

## Phil Lang interview on Atiyeh

An interview of Phil Lang (1929-2024) regarding Oregon's Governor Victor Atiyeh, recorded on Aug. 3, 2015. Lang served as a Democrat in Oregon's House of Representatives from 1961-1979, and was Speaker of the House from 1975-1978. The interviewer, James Moore, was as professor of political science at Pacific University and was Atiyeh's biographer.

The interview includes discussion of: Atiyeh's legislative career, focusing on his transition from Oregon's House to the State Senate in 1964; Atiyeh's role in drafting education and collective bargaining bills; his involvement in the Emergency Board and Ways and Means Committee; Atiyeh's leadership as Speaker of the House prior to Lang; Atiyeh's relationships with other legislators; his approach to budgeting and policy-making; Atiyeh's post-legislative career; and his efforts to balance principles and practical considerations in governance.

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

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[Recording begins mid-conversation.]

James Moore 0:00

And they eventually go well, so this is all going to be recorded. It's archival quality. It's going to go in the Atiyeh archives Pacific eventually, whenever I'm done. And then what I do with it is I actually cut up the conversation so discrete topics are there, and I don't do a transcript, because when we speak, we don't speak grammatically in any way, shape or form. So I do a summary of it and then take direct quotes out as we go along. So it's very important, and this is something that Vic and I talked about a lot. This book is not a biography of Vic. It's a story of the times with a guy named the Catia who played a role. And so that's where you, you, you can tell me about the times in some very good ways that I can't get in any other way. So that's, that's, that's the whole purpose of this.

So you're elected in 1960,

Phil Lang 1:06  
right?

That's correct. 61 was my first session, yeah, and Victor, Victor was still in the House, yeah? In 61 that's

second term, yes, yeah. And

think of it, since 63 that he moved to the Senate.

James Moore 1:21

Yeah, it's a 64 election. He moves over. So he's in the House for three terms. Okay, and so right, when the Republicans take the majority, he leaves. He doesn't regret going to the Senate, but he was always in the minority his entire career. Well,

Phil Lang 1:40  
during my first session as a

freshman legislator, you know, I didn't know a lot of the people, even in my own caucus. And however, during that period of time, the Portland legislator, legislators, not just the Multnomah County, but the Portland legislators caucus occasionally. Oh, okay, and of course, that included Victor, partly because of the business being in Portland, yeah. But anyway, so, you know, I began to have some conversations with him about legislation and and frequently we were some

times were on the opposite side of the issues and but it was a time when legislators, the opposite party weren't, weren't at each other's throat. There was much more civility, yeah, and we used to socialize together.

And, you know,

it was also a situation, very interesting. My first session, legislators were paid, according to what was in the Constitution, \$50 a month, and the secretary of state issued a check for the two year period, for the 24 months, \$1,200 right at the beginning of our legislative service, and the only expenses that were allowed was one round trip from your district to Salem and if I'm not mistaken, it was at six and a half cents a mile or something like that. So there wasn't much money involved

as a result of that

when we socialized in the evenings. You know,

usually the lobby picked up

the cost of the dinner and whatever.

There was much more rapport between legislators and the lobby at that time, and I worked for a domestic insurance company, North Pacific, Oregon Auto, and the person who was executive vice president at that time was sort of the Contact for the company at the legislature. He enjoyed

the association with

legislators. I think he knew practically everyone often, and I guess that's one of the reasons when I approached him about running for the legislature. That he thought it might be a good idea. It wasn't my idea. I had previously run for office and not been successful, and I just had sort of given up the idea of it, and I went to work for

North Pacific. And

some of the legislators from the south sub district, you know, Multnomah County, West Illinois County, with sub districts, wanted to replace one of the people. And they came to me and wanted to know if I would be interested in running. I said, Well, I've just, within the past year, gone to work for this insurance company, and I'm sure that they're not going to be interested in allowing me to do it. And well, they approached the it was Pete Brooks.

Approached him, and he said,

it would be okay, by the way, if I'm not mistaken,

Victor was one of the pallbearers at Pete Brooks funeral, and I was also but there were only two people from the company, and I was one, and nephew of Pete Brooks with us the other. But I believe, I'm almost positive the victor was one of the paddlers at his funeral.

So anyway,

we, you know, would have gatherings and members homes, the ones that actually were renting a home or at apartments and socialize in the evenings. Victor participated in some of that, but not a whole lot. Yeah, and did

James Moore 7:01

you get a sense of it? Because he had homework to do, or he just was, I

Phil Lang 7:07

think it was going home, or, yeah, it was going home. I think, okay, that's at least, that's a sense, I believe, that all of us

had at the

James Moore 7:15

time. He felt that with his his brothers running the story, it was an obligation to be back there, yes, at least every weekend, and if he could get up there. But

Phil Lang 7:28

even during the week, he would

sometimes do that. And I did the same thing. Yeah, I wasn't. I actually was an officer at the company by 1963 right? I was an officer of the company, and I made a lot of trips back and forth, you know, long, long hours and tiring days as a result of that. And Victor, I did the same kind of thing, if I'm not mistaken, when he moved to the Senate. And I'm not sure whether it was right immediately, but I think it could have been he became, I think he became the chairman of the Senate Education Committee, yeah, very early, yeah. And also at that time, he and I collaborated in having a bill drafted that would set forth what a primary or or standard education was for every school district in the state of Oregon. Well, it didn't get anywhere, because if OEA, they didn't want that to happen, it would have, they would have lost a lot of influence over things, I think, and it would have been much more difficult for them to

do the things that

they're supposed to do. I guess

they've been a giant on the scene and Salem for years, but at that time, there was conversation, you know, about what the state's obligation was, and we felt that if we could actually have legislation on the books that said these are the things that states are going to pay for, then the local district could make up their mind on what they wanted To add to it. Professional fiscal

James Moore 9:39

policy for schools, yeah,

Phil Lang 9:43

and they knew that the next thing that we were going to try and do, and we had to Bill drafted for that, was to centralize collective bargaining for teacher salaries. So. State of Washington has that, yeah? State of Oregon doesn't, and it's a disaster, yeah? So disaster for the teachers, and it's a disaster for taxpayers.

James Moore 10:10

Anticipated by it makes no sense

Phil Lang 10:16

whatsoever. So about that same time, then I think so what's the next session that Victor actually became chairman of revenue, and at that point I got to know him better, because I was on the emergency board, okay, and Ways and Means and the emergency board were in statute at that point in time. And as you know, the presiding officers and the co chairs of Ways and Means, the chairs of revenue, and then the Senate had one extra person to appoint, and the house had two, and so happens that I was one of the two, even during the Republican era, yeah, which was with my Democratic colleagues, created a lot of suspicion among them.

James Moore 11:17

Was Bob Smith,

Phil Lang 11:20

the speaker at that point. Oh, when I was appointed

Monty Montgomery. Monty Montgomery, yeah, Monty Montgomery appointed me to the emergency board, and then he appointed me to the next session. He appointed me to waste means. So I was on both the emergency board and Ways

and Means Victor was on. There was a small group of people, yeah, and we worked together very closely. Yeah, you know,

James Moore 11:52

going back a bit when you were first in the house, did Vic have the reputation yet for being the revenue

Phil Lang 12:02

guy? Yeah. I think that's pretty

James Moore 12:06

about 63 it's pretty clear. There's another person who retires a big kind of steps because of

Phil Lang 12:15

the business. Yeah, he knows about money, yeah, you know. And particularly a successful one. And of course, they were very successful.

The Yeah, he did as and

you know, most of his, all of his tenure in the house, I think, was under democratic

control and

revenue at that time, the revenue committee was pretty heavily Democratic. There were some Republicans on and I'm not sure whether it was on the

James Moore 12:59

nobody was the first term, but the second and third, okay, we have a great fit in the archive from his very first term. Whatever committee he's on, they're dealing with the budget that they're going to deal with. And he takes home his legal pad, and he goes through and does the math and writes a note saying, Well, if that's what our intention is, this doesn't add up. Yeah, so as soon as he gets there, he's being the business guy, yeah, doing things by

Phil Lang 13:30

hand. Well, we all did it by hand, you know. But yeah, one of, one of the other interesting things, the woman who was his secretary, his in the house was a long time Salem person who, you know, that was the thing that a lot of us Salem women did during session, made themselves available to become secretary, particularly for those who didn't have their wives, right? Many of the many of the members had their wives employed, and that was the way they were able to be there. Yes, you know, because of that \$50 a month

anyway, and Victor's, you know,

wife was not his secretary, so

she came to me and she said that she knew my she had been working since the 30s in the house, of course, in the 50s, 30s, that's not very long, yeah, really a period of time and everything had actually worked with my uncle, who served in the 33 session from over and grand. Union County, and it was very interesting that she had then ended up working for Victor. That was something that sort of drew Victor and I together. I think strange how those things can affect a relationship. But we really got to know each other really well during the time that he was on the emergency board and I was on the emergency board. How

James Moore 15:34

was he on the E Board? He talks about it as

he wasn't asked to come back.

He says he kept raising his hand saying, so what's the emergency

speed, you know, conservative with the type of the nickel, what we're doing

Phil Lang 15:53

here, yeah. And I see, oh, yeah. And I was that way too, you know. And we didn't always accept what the governor's staff was presenting to us. Being really an emergency

emergency board was really tough,

and I'm sure that's one of the reasons that the Liberal Democrats didn't like the emergency board being the size that it was, and they they fought for enlarging it. One of the person that was the most outspoken about it was Frank Roberts, and he finally got his way, and I still am one of those people who believes it's very tough for a large committee to make tough decisions. The smaller the group is, the easier it is for them to make and make correct decisions you don't. There wasn't much back scratching among the members. You didn't do someone a favor and be a vote that got something passed that you really didn't believe in. Yeah, and Victor was very strong and adamant in that regard. So

James Moore 17:17

did you find people when they were on the E board where they play their institutional role. So I'm the Ways and Means person, I'm the revenue person, I'm the team. Oh yes. So they play their institutional roles, absolutely,

Phil Lang 17:31

and that was the benefit, actually, of having the jurors of revenue serving on the emergency board, because they brought a different interest to what kinds of actions sometimes we were asked to take. You knew, you know, other funds and federal funds, the emergency board had the authority to raise limitations so you could end up creating a program or authorizing a building that was going to cost a lot of money eventually from The general fund, if you made a wrong decision, and it was not real easy for agencies to get that kind of thing passed through the emergency board unless they showed some way that they were going to be able to support it, and in the future, we were both there during the time that the community colleges really started to bloom in the state of Oregon, and

the

We the state provided the revenue for most of the initial building and construction, leaving the local district to do the support of the funding of

personnel and

program. And I don't know for sure how it is, whether it's still that way or not, but I have the sense that it isn't, and that's a good example of something going beyond where we intended it to go when it was established. But you know, most of the community colleges didn't even exist at that time, Portland had what was essentially a community college, but it was in,

think it was in the failing building you.

They're close to the Ross Island bridge

and Amos

Dean Bernardus, yeah, was the he was an associate superintendent of Portland schools running that program, but so he was really pushing to have a community college and a group office. Could have been just Ways and Means, but it could have been the emergency board too. Stood on the site where at Mount Sylvania, when there wasn't a single building with him, with amo, telling us how it was going to be very large parking lot buildings was sort of funny, but if I'm not mistaken, Victor was in that group. But that would not been unusual, even if he hadn't been a member of the committee that was actually making the visitation, because the

Metropolitan legislators were very interested

at that point. And as you know, the Portland Community College statistic was way into Washington County. So it could have been just that he was one of the interested legislators.

James Moore 21:30

Yeah, after the sideline on that, I live really near the Rock Creek Campus, oh yeah, which is where the Washington County Historical Museum archives are. Oh yeah. And so I've gone and looked at all their stuff on Vic. He gave them Pete. They have like, 80 awards. He just dumped clacks and trophies all every time you go on the Rose Festival, when you're the governor on the ship, they give you clacks. They got dozens of them. Yeah, and he gave tons to the university. It's like, man. So when I talked to Mike Thorne, Mike and Jill, I was talking about that, and they said, oh, you should see our basement.

Same thing. Just amazing.

Phil Lang 22:19

During the time he became governor after I wasn't there, yeah, exactly right, you know, and so I didn't have a lot of contact with him during the time he was governor. But, and this, I'll leave it to you to whether this is off or on the record, but I received a call from Jerry that

he wanted to talk to me

About a piece of legislation affecting domestic insurers. And on the way down, I tried to recall whether it was after Pete Brooks had retired as president of Oregon Ottawa before, but I think it was after, and I think that's probably the reason I got the call, rather than Pete to come down and talk to them about it. But anyway, there was an exemption from the premium tax for domestic companies, and there was a push for money at the time.

James Moore 23:42

If Jerry's around, there must be a fiscal crisis.

Phil Lang 23:45

You know, it's a situation where he served during a recession that was pretty severe. The dollar amounts might have been different, but the percentages, oh,

Speaker 1 23:59

yeah, there's some Yeah.

Phil Lang 24:03

Anyway, so they were looking for money,

and

they wanted to see whether there was really any justification for that exemption from the premium tax. And so I gave them that was pretty much the history of it, and why, you know, it was actually something the legislature decided on. Was not unusual across the country for this, for legislators to do this to aid in the development of an industry insurance, not only the property and casualty insurance, but also Life Insurance were exempt from the premium tax. Anyway, I.

The discussion

gone around to the point where some

they needed to be done to stop other companies from forming a company in the state of Oregon, to run their things, their business through that to avoid paying the premium tax. And so as a result of that discussion, and I don't know that point

where there was actually a bill that had passed or and he was considered in a veto, or whether they were trying to prepare a piece of legislation for the legislature, I rather believe it was probably the latter that they were in the throes of development of a piece of legislation for the next session of legislature. Could have been that the legislature was even in session, because after I was there, I didn't go back.

You know, you're not

James Moore 26:09  
Roger Martin,

Phil Lang 26:12  
no. Well, you know,

I don't like that. I don't like the what they do in Washington DC, either, yeah, you know, and particularly in Washington DC, they have access to the members in the book room. See, as a former member, I, you know, I can have the courtesy of the floor extended to me, and I've had that. I guess the first time was with Denny Jones, when he when he carried the bill naming the house wing after me. I think that's actually the first time after I had served that, I was back on the floor of the house. Wow, that's amazing. But you know, you have your own time. You do what you can do best. And I did that, and I wasn't going to be there, second guessing the other members publicly. I did that in the confines of my home, but anyway,

legislation was drafted to

give an exemption for any any company that was formed before a certain date and the last company to have successfully formed a domestic company, and it's a large insurer with farmers insurance that they have a domestic company that they run their business through to avoid the premium tax. And that was the way the premium tax was protected for North Pacific and Oregon auto and for Oregon mutual. McMinnville, by the way, one of the fellows that I hired and worked for me as an underwriter became president of Oregon mutual. Oh, yeah, yeah, Dennis Wilson, that's great. Yeah,

James Moore 28:21

yeah. Just so you know, this will probably be on the record, okay, because they're doing similar types of thinking about repealing the unitary tax, which they call the special session for. And so if the timing on this is right around there, this becomes a real important part of that story, okay, where we're scrambling for, how do we plug in holes? This isn't the safe rate. Where we say, Oh, look, we found \$81 million this is the taxes and how we go about that in tracking companies, you know, getting the tax system so recession. Well, I think it's part of that same Yeah. I'll

Phil Lang 28:59

leave it to your judgment and whether that is but anyway, before I left the office, we had pretty well come to an agreement that that was the way to handle it and to stop other companies from coming in and doing what farmers did. Farmers was the only company that was actually an outside company that got away with doing that. Everyone else that was protected by that deadline date were companies that had actually originated here in Oregon. They've been here for a long time. Yeah, been here for a long time. Of course, Oregon auto on North Pacific have been purchased several times since I left. And they Safeco now, yeah, and if you notice on a. If I don't know whether you're insured by say safe go, but the declaration page for safe go insurance does, does it say safe go? Insurance Company of Oregon or doing business of Oregon, it's really North Pacific, yeah, Safeco. You know, it's North Pacific, doing business at Safeco insurance company Oregon,

and that amazing. Yeah, yeah.

James Moore 30:32

So, let's go back to talk about elections and how they work between multiple member districts and single member districts.

Let me tell you what Victor said.

Victor loved multiple

districts. He just loved them. He loved representing the dairy farmers. He actually had dairy bills. He was on the dairy committee for a little while then, and that's that's one reason his archives are specific, because we were his university in his district. It took me a

Phil Lang 31:05

long time to learn Washington County. They were they ran county wide. They ran county

James Moore 31:09

wide, and they had a then they, there was a shared one with Yamu County. But they, he loved that. Then, when you go to single member districts, he felt there was a difference in the relationship with his constituents. He felt they felt that they owned him more. His letters got nastier. There were more pointed relations with some of the constituents. So what would I mean you were part of Multnomah? You're running when Multnomah, after 54 they have the districts in Multnomah, and I love those. Basically, two of them were Jim, so they would always be Democrats, and two were Jim, so they'd be basically Republicans, which, when they were seeking to change the single member districts, the central

Phil Lang 31:56

was concerned about that east central and west side were Republican, yeah, exactly, and south and north and the county district were all Democrats. Democrats, yeah, yeah.

James Moore 32:16

What was your experience in running? Did you run on a slate? No, or any of that, or relations with the constituents,

Phil Lang 32:26

initially no and then yes. Before it was over, we did. We did both slates and individual campaigning. But when I first ran, and it probably was because there was an incumbent that I was running against, an incumbent that the two other incumbents didn't want any longer. Hal. Christopher was his name, and he would he, I think he had was either part owner or worked in hardware store. He ended up he drank too much for one thing, and before it was before his life was over, and I don't know whether hell is still alive or not, to be honest with you, but he was driving taxicab in Portland, which was quite a come down for him. Anyway. Interesting that my total expenditures in that race in 1960

was \$500

and there was a lot of shoe leather, yeah, and I locked on a lot of doors, and I came up with a sort of tricky way of getting my my message out is I put my campaign piece on the outside of a large envelope that the ballots could be stuffed in, and the other people's literature could be stuffed in it, and the precinct committee. People in the South City, Southern District, loved those envelopes. Made it much easier for them to have a piece to hand to the person at the door. And of course, they hand it to the door, and here I am, my picture and my campaign pitch. Now some of the other candidates weren't very happy about that, but nevertheless, none of them had thought about it doing that, and that's what my expenditure was, was those envelopes and having them printed.

James Moore 34:55

And do you remember people using long signs? Well?

Phil Lang 35:00

Not at that point. Victor

James Moore 35:01

in his first campaign, he had never really seen lawn signs, and somebody that he worked with suggested, so they went and built in the garage and painted

Phil Lang 35:12

them in. The person who really brought lawn signs to the campaigns was blocked Packwood. Okay. As far as the Multnomah County area is concerned, and from there on, we everyone had to have lawn signs of some kind, you know, a lot of people didn't want lawn signs, you know, in their lawns, and it was they were much more resistant to it than they are now.

James Moore 35:44

Discovered is it was a good way for because he got into politics for a variety of things, one of his closest friends, Jim Campbell, was basically saying.

Phil Lang 35:52

And Jim Campbell, by the word was, was one Jim Campbell, I knew very well,

James Moore 35:57

because I have Jim Campbell questions for you as well. Later

Phil Lang 36:01

on, Jim, did the media get involved

in your first race at all? Well, I'll get I'll tell him about that. But Jim Campbell was an agent for North Pacific, okay, Oregon auto, yeah, and Tom Galt, his partner and anyway, I knew him really well. Yeah,

the,

of course, the Oregonian didn't even mention me when they went for endorsements. I didn't. I they didn't say and so and so was also running or something. I nothing in the Oregonian about me, and part of that, as you know, I had worked for Terry shrunk before this. In fact, I had been Terry's essentially chief of staff when he became mayor, yeah, and, you know, the Oregonian Ontario just were never a lot alone on anything. And so that put a

kibosh for me, but

the Journal did mention me, but they, they didn't endorse me. They, they actually endorsed a fellow that was, was a longshoreman, Ernie. What the heck was his last name? That terrible. Put it out of my mind, but they endorsed norm, Howard grace, Peck and and as Ernie and but they did mention that I was also a strong candidate that, but that was all the media had to say about me in the campaign. Well, at that point, as you well know, the people who got the top three votes and were nominated and then they were elected the same way, and getting the nomination, I ran third in being elected. I ran second. Grace pack Peck ran first. I ran second, and Norm Howard ran third. But so you know, that's where my career in government started,

James Moore 38:42

yeah, yeah.

So you said you ran on a slate later on, yeah. Was it just the three Democrats, just combining things?

Phil Lang 38:54

It was essentially the three Democrats combining a piece of literature. Yeah.

James Moore 39:01

That's what evicted in the 62 election with

Phil Lang 39:05

Bobby Jones. Okay, John monster, okay,

Bobby Jones sat right next to me, and you only served one session,

James Moore 39:15

yeah? Well, he served six months, yeah. And then you guys had a special session in 63 that was in December, and he was going to be on Naval Reserve duty anyway. Yeah, and Hatfield said, so you want to be a judge. Apparently he turned him down the first time because Hatfield said, Washington County, where he lives in Multnomah County, where I work. And it came to this is, this is in 1964 when Vic moved to the Senate right took on John here, and he won, yeah, and so this is the letter that John here wrote. It just, just on, on the Senate stationary. Is basically. Congratulations. Just

Phil Lang 40:04

one line that's, that's John here. Yeah, that's typical John here. He said had very little to say at any time, yeah, so

James Moore 40:13

maybe this was loquacious John.

Phil Lang 40:18

In fact, I'm not sure I ever saw John here on the floor of the house and say, Oh yeah,

James Moore 40:27

because in Washington County, it was seen as the more populous east side is winning out over the less populous west side. But yeah, I know John here because there's a hair field. Yeah. Vick first run one of his big endorsements, and person who gave him money, he only raised like, like you. I mean, he raised like \$219 his first time, yeah, and spent 138 Yeah. But Henry Hague of Hague Lake,

Phil Lang 41:05

isn't that interesting? Yeah, things were different. Things

James Moore 41:09

were very different. Things were very different. So talk to me about the switch. So the 72 election, you're going to single member districts. You've got 18 year olds coming in. People talk especially about Multnomah County, where the Democrats were reticent to go to multiple member districts. Apparently, Betty Roberts went and did the math and said, if we go to multiple member districts, we're going to get all these seats. There might be one Republican that would win. I don't think a Republican did, but talk about that switch to the single member district races? Well,

Phil Lang 41:50

it wasn't good for me,

and I really didn't support the idea of doing it, but

the election ended up with

three people in the race. There was an independent as well as a Republican. And my district was

east Moreland

and Sellwood and the west side, so I picked up gun for and irvidale

try and try and knock on doors.

Yeah, you're not, you're going to get, you know,

house made of some kind, not the owner, yeah, and many of those places, at least at that time, and they're so far apart that

I actually had

a lobbyist arrange a coffee Hour in dunthorp

for me

at the home of

the people who owned and ran Van Dyne chocolate. Remember the Van Dyne chocolates? Those were really probably the best candy in town. Anyway, the van dynes had a coffee hour, and that was the way I broke in to the dunthorp area, and I actually did reasonably well, believe it or not, I think was a result of that, that coffee hour. But by that time, you know, I was on Ways and Means, and I saw in the emergency bull riding, and

the Oregonian

the next morning after the election, said I had been defeated,

and I had a

let's see He probably was 10 or 11 year old son

getting ready to leave for school.

He said, Don't worry, dad. He said, When all the votes are counted, you'll have won. Well, let me tell you, I had gotten the list of absentee applications for absentee ballots, and I'd written each one of them a personal letter asking them for their support and their vote, and when they counted the absentee ballots, I won by 242 votes.

And I, you know, here I am

for this area on both the emergency board and Ways and Means and the Republic concern control of a house. I. At the time. Now, the 72 election changed that because the Democrats actually ended up winning enough votes to control and I was in sort of the mix for the leadership at that time and and wasn't successful, other than to become Speaker Pro Tem and Chair of Ways and Means, and my chair, my co chair in the Senate that time, was Bill Holmstrom. And essentially, Bill Holmstrom wasn't there most of the time. Bill Holmstrom was at that point drinking more and he should. And as a result, you know, I pretty much had ways and means of responsibility for both the House and the Senate. Fortunately, there were some good Senate

senators always and means, right?

Lynn Newbery,

we worked together very well, and we actually had a good session.

James Moore 46:20

That's why we were still Republican senators drop off precipitously after that. Yeah.

Phil Lang 46:27

So anyway, yeah, I don't think that. To be honest with you, I don't think single member districts have been very good for Oregon.

I'm sure

there are minority groups that would argue with me on it, but I'm not sure, but in multi member districts that both minority groups wouldn't still have, well,

James Moore 46:56

in a lot of ways, it would allow because, you know, there's been explosion, especially since '74 an explosion in the number of people. Of people who aren't registered Republican, Democrat, and it would give space for some of them to be in

there Ted Columbus, when I was talking to him about that,

pairs that with the beginnings of an environmental movement. So Democrats, by 1980 into the mid 80s, you've got to be an environmental side, but that it's just beginning then. So it kind of feeds into single member districts. You can go the interest groups, can have single issues, and it begins to build

Phil Lang 47:39

on itself right at that time that I won that award from and I people wouldn't, didn't believe it, but I won an award from The Oregon Environmental Council.

That amazing. Yeah.

Jenny hired Kulinowski to as a staff member for the legislature. There

James Moore 48:07

you go, before he ran, yeah, yeah. When it's talking to Carrie Wilhelms, he was saying how interesting it was that Ted was the staffer. And then the next term he was on the committee.

Phil Lang 48:26

And the very interesting thing as I appointed him Chair of labor, oh yeah. And a lot of people thought I had given the store away, oh yeah. And during the session, he came to me and he said, you know, he said, I'm sitting on some workers comp bills that the state of Oregon and the businesses of the state of Oregon can't afford. And he said, I'm getting a lot of pressure. And he said they're going to come down and talk to you. And sure enough, the labor people asked for an appointment and came in and talked to me about it, and I just told them, said, I believe in a strong committee system. And I said I appointed chairman that I thought would be strong. And I said, I'm well back whatever the chairman feels that is in the best interest of the state of Oregon,

and I'm not going to interfere with that.

And he sat on them. They didn't get out and they didn't pass. And, you know, he was so involved then in the solution of the workers comp problems for the state of Oregon. Then after that, he was, you know, after he was in the legislature, he. He was the head of the was it finance and industry or something department? They called it finance and insurance, maybe. And it was during that period of time that Goldschmidt called together that group to solve, those things, solve the workers comp problems, yeah. And the worker workers comp rate just went way down, yeah. And

James Moore 50:27

then there were slight problems with that, which Governor Golubowski, that worked on, fixated in like 2003 and four, yeah.

Phil Lang 50:33

Anyway, yeah. Doesn't that any

like, I say, I once I

left the legislature, I really didn't go back, except when they asked me to and I got that call from Jerry, and we talked about that domestic insurance premium exemption, and that was about the only contact I had with him during the time he was governor. Had no reason to, yeah, I knew I had.

I had a lot of faith in him. Yeah, those

James Moore 51:20  
who did, who did, who knew him

did just he would not shine. He would not

Phil Lang 51:27  
toot his own horn. That wasn't the way he was, yeah, and that

James Moore 51:31  
worked out for him, but it drove Denny nuts.

Gotta take credit for this stuff as you're as you're in the house, and then moving into leadership on the Senate side, they've got the coalition. Did that have an impact on how you dealt with the Senate, or did that just kind of get things going, and then they would go through the legislative session in 71 it becomes a big deal. Vic is the new minority leader, and it takes him 54 ballots to come up with a president. And so one thing I'm going to talk to you, I already talked to Wally Carson, but I need to go back and talk to him and Tony Meeker, who win the caucus. The caucus didn't support Vic for being the President of the Senate. I being the President of the Senate, which is fascinating, when new brick was their guy, and then they kind of switched around. Eventually, John Burns gets it. But it's that dynamic, that kind of strange

Phil Lang 52:34  
dynamic, you know, I wasn't aware of what really was going on. I kept out of it, yeah, which

James Moore 52:41  
seems to be the safe thing to do, yeah. Vic hated the hate. He hated the coalition. But then when he becomes the Minority Leader, in effect, he has to use the coalition. So there's a very interesting flip as he goes into explicit leadership. Yeah, there.

Phil Lang 53:01  
Well, the John Burns thing just came out of nowhere. As far as I was concerned. I wasn't prepared for that at all.

When that happened.

It would have been better if John had switched parties, you know, yeah. Because essentially, he did, oh

James Moore 53:23  
yeah, absolutely. At the end of that session in 71 is when it was all the stuff about the 18 year old

boat, and talking to old Blumenauer has been

because that's his, he's 2021, years old at that point, losing

Clarkson, pushing this.

But in effect, the coalition comes back then because they couldn't, they couldn't get it out. They had 1515, votes on the 18 year old constitutional amendment. And eventually burns steps in again, and there's, there's, in effect, the coalition asserts itself, to get them out of town and get this thing broken up or down. It's just, it's just fascinating stuff.

I will be talking to John as well see

if he sheds light. He wrote some amazing notes to Vic

that are just, they're, they're really heartfelt about the position that he was in, helping to preserve Vic's caucus, as well as the sanctity of the Office of President

Phil Lang 54:31  
of the Senate. Well, Bud Land was head of the Democratic caucus, yeah, and

James Moore 54:36  
he was the one they wanted to be the president. And

Phil Lang 54:43  
but Bud Land, actually, it was a cousin of mine. Oh, yeah, yeah, there was one time in the house when Bud Land and Elmer  
from

Clackamas County was with a.

You remember what the name is, Jenny,

and then

James Moore 55:07  
if I was at home, I'd have my blue books. I went and borrowed all of them. Okay.

Phil Lang 55:13  
Anyway, was

from Clackamas County, but and Warren, I think it was last name was Smith, a Republican from Benton County, and I  
were in the house, and we were all related to each other, but all with different last names. Oh, yeah. So it's

James Moore 55:43  
kind of like something people still

Speaker 2 55:46  
don't understand here. Gordon

Speaker 2 55:47  
Smith is a Utah Right, yeah.

Phil Lang 55:52  
Well, Jim Smith, wasn't it? What is his name? Jim Simmons, oh, Jim Simmons was it? Was in the Senate. He was a  
cousin of mine. Then my brother was in the Senate for one year, yeah, yeah, one session,

and that was during the time I was speaker, yeah.

James Moore 56:12  
So you move into the speakership in '75

Vic is the minority leader in the side

of a minority that is shrinking drastically, right? They had six that time. That's when they took a picture of them all.  
Phone Booth on the second floor, when they have in '77 when there are seven of them. Vic had little gold Roman  
numeral sevens made. I've seen three of them so far. But did you deal with with him as the leader, Minority Leader in  
the Senate? Sure, when you were and so talk to me about that. And the reason it's not just his legislative stuff. After his  
'74 defeat and for governor, he is, all of a sudden, it's like he's the head of the Republican Party, or even though he's lost  
by a ton, he had the worst defeat for a governor of gubernatorial candidates since 1950 but in his own mind, he talking  
to his son, there was, like, a Watergate discount. So Watergate so we didn't lose by as much. And he was just, he was  
just thrilled at meeting people all over the state, and he stepped in. He's the one who's choosing who's going to be the

executive director of the Republican Party in Oregon. He's the one who's putting together things where Jerry Ford is coming to town Rockefeller is coming to town. Reagan's coming to town. He's in the party. He's, all of a sudden, a big statewide player. So what was it like working with him? Is that minority leader position when you were speaker,

Phil Lang 57:57  
it was pretty routine,

and that in some ways, I guess that's also says something about how Victor is. There was some there was just a job that needed to get done, and when something came up that there was some coordination that needed to be taken care of. It hmm,

at that point,

Joe Smith was my Chief of Staff, and he would arrange a meeting with Victor, and we'd talk about what it was and come to an agreement, and one way or another, that it was pretty routine.

We tried to have

a weekly meeting with a governor at the time, and Bucha was involved in those meetings because the Senate being so divided, and I'm not sure whether we included the Republican leadership from the house, I think we did in those meetings.

The meetings would be in the conference room there in the governor's office.

But you know,

in the heat of a session,

you either have to work as

a administrator, manager or an executive to get things done. And so things become pretty routine, yeah, yeah, and I can't recall, really. I. Yeah, running into any,

well, it was a fairly short session that for

75 session, I don't run, remember running into anything that really was a big issue.

James Moore 1:00:20

It's like you there's some cleaning up from land use stuff, yeah, that kind of thing. But yeah, was

Phil Lang 1:00:28  
pretty routine, yeah, okay.

James Moore 1:00:33

Several people have characterized the legislature in the late 60s to about 77 ish as a COVID pool party, government you're generating, you know, the big things that, the famous things, the bottle comes out of there, land use comes out of there, those kinds of things, the beach bill comes out but, but it's, it's a, it's really, it's generating its own ideas. And, you know, McCall buys into them or doesn't buy something spun but that's kind of the last time we see that. The last time we really see that is Kitzhaber and the Oregon Health Plan in the early, late 80s and early 90s. But since then, the legislature has been basically a reactive body. Did you at the time, have a sense that you were part of this active, important part of government?

Phil Lang 1:01:28  
In fact, Jason and I talked about as being an equal

partner

to the executive department. It was our goal to develop the legislature,

to assume that role.

A lot of things we did to strengthen the legislature when she was, I think, in administration at that time and saw the things that we were trying to do, the oldest project, you know, the information project,

the Well,

I have, in hindsight, some misgivings about what we did, you know, but I think that's normal. The building of the wings was to strengthen the legislature.

We strengthened

the Administration Committee. We strengthen Well,

each one of the supporting groups,

legislative, Council and fiscal

those staff are probably equal to or better than the staff that the governor's office has and

the Department of Administrative Services, yeah,

I don't think they're being used the way they should be. Probably, I think you're right, they have become more reactive.

That's one thing

I was highly criticized by. I guess it was the Willamette week for not having a program that I was pursuing as an individual and I didn't have. And part of the reason I didn't my I felt that my job was to see that things ran as smoothly as possible. Right? And I believe strongly in the in the committee system that we have in Oregon, and I believe strongly in the way we handle our budget agency or agency, by each one individually coming to the floor, stop. Uh, they do it in caucus, and they settle their budget in caucus in Washington, and it's one or two bills at the most. Yeah. Now I've gone more that way here too.

James Moore 1:04:38

They say I don't go down anymore because everything's the major stuff is all in common. Yeah. All in common. Do you know, did Victor share that same kind of view about the way committees were the important players? I think

Phil Lang 1:04:55

he did. You know,

I can't recall. All that we specifically talked about it, but I know that his actions were such that would lead me to believe that that was the case.

James Moore 1:05:10

There's a great continuity with that, and then the way he, as governor, ran the agencies, a tremendous,

wonderful way of giving responsibility,

Phil Lang 1:05:21

yeah, you delegate and, and if someone isn't living up to it, you you replace them, yeah, although he had

James Moore 1:05:33  
a hard time doing that sometimes,

not saying Lee Johnson or anything, but, yeah,

Phil Lang 1:05:42  
but, that's what you should do,

James Moore 1:05:44  
yeah, absolutely, absolutely,

Phil Lang 1:05:48  
yeah. And that's what I did with my committee chairman. And you know, one of the interesting things is, during the the time that Bob Smith was speaker,

Bob was Bob and I came to the house in 61 and his he was the only, yeah, he, he was the only one that was younger than I Oh, yeah. And fatally, if I'm not mistaken, fatally is like one day older than I saw. That's wonderful, but Bob Smith, the only one younger. But we came, became really good, close friends, and during the time I was that he was speaker, the four years that he was Speaker, I chaired the Subcommittee on education, in ways and means, where all the money is now. Occasionally, he had asked me to come to the Republican caucus and talk about things. And I know that some of the Republicans were a little antsy about it. You know, here's the Democrat that you fit to be handling all this money and policy. You know, because the person that controls the purse strings controls policy, the policy makers sometimes don't like that exactly, but that is a fact. And so anyway, I consider that, you know, probably one of the real compliments, and honor my trustworthiness and ability. Yeah, interesting speaker. I talked to Paul Hanson a couple of

James Moore 1:07:45  
weeks ago, and he was telling me that saga the

model bill. Bob voted against it, and then he sent it back to committee. And then Bob just said to him, Okay,

I'm going to stand to the side and

you whatever happens happens.

Paul said, You mean I get the point? Do I want to the interim committee? Whatever happens happens.

It's just a just fascinating

when Bob went to

Congress,

because there he sometimes he was really partisan in the Oregon legislature, and then sometimes he wasn't. It was very interesting to do that, but when he was in Congress, his staffers in Oregon, he didn't really pay attention to party registration, and

the great Walden came in and fired all the Democrats,

and Greg Walden had been the one who was kind of known as the non partisan guy coming up. So it's just just fascinating to look and see him just go

Speaker 2 1:08:50

back. Yeah, honey, tell Jim the story about the bill that you got out of committee.

Phil Lang 1:09:01

We had a bill dealing with tax

conservation and supervision commission in Multnomah County. You know, they had that commission in Multnomah County for they didn't have to publish the budgets of the various governmental agencies within the county, like they did in every other county, the small newspapers throughout Oregon, way some of them survive is through that law that requires that publication? Well, this commission

wasn't doing its job, and

after I took a real close look at it, they really didn't have the right authority to you.

Either send a budget back or make changes

anyway. And part of that came about because Ross Morgan was very interested in that, for some reason, and probably because of being out in Gresham and Gresham and had to submit their budgets to the tax supervising and Conservation Commission. Anyway, we had the legislation draft, and it was

a Senate Bill,

and it was sitting in the Senate committee,

they had had no hearings on it. We're getting down to the final days of closing where rule suspension was going on. To get things done,

I wrote a

note to the chairman of the Senate committee and asked if there was any possible way by then, by the then, Ross, that was gone, was gone because he had been appointed at employment. Remember,

anyway, Ross was gone. By that time,

it was during the session that he actually

was appointed at employment. And that was an interesting story. I know you probably heard it. That was more it was the day after Ross Morgan had clobbered Vern Cook, some kind of evening event, which I'm sure both of them had plenty to drink.

Ross Florida.

And of course, the word word went throughout

the institution immediately, and then Tom offers him the job as the Director of Employment, and Ross took it. But getting back to this bill, I wrote this note, and it was Harry boyman, and

it couldn't have been more than half an hour. I got

a note back from Harry, and he said

the committee, I called him,

committee meeting, the committee met and the ball, and the bill has been passed out of committee without recommendation. And I had pointed out between this bill only affected Multnomah County, you know. So it passed the Senate, even though it came to the floor without recommendation. And, you know, no one other than county people really were interested. And so it was almost absolutely a new pass while by the time it was ready to come to the house, we were down to the final one or two days. Things were really, really moving. I went up and talked to Bob, and I said, this bill going to be coming over from the Senate. I explained to him briefly what it was, and that it only affected Multnomah County, and that I would really not like it to go to committee. So I said, when I hear the Reading Clerk

mentioned that the bill has been received from the Senate,

I said I would like to have the bill, and I would then, under oppositions and motions, get up and move for suspension and that the Bill be put before us for immediately before us for third reading and final passage. Said that's fine with me. He said, sounds like a deal. So anyway, he gave me the bill, took it back to my desk, and when I had an opportunity, I got up under proposition to the motion and moved suspension of the rules before us for third reading and final passage. So brief discussion about what it did, and no one got up talked about it one way or the other, because it hadn't been in committee. So no committee members knew much about it, and they didn't even think about it. I mean,

halfway through the roll call,

Bobby Carson gets up out of his chair, and he goes up to Bob Smith. He says to Bob, he said, Do you know what's going on? He said, We've got to stop this. And Bob said, calm down. Well, Way I know what's going on. Lange has talked to me about this, and I said it was okay go down. But he, for some reason, he had checked the calendar, yeah, you know, and he had seen it hadn't gone to committee, yeah, actually, that incentive was a pull away from committee of a bill, and that never happened. Yeah, you know. So he came back to me, while he came back to me and he says, How many more of these are there?

He figured there was a real conspiracy going on.

James Moore 1:15:40

Had a little stack of paper on your desk,

Phil Lang 1:15:45

but anyway, the bill passed, and, of course, was signed, and the and the Commission has had, you know, became much more important. Yeah,

James Moore 1:15:59

two last questions. Okay,

first, it'll be either quick or not. Did you know Jerry Thompson in the insurance business?

Speaker 2 1:16:10

Yeah, you

Phil Lang 1:16:12

know, occasionally the insurance people would get together on things, and she was working, you know, in the health insurance business, and we, we didn't meet with them very often, but we did occasionally, and because of my being an officer of the company, I always was included in those those meetings.

And, yeah, I knew her

James Moore 1:16:44

Vic didn't talk to you about her.

Phil Lang 1:16:47

No, okay,

James Moore 1:16:48

it's somewhat of a

Phil Lang 1:16:50

mystery how, how she got the job.

James Moore 1:16:54

And same thing Eva this 1978 he hired Carol woody as a campaign manager. And also, not clear, he did things by gut feeling a lot, and he talked to both of them for like, an hour and a half, and then a couple that he's later called back and said, I want you to have most important job. And she couldn't down. We're just trying to figure this out. Yeah, so, so just, just see and see what's out there. Last thing, Victor ended up being very close to the tribes, especially trace it back, actually talking with Bruce Bishop. Victor was the one who pushed through the legislative tribal committee in

73 tribal committee in 73

but trying to figure out, so why did he do that? Do you know anything earlier than that of Victor and the tribes?

There's a hypothesis that it might be

Phil Lang 1:18:00

Sam Johnson, yeah. Well, it almost had to be Sam, because Sam was very outspoken about the tribes, yeah. And, you know, Sam actually sold that one mill to the Warm Springs, yeah, with a deal of staying, sort of staying on as a manager for the first, I think first five years, Martin

James Moore 1:18:24

was saved as big, yeah,

Phil Lang 1:18:26

but yeah, you know.

James Moore 1:18:28

But you would think Sam Johnson,

Phil Lang 1:18:30

I think, was saying, yeah, yeah,

you know, the it was very interesting to me that the ours never put Sam on Ways and Means.

And when I became speaker,

I called Sam and asked him if he would serve on Ways and Means, and he and he actually had tears, you could tell it,

the way his voice was

it said, you know, he said the Republicans never asked me to do that, which is a very interesting just aside from all this, yeah, but he was very, very committed to some kind of tribal recognition. Was also very interesting that

on the way to Sam Johnson's funeral,

we decided to stay at

Canadians. And then drive on to Redmond from canita. Victor was at Kennedy, stayed overnight at Kennedy on his way

to Sam Johnson's funeral. And so we saw Victor in. And his wife there,

so I know they were fairly close. Yeah, yeah,

I was really close to Sam for

whole lot of other kinds of reasons.

And at one point, I was actually thinking about possibly quitting my job and continuing to run for the legislature, because

the not being

the underwriting officer for an insurance company is a big load, yeah, you know. And he said, if you decide to do that, he said, I'll buy you an insurance agency to

run. That's how close we

were. That's the that was sort of the kind of guy that Sam was, and I think that he and Victor had a very close relationship.

Betsy should know that. Oh

James Moore 1:21:09

yeah, yeah, it's just there's people like Betsy, Jackie winters, Paul Phillips, Wen bergstein, who ran both of them strong campaigns.

You had to wait for the session to be

over so they're I'm figuring they're now kind of calmed down and I can go, yeah and talk to them. Well,

Phil Lang 1:21:33

no point of, there's nothing we can do with what they've done.

Speaker 1 1:21:36

Oh yeah,

Phil Lang 1:21:38

I don't agree. I don't agree very much, but

it's the same thing that goes on in Washington, DC. No one looks at the end game and how much it's going to cost and what it's going to do to our economy. We're going to become just as socialized as Europe? Yeah,

James Moore 1:22:02

and there's good ways to do that if you want to do that, but we're not thinking of the good ways to do it, and no, we're just kind of falling into things. It was just two weeks ago I went through and put together a list of Vic's principles, because he always said that Jerry when the rajneeshees were going and Congo was falling apart, she asked him, How can you sleep at night? I'm not sleeping at all. And he said, Oh, I sleep like a baby. And she thought to herself, you son of a bitch. I said, I just go with my principals. And so some of them, that's fascinating. Things about him as governor and as legislator, when those principles clash. So the bottle bill is a classic thing. Principle, do what's right for Oregon. This is clearly the right thing to do. Principle, have the least government you can so it collides with so we're putting this on the grocery stores, in effect, farming out government at them. And he eventually voted for it, but it was a long, hard process, and so those, the clash of principles that he held really closely was just a fascinating

Phil Lang 1:23:14

thing, and they gave the supervision of it to the Laker commission. Yeah, and I had dealt with that for 13 and a half years afterwards. Yeah,

James Moore 1:23:23

yeah. I was talking to Mike Thorne because another thing, the lottery is approved. 84 Yeah, and so big opposed that the whole way, but it's approved. So it's just for economic development. And here's what economic development means. And then when I was talking to Ted gubowski, he said, Yeah, but you know, I was the attorney general of Google, that it's also this and this. And Mike Thorn made a real good point, because he was the head of the committee, so this is coming through. He said, You know, no one has ever defined what economic development is. It just depends on who's sitting there at the time. Yeah, and so now the lottery is, it's, it's still, I mean, it's not a huge amount, but it's like seven 10% it's just locked into the budget. And Victor hated that collision of his principles.

Phil Lang 1:24:18

Yeah, I would have opposed it to

for the very same reasons,

dedicated funds are very difficult to deal with and make it budgeting very difficult for the simple reason that

either agencies or

like economic development

get treated differently than. And everyone else, yeah,

James Moore 1:25:06

and Victor in the recession was torn because he actually, he knew we needed to defy that kind of development. So their budget was, like the only thing that was increasing. Higher Ed he knew was a part of that. And so he's at least, at least able to keep it, which was an effective increase, given the way everything else would be cut. But at what point did you say, Okay, we're on a good setting now, and so we have to go back. So you guys are regular.

It wasn't until those last two years that was funny.

Phil Lang 1:25:41

The other thing that the lottery has done is it's allowed many casinos, yeah, and they're illegal in Oregon, except the tribal Yeah. But whatever the

deposition you tell me what? Tell me the local

James Moore 1:26:00

people. It's the other tribes.

Phil Lang 1:26:05

Dotties, for example, is a casino. Yeah, they could not exist. If it wasn't for that, the Restaurant Association would not be nearly as effective as the legislature if the lottery was not out there.

James Moore 1:26:26

When you were talking about the little newspapers that got by with all the publications, that's exactly what I was talking about. Thinking in my head, it's there. That's convenience stores from the entire state,

absolutely So any last things on Victor? Well, not just for

someone who's thought they wouldn't have much to say. Not I gotta tell you, it's been like an hour and a half.

Phil Lang 1:26:54

I'm inclined when I get started talking about things like that and talking more than I should. I guess, nothing more than to say that I because of my association with him at the legislature and then the short experience with him as governor, I learned to honor and respect the man, and I think that he made a substantial contribution to the state of Oregon. I feel felt so strongly about my relationship with him that I couldn't attend the funeral service and say, one. And I felt bad about that journey went.

James Moore 1:27:45

I've got the DVD. Yeah, I

Phil Lang 1:27:47

might like it,

but I just wasn't sure I was was up to at that point, there were some other things that were on my mind, and I just wasn't sure that I wanted to be in public. Yeah, under that those circumstances, he's been

James Moore 1:28:09

gone a year, and there are still times the last time was talking both his I talked to his nephew, who runs the TIA brothers, and

Speaker 1 1:28:19

his son last

James Moore 1:28:22

week, and the son is not. He's very he's not very much like Victor. He's very much like his grandfather,

but the nephew,

whose personality is is like his father and his other uncle, but he has the same emotional connection that Victor did okay, and both him and then another person I interviewed at the store had been hired by Victor 42

years ago, and a lot of

emotions just he was an amazing guy

whose father was convicted of a federal crime.

Phil Lang 1:29:09

Well, you know, you know,

they're interesting things in the background, and a lot of our lawmakers and, Oh yeah, yeah, Ed Whelan had serious. Thing in his background in connection with his happened to his father? Yeah, a lot of people don't know that.

James Moore 1:29:30

Yeah, well, and there's Monty. Montgomery is a very close friend of Vicks. I haven't traced to exactly what the results were, but he should have gone to jail. There's, there's no doubt he should have gone to jail. So in Vic's first two sessions, he kept every note that you guys would pass

Phil Lang 1:29:54

on. So Darn I never did just

James Moore 1:29:56

gold

mine. Um. And my Montgomery is a slingshot. There's just no doubt that he's a sleazeball, whatever he is as a legislator, things like that. Just personally, he's just not that straight a guy. And it just comes out in the notes. Ed failings note is fantastic, because he comes in with you. And at some point, Vic gets up, and there's a bill and he's talking on it, so the note from Ed fatally just defines their relationship forever. Don't you ever dare presume to speak.

And know what I'm thinking. Just classic, that same relationship is going on, but it's there from the beginning, from the beginning. It's just fascinating to when I teach my students, it's so hard for them to think all politicians are the same. It's like, Well, you're in the system and you're doing things by the same set of rules, but the personality side is something you have to pay attention to. It's always how do you get to that majority plus one? And it's systemic, it's personal, it's all those things at the same

Phil Lang 1:31:18  
time. It is. There's no question

James Moore 1:31:19  
party partisanship, and you got a real

Phil Lang 1:31:23  
lot so things go on behind the scenes. Yeah, I don't have the record of any of that. Yeah, well, he

James Moore 1:31:30  
only did that for the first two sessions. Then after that, the ones he kept were the ones he was

Phil Lang 1:31:34  
proud of. I didn't save any of them. And let me tell you, I did something. I thing, I actually was separated from my wife at the time that I moved out of the Speaker's office when I moved 42 packing cases of material. They were in a room at the apartment that I was living in. And I finally looked at them and I said, What the heck do I need about what these things were? And they went in a dumpster.

When Tom Vaughn found out about that, he went he went ballistic, because all the records of 18 years, yeah.

And you know, they're gone. They're gone,

James Moore 1:32:40  
yeah, Barbara Roberts was talking about when Frank died, maybe he just moved into his office and started to clean it out. And Barbara didn't find out until, like, three or four days later, she came in and Frank stuff was out in the hall, and there's so there's no way of knowing what they taught us. Whereas Paul Hanneman, very proudly, has, not only all his stuff, but he has the original filing cabinets, because they were changing filing cabinets. So he has them

set up a lot of dust in there. I know,

Phil Lang 1:33:25  
Paul was the

senior member

of the House Speaker, yeah, and you know you always have the senior member do the motions to adjourn and everything. So,

yeah, work out a signal

that he would see and get up and move to adjourn. Yeah, fun stuff

James Moore 1:34:00

in there. Gotta talk to Harding Myers forever and ever, and

because he succeeded, right and come in and so just fascinating stuff with all of that. But the funniest thing is talking about an 82 when they went in and they took the \$81 million from safe and, you know, all the things that happened with that. And so I said to him, Oh, yeah. So tell me about the safe rate and hardy always a gentleman. Oh, oh, can't we call it something else? And the best story about the safe raid was Ted kologoski, who was in the middle. He was in the it was in the middle of the gubernatorial election. They called the special session to do that,

and so Ted votes for it.

And so what happens he's the Attorney General when they finally have to pay 81 Million dollar VMs, some huge two 70,000,200 \$60 million check.

Phil Lang 1:35:07

Well, you know that

Hatfield was trying to develop a deal in Eastern Oregon for the development of a plant for Boeing that was his his pitch to the legislature, and I opposed it from the very first day,

and

spoke against it. And I was one of us, probably 10, only about 10 votes initially that opposed it, until people began to realize what was being done, and the use of those veterans funds was an illegal use of them, and eventually the state had to pay that back. But and that got internal politics really

was very interesting.

Hatfield even brought Wayne Morris out to try and convince the legislature that they should support expanding the operation at Boardman. And you know, if you're ever driven in that country, it's a bunch of sagebrush. You know, trying to picture a plant for Boeing out there is rather, I don't know whether it's

how we came up with that as a economic Hanford

James Moore 1:36:47

plan, we will build a village.

Phil Lang 1:36:54

But anyway, I sort of

at the time that all this actually finally happened. I sat on the middle aisle in the house about halfway back, and I told my secretary. I said, if you don't want to be really embarrassed,

you won't come in. Morris

was going to speak right after lunch. I said, you won't come in. And she said, What are you going to do? And I said, Well, you can go to the balcony or somewhere else and watch. I brought my coat in with and put it in the chair, and when Wayne Morse got up to start speaking, I stood up

very deliberately, put my coat on

and walked back on the center aisle and out the door.

Wayne Morse was a living.

Probably six months later, we were having a democratic function in Coos Bay, and Morris was scheduled to speak, and Charlie Brooks was, you know, his assistant. And Charlie came to me and he said, Do you have an electric bracer with you? And I stole, Yeah, but why? You know he was fine. And he said, well, the senator needs to shave before he appears. And I said, You mean to tell me that I'm going to give this, my electric shavers to the senator who really won't even speak to me. And Charlie said, I guarantee you he will personally thank you for and he did. I came the shaver, and later that day,

Morse came up to me, and he said, Thank you for so I broke the ice. And it

James Moore 1:39:22

was fun. Yeah, well, thank you very much. Yep, you're welcome. It's been wonderful.

Yeah, context is everything

I discovered

that is trying to figure out why they got into politics. I.