

Gerry Thompson Aug. 2017 interview on Atiyeh, part 1

An interview of Gerry Thompson on the topic of Oregon Governor Victor Atiyeh, recorded on Aug. 7, 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.

After a preliminary casual conversation at the beginning of the recording, the interview includes: the staffing of Atiyeh's governor's office; his interactions with his Press Secretary Denny Miles; the challenges faced during the 1982 special session, including the gross receipts tax proposal and the budget deficit; a brief discussion of the Rajneesh movement (which Thompson and Moore had already discussed in an earlier interview); the governor's decision to raid SAIF funds to offset a budget deficit; the creation of Oregon's income tax "Kicker" in the 1979 legislative session; Atiyeh's leadership style, his staff dynamics, and the political maneuvering involved in legislative initiatives; Thompson's experiences as a governor's chief of staff, detailing the challenges faced in budget approvals, legislative committees, and the governor's interactions with various officials; Atiyeh's approach to making appointments; his Council of Economic Advisors; political dynamics within the Port of Portland; the impact of economic crises such as the energy crisis of the 1970s and the Mount St. Helens eruption.

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

[Recording begins mid-conversation.]

Gerry Thompson 00:01
How was the drive down?

James Moore 00:03
I was actually pretty good. Just, the closer you get to Salem the smoke is settled, and it smells like gasoline, almost. I thought it was. I was behind an older van when I was on the parkway, yeah, yeah, you know. And then it just stayed there. So I switched to recycle the air, and all of a sudden, I guess it was much better.

Gerry Thompson 00:26
It's our turn to get it, because you guys had it worse than we did.

James Moore 00:29
Yeah, yeah, those darn Canadians burning their forests. Yeah, it's marathon anyway. Exactly. Well, for crying out loud. There's your Rajneeshees.

Gerry Thompson 00:40
Oh, good, good. [Gerry moves away from the microphone and is difficult to hear for a moment.]

James Moore 00:55
Okay. I usually park kind of up the street from yours.

Speaker 1 01:20
[Away from microphone; she appears to be speaking to her dog.]

Gerry Thompson 01:43
I ah, you know, when you live alone and everything is the way you want it to be at all times-- when you got stuff like this going on, it drives me nuts.

James Moore 01:52

Well, it's funny, because when I came up the road, I thought, has it been that hot that she had to cover her hydrangeas? I mean, Geez Louise!

Gerry Thompson 02:02

[Laughs.] "She must be a finicky old broad!" [Speaking to her dog:] You know what, I'm going to put you away... [Continues speaking to her dog while putting it in another room.] I don't want any interruptions... [continues settling her dog]. Yeah, so how's your shoulder?

Speaker 1 02:53

James Moore 02:53

It's getting better. I can do "this."

Gerry Thompson 02:55

Are you thinking about therapy?

James Moore 03:01

Well, yeah, in the therapy is really minor at this point ... [they discuss health issues for a moment].

Gerry Thompson 03:15

Have you talked to Denny [Miles] since he's been reading a couple of chapters [of Moore's draft of his Atiyeh biography]? No, I didn't know he was reading.

James Moore 03:34

I gave him the 1982 election because he's kind of the center of it. Yeah. Oh, absolutely. And then he was actually enthused about the voice and all that. So I gave him 1974 and 78 elections as well. Good.

Gerry Thompson 03:51

And so that's his niche.

Speaker 2 03:53

That's his niche. And he has lots and lots of things... And some of them, if I can verify them, I will put them in, but if I can't verify them, I stick with what I got. I gotta say--

Speaker 3 04:07

Typical Denny. Typical Denny. You know, I -- just an aside all this that's going on in Washington, DC.

Gerry Thompson 04:17

What's his name? They call him the "mooch"...

Speaker 3 04:19

Scaramucci. [i.e. Anthony Scaramucci, who served very briefly as President Trump's Press Secretary just before this interview was recorded.] Yeah. Wanting to have the direct access to the President. Yeah, we went through that big time.

Speaker 2 04:27

It's Question number two, actually, oh, really, not that. But there's, there's, I want to get your story about Denny, staff, etc, and I've written the chapter on running the governor's office. I'm not even sure it will go back in, but it will go back in because of him being rehired, when people there was an expectation that he would go off and do other things, and he's talked about that. So it's not going to be a surprise to him, but you. You know, I that that is important to have that, that little piece. So,

Unknown Speaker 05:06

yeah, it's

Speaker 2 05:09

just the whole 10 days of Scaramucci and, you know, all the stuff that I've been going to the drama here, not nowhere near as much, but there's a cockiness there, and Denny's quite upfront about it, and I found a lot of verifying stuff. People were pissed off by that cockiness. And, you know, he learned how to live with it, and some people learned how to live with it, and some people didn't, but the governor wanted him, so

James Moore 05:46

it's just, it's just fascinating.

Gerry Thompson 05:48

Well, that's where he got in trouble initially. Is Lee Johnson didn't want him included anything. Yeah, and I think Lee just couldn't stand any as a person period end of subject, and that form fermented feelings about Denny amongst that group of guys, and he would not include any in anything. Well, then when I came in, and you need to know, I wasn't responded to any either, I mean, and of course, he immediately had been in, talked to the governor about having direct access, he was going to feed through me, and that's why this all comes to my mind. And the governor just basically said, you figure it out. Well, I didn't mind him having access to the governor, but if I was going to do my job, as was billed by the governor, as being his alter ego, right, I wasn't going to be excluded on anything. Yeah. And I also viewed my role as making sure that the governor got the straight stories or that he got enough enough opinions that he could weigh his own and Denny can be very heavy handed. And that always bothered me, not that I thought the governor would crumble to him, but it bothered me because Danny would not give in, if it's not black, it's not black, and I'm not going to give in, and I won't accept anybody else's opinion. And that's the way he would approach things with the governor a lot of the times. That was good. And I will tell you, it was my recommendation we bring him back. And the reason it was that the he could debate any issue with the governor, I mean any issue, and he could take whatever side was necessary.

You have no idea how many times I would say, okay, Denny, you need to go in there and argue the case against whatever, or argue the case for and debate prep. He was excellent at debate prep. Beyond that. I really this sounds egotistical to my part. I don't mean it that way at all, but I really think the governor was concerned. He was concerned about the feelings about Denny. He thought it would abate in time, and it didn't. It just it continued. Got worse, and the press did not like him. Media had no use for Denny and went but I knew Denny would do the campaign, and that's why I took him out and sent him up to Portland for the campaign. And the governor was all for that. He figured Denny would really manage the campaign well, and he did. And of course, I laid a strict law down that nobody on governor's staff was to be involved in the campaign, not at all, and that we weren't to inform Denny what was happening unless it was something of a critical nature. Well, then when it came, when it was time to come back in, there was no promise to Denny that he be back. And I had told him, Danny, I'm sorry, you got to stop your you got to stop your purse, you got to stop your health insurance. You got to do but you're doing it for the boss, and to this day, he's still not real happy with me about it, yeah, but that's how it could be, yeah. Well, and in the meantime, Paul Phillips is trying to negotiate directly with the governor. Let him go out and run for office, but stay on the payroll. And I said, No way. That's ain't gonna happen on my watch. Yeah, I'm not gonna have that coming back at us. Yeah, and Paul, to this day, doesn't speak to me, yeah. Well, came time with the campaign's over, and Governor says, What do you want to do? And I said, as far as I'm concerned, Dave Fisk comes done one whale of a job, and he had and I said I would take Dave in a minute. But personally, I think we owe it to Danny to bring him back. And that's another time when the governor said, Go handle it. But I really think Governor would have brought Dave back. Yeah. Can. He liked Dave a lot, yeah. And he had a whole different

James Moore 10:05

temperament, yeah, yeah. Well, and then you guys use Dave in a fascinating way. He becomes your liaison with bologna Joe's. And I

Gerry Thompson 10:12

put him on the streets in Portland, exactly, he was our street person. Yeah, did you you interviewed? No, I haven't, I haven't,

James Moore 10:22

haven't interviewed him yet, because I needed to have more than just so what was it like when, oh, yeah, there for the six months. And that's, that's the key thing, is the Rajneeshee side. So, yeah, that's, it's

Gerry Thompson 10:37

Dave's a great guy. Yeah, he really is. Anyway, all this that's going to Washington DC, is just, I'm getting flashbacks, like, I can't believe because Denny would have given his it to have direct access. And I said, Sorry, no, I'll never enter. I'll never intervene. But I want you to let me know what you're going in there for, because I'm not going to be left out of the loop. Ever, not, ever, ever, right?

James Moore 11:01

Well, fascinating to me, because then when Denny takes on the campaign job, he demands that there are no private meetings with the consultant. Oh yeah, oh yeah. So he wants it his way, but then he wants it the other way. Did

Gerry Thompson 11:16

he tell you the story where he almost quit over it? Yeah? Yeah, yep, yep, yep, he different, yeah, fascinating, fascinating, typical inner circles of offices, yeah, but I just, I'm so fascinated what's going on in the White House, yeah, and

James Moore 11:38

I mean, you've watched government and been a part of government for a long time. There's always something that people want to do. So you guys, there were things that the governor wanted to do. I got to tell you, at the end of the 79 session, his plans for the future were pretty weak. He did the and I've talked, I've talked to Denny about this. At one point, I said, you know, what do you think he would have done without the recessions? Because it's not, there's not much there, except, you know, let's make government more friendly for business kind of things. And things would have come up, but then the recession, you know that? That's it, boom. And then it's, my God, we gotta get this economy going again. So there's a real purpose there. But in the White House right now, the only purpose is, are you loyal to Trump? There's no policy. There's, there's not even, as we saw with the health care thing, there's not even repealing a policy. There's, there's nothing except, are you loyal to the President? Well,

Gerry Thompson 12:35

and in some ways, and I'm going to say things I probably regret, maybe, maybe we can go off the record. Can we do that? Sure in some ways. And you know that I adored and I loved him. I absolutely loved Vick Tia, and there were things about him that I thought were absolutely, unbelievably good, almost too good to be true. But he was a little bit like I'm viewing Donald Trump. Vic got his jolly, so to speak, being out in the public, getting their feedback, being their friend. And as you can see, he just spitting. Oh yeah. He was never in the office gym, unless he had to be. It just was never enough us. And I kind of see that in Donald Trump. He's getting his jollies by being in front of all these people who give him all the and I will tell you, and this is really off the record, because I don't want to, I don't want to Damn my boss. When the economy faltered, we'd been working hard on energy. We'd already started the Columbia Gorge. We were working on

James Moore 13:55

land use. Was beginning to percolate,

Gerry Thompson 13:57

did I? Did I not say land use? Yeah, that he was disturbed. Land use was ready to go, and nobody was doing anything. Yeah, and we really put, we really put the pressure on counties and cities, yeah, and it's a good thing we did, because the economy was faltering. The fishing industry was going down. The timber industry was going down. Agriculture was having nothing but trouble because of land use, not because of land use, but because of their perception of the land use plan. And one night, I woke up middle of night, and I thought, he doesn't even have an economic development plan. Talk about he doesn't have anything. We don't even discuss it. I went into him one morning and I said, Governor, I we need to put together some kind of a strategic blend for economic development. Oh, okay. And that's when I called in John Lobdell, and I don't remember who all they were, and we call it the economic. Development the economic

recovery plan. I think it was economic recovery committee, and we worked night and day, and we put the whole plan together. And I'm not telling you Jim to make you think that it was all about me, but that was one of my biggest disappointments in him, that he had nothing, nothing at all, and he let me just roll with it, yeah. He just go do it, yeah.

James Moore 15:30

And I've just written a part in maybe March or February of 1981 he's down in Bandon. And Bandon is in deep doo, doo because, you know, the timber industry is gone. Fishing is a problem. But they look at Newport, and Newport has redone their harbor so they can get a fishing fleet to be basically looking at

Gerry Thompson 15:57

putting a little airport in there too. Yeah, which now delivery of flowers. Yeah.

James Moore 16:01

Now they do for the for the golf course, actually, they go into coup space, still, when they tried down, but in any case, but so, so Bannon put together thing. They floated a bond for like, 1.6 million. They had 150,000 grand from the state, 800,000 from the feds. And this is, you know, this is, this is the third month or second month of Reagan, and Reagan is saying, Oh, that, that grant you got from us, guess what? That that office is going to be cut by 75% and go to zero next year. There's no grant. And so the economic development director is saying to Vic and Mark Hatfield is there, what are you guys going to do for us? And Vic is so you just want to slap him. It's like, well, you know, don't, don't spend any money until you have it and and you really have to make do with what you have. And it's like, Give me a break. So then this guy goes off, and he tears into not only Reagan, but Stockman. And so my line there is, within a few months, viktia would be taking the radical line on Stockman as well. But it's just fascinating to watch him not respond to that. And then it picks up

Gerry Thompson 17:11

same thing on the on the repeal of the unitary tax. We left the negotiations with NEC. We're driving down the freeway, lawn and Vic are sitting in the front seat, and I'm in the back seat. And I said, Governor, I know there would be payback if we could repeal the unitary tax, because it would immediately bring us two of the Japanese plants and their word is gold. I mean, Japanese are just that way. Yeah. And I said, I know they like you. They trust you. Nope. Can't repeal any taxes or not. What a time like this. And I mean, he was adamant, I said, so I can remember I sat in the car for a long time, in that back seat, really quiet, and I'm thinking to myself, I just know, I just know if we did that, instantly, we would have two major and it would more than replace what the unitary tax was. Yeah. So before we got to Salem I brought it up again. I said, Governor, would you consider it? No, no. I mean, he was adamant, no. I'm sure inside of him. It was like he was doing something he shouldn't do to entice business. That's the only thing I could come up with. Yeah, I remember I even came home and talked to my husband. I said, I don't know how to move him off center. I just know that's the right thing to do. Well, about mid morning the next day, he called me in. He said, Go ahead, get ready to it. Yeah,

James Moore 18:41

there's a real sense in that and some other decisions, some of them actually in the Rajneeshee thing, where there's, you know, he said in his ways, something will hit No, no, no, but actually relatively quickly, so 24 hours or whatever, he'll sleep on it. He'll think, but we don't ever get to see that thinking, well,

Gerry Thompson 19:04

you remember I told you in the very beginning, I realized his mind worked differently than most, yeah. And I got the book about that, yeah, Arab mind, yeah. And I've got three

James Moore 19:15

of them so far, and I have not found anything that works. But by God, I'm gonna find that book.

Gerry Thompson 19:21

Oh, I know. I wish I still had it, but it was, it was kind of the, I mean, the way I would describe it is, he would tell me, here's a and I want it to be at Z, right? And nothing in between, right? Nothing, yeah, all right. It was just like the big, dark hole. Okay, so why do we want to get to Z or what's the goal? Or nothing? Yeah, it was very difficult to deal with

that way. He really was. The good news is I had a father. He was an Arab but I had a father that his first answer to everything was no, but. Exactly. And you know that I love the man, but I tell you, it was frustrating. Time really was Yeah. It just really was Yeah. It's

James Moore 20:10

once again, wondering about, if there had not been the recessions, what his governorship would have been like, but also wondering what would have happened if he would have not hired you, but hired another version of Lee Johnson. Well, I think it was basically lobbying him all the time, not giving him straight scoop on anything.

Gerry Thompson 20:29

No, no, no. He had his agenda, and that was it, yeah, and to this day, I think it was terrible. What was now, all of a sudden, it's out of my mind. But he negotiate, Lee Johnson, negotiate, I was dealt the count at the insurance company, and he negotiated a deal, oh, had to do with PERS.

James Moore 20:53

Was it the 1979 it was with the negotiating with the employees, yes, yeah, yes. So it's called the purse pickup, yes,

Gerry Thompson 21:03

yes. And that was Lee's baby, yeah. And I was appalled. I have to tell you, I was absolutely appalled. I could not believe it. I even sent Vic a note and said, long term, do you know what this is going to do? Yeah. And I thought, Well, he'll, you know, he won't allow it to happen.

James Moore 21:24

Yeah? Oh, he backed up his team.

Gerry Thompson 21:27

I was appalled, Jim. I was absolutely appalled. And that takes us to the, I don't want to get you out of order. That takes us to the safe raid. Yeah,

James Moore 21:36

yeah. So before you get into the safe raid, I have to ask a question. Do you know where the safe raid come from? Came from? Yep. And so tell me your story. Then I'll ask the question, because if you answer the question, it'll be

Unknown Speaker 21:54

great. Well,

Gerry Thompson 21:58

he calls me in one morning, and he said, I want you to go over to safe. He said, I understand that they've got far too much in reserve. And you know enough about reserving in an insurance company. I want you to go over and see what you can find out. And that was Monet Montgomery day, yeah. And Roy Livermore, I think, yeah, sure, yeah.

James Moore 22:24

He's, he's the chair. He's kind of consistent through there as well. Yeah. And then when new breeze on the LIN new board,

Gerry Thompson 22:32

and right on, right off the top my head. And I had no basis for saying, and I'll admit that up front, but I said, Victor, you don't play around with reserves in insurance companies, you just don't and I said, you know that money belongs to the insurance? Well, not if they're over reserved. I said, Well, maybe health insurance is different. But I said, You know what? I'd rather be over reserved than under reserved, because we got to meet those claims, and you never know what's coming out. Coming at you. You go look. So I don't even remember who I went and talked to with somebody on staff, because I knew Monty would be up straight with me. And I came back to Victor, and I said, Well, certainly by today's standards, they have more reserves and they need and he said, Well, I think we're going to go in there and see if we can take some of that reserve to offset the budget deficit. And I literally did say, Governor, I'm going to be so bold as to tell

you, I think that's a dead ass wrong decision. Those are the words I used. No he said, they don't need the money. We need the money. And he said, I've, I've turned over every any had. I mean, he would call in and he would tell staff, go find it. I don't care where it is, find me money. So I got him shut the door, and I said, Vic, I know you don't worry about being re elected, but this could damage your reputation amongst the small business folks who you sing the praises for and defend all the time. This is just a strike against them completely and totally. No, no. And I said, Well, you got to explain it to me. His good friend, Jim Campbell,

James Moore 24:26

just answered my question. Donna said to me, Well, Jim said that he came up with this idea on something I was thinking, safe rate. So there we go.

Gerry Thompson 24:41

Jim Campbell had called him, and, you know, he had his own little insurance agency, but he wasn't the brightest insurance man around. Now, I sound like I'm being terribly critical of people right now, and I don't like it Jim, but Jim Campbell was somebody that came up through the good old boys and. At work, he didn't know up from down, and when it came to health insurance, he was calling me all the time, and he just did not know.

James Moore 25:07

Phil Lang said the same thing, because I just hate insurance people. Just amazing. I

Gerry Thompson 25:16

just hate to tear people down, right? But Jim was just going along with a ride. He didn't have to do anything. He didn't have to write the insurance. He didn't have to worry about it. The insurance company was failing. He just went out and shook hands. Right? He had called the governor, and they'd had a long conversation about it, and Jim Campbell was convinced that they were ripping off the off employers, and we needed to get that money back, and this was a perfect time to do it. I said, have Jim come in, would you let's us three talk? Well, yeah, Vic said that'd be good idea. Let's do that. Never happened. Jim wouldn't come in. And then it got all hush hush, but that's where it came from. Then the other thing that amazed me, Jim, now you're making me exposed things that I never was gonna tell anybody,

James Moore 26:15

as you'll see when you go through the Rajneeshees. Much doesn't make it, because there's a flow to a story. And my habit is I want to include every damn thing, but I also say we've got to go from here to there, I

Gerry Thompson 26:29

know. So that's probably the hardest part. It is. But

James Moore 26:32

as Denny said when he read the election ones, I will stop the story and tell something. So in 1982 election, election, election. Stop little subheading. We go blow up a sign, yeah, yeah, yeah. And after three pages, we're back. Yeah, but you know, we really gotta go, yeah, yeah, dear, oh, dear, oh, dear.

Gerry Thompson 26:59

Where was I going? Oh, well, now Vic is adamant we're going to do it. I mean, there was no talking him out of it. There was no discussing it. It was over with Jim wouldn't come in and meet with the three of us. And I don't know that was Jim's idea or the governor's idea. I didn't care. I offered and that was it, right? Governor says, go over to the AGs office and tell them what we're going to do and tell them to make it legal. Oh, okay, so I go meet with Dave from Mayer. And was it Stan?

James Moore 27:34

I think it was Stan because I talked to Bill Gary. Well, that's why I was

Gerry Thompson 27:38

trying to Murph. It was Stan or Bill Gary, yeah,

James Moore 27:43

I can't remember what Bill told me if because he was involved, but I'm not known if he was involved at that level.

Gerry Thompson 27:51

Boy, I don't remember what. I'll tell you what though Bill was in on almost everything we did. Yeah, but Stan long was a different person than Bill Gary Stan long would have fit well into the Washington DC scene today, smart as smart as can be. And to this day, I adore Stan long, but it was one of those guys you have to just say okay, and then walk away and think it through yourself. Well, no problem. We can do it. So we went from there and started having meetings. And of course, Monte Montgomery blew up, and Roy Livermore was mad, and I thought surely Newbery would come through and sit down with Vic and talk some sense into him. And I don't know, truthfully, if he ever did or not, but certainly not to my knowledge. And it got pretty cantankerous. I can remember sitting over there in the conference room, and mind you, no governor, it was always me right, right, sitting in that conference room. And boy, they were angry as can be, and they weren't going to relinquish. And finally the fist came down and said, This is the way it is. Is what the governor wants. This is what we're going to do. Yeah, and I, and Jim, I, I literally was physically sick over that one. Yeah,

James Moore 29:14

I can, I can imagine, it seems, I mean, with the governor's, yeah, the only story Gary Bill Gary tells about is Monty Montgomery coming in to sign things for the Oregon loggers and safe and literally having a hat with two sides. It's like, you know, do you have no shame? Apparently, not.

Gerry Thompson 29:38

But one of the governor's best friends, I know,

James Moore 29:42

I know, but just ethically it, it should have jumped out, but it didn't now. So, so looking at this, put it in a context, is this vickatea, or is this vickatea At the end of his tether because he can't find any. More money and the budget isn't, oh, I

Gerry Thompson 30:01

think that had a big bearing on it. I think that had he, you know, we did do the tax surcharge, but he didn't want to. It was the wrong time, in his opinion. And I, and I had to agree with him, if we could do it without taxation, right, we would all be better off. His biggest problem was, everybody was talking about recession and economic downturn, he said, we keep talking ourselves into the bad times. Why don't we turn it around? Let's talk our way out of it. Let's get positive. Let's get something happening. And he felt that tax, any additional taxes, would just be the debt. I mean, we were cutting everything, and we had nothing happen. Jim, it was really bleak. I mean, people have when I say this last little, tiny recession, was nothing compared to what we've got. There was nothing happening. There was no building. There were the fish. We couldn't bring in the salmon. There was a big war over the salmon. The timber industry was dead. Agriculture couldn't sell their products. It was horrible, absolutely horrible. And I think he just, he was desperate to save our state and make sure that people weren't standing in food lines. And he did get a lot of credit for that. I remember being at Governor meetings and Governor saying, Vic, what are you doing out there? I don't see pictures of guys in food people standing in food lines. We were the worst in the nation. Yeah, and it's amazing that we got through what we got through. And I think Vic was hurting. I really it's the best way I can say it, that he was actually hurting. But then Jim, that just takes me right back around. Why wouldn't he sit down and let us strategize about what we could do to turn the economy around? Right? I just yeah, that blows my mind. Yeah,

James Moore 31:50

the whole because he started up his Council of Economic Advisors a year before the group that you headed up. So we had the they served a different role. Let's do the problem, and you guys are, let's find some solutions, but, but that that tension is always there. Tension is always there. Then when he it's gets into especially the international trips, but it's also going to California for companies and Saturn and all those other kinds of things, then he just switches totally to getting business. And it's like, Well, that's good, but there's still the other side. So it's just,

Gerry Thompson 32:29

it's just, but he switched to his niche, yeah, he

James Moore 32:33

switched to being a salesman, which he was good at.

Gerry Thompson 32:36

Yeah, he loved to do the glad handing, and he loved to feel good and, and he got a lot of strokes, and I'm not putting him down for that, because I've been there, done that myself, and it does help, yeah, but that's, that's where he got real comfortable, and I will, and I again, I'll say this, I'll probably regret it, but that's when he just really, I mean, Jim, off the record. It was my show. Oh yeah, yeah. Absolutely, record, it was my show. Absolutely he wasn't there. Yeah, not at all, yeah.

James Moore 33:10

And I already have you enough of record to put that together in ways that make sense and are not that

Gerry Thompson 33:18

bad. It sounds terrible, but, no, but, and I'm not trying to pump my ego. That sounds like I'm choosing myself now, but I'm not. I didn't. I never did, even when I worked for him, I could care less. Yeah, I remember Norma Paulus call me saying Jared, you got more power than anybody else in this state, and you need to use it. What? Yeah,

James Moore 33:39

not my job.

Gerry Thompson 33:42

Yeah. But I it's funny when I when you said you were coming down again, I've been holding all this stuff in my head, and I thought, yeah, maybe I'll just share a little bit of it.

James Moore 33:53

Well, that's good, because I keep talking to Denny about versus under things, and he says, Oh, check these files. It's like, I don't say, Denny, we don't have those files. You have those files so they aren't going to be in the book. And that's fine. But you know, I can't check the CNES on 1978 because you have them and you have not given them to us. It's like, okay,

Gerry Thompson 34:18

but see, there was another thing that used to bother me, Jim, Denny could manipulate Vic like he couldn't believe now, and I don't mean on the big things, he never, ever made a decision based on what Denny told him, but he can get, he could get things from Victor that I wouldn't have had the audacity to ask for. It's just like when he was writing something. We were out of office, and I was with him. We went to have lunch with Vic. Vic let him go in his little back office and go through all of his files. He walks out with all of his appointment cards. I. I said, Danny, I don't think you should take those. Oh, yeah, I have to have him because I'm writing my own memoir, and I need to follow the well, he kept and Vic, let that, let him do that kind of stuff. I would no more do that than yeah,

James Moore 35:14

there's a crucial meeting that I need to find, and it's on the six months that we still have not pried out at any that you were that I need to find this meeting. And I, I have a news report of it, but I would really love to see how many meetings there were. It's the creation of the kicker. Oh, um, and, but, and that's six months that first six months of the governorship is not there

Gerry Thompson 35:39

those cards, don't he kept someone Oh, yeah, yeah. I just think that's so wrong. I just see you're letting me just spill my guts. I'm sorry I put all these things have been inside me for so long. I was so frustrated in that office. Oh, my God, I was frustrated. It's the same thing with the he, he redid the Oregon seal and he minted some silver, right? Well, all of a sudden there weren't any more for us to buy. Guess who's got him? Oh, I could go on and on. And he'd fight Oh, Danny would fight with Pan Amadeo. He'd fight with Kate Duran, he'd fight with everybody. Oh, and he came over here and got some my files. I said, sure, but I want him back. Danny, well, they came back. But guess what? A couple of his

evaluations are missing. Well, those were evaluations where I was telling if he didn't straighten up, he was going, those evaluations are now gone, and I didn't even think about it, yeah, but he, like a dumb fool, said to me, Boy, oh, boy, you know that first evaluation you did in me? Yeah, he's that was really hard on me. That was really tough, but I really appreciate it because you called it the way it was, and that gave me an opportunity to do some other ones. I said, Well, do you remember your second and third evaluation? No, and after he left, I thought they're gone. You don't want to trail. Yeah, anyway, yeah, off and on. Yep,

James Moore 37:13

fun stuff. Um, so let's go to do you want to hear the kicker came from? Yeah, I do, nailed it down. Yeah, I do, nailed it down. So in 1979 it comes in as part of that. So that's not where it came from. It's part of major 11, which was the legislative response to property tax in 1978 and so that's great. And it's like, word for word in that measure, really? Yeah, it's like, Wow, where did this come from? So I trace it back, and it turns out there was a special committee that was appointed for the special session during that election, right? And so they point the special committee. And it turns out that the special committee, Senate and House, splits into two, Earl Blumenauers, the chair of one, and Jack Rippers, the head of the other committee and Earl Blumenauers Committee, which is basically designed On the the Ripper committee is for property tax stuff. The Blumenauer committee is for income stuff. That's how they divided it up. Yes, how they divided it up. And then they came together, voted on it, and that's what they recommended to the legislature, and they passed everything the next week. And so the Blumenauer committee says, Well, you know, one of the big issues is that we keep having these surpluses as the surpluses, they were having hundreds of millions of dollars of surpluses every year. Yeah, that big time. Yeah, that's within 79 that's why they took 707

Gerry Thompson 38:51

Yeah, just gonna say, when they're like 700 Well,

James Moore 38:53

they didn't. The surpluses were 700 million ish, but that's not the true surplus. A true surplus is smaller. But then they took stuff out and said, We want to give it back. And so, well, that's fascinating, because Earl's committee comes out and says what we need to do is when the budget is bigger than we need. They didn't say 2% or anything. They said we need to put it into specific programs. And they specifically said property tax relief and education, which makes perfect sense. Yeah, the next day, the other committee reports, and there's a guy who's a senator from Cornelius, who as Bill Grilnell, eventually told me a policy wonk he was not guy named Hanlon. Oh, yeah, and says, Well, you know what, we've got three specific points, one of which is, if the income of the state is 2% over the projection, the entire surplus should go back. It's the kicker. And so that's what I had. And so then I sent off. Notes to Tony Van Vliet, who is on the committee. I've got another call in to Earl, because he's gone to August recess. I'd love to talk to you about this bill Burnell, I tracked him down. He's a medical missionary or something in Mexico. Oh, really, but I found him. He then sends me email back, and he responds, he gives me this big hole thing. So here's what the real deal was. As Vic suspected when I interviewed him, it was Jason Bo the whole time. And Jason Bowe never wanted his fingers on legislation, because if his fingers were on it, people would try to fight him. And so Jason Bo had this idea, and in this special session, a special committee, he put together the plan that Hanlon presented. Oh, for crying. Hanlon had an ego where he'd say he could, he could very easily think it was his plan. And so they go and they do this whole thing, and they put it in place. Then it fails, the voters say no. So then next year, it comes back in a weird way. Vic has promised that if his property tax plan is rejected by the legislature, which it was, that he's going to put it before the voters, he's going to have an initiative. So his says his plan fails, they go on to what eventually became their own plan in the legislature. And lo and behold, lb day and Bob Smith come out in February and say, we've been meeting with the governor. Here's the governor's initiative. And in the governor's initiative is this, 2%

Gerry Thompson 41:37

there it is, right there. Again,

James Moore 41:41

this the House passes its own plan. There's no 2% in there. It goes to the Senate. 2% is there. And so I initially thought, wow, Bob Smith was actually able to convert convict. You know, basically, get all those Democrats to go along. No, no, no. What the real case is, is that either Vic and Bob and LB day, probably all three of them, they knew that Beau was going to put this in there, so they just wanted to be ahead of the game. But the Senate then said, Yeah, we want to have

that in there. Then they put together the conference committee, and the conference committee has Beau sitting on it, and hardy Myers sitting on it, as Grinnell said, this is a strong message that you need to go along with the Senate version. And boom, we get the kicker. Vic's initiative goes nowhere. They spend \$25,000 and they get, as far as I can tell, 4000 signatures of the 54,000 that they need. God knows why. I don't care. But it's basically Jason bow, and it goes through all these interesting iterations. We now think of the kicker as, oh, that was the legislature. Oh, yeah, doing you know the other 1979 it's earlier. It's Jason Bo, it took two shots. It has this interesting go. This is where I bluffing. You know, Vick, you need to be alive because there are things you didn't tell me or you didn't remember.

Gerry Thompson 43:11

But you know, now I'm suspicious, because he and Bo were pretty close.

James Moore 43:16

Yeah, no, I have a great thing. Grinnell said that's that says something like to the effect, if it was good for Jason Bo, it was good for viki, yes,

Gerry Thompson 43:23

yes, absolutely. So that's what I'm wondering. If he and Bo got a deal,

James Moore 43:28

yeah, yeah, if I usually could, then talking to Vic, when I interviewed him in 2013 about the kicker, because that was one of the first questions I asked. It was on your watch, and quite frankly, it's been a disaster. Yes, it is. And at that point, he said, you know, at the time, it made sense, but it doesn't make any sense anymore. And I'm I didn't sign it, but I would have vetoed it if I'd known. Well, he did sign it. He said he didn't sign it, yeah, well, because there was a package of three bills, he didn't sign the property tax, but he did sign

Gerry Thompson 44:03

the income tax, yeah,

James Moore 44:06

but then finding out that that he and Smith and day were having these meetings on his own initiative, and it went in there, it's like, I gotta tell you, Vic, your fingers don't look clean. No, no, they don't look clean on but this is the kind of thing that I love doing.

Gerry Thompson 44:28

I love you're doing it too. Like, wow, that's where that came from. Isn't that interesting? Yeah,

James Moore 44:35

so it's and the other context from that 1977 79 legislature, this is the one where they eventually strip the Lange of his powers.

Gerry Thompson 44:43

Oh, I've gotten about that. Yeah, yeah.

James Moore 44:47

Who's the judge? Who's the one, who's the head stripper is Grinnell. So there's the and Earl is on the Lang side. Grinnell is there as a coalition with the Republicans. No, we're on. The Other Side. So that more conservative thing makes sense. Bo had the same thing. He appointed, well, he just didn't appoint liberal Republic Liberal Democrats from Portland onto committees, and they were pissed off. So when this special committee is going through, Bo says, well, here's who I'm going to appoint. And he appointed his majority of his acolytes. And he talked with Brunel, who was on the special committee. Since Lang wasn't making appointments, there was a special committee making appointments. He talked with them, and they loaded the committee House and Senate. So to go with whatever boat

Gerry Thompson 45:40

purple. You must just drive yourself nuts.

James Moore 45:43

It's it's a blast.

Gerry Thompson 45:48

I just would love to follow you around doing all this. This is incredible,

James Moore 45:52

just a blast.

Gerry Thompson 45:56

And you're telling me things now that oh my gosh, oh my gosh, you're glad in after your glass, that is just too good. Jim,

James Moore 46:13

watching our legislature now, I don't think there's anybody who can do that.

Gerry Thompson 46:17

No, you know I was gonna say to you, think about those guys that were involved? Yeah, I don't think there's any. Were all the honchos, and yet,

James Moore 46:24

they all got along. They all got along. They all went and fishing together. Yeah, played cards. The first violation of the Open Meeting Law was that Jason Bo's house. I believe it, I absolutely believe it. Oh, this can't be a meeting just because everybody's here. It's my house. We're just hanging out well,

Gerry Thompson 46:47

and then you go, well, be day the biggest blow hard in the world. Yeah. I mean, I honestly, the first week I was in the governor's office, he knew me. We knew each other. Well, I could hear him yelling my name cleared down at the Senate chambers. Thompson, why didn't you okay? Here it goes. Here we go. Oh my gosh, Jim, that is fascinating. So yeah, it's just, I love it, because you're beginning to kind of pull everything in now. And yeah,

James Moore 47:20

yeah. I told you when I was writing, I wrote what I thought was way too much on the the about Vic's legislative career, but I was only focusing on things that would become relevant. And he was in legislature a long time. Things became relevant. I talked to you about major 97 that we just went through. That's Mark Hatfields proposal that bickie a carried in 1963 Oh, you're kidding me, no. And then in 83 or 82 he brings it back. That's his initial proposal for the gross receipts tax. It's Hatfields that he carried. And so here we are, you know, so clearly, wow, I'm glad I put that in there, because it was really wrong. There

Gerry Thompson 48:05

was Yeah, but, and he and Mark were very, very good friends. Yeah, they

James Moore 48:10

were very, very, very good friends. Mark was an honorary Young Turk, but I had just in the 77 session, which is not that great a session. And it kind of cuts off because Vic decides he's gonna run for office, and so we just go get that election done. But I put in there about Phil Lang's being stripped with powers and and, you know, that's just kind of a paragraph, a little aside, isn't that neat? And all of a sudden it's like, oh, that's the middle of the story. Oh, glad I already had that in there. Ah, in there. We didn't need more than a paragraph, because at the time, you know, well, whatever.

Gerry Thompson 48:47

But you know, sudden, it's like, oh, what you're doing, you're the only one that's gonna pick up those little trails. Yeah, exactly. That's what's fascinating me, yeah, is that, if you weren't doing this, those little trails are gone. Yeah, they're

James Moore 48:58

gone. They're gone along those lines with that Ed that I asked you if you remembered that initial

Gerry Thompson 49:06

Well, I got some stuff on that. Okay, yeah, but I came across

James Moore 49:09

a memo to John Junker that had that Ed thing attached. So I sent off an email to John Juncker, and I got a note from his wife, saying that he has memory issues, and he's he's done.

Gerry Thompson 49:24

I wondered about John because, well, I talked, I've got it on my face, on my tablet. I talked to her. Name is Margaret Loftus, and she and I, and all the time I was there, I didn't know Margaret at all. I did not but she obviously knew me, and knew of me and her daughter is my best friend. Just a minute. Excuse me, Jim. No, that's all right. No, don't use the rest for real quick. No, unless you got a quarter.

James Moore 49:56

I got quarters in my car. Leave a quarter in the pack. Yeah. Yeah.

Unknown Speaker 50:02

Thank you very much.

Gerry Thompson 50:04

You don't even need to ask. Just come in. What was I saying? Oh, Margaret. Margaret, so I sent her, I didn't send her your email, but I sent her one and said that you were the biographer, and you'd run across these. And she said, Well, she'd find rich and find out, because Rich is off on vacation somewhere, okay? But she said rich would probably know, yeah, and she did find rich. And she said if you could send to him via email the charts, sure, that way he'd be able to figure out who it is. Yeah, that was the message I was going to send you. Good,

James Moore 50:43

good. Also, because I've done a lot of specific things on taxes, and so I'm going to ask rich if I can run by big chunks of chapters. Oh, yeah, which he did remember that document I did on different types of taxes. Types of taxes. I ran that by him, and he had lots of good little tweaks.

Gerry Thompson 51:08

Isn't he a great guy? Yeah, yeah, I loved and Rich was? He was my stalwart. Yeah,

James Moore 51:16

he's amazing. And you know, When did he start doing this stuff? When he was 12. I know it. I find you in the 1963 or 65 legislature. How old are you?

Gerry Thompson 51:31

I know it. It's smart. Yeah, he knew that, you know. And he and Vic really got along quite well. Yeah, you guys doing okay out

Speaker 4 51:39

there? Yeah, we got the whole thing sprayed. Now we're just trimming and cleaning up.

Gerry Thompson 51:43

Do you really you're gonna be done today? I don't

Speaker 4 51:47

know if the weather's gonna let us be, because once it gets so hot, yeah, and it gets clean, the gutters doesn't work. So no, you guys need some cold water. We've got a bunch, I'm sure. Yeah, okay. Appreciate it. Thank you. If we are done today, then we'll be done in a few hours tomorrow.

Gerry Thompson 52:01

No problem. Thank you. He and He and rich were getting long, long tax discussions. They really enjoyed each other. I think I don't know what Rich's version was, but

James Moore 52:17

he enjoyed it. Although there was one line I had rich was exactly right to do it. I had Atiyeh prided himself on knowing more about taxes than anybody else in state government, and Rich said any other elected officials in state government? Good catch. That's exactly right. Yeah. Good catch. That's neat.

Gerry Thompson 52:45

I'm sorry you can't talk to John Juncker, but that's okay. Well,

James Moore 52:48

no, I interviewed him. I got stuff from him. Okay. The best line is when Straub came in, because John was, at that point, they deputy assistant. I mean, he was, he was moving up, but he was in the top of whatever, wherever he was at the time. Straub comes in, and he does Willamette Greenway, and he does a couple of other things, and and John's line is, well, when you were elected, we kind of thought you'd have a longer list of what you wanted to do. So that's there, wow, because, and that's right, Straub, yeah. And seeing Vic's lack of imagination, McCall had didn't have he didn't have the imagination either. He picked things up

Gerry Thompson 53:36

well, McCall didn't do anything. He just attached his wagon to whatever was happening. Yeah. I mean, that's where he was very talented. He was extremely Jason Bo could have an idea. The next thing you know, it's Mark. It's McCall's idea,

James Moore 53:47

yeah, yeah. But there's nothing generated there. No and thinking he had good staff, he had very good staff. Don't tell Denny that, though. Oh, no, Denny has said that they were pretty good staff. But it's just just stunning to just kind of look at it. It's amazing, isn't it? Yeah, people get elected. This is what I tell people all the time, when you run for election, that's never what you're going to govern on. It's never what's going to happen. You got to come in with a plan, and they don't. And I think, you know, I don't know what kind of Governor Kate Brown's gonna end up being. I think she's kind of middle ish now, but one of the blessings of the way she came in is she didn't have to. No, she didn't have to. She just said, What does Kitzhaber doing? And I do that, which is a if she can then make stuff her own, and so far, we really haven't seen that. But if she can make stuff her own, that that's a really good way to kind of ease into it. But it's just just wild,

Unknown Speaker 54:55

poor kids hover. Yeah,

Unknown Speaker 54:57

yeah. I.

Gerry Thompson 55:00

I still want to know what went on behind the scenes. Yeah.

James Moore 55:02

Well, now that he's more or less back out in public, I'll ask him, because I need to interview him for

Gerry Thompson 55:11

this. Well, I know something was going on more than public knows.

James Moore 55:15

Oh yeah, yeah, but I'll say that for the next book, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah,

Gerry Thompson 55:19
okay, I've gotten you way off track. Okay,

James Moore 55:21
okay, no, no, we've, actually, we've done staff relations with Jenny. That's

Gerry Thompson 55:25
good. Oh, that was on your list, you betcha.

James Moore 55:29
Where does safe idea come from? We've done that. Okay, so in 1982 there's a special session that's the longest in history.

Gerry Thompson 55:43
Had what? Three of them and 82 Yeah, the first, oh, this is the long 137.

James Moore 55:48
Days. So here's I have not dug into it in detail yet. However, talking to Hardy Myers, the Speaker of the House, Barbara Roberts, the majority leader, Paul Hanneman, who was the Minority Leader. They don't recall any of the homework and work with you guys in the governor's office that they had with every other special session. So they got there and basically looked to each other and said, So what do we do? And so what do you remember about prepping for that session?

Gerry Thompson 56:32
What are we doing that session? That's the three of them. That was the long one, that was a long one, that the long one, when was fatally president. Does this fatally.

James Moore 56:41
Is President at this point, he gets booted in Okay, 83 I'm where I need to be, yeah. 83 is when he has his last one where he says, Oh, we can have a sales tax as long as every city in the state approves. Oddly enough, that didn't work. And certainly after that, his own caucus booted him and put kits,

Gerry Thompson 57:02
okay, well, that, and that's why this session was prolonged. This was fatally, yep, it was fatally. And we had the agreement. And I don't know they had to have been in the meetings, but I, you know, I, if I still had my notes, I could go back and look, the

James Moore 57:19
thing is, they did. They remember, for instance, in the 1980 session, before you got there, we're gonna cut \$200 million man, there was prep, prep, prep, prep. That thing was done in five days. Yeah, then we got judiciary stuff. Hardy's in the middle of that boom. That's like a one day or two day session. The other 1982 ones were also in and out. We had to have it fatally,

Gerry Thompson 57:43
blew it up, and the whole negotiation centered on fatally. But I'm telling you, we had those people in those sessions. We were meeting in the governor's conference room, the old border control room. We met time after time. Sometimes we meet morning again in the afternoon, and he would not, he would not bend on anything, right? That's when I told you that Vic Drew. He was so frustrated, he flipped the flip page over, and he drew the railroad track. And I'm like, yeah, and he said, we're on here and you're here, and it's not meeting, and you guys do something.

James Moore 58:20
Now was that during the session,

Gerry Thompson 58:23

yeah, we'd already called the session, okay, but the agreement had been made, okay, and then fade Lee caused the snafu, because

James Moore 58:31

it's far. I mean, once again, I haven't gotten into the details in a huge way, but it's \$100 million shortfall as compared to the 200 that had been done before. So

Gerry Thompson 58:41

family, I think, had just become president, and my mind's foggy on this, but he was present short time. Yeah,

James Moore 58:48

no, because Jason Bowe was president through 81 I believe, or 79 and fatally, just has come in. So he Bo, Bo's last thing was that special session in 1980 Okay, yep,

Gerry Thompson 59:02

okay, I got swan song there. Bailey had just come in, and I thought that this is going to go on. Yeah, it was all this is, I'm sure you've heard Denny tell the story where the media would just be camped, right? We come out of there, and they'd expect the governing, the governor, to have guy thing, yeah. And then when we finally got it, they were somewhere else, and then he had to go find him. It is a good story. Yeah, no, that was all fatally that failey was the trouble, and the whole thing was trying to get fatally off. Everything was ready to go, right, except failly backed up, yeah, okay. And I think it was his game plan, just to make everybody miserable. Yeah, you got the attention, and that's where we were. Oh, Vic was mad, one of the few times I really saw him very, very angry. Yeah, that's what it was, okay, okay,

James Moore 59:55

yeah. Because fascinating with look. Looking at, gosh, I was just talking to the City Club about a week ago about this. When you look at multiple session things, timing is so controlled, oh yeah, and it's pretty common. See this with tax reform all the time. But also other ideas that the iron is hot, but the people don't vote until here, and they aren't any hot anymore. And I don't know if Vic's idea where he finally said, Okay, we'll do a sales tax if it's connected to all these things. I don't know if it would have passed in 83 or not, but by 85 it was clearly too late. That chip had passed, and the main reasons in 85 is because fatally dinked around in 83 and all that time was lost of his wacko plan. And you know,

Gerry Thompson 1:00:55

he just loved to do that. That was failies game. He just did that all the time he was besides that and the women he was, yeah, I had to ban him from my office.

James Moore 1:01:08

Yeah, I could imagine, I tell you, when I was talking to Phil Keisling. Phil Keisling was a page and was being shown around. And they showed him the storage rooms underneath the the place where people sit in the house chambers, and Ed was in Florence, oh

Gerry Thompson 1:01:27

yeah, oh yeah, there, oh yeah, he'd come in my office and shut the door, yeah. And I finally said, Out, sorry. Yeah, out, out. No, you come beg to see me. I finally they didn't come in. If security was standing at the door, there'd be no closed door.

James Moore 1:01:43

Exactly, exactly. Security reminds me of questions not written down here, but from when I interviewed Lon Holbrook, who was at the light and told me lots of stories

Gerry Thompson 1:01:54

in the book, but I know, but good they're on tape. Yeah, good stories, right? Exactly.

James Moore 1:02:00

One I may put in there, just because it's, it's wacky. Is Vic the gun guy never hunted? No, oh yes, he did, because Lon took him out there. Oh,

Gerry Thompson 1:02:11
they were doing the rats or, yeah, that's not hunting.

James Moore 1:02:17
It's a step beyond what Vic always said. And I don't think

Gerry Thompson 1:02:19
he would have ever done that had Lon not been the Oh, I know, yeah, there's a lot of sweetheart, yeah, yeah, it

James Moore 1:02:26
was great. Where's I going with Lon? Security, security, right? Lon remembers at least twice when Rajneeshee's came to the office, but he remembers that they had meetings with Vic. Never, yeah, I don't think they were

Gerry Thompson 1:02:47
never with Vic. I can tell you that flat out, never,

James Moore 1:02:51
yeah, that's what I think, too. I don't see any evidence

Gerry Thompson 1:02:54
of it. Vic would not meet with them, and we wouldn't let Vic, yeah, no,

James Moore 1:02:59
so one is dealing with them in the outer office. No,

Gerry Thompson 1:03:03
there was no, ever, ever, ever, okay,

James Moore 1:03:07
um, let's see here. So we were just talking about the gross receipts tax idea the 1983 where 1982 he's won re election. He says, once again, his he's got all this political capital. And his words in the days after the election were basically not much. He basically said, initially, what I want to do is, by God, the legislature has said no to me several times on my property tax, and we're going to do my property tax, nothing's changed. Do you remember how that shifted fairly quickly to, like November to December, how that shifted to the Gros receipts tax?

Gerry Thompson 1:03:55
I really don't. Okay. I mean, that's just a dead issue to me. Yeah, we didn't do much, yeah, I'm gonna say I don't think we did diddly squat, yeah, okay, yeah, okay, he may have had discussions with rich,

James Moore 1:04:15
yeah, yeah. He may have rich was never a favor in favor of the

Gerry Thompson 1:04:21
groceries. No, no, he was not.

James Moore 1:04:25
Actually, I just wrote an article by, sorry, I'm not one of the people, one of the journalists I work with, because the, I think it's the OEA had his gathering signatures to put another gross receipts tax on the ballot, and they just had to pull it because they the wording was wrong. But in the reporter calls it a sales tax. It's not a sales tax in any way, shape or form. And so I sent her that document that I put, oh, good, yeah, and not saying, don't call it a sales tax. But here's something that I did for myself to help out. Out pages four to seven. Kind of interesting, one way to look at them.

Gerry Thompson 1:05:05

But how many I'm in a meeting really understand the text? Oh no, no, they

James Moore 1:05:08

don't. They don't understand it. What ticks me off, though, is the TED Fauci always office. They were answering the phone in his his minority office, and their greeting at one point was the home of stopping the corporate sales tax. No, that's how they were answering the phone. And it's like, you know, politics is good, but inferiorly doesn't impress me in the slightest. And Mike McLean is our US attorney. I can't but any case, but lying to people. There's a lot of reasons against this tax and for this tax, but a sales tax is just lying. That's right, so that's just me. I bet

Gerry Thompson 1:05:59

I know, but those things are getting worse. Oh yeah, yeah, I I just shake my head all the time anymore, yeah, I have to turn TV off because I just can't take it anymore. Exactly,

James Moore 1:06:11

exactly. Um, so Bob Smith, the budget guy who I loved when he would sign his memos and signed them, ex Bob. So you knew that wasn't Bob Smith, the other guy in a couple of memos. You're not very happy with him,

Gerry Thompson 1:06:33

really. Yes, I didn't know there were memos out there, but Well,

James Moore 1:06:38

it's just reading between the lines. So positive, generally negative. Did he get in the way of policy? Kind of a bureaucrat who couldn't see bigger picture. I mean, what was your impression of him?

Gerry Thompson 1:06:57

He was a real enigma. I'm the one that took him out of that job we'll do start the state lottery.

James Moore 1:07:07

The one that I the member that caught my attention is may 1984 so the lottery comes that fall, so

Gerry Thompson 1:07:15

he's out of there. Okay, yep, that's what I did with him. You know, Bob was a good guy. He was the kind of guy that could do in runs, and he knew, I mean, we, I don't know how it is these days. I don't know how they're organized, but executive department was our right hand, right and I would use John Juncker more than I would use Bob. I could trust John. John, I get the job done. He come back with all sincerity whether it was the right thing to do or the wrong thing to do. And Bob was kind of the the person that I don't like to work with who's always patting you on the back and saying, whatever you want, Jerry will get you and you get nothing, right? And that's why I can describe it to you. It was not anything specific. It's just that I never felt, I never really it was not, was not a lack of trust, right? Just didn't feel confident. Yeah, with him, yeah, and he, he, did pull some things with their agency heads and come to me and be very upset, but those things happen. Yeah, they weren't. I just it, just, it's time to get him out of there. Yeah, time to get him out period. End of subject, I dumped him in lottery, and he wasn't very happy, but that's where he went.

James Moore 1:08:37

Yeah, it's fascinating, because one of the things with politics is it's people there. You know, there's you Republicans or Democrats, you get all this philosophy, but

Speaker 3 1:08:47

it's people. It's that. It's all about people.

James Moore 1:08:52

Yeah, so one thing that Hardy Myers found when he really got to know Vic better, he Hardy Myers worked well with Gary Wilhelms, and Gary Wilhelms left, and Paul Hanneman became the minority leader, and he didn't work so well

anymore. And so Hardy would talk to Vic, in effect, as the Minority Leader of the House. And that's when he got to know Vic a lot better, but it's just because of that personality thing. And

Gerry Thompson 1:09:19

you know, Hardy would come see Vic a lot. Yeah, so did Vera cats. Vera cats had come in visit lot of the Democrat This is what always fascinated me. A lot of the Democrat legislators, especially the new ones, and I know that they wanted to get next to the governor, and they didn't know for sure how to do it, but it ended up not being that they want to come in and visit with me, and I'd introduce them, bring it, take them into the governor's office. Oh my gosh, they'd come back and want to visit with Vic well, I need his advice on this, or I need advice on that, which was wonderful. Yeah, it really was. But it was more Democrats doing that than Republicans, more

James Moore 1:09:56

Democrats than Republicans. And it also leads to something. That rich man pointed out, which is because, as I was talking to him, I said, so. Was Vic more a super legislator, or was he governor of the whole state? In for instance, you can look at our current president, who's neither a legislator nor a president, but he's just governing for his his electorate. That's only thing he's governing for, like anything done, but that's all he's doing. And rich thought about it long and hard, he said, you know, he was a super legislator. McCall was a whole state guy who then had staff who was really good at making the connection, right? His staff was very good at that, yeah. I mean, people would look at each other exactly, and then Bob Davis would say to the legislative leadership, here's how we're going to do this.

Gerry Thompson 1:10:56

And I did, you know Bob? No, oh, I loved Bob. Yeah, Bob and I were very good friends, yeah?

James Moore 1:11:04

So it's just, you

Gerry Thompson 1:11:05

know that Bob Davis was Rajneeshee. Absolutely, absolutely,

James Moore 1:11:09

Absolutely, absolutely, in fact, the crews you're gonna read there, when I remember I was trying to peg down when you had that crucial meeting with Sheila, and I think I came up with a date, but it's his death, it's the crucial thing, yeah, because Sheila, they were here, they were flying in, and all of a sudden, you know, I think that's about it. And then you say things like, two days before, blah, blah, blah, and two days afterwards, Katie's our guy, yeah, so there's, there's that kind of stuff. So, yeah, but, but Bob's death, and then I couldn't find any evidence of it, except there's a memo from Bob Oliver who talked about talking with Bob because Bob and Bob were together at McCall's office, but Bob Davis stopped being the Rajneeshees person, and the only evidence I have is this memo contemporaneous that Bob wrote saying I was talking with Bob Davis about why he had left or leaving.

Gerry Thompson 1:12:09

Was that a memo to me? It could have been because I remember Bob telling, telling me, and usually Bob communicated with memos, but I remember him saying that Bob had left the Rajneeshees, which surprised me at the time. It didn't, it didn't because I knew he was getting tired of all the crap.

James Moore 1:12:28

Well, the crap, seems a lot of it come from antelope people, yes, yes,

Gerry Thompson 1:12:32

yes, yes, yes. Sure did.

James Moore 1:12:35

Yeah, yeah. So here's what I've just been doing here. Here we talked about governor's office staff. Here's the personnel numbers. So Max is 40. So starts and ends with 24 people on the staff, but then up. So this is under Lee. There's something going on there, and then you come in, you know, kind of right in, right in here, yeah, so it's a low point, but

then we're doing things, and yes, right

Gerry Thompson 1:13:12

the bathroom is just down here, to the left, okay, thank you.

James Moore 1:13:16

It never comes back up. And a lot of this is special project kinds of things.

Gerry Thompson 1:13:24

Yeah, that's interesting. I'd love to take that and I look at this, and then this, and I say to myself, what? Well,

James Moore 1:13:33

you guys had several things where people were in for like, eight months or something, and their time's

Gerry Thompson 1:13:43

up. This is

James Moore 1:13:44

where people started peeling off. Yeah, yeah. You can see the peeling off so you're not there after a bit there.

Gerry Thompson 1:13:49

And I wonder who was in here.

James Moore 1:13:53

This list I got the list too

Gerry Thompson 1:13:55

interesting. I wonder who I got rid of. A lot of the not a lot, but a few of the, I don't remember what they called them administrative assistants, or whatever they were floating all over the place, yeah,

Unknown Speaker 1:14:10

yeah. But

Gerry Thompson 1:14:12

the main thing we did not do, at least under my tenure, we didn't utilize agency people as employees of the governor's office, right? And I'm glad we didn't, right?

James Moore 1:14:25

There was an attempt to get that to happen under Lee Johnson, Oh, yeah. And it didn't go anywhere. The committee didn't even do anything with it.

Gerry Thompson 1:14:35

Heck no, I was too afraid to go before the committee, the legislative committee get my budget approved. Exactly that? Oh, exactly here I am, governor's chief of staff. I gotta go bag for employees. It's

James Moore 1:14:49

crazy, crazy. Let's see here, sticking with governor's stuff. Actually answered this question myself a couple of days. Them. We've talked about dealing with the recessions and the budgets, so there's always you guys bringing in agency heads. Revenue gets just worked to death.

Gerry Thompson 1:15:19

They were cranking numbers all the time. They're cranking

James Moore 1:15:21

numbers all the time. I just finished writing about them, getting the computer system and how that wasn't necessarily better than Paul Egger until you kind of worked it through for Yeah, but it gives you much more, many more options, and especially that council of advisors that was your hearings, hearing opinions

Gerry Thompson 1:15:41

that Council of Economic Advisors was brilliant, I'm telling you. And the governor would say, Can't you just give me good news one time? No, exactly,

James Moore 1:15:53

the very first meeting that they have. There's a picture taken with the governor. So this is before you come and and. Ed, white law says, when they're tall, told to smile. Ed, white law says, Well, that might be the last time you get us all to smile. Yeah. And then I include because in October of 82 so a year and more later, you say White was getting too damn political, and to get rid of this guy, so just put that in there. Stuff comes back to not yet, doesn't it?

Gerry Thompson 1:16:32

But who in the port of Portland was the one that kept getting political? Oh my gosh, yeah. Drove us nut. Drove me nuts.

James Moore 1:16:39

And it still is a weird thing. I was talking to Mike Thorne about that, because he was Neil appointed him to be the executive director, and saying, oh, when Neil appointed you, said, no, no, the board appoints.

Gerry Thompson 1:16:52

It's like, yeah, come on. That's right, come on. The

James Moore 1:16:55

board is entirely there for the governor, you know, and the governor 10, every appointment the governor is making happen. That's right, but just they were the center of so much international stuff, but old style international stuff

Gerry Thompson 1:17:16

well, and it's the typical Eagles Jim, you know. And this is where I admired the governor. He truly did and he practiced it. Don't worry about who's going to get credit if the job gets done right? And I believe that myself. But I've got to tell you, the Eagles we had with Peck wood, some of the folks in the legislature. Port of Portland was the worst. There was Lloyd. What was his name? Frank Lloyd. Frank Lloyd, yeah. What was his name? Anyway, he was the absolute worst, right? And then we had people on the Economic Development Commission. Oh, they were so bad. Yeah, got rid of them, yeah. And they were governor's good friends. Yeah, it's that Dardo ego that gets in the way.

James Moore 1:18:04

Let's see here. Here's actually lists of people who were in the governor's office. This is 1983 so this is just my marking what months they were there, kind of stuff. So you can just, no,

Gerry Thompson 1:18:18

get I just, I just want all your files. I don't know why I do them be fun to go through. I don't even know some of these people. Dana Campbell,

James Moore 1:18:29

so some that are there just short, you know, some of this, they're there forever.

Gerry Thompson 1:18:37

Eva now. Ewing, i i interesting.

James Moore 1:18:49

I did that for all eight years.

Gerry Thompson 1:18:53

I made Denny cut his staff down.

James Moore 1:18:58

Do you know why Tim Marsh was let go? I I

Gerry Thompson 1:19:02

don't remember,

James Moore 1:19:04

because that's when Denny's gone and Dave Fiske was there. I

Gerry Thompson 1:19:07

don't remember, I do remember that, but I don't remember why. And Denny went through a lot of employees. I can imagine, Betty maudlin, you know, was my assistant that I got rid of and got in trouble for,

James Moore 1:19:22

well, she was Lee's

Gerry Thompson 1:19:24

Yeah. And, you know, that was a real dilemma, because when I went in, I thought, Gosh, darn, I don't know diddly spot about anything here, yeah. And I need somebody that knows, that really knows the players. And I knew that Lee and Betty knew the players well, and I interviewed which, which really upset Betty, and I was being very unfair. And I said, I'm sorry if you come out on top, you come out on top. If you don't, you don't, that's the way it's going to be. Well, I kept her and then her husband ended up over at PUC under John lobdall, yeah.

James Moore 1:19:58

Let's put. Things out to my wife. Look at this, because Ben Dame is familiar to me, but he used to be a reporter, right? Ben went into PUC John

Gerry Thompson 1:20:09

Lobdell hired him. It was shocked me. Now, he was a great writer, speech writer. In fact, they were ticked off that we didn't hire him to write speeches. Well, then Lobdell, I think he quit. I know we didn't get rid of him, but I think he, he was the one that sat in front of a legislative committee and said, I don't have to take this shit anymore. I got that in somewhere. Anyway, he was really fed up. And I like John a lot. John helped me with the economic recovery plan. Yeah, he really did. He stuck by my side all the way on that. Well, then I can't remember, Gene got into some big controversy, huge controversy. And I literally my style was, okay, we're going to do something about modeling. We got to get him out of there. So I had sat on a yellow pad and did the pros and cons, you know, what's going to come down on us and what would be good. And of course, it was heavily weighted toward get rid of him. And then I had just kind of penciled in what my recommendation to be the governor, just kind of notes to myself to it was my and I had put it in my desk drawer for when I met with the governor, when he got back, hadn't done anything, hadn't talked to anybody. It was all here. I get a call that night at home from Betty maudlin, and I have never heard so many foul words in all my life. I'm telling you it I'm like this. And I finally said, Betty, Betty, stop. What is wrong? You're trying to fire my husband, and by God, you're not gonna fire him. You're gonna be sorry you've done it. Betty, how do you know this? Just never you mind how I know? Well, she's only one way. Yeah, she obviously gone through my desk, which really, yeah, I mean, she could have yelled at me, and I could have gotten beyond that, but you don't go through my desk. So I called her in. She didn't come to work the next day. Then she came in. I called her in, and I said, Betty, I'm sorry you're gonna have to pack everything up and leave. Well, you're gonna get rid of your husband. My husband and me too. I said there's been no decision on your husband, but there is a decision on you. You do not go through my desk. You may be my assistant. That doesn't give you privilege to go through and read confidential things. I saw what you wrote about my husband and I went from there and got worse. I mean, Lee got drugged into it, it just got uglier than ugly. I'll never forget that. Yeah, and then I fired the she called on the nursing homes. Oh, the ombudsman, yes, that was that ended up in the paper. Yeah, most of those employees, I remember very well. But isn't that interesting?

James Moore 1:23:13

Yeah, this just the totals for each month.

Gerry Thompson 1:23:17
This is where I came in. This

James Moore 1:23:19
is actually 82 I think this is actually 83 so we can go back here. There's you, you'll appear somewhere right down there, boop, September. And

Gerry Thompson 1:23:39
then we went back up. Wonder where we went up. I don't know. I'm glad Carol Whitney didn't stay with us. I'm just being honest with you now, Jackie winters needed to be out of there. Yeah, it was good that Shirley Woodrow left.

James Moore 1:24:01
There's another certainly not the personality, but she was like Denny. She just had to feed straight on the governor,

Gerry Thompson 1:24:10
yeah. She was out of there. Edie Schmidt, she was okay. Paul Phillips was a pill the whole time, the whole time,

James Moore 1:24:26
yeah, I haven't interviewed him yet. And actually, he's a relatively minor player, yeah, so I don't know. No, he really was. It would be basically, because he's from Pacific, yeah? And he's involved with, you know, yeah, with this, but what sense of entitlement did you have at age 23

Gerry Thompson 1:24:47
Well, he did, I want to tell you, he did, like I said to this day, he won't speak to me. You know, he kept saying, Well, you gave a deal to Danny. I said, No, I didn't give a deal. You just go look at the records. You. Hmm, I just, I saw somebody's name there, and it just reminded me something. Now it's going that fast. Don't get me on. Paul Phillips, that's what does. It chases other things out of your head. Poor Jim Russell, he's got memory problems.

James Moore 1:25:19
Yeah, he's somebody I wish I you know, once again, if this project started when it ought to have, yeah, 10 years ago, sidelight, I just was looking through because, did you see edit here? Yes, yeah. I got a call on it, yeah, yeah. I got an email from

Gerry Thompson 1:25:35
Tom, that's the last of them. Yeah,

James Moore 1:25:38
it's the last of them. But, uh, if I had started this project when I ought to have started this project, Jim Russell's a major, major player there for especially the first couple of years,

Gerry Thompson 1:25:51
Mr. Guy. And,

James Moore 1:25:52
you know, Bob Oliver, who was there the whole time. Bob is just fascinating. The more just kind of digging into things. There's a lot of Bob in there. And, you know, I'm with Bob. He I see incredible loyalty the governor and doing a job. But I also hear from people that, you know, they didn't see him as the strongest link in anything, right? And so it just, I would love to have talked to Jim Russell, who's kind of the other half of

Gerry Thompson 1:26:23
that. Jim was, what would you would expect from an attorney who really dug into things, but truthfully and frankly, Bob was floating. He really was. I mean, he'd been a state government employee for a long time, and he knew how to float.

Yeah, if you called Bob and said, I need this or that he would get it done. But he had a way of inserting himself, basically a placeholder name, as the only way I can describe it. Funny guy. I liked Bob. Don't get me wrong. I like Bob a lot, and interestingly enough, I trusted him because he was willing to walk either side at any time. Yeah. But you knew when he was with you, he was with you all the way, yeah. And one time I had to call him on the carpet because he may have told you the story. I got word from state police that before he married Judy, he'd been, he's not, you know the story

James Moore 1:27:21

Dwayne samples, yeah, yeah, yep, yeah. He talked about it as being really embarrassing because he had to take a blood test or a live detector test or something.

Gerry Thompson 1:27:33

I had to mortify him. Oh, yeah. And there was a second episode like that, which always made me question, Bob, what are you up to out there? Yeah, but he was single, yeah, exactly. And then Kay Turan, I had the income tax evasion. Cutest priest. That's what we needed. I got word on that one. I got the cold sweats, I want to tell you now I got this, don't get me wrong, but I've got this black girl that I got to call in and say, you can't work here.

James Moore 1:28:09

Just amazing. Just amazing. Okay, so two more questions here. End of everything. Who ran the transition to the Goldschmidt team that they didn't take advantage of in any way, shape or form. I

Gerry Thompson 1:28:26

don't know that anybody ran it okay, because

James Moore 1:28:28

I got, I was older, I got a folder, I think, from you.

Gerry Thompson 1:28:31

Well, I put to get a full I put together something, yeah, before I left, because that was my worry, I had said I'd stay to the end, right? And the company said, No, I gotta have you back. And I said, No, I gotta stay at the end. So the President my company and Vic negotiated a date. Then I got really worried. Well, now I haven't got time, right? So I remember I put together just stuff out of my head that needed to be done, but I don't think there was you arranged it very nicely.

James Moore 1:29:01

Everything in there.

Gerry Thompson 1:29:03

I don't know that anybody did anything specific. Everybody was so mad at Goldschmidt, and Goldschmidt wanted nothing to do with any of us, nothing.

James Moore 1:29:11

Well, I've heard from Bob Oliver, as matter of fact, but a couple of others that they reached out, but they never heard back on anything. That's probably what happened. And Goldschmidt eventually he put together the most wacky thing. It's like a 14 member team, you know, it was compared to Travis and Lynn, all this stuff

Gerry Thompson 1:29:34

right out of the National Governor's manual as well. It was, yeah,

James Moore 1:29:37

and then I think, I think I told you, Jill Thorne gets there the next day, and no one has a key to the office, no. And Jill goes her way around the building. So she goes and gets security, who opened it up, and then nobody can find the light switch. So and Vic gave the key to Neil, but Neil didn't think that was his issue, to give the key to anybody else.

Gerry Thompson 1:30:10

I was so angry at Neil Goldschmidt, I was just and then Barbara gets elected, and oh, what was her? Oh, Patricia

McCaig, she calls me one night crying. I mean, just I didn't even know who it was, and I did not know Patricia. She's crying. Can I meet with you? Well, yeah, and I'm thinking something's wrong with Barbara. No, nobody told me how hard this job was, and I don't know if I can do it, and I need and please don't tell anybody. I called you, and she's just beside herself. I'm thinking to myself, well, Sister, you're in for a ride. You better get more moving

James Moore 1:30:52

before I ask you the last question here, I'm gonna actually be in the governor's office tomorrow. Good, mainly because I just want to have a physical sense of where offices are. Oh, really do all that stuff. So the border control room, you know how glenna's office was between your offices? You know that kind of stuff. I just want to have that in my head. But writing this book, if Nick Blosser, the new chief of staff, is there, I would like to say, so, how's the job? Well, you should, because it's just fascinating, especially doing the whole thing on Lee and then switching to you just seeing that and watching, you know, Kate basically inherited a chief of staff. And then that was strange

Gerry Thompson 1:31:47

to me. Yeah, very strange,

James Moore 1:31:48

but, but there are no choice, no choices, because the Secretary, the Secretary of State staff, wouldn't have those skills. They just wouldn't have those skills. And so it's just,

Gerry Thompson 1:32:00

just fascinating. You got to know the players, and that's the thing that was my biggest concern. Oh yeah, having Yes, I was working in Portland, but in a whole different area, right? And I was the biggest scaredy cat when it came to knowing the players who, who really should be close to the government and who really shouldn't be, and who do I have to protect him from? And, right? I know anything. Yeah.

James Moore 1:32:25

So when you came in, who played that role? Introducing you did it? Was it you just feeling it out? Was it the governor saying, oh, Jason Bo, you

Gerry Thompson 1:32:36

know the guy? No never got Yeah, you know how you kind of have a sixth sense, yeah. And Glen, of course, is, yeah, you can't see this, and you don't need to know who I made an appointment with the governor for.

James Moore 1:32:50

I do have Glenna in there as her snafu in the 82 campaign the picture, and I don't know if it'll segue into letting Glenna go or not, but that's what Vern Duncan's main question was, what happened to Glenna, and when I saw him last? I said, Well, let me tell you what happened to

Gerry Thompson 1:33:14

Glenna. And he said, Well,

James Moore 1:33:16

he was, he just was, he was sorry that she had because she would

Gerry Thompson 1:33:20

chit chat with all those guys and say, I'll get it to the governor. And nine times out of 10, it never got to the governor. I and I knew I had to get rid of I knew I had to, and I knew Victor wasn't going to like it, yeah. But he said, Okay, whatever you think.

James Moore 1:33:34

Well, in his oral history, then he puts it in. Isn't it amazing that I had basically had three secretaries in my entire legislative and government career, the last and the last one stayed forever.

Gerry Thompson 1:33:46

Well, she had everybody. Even I started doing it, I'd hear the governor say, Robin, what's so and so's number. And then I was doing, Robin, what's so and so's number. She must have had a photographic memory. She was incredible. She really was. I was gonna say something, you and I shouldn't get together, June, it's dangerous. No, it's very good. It's dangerous. We had some good back room staff, though we did, we had some good back room staff, don't we're always gonna say it's gone. Oh, let me see. Are you done with your notes?

James Moore 1:34:24

I have one more question. Go for it. So after Atiyeh leaves office, okay, did you follow how the governor's office was organized? After that, we talked about it briefly that you didn't have people from the agencies, kind of as the governor's people.

Gerry Thompson 1:34:50

You mean, did I follow how Goldschmidt did it? How Goldsmith did it? But Goldsmith starts

James Moore 1:34:53

something that seems basically to be the case to this day, where they'll have like political people in. Right agencies, right things like that. Yeah, did you follow that closely? I did

Gerry Thompson 1:35:04

for a while, but not real closely. Okay, that's the one thing we did not want, yeah, my view, and I don't know where Lee was on it at all, and you'd go to those National Governor's meetings, and of course, there was always how to organize the office and that thing. And every year it was something different. So I finally said to myself, forget it. We're going to do what works for us. I didn't want political people in agencies, kind of because Vic said, I just want you to do your job. Don't put your head down in the trough and not come out until I'm gone, because you're not going to outweigh me. Just do your job where we'll handle the politics. You do the job, and I'm here to support you. And that's the way, I guess, we governed. That's, that was the role we played. We were very close, though, to the agency heads, probably closer than Governor sense

James Moore 1:35:59

us, yeah? Well, simply by having the weekly Yeah, and really,

Gerry Thompson 1:36:03

we were very, very close to the agency heads, and the agency heads knew we were there for them, and I will always pride Vic's administration on that fact, because those agencies knew they could pick the phone up and call me at any time. I think they knew that whatever they had bothering them, I would be sure the governor knew about it. We would resolve it, but the governor would be aware of it. Never did I hide anything. We just had, I think, a different relationship for a couple of reasons. One, what the governor said? Two, for budgetary reasons. Three, I didn't want anything hidden anywhere, anywhere. I don't care what it was, if we were going to have somebody represent us that was going to be listed on my list of staff, not paid, agency paid, right? I didn't want anybody coming in saying, Hmm, what are they doing? Yeah, that's, that's the only explanation I have for it. Not intentional. Just that's why it went, Yeah,

James Moore 1:37:03

that's fascinating, because early on, especially the 78 election, 74 it's like the national Republicans didn't care that Vic was running. They didn't. But in 78 Carol described several funny things, but one of them was the Republican National Governors Association showed up and told her how to run the campaign. Oh yeah, oh yeah. And she smiled, and she said, Thank you, and showed him the door, and ran the campaign in a very successful way, but she was amazing to look at the 78 campaign. It's kind of the last of the statewide campaigns we have. That's kind of the old style. It's volunteer, volunteer, volunteer. There's television and all that stuff, but it's really person to person. When Denny runs it, that's not there. It's the governors in person. But that it's television, television, television,

Gerry Thompson 1:38:02

media person all the way.

James Moore 1:38:04

And in your notes, which are fantastic with your contemporaries notes when you're on the phone with Paul Newman and stuff,

Gerry Thompson 1:38:13

I don't even remember those being in there. Oh yeah.

James Moore 1:38:15

Oh yeah. One of the, one of his suggestions, was that you guys hire Roger Ailes, yeah, yeah. And thank God you didn't I know. Do you know how

Gerry Thompson 1:38:25

that? And you know how? You know how you do something, and it goes in this year and out this year, because you know you're not gonna do it, yeah? And then I can't remember how long ago it was, I heard him his name on TV, and I thought, oh my gosh, that's

James Moore 1:38:39

the guy. Yeah, that's the guy, but it would have given your campaign would have been had a totally different flavor. I don't know if I'll talk to Paul Newman. I got so much on him. Denny offered to connect because he's read the stuff and knows I'm not doing a tell all on Paul Newman. But Paul Newman was of those that era was kind of like the nice guy as the Republicans were turning into the Lee atwaters. They really were. You're not nice guys. And so Vicks campaign in 82 is a tough campaign, but it is not a negative campaign. It's based totally on facts and and you go, whereas Roger Ailes was

Gerry Thompson 1:39:25

well the water was not too far from that himself, no.

James Moore 1:39:27

And Lee Atwater, Who, then, when he had brain cancer, called all these people up and apologized to him. And

Gerry Thompson 1:39:33

yet, I liked Lee Atwater, yeah, to do to sit and have a drink with him. He was just a peach, yeah? Funny, fun to be with, but, and the other thing is, you know, Vic wouldn't support Ron Ronald Reagan. And, oh my gosh, oh yeah,

James Moore 1:39:48

yeah. The one of the funny things is, when uh, Carol was getting it, she got a call from Lynn novsicker. And just because she said, I'll check with the governor. Uh, Lynn held out against him probably when you were around two. That's still that animosity probably dates from that 70, oh, sure, sure did. Um, sure did. And that's one where I do have all the C and E's, they're buried, but I found them, and so I can go through and like, say, there's victory for America, whatever Reagan's thing was, and there's Ford's good. They came in. Everybody got them. We're happy. But loyalty, loyalty, loyalty. Well,

Gerry Thompson 1:40:30

quite honestly, I asked myself if we'd had it. I mean, we were treated well in the White House. This me list, little girl from San Morgan. Never thought I'd ever be in the White House, in the president's office, but with Ronald Reagan, had we not had Bush, yeah, I don't think we would have ever been in there, yeah, I bet you I would. Bush opened the door, and we spent a lot of time in Bucha office, yeah, but never with Ronald Reagan, yeah. And we made friends with the guy that was in charge of Intergovernmental Affairs. But I'm sure that there was a lot of animosity. There's a lot of

James Moore 1:41:08

animosity. And then in 82 because running against Ronald Reagan, and you look at the bath Republicans took in that election, yeah, like, well, so the successful one was to run against the sitting president, just saying. And the fascinating thing of that is the balance cooling goski will not take off after Reagan. He does a couple of times, but he says, I can't do this because Oregon voted so much for Reagan. It's it won't work for me to do that. And there's Vic. It's working hand,

Gerry Thompson 1:41:47

isn't it ironical? What happens out there? I liked Ted as a person. I really did like Ted, and I think Vic did too.

James Moore 1:41:57

Yeah, he did. I mean, did I tell you what he said the last couple of times I interviewed him, he liked Barbara a lot. He did and he showed Barbara a lot, but he would go camping with dad. Is

Gerry Thompson 1:42:13

that what he said? That's what he said. Well, I hope he didn't go camping with Barbara. Yeah,

James Moore 1:42:24

Barbara, one of the stories she wanted to talk to you about this, one of the stories that she wanted to tell at the memorial service, but she didn't, because Dolores and the family were there was some ex Governor thing rainy night there, down in McMinnville or someplace. And Vic is already there, and she makes it there and and he comes over, and he says something along the lines of, Oh, thank God you're here, but I hear you just got a boyfriend. What am I going to do now? I'm sure he did say that. I'm sure he did say that. And she said, you know, that was Vic to achieve, yeah, but you don't want to say to the memorial service.

Gerry Thompson 1:43:12

And in today's age sexual harassment, for sure he did, you know he did, like he didn't care for Frank, but he did like Barbara a lot, yeah, and I don't know, I think it's because Barbara had a soft

James Moore 1:43:29

heart. Think she had a soft heart. And then there's also just the being an ex governor. Oh, yeah, there is. And Frank didn't know

Gerry Thompson 1:43:36

what that was. No, no. Well, I think Vic and Frank probably got into it a lot in the legislature,

Unknown Speaker 1:43:42

they did,

James Moore 1:43:45

but not it's nothing that's in the book. The only thing is Frank was the one who called the role. And so Vic would always say no. So at one point he owned it and said, representative, could you let me know if you're going to say yes, if you're different than what I expect, it screws up the entire rest of the role,

Gerry Thompson 1:44:12

you know. And now, see, you got my mind every time you're with me, Jim, you just get my mind spinning. But you know, I think Victor really, really loved his political life, I think so. And I think it was also a welcome relief from the company,

James Moore 1:44:29

yeah, which he never wanted to be in in the first place,

Gerry Thompson 1:44:32

no. And I just think he was glad to get rid of it. And then when his son got in trouble. I was amazed at how he took his brothers on, and yet I know in my heart he was glad that his son was out of there,

James Moore 1:44:49

yeah, yeah. And knowing knowing Tom and knowing David, there's no way Tom should have run that company. Tom.

Gerry Thompson 1:44:56

How can a Couple like Vic and Dolores have two children like Suzanne. I know it blows my mind. Suzanne, by

James Moore 1:45:05

the way, I've communicated with many times, never talked with her. She's just not going to be in the book. I will use a little bit from her because of the memorial service, because I got the DVD, so I'll tell her little stories about growing up in the building, which I haven't incorporated in yet, but that's all I'm going to get from her. Gonna get from her. But she's

Gerry Thompson 1:45:24

wacko. I'm sorry, yeah, I hate to use the word, but she is wacko, and that was our biggest problem when I was work for him, was, yeah, figuring out where Suzanne was, what was she going to claim next? Yeah, Tom we never heard from him.

James Moore 1:45:36

Yeah, well, he's older and he's off.

Gerry Thompson 1:45:40

I just he doesn't even seem like their

James Moore 1:45:44

child. No, although he looks exactly like his grandfather, yeah,

Gerry Thompson 1:45:48

he does. He does exactly like his grandfather. Yep, he skipped a generation. I'll tell you. Yeah, I know it. I know it. And you know Dolores. Lee Johnson had a lot of trouble with Dolores. I never had one ounce of trouble, and it might have been because it was female to female. She never demanded anything. The most she demanded was, can you get me heat in the other half of the house? But that's all, yeah,

James Moore 1:46:12

that's good, because on the campaign trail, I've got several stories of she was hell on wheels. Well, I was always staff at hotels. Yeah, I was always told that stuff, and never did I have problem, not ever. But yeah, I used to get that that, you know, and I'd go,

Gerry Thompson 1:46:28

calm people down, yeah, but she can I tell you one story off the record though, we took all of the elected legislators, Republicans over for we're going to do some brainstorming, and I think we were at then it was the new Hilton there, right outside of Newport. And of course, we were all having a good time. Vic had met with all the legislators, and we'd done our thing and had dinner all together and gone to bed. Telephone rings, Dolores. Have you heard this story? Can you get a hold of lawn or security? Jerry, there's a woman next door to our room. She's screaming and making these awful noises, and I'm worried that she's in real trouble. I said, take care of it, Doris, don't worry about it. Hang up the phone. Get a hold on I said, Lauren, I don't want to hear about it, because I think I know what it is. I'm going back to bed. I'll talk to you tomorrow morning. It was one of our staff members with the state treasurer. Check and of course, the next morning, Dolores is saying, Jerry, did you find out what that was? No, you know, they never got back to me. So everything must be

Unknown Speaker 1:47:52

That's great.

Gerry Thompson 1:47:56

She would have had a fit. Oh, my God. Then we were down in Where's Hilton Head? Is it? So, North Carolina, South Carolina. I never remember whether it's north or south, anywhere where the Hilton Head?

James Moore 1:48:10

Think I've got pictures of you guys getting there and going into the water. Oh,

Gerry Thompson 1:48:13

she Delores had to walk. And that was the ugliest ocean. It was brown. There was jellyfish everywhere. It was horrible. But anyway, we're all checked in there. It was a governor's meeting, and we're doing fine. The first thing that happened to me, I just must be naive, because I governor wanted me to go do something. I'm probably getting more cigarettes, and I was only staff member, so I get the security has been assigned to us, tell them we've got to go to a store. So we get in the car and we're arriving, and I notice that on every street corner is a group of blacks standing. I'm thinking, wow, no whites, just blacks. This is really strange. So I finally said, Is there a reason all these blacks are standing on the street corners? Oh, yes, ma'am, they have to be the off the island by sundown. Oh,

James Moore 1:49:07

okay, we're having the media.

Gerry Thompson 1:49:13

I've never been exposed to anything like that at all. Well, that same trip, I'm in bed and I hear this loud noise and but you know how sometimes you hear noise, you just ignore it and not get this rap. Rap on my door security saying, Mrs. Thompson, stay in your room. Do not come out of your room. Oh, okay. I'm thinking, What in the world? Well, pretty soon I get the tap, tap, it's okay to come out. Well, it was Vick at his room, and the sliding glass door had exploded. I said, What would make it explode? Because, you know, my mind's going somewhere else. And they saw what happens down here all the time. When the air conditioning comes on in the morning, it's hot and they humid outside. An air pressure,

James Moore 1:50:03

yeah, exactly the windows you want in a hurricane, yeah, yeah,

Gerry Thompson 1:50:06

yeah, you know. And people say, Boy, you must have had an exciting time. And I think if you only knew the stories that stay in my mind, they're not at all what you think. They were fun to travel with. What's on your list? Oh, that's right, I did have a list. You have a list? Well, I was just putting some thoughts in my mind. But I think I've got them all. I mean, we talked, you've got everything you need on special sessions. The surcharge. Didn't you say you wanted something? Yeah, tell

James Moore 1:50:40

me. Tell me about the surcharge. I haven't gotten to that point in my writing. You

Gerry Thompson 1:50:44

know, that was just one of our ways of finding additional money. Yeah, um,

James Moore 1:50:49

was there any consideration that there was going to be a referendum on it, to take it to the people?

Gerry Thompson 1:50:55

Yes, probably there was. I, you know, I won't remember it precisely, but I'm sure there was, and it was immediately decided, no, no. At this time, with all that was going on, we didn't have time to do that kind of stuff. You had to get it done and get money flowing.

James Moore 1:51:09

Any fear that the Oregon Taxpayers Union might take it? We were

Gerry Thompson 1:51:13

always fearful, yeah, but we never really had any problem with them. I mean, yeah, they would, but they never really caused us big heartburn.

James Moore 1:51:22

We're much better at gathering signatures than the governor, let me tell you, Oh, you

Gerry Thompson 1:51:26

don't need try to get him to get signatures or to raise money. Is was. But you know what struck me strange is that when we did that surcharge, we also did the cigarette tax, which governor was a huge, huge smoker. We did the business tax. What we do to the business tax? We increased it. But I can't remember exactly what we did,

James Moore 1:52:00

because there's also a cigarette tax from the 81 session before you get there.

Gerry Thompson 1:52:05

Yeah, yeah. But we did it again. We increased it anyway. You know, when I think about the governor and some of the frustrations I had with him, he had to have a lot of courage to do some of that stuff. Yeah, I think he had more courage than some others would have had in that respect, I will give him huge credit, because when he needed to do it, he stepped up and did it, yeah,

James Moore 1:52:27

in a Republican Party and a country that is clearly saying we need to cut taxes. The next thing I'm going to be writing when I get home is 1981 Jack Kemp comes out to Dorchester and says, Welcome to what the tax cuts are that we want. You know, it's the centerpiece of Reagan's program. At the same time, even before the tax cuts, Reagan is just zeroing out all these domestic budgets to build more ships for the Navy. Yep,

Gerry Thompson 1:52:58

well, and I think that's where the governor was, you know, he was decent to Reagan, but he never really, ever, ever got into the fold of Reagan. Yeah, he just didn't, yeah. And I never really, I always wanted to really have a long discussion with him, but never did, yeah, because I think I told you, my good friend was exactly even in his books. Well,

James Moore 1:53:18

in 1980 he told the Reagan people when he it's the first convention he doesn't go to. It's a 68 tells him he do anything. And then ta says, I never really figured out what they expected to accomplish by sending me to Alaska. I could tell

Gerry Thompson 1:53:38

the other thing that strikes me as we talk about today, well, I guess, I guess I already did say it to you, Trump is out there talking to the people. Vickate had a real way of communicating with the people. Yeah, he really, truly, it would, it was hard to find somebody who really didn't like it to you, yeah, but it's because he made them feel it was okay that he was there for them and and yet he had that low key. I'd watch him talk, give a speech, and I think, Oh, come on, come on.

James Moore 1:54:12

Even his written speeches, it's like, where's the point? I

Unknown Speaker 1:54:15

know. Oh, where's

James Moore 1:54:17

the point? I have a great line from Oh, when in 78 when he and Straub are going against each other, there's an editorial in the Salem paper that says we've heard the Catia talk for 20 minutes without a point whatsoever. And Bob Straub, you don't want to ask him a question. No, it's true. But you know either of them be all right, as governor, it's like even his written stuff. Oh, I know it really but, but speeches are like that now, but

Gerry Thompson 1:54:46

yet his wheels were going, yeah. I mean, no matter where we were, he was always making notes to me and to me, yeah, his mind was just going, which i wish i. A psychiatrist, because if his mind was going like that and he was thinking of things, when did it come? Yeah, here, yeah, teeth to

James Moore 1:55:09

get him to brag about things. Oh yeah. It's like, it's just, it's just odd. In 74 as Vic was running the first time, Vic made it really clear that he did not like to campaign. Oh yeah, oh yeah, he did, do you? That was Dolores. Was the person who liked out there shaking hands and all this stuff and just fascinating to just kind of, I just have that quote in him, and we just watch it. And clearly, by about, probably about a month out from beating Clay Myers, he also looks around and says, this is actually really cool. And I don't know if it's a salesman, you know, the psycho psychiatric, I think it was a salesman thing at the personality thing, but whatever it is, he just gets into seeing the state and and meeting people, because he

Gerry Thompson 1:56:04

really did like people. Yeah, he really our problem with him, though, is it we take him to an event and say, Now you got to work the room. Vic, got to work the room. And I'd always be about five feet off getting my eye on him. He'd get himself stuck like with you, yeah? And that'd be it, yeah, going. Wouldn't talk to anybody else. Yeah, I have to go over and say, Governor, I need you in it. Yeah? He just, but he genuine, like people, and of course, he loved, he loved Eastern and Central Oregon, yeah, just absolutely loved it. Yeah,

James Moore 1:56:36

I don't know if I'll have it in there, probably a little blurb, but that's his portrait. His portrait is not Beaverton.

Gerry Thompson 1:56:45

No, he was a fine, fine man. He really, truly was a fine man, but, wow, hard to understand man. Ooh, he was very hard to understand, and yet he shared of himself. Yeah, I wish I knew how his brain worked. I think that's all. I just wanted to make sure, okay, oh, I know you knew all this, but I was just kind of going through an inventory in my mind. And I'm thinking about he started off with that God, awful tax relief package, then we went into the energy crisis. We had Mount St Helen blow Oh, geez. And even though that's clear up there, it made a mess. Here. Were you here in Oregon? Then I

James Moore 1:57:31

was not Vic. Was governor exactly when I did not live in Oregon. Oh, but like I was down at Stanford and running a big bunch of things in the summer as an undergrad. And my assistant director was from Stanford, but she went to Lewis and Clark, and so she showed up in a car that had to be trashed because it had no paint left. Well,

Gerry Thompson 1:57:58

no second it was sucking that stuff into the engines too. Yeah. Was horrible, yeah. I, it was amazing. I, our car was covered. We had to drive to Portland. It was like you were driving in snow about that deep, yeah, yeah. And

James Moore 1:58:13

he couldn't get the Carter administration to give him a declaration. No, no, oh, it's worse than other places. And we think local sources could take care of this, like you come out and shovel this stuff.

Gerry Thompson 1:58:27

Besides, it turned to cement, yeah. I mean, it literally did. When it got wet, it turned to cement. Yeah, it was horrible. And then he had his the land use planning, and I'll give him credit for that too. Jim, you know, the laws had all been passed. It was ready to go, and nobody was doing anything. And

James Moore 1:58:47

the fascinating thing about that is he was doing that. He would have done that without a recession. That's one of his original things. It then becomes part of his three part thing of, let's recruit, let's make it with your commission so that, in fact, there's one stop shopping in the regulations and land use. But land use predates all that. That's exactly right. Um, Luba comes in. You know, Lee puts that together, and we had a lot of trouble with Luba. I can imagine. I've just passed the thing where the appeals court says, Guess what? Luba can be there, but doesn't come to make any decisions. Yeah, well,

Gerry Thompson 1:59:26

but he boy, he got after, after the counties and the cities and sent me out on the road. You go in there and tell them they got to get this done, or they're not going to, we're not going to bring them any any prospects for their communities. Yeah. He really got after him, yeah, which, which surprised me, he but he really did a and he got it done, yeah, he got it done.

James Moore 1:59:46

Earl Blumenauer, that's when Earl really, really, really learned respect, really, yeah, because Earl was, you know, he was, he was there when land use was in the legislature. He's an environmental, oh, yeah, liberal. Democrat. He was against Vick in every election, absolutely. But he said, Boy, you know, he's the one who made land use work, because it wasn't,

Gerry Thompson 2:00:09

no, it wasn't. It was just idling, yeah, yeah. And we found every problem with it and got it corrected. And he did. He really did work that baby, yeah, he really did. Those are the kinds of things he did, but they were already there, or they were handed to him, yeah, yeah, kind of his way. It comes down in my mind,

James Moore 2:00:30

yeah, because I'm writing about the crises right now. So the first part is just kind of a recitation of how the economy changed while he was in off, not even in governorship, but like from 1970 to 1990 the service industry goes from 15% to 28% timber goes down. You know, high tech begins. There's a lot of people at tech, but all of a sudden there's a lot more companies all that kind of stuff. But looking at it sometimes, it looks like he's just kind of surfing what's happening. But there's when you get after him, and when he figures out I can go recruit, he just takes things by the scruff of the neck and says, We never saw him again. Yeah, you never saw him again. But he looked out there and said, as Mark Hatfield had clearly said, our economy isn't diversified at all. That's right, we got to do it. But Tech was already there, and he said that Tektronix was the reason he was able to recruit

Gerry Thompson 2:01:36

That's exactly right. If we hadn't had Tektronix. I mean, that was basically the anchor. That

James Moore 2:01:41

was the anchor. And really cool that they had a long standing relationship with Sony, so Marita, all of a sudden becomes the best bud,

Gerry Thompson 2:01:48

well, and all this. And that's what the other thing he went out there and and built these long, lasting relationships, yeah, with people in the company. Yeah, unbelievable how he could do that. Yeah. And they trusted him,

James Moore 2:02:00

and they trusted him. And you can see why no governor had done that since, because it's hard to do and you're out of the office.

Gerry Thompson 2:02:09

Yeah, that's right, yeah. And this was a situation where it was had to be done, yeah? And I think that's why he was willing just to go and get it done, yeah, because we did have to do it, Jim, it was awful. Oh, yeah, I was scared for our state. Yeah, I really was absolutely, absolutely, kind of like, I'm scared for our nation.

[The remainder of the recording involves personal chatting, unrelated to the interview.]