in the entire Raji. She story. Oh,

Bob Atiyeh 53:07

really. Okay, she had most dealings with him then, well, it

James Moore 53:11

that, but turns out she's the one who's coordinating the feds, the state and the local Wow. Okay, so she's telling the CIA and the FBI what to do. Wow. Okay, and she kept daily notes, wow. And Dave from Meyer, the secret the Attorney General said, You better destroy those notes, because if you were subpoenaed by the Rajneeshees, that's all public record. She still has them. Wow. And so interesting. My God, I think I'm this close, and I hope I get this close, and eventually this close,

to her, just giving me her boxes and stuff.

Bob Atiyeh 53:44

Vic told me, when he was governor, he said the two things that consumed his time the most time was the recession in the Rajneeshees, yeah. And no one knew about the Rodney she's they consumed enormous amount

James Moore 53:53

of his time. Yeah, the Rajneeshee stuff at the time, and even now, when people perceive it, it's like the government didn't do anything, but Vic was all over that thing like nobody's business. We just need to get the details. And

Bob Atiyeh 54:07

yeah, work, there's a lot there.

James Moore 54:10

So that's a chapter of the book that could easily turn into another book.

Bob Atiyeh 54:14

I didn't for him to say that the recession and the Rajneeshees. I mean, the recession was a big deal. Oh yeah. Say the Rajneeshees was the other, that those are the two things that consume the most

James Moore 54:23

of his time in office, and then mom's for entertainment. Yeah.

Bob Atiyeh 54:29

In the summer of 83 Deb and I were coming back from a climbing trip in British Columbia, and we decided to stop in at Rajneesh Param and so we drove in there, and there'd been a bombing at their disco in downtown Portland just a few weeks before that. So they were super paranoid. So you came up to a guard post, and there was armed guards that made you get out of your car, and they searched your car. They were very paranoid. And then, if you were okay, then they let you into a commune, and then you paid your 20 bucks, and you got to tour the commune, and you got lunch and all that. So we did a tour, and we. Saw Rajneesh drive minus rolls, Royce and all the people bowing. And, yeah, it was pretty, pretty interesting place. So that Christmas would have been the Christmas of 83 I was with a family gathering, and I said to Vic, I said, No, Devin, I we did a tour of Rajneesh Pro. And these, these guys, you know, they're doing pretty

incredible things out there. And they work. They had unlimited amounts of free labor and money. And yeah, you do pretty incredible things. Yeah, I said you should just go out there and just, you know, see what they're all about. And Vic said Rajneeshees are bad, bad news for Oregon. I can't tell you what I know, but they're, they're bad, and that's so, I mean, that was first inkling a habit, yeah. And ironically, my wife said on the Grand Jury when they indicted some of the charges, heard a lot of the stuff, but,

yeah, the fact that the National Guard was training for an invasion of Rajneesh param he said they there was somewhere out of mattress. He told me, yeah and yeah, they were on maneuvers. They had armored personnel carriers. I mean, if shit would hit the fan, he was going to declare martial law in Oregon and send the National Guard and, yeah, to invade Rajneesh, promise, yeah. I mean, wow, yeah, they have, because they never had came to that. Well, they were stockpiling weapons, um, in the lake there, yeah. Um, they had, you know, the bioterrorism. They spread salmonella, and the saddle bar, the dowels, trying to influence the election,

James Moore 56:21

and there's no direct evidence, but there's a strong suspicion that Vic was poisoned. Whoa, no way. Yeah, he was giving a talk, and he got as ill as he's ever been in his entire life. Wow. And really went, you know, emergency room, his own doctor. Nothing definitive, but it's at the height of all this Wow, and so, oh my god, yeah, wow. Totally kept quiet, you know, wow. The hospital, no, no bench, yeah, I wouldn't

Bob Atiyeh 56:51

put it past him, yeah,

you know, whereas he aware what was going on the people under him, maybe not. But Ma non Sheila. I mean, she was evil. She was, yeah, I think she was probably the instigator of a lot of stuff. And the people around,

James Moore 57:09

I have a feeling he did know, because the same types of things were happening in India. Okay, okay,

that's one reason they left. We

Bob Atiyeh 57:16

were in India a year later, we were asking people about Rajneesh in India, and he was a joke over there. Yeah, they'd laugh when you see him, but he was not taken seriously, yeah. So he was doing the same kind of stuff over

James Moore 57:27

there, yeah, yeah. Basically, wow, it's culty kinds of things. So it's, you know, what do you do to make it so does the outside, the inside, and then also, how do you make it work? So, are you doing bribes? You know,

Bob Atiyeh 57:40

bribes in India. System works over there. Yeah, I'm gonna turn the hip a little bit here. I turned it down before. But are you okay here? Yeah, yeah, I'm great.

Wow. So the fact that they would have pleasing the governor, possibly, wow.

James Moore 58:02

Yeah, so I'm going to be talking to state police guy, long, yeah, lawn, I hope. And you know, who knows how forthcoming he'll be, but they either they are they aren't, yeah, sure, sure, but Dave Frohnmayer, General Norma Paulus is not really with it. I'm going to talk to talkable.

Bob Atiyeh 58:28

I know the Rajneeshees. There was a plot to assassinate the Attorney General. Was the state attorney general? Yeah, from my Yeah, okay, yeah, because somebody told me no, it was the US

James Moore 58:36

Attorney General. No, it's US Attorney here, and then our Attorney General

Bob Atiyeh 58:42

here. So David Frohnmayer. Dave Frohnmayer. Yeah, okay, and the attorney, that's what I thought, okay, yeah, Jesus, yeah. How are they going to assassinate him? Because, do they know?

James Moore 58:54

It's not clear. I mean, they were training, they had, like, Ninja

Bob Atiyeh 58:58

squads and stuff like that, so they're going to assassinate him, like the

James Moore 59:02

bullet or something. Yeah? Hopefully, yeah, yeah. Bioterrorism people freak out about it, but it's, it's, it's nothing, it's really nothing, yeah, weapons of mass destruction, as you were talking your argument with the Vic, you got to have a nuke to do weapons of mass destruction, yeah? Although, wow, other stuff, if the wind blows the other way, then it doesn't work. So at Vic's

Bob Atiyeh 59:21

90th birthday party, you know, I was sitting at the table with Gerry Thompson, Denny Miles, and Mon was also there. The subject of Goldschmidt came up and how Bertie giusto was his lawns version, you know, I mean, that was for Goldschmidt. He was having an affair with Margie Goldschmidt. He was like, Oh, my God, are you either got big balls or you're stupid. I mean, you're the governor's bodyguard the same time you're having an affair with his wife. Yeah? My god, yeah, wow. But I guess she felt justified because he was, you know, screwing around on her. So, yeah,

weird dynamics.

James Moore 59:56

Yeah, one of my colleagues when I taught. University of Portland, went to school with Neil's wife, okay? And their other classmate was Darcelle. So he said, Yeah, class reunions can be kind of interesting. There's

Bob Atiyeh 1:00:17

something The Oregonian last December, Darcelle, I forget his real name, but he gives a Walter or somebody, yeah, Walter, you're right, um, Christmas dinner for, you know, whoever shows up. Yeah, he's been doing that for 30 years. Yeah, it's like, wow, you know, yeah, Heart of Gold. Yeah.

James Moore 1:00:32

So other, quite, other, other, other stories on your notes there. I I

Bob Atiyeh 1:00:45

remember we were taking a tour of watching in Albany. They were very controversial at the time. Yeah, McCall had said something pretty dark, sorry about watching, about how they were basically just spoiling the pristine nature of Oregon or something. Are you worried that? Quote, if something said something about watching, and they were like this dirty little business in this pristine state of Oregon or something like that, but there had been an article about watching in Oregon magazine, so it came out just a few months before we went down there. So I read it the night before we were going to Hua Chang, and I told Vic about what I'd learned in the article, and then he read the article on the way down, because he was open minded that way he was. So we did the tour, and we had their PR person showing us around, and there was a big pile of sludge right next to the Willamette River. Big, big point of the article was this thing was full of toxin materials. It was right next to the Willamette and Vic asked to see it. And the PR person gave us the classic song and dance and just shined us on and just, oh, it's just a big pile of black degree, it's like, it's nothing interesting there. And did take us there, and Vic didn't press it. He just wasn't that kind of person. Yeah, if I had been running for governor, said, I absolutely want to see it. If the river floods and this becomes an issue, I wanted to see it. Know what it's all about. Vic didn't press that way. He just wasn't that kind of person. Yeah, the one of the people who worked on the story, Ansel Nance. I don't know if you've heard that name before, but he worked for Oregon magazine for years,

and he actually did some photography for Deb's business about a year ago. And I asked him about that, and he said, I to this day, I will stand by everything that was in that story. And it was pretty derogatory story about watching, yeah, I don't

know if they're even still there. They still operation. I'm not sure

they're making a lot of rare metals like hafnium, tantalum,

James Moore 1:02:49

yeah, they did that, and they got cut up in illegal exports to Iran, oh, and stuff that could have been used, like in in for centrifuges. Oh, my God, okay,

yeah, so yeah, they're there. They

Bob Atiyeh 1:03:04

were pretty unsavory company. Then, yeah, okay

James Moore 1:03:08

with their own senator,

Bob Atiyeh 1:03:13

just I'm looking through my list to recovery, pretty much everything I was

talking to him about the Tea Party, and I didn't really get a chance to really talk to him enough, but I got a sense that he really didn't have any love for the tea party. I think he would made a statement. He didn't make it to me, but he made it one time, as I didn't leave the republican party where the Republican Party left me. You heard that? You know my uncle in as well as McCall and Hatfield, both guys were all moderates. I don't think he liked where the Republican Party the direction it was going, either statewide or nationwide. I never really had the chance to really talk to him in depth about that, but there was a sense I got, yeah. Is that the sense you got? Yeah,

James Moore 1:03:57

there's in early 1990s 9293 he did a really extensive oral history with the organization, okay? And so that's when there's the Moral Majority, you know, the anti gay things are starting, you know, or the OCA is being more hateful, and all that stuff intolerant. And he said a fascinating thing, which I didn't was never able it just didn't come up when I was talking to him. He was talking about, you know, there's a platform being a Republican means something. And he had a strong sense of what a Republican Absolutely, he did you can't. He said you can't join the Republican Party and then redefine what being a Republican is, which is what he thought of the social conservatives at that point. And I'm sure that's the continuity. What do you think

Bob Atiyeh 1:04:50

about the team? That makes sense? Yeah,

I never had a chance to ask him. You know, if you don't agree with him, Why don't you speak out? Where your party's going, because Republicans haven't won a statewide election and a long time. Yeah, I don't. I think the sense that he would ever do that, he felt so loyal to the Republican Party that

James Moore 1:05:11

he behind the scenes. So I'm going to talk the last person he really helped a lot was Chris Dudley. Okay, he helped Rob Cornelis, who ran for Congress, but Rob's campaign had nothing going on but Chris Dudley. Chris Dudley, because Chris Dudley came within 20,000 votes of being the governor of the state, very close. And so I'm going to talk to Chris about what Vic's role was, you know, a couple of talks, or, you know, whatever. But there was one time, also early 90s, he became a Republican National Committee person, okay? Because the other candidate was a social conservative, and he said, Okay, can't have that, okay, we just can't have that. Yeah. So he would step in inside the party occasionally, okay, try to change it from the inside, yeah, try to change it from the inside. But I never got the sense that the party

apparatus was a big concern for him, and a lot of politicians. That's the case, because the party, I mean, they come up with weird platforms and all this stuff, and that's not whatever what you run on, you're a politician, you're hooked into the people, okay, that kind of thing.

Bob Atiyeh 1:06:24

Yeah. I mean, it's a sad state of affairs for the Republican Party in Oregon. I mean, yeah, we've been Democrats for years, and I don't think I ever told Vic that, but it wouldn't upset him. What's the point? But you know about probably, if you survey our family, probably close to half of us are Democrats. You know, why go there? I know one thing talk about, you know, piss pick off, you know. I mean, there's only a couple times he got mildly pissed off at me, really, during the campaign. But, you know, five months, you know, pretty darn good. Yeah, as tired as he is, the amount of pressure he's under, and yeah, I probably deserved it a lot more than that, but he was in 2004 George W Bush is running for re election against John Kerry. And my wife just got really involved politically in the state campaign for Kerry and formed a little committee called Republicans for Carrie, even though she wasn't herself, Republican level, people that joined it were Republicans, and they gave a press conference one day, and Vick started getting calls after that press conference. It completely blindsided them, and he wasn't happy about it. He was pretty angry at us for a while after that, yeah, I think he felt betrayed. That wasn't our intention at all. But I think the fact that we didn't tell him what was going on and maybe, well, I want to say our last name of the t his name was associated with Republicans for Kerry, I think they've really hurt him. He wasn't real friendly to me for a while. After that, maybe about a year, he could be a little petulant sometimes. I don't know that's a side of him that people really talk about much, but that was one of them right there. If he felt maybe betrayed, he'd be a little cold for a while. Yeah, he came over to my father's house for my father's birthday, and I would happen to be there, and he barely said hello to me, you know, I mean, he could be that way, which really kind of surprised me. But another time I read about when he was governor, I think the Oregon AFL CIU, I think it supported his opponent, and so Vic was like, didn't want to meet with him after the election, would have been reelected, and the President was shocked that you know the governor would take it out on him personally like that. Did you come across anything like that?

James Moore 1:08:49

Yeah, and in the governor's office, for instance, he his first Chief of Staff. It was pretty clear after like, three to six months that this wasn't going to work, okay, but Vic is not the confrontational guy, so he's not gonna, so he's, you know, things happen. And he kind of would let things work themselves out naturally, rather than do the confrontation thing. And the union is a classic thing. He knew what you know, of that then, yeah, okay, and, but it would, it happened all the time. Okay? He would do things he thought were great for workers and union people, right? Because he was Republican, he'd never get an endorsement. He'd never okay, they would endorse his opponent. Okay, wouldn't even stay out of the elections. Wow, okay. And, you know, and that always troubled him,

Bob Atiyeh 1:09:36

so there again, there's probably that sense of betrayal, yeah. I mean, it was probably hard for him, yeah. And, you know, feel betrayed by your family. That must have been kind of tough for him. I guess if I put myself in his place, even though we didn't mean it that way, yeah, yeah. We put that heads up, yeah. We hated Georgia Eva. We thought he was an absolute disaster. We wanted to try to unseat him, and he actually lost in Oregon. Yeah? Never.

James Moore 1:10:03

See, yeah, Republican in your family is great, and that's one thing I'm going to really investigate. Immigrants aren't Republicans, and yet, your grandfather,

Bob Atiyeh 1:10:12

hard. Oh, staunch, staunch, absolutely. Yeah, your dad told

James Moore 1:10:15

wonderful stories they grew up. You know, growing up from about the 1928 election on your dad remembers, because he's seven point, right? Your dad would have all the Republicans come over to the house, they listen to the radio, and they'd have an election night party in 1928 was really the last time it worked, because after that over, yeah, after that, they come over, and after a couple hours, it would get really quiet. But my gosh, every time there's an election, they'd have the party, wow, they'd be enthusiastic. This is the time. And then they go, you

Bob Atiyeh 1:10:55

know, my dad, lifelong Republican, voted for Obama both times. I loved him. Loved him.

It's funny. You know, in your late 80s, you switch over.

Yeah, I get a sense that. Well, let me tell you something else. He told me I was having, you know, my regular talk with him. It was the summer of 2013 there just been the chemical weapons attack in Syria, yeah, because, you know, he met with Assad several times, still pretty fresh within the first week, and I was pretty raw, you know, and Obama had set the red line, and, you know, was threatening retaliatory strikes. Congress wasn't long and, yeah, I talked to Vic about, I said, you know, you met with Assad. And I said, you know, what are your feelings about this? And he said, you know, chemical weapons are bad, but are people only less dead than if there's been, you know, hundreds of 1000s of people killed, you know, been shot, you know, or blown up with bombs. I said, doesn't matter how they died. They're dead, just all the tragedy.

He didn't think that well. He

was really anti war. I don't know if you knew that about Yeah,

in the same conversation, he was saying, you know, this, this eight year war between fought between Iran and Iraq. He said millions of people were killed, and he said, and nothing changed. And he just shook his head, and he said, For what usually hear that from people who've been in war, like my father, who, you know, there's nothing good about war, but you know the fact that Vic never was in war, but he was very I didn't realize that about him. He was really

James Moore 1:12:38

against war. Yeah, we've got some interesting letters he was writing to the Nixon administration. Oh, really, during Vietnam, yeah, really. So he's, he's becoming into national prominence. In fact, he got invited to the White House when he was running for governor. Okay, Gerry Ford is just Sure. And he flew out there, flew back and Dolores asked him, you know what? Tell me about the office. You remember there was a carpet and was over. No, no, no, no, I need details, because he's talking, you know, talking to the president and doing this other stuff, yeah? But yeah, he was expressing his displeasure, yeah,

Bob Atiyeh 1:13:20

okay, I didn't know that. Yeah, no, wow. I

remember he came back and he said that Gary Ford was the kind of person Nixon wanted to be,

James Moore 1:13:29

yeah, yeah. He felt he was really close to Ford. He was really close and closer to closer to Ford than anybody any of the other presidents. So it makes sense. Bush, good guy, but not the same kind of feeling.

Bob Atiyeh 1:13:45

Well, when he was governor, Reagan was president, most of

James Moore 1:13:50

that time, yeah, and Reagan, there was always a

there's a tension there. Didn't know that. Yeah, this,

Bob Atiyeh 1:13:55

I haven't heard this from Vic and dama. This is one of the things I wanted to talk to him about, didn't we got a chance, but it's chance. But the story goes, the Columbia River Gorge, National Scenic Area. He was rumored that Reagan was gonna veto it, and he called up Reagan's Chief of Staff, I think maybe James Baker, yeah, and said, You know, I don't ask you guys very much, but I really want this, and that was enough to push Reagan over to signing it. But is that what

James Moore 1:14:21

you predict? That's Vic's story. And Bob Packwood totally disagrees. Oh, really interviewing Bob pack Oh, really interesting. Yeah, but Vic did get that phone call. And so, okay, I'm one of one of my projects later on is I'm going to go. I don't know if it's going to be worth it. I have to do research before I go, but I think I'm going to be going to the Reagan Library, possibly the National Archives, all right, the Bush Library. Okay, wow, so that kind of stuff, and it's partly because it's not just that. It Vic was an unofficial Ambassador the United States when he did some Middle East trips, sure, right, yeah. And so. So I know what they the State Department would work with him and, you know, fill him in. They did, yeah, but then coming back, there was a lot of, really, we don't need to hear what you have to say. And so I there's, there's something going on, right, that I really, you're right

Bob Atiyeh 1:15:16

there is, well, he told me, I talked to him about, you know, what was like to meet Assad, because he met Assad, I think in 84 is that when he went to Syria? Yes, yeah.

James Moore 1:15:30

So is there a second term? Yeah, he's elected again in 82

Bob Atiyeh 1:15:33

because he didn't go there until his second term. Okay,

in Syria in 1982 there had been an uprising with the Muslim Brotherhood in a city of Hama, which is north of Amar, right? You know the history of Assad going in there and assaulting the city, and they figured it killed between 10 and 20,000 people they don't know, which seems pretty minor compared to what's going on there now. But put the rebellion down. But it was brutal, ruthless. There's just a couple of years before he meets with Assad. He meets with Assad, and Assad, referring to that incident, he said there were some bad people in that town, and I gave people weapons, and they took care of the problem. And he kind of smiled, and that's what the story he told Vic. I didn't get the sense that Vic was aware of the scale of what had happened in Hama, and I brought it up to him, and he was kind of shocked. Is like, yeah, really, he didn't know,

James Moore 1:16:25

yeah. And there's surprise me, there's a I don't know, and this is part of, you know, Vic was never identified as Arab American in it. It wasn't. It was He was the first Arab American governor. But that's not what people voted for him or against him or anything, just totally irrelevant. And so when he goes to the Middle East, my sense, and I'm actually a Middle East expert, oh, really, I actually turned over. I've got his Wow. In fact, I'll show you this.

My sense is he was

kind of a naive guy going off to a part of the world, yes, and my impression, family stuff, and that's great. My impression, exactly. So

let's see here. There we go.

So I've got, I'm the first one that ever told him that this on one side of the card is actually what this says, okay, as I read Arabic,

Bob Atiyeh 1:17:28

okay. Oh, you do, yeah, that's pretty

James Moore 1:17:31

impressive. What it says,

Bob Atiyeh 1:17:33

wow. Okay, okay, get those printed up, obviously, before you went to the Middle East.

James Moore 1:17:36

This is actually post gubernatorial. Oh, really. So this was the card. The other one is has got his full term as governor, so it's for his business afterwards. Okay,

Bob Atiyeh 1:17:49

so, okay, I didn't realize that he also met with Mubarak in Egypt and Yitzhak Shamir of Israel. I didn't know that he told me.

James Moore 1:17:58

And he almost met with the King of Saudi Arabia. But it turns out the Queen of Denmark was there the same day.

Bob Atiyeh 1:18:05

He said that when he went and met with Assad and Mubarak, he told them that, number one, he was coming as an American, and number two, as a, you know, Arab American governor, but his primary loyalty was to America. He said, Assad got it and was okay with it, and Mubarak got it, was okay with it, but you talked, Shamir wasn't okay with it. You know, it was like, so I didn't get a sense he really, really liked

James Moore 1:18:28

his report to the State Department when he came back. Was that he heard sincere talk of wanting peace from Mubarak and from Assad, and he did not hear that from Shamir.

Bob Atiyeh 1:18:42

Wow, interesting. Yeah, I know that he Assad asked Vic to pass along a message to the State Department that he was open for peace talks in negotiations. And Vic passed that message along, and it basically just blew

James Moore 1:18:54

him off. Yeah, and Vic was thinking at the time that he might be that conduit. I think that even after he left the governorship and he was traveling over there, he thought he would play that role, and I think he really hoped he could, yeah, and that's why there's a certain naivete there. You've got to know what the government is doing, our government is doing, and things like that. And

I just don't know how well plugged in he was into all

Bob Atiyeh 1:19:22

that. I get a sense that he wasn't.

We were talking, you know, about Assad and about the uprising in the Arab Spring. And he just couldn't understand the Arab Spring. Why people would, you know they were creating more problems, you know, by rising up against these dictators. And I said, Vic, do you realize you know how bad Assad is, how brutal and repressive his regime is, and I don't think he really was that aware of the stuff that Assad had done on the torture and the people just disappearing, and, yeah,

James Moore 1:19:55

cattle prods as a tool, because I make tasers, looks pretty tame. Jesus. Yeah. Yeah, it's interesting. When the archives came, I immediately started using them in classes. Oh, really, 2012 school starts in the fall. I always teach in election year. I teach at parties in election class, everybody's got to go out and work in a campaign.

Bob Atiyeh 1:20:19

Oh, really, it's pretty neat. But

James Moore 1:20:22

the first the first week of class was the Republican Convention, and the second week of classes. And so I took my class down, and we spent one class period. We had all of Vic stuff from when he was a delegate to the Republican

convention. Several of them, right, and some of the most fascinating stuff as handwritten notes to go to the Republican platform committee in 70 digit, 78 okay? And then again, in 84 Okay, 7080 76 and then in 84 basically saying in the platform you can't say Israel is the best thing in the world, really. You just can't do that. You got it, wow. You got to look at this. And we know it goes nowhere, nowhere, right at all. But he's there, and that's he says, you know, this has to, we got to bring this up. We got to talk about this, huh?

And true Vic style, lots of notes,

writing things out, yeah. Know? Vic, I didn't get a

Bob Atiyeh 1:21:24

sense. Was a very anti Israel, but he was very disturbed by the media bias. Whenever there was a like during the Intifada or something, or whenever there was some kind of a war, like when they invaded southern Lebanon in 82 he saw it as very skewed. Reporting didn't focus on the suffering and plight of the Arab people, but you know only what was being done to the Israeli people that really bothered him. He spoke out to me a couple times about that. Yeah,

James Moore 1:21:49

yeah. So another thing I'm going to be looking at is with immigrants. Because you know your dad and his brothers, they didn't know Arabic. Maybe they wouldn't,

Bob Atiyeh 1:22:01

they wouldn't let them speak here. They did know Arabic when they first started, when they were little, yeah, but then their parents really discouraged every time they went to school. So no, you're in America, you learn English, yeah, yeah. And

James Moore 1:22:10

so, you know, typical immigrant thing talks about knowing six words and they're all dirty, but, but you know, what's the connection to place in immigrant communities. So, for instance, World War One happens, and the Irish and Germans are all basically saying, we're on the side of the Germans. Okay? And what happens? A lot of Schmidt becomes Smith, and the Irish gets screwed. The Irish are get are for the Germans, because the Germans are fighting the British. Okay, oh, Jesus, yeah. Okay, so there's, there's a lot of that kind of stuff we see in immigrant communities here. Interesting. And so how does that go for someone like Vic and your dad, when it's decades after that, that process, and yet it still seems to be a part of this political view of the world, right, right, right.

Bob Atiyeh 1:23:02

Yeah, interesting,

yeah, if I only had more time. So I was really starting to get in some good deep issues with them. A lot of our initial talks were about family and great family history. And then later on, we were starting to delve into more political type of stuff, and I was really starting to get in some really deep stuff for them, and really establish really rapport with them. And that's good. Just kills me. I wish I had, like, just a few more hours, like, oh yeah, damn it. You know, yeah, I'm hopefully you've got some good talks with him.

James Moore 1:23:30

Yeah, I had four good, good interviews with him. Good, good. So I got, I got the good basic stuff, but clearly I would love to talk to him after I'm talking to other people, and really getting in the archives and go back and saying, but, you know, it's a long time ago, you know, you get into details of tax policy, it's like, you know, I don't remember that tax policy. And that's, that's just the nature of the beast.

Bob Atiyeh 1:23:53

Another thing I wish I'd had more time to talk with Vic about is my perception was he was never that strong on preservation of natural resources, like wilderness. And, you know, he loved the Deschutes. And then there's Victor Giotto, same way side there. And then the shoes, I think he might have been instrumental in preserving that section.

James Moore 1:24:13

Yeah, he got people together to do the private buyout. Okay, there we go. Yeah. There we go. All that crucial.

Bob Atiyeh 1:24:20

And then, you know, there was the Columbia River National Scenic Area. I mean, he was instrumental in that, obviously, but I remember, shortly after he took office, he made a statement that he didn't think the state of Oregon needed any more wilderness areas. Which do you remember?

James Moore 1:24:34

Yeah, no, I don't know the statement, but I know in reading his oral history, wilderness was troublesome to him, because Forever is a long time. Yeah, yeah, and so, and that's, that's a clear, you know, think of, think of that generation. You know, you're looking at what is the wilderness bring the wilderness brings wealth and. Was a poor place,

Bob Atiyeh 1:25:01

yeah. And yeah, well, the fish and the timbers, but he went yeah.

James Moore 1:25:05

And so when he gets into it, it's we got to have conservation to protect the economic side, okay? And wilderness thing can be part of that with tourism and all those other kinds of things, but it's got to play an active role.

Bob Atiyeh 1:25:21

I guess you have to look at it in the context of the times like you're talking about too, even at that time and even to this day, Oregon has less designated Wilderness than any surrounding state except Nevada, California, Idaho, Washington, all have far, far more their land base and wilderness.

James Moore 1:25:37

And for us, it's always because the especially the federal lands, are a place of resource for us, okay? And that's in fact, when I was talking to the retired Supreme Court Judge Yesterday, I talked about there he's in Salem, and my dad used to work for the Capitol press, okay, which is agricultural issues, okay? And I made a joke about the Capitol press, every single issue has stuff about wolves. And earlier we've been talking about you need statistical knowledge in order to make some of these decisions, and politicians, especially do not know stats and understand and the wolf thing is fascinating. So political, because if you the USDA, every year puts out what are the mortality rates for calves and lambs, and for every 10,000 calves, like 8500 of them make it to market, there's 1500 that we need to account for. The wolves take care of four of those.

Bob Atiyeh 1:26:40

It's coyotes, weather, it's domestic dogs. There's

James Moore 1:26:44

dogs, yeah, it's their own dogs, yeah, but the wolves are it. And so we're gonna allow people to shoot wolves. It's like, No, you better be shooting your own dogs. It's huge, because that's huge. That's five times as many.

Bob Atiyeh 1:26:56

It's, I can't think of any other animal that brings up the passion that a wolf does,

James Moore 1:27:01

no, and it's, it's here, and in Europe too. They're reintroducing them in Europe. And it's all the fairy tale stuff, yeah, big bad wolf. Yeah. Big Bad Wolf. It's amazing. I work

Bob Atiyeh 1:27:09

with guys in the fire department. They were hunters of just rabidly anti Wolf. I mean, irrational, yeah, you know, yeah.

James Moore 1:27:17

And it's, it's fascinating to talk to people like that. That's one thing I didn't talk to Vic about. Is his his outdoor stuff, his

fishing and things like that.

Love that he was a gun collector, but he basically wasn't a

Bob Atiyeh 1:27:28

hunter. Yeah, you're right. The black powder, yeah, I guess he had an incredible collection. Yeah, I saw it. I didn't know enough to appreciate, but I guess it was pretty expensive, it was extensive,

James Moore 1:27:37

and the university subtly made it clear that we really didn't need that. And

Bob Atiyeh 1:27:44

I remember, like during the campaign, we went and visited just a black powder gun collector, just not going to gain anything politically. He just wanted to connect with a guy. And we were there for, you know, better part of an hour, and they had an enormous amount of respect for each other. Yeah, they really, he was in all this guy's collection, you know? And, yeah, that's all they talked about. Was black powder, you know, the whole time.

James Moore 1:28:03

One of Vic's most treasured things is a his lifetime fishing license from

Bob Atiyeh 1:28:10

Warm Springs. Yes, he was, you showed that to me? Yeah, yeah. And

James Moore 1:28:13

the other one is his fishing licenses while he was governor, okay? Fishing license, one, then 1987 fishing license, whatever it is, 3450

Bob Atiyeh 1:28:24

this another guy, yeah,

James Moore 1:28:26

which goes with the anecdote, Tom told that the service about one day you're a peacock, the next day you got a feather duster. Yes,

Bob Atiyeh 1:28:33

you're getting back to that. Remember the I told you the story of the timber company, and he went for Yeah. I remember now that at the time, they said, No, we want to save our money for the general because we want to defeat McCall, right, when Vic pulled ahead in the polls, then the money came through. Yeah, they did give him \$10,000 during the primary, and it was, it was the 11th hour. It was like a week or 10 days before the campaign, but they did come through with the \$10,000 and I've always wondered then, you know, a couple months into office, he makes a statement that organ has enough wilderness. I always wondered if that was kind of a was that a subtle political payoff, a favor to the timber company? You know that? Yeah, I don't think that it was. But who knows, you know? I mean, no, I don't know. I think he maybe just felt

James Moore 1:29:17

that. I don't think it, I don't think it is, but, you know, it's part of what kids harbor is going through right now. There could be totally legitimate excuses for all of this, but his side isn't explaining anything, and the reporters aren't asking the right questions. Yeah, yeah. You know, to me, with all of this stuff with kids Harbor, it's so if she brought \$118,000 of value to this group, that's money well spent. Yeah, yeah, but you gotta answer that question, yeah, yeah. And so with political contributions, it's the same. Thing is, is it a quid pro quo, an effective payment or is it just because that's who Vic is? But money, that's something people don't understand. Money goes to eight. Incumbents and sure things

Bob Atiyeh 1:30:03

was there in a implicit understanding, you know, there. I mean, who knows, you know? I mean, probably not, you

know, probably not, probably not, probably

James Moore 1:30:12

not. Right? One thing I'm going to be really investigating is so Vic's business after he leaves office, is he really providing value to the companies that he was consulting with, or are they in effect paying him for being the governor interesting and getting rid of the unitary tax and that stuff? And I have a feeling, because he, I don't know if you're he told you about it, or your dad told you about it, but I'd love to have heard the conversation he had with your brothers when he said, I'm not coming back. Yeah. And his explanation of it is, as governor, I discovered it's nice to make decisions by yourself. Wow, yeah. And, and your brother, you know, there's no animosity, there's no nothing. And your brothers had seen kind of him moving in that direction anyway, but his

Bob Atiyeh 1:31:00

heart, I could

probably pretty fairly say, wasn't in the business. It wasn't something he chose. It was something that was opposed to him, right? And, you know, he had higher ambitions. Obviously, in 58 he ran for state representative. So, and then, you know, became state senators. So I think his his passion in his heart, where he was

James Moore 1:31:21

somewhere else. Yeah. And remember when he ran in 58 I mean, he was, he was really interested in current events and that stuff.

Bob Atiyeh 1:31:28

Yeah, remember my, my other uncle, the one that died a couple years ago, my dad's twin brother, Richard, I was driving for vehicle during the primary campaign, and I was talking to Uncle Richard and telling him, was like, God, isn't it, isn't it great that, you know, if it's running for governor, all the free publicity you guys are getting? And he says, Yeah. He says it works both ways. It says, you know, we get the the name recognition. But there's a lot of people that tell me it's like, I'm not going to do business with you, because you're damn brother, you know. So, I mean, yeah, yeah. I think I sense a little frustration with him that Vic Wasn't there a lot of the time, pulling his share of the load with the business. I think I never heard him say that, but I sensed it, yeah, because he, hell, he was gone for six months every two years, you know, just gone from the

James Moore 1:32:12

business. He apparently come back and he'd work on Saturdays. Okay, I didn't know that, but yeah, he was asking your brother about that, and they paid him full salary the whole time, which you aren't getting paid. Basically, for me to say, legislator, you have to have that. Yeah, sure, but yeah, I have the history that your dad did the TIA brothers, which ends up being basically a lot of minutes from board meetings. It doesn't really tell me anything, but I'm going to be fascinated to you know, see if I can go,

see if there are any other records that I can look at.

Bob Atiyeh 1:32:48

Nobody let him in. So he's not barking. It doesn't matter. Okay, he's, yeah, he's blowing me out

James Moore 1:32:54

there. You were talking about sitting and talking with Vic at the kitchen table. I can tell you, the garbage truck appears.

Bob Atiyeh 1:33:02

So something else. When I was his driver at AID, we were talking about the national forests and Mount Hood National Forests in particular, and Vic made a statement that shocked me. He said, Well, they're not really doing much with that land up there anyway, and they were logging the crap out of the Mount Hood National Forest in the 70s, punching through 1000s of miles of logging road, even as a 22 year old, I knew that wasn't true, and I was shocked. It seemed very when it became speckled, yeah, he seemed very naive to me. And, you know, politicians are human. They can only be up on so many issues, you know. And he was so good at so many things. And I don't think natural resources was

something he gravitated towards. It wasn't his passion. He loved the outdoors, yeah, loved to fish, yeah.

James Moore 1:33:47

But yeah, I'm going to be talking to about six weeks. I'm going down to California to talk to Pat Amedeo, who was his national resources person, okay, yeah, okay, and yeah, it's gonna be fascinating, absolutely. Because, I mean, the one thing that the recession did here in Oregon, we still our narrative is the spotted Eva and the timber industry. It's like, no, no, no. Timber industry had a bullet put in its head five years earlier, in 1982 with the recession, yes,

Bob Atiyeh 1:34:14

and increased automation and all that station, all that studies, went to the south London coast with a friend who was a computer programmer, and he helped some of those mills come out with the first software program and Institute it in their mills in the early 80s. Yeah, yeah. That eliminated a lot of jobs, yeah, and so them a lot of money. It saved a lot of people they were retooling back then. But yeah, much more expedient to blame the damn environmentalists

James Moore 1:34:35

exactly and Absolutely. That doesn't pop up until I've got the exact date somewhere in my notes, but it's a long time later. But so, so the natural resources is, so is she a crisis manager trying to deal with the implosion of the timber industry, which it did implode. Oh, it did. God did. I grew up in Medford, and, you know, still going back there, there's. A huge, gigantic, empty place that used to have a warehouse or mill and Medco, these gigantic Mills, it's just empty. Wow, they put a Trader Joe's around the outside of it. So it's gonna be fascinating to talk to her. Was she basically a crisis manager, or was there an articulated Natural Resources policy coming out of there, that'd be really interesting. You know, how did that work? Because Gerry Thompson, the Chief of Staff, that wasn't her expertise. She's doing things at a different level.

Bob Atiyeh 1:35:35

Another thing you know, my cousin George, who was fighting to save Opal Creek. I remember him being really frustrated at one point he was really fighting, and getting a lot of perspective from the Republicans, yeah, they were just Evi trading him, yeah. And he was really kind of chagrined that Vic didn't come to his defense. Because, as you well know, there's a family history with Opal creek that belonged to Vic's father in law, yeah, Mr. Hewitt, so and he'd gone up there for three years and fished and lived up there, and did Vic not come to his defense because he would look bad, or because of his family history would look like a conflict of interest? I wonder something, damn it, I've never had a chance to ask him, Why didn't you come defend George and

James Moore 1:36:18

the earliest is conflict of interest. Okay, that would make sense. That's the early stuff I have. That's what was. Oral history, okay? I And when you get things like that, boy, they're really important to the people involved in the big scheme of things. I'm not even sure where it is on the radar, yeah, yeah.

Bob Atiyeh 1:36:38

Something else is really interesting. When we were driving around, and Vic was really constantly expressing frustration at the Feds owning so much of Oregon and not having the state couldn't have a lot of control over a lot of that land. And we were just talking about it. It came up over and over and over again, and one day, I just asked him a rhetorical question, well, why don't you, why don't we push for having the Feds transfer ownership to the state of Oregon, just a rhetorical question. And Vic goes, I like that. And that became one of his campaign platforms. He ran on that during the primary campaign. So I mean, unfortunately, the idea came from me, because I think it's a terrible idea, but it was a rhetorical question, and

that's about the same time the sagebrush rebellion started.

James Moore 1:37:23

Yeah, sagebrush rebellion is beginning to kick off. Then it could get a lot bigger in the 80s.

Bob Atiyeh 1:37:28

So I've always been terrified that I, you know, help spark the sagebrush rebellion. I hope they got it.

James Moore 1:37:33

I don't, I hope, because the sagebrush rebellion people don't trust the states either they wanted

Bob Atiyeh 1:37:37

at the county. Oh, really. Okay, all right, yeah, and

James Moore 1:37:42

so Sagebrush Rebellion big time in the 90s. Okay, it's County Sheriffs actually putting chains across walking roads in Nevada.

It's crazy, man.

Bob Atiyeh 1:37:58

I think we pretty much got things covered

James Moore 1:38:00

here. Yeah, this is great.

Bob Atiyeh 1:38:06

I think we everything I have notes about. I think we got so hope we're good. Yeah, fantastic,

James Moore 1:38:10

good, good, good.

So, off button, off button. I.