

Gerry Thompson Aug. 2017 interview on Atiyeh, part 3

An interview of Gerry Thompson on the topic of Oregon Governor Victor Atiyeh, recorded on Aug. 8, 2017. Thompson was Atiyeh's Chief of Staff during most of his governorship. The interviewer, James Moore, was as professor of political science at Pacific University and was Atiyeh's biographer. This is one of several recorded interviews between Moore and Thompson.

The interview includes discussion of: Atiyeh's role during the Rajneesh movement; his decision-making process; the involvement of various officials like Bob Oliver; challenges faced in managing the situation; specific incidents during the Rajneesh crisis including the governor's interactions with Oregon State Police, the federal mediator John Mathis, and the Rajneeshees' activities; Atiyeh's personal and professional relationships, his approach to public service, and the importance of maintaining accurate historical records.

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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[The recording begins with a personal conversation; material relevant to Atiyeh begins at the 02:10 mark.]

Gerry Thompson 00:20

I am so glad to have my house painted. How

James Moore 00:27

often do you have to have it done? Oh, see, I've been here

Gerry Thompson 00:32

since 2000 and this is only second time.

James Moore 00:35

Oh, that's not bad.

Gerry Thompson 00:36

You stay hard. You stay safe. Do it. There you go. That's one with first class restaurant here. Very nice, very nice. Let me get mine. Ah, oh, yeah, and I gotta get the inside then, yeah,

James Moore 01:10

we did that with a bit of inheritance from my mother in law, and ended up having to spend a couple of nights in a hotel and yes, but it's kind of nice. Yeah,

Gerry Thompson 01:30

I hate it because you have to tear everything out. Yeah,

James Moore 01:35

okay, yeah, there's still a couple of room well, my office, I wouldn't let them do because there's so many different things in there. It's like

Gerry Thompson 01:42

same one there. There's no way am I taking stuff out there?

James Moore 01:47

When we move, we'll say, wow, look at those things on the wall, right? Isn't that the truth? I

Gerry Thompson 02:04

I don't know where all this stuff comes from. Yeah. Okay, so

James Moore 02:10

So, you read the whole chapter [of Moore's draft biography of Gov. Atiyeh] already?

Gerry Thompson 02:15

I'm on my second read. Yeah, I'm going to read it one more time. Yes, I got started last night. I was up till I don't know what time, so go with whatever you got.

James Moore 02:29

Okay, I told you in the email when Hardy Myers had his judiciary stuff, where, in 1981 before you got there, he did a whole bunch of things. Vic was in favor of it. But the big thing is, Vic said, No, I ought to be able to appoint the Supreme Court justice. And so that went to the people, and the people said, No, you can't. And then it came back. And Hardy actually stopped being the speaker so he could devote in 83 his attention to the judiciary reforms, and they went through and but then several of them were vetoed, and he never learned why. Barbara Roberts, when she was Secretary of State and she wanted to change the to the performance audits instead of just the regular audits, and the governor was adamantly against that, but when he vetoed, she never heard why, either, and so I was put yourself back in how did you guys deal with vetoes? Did you peg things that you might want to veto if they made it through. Did you wait till they got to the desk? I mean, no deal with vetoes. Well, that was

Gerry Thompson 03:47

gonna be my question. What are they talking about? They weren't warned it was gonna be vetoed.

James Moore 03:50

Um, Hardy. Hardy had no idea when his were vetoed.

Gerry Thompson 03:55

He did and did not know why they were vetoed. No, no, I don't understand that now, let me go through the process. Bob alruh was our guru on bills. His job was to sort through the bills every day, research them, go to agencies to make sure they didn't have a problem or there was something that we should be aware of circulate through staff. And then he would write the final, his final analysis, right, what he's learned, and basically his recommendation to the governor, sometimes a little tiny, short, sometimes very long, and then it would go the governor, if it was a bill that was controversial and needed to be really discussed, we all would sit and, you know, the governor would call us together, and we'd all, he'd he'd always lay out his opinion, say, I'm going to be because. House, and then Bob Oliver would take that and write the I don't know it was a memo or what it was, but that cut that accompanied the bill either vetoed, signed or not signed, with the governor's reasons for whatever he's done, and that went to the bill back to be to for the records. Okay, so I don't understand well,

James Moore 05:27

because I've seen some of them. We have, for instance, all the veto messages from 79 and they're not marked. So we may have all of them for all I know, because the way they are in the archives is they'll be listed as miscellaneous messages. And look, the first one is a note from, you know, somebody say, hey, guess what? And then you look at the second page like, Oh, my God, there's all these things here. So there's the letter is is to Norma as the secretary of state. There's always I veto or I failed to sign. And then a single paragraph, which usually is a pretty good you know, here are my issues with it. Since Barbara and Hardy didn't know, it may be that they never read those that's

Gerry Thompson 06:18

what I'm wondering. Because every official thing, there was never a bill that went out of there that didn't have the Governor's message on it, okay, never, yeah, every single solitary one of them. Now we made all, not all, participate in his decision. Yeah, exactly he may have already known. And Bob knew he knew right, and Bob would reaffirm the governor's opinion and attach it to the bill. So I don't know, unless they're thinking, Could it be that they were concerned that the governor didn't contact them and say, I'm going to veto the bill and give them an opportunity? Maybe

James Moore 06:59

I can ask Barbara that I can't ask Hardy that

Gerry Thompson 07:01

anymore. No, but I'm wondering if that's the problem, because the record's already there. Yeah, yeah, Barbara should have known that,

James Moore 07:09

especially since the letters would go to her as Secretary of State, yeah, yeah. Hmm,

Gerry Thompson 07:21

you know, there's no way the governor would always know exactly whose bill it was. So he could pick the phone up and call him and say, Hey, but,

James Moore 07:27

but especially with Hardy's that mean he'd been working with three years.

Gerry Thompson 07:31

Yes, me, that really surprises me. Yeah, unless they're thinking there should have been more personal touch to it. Yeah, in a way it worries me, because it's kind of not consistent with and Bob was very, very good about, I mean, he the bill process was as smooth as it could be every year. Yeah, so I don't know. The only thing I can think is that they thought maybe the governor should have picked the phone up and said, Hey, I'm gonna veto this. Is there anything you want to say? Okay, and that could be, yeah, very easy. It could be, particularly with Hardy, yeah, I'm not sure that with Barbara. I mean, they were more mundane, is the wrong word, but you know what I mean, more routine, yeah? But if you know he knew that Hardy was into the judicial matters, and you'd think that he would have, I don't know. I know that they all had the Governor's message on him, every one of them. Yeah, clear reason for whatever action he took.

Unknown Speaker 08:37

Yeah, exactly. Okay,

Gerry Thompson 08:39

you know. And I Gosh, we'd circulate them. My God, I sometimes don't have a stack like this, and I think I gotta go through those again. Yeah?

James Moore 08:46

Well, yeah, the year when he had a recalcitrant legislator, needed to veto several things. That's what I would have loved to have been doing this project, and then talk to the people in kit sabers office when he was Dr, no, yeah. So I had to process all those things.

Gerry Thompson 09:04

Wouldn't that have been fun? I can ask

James Moore 09:05

the governor's Cape staff to today. So how is it not processing deciding any of them, yes, yes, veto anything.

Gerry Thompson 09:13

Isn't that amazing? That's amazing to me. It's amazing. I wonder if there's any sessions where that's ever happened before, probably,

James Moore 09:21

I probably have, but it speaks to me, because Kate, she, I mean, she's, she's, was like Vic, she'd been in the legislature forever, and like Vic, she had been in the minority, right? You know, Colin gusky, no kit saber, no Robert snow, you know, who knows what colts was doing in city council, but none of them had ever been in the minority. And I'm

wondering if she is learning better how to kind of head those things off at the pass.

Speaker 1 09:53

Well, could be, it could be

James Moore 09:57

we, don't we? There's no way to know. Plus, it would. That

Gerry Thompson 10:00

was her first session? No, her first session was two years ago. Oh, that's right, right, when she took over, yeah? Because so she had enough under her wings that there would have, she should have had the courage to do it. Yeah, I don't know. It was amazing to me that she hadn't beat away. How did you do with the tour of the office? I'm going, that's where I'm going now. Oh, you've not gone, yeah, that's right, okay, after this, all right, anything else? Nope, that's it. So I love your approach. I absolutely, absolutely love it good. And I don't know that I can articulate to you what I love about it. It's just that it, it's, it's not, it's exactly what the governor was if it isn't, it isn't what the governor was afraid of. You say it the way it is, and that's good. It really is. I mean, enough so they're areas that concern me. That's right, and that's, yeah, that's good. But I just, I all, I wanted to just tell you some of the things that I maybe be better if I did it by

James Moore 11:05

email. But I know, because I have that right here, okay, I can write on it, okay,

Gerry Thompson 11:11

this, you may not even want to add it, but, I mean, it's like they came from Pune, India to Oregon, right? And I didn't know if that mattered to you or not, that that may be where you wanted to style it, because they were in New Jersey for

James Moore 11:27

a while, right, right? And, yeah, I didn't actually the all the stuff before. I just kind of, you know, there's sources there. You can read them if you want. Yeah,

Gerry Thompson 11:39

yeah, okay. On page 866, first word Hunt is muddy. Muddy, um, a second sentence.

James Moore 11:54

866, muddy, yeah,

Gerry Thompson 11:59

yes, ma'am. Second sentence at one of the weekly staff meetings. Bob Logan, the governor's staffer in charge of working with local governors, who is Bob Logan from Bob Oliver? Are you sure you didn't mean Bob Montgomery? Could

James Moore 12:12

be this is what Bob this what Bob Oliver said. So I will. I, yeah,

Gerry Thompson 12:16

I I've never heard of Bob Logan. Got it. I even looked him up on the internet, and I Okay, but it was Bob Montgomery that was in charge of that. So check that out. Yes, I figured that somebody had used that. Page 870 it's just a typo. Good type. I don't know. Did you want to pick that up? Oh God, if you see them, yes, I didn't hunt for them, but I you probably happened to page 870 title, 1982 elections. 1982 i to Yep, and we're okay down here. I think you meant to say they were, you got it. That's one of my favorite tricks. Is exactly that. Um,

James Moore 13:28

it 873, I that is that doesn't make sense to you.

Gerry Thompson 13:38

Well, it makes me feel better because I do that kind of crap all the time.

James Moore 13:40

Yeah, I mean, in a project this big, it's amazing.

Gerry Thompson 13:46

It's just amazing. I just wrote one family book about one side of the family. Nobody to edit, nobody. I just did it. Oh my god. I went back and read it after I printed it. Where'd some of that stuff come from? You just don't see it anymore. I'm just doing the quick stuff. Then I got some other stuff. Oh, okay, where do I got this marked for, uh, governor's office. It's 877, felt besieged in 1982 the governor was in the middle of a hard fought re election campaign. The economic crisis bearing down hard. There were blah, blah, blah, and then, beginning in 19 trade mission after trade mission after trade mission. Oh, I know what this is. Thompson was not complaining about the governor's travels, but it was significant that he was not in the office as these issues would come at them every day she thought it showed how much

James Moore 14:44

faith he had in the staff.

Gerry Thompson 14:47

Oh, yeah, you make me sound like a whiny, whiny, whiny baby, okay, and I don't know, yeah, thanks. She's whiny. I. And I don't know if I can convince you to take some of the wine out or not. Yeah,

James Moore 15:04

it's figuring out how to balance. What is hard for you to figure out how to balance. You know, you were doing this stuff, but he gave you full authority, but you're the one doing this stuff. And so, yeah, that's fine. I will work on that. Okay, Sherry thinks she's whiny, and I

Gerry Thompson 15:21

will, yes, unwind you. Oh, my God, did I whine that much to Jim? In that next paragraph I've got underlined the federal mediator John Mathis would play a major role over the next several years.

James Moore 15:41

I can change that, because I know what you're thinking. He plays a major role in a negative way.

Gerry Thompson 15:45

Yeah, did, I didn't know if that came through. You know, at

James Moore 15:49

that point, I'm just introducing a character who just shows up because Mike Sullivan said, We got to get mediators in here, okay, but I will, I will play with that.

Gerry Thompson 15:59

Yeah, he, you know, it's there were times when I thought he was actually very sympathetic to the Rajneeshees, and he was not willing to stay with any game plan. He was holding their hands, which may have been his job, as assigned to him by the feds, right? But

James Moore 16:15

then later on, he clearly is having real second thoughts about what the

Gerry Thompson 16:19

heck he's doing. Yeah, begins to dawn on him. And the other thing that occurred to me, and I'm not asking you to change, you don't get me wrong, gentlemen, but the other thing that occurred to me is that state police doesn't get a lot of credit, and I've got, I got to tell you, they were our they were our soul through the whole thing. You know,

James Moore 16:39

I don't have documents.

Gerry Thompson 16:41

You don't have any Bob Watsons, no,

James Moore 16:44

I mean, I have some of their reports from later on which are cited extensively, but I don't have, you know, like you have the stuff that says, wow. The governor said, Get in there. They're in there. But then the only real evidence I have of that is when you're going off to the meeting and the bum comes up and talks with the window. Oh, yeah, you remember so, so it's, I just don't have the documents to structure say, okay, that's the state police. Boom, boom, boom. They

Gerry Thompson 17:15

were solid as a rock, yeah. And of course, I was so close to them, that's why I'm little sensitive to it, but they were more solid for us than anybody was. But I understand where you're coming from, and that was just a thought that occurred. Yeah, it's not that important.

James Moore 17:30

I'll put a note here, because when

Gerry Thompson 17:34

they got picked on a lot too, by the way, by the feds, by the AGs office. It's like those, those TV shows, you know where the feds come in and take over a case? Yeah, it was exactly that all over again. I think I quit marking the paper here

James Moore 18:02

for poor Bob Davis being picked on by those antelope people. Yeah.

Speaker 1 18:06

Pager, you on? Okay? 886, 86

James Moore 18:13

There we go. The paragraph. Okay, here's an example, or just outside Madras. Oh, as if we're having his dock at the bug one. Yeah,

Gerry Thompson 18:27

the turnaround became a place where a lot of people who would gather, yeah, okay,

James Moore 18:32

yeah, that was just a that's an easy fix, just turn into many Yeah. Mike Sullivan was just delightful to talk

Gerry Thompson 18:42

to. Isn't he a grand guy? You know what? He's the one that deserves the credit for keeping the locals come. He really does. Yeah, he and I can remember the governor saying to me, let Mike Sullivan do his thing. Just let him do his thing over there. And he did. Yeah. Didn't hear from a whole lot until toward the end. But if it was important, we heard Yeah, we had all faith in the world at him. We really did. I don't know that we ever really told him that either. Okay, page 888,

James Moore 19:21

Paul Hanneman, getting mad?

Gerry Thompson 19:23

No, this is Bob Oliver who says he was directed. He was invited directed rather, right? But I'm not going to argue with that well,

James Moore 19:30

but, but I want you to argue with it. I looked and I never found anything in the conversations we had that certainly not in

the documentation where you said, No, we told people to stay away. So did you tell people to stay away? Okay, it's on tape. Well,

Gerry Thompson 19:47

I got it. Well, when I say, did I say tell people I got to go back and think about it, but I know that I here's how it came down. I was told by the. The State Police, for sure, the governor should never go over there, nor should I ever go over there, and it would be wise that none of the governor staff went over there if we wanted to maintain the line that we were maintaining, don't give them attention from the Governor, the concern I have here, and I don't care. I don't care if it stays in or not, if that's Bob's memory, that's Bob's memory. But off the record, I remember finding out that Bob had gone over there, and I was shocked.

James Moore 20:37

So that suggests no direction, yeah, that's what. It's okay. That's good, okay.

Gerry Thompson 20:44

I don't think. I don't know who would have directed him. I would not have directed him, the governor.

James Moore 20:47

The thing only you or the governor could have directed him. There's no one else who could have said, go over.

Gerry Thompson 20:53

That's it. That's it. No, so, yeah, that's fine. It's neither here nor there. It's not a big deal,

James Moore 20:59

right? To me, the best part of the story is when Juan is listening to the tape and says, You guys are really boring.

Gerry Thompson 21:06

It is, and I'm not asking you to change a thing. I'm just saying, if that just bothered me a little bit, right? The being directed page 889, I'm not going to raise that issue. What the leaks? No. Denny says, second pair middle of the second paragraph. You know, I think we ought to be sweeping our office for bugging devices. And then he goes on and says that I responded. Danny, not necessary?

James Moore 21:44

And that's, that's another, it's straight from Denny's, yeah, if Denny's overstepping his bounds, we can, you

Gerry Thompson 21:49

know, I, I'm 90% certain that I would not have said that. I think it was the reverse. I think it was Denny. Do you think we should sweep the office? Because I used any a lot for advice, yeah, but it's not an issue. Don't worry about it. It's not an issue. My gosh, did I screw up on the timeline? Dates

James Moore 22:10

on just that one. There's two of them, well, and

Gerry Thompson 22:13

I wonder what the devil I did. I apologize to you. No, no,

James Moore 22:17

that's my job that I'm dealing with human memories, no, but I'm going through and looking at documentary stuff and saying, Wow, that doesn't match. And so how do I make it?

Gerry Thompson 22:26

Well, I'm amazing that you do that. That's I'm amazed, but that may have been Martini time. No, okay, and when I raise those other issues about Danny and Bob, I really don't care one way or the other. I just

James Moore 22:46

Well, I mean, I can easily, I mean, so many times, because there are contradictory or, for instance, with Marita, we talked about yesterday, the governor on the phone, and yet, the governor Slater, some point later, says he wasn't on the phone. Something else happened. And the weirdest part of all that is there's a letter from Marita saying, congratulations. But given the International Date Line, it's impossible for him to written that on that date. Oh, really. So you just look at these things, and I just, you know, you just lay them out. And sometimes they get a little blurb saying, huh? And sometimes it's like two to one. I'll go with that one, but it's, it's just, you've got more patience. Details,

Gerry Thompson 23:33  
page, 901901, yeah, 901901901

James Moore 23:40  
there's 900 901. There we go. The

Gerry Thompson 23:42  
very last sentence, uh huh, man, I sound like an egotistical you know what? The coordination came about because I went to the Governor and I said, okay,

James Moore 23:56  
too egotistical. I'm just being No, that's fine. I it

Gerry Thompson 24:07  
okay. What have I got here? Not just because of the Raj, nine page, 906 middle of the second paragraph, 67906,

James Moore 24:21  
middle of the second paragraph,

Gerry Thompson 24:24  
oh, I know. I know the clarification I wanted there. Middle of the paragraph, you say Thompson remembers that was tough. A TIA was working seven days a week. Thompson was working seven days a week, no matter where we went. The Governor and I were hooked to each other with multiple communication links. I call them my umbilical cords. The only thing that concerns me there is that it sounds like we did that because of the Rajneeshees. Okay, we were always connected, right? And I don't know if that matters either or not. Yeah, it does,

James Moore 24:54  
and it actually comes up. I've got another chapter on kind of how the governor's office works. It's got. Stuff in it. It also has, oh, and Dolores got a radio in her car. And Daddy would love to call it, because when you click the mic, the windshield wipers would go, Yeah, tell

Gerry Thompson 25:12  
you my story about Nora Paulus. Well, govern i and Dolores were the only ones that had call numbers because we'd have to report into state police right by relieving time, I'd say, this is 9590 on my way to Portland. There's 9590 returning to sale. Well, I discovered my I had what I guess you'd call a telephone that was the size of a battery on the hump of the floor, I discovered I could listen to all the state police calls. Oh, you know, so when I the Portland in the middle of the night driving home, tired, sleepy, I'd push the button and drive along listen to the guys, and there was nothing bad going. I just, I'd listen. It was interesting. One time I did it, and I heard one page the other and said, I had, I had called in, said, 9590 on way to sale. And I heard some state policeman click in and say, Hey, Joe, you know who 9590 is? Joe says, No, let's open the line. So they open the line, so all the troopers on duty, anybody know who this woman is 9590 and they all say, no. But one guy says, No, but I think it's Norma Paulus. Another one says, What's number polis doing out so late all the time at night, I let them chatter with their imagination, beginning to go. Finally, I clicked in. I said, Hi, this 9590 I'm the governor's chief of staff. Whoa, it was quiet. There was never another word spoken. That was almost naughty. Okay, Page 909909,

James Moore 27:12

like my little explanatory footnotes. Yes, I hope they can be in the book, because I That's every one of them better way. Instead of burying them in the footnote where no one's ever going to look, it says, Here, here's something

Gerry Thompson 27:24

I love that I really did. I thought, wow, why don't they more do it? Let's see. Finally agreed, neither he nor the guy we should be meeting with, Sheila. Why have I got there?

James Moore 27:37

Why do I point of view? What's its site on that? 268, that's Rajiv timeline. So let's, I understand why he is posturing for political recognition at the cost of the governor's image. That's That's karma, though Dave a comment would make that finally agree neither King or the governor should be meeting Sheila.

Gerry Thompson 28:18

I think I was concerned that maybe that's a little bit strong.

James Moore 28:23

Have we got to the point where, yeah, we've already had the meeting, and Dave has come out and had that press conference the day after. So I think it fits okay, because you've already and then you the governor, and you guys actually have a good working relationship and things like that. But

Gerry Thompson 28:38

here's what churns in me, and I know it's, it's only personal. You know they, they did a whale of a job. And I highly regarded Dave, and I highly regarded Stan long and highly regarded Bill Gary and Marla Ray. And from a personal standpoint, though, I would have written that to the governor, I mean, but from a personal standpoint, it bothers me that I'm saying that about people that I highly regarded, but in the heat of everything going on. I mean, I I did. I said it. I have no doubt about it. You. Anyway. And it was true. Everybody was posturing. Everybody, yeah,

James Moore 29:28

my favorite story about that is when Barbara is campaigning, yeah, and where's the red? Where's the red? Well, the hell nobody has, you know, I get to wear red.

Gerry Thompson 29:39

Nobody owns the colors of the rainbow. Yeah, I love that. Yeah. I never had heard that before, but I love it. Okay. Page 912, okay. Very first sentence, top of the line, the dolls made it, if, very clear, I think that you meant it. Okay. And then why? To third paragraph down same page. You talk about Donna, zajon and Don Clark. They're all running for office. Then you say, in their respective campaigns, Cam Campbell and zajon. Do you mean Campbell? That's the light time. You Clark,

James Moore 30:21

okay, Clark. Larry Campbell, sure remember you just got in. Yeah. Young guy, thought I can do this.

Gerry Thompson 30:32

Okay. Page, 914, 914, okay. What have I down here that evening. It's down here that Amy Thompson explained to Katie that there were only eight. Oh, I know this was confusing to me. Okay, that there were only that. There were a total of 863 members of the Oregon guard. And then you go on to say that there were 16 office I think it should be of which there were 16 officers. Am I being too picky? No, you're not okay, because it almost led me to believe these people were all on standby in Salem, yeah. I I put a note to myself here when on you don't need to go to it, but on page 916 you're talking about when we're getting ready for the big secret meeting. And I put a note here to myself informed a G's office. Question mark, no, I didn't inform the A G's office. It was secret. But I thought, did we leave the AGs office out? And I answered my question

James Moore 32:03

well. And for instance, when I interviewed Bill Gary and asked him about things like that meeting, he had no clue. He also didn't know anything about the state police having undercover people. Bill Gary didn't, yeah, and he said I should

something I would think I would have known.

Gerry Thompson 32:22

Oh, I wonder if he'd forgotten, or was he he was fairly new in the role he

James Moore 32:27

was, um, yeah, because he'd been Solicitor General, and then had moved up to Deputy

Gerry Thompson 32:35

fairly recently in there, because I know that Dave knew. And if Dave knew, you would think that Bill Gary would have known, yeah, and it might have been just, it was part of he was too new yet at the role, God, yeah, I'm sure he would have known. Or

James Moore 32:51

because, also because it started so early he was, he was maybe even still deputy assistant solicitor could have been at that point, yeah. And so it may have been an ongoing,

Gerry Thompson 33:02

updated and by this point, it was also routine. We knew what we had everybody Dave and myself, Bob the governor. I don't know if Norman knew. I don't think so, because we had a lot of problems with her. We tell her a lot, so I don't think she knew, but certainly because we had to use Dave for all the legal things. But I think that's about all that we wrapped on that one, because we really did. We had quite a few undercover and they were valuable. 918, 918,

James Moore 33:37

go

Gerry Thompson 33:38

against me being picky. Third, line in the second paragraph, actually, it starts above. Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying I turned the corner. Too many eyes for you. No, and this one, I wonder if we should say, just a suggestion. I'm not saying that I caused the corner to be turned. I don't know why it struck me that way, but it's just something there that, yeah, maybe it's too strong, I don't know. Okay, and then down here to this

James Moore 34:22

paragraph, but then I've got the governor later on basically saying exactly that

Gerry Thompson 34:26

I know, which was a surprise to me, but that's okay. Last paragraph. Paragraph, Katie was developed as the crucial informant among the Rajneeshees. I

James Moore 34:39

can just change after Raj is he informed?

Gerry Thompson 34:47

Yeah, yeah, you're an easy guy. Okay, now, oh yeah, I didn't know if you wouldn't make a note of this, but this on page. 919, I'm surprised you didn't ask why you call me beloved, but they called everybody. Told everybody below, okay, you already knew that. Okay, all right. Then down here, this paragraph, the governor's office asked for no prison time. I don't think we asked for no prison time. I think we were definitely hoping and among ourselves, we probably discussed it even, even with the AGs guys, but I don't think we ever actually asked for it. Okay? Do Oh, Page 925,

James Moore 35:54

see, this is so much better than when I gave the 1982 chapter to Denny, which is fine, because he's in the middle of it. I wanted him to see it, and also just kind of, it's a good thing, yeah. And so he said, Oh, I just have 20 minutes worth of things. He was talking to my ear on the phone for two hours. It's like, you know, it's more efficient for me to drive for an hour and 15 minutes to your house, sit there with this thing on and get everything and then drive an hour and 15 minutes

back, yeah, to do this kind of crap. Because I'm sitting there a the page numbers change, because I will, if I finish a chapter, I put it into a thing, and so the page numbers all change. And so I'm just sitting there with this quick oh gosh, lights up, and then come back to it two days later say,

Gerry Thompson 36:45

Well, of course he would always have a new theory on something too. Yeah. I mean, Denny does love to talk. Yeah? Does love to talk. I mean, I'd ask him a question in the office, and he'd be sitting in my office, and I knew I just might as well sit back and relax now, because I'm going to get my lecture. It'll be there, but his thought process is a good thought process.

James Moore 37:03

It's a good thought process. I just would rather encounter it in person. Yeah, this on Yeah,

Gerry Thompson 37:08

and I have Tay. He was a huge help to me and the governor. 925, yeah, sorry, I didn't say that. Did I?

James Moore 37:22

346, 346, that's your interview. Yeah,

Gerry Thompson 37:25

okay. At the same time, I was really having a lot of conversations with Katie and federal mediator, who, by the way, drove us nuts. Geez, that sounds awful,

James Moore 37:36

but it's but we already have. He's already said I've got doubts about what the hell I'm doing. Okay,

Gerry Thompson 37:42

all right, yeah, I won't argue with you on I just Yeah. You know, sometimes things that you've said comes back at you and you think, Oh, yeah. And

James Moore 37:50

remember, this is not the definitive story of the Rajesh. She's the story of Atiyeh and the Rajneeshee. Yeah. You I just loved all the handwritten notes from that Al took. You know, it

Gerry Thompson 38:10

made me feel so good to read that too, because God love him, Colonel

James Moore 38:13

pancrats. So I was talking with one, and he was saying, Oh, someone I didn't get along with. And I think it was Pankratz is the one that he really because I mentioned there's another one that's deeply involved here, too. I can't remember who he is, moine. Yeah, Moine, but, but Pankratz, I

Gerry Thompson 38:32

know he didn't like Pankratz. He liked wine. Yeah. Moine was this rough, tough, Marine Corps type guy who got in trouble, you know, in the end, because Moines over here gathering up all this stuff to sell whatever man we put a stop to that. Oh, God. They had canoes, they had parkas, they had everything they were going to go into business. Oh, hilarious. Here's one that. Well, it 935 but, but it reminded me at that point, anywhere Did you uncover the story of them trying to set the the Wasco County courthouse on fire?

James Moore 39:13

Just people mentioning it. I don't have an official report. There is

Gerry Thompson 39:18

a report somewhere. Okay, I have to tell you, I had it in my hands at some point, because I sat and laughed when I read.

It was like the Katzenjammer kids. It was hilarious, if for no other reason, just to read for your own pleasure, is it? I don't know where it went. I had it. It was, it was an official report that came out of Rajneesh Param and found its way into the investigation. It was, it was written by someone else, yeah, okay. It is just hilarious. And i You've got all my stuff now, but

James Moore 39:58

you found it right? Yeah, read everything and I read everything Bob's worked with. Yeah, I would love better copies of things, lots of things on yellow paper that were hard to read Bob did. Yes, Bob's funny.

Gerry Thompson 40:15

Okay, what was this?

James Moore 40:20

Oh, speaking of all these records that you guys still are wandering around here. I'm gonna go meet. I don't know if Kate's gonna be there or not when I go look at the office, but I did interview her for the book, and use a couple things, because she just adored the governor. Kate did, yeah, really, because he was, he was just like he was with others. He was, you know, he's, you know, keep doing what you're doing. You know, yeah, this needs to be done. Keep pushing when she was Secretary of State, because she, he never saw her as governor, no, but he, he was like that, and she, if he were around, he is one of the people that she wants to talk to, no so just to ask

Gerry Thompson 41:06

questions interesting, I did not realize that, but as

James Moore 41:10

the former Secretary of State, she's appalled that all these documents are out there. It's like, well, yeah, and but you guys in the Secretary of State's office, way before you came, they didn't tighten up on this for quite some time, and so pan Amadeo just assumed everything would go to the archives, right? So she loved a desk that was full of a kid came in empty, and other people didn't. And but there was no kind of central edict from Secretary of State. There's no there was no law.

Gerry Thompson 41:40

No, there wasn't, but we were too there was, I wish I can't beside it now, but there was the flexibility to take certain things with you. Mine that I took were all my yellow pages of notes, and it made a firm my art nervous that I had those. Yeah, he kept saying, terrible. And he said, get rid of them. Get rid of them. I said, No, I'm not going to get going to get rid of them. Dave. He said, Well, promise me one thing when it's when you're out of office, hide them in your attic or somewhere, because he said they'll come after him if they know they're there. So of course, I'm out of there for a while, and we're getting I'm getting ready to move down here, and I've got these boxes of these yellow page notes. And I called Dave, and he said, he said, Don't turn them out to anybody yet, but make sure your kids know that when they find those, when you're dead and gone, get rid of them. There you

James Moore 42:37

go. They're a godsend for me, because they have signed contemporaneous. You're recording things and thinking about things. And you can see things develop, really, wording develop. You can see the rough drafts of things. There's one that has you a little tiny bit, and then it's, it's a developing speeches on the sales tax. Oh, yeah, but, and then it goes, so there's, there's notes from you getting all the ding dongs together who want Victor O for Oregon, the hand notes, then your type notes, then notes as meetings, and then the first draft of the speech, which has certain parts here, and then they move to here. And by the third draft, it's way down here, because you don't want people to say, sales tax. Yeah, that's right. You want that to be buried. And by God, the headline is sales tax. But there's just a wonderful chronology and history of you could see people thinking, Boy, sales tax gonna get them. How do we? How do we? Because it's not a sales tax, it's education reform and all these pieces. So how do you make that work? And you can just see the process.

Gerry Thompson 43:52

What did I share with you that he did not want to do the sales tax?

James Moore 43:56  
Yeah, yeah, yeah. He

Gerry Thompson 43:59  
really didn't. Yeah,

James Moore 44:00  
he didn't. And from Richmond's point of view, while he disagreed the sales tax was ever going to pass, he thought that actually, the moment that he decided to back the sales taxes, when he became a governor and not a head legislator.

Gerry Thompson 44:17  
Oh, I mean, this the sales tax campaign at the very end,

James Moore 44:21  
oh, the campaign itself. Yeah, yeah, yeah. They, he,

Gerry Thompson 44:24  
no, he, they came to him. They asked him if he would put the sales tax forth. And he said, No, he didn't support it. He wouldn't do it. And, I mean, he must have wrestled with that. That's when, I think that's when Jerry Frank called him senile. And finally he called me in and he said, Okay, Jerry, get a hold of Paul Newman. I've decided we'll put together a campaign for the sales tax. He said, I don't want to, but at this point, I've got nothing to lose. And if that's what they all want, I'll do it. That's when he got involved. Yeah. Really want to

James Moore 45:01  
Yeah, one of the things, there's some great stuff notes, but also quotes in the paper from Tom through

Speaker 1 45:07  
forgotten that name, who eventually

James Moore 45:11  
says, the only way this is going to work is as the governor campaigns, like he did when he beat Kulongowski. And so that's perfect setup for me. I simply went through and counted the events that the governor had done for the two months before he beat Kulongowski and the events he did the two months before the sales tax. And guess what? It's about a two to one difference. Clearly, he was not as committed. Well,

Gerry Thompson 45:38  
there you go. He wasn't. I mean he literally only did it because he thought he was helping the them out with their cause. Yeah, and like you said, he had nothing to lose. Funny, how this stuff comes back in your mind, isn't it communicated in code? Okay, let me see my note here. Norpark governor did not play a role at all. Oh, where was that Sarah? That's gotta be at the beginning. Okay, he's talking,

James Moore 46:07  
yeah, that's perceptions. Yeah, there's several perceptions. There's a Saracen perception. Then there's, oh, the person who wrote the big New Yorker article, Francis Fitzgerald, has an Oregon State University professor who says, Boy, if Tom McCall were around, yeah, right, this wouldn't happen, yeah? So if that stuck out to you, I'll make it more clear that Sarasota is

Gerry Thompson 46:31  
no it didn't bother me. The only thing I the only thing I wanted to emphasize on that, and thanks for refreshing my memory. But you know, we that was okay, yeah, but that was being said as you as you picked up on the game plan, which, by the way, was a very hard game plan to stay with. But the interesting thing is how, I don't know if we did it strategically, Jim, I can't tell you that for sure, but it's interesting how only the election issues. Went to Nora polis. That was it. We really put a box around here. The same thing with Dave from Meyer, yeah. Only the legal issues, the legal advice, the legal exercises, we went through, the discussions we had, we put that box, and that's when he would step out

of that box is when I would get concerned, right? And then, oh, Vern Duncan, Yeah, same thing. And Vern Duncan itched to get in there. Oh, god yes, but he visited, yeah, oh yeah, but we again, we put a box around him, only when the education environment became involved. And I, as I read through this, that all popped in my mind, and I was thinking, I don't think we ever did that strategically. We just wanted to keep it clean. Yeah. We wanted to know who was doing what for what? Yeah. It struck me strange.

James Moore 47:57

It's, it strikes you, yeah, but it's also, it's a very effective because there's going to be kind of a an overall, analytical kind of chapter. I don't know if it'll be beginning or end, or wherever it's going to be, but all three people you just mentioned are independently elected by the people of Oregon.

Gerry Thompson 48:16

That's and that was part of our that was part of our reason.

James Moore 48:19

How do you balance the fact that they have specific jobs according to the Constitution and yet they represent the same exact people you do, uh huh? And make that fly, and it's just a and this

Gerry Thompson 48:35

is one of those times when we were all dealing with the same issue, yeah. And, I can remember the governor saying to me, you know, I've got my duties for what I've been elected, right? But I've overreaching them. We don't instruct them what to do. They've got their own bailiwick, and that must have been how we came down to Okay. Norma absolutely represent your constituency with election issues.

James Moore 49:03

Yeah. And did you love the bill Gary quotes and things in there saying, what the hell's Norma doing? She's gonna start a riot over there.

Gerry Thompson 49:11

Oh, yeah, yeah. In fact, I have to tell you, it was a surprise to me that Bill Gary said that, yeah, only because we were all saying it to each other, but I didn't think they felt that strongly that Bill Gary would

James Moore 49:26

Yeah. No, yeah. There was a real, real worry. Oh, she was just stirring, yeah, pot life. And then when it came down to it, she was basically as Mikasa lamb and doing things exactly the right way. But it was,

Gerry Thompson 49:40

you couldn't predict that. No, but it was again, that ego that politicians get, that I got to be out in front everybody's got to know that I'm doing this right, which, by the way, Victor T didn't have as much of that disease as some of the. Other ones, which sometimes was at his fault. And I told you the story about Norma polis and my husband's ex wife, yeah, you know. And she wanted to make a big story out of that, too. Yeah, there was no end to where she wanted to go

James Moore 50:12

publicly. The governor's ego at one point, when Carol Whitney was doing, I think the Republican Governor's Association. The governor came and gave a talk about, you know, things in Oregon and being governor. And he talked about my volunteers, my, my, my, my, and Carol was saying, you know, hello, that's a lot of you, but it's they did a lot for you,

Gerry Thompson 50:42

that's right. And yet he was just the opposite with state employees. Yeah, just the absolute opposite. Yeah, give the state employees all the credit, and be there for them. And yeah, I didn't realize that. That's interesting. I hadn't heard that story. Okay, we talked about Mathis. Oh, yeah, okay, I told you how he was becoming sympathetic. 942 Sheila, what's that? One about 942

James Moore 51:21  
that's things are coming. Oh, Carly, I

Gerry Thompson 51:27  
know you think you're supposed to greet people. Hi, Dear Bob. She left

Unknown Speaker 51:36  
this here. She can't grow up. She didn't want

Gerry Thompson 51:40  
bother you. Oh, bless her heart. I told her I was the Vic Atiyeh biographer. Oh,

Unknown Speaker 51:46  
did they show her? Yeah, okay, finish up

Speaker 2 51:49  
one of those minks that that, yeah, the whole rap, it belonged to Mike's grandmother. Oh, really. And so I took it over and gave it to Anne. Oh, did you it has the grandmother's initial sure

Gerry Thompson 52:02  
they those days, that's what they did. How nice. Okay, I'll see you later. Thank you, Jim, you got a haircut, didn't you? How can you tell this is Jim Moore Pacific University. You've seen him on TV a zillion times. He's the one that's writing governor's biography.

Speaker 2 52:21  
Okay, so, you know, you need a ghost writer.

Unknown Speaker 52:29  
She writes everything for me. That's

Gerry Thompson 52:32  
good. No, he listen. He's pointed out like you can't believe are

Speaker 2 52:36  
you? Are you a professor? Yeah, the Pacific, okay, well, can't hold that again. Well, so were

Unknown Speaker 52:43  
they boxers. When you went to school,

James Moore 52:47  
I didn't go to school there. Oh, they've been boxers. It's like 1902,

Speaker 2 52:51  
no, no, no. They were set miles from Fenton. Went there.

James Moore 52:55  
Well, it was, they were, they became unofficial boxers. But they were badgers. Badgers, yeah, they made, yeah. They made an official switch, but they started talking about him as boxers, long one, yeah, all right,

Unknown Speaker 53:06  
that's good to see you. Yeah. Talk to you later, Jim,

Gerry Thompson 53:12  
he's working on a we're trustees of a big estate. And before the gentleman died, I said I went out of this. He was an

alcoholic, a druggie, but a bunch of money. I don't know if you're familiar with the Gerlinger family. Well, that's where it came from, and that family's just rolling in it for generations now, all because they invented that lumber carrier, plus they owned a lot of businesses here in Salem, but they've all become alcoholics and druggies. It's not sad that happens during generations. And the reason I'm involved is his wife was my best friend who died of ALS two years ago. Okay, Page 942, 42 I do have a mark there, grand jury and died of bagu and Sheila, six others with a conspiracy. Eva, they grew from the event that weekend. Oh, I know what it was. This is a question to you. You made me curious that weekend, two Lear jets flew from the ranch and hop scotched across the country. That's not a problem. But later on, it says say three, no, okay, it says two here, but this isn't the but this made me think of another somewhere else. You say they landed in North Carolina and preparing to take another jet to go to Bermuda. I never knew that. I thought they were taking their own jet. They stopped to get refueled. And,

James Moore 54:43

yeah, that's a document in there, but I'll double check it,

Gerry Thompson 54:46

not that it matters, yeah, but that's why, of course, they would have had to stop anyway. But my information was that they were stopping because they had to refuel and they were on the tarmac. And it

James Moore 54:58

may been, I meant to say, in. Other leg inside of another jet. Or, oh, okay, that's,

Gerry Thompson 55:02

I think that's farther back. Mm, hmm, towards the end, very end, right? Not a big deal, okay, 930

James Moore 55:15

Yeah, no one says mid, another arrangement. 445, that's the footnote. It's from Francis Fitzgerald, so I'll just check. I'll just Okay,

Gerry Thompson 55:27

okay, Page 933, and I've got, wow, WW, what in the world? What kind of note was that?

James Moore 55:38

I just enjoyed listing, not necessarily names, but all the different people with the meetings I know, isn't that incredible? Yeah, you guys wanted a secret. Guess what? Yeah, now

Gerry Thompson 55:49

none of you leave this room and talk outside this room. Attorney General within 30 minutes, right? We're going at it. I don't know something on page 933, obviously, 15

James Moore 56:01

tenths, weekly meetings. I think this is, this is what we were just talking about, yeah, from Myers there for that. Norma is doing that.

Gerry Thompson 56:14

Oh, I know what it was. In my mind. I'm thinking, God, Jim's good. As I read this stuff, how you put it together? That's what it was. That's why I wrote. Wow. It is incredible, Jim. It really is.

James Moore 56:30

So one of the fun things about this my actually, my department chair has read this chapter because he's a specialist in suppression of descent. Oh yeah. And there's so much, oh, you could see why you would might want to suppress. Where the governor said, No, we're not suppressing anything. There's just a wonderful stuff in here. But um, because of that, he said, Do you have a shorter one? So the My shortest in the first chapter that I wrote was the unitary tax, oh yeah. It's like a 20 page, uh huh. And so we now give it to our juniors so they can see how to layer stuff. And then I come in and talk about how I write this stuff and and my process is going through, and I find kind of one or two sources. Oftentimes it's

the newspaper thing. I think I started out with Francis Fitzgerald was the very first thing. So you lay down a like a framework, and then you go back and say, okay, so what did the governor say about this? And there's all these things. You layer those in there. I've interviewed Jerry on this. You layer that in there. So by the end, you can't tell what the first one is, yeah, but it's just all layered in there. And so you saying, Wow, Marita does this as well. How did you put this together as well? Because I've got 47 sources, and I go through every single one to layer it in and put it in the right spot. So you can say, Wow. This person said this. This person heard it. This is where it was reported. You would never find those, but I found them, and they're all right next to each other. To each other, and that's

Gerry Thompson 58:03

how it works, amazing. I'm just fascinated with what you're doing. I really am. I'm just, it's a ball well, and you know what else it makes me hurt that the governor's not still alive. He now he may have gotten your way. He may have started saying, well, which case I have

James Moore 58:21

to well, in which case I have him on tape very clearly saying I will not get into your I know,

Gerry Thompson 58:25

but I would be willing to beg, yeah, but it really hurts that he's not here. I just know how pleased he'd be. Oh my gosh,

James Moore 58:33

yeah, there's, there's several things, you know, there's stuff about the family that he didn't know that's in the first couple of chapters. There's stuff about the family that the family didn't know, but he did know. He knew it. But they the, um, his dad had a first wife. Yes, that's right, okay? And the family that in 2011 and lo and behold, it's in 1993 he's talking about its first the first wife. No, he has her name, right? Oh, yeah. And I found it because I had this giant Newspaper Archive, and I just put through Atiyeh from 1898 on, and lo and behold, when George marries Victoria, they travel across the country and stop in like Peoria, Illinois at her sister's house. And there's a little thing in the paper.

Gerry Thompson 59:19

There was something in the paper, in the paper. Then, in those days, they used to put every little

James Moore 59:24

thing, you bitch it, you betcha. But some of sudden, well, there you go. And we don't know how she died. There's a couple of hypotheses. But

Gerry Thompson 59:33

he wrote home said, find me a wife. Well, that's

James Moore 59:37

what he did, 1919, 1920, yeah, that's, that's an arranged marriage, and that's from Donna Campbell, who lived with Linda during

Gerry Thompson 59:45

World War Two. I did not know that either, and so Linda

James Moore 59:48

confided in her a lot. Oh, gosh, yeah. And wow, what an online huh? Yeah. And so, and Donna. I don't even know Donna is still with us. I think she is, but, um, yeah, I think she still is. Oh. She's because she's the last one, well, except, no, because Karen is still alive, the That's right, Ed's wife, but she wasn't part of that. Karen wasn't part of that Washington School group, but Donna was just kind of cheap things. So like the Jim Campbell thing, my husband always said that there was this important thing that he does, but she didn't. And I'm glad I'm thinking, I think that's great.

Gerry Thompson 1:00:26

She didn't know what it was, no and,

James Moore 1:00:27

and because she's, she was, she's, her memory is recursive.

Gerry Thompson 1:00:34

So Plus, she also was a woman in the era when she started, it's not her job, it's her husband, right? Yeah, yeah, yeah, exactly, yeah. I always like Donna alone. Fact there, her daughter worked for me at the insurance company. Oh yeah, that's great.

Unknown Speaker 1:00:48

Yeah. Okay, we've got about three more minutes.

Gerry Thompson 1:00:51

Well, I think I'm done, okay, except I don't I can't find my page 942 942 I've got a note here. 942 my note says Page 942 Sheila. Sheila, what did I do with that?

James Moore 1:01:02

We're just on there. Yeah, Sheila. That's when she's indicted that we were just talking about that page 942, 44 I will often turn them the wrong way. Well,

Gerry Thompson 1:01:13

I do too, but I'll be dipped if I don't know what I did.

James Moore 1:01:20

That's the cut. The cool little story about Mike Sullivan calling the people in Madras with these people with little, tiny waste or running around town, yeah.

Gerry Thompson 1:01:30

Oh, I think I know what I this is coming strictly from my memory. But as I was reading it, all of a sudden, we're talking about the Bhagwan being arrested, and how almost simultaneously, Sheila and her Hinch, you didn't use these words, her henchmen, were being arrested over in Germany,

James Moore 1:01:47

there's a well, there's she scoots in September, right the Bhagwan starts singing. The indictments happen more or less at the same time, and then her getting, they figure out where she is or something. But I'll make that more clear, because it's later.

Gerry Thompson 1:02:09

Well, did you, and you may not want to put it in the book, I mean, that's but you know, their escape and their arrest was always fun for me, and did I know? Not tell you that story you

James Moore 1:02:24

told me, and you told me I couldn't use it when they were telling you the code words they were trying to come up with, singing,

Gerry Thompson 1:02:29

beer stuff, singing, I wish I could remember who in the ag, office, sat in my office, and they were conjuring this up. I wish I could remember who it was, yeah, because it was so funny.

James Moore 1:02:48

Yeah. So I've got a lot of that stuff, but you told me I couldn't, that's fine. Well, that one is, it's like that story, and then the next one was the people from the AGs office mooning the racist.

Gerry Thompson 1:02:58

That's right, we did I remember that conversation. Well, I'd love to use that beer Steinway just for a little bit of levity,

but I there's no way to verify it. What I don't know is if they really ever did use it, yeah, yeah. But it sure seems to me they did in the back of my mind. But memory gets bad. Jim, oh God, it gets bad. The older you get, the worse it is. Jim, thank you. You're welcome. I am going to read it one more time. You're good, good. Yeah, anything something I know that was all just insignificant little newspapers, but that's great, because,

James Moore 1:03:35

as I told you, it's hard to find people who will do more than typos, and I

Gerry Thompson 1:03:42

gotta get you that guy's name too. I told the that. Yeah,

James Moore 1:03:45

yeah. So.

[Recording ends.]