

Phil Keisling interview on Atiyeh

An interview of Phil Keisling regarding Oregon's Governor Victor Atiyeh, recorded on Feb. 23, 2015. Keisling was a journalist during part of Atiyeh's governorship, and later served in the Oregon House of Representatives from 1989-1991, and as Oregon's Secretary of State from 1991-1999. The interviewer, James Moore, was as professor of political science at Pacific University and was Atiyeh's biographer.

The interview includes discussion of: the political and personal histories of Vic Atiyeh and his contemporaries. how Keisling grew up in Washington County, served as a legislative page, and got into working in politics; Atiyeh's governorship, his support for nuclear power, and his role in reforming the Unitary Tax; Atiyeh's relationships with the Japanese business community and companies such as Intel; Atiyeh's management style; the economic challenges of the early 1980s, including the Recession and its impact on industries like timber and technology.

[Recording begins mid-conversation.]

James Moore 00:01

I learned from Denny, but from other people as well, that Victor at several times wanted to never talk to Willamette Week again. And then he said, You can't do that, right? You have to talk. And, you know, he had his weekly availabilities and all that kind of stuff.

Phil Keisling 00:18

And yeah, he was always accessible, surprisingly courteous. And, you know, probably knew what he was in for. But, yeah, I wished I'd known him after I did my Washington Monthly experience. I wasn't such a knee jerk the good guys and the bad guys. Yeah.

Phil Keisling 00:33

So, you know, I actually grew up in Washington County, and, you know, I was a page on the 75 legislative and that was the year that it was 22 seven, yeah, one, yeah. Charles Hanlon, when he won the, you know, beat Bill Holmstrom, I think they'll truly the last non affiliated candidate to ever win, yeah, any kind of an election we had one legislature got close this time. Yeah? Lee, yeah, but I think it was independent party, yeah, exactly, not affiliated, yeah, but it's Yeah. So I, literally, at the last minute, got a chance to, I was not sure I want to go back east again. But, you know, middle of my term, and I can't remember how it all came up. Oh, Blaine, you know Tom Marsh, who was my high school teacher, who was in, he was in the legislature, somehow said, well, Blaine Whipple, could probably help you get a page job. And Blaine, who just passed away, if you had chance talking, Blaine, but in fact, Tom Marsh, if you know Tom, okay, I have not read his book, if you haven't either. Okay, Ty is a real bright guy. He's one of my better social one of the best social studies teachers, and got elected along with Nancy riles. No, no. I think Nancy might have won the seat after he left, but yeah, so 75 I just, you know, Tia was, was the minority leader, I think, in the seminar session, and joked about, you know, in the caucus they could do it in the back phone booth,

James Moore 02:07

right? And I actually talking to Wally Carson as he was unraveling the poster sized picture of that. Got the story about how that happened. God,

Phil Keisling 02:16

it was a the story of which, again,

James Moore 02:19

they actually had a picture taken in the phone booth, in the phone but they really early. The Clement falls newspaper heard about it and sent somebody up and said, Oh, you guys got to get in there. You guys got

Unknown Speaker 02:28
to do that. Yeah?

Phil Keisling 02:31
Jason, Jason bow and there's, yeah, there's Vic God. Those who people are dead now. Burbidge is John Burns still alive? Don't know Keith burns Wally Carson would be great. Yeah, talk to Ed. Fade, lazy, still alive.

James Moore 02:47
He is. I actually hope I can talk to him, because he and Victor hated each other when Ed was the speaker.

Phil Keisling 02:55
Well, that's a testament to to to Vic. Fred heard, now there's, you know that story, right?

James Moore 03:05
No, no, I know the name, but I don't know.

Phil Keisling 03:09
Fred heard was the senate president in, I think, the 7981 session. So after Bo left, Fred, who was a teacher from Klamath Falls, you know, you were braces, geeky looking guy. I mean, look at that. Look at that picture. Okay, and Fred met a somewhat ignominious end after buying meeting somebody at a conference somewhere, and buying a six pack of beer and checking into his hotel room under the name of Jack Ripper, who was another senator at the time. And so the resulting scandal, here's a closeted gay, very bright, I think he ended up moving to California, but he was pretty young. I mean, he was born in 1940 so he'd be 75 years old, and, you know, attained a position of power, and was right in the middle during those years of stuff, and when he be funded to track down

James Moore 04:26
Tony Meeker. You ever talk to him?

Phil Keisling 04:30
Of course, I don't know if Jack Ripper be 95 Bob Smith has passed away. No, he's

James Moore 04:41
done a Medford house.

Phil Keisling 04:43
Mike Thorne, of course, yeah. Mike Thorne, George Wingard, George would be 80, but George was a liberal Republican from Eugene and Ted. Hallet did a lot of work here. I don't have a 75 blue book. I need to find one when he go to pals next time.

James Moore 04:59
Oh. Yeah, if you're at Vernon Duncan's house, it's no problem, because he has every single

Phil Keisling 05:09
or his nephew in my politics class that I'm teaching. But yeah, heard, I think the last I heard, he ended up in California. Del Isham served then with, I'm trying to think other Republicans, yeah, so that Hamby still?

James Moore 05:33
Oh, no, she died. She dies.

Phil Keisling 05:38
Yeah, so here's, here's Fred heard the 81 session, and you might have lost his job then to so 81 fatally was the President of the Senate, right? He was just a preening peacock of a guy. Monroe still passed away seven Steve starkovich, yeah, so I ended up working as just a page, you know, just observe Vic. I ended up getting a job at TED Halleck, who then kind of championed me in 1978 right after I came back from from college and didn't know what quite to do with myself,

and I actually had got it. Finally, after three months of work, I got an offer to work for a newspaper, two of them actually, and then Halla came up, said, You need to work on Tom calls campaign when he ran in 78 so during that 78 window when Vic, of course, had tried in 74 and failed, I remember he ran in the primary against Clay mine, yes, and clay won and then got beat. And, you know, all the focus on, you know, Tom, is he going to run? Is he not going to run? You know, that story that I think Tom Bates did in Oregon magazine, you know, decision that lands in which you probably read, and then you have Tom, you got Atiyeh, and you got Roger Martin, and I was doing a little campus organizing and doing some press release stuff. But it was, it was chaos in that campaign. Ken Duncan was the campaign director, Melinda Eden, who later is on the power Planning Council is now married a rancher in Eastern Oregon, Don Jarvie, who don Jarvie, Don was McCall's odd, even gasoline guy that came up with the idea. He worked for, he worked for GTE phone company, and j, A, R, V, I, and then I think, went back to work at phone company. Was out of Washington County. GT was a Washington based company, and he then came in the campaign. He was kind of the ideas person. All these ahead of time ideas, telemetry and sensors with satellites that tell you how much water to you know, 30 years later, Tom would love giving you speeches. Yeah, campaign staff would go, but you have a Republican primary to win. Well, he wasn't going to worry about it. And actually, no one paid much attention to Tia. They thought Martin, and Martin kind of attacked him. Yeah, and Tia came back at one point, or Tom I remember coming back, coming into the office one morning and saying, you know, there's proposition 13 in California. There's something there. People are talking about it. We we should be addressing this. And almost to a person is campaign advisors and staff go, it's a bunch of crazy people doing it. And if I recall correctly, Atiyeh did address

James Moore 08:58

it. A I don't know if you did in the primary,

Phil Keisling 09:01

but in terms of it, but my recollection was that he positioned himself as sympathetic to it, and would talk about high property taxes in the 78 primary. I think it didn't. It didn't pass in California till November. Yeah, okay, yeah, but it was like Tom who had lots of faults, and he was very undisciplined, and he, you know, he was dealing with the troubles with Sam during this campaign, and, you know, be hard to get him to go out in the evenings and do events you didn't think he needed to, because, you know, you're so well known, etc, etc, that he had, that he had the instinct that this was not to be ignored, yeah, and he ended up officially ignoring it because of all the advice, and he didn't want to want to go there. I don't think Atiyeh did. He also, though benefited running in 74 and arguably had saved up all those names had gotten back to. People that organized early on. I don't know

James Moore 10:01

who the 1000s and 1000s of three by five cards. He basically

Phil Keisling 10:04

followed the Mark Hatfield, Jerry Frank model. And I don't know the extent to which, you know, the two of them, they probably worked fine together. It's always interesting. You know, go to the Warm Springs Indian reservation where Atiyeh is revered, yeah, as is Mark Hatfield, yeah. And, you know, to what extent did they work hand in glove on the tribal stuff, yeah, if you

James Moore 10:25

I'm getting more of a sense of that, Roy Samsel, you

Phil Keisling 10:30

know, Roy Sampson, no, Roy is, was the Institute for tribal government. Person here until I retired about a year ago. 9620950, Roy worked for Hatfield at a young age as governor, was on his senate staff. And most Roy knows everyone in Indian Country. Fantastic. And Roy can give you, you know, help you with all sorts of introductions. But yeah, this so it struck me that you know that Atiyeh went out and, you know, not big on charisma. Certainly, McCall would often, you know, call people with kind of boring, just out hustled, out worked. I don't know. I, you know, I think the election return showed him doing well in virtually every county. Yeah, don't know how much money ended up raising it where it came from, that would be interesting. But, you know, 78 we're still spending relatively modest amounts of money for those kinds of campaigns. And, you know, and it's kind of interesting with Straub. I mean, the economy is booming in 78 but there's this widespread sense that Straub, you know, the magic is gone. How walks in and, you know, Hallock

gives that inner walks into Willamette week one day, and I think it's in the fall of 77 and said, you know, Tom needs to run, okay? And Tom, I think, finally decided in February of 78 because remember, that's when I was agonizing. Or do I become an editorial writer at the Eugene at the eastern Oregonian in Pendleton for at least the next two years for Mike Forrester? Or do I, you know, decide to do this kind of wanted, you know, once in a lifetime, someone I always you know, grew up admiring, of course, I was out of work in three, three and a half months, and but so Tia wins, and Oregon is still economically booming, so it's not a set of messages I think around the recession that would, of course, come later. I go off to work at at Willamette week, covering county government, Washington County, but then gig at the legislature, and so I did the 79 and 81 sessions, and all the special sessions in between. And, yeah, it's probably pretty safe that we had kind of written, you know, written the story about, you know, Vicki is conservative, Republican, conservative for the time. It wasn't a Tom McCall, Ronald Reagan, of course, gets elected midway through there. I have no idea what their relationship was, not great, yeah, probably not great.

James Moore 13:14

Vick was a real Ford guy, and then, like, Bush Senior, a lot. Yeah, I would, I would, that's his kind of guys. Yeah,

Phil Keisling 13:21

imagine that was right. I think the headline they put on the 1979 legislative thing was all motion, no movement. You know for it, because you know that here the 79 session is at the apogee of Oregon budget, big issues around property tax relief and the HARP program doing something to give people money to stave off what I think there had been. So there had been a 78 ballot measure right on property. Was it 1980 I

James Moore 13:53

think it might be 80, but I haven't. I just talked to Hardy Myers, and I was going to go through and look at all those things. And I took the weekend off.

Phil Keisling 14:03

No, but we, but we had one. It was Ray Phillips was the was the first of these. The Don McIntyre kind of took up the cudgel. Yeah. That

James Moore 14:11

was, he was 80s.

Phil Keisling 14:15

So yeah, reduces property tax payable by homeowner and renter was measure 11 in the 78 election. So this is the first of these. And of course, the California one wins, and and, but it's 383 to 467,000 so it's not, it's not huge. And did it come up again in 80 Yeah, constitutional Real Property Tax limit, preserving 85% of districts, 77 revenue. It was measure six in 1980 and that might have been to beware of tricks in number six. I think that one was that something later. I think it might be later. I think

James Moore 14:53

it's later. It might be right. That's one of the campaign buttons I inherited from my mother that hangs in my office. I. Uh,

Phil Keisling 15:01

constitutional Real Property Tax limit, preserving 85% of districts 1979 revenue. So in 82 it comes back, and it's 504,000 to 515

James Moore 15:13

Yeah, okay, and that was really seems to be the pattern through the 80s, right? There were like three,

Phil Keisling 15:19

four was measure two, it fails again by almost the same amount. Yeah, razor thin and and then it and then it doesn't happen again. Certain

James Moore 15:32

80 might be one after effect leaves maybe 88 so I think there's at least one more before 90. I

Phil Keisling 15:52

80 Yeah, so in 86 there's, there's a sales tax proposal. Yeah, that's the limits a man's constitution limits property tax rates. That's value increases, so six, and it was nine, and then homeowners, renters, property tax relief limitation measure. It's all these initiatives that are happening in 80 and 86 and he's gone by that and the,

James Moore 16:21

well, 86 is he his? He's leaving. And he is the one who's, Oh, that's right, he's the one who's pushing that sales tax deal, yep.

Phil Keisling 16:28

And the famous comic book, yeah, which I actually didn't think was a problem, I mean, but it got roundly criticized because it was. But, you know, passing a sales tax is not easy, and obviously we proved it for the 11th or ninth time. Yes, now I think that's right.

James Moore 16:48

And actually have Jerry Thompson's entire notebook filled with everything for

Phil Keisling 16:53

that. Yeah. So you know, in the so the 80, the 85 legislature. So I'm working for Vera and Tom true, who was the Voodoo kin who tried to, you know, ran for Speaker Rick Bauman. You know, you got a couple of two very bright guys there that you know, Carl hosta, of course, was on the revenue committee. Bruce Hugo, I don't know if Bruce is still alive, but he was out of skip poos. But you know, God, Ron sees you're going to talk to Ron. So uh, Stan Bond was in the legislature during a lot of Vick's time. That'd be a good one. Mary burrows out of Eugene, who was a progressive liberal democrat, Ted collori out of beaver.

James Moore 18:01

He's a landlord in my neighborhood. You see him fairly frequently,

Phil Keisling 18:03

and Shelley Ron ecos is still around. Wayne Faubus. I heard Faubus, so that group of Faubus, Bauman troop, all of whom had kind of opposed Vera. And of course, Vera won the speakership. They were right smack in the middle of all sorts of the of all that sales tax government, yeah, yeah. So you could Vera, I

James Moore 18:31

have something that didn't work,

Phil Keisling 18:32

you know, I tell you that I've seen Vera once in the last couple years, and I'm not even sure she remembered me. Okay? She hangs out. Norma Paulus

James Moore 18:43

issues with that as well. Yeah, have you talked to Norma? I talked to her daughter and her daughter in law. And so what I'm going to do, apparently,

Phil Keisling 18:51

Jennifer Viviana, yeah, used to work for me and Charlie

James Moore 18:55

Norma is okay sometimes. So I'm going to do all her oral histories that she's done. And if I have specific questions, I'll go, yeah,

Phil Keisling 19:03

she's the longer term memory is actually pretty good. I saw her about, Gosh, six months ago. The short term stuff isn't she'll actually the same question, you know, three or four times, yeah, fear maybe the same way. I was kind of in a group of people, and she, she, she lives just a few blocks from here. So she lives in that park, so she often can find her around this time of day, or maybe between nine and 10 in the coffee shop in that Park Avenue Cafe that's

James Moore 19:32

at, yeah, I've got 1511 southwest Park, yeah, number 901, yeah. Okay, so that works.

Phil Keisling 19:37

So that works, and, and, yeah, see what, see what you might be able to do with that. First kids offer,

James Moore 19:50

being good, stayed in I was because he's really important for the last couple of years of Vic, yeah, yes. And, you know. What do I do? Call the governor's office and say, Hi, I'm doing this book. I don't want to talk about anything right, nothing. Right. Promise Cross My Heart. Hope to die that'll be tracking him down. Yeah.

Phil Keisling 20:13

So, you know, in terms of what I, you know, I have, no, I mean, I don't think, I think it's pretty thin in the sense that, you know, I did the I did the good, the bad and the awful. I covered the legislature. You know, my sources were far more on the on the Democratic side than not. You know, I ended up the Republicans that I would talk. I mean, George wengard was all Nancy. I mean, Tony Van Fleet would be a treasure to interview, and he

James Moore 20:42

knows my grandmother or new There you go.

Phil Keisling 20:46

But, you know, here's a guy that gets elected. And again, the apogee of Oregon economic miracle, I think, 1979 was the last year in which our per capita income was more than 100% of the national average. We've been cutting timber to beat the band you you know, I started, you know, I did a few things on the timber industry back then 79 it was about spraying herbicides like 245, T and two, 4d, and Vic seemed to be Pretty typical, reflexive supporter of everything you know, timber. You get the you know, the housing prices go up up up up into 79 and then, you know, remember talking to Bernie agrons years later, and he kept referring to the depression in Klamath County. And I realized he wasn't talking about the 30s. Talking about that 1980 1983 period, where, you know, the unemployment just spiked to these horrible levels. I mean, really, some ways what happened in in 2008 was not as fierce as it was. I mean, in terms of the rapidity and and the distance fallen.

James Moore 21:55

And I grew up in Medford and, yeah, results of that 82 recession are huge areas of undeveloped land where there used to be big bills, yeah, and they just

Phil Keisling 22:04

simply aren't there. Yeah, they just similar. They just disappear. And, you know, ghost towns, all those. Where'd you go to high school? You went to high school, Medford in Metro,

James Moore 22:12

yeah, yeah. So while you were in high school watching Watergate in the library, yeah, I got permission from eighth grade to stay home, yeah, and watch

Phil Keisling 22:21

interesting. So, yeah, you know, where the from? Myers, you know, hailed from.

James Moore 22:30

Yeah, Dave was just before he went off to college, he babysat the woman became my first girlfriend. Oh my gosh,

Phil Keisling 22:40

yeah, and, and, you know, our take on that, especially when Hatfield then enters in all those contracts, get stranded. People don't want to pay them. They get undone. Watt comes in Reagan Administration and the cut, which it sort of, you know, going up, and then fell in the recession, then they just pumped it up again pretty quickly. And then, of course, by the time you're in the 80s, you, you know, you know, different views on that, but, yeah, but the one I think that that historians, economic historians, will, will, will look at is that, because people didn't want to you know that that have done so hard, would it hurt the mills that as soon as the economy started coming up, you start cutting again, like you used to, not realizing that what you now have Left is less, and you run headlong into the spotted AI, and then you get an even steeper, you know, decline later. So you really run in the, you know, the roller coaster. But, you know, the environmental movement is really strong. It's what's electing a lot of Democrats. It's a natural point of tension on there. And I ended up doing a story in 8081, on plant closures. And sort of met Brad Witt. Oh, there you go. Who's working for the fseo. Mary botkins there too. There's a big Boise Cascade strike too around that time.

And so I start going around the, you know, the state, and go down to Coos Bay, go down go out to Eastern Oregon, at the Heinz mill, go into the Willamette Valley, the champion mill. That's going on couple of stories that I'm sure the tea administration didn't appreciate. We had an industrial development revenue bond program back then, where you could go and get relatively cheap money, because the other thing that Tia was presiding over was interest rates that were spiking, you know, 15 20% so these companies could get them for, you know, maybe seven or 8% champion closed. Its mill in Lebanon, claiming it was losing money. But the IDR B application revealed that the problem wasn't losing money, they just weren't making as much as they'd hoped to make. Earl Pryor. Laura Pryor's, you know, Earl, just the name, okay, Laura is still out there. I mean, she's Gilliam County. She was kind of the person, you know. She's a kick, you know, Laura, oh gosh, she'd be really fun to talk to. She's she's still around. She's out of Gillan County, Condon, I think. And I remember her husband was a self described path Republican who I ran across because he thought this was a terrible program, because he said the small, Main Street business person doesn't have access to this cheap they're paying the extra, and they're having to compete. They put in, I think, a Kmart or something in the Dows, or proposed for it that was going to compete with the downtown. And he said, here's the government encouraging that that to happen. It was, you know, I think it was Atiyeh initiative to try to, you know, help businesses develop. But the plant closure thing, you know, I went around, I did a five or six part series. The other five or six part series I did was called the spring of Oregon, about all these herbicides that we're putting up, yeah, and, and so it was no small irony that, you know, in the 82 campaign, when the TIA just took off after Ted on that, yeah, you know, the plant closure Bill few years later, Ronald Reagan, you know, did it, yeah, in a lesser form, but just steward Ted. Now, Ted had lots of other problems, probably in the 82 race, but it was, you know, you think about the guy's appeal of winning as a Republican amidst very good economic times, right? And then being able to just beat the shit out of the Democrat

James Moore 26:58

during batting when the economy has just fallen,

Phil Keisling 27:01

you know, we blame it. I We can blame, we can blame it on Atiyeh, I don't doubt, but, you know, there's a bit of Teflon about the guy, yeah, and, and a likeability factor. And, you know, here's a guy who's, you know, from the Middle East. He's Syrian, you know, descent and, but you know, that didn't matter at all. He was a respected business person. Oh yeah, Tia brothers, you know, you know, had a, had a, had a brand on the that side that that was among those who knew,

James Moore 27:31

apropos of our now former governor, when I talked to Vic, older brother Edward, who's still with us, when Vic was elected, the TIA brothers made a conscious decision no business whatsoever with the state while he was governor. Yeah, there you go. I don't know if they did any business before. That's one of my research projects, yeah. But clear line, nothing,

Phil Keisling 27:52

yeah, yeah. And, you know, and, and Vic would have been, would have been that sound, you know, seemed like how Vic was. You know, there were just things that were very obvious in terms of the integrity issues. There wasn't any with a scandal. I think an entire period, I may have misremembered something, but, you know, we were always looking for stuff.

James Moore 28:15

There's a couple that I'll want to ask you about scandally things. It's so true. So

Phil Keisling 28:22

the other things I kind of remember then, you know, and I'd have to go back and read all the Willamette weeks stuff. But, you know, I covered the 7981 legislature. And, you know, others covered it too. I mean, Russell Sadler, if Russell's still around, I think he is down in your part of the world. Talked to Russell a few years ago. He'd be really good to talk to. Jeannie Burdick, of course, covered the 75 campaign for Associated Press. That's where I got to know her then husband, Ed grossweiler. Ed is still around Nick they were both reporters. Stephanie Fowler was DW reporter was really good. So they're, you know, the reporters I kind of hung out with, you know, Tom cowsley, UPI, then just read, I think he stood with wide and he probably had some great

James Moore 29:06

fixes. UPI, he was, UPI, yeah, my dad was one of the co founders of you people. Oh shit, yeah,

Phil Keisling 29:15

royalty here, Jim, you're aristocracy about all this stuff. But you know Don Jepson, who was the Oregon Journal reporter, you know Don Hamilton, who was reporting back then? Yeah, I was already covering in the early 80s. I met young Don Hamilton back then. You know I was Willamette week. So let's see coin was Chuck. Think Chuck diamond, he might have come later, but Stephanie certainly, yeah,

James Moore 29:47

yeah, she's on everybody's list, especially because the TIA people felt that she was not a very friendly person to them. And so those, those are the there's a nice tension there. No, you gotta

Phil Keisling 29:59

say you. Know, there was a lot of the who stole our cheese back then, you know, I, you know, I thought of the race in 1980 was going to be close. I remember going over to Larry colton's house to watch it with a couple other Willamette people. And we were just jaw dropping aghast at not only Reagan's margin of victory, but the fact that he was that all these senators that we had all grown up firing was getting thrown out of the butts, you know, and Frank Church and, you know, etc, and, and, and that, yeah, that sense of, you know, Who Moved My Cheese and the, you know, by 1980 of course, the economy had fallen into deep, you know, a deep dive the interest rates at Spike, the misery index, etc, that you know, you were able to kind of overlook during 1779 and stuff, you know, stuff was running up. And, you know, how could this happen and happen so quickly? And, you know, not covered, I'd actually cover the 1980 presidential campaign for lamb week and talk to me and letting me have six weeks to if I paid my own expenses, which, there you go. Maybe last about six weeks, and my credit card finally in Wisconsin. But yeah, so then, you know, you come, you come back into and now suddenly we're into these multiple special sessions. And I can't remember how many we had, but, you know, 81 regular session, cut, cut, cut. You know, later in 8182 a couple times. Grattan Karen's is the house speaker. Ed faidley Is the senate president. These guys are as conventionally liberal, you know, as they as they get favelas, you know, it's just, well anyway, yeah,

Speaker 1 31:47

he's at, yeah, he's at,

Phil Keisling 31:49

pompous and everything else. One of my, one of my friends in 75 the story, he tells is that he was, he got a he was like he was the guy that Robert Frisbie, he's still around a few years older than me, but he had gotten a job as a page as well, or assistant Sergeant Roberts and but he said, you know, this is getting really boring, and he ended up landing a half time job as a committee Administrator for Human Resources. Kind of Keith Burbage was the chair, real nice damper Salem guy about five foot four and and so I ended up saying, Well, gee, if I could do that, you could do that. And I ended up with Halleck. And one day he said, Well, I need a space to work. There's no space. It was for the wings of the Capitol, you know, and all that. And said, Well, there's a storage room underneath the gallery of the Senate, you know, kind of goes right underneath where the galleries come down. And you know, if you're able to clean it out, and you

know you do that, he opens the door and catches Ed fatally and flagrant, not only the woman who's his legislator, but the woman who ran against him. He then hired the job for a while. Yeah, so yeah, all those special sessions, all the cuts, but gosh, you look back on it later. You know the unitary tax and understanding that and oh, how could you do a corporate tax break? Corporations are the bad guys. But he agrees to the 8% income tax surcharge, 10% surcharge or something. You know how that deal came down? Who was brokering it, who was in the room, the back and forth. The kicker, of course, comes out of it. 7979

James Moore 33:49

materials, first response to prop 13, the

Phil Keisling 33:52

first responses. And you can see that, and what they're putting on the ballot, they're kind of going, you know, there's something going on here. In fact, in 1986 uh, when, I mean, you talk about trying to throw everything you can to kind of stop this train you see coming down the tracks, and these guys are pretty you know, they're not giving up. We did. And James cease, and was part of this. Vera was a big advocate of it. I take a little bit of credit for it, because I was one of the big advocates on her staff for it. But it was like, if people keep saying no to things, put together alternatives and do an advisory vote and put it on the ballot, that's non binding, but and we did a bunch of public hearings, and I had to staff these around the state, and came up with four ideas, two income tax base and two Property two sales tax base, one of them goods only. And you can then do the analysis of ballots and say, well, at least 50% voted for one of the sales tax ones, either poll afterwards, but it was just that you. You know, got to do something, but, but what is it? We don't want to have to cut government. Can we do it in a revenue neutral way? And you know, Vic had been supportive. The 85 was a revenue neutral, if I if I remember right, and maybe a little revenue positive, but not much.

And of course, the later sales tax that got talked about were revenue positive, yeah. You know, even Frank, which I continue to think was, is never going to fly, because you're asking people to do two very difficult things at once. And, you know, let's change the tax system first, and then have the conversation about, should we be investing more money? Or, if you do it at the right time in the cycle, you know, the economy pick up, and you'll, you'll give it credit, yeah. So I did not, you know, I was kind of tending to listen to all that, you know, you know what, troop and and, you know, the legislature is very dominated by Democrats. I'm trying to remember the partisan control numbers back then, but it's still pretty, pretty strong. There's no question about coalitions. And you have some conservative D's, but then you got the liberal R's, like the Mary Alice Ford's, and even Ted Van Fleet John schoon, who was out of Monmouth, the John and Peter fund guy. John was a was one of the real gentlemen of the Senate banker in Dallas, and someone was telling me he's still alive, but the you know, so I left in 82 so I was at the Washington Monthly in the 80 Yeah, because beginning in January of 83 and didn't really come back until late 85 No, late 84 and then I got a job working for ver in the 85 session, so I was right in the middle of economy's back talking about the sales tax, it's typically a republican idea. Vera, though, and John have and a few others have said, No, the Democrats need to change their mind on this. Even though the platform the Party is against it. It's a responsible thing to do. And yeah, and I thought that 80 and I'm no longer working on Willamette wings. I'm not writing these punky, you know, things. And, yeah, getting to be pretty impressed in those last two years about what Vic is trying to do. But of course, I'm a Democrat, a Neil, and close to that, I ended up not doing any work for that, for the goldsmith campaign. I just went for Vera through the whole time. But you know, we're very happy when he won VIX, a lame duck, you know, Oregon comeback, etc, etc. Well, it's good to be good, better to be lucky. Neil, you know, kind of gets lucky here too. And Norma, for some reason, can't inherit the, you know, the mantle,

James Moore 38:08

yeah? David saraso described it as she was running on competence, and we wanted flesh, yeah,

Phil Keisling 38:15

I think that's probably right. And, and we'd had Vic, and Vic was, you know what, people probably joke zero charisma. Tia, you know, smoked all the time. And you know, was, you know, just had that kind of, you know, you it's always fun to look at the pictures in the blue book, The I pulled out, the one in my in my class about a young Mark Hatfield, and, I think 55 and, you know, there's 29 white Caucasian guys with, yeah, you know, and he's, yeah, hair style, the smile, movie star looks, he's like, 30 years old. Yeah, exactly. He's kind of this bolt of electricity. 3033, and seemed to be Secretary of State. So, you know, Vic, you know, Vic's picture would have been at home at the earlier era. I mean, he

said he got elected in 58 which was a big Democratic landslide year. You know, 58 the Republicans got their shirts handed to them all over the country, because we had the 57 downturn. Yeah. But Washington County is probably pretty, pretty safely Republican. I suppose I'm trying to remember, but I was only three years old, yeah, but so the other stories I did. I did. I really took off after John Lubdel, who was the PUC Commissioner. You know, also was the era of nuclear power, yeah, and Lloyd Marbet and the activism around that Vic was probably just solidly nuclear power supporter. PG, Pebble Springs. You know, we reporters at Willamette week. That's a terrible, awful idea, and it's. People like John Lovell are helping enable it to enable it to happen. I did a big series on the mental health system. I don't think any reason to talk to Vic about that. That was more of a local story, but also a little bit of a state story. And it actually was a story that liberals didn't look real well on either, because they supported the institutionalization and then not supported the, you know, the funding for it. You know, I did the good, the bad and the awful and all those rounds 79 and 81 the other statewide stories that I ended up doing. Well, I tell you, Willamette week is going to be a rich place to look through.

James Moore 40:47

Do you know if Oldham County has got a complete collection, or do I need to go to the Willamette week more? Do you have a sense of that at

Phil Keisling 40:54

all? I don't, but you could just call Mark Zucman. I think they have it all. I actually threw mine out about a year and a half ago, because he assured me that they were all digitized now. So I haven't, okay, I haven't gone back and checked, yeah, but they have the, they have the big books in November. Yeah, I think they don't be would be fine with that. I wasn't the only one who covered the legislature. I think Alan, Alan Weber did a little bit of it before I got there and Meeker would go down some Ron Buell would do some coverage, but I was the one who kind of would go down. There. Used to be a train that ran leave, left here at seven o'clock or thereabouts, and returned at like 430 or five. I think Russell Sadler and I used to get on the train, and Barney Myers would be there, yeah, you know, I talked to Hardy, but, yeah, it was, you know, the amount of boom and boom and, you know, and then, you know, hitting bottom and coming out. I think most people think now the unitary tax did really help. I think the Intel story, someone has told that story, I think pretty well, maybe not.

James Moore 42:07

I've seen stuff from Intel,

Phil Keisling 42:11

but, you know, it has a Tektronix element to it, and that was in Vic's backyard. I mean, the tech Tron. I remember, you know, Tektronix when my dad got laid off, and I think it was 79 no 8081 or 82 Yeah, he's 59 so it would have been 82 and they were at 21,000 people in the late 70s. And my god, they were high tech before you called it that. And

James Moore 42:34

as from, I asked Vic about that, and from his point of view, because I because Hewlett Packard had gone into Corvallis. Tektronix was here before he became governor, right?

Phil Keisling 42:44

Oh, my God. And tronics was here forever, yeah. And

James Moore 42:48

he for, in his mind, Tektronix was the key to the whole thing. So then you, then you get the Japanese to come in and stuff. But there's already this, oh, it's a bad Absolutely, this thing set up here,

Phil Keisling 43:02

and you get the culture spin offs, you get ESI, you have people. And there's some story apocryphal or not, I don't know, but, you know, it's the early 80s, in this small company called Intel is scouting around and Doug Strain, I think was part of this that. Well, you know, there's land up here, and you already got the workers. My mom was one of them. My dad was one of them. And, you know, Hatfield had started and been big on that got Oregon Graduate Institute because we don't have a Portland based and this was a workaround. So you didn't have to take on Corvallis and Eugene and trade Ogi. Huge missed opportunity to make more of that. But you know, of all the bets you would have put. I mean, if you go

back to 1980 you know, let's say it's 82 or 84 there's a lot of companies in this kind of new digital, you know, mainframe computer sort of stuff. And Intel wasn't especially distinguished at the time. Lots of them came on, blinked off the landscape. But there was something about, you know, once they put roots here, what they found the support they got. And, you know, it's a serendipity. It's like, you know, Bill Gates, Microsoft happens to be Washington. Gee, too bad we didn't have that. Why is that? Well, we had Tectronix, and then we had Intel that came out of that. And you've seen the big planetary map. Oh, yeah, you know, that has been put together. And, you know, part of what would be really fun about this biography is to, is to kind of tell the business story, almost kind of remember, my dad would bring some of these old oscilloscopes home, you know, like this tubes. And he worked quality control.

And he, you know, he had an idea maybe make a lamp or two out of them. And remember asking them once about, who else does these, you know, makes this oscilloscope competition. I might have been in high school or something that goes, Ah, there's this company now in California, I suppose. You know, Hewlett Packard won't mount anything. And the two of the course the boat. Those companies took over time, and why Tektronix then stumbled and fell to almost disappearing today versus Hewlett Packard, someone would say the Tektronix had more patents produced than any other company for this period of time, and they never knew what to do. They were brilliant engineers, and oh, that sounds interesting. Go do it okay. I remember once when I came out of the Secretary of State and was just kind of looking and wanting to just intrigued with this new economy, what was going on. I went to a company called network elements, which got a huge amount of venture capital, and then just cratered. There was this guy named Phil Cassidy ponytail walking around, you know, in his in his Birkenstocks, and I remember going in talk to the guy who's thinking of hiring me that never mounted. He's got more patents, you know, calculators and, and, and, and that was, you know, again, vacate and his times. I, I've always thought it was to be a great business book, Tektronix versus Hewlett Packard as kind of lessons in, yeah, in, you know, in, in the rise and fall of corporations. What went right? What did it, you know, you know, I'd be a Harvard case study. Yeah, maybe it is for all, yeah. But that was very much, you know, Vic's world as well. So, yeah. I mean, as I said, I mean, there was probably virtually nothing of Vic Atiyeh probably could have done from Willamette week's eyes, other than lose right? That would have made us happy. We were very enthusiastic about, you know, cool and gassy, the bright young attorney, ex marine sport plant closure legislation and, and, you know, stuff's going on with this, you know, during the campaign that, you know, probably distracted him. But, yeah, he just gets his head stomped in. And, you know, we almost lose the land use. I mean, Tom McCall in 82 is, you know, iconic story, the dying breath and to beat the thing. And he barely beats it dies a few months later. And there was some apocryphal story about, you know, Vick Tia looking down from the balcony. That's

James Moore 47:24

in Brent's book, isn't it? Think it's comes from Ron Schmidt, yeah, who was a big A TIA guy, but, but bigger McCall guy, and got burned on a team,

Phil Keisling 47:33

got burned on a team, yeah? And what's the story? Exactly that kind of just, it's, now I don't have to compete with. Tom, yeah,

James Moore 47:41

it's like, the or it's they stand and they're closing the door, and it's like, Vic has this look on his face about, why are these people doing all this stuff, you know? But it's

Phil Keisling 47:52

that sort of, that sort of thing. And, and, you know, in the, in this, in the 78 campaign, I was at the Benson hotel the night that this kind of just kind of at the periphery, and yeah, and Vic Atiyeh comes over to shake Tom's hand. Yeah, doesn't McCall won't do it, yeah? I mean, and the primary, and is very ungracious in defeat, from my recollection of you might have but yeah, so wish, I don't know,

James Moore 48:28

this is great. This is great. This is great. It's

Phil Keisling 48:30

kind of the zeitgeist of the, you know, the of the time. I mean, you could argue that between, you know, when he ran in

74 and when he leaves office in 85 that, you know, we're still doing this to ourselves about how great Oregon is. We still have enough of that. You know, bottle bill, land use planning, innovation, even gas energy conservation. But you know, we have Reagan in office now, and he gets, of course, re elected in 84 you know, measure five is on the horizon. We're spending a lot of our time kind of trying to both stave it off. Well, if we just do enough, we can keep it at bay. If they know we're trying, because, you know, they really don't want to cut all these services. And finally, people go, you know, you just had your chance. Yeah. One

James Moore 49:20

of the fascinating thing is, it's Portland. I just love that. Phil Stanford, he wrote about it said, you know, this was passed by Portland at its playgrounds. You look at it as basically the coast here, and then, like, Jackson County or something,

Phil Keisling 49:33

yeah. Well, then we get carried out. Well, I wake endorsements, you know, 19, you know, it's basically, they saw it as a, you know, you got to break the system so we can get to revenue reform and sales tax. And of course, then, you know, Barbara comes in, tries a conversation with Oregon, you know, it fails. Never even gets to the ballot. Becomes part of, you know, kit somber. And you know, when people assess kit sobers legacy in terms of a. But you know what he both what he accomplished and what at the end of the day he failed to do? You know they need to talk about his failure to do any kind of tax reform. You never even try. He never spent the political capital from 95 to to 2003 and he didn't spend it in his first term, and while there was talk about it, about it a year before the election, there was no talk about it during the election. So he, he did not get elected. You know, putting a stake on that because, you know, would have put him at risk. Maybe a losing he only wins by 50,000 to cover Oregon is, yeah, so stunned

James Moore 50:38

after the 98 election, because not only did he beat size more, but in a lot of Republican districts, he got more votes than the Republican in the legislature. Yeah, in those same districts, yeah. If there was, like, this is called political capital, right? 1999 political capital? Wheeze. Yeah, yeah. I was stunned that nothing came out.

Phil Keisling 50:59

Yeah. And but no, I mean, I think it's like so many of us, as we kind of look back, he took, he seemed to take public administration seriously. Now, you know who ran his departments? You know Fred Miller would be a great person to talk to, because, you know, Fred, I think, came on and Department of Transportation might have started under Vic, that sense of, you know how he dealt with managers, whether it was he, whether it was Jerry or other people. But you know what he expected of them? You know, simpler times, obviously. But, you know, you got a sense that he understood how to bring in decent management talent, let him manage and not micromanage him. You know, John younger was from that era. John, I don't know if John Radford is who was a state controller, but it might have been John. But if you just kind of find some old hands, yeah, from that era about, you know, series of management, yeah, Goldsmith was kind of flash, bringing all the young people clean house. You know, Barbara was Barbara, I think was more serious about that stuff than people give her, give her credit for. But I don't, you know, John never conveyed a sense that that was, you know, that was to be left to somebody else and very hands off. But the Tia was running more hands on,

James Moore 52:37

and he had weekly meetings with all the department heads. Yeah, the question

Phil Keisling 52:40

is, are they for show? Are they meaningful? Is he pushing them? And what are some of those, those kinds of stories? Because, you know, I doubt a cover, or, you know, he wouldn't win in a hot let a rocket king or Bruce Goldberg in charge of, you know, massive IT project. We said, well, who's really good at this? So read that stuff in Willamette. We can then come back and ask me more questions about it. On I think I threw out all my notebooks and scribbles, but at a certain point they're just, you know, what do they do? Yeah.

James Moore 53:11

So 211, scandal possible, and one your impressions a scandal. It's funny talking to people, you know, I'm doing the Atiyeh biography. When I was at University of Portland, one of my colleagues there, much older, always talked about Vic was the DOM Atiyeh brother. So the real kind of and they grew up in the same neighborhood, things around that,

but people like that, and then people that I run into the Atiyeh brothers buy a property where the mount of the freeway is going to go, interesting. And I've never heard anything about it, nothing. It's so

Phil Keisling 53:51

which, which stretch of long. I don't know. I don't know. Yeah, you should look at where that route is, because years later I went,

James Moore 54:00

Oh, I thought it was gonna go up Powell. I think it was Powell too. There

Phil Keisling 54:03

was land, a lot of land bought up along Powell. But I think it was also there was a division Clinton Street corridor, okay, and you know which, given Division Street Clinton today is pretty remarkable. But, and it only went out to 82nd Yeah, and it would hook into, I 205, so you kind of go. And I thought it would go to Mount Hood, okay, yeah. But now never, God, I never heard

James Moore 54:28

that. Okay, okay. Second one I did the Oregon encyclopedia project article on Vic, which is fascinating because it takes them a long time to respond. But the back and forth, but one of the anonymous, reviewer comments was the unitary tax a bad idea because it really hit schools hard, the money coming out of the budget for that. And I haven't been able to find any evidence of that. If it's something that was politically talked about, then. It's important. But I haven't found

Phil Keisling 55:02

well, you would probably hated it because what? It's special session, and for the sole purpose of doing it in 84 Yes, okay. And you know, by then, Vic, oh, the Japanese, you know, connection to is, oh, yeah, very, very and very clear, strong and clear. And there's probably some honorary councils that are still around. Why? Why Vic? You know, particularly zeroed in on that. Here's a guy named Bob Scanlon. Do you know Bob Scanlon? I've heard the name Kim. Bob is a great storyteller. He's worth talking to his Kemper Scanlon Bart. He's got big Property Investment Company, Bob, very early on, was part of that Japanese he can tell the story about, you know, how?

James Moore 55:51

You know that worked on the memo winding up the votes for the unitary

Phil Keisling 55:55

tax. Oh, I Greg, Isaac, Regas strife, all these people around, I know Isaac quite well.

James Moore 56:02

So that's Jerry writing down names, and then Vic handwriting saying, just writing down the names of the ones that he knows are behind it.

Phil Keisling 56:13

Oh, God, you should say this is funny. So he's got all these folks, right? He's got everybody on board. Yeah, yeah. It felt like it was just a, you know, they really lined up their ducks and, and it's AEA, and it's maybe has to do with Intel. And, you know, how many people does Intel have at that point? And, I mean, did they have subsequent to it? But it probably wasn't just Intel. I don't know whether you know or timber companies were on it, whether there was some kind of difference within the business community about it, afraid that if they cut those taxes, they'd raise other kinds of corporate taxes. But sounds like, you know, he's lined up his ducks on it pretty well, yeah, but I'm sure it would have, you could have definitely argued in the short term, taking money out of schools. You know, you're reducing corporate income taxes. That's how it works, yeah, okay, and 84 is a up year. You're seeing revenue increases that are 20 25% per am or per biennium during those times. But I it, yeah. I mean, was there much opposition at all when it finally came to vote?

James Moore 57:28

No, okay, but it's also the unitary taxes. I mean, interview, actually Barbara this afternoon, but there was a sense by a lot

of people that most people who voted really didn't know what the unitary tax was. And, you know, economic development,

Phil Keisling 57:47

just kind of, you know, we were really, yeah, but you know what? When did we pass the lot? Or 82 for economic development?

James Moore 57:54

I think it might be 84 maybe for just the last two years of Vic eco

Phil Keisling 58:00

divas on everybody's mind. Not enough. We can do that. Would you know? Nothing we got it, although I think it's 8084 I think it is, yeah, 84 November, 84 constitution members to our State Lottery Commission passes almost two one. And, you know, that's right, right after the unitary tax. Yeah. I mean, people are still, you know, 84 we're still remembering it's, it's still hard. You know, employment rates are probably still in double digits. A lot of places, kind of, the timber industry is flat on his back, still and and, you know, we're trying to open up a lot more federal forest land for cutting in part, to bring the price of the raw material down. Because a lot of people have gone out of business with those contracts to buy it this much of board foot and finish it, sell it at this

James Moore 58:58

and spot it all is still about a year away, about a year away, because, like, summer, fall, 85 is when I framed fighting the first spotted owls, people. But memories are fantastic. I mean, people conflate that with the 82 recession. Yeah, nothing to do with

Phil Keisling 59:16

that as a housing crisis. Yeah, hyperinflation, and just the things that there was demand driven and so gosh, now the demand is back. We just start coming for us again, like we used to, yeah, yeah. But no, I think the unitary tax in the short term probably had a fiscal impact to it. It's a corporate income tax break. But as you saw, those Democrats, including at failey or getting behind it. Arguably, a lot of people then, who was the economic development director at the time, no Bill Scott would be worth talking to. Came in with Neil. I saw Bill. I didn't talk to him, but he just saw him with Cadillac Cafe just three days ago. He's still around. He. And Zipcar for a while. I think he's retired. But, you know, Bill would have that kind of Goldschmidt, but smart guy looking at at these things. Mean, you got, what

James Moore 1:00:09

did we get from a TN? What do we do with it kind of thing? Yeah,

Phil Keisling 1:00:12

and he always struck me as a pretty thoughtful, reasonable guy. And of course, you know, you can show you know, that's other funny. You know, Don manziotti was, was was a young Angus Duncan, you know, certainly a guy that talked to that,

James Moore 1:00:30

you have too much fun. Well, yeah, that's the thing. That's one reason. I mean, there's a lot of people to interview and talk to, but that's why I'm basically saying February and March. You

Phil Keisling 1:00:40

basically keep going, Yeah, you're basically kind of talking about Vic's term, about when Brent was talking to people in the 90s with or late 80s, actually, about McCall. Yeah. So McCall had been dead just about five, four or five years, but a lot of people were still Yeah. Could remember him way, way back. You may have a little trouble getting people to remember his first campaign in 58 but I'm sure you have

James Moore 1:01:05

people like family. But you know, it's there was an abortive attempt to do biography about 10 years ago, and about a year ago, Vic sent me from that person had sent, here's what I interviewed. Oh my god. And I've actually talked to about

two thirds of people, and they've never heard of her. So there you go. But Vic went through and wrote d for dead and F for frail, yeah. So my first ones were, find all the F's, find

Phil Keisling 1:01:30
all the F well. And,

James Moore 1:01:32
you know, there's, but I if we don't know if she actually did any work, but you know, she's the one who would have talked to Enfield about this, yeah, who is the Margie? She's over at Special Olympics.

Phil Keisling 1:01:45
Oh, Margie hunt, yeah, okay, yeah. Work for Lynn Lundquist, yeah, yeah. March, yeah. March is good person. She's a, I don't know why she's

James Moore 1:01:53
just didn't, yeah, just didn't, didn't go, just didn't go, I didn't know she worked

Phil Keisling 1:01:57
for Lynn Lundquist, yeah, she was Lynn and I were tight. She was Lynn's person for a number of years. I liked her. She was not as rapidly partisan as people that came later. I think she wrestled with it as it kind of changed that way. But who was in their 90s that you might not immediately think

James Moore 1:02:28
about one of Vic's two closest friends just died between the memorial service and when I started doing this, there was two guys. There was Jim that Tom Galt is the guy that died, but they grew up together in the office. When Vic was governor, the priority of calls was Jim, whatever his name, last name is, his calls could come in and disturb Vic at any time, and Tom was next, and Dolores was third. So

Phil Keisling 1:02:58
there's a guy named Jim Thayer who started Thayer stationary.

James Moore 1:03:05
Oh, yeah, Tommy Thayer, dad,

Phil Keisling 1:03:09
Tommy Thayer is on our board, okay. And Jim Thayer junior, I went to high school, uh huh. And I don't know if Jim is still around, but Jim was Adjutant General. Oh, and, you know, so is Fred Rosenbaum. He passed away. But you know, yeah, Vic because I think they go back as far as Washington County, yeah. And you know, who were the, you know, long time Washington County folks is Tom Hartung still? No, he died years ago.

James Moore 1:03:50
Kind of the last time a lot of these people got together was Ken Jefferson's funeral. River together, yeah, you know, a lot of people went,

Phil Keisling 1:04:01
Yeah, you know, Monroe Sweetland passed away a few years ago.

James Moore 1:04:05
Yeah, I got to know him. In the last five years, I give talks at the Rose villa, and he, he would just come and ask for ride home. And it was like, it's like, you know, riding along with Noah or something is fantastic conversations,

Phil Keisling 1:04:23
you know, I think I would go talk to Norma sooner rather than later, okay, rather than, you know, kind of wait okay, to go through everything you know, write it down, circle back, and know that the documents that you See are probably

better. But as I said, I think her longer term memory is pretty darn good and she would have some insight in the Hatfield stuff. I'm sure you're talking to Jerry Frank.

James Moore 1:04:52

Yeah, yeah, I will talk to Jerry Frank. Turns out he and Jerry Thompson don't talk to each other, okay? Yeah, so, yeah, but those are the kind of things that are fun,

Phil Keisling 1:05:03

yeah. But he always likes being, you know, sitting and I think he would be really very good source on that. You know, Antoine Eva was

James Moore 1:05:16

wondering about that, because the question to get to her is, he just played the Hatfield again last night. Yeah, they did last night. Yeah, against the Academy Awards at the end, which I didn't watch, but I was as I was watching, I was thinking, you know, I wonder how much Mark and Antoinette talked, because Antoinette, I think it'd be good.

Phil Keisling 1:05:38

Yeah. And, you know, Carrie Tim Chuck would probably be the person you talked to about that, about how best to approach, if at all, she's also gotten to be pretty good friends, apparently, with Nancy Hales, who's here Charlie's wife. And Nancy has an office here Portland, state, because she runs a program. But, you know, Doris Penwell, the younger wife of Clayton Penwell. And Doris was McCall's private secretary and continued to work in state government, and I saw Doris. When did I see Doris last? But it was fairly recently, oh, I think I ran into her at the after party at the screen. And, you know, Carrie, Tim Chuck, you know, knows all these folks. You got a lot of, you know, a lot of folks in their 80s who would have remembered, you know, when a Tio had first come on the scene in 58 Yeah, and spanned all that. And that's a and Kerry would probably know a lot of those folks, probably not too happy that he gave all the stuff to Pacific rather than the Oregon Historical Society. But who knows, I don't think he probably would care that much. You know, the Hatfield stuff. Is there the goldsmith stuff? Who knows what stuff is. They've stayed. Ever got it back? I know Roy, Roy turnbos Fight for it because Goldsmith didn't want to give it away. Yeah, for reasons that now, in retrospect, maybe a little bit more clear. But yeah, you're gonna have a lot of people that, I think, would you know, that, you know, they'll just know lots of great details about stuff. But I think it's really right is to do it in terms of Vic Atiyeh and the times, because it really was the transition from Oregon being the kind of, you know, natural resource old stay, I mean, Tom kind of ushers us into that whole thing of environmentalism. And Vic, though, supporter of land use planning, was never, you know, he wasn't as environmental, but was still pretty reasonable about it, but almost a last gasp of a certain kind of Republican in a state, but also a more modern Oregon in which our problems are more complex and they're not amenable to such kind of simple, cheap progressivism, things like, let's just regulate our way. Let's do a bottle bill, put a deposit on, you know, odd, even gas and the like it that, you know, we never were quite willing to invest our public money in it because we wanted to, you know, be a low tax state and, and, you know, Atiyeh never tried anything in terms of big new spending programs. Wasn't the time we had Ronald Reagan. So he kind of, you know, and, and, you know, and arguably even the Democrats who ran against them kind of the promise of the return to Eden, yeah, Goldschmidt, you know, that they, in a sense, didn't understand what they might have understood, which is that things are different now, and we could have just coast on our reputation for some clever, flashy kinds of things. The problems were deeper and more endemic and we had to bring maybe some better, modern management to it. And been a couple of solutions for international trade. And it wasn't just the Japanese. I mean, you look at stuff with South Korea, yeah, the beginning of the openings of the China market. He was there, you know, Nixon after Nixon went to China, and had an international sense from his, maybe just from his rug business, but other things as well. Yeah, fought in a war, right? He fought in Europe?

James Moore 1:09:40

No, he did not. He was injured, but his brothers did both. And then they were Jesus 50 years ago, right? Or seven years ago, they were both capturing the Battle of the Bulge. I gotta open your door because I gotta go after

Phil Keisling 1:09:56

so his brothers were capturing the Battle of the Bulge. Yeah, my dad. In the battle does not capture

James Moore 1:10:03

great quote that's too long for me to actually play it for you, but somebody in Neil's office about two years in goes up to pick and says, You made this look a lot easier than it is. Because when, when Neil came in, you know, he was throwing out the dead wood. Vix on throwing out people who knew what was going on. And Vic went on his first overseas, on Neil's first overseas trip with them, you know, pass on the torch introduced, and Neil would basically have none of it. And just fascinating dynamics. Great to interview Neil, but you know, he's clearly that it's not going to happen.

Phil Keisling 1:10:49

Well, Mike, don't you don't lose anything for asking. No, no. You know, Neil has some rehabilitating and you know stuff that I hope he thinks. I'm sure he thinks about him at some level, every day, what he's willing to do about it or not. People still see him at, you know, northwest Portland. Everything has a place in France, but spend some time here and and you know what this stuff with kits remain? Yeah, just as the thing with, you know, Neil made Bob Packwood, of course, you're going to talk to pack

James Moore 1:11:19

with, oh, yeah, absolutely, I haven't yet, but at the memorial service.

[Recording ends.]