

Wayne Thompson interview on Atiyeh

An interview of Wayne Thompson regarding Oregon's Governor Victor Atiyeh, recorded on April 2, 2015. Thompson was a journalist who worked for The Oregonian from 1964-2001, including as an associate editor and member of the newspaper's editorial board. The interviewer, James Moore, was as professor of political science at Pacific University and was Atiyeh's biographer.

The interview includes discussion of: the historical context of energy issues in the Pacific Northwest, particularly before and after the 1973 oil crisis; political dynamics involving federal dams, public and private power users, and the aluminum industry; Atiyeh's role in defending the Pacific Northwest's energy resources and his strategic negotiations with tribal nations; the exploration of nuclear energy; environmental movements; challenges faced by other Oregon governors such as Bob Straub and Neil Goldschmidt; personal anecdotes and reflections on governors' management styles and relationships with the media; the unique accessibility of Governor Atiyeh, and how unlike other governors who were only seen in the media room, his office was accessible at any time, reflecting a lack of formality and respect for the media; the respect Atiyeh showed to the media overall.

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.

[The recording begins mid-conversation.]

Wayne Thompson 00:00

I really liked that we had many conversations, because she was in a job -- that was my focus was on energy and stuff like that.

James Moore 00:12

Yeah, exactly, exactly, yeah. And she'd been in it with Bob Duncan too. So in the middle of all that. Well, I'd like to record you. [Replies: Sure.] This is all eventually going to go into the Atiyeh archive. I take it and snip it up and use it for my own purposes. Okay? And would it be okay if I put it right here? [Replies: Sure.] Yeah, be great. My voice carries; yours doesn't, so much, so we'll put it a little closer to you. It'll be perfect. And I'd like to first thank you for the for the clippings. There's some really good stuff in there. The way that you get into it, the little you know, I love the fact that you're doing news stories, these political, notebook, column kinds of things, and then going to the to the editorials, just is a deeper, what kind of a three dimensional image that you usually don't get.

Wayne Thompson 01:16

It's sort of my favorite type of writing is essays. That's what these really end up being. Because they always have some even in the news stories, I always have at least some analysis kind of stuff. Yeah, yeah, which is great.

James Moore 01:34

What I'd like to ask you is focus on your energy side, because by the time Atiyeh becomes governor, energy has been an issue for a number of years at that point, and he comes in, and we're working on the Pacific Northwest Power Planning Council, and you know, all those kinds of things. But take me back to before the oil crisis in 73 reading your clippings, it's clear that there's a Northwest energy issue going on. Before we even know that's going to happen. Then that happens, and you know, we have unevens and all those kinds of things. But what was, what was going on with Pacific Northwest energy and energy in general that you saw before the oil crisis.

Wayne Thompson 02:21

Well, first of all, I think we had always this concern that when the federal dams were built and enabled in Pacific Northwest, all the residents, public and private users, to get their power electricity a lot cheaper than the rest of the country. And as time went on, Congressmen representing the rest of the country would like some of this back. And one

of the big issues for all of the Northwest states, particularly Washington and Oregon and Idaho, were to defend the Northwest monopoly, I guess you'd say, on the Columbia River dams, on the power and they were fearful that and this involved governors as well as senators, although it was mostly the role of US Senators was to try either trade off or influence or find some way to keep, to keep the rest of the country getting their hands off this power. Mark Hatfield, for example, one of the things he once told me was that he thought his best contribution to state of Oregon was back in back in the Senate, was to make it was not the things he did for Oregon, the things he made sure didn't happen to Oregon. So it was always sort of in a defense mode.

This was true of Jackson, Senator Jackson from Washington, was also true of Magnusson and true of Packwood and even in the Idaho centers church and so forth. Anyway, Governor Tia had the same role, because the state of Oregon had mostly private power, right? And the dams primarily gave most of their benefit to public power users. And I hope I'm not simplifying this too much in any respect, but yet, nonetheless, the private utilities also had a piece of the pie. And the last person, the last entity, to get a piece of the pie was the aluminum companies, ironically, for which in. There was to the aluminum companies for which the dams really got built. Yeah, because war effort. But after that, the argument could have been made more effectively that they didn't. There was they were helped. The war effort was over, and so that their need to have cheap power was less important than federal taxpayers than the need for public and private users in the northwest to have it, but any respect Oregon had to fight off all the time, the tendency for public power to take over or to take a piece of the private power pie, and governors of Oregon, this is true, particularly true of Straub, actually went so far as to have to have a forgotten nickname of it. Now it slips my mind. I'm sure it was in my clippings, sort of an organization that would that would intercede and take a piece of the pie should certain conditions occur. Was

James Moore 06:16

that the DRP? Yeah, yeah, yeah. Okay, so I can look that up,

Wayne Thompson 06:20

yeah, please, because I just forgot exactly the title of it. Tia did oppose that, that particular organization, that's well, he didn't oppose the idea. He opposed that particular strategy, that particular situation, and so did the Oregonian, by the way. So there was one area where the governor and the Oregonian and I could, you could say the governor and me agreed that the Straub approach was had had negative consequences, had it, had we actually been implemented and consequences that would have been dire to growth and to economic benefit of the state, particularly the private industries that bought power from private utilities, PGE and Pacific power in Light Company. There was also the also the issue on energy, about how much of this of this hydro situation should be dedicated to, to the production of electricity versus how much should be held for the other source of the Columbia River, for example, the particular argument was, was always brought every governor up in his chair was demand by the tribes right to have to cut down use of the dams for electricity. And it ended up a situation where the tribes started to compromise, and they would, they would accept, certain they would accept Bonneville Power administration's plan on using use of the dams in exchange for financial help on managing the hatchery system all throughout the Columbia River. And one story that was I thought amazing about that, and I'm not sure how much the governor was involved or aware of this, but it was during his era, so I'm sure he was, I'm sure he was he gave advice about it.

It was simply that the tribes wanted Mark Hatfield wanted the trying to get this straight now, Mark Hatfield wanted the to pass a law that would allow it, would allow The dams to have so many so many spills a year at certain times of the year, and the tribes wanted to those eliminated. They all got down to one debate where Mark Hatfield in her room was two or three of his staff and two or three Bonneville people, and I think somebody for the governor's office. I can't really comment on the names. I wasn't there, but the report came to me was that meeting with the inter tribe groups, the five tribes and. Governor actually just asked, what would it take for the tribes to accept our plan? And the head of the tribes, which I think was Ted strong, but I'll, I can look this up anyway. The Great answer was, after several seconds of thinking about it, he's the answer was \$20 million so for \$20 million the tribes compromised, according to the sources, they told me. And the irony again about that they never got it. Yeah, they never got they never got to pay. And I think Governor, if the governor, may have approved this negotiation, but even he never approved the idea of none not giving, falling through on the deal. Yeah, he made it. He made a deal. He made a deal. He was not like a lot of them. Otherwise, there was a constant worry about losing. You know, the idea that Don Hodel used to talk about he was bonava administration administrator for a long time, was that if it just would have pressed, it just a computer press of a button, you could transfer all the revenue into one big, one big account, and then split it among all the all the states, all the

taxpayers in United States, and blur everybody's tax bill by a mill or something, yeah, as opposed to what you the kind of benefits you get here, of course, cheap electric power was, was the was, pretty much what stirred our economy, yeah, what we had, yeah. But then we had, we had situations where California had had problems, and then by we bought So Bonnie, what would sell too much power, maybe to them, and we had brown outs and things that nature so I we sort of grew up the governors and politicians in that era grew up with the idea that Even before, before the Arab embargo of oil that we were always threatened, always vulnerable to losing what was really our economic nest egg. Yeah, yeah.

James Moore 12:57

Was the nuclear seen as a way to, in effect, localize, you know, kind of feed into that system, yeah,

Wayne Thompson 13:05

well, there's several things, as long as you had a The neat thing about the dams, you could put electric power other places, and you had already had the network of I of wires and so forth. Didn't have spent a lot of money on that right of way to put stuff. And I think this, we were also very vulnerable the fact that we did not have oil refinery, and we were poorly served by all refineries. We found that out in the 70s, 73/74 or five. We had problems with the with that. And so basically, there was one time we tried it. We put, we put a L and G plant in Newport. It was a liquid natural gas. We had a liquid natural gas put out here on the on the Columbia River, out towards St Helens? Yeah, not that far, but yeah, on the way to St Helens. And we tried a lot of things like that, and then Trojan came the idea of nuclear, I think was, was not just to supplement hydro, but I think a lot of people thought that we would have a lot of nuclear plants and would probably would remove the vulnerability of the hydro, and at some time, some point, if we politically, lost the ability to defend a. The Northwest share of dominance over the benefits of the hydro system, then the nuclear would take over, in a mistake I think probably that was made, and I think it's the one that Kelly Woods understood better than Kelly woods, by the way, being the appointee that the Energy Department guy, but Mr. T is appointee for to be the top energy person, and he was, but he was a pro nuclear guy, and Ted Hollick, among other senators, were opposed to him.

It was quite a nasty, nasty legislative issue. But anyway, the idea there was what Kelly always thought, and mistake was made that companies that were going to build nuclear plants. This is true across the country. By the way, across the whole country was to build, build, let everybody and every company to build, has a plan or has it designed to have a nuclear plant like the first somebody would build a Westinghouse pressurized water reactor, and the next person had to build a General Electric boiling water reactor, and the next person would have to build a gas operated nuclear reactor. And so there were, there was probably five, maybe six, different types, and the focus was going to be to build all six of them. A problem is they all have. All six have different problems, and they all six did, and well, not one of them didn't actually the one that the gas one would have been if somebody had decided the one that they built. They built one in Colorado. And it was the only one that didn't have the problem which Three Mile Island had and so forth. And if they just decided on one design, and it had a common repair and common maintenance idea for all of them, a lot cheaper and it would have been more safe, would have been safer, and would probably wouldn't have stirred the public concern as much. So I think the biggest mistake was the creators. I mean, the people that built them made the mistakes. I think they could have won the public over if they had done the right thing, but Tia was, he was pro nuclear on the basis of what it could do. I mean, there were other people that had fascinations about geothermal and other kinds of energy sources. One of the exciting things was talked about was there was a in Colorado, there was a in Wyoming, in places in the Rockies. There was a thing called in situ, in situ development of oil, Hill, shale oil in the rocks, it's said to be that there was enough oil in that basin. There actually more oil there than there was in Saudi Arabia, and people would have found it cheap and environmentally deep, recent, reasonable way to get it that we would have had our energy problem solved. Yeah,

James Moore 18:51

still drive along. Well, I think it's I 70 that goes through there and towards right, right after the Utah, Colorado border chain brings, yeah, there's just this. There's a whole town there. Yeah, that's empty, yeah, because the price of oil never got high enough to justify right? But they built,

Wayne Thompson 19:09

but they always said one way or six, sarcastically putting it was it, whatever they decided, and whatever new toy they had, it was always a few cents higher than they could ever get it down to where we'd be getting competitive with something dirty like coal. Coal was the worst that was to me. To me, I used to argue that, and I think Tia, Tia agreed

with me on this one, because of what happened in Nora, Pennsylvania. Is it coal kills people? Yeah, up to that point, nuclear hadn't killed anybody, yeah. Do

James Moore 19:53

you know when the Boardman plant was built? When? Yeah, before this or after

Wayne Thompson 19:58

this? No, that was. But it was before, okay, yeah, wait a minute, before this or after this. It was after, okay, yeah, it was kind

James Moore 20:09

of the first major cold, yeah.

Wayne Thompson 20:10

And they didn't. It wasn't, it's quite as awful as some of them, as the ones in West Virginia and places that was a, first of all cleaner coal. But even the cold, even the coal mines in in in the Rockies, the one specific Power and Light Company owned and stuff where they really had to, you know, they really had to have those alternate alterations of the other smokestacks to make those things healthy, yeah, but there was always this in Oregon, more than, I mean, the other states, I think the environmental movement was the tough some people just saw this as a limited growth ability, and other people wanted it that way, from sort of the Tom McCall idea, let's not get too big here have many. There were many stories that T and I used to talk about and laugh about because we didn't think we laughed about it because it seemed so funny to us, people talking about what horrible things would happen if Oregon gained its population beyond a certain number was like the clove of Rome kind of situation with Bob Packwood, For example. Bob Packwood put in a law that never passed anything, that your third child would be taxed higher than that. You could have two children, sort of tax free. The third one hit hard was a population limitation proposal, but it was like, from the Club of Rome, yeah, but yeah, we there was always that. That was that era. We always had this concern about, don't get too big, or you have to, and I I haven't.

It was one anecdote that I learned I'm stupid about this. When I moved here from Atlanta, Georgia, I had no idea about what Savannah, what a River Power System, was like, and what hydro was like, and how you live in an area like this had its natural resources all over the place. So I was sent out to cover a meeting of the Columbia River called Columbia River. It involves six states. It's the people who manage the Columbia River all the way up to Canadian line, and every year they'd meet, and all the interest that would Like. The interest being recreation, fish, wildlife, power, the garage, irrigation people and flood control people, everybody that had a stake and would come and argue how much acre feet of water they felt their interest needed in that coming year. Well, I'm sent up there to cover this thing. And I don't know anything about rivers or water or acre feet. I mean, it's just, it's like sending a baby. So I listened to the first part of the meeting, and I'm taking down notes. And at the end of each presentation, they would have one of the experts would say, well, that's give his estimate of the acre feet that that interest that he was representing. He did. I jotted that down so lunch time came. About four or five people had testified. I went up to the committees, the person who was chairman of the committee was herb Lundy, the editor of the editorial page of the Oregonian, who, of course, I knew didn't work for at that point, but I knew he didn't know me yet, because I was a new reporter, pretty much just in the 60s. And. Yeah, I said. I got a question. Mr. Hunty, what side how many acre feet are there in the Columbia River? He gave me a number. I jotted it down, then went back to my seat, and then we listened to lunch. After lunch, we started. The next couple people came and testified how many acre feet they needed. Finally, the meeting was over about 230 and I would back up to her. Mr. Lundy, yeah, here's another question. You told me there was so many acre feet in the Columbia River, that's right. Did I put the number down? Right? Is this right? Yeah. Well, you know, the second person that testified this afternoon exceeded that number by 250 acre feet. So the best I can tell from this meeting, if you've fulfilled all these requests, the river would be dry. He said, It's dry every year when you listen to them, that's what happens. That's what we live with, that that's where we live in the northwest, with people wanting more than we have to offer.

And that to me, in my mind, summed up that one meeting, education, experience signed up just exactly what we're dealing with in the Northwest in that whole era, all across the board, and Vic Atiyeh and everyone else had to deal with the problem. Understood that they're going to be fighting and debating and having arguments with people over how much water they they needed later on in life, I learned that this was more serious than even that meeting, because when

we had sponsored a law that would allow a portion of public water to be saved for public use. It was small portion and farm. Some farmers in Eastern Oregon were really opposed to this and didn't threaten much, but they were, you know, you're not going to vote for against it. Was trying to get his colleagues to support him in winning their support. Anyway, I called one of them and young guy, pretty young guy, I thought he'd be pretty sounded pretty reasonable, quite educated. And I asked him, What is his view on this? He said, Oh, this view's been settled. I said, really got something? You do something I don't know. He said, Well, it's settled in my mind, my great grandfather and Mr. Jones's great grandfather over here at a dispute, and whose water was going to get certain water, and my great grandfather shot him, and we settled it. There you go. So I see it gets to that point. So anyway, I guess I'm taking a long story short, but we were always living in this era with with contention over to too few resources to serve too many interests, right

James Moore 28:29
allocation and

Wayne Thompson 28:30

and if any, if anything, came into power as a governor at a time when that was true across the board on everything, money, everything, I mean, so he was the he was, you might say, chosen to be the person that had to resolve or solve the problem of, how do you how do you take the too few resources to serve the many people who wanted to be served? And when you have that situation, you're going to make enemies. The fact that he hadn't, didn't make it that many enemies is startling, when you come back and think about it normally, if you had a situation where a governor took over an era when you had recessions like that and and power outages and so forth, you'd have a very unpopular governor. He never would have served two terms. Number one, number two would still be disliked by a lot of people. The irony happened with Tia, any dislike that he may have had or lack of respect during his time changed, I think in my mind, has changed remarkably. A few years later. There, he's now become a person amongst everybody who lived in the area and covered it, one of the great governors we've ever had for his management skills and his ability to seek, to be, to be, be clairvoyant about the future and the consequences that could occur if certain things happen. A lot of people just don't see a lot of governors I've covered when they when they analyze something to do, they're never quite sure what the consequence is going to happen over here on a certain area, other area governor, because of his grand, great experience as a ways and means person, and because of the fact that he, he had been so many years figuring out budgets for agencies, he really knew when he when somebody would tell him we should cut this money across the board or something, he would know right away which agency would suffer the most and which agency could not afford any more cuts, and which agency could take a few more. He actually, he actually is almost like you could almost say he managed, like somebody who had managed every one of those agencies. He just had an incredible wealth and knowledge about that stuff, and it almost should be something that's required to be governor. Now, when you look back on it, as he was prepared to be that person, the governors had followed him, some of them who had good traits, some of them who had certainly be better. Speaking skills, but none of them had the skill he had in managing state government. None of them he's far succeeded all those

James Moore 31:55

question going back to Kelly woods, you wrote a column about uh, arms being twisted by the governor's office to try to get the woods nomination through. And said, you know, fails 1515, they get people committee. You know, it's all over the place. Eventually, Vic just appoints himself, right? You know, to the to the board after Jim Redden says, you know, they can vote for any reason that they want to vote the Senate prerogative. But you write about arm twisting Vic, in his talking with me and talking on his oral history says he never did anything like that. Was this a Lee Johnson thing? Do you remember, or was it? Was it Vic laying down? You write specifically that that people that you talked to in the Senate were saying, you know, they told us, they told me that, if I support him, x will happen, and if I don't, that this bill that I want is going to be vetoed. No,

Wayne Thompson 32:57

it was, it was definitely. Lee Johnson, okay, it's not, it's not even a secret. Okay, I may not, I don't recall the column, but I may not have named the names I should have. If I didn't, it was because I probably because I had, need to still have access to Lee and other reasons. But he, he had a reputation of doing that, not just on the woods thing that was a style that Governor Tia would constantly have to tone him down on. Yeah. Speaking of Redden, Jim Redden and Lee were were friends, even though they were from different parties. But they, they had many fights like that, over over, the fact that Lee would, they would pull almost anything. I mean, he, he would sometimes even threaten what we call today,

almost like an extortion, to get stuff done. I'll do this throughout warnings. And he was, he'd do it with a smile, yeah, but, and he was effective in some ways, but he also cost the governor, I think some mileage you took some things might have been done a lot faster if the governor just done it and just rather than have Lee come in and pound away, there was a committee that called the Senate Energy and Environment Committee. It was one of the favorite committees of all time in the legislature, because it had Ed fadley was on that committee. John Powell was on that committee, Ted Halleck was on that committee, Ted Colin goski was on that committee. A couple other Oh, lb day was on that committee. And. And the fellow that Vic knew from Hood River who had been a pilot,

James Moore 35:06

Ken Jefferson, no,

Wayne Thompson 35:10

no, no Bitcoin to his funeral here recently, yeah, he was sort of a quiet guy, normally. Ken gernstead, yeah. Ken gernstead, yeah. There we go. He was on a committee. Anyway, we a lot of the press media, and I was one of them. It was racially always had those meetings on late afternoon, usually on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday, using around 230 or three o'clock. We tried to get all our work done and run down there, whether we're going to cover it or not, just to hear the arguments stand up comics, you know, a lot of them, but it was the one area where, where energy got discussed the most, and where it is, where the Kelly Woods thing got discussed the most, and and The boy one thing about the committee, even among the liberal left as well as the conservatives, there was a lot of brains there and a lot of great a lot of great one liners were thrown out. As a writer, I love just listening to it, but that's the committee that got that's that was the source, in my memory now, of this, of the column about about where somebody told me that Lee Johnson had been, had been, what was the phrase doing? Arm twisting. Arm twisting. Yeah, that would be the committee that he'd be doing it with, and fatally, probably and Halleck would have been two of the people that were most anti Halleck was a character in his own sense. I don't know what he and what he and his relationship were, but they were both. They were both strong characters in terms of their their articulation of subject matter and everything that was a committee though that was a circus, yeah, and it was definitely Johnson. I don't ever remember Vicker Tia proposing. In fact, it pissed me off a lot of times as a person, not who was favoring a certain topic, but if I favored something, it was to get over gridlock. I just wanted to see the state move forward whatever you know, and get on to another topic. Solve instead of having months and months of debate over something that seemed like it was never, never ending. So one thing about Vic, he would not cave. He would put into gridlock, gridlock longer than I would long like to tolerate, because he wouldn't. He wouldn't, he wouldn't do some of those things necessary to break it.

James Moore 38:34

And you think it was a tactic? Do you think it was a no? I think

Wayne Thompson 38:39

with I think he's just, I don't know how to compare him. If I were to compare him with a in history, historic terms, was with a politician that I knew, read or knew about, would be Harry Truman, regardless the fact that Harry Truman was a Democrat, somebody who just refused to do things the wrong way. He just stuck to he had, like, for example, the best examples on the property tax limitation measure. He felt he was elected to serve the state, posted first as a representative, Senator and then Governor by the people. And the people in that number voted for a tax property tax break. He didn't think anybody should, just with a goal of hand, oppose it. He felt he should support that. He should support what they say so, so when there was an opportunity in the two ballot measures to. To seek a situation which we could eliminate both of them. He refused to do that, even though I know he recognized it would save money for state for certain, you know. But he would rather, he would rather find other ways to manage state government within limitations of what the money was available than what he could say double crossed the public, and I thought, you know, most every politician I've ever known would have chosen another strategy. In fact, that he didn't choose that strategy at that moment in time, including with Jack Faust and some of the other Republicans, fact that he wouldn't budge on a sales tax bothered some of them, and they just thought he was he couldn't be coaxed into it, but even they had many, many meetings, many, many Republicans I know who were friends with Tia and remain today supporters talked to him about changing his view on that he wouldn't do it and to life for me, I never understood why he wouldn't do it, because it would. It would have solved a lot of the problems that he was struggling to solve in state. But the reason, the primary reason is, and my finally came out, or is come out, is that he felt the public has already spoken, and they would say they should get what they voted for. That's what the way the system works, that he was not not anything. He was not there,

there to to. It was not government purchased some of the people majority. And so he learned the civics lessons that lot of us like to ignore, but that's basically the way I see that system. But in the hindsight of all that we grew out of that he's looked back on now as the person that in that era did manage to save so many things that others wouldn't have done, and his environmental side of him is the other thing that surprised people, I think particularly his work on the Deschutes River that really helped him. I don't know if who among his, among his cabinet, people were the most influential in that Pat or somebody else, Pat, Eva, Deyo or somebody else, but when he, when he started to put in programs to save and Deschutes River from losing its fish run and so forth. Heads turned. I mean, other people were just stunned. He'd go that far, and then he had that kind of situation, but just a lot of things. He's just full of surprises, surprises a lot of us in the media didn't really see at the time. I'd like to think we all would beat ourselves on the chest. And like to think that we saw him in some way I saw I saw that I liked the man, but I didn't necessarily like the policies. I had a different as an editorial writer, representing a paper that had an editorial agenda. I an editorial agenda that I buy and by and large agreed with I didn't like some of the things he was doing we wrote about that a lot of my editorials opposed a lot of the things he but but when I reasons he was Doing it were reasons I understood and respected. I just thought that they were too rigid at the time. At times, I always used to argue that the times demanded something more than just duty, you know. And he didn't waver. It's sort of like a back on looking for a metaphor, but it's sort of like somebody steering a boat in a storm, you know? It's a really bad storm. And. And smart, the smart thing is to dump the boat come shore. And he he took the other way out. And he figured he been through storms before and seen what storms do and some sort of weather it, and saved a boat. That seems to be what happened. But as the years go by, as years went by, he left office, and Mike's continued right editorials for a while, and I retired, but each year I think about it and look at the other governors, he still stands out as somebody who managed the State better than anybody I covered, and I think I would say, had stronger character than anybody else, and without being dull, without being boring, dull or in fact, the thing I like best about him is his humor. I mean, you could say anything to him, and I did trying to watch my language here on your tape recorder,

James Moore 46:30

there's all sorts of interesting things on these pieces. He didn't

Wayne Thompson 46:34

like swearing. But I'm not a person who my mind's got very much. It's part of my vocabulary. And he would look at me sort of sternly, and I would say something like, Well, Governor, that's me. I mean, I'm sorry, but that's what that's what happened when you're raised in Pennsylvania.

James Moore 47:01

Exactly. Where it turns out. There are a lot of ideas, yeah, a lot of people from his home village there. But

Wayne Thompson 47:10

My only regret is, in years past, as I got immobile, not great health, I haven't been able to get out. And so we, I don't know how many lunches we've sort of talked about, either talked about it postponed and never had, and we'd sort of planned to have some. I mean, almost there was one point where, where we talked about having a monthly lunch. Just he and me to talk about what we're talking about now, yeah, and never had it. Never did it. He showed up at my retirement retirement party and gave a little talk about it scared. Me to death. By the way, retirement parties for newspaper people are not what you really want to have because you're so afraid of people you liked that you covered will tell a story that makes it sound like you covered up for them or something, or that you didn't tell the truth, or that you help you kept secret, some major break in the news, and I was so afraid somebody would, somebody would get up and tell a story about me, and it would involve, I've seen it happen with Jerry Tippins, one of our colleagues, one of the legislators, got up and said, we always count on Jerry Tippins. If you ask him for a favor to keep something out of the paper, he'd do it. Now Look at his expression. I thought he was going to dry up. I was so afraid when Atiyeh didn't do that to me, and I don't think he had grounds, but, but, you know, we had so many funny laughing moments that he could have told a story in such a way that would make me look like I was somewhat prejudiced. And Barbara Roberts was there and did the same thing, and Goldschmidt was there, and he actually, Goldschmidt sent a letter, and then kitscher came, and so I had quite a few governors take a shot at me, and I dodged every bullet. So amazing. But Vic was we had point on. We talked about getting together. We did get together a couple times. I think I mentioned to you earlier that one Sunday morning, to my surprise, I got a call. One of his colleagues told me to meet him at a Fred Meyers store. He. Had a motor home, and we all went to Seattle to see the Green Bay Packers play. And Vic particularly asked that I come

along, and we went up there, and Dick got and Vic got a chance to go into meet Bart Starr, quarterback of the Packers. And of course, as most people know, or if they read my story afterwards, Vic was when he was a college football player at Oregon State. He got a contract to play for the Packers for something small amount of money, I might say, but he still had a copy of the contract, and we printed that contract, but he got a chance to go in as a once packer, once possible Packer. He got a chance to meet Bart Starr, and I've never seen his he was so he's like a little boy. First time I've ever seen him intimidated, intimidated by the fact that Bart Starr the Green Bay Packers, which was treating him like like a cane, and he talked about it all the way back and talked about football. But

James Moore 51:20

tell me the story. You said that Bart Starr was really the only person who really odd Vic Yeah.

Wayne Thompson 51:27

You mean odd him? Yeah, the other way around, yeah. Well, it was. It sort of caught star by surprise. I think even though he'd been a packer, he was now now, my memory is that he was now either, I don't think he was the quarterback. You'll have to go back and think about this. He may have been just, just becoming, just leaving as the quarterback. It was like his last year or so, or he was on the coaching staff, he would, but the point is, the very fact that a governor of a state which was one of a colleague, so to speak, as a packer, thrilled him. It was just, you know, and he was odd about the fact that he was a governor of state, former Packer coming in in the locker room. He was and I myself had mentioned to star, having been a former sports writer, I knew the lingo that about big big successes in politics, and the reason he didn't play for the Packers, because he told me that earlier, about the fact he had To work with his family's rug company and have an opportunity to take a gamble going to summer camp every 50 for 50 bucks. And anyway, Bart, yeah, Bart was, he kept, he took, asking other people afterwards, other people in our group state stuff about Tia, because he wanted, and he asked for a Tia's autograph. She should have been vice versa, because Atiyeh clearly wanted his autograph. I don't know. I don't think he asked for it, but he clearly wanted it. They gave him a football with an autograph on it, and he gave him a packer shirt. I forgot it was if it was star's shirt or someone else's, but star wanted to his autograph. Burch, Starr was pretty smart guy too. I mean, he was, he was like one of these football jocks who just never learned anything, but the Packers were still a good team then the Seahawks were not. So it was the other benefit of the trip. The right team won the game. I enjoyed it myself, but they talk about being, I guess, the person most, most shocked or not shocked, but most thrilled by that whole moment was me just to be called to go up. There, wouldn't I felt privileged to be have the Governor's state. I mean, I'm not an autograph seeker either, but had the Governor's state call me on a Sunday out of the blue, I wasn't his favorite person. I didn't think to go to a football game to see his alma mater, routine, play, yeah, was. Was really a flattering Yeah,

James Moore 55:35

I can relate. Vic asked me to write this book.

Wayne Thompson 55:37

Yeah? Like, yeah. I was flattered. House, you know, no question about it, yeah, well, he's, he's sincere. No question about it. He got a big kick. I think he got a big kick out of me initially, when I first came in with my I told him that I he kept Denny Miles, who we both know well and like, kept bragging about the tears volunteer group, how many signs They had. How many people made coins on weekends? And it got to be, got to be over to almost over much. I mean, I kept asking how he felt. He could even, even the number with a straw that so forth, he'd tell me all these numbers. The first time I went down to his office, when he went, I didn't do it until he first mentioned himself out of his mouth, not Denny's, but he had all these volunteers. And I said, Well, you know, new district, disrespect senator, but I'd like to take a look at some of those volunteers. Myself. Fine. He said, You got cabinets over here with all the names and numbers. You just go ahead and take what you want. So I went in and I pretended I knew what I planned to do, but I just went in and I think I took a couple things out of the B's, and I went down a couple D's, and I went down and got just letters throughout their alphabetic and got about 10 to 12. I just don't have a great memory. I'd say a dozen maybe. And out of that, I called every one of them. Had interviews with every one of them. And I do remember that the majority, and the majority of the large majority, like 10 or nine or 10 of the 12, or if it was 10, it was seven of the 10 were, not only were not active volunteers, but they actually did telephone stuff, and they went out on weekends, they did and they had signs in the art. They had all three, three things I was asking about, and the other ones that didn't had one, or at least one of those three things. The worst one just had a sign in the yard. They didn't, they didn't go on any volunteer. So you could almost say that was not a volunteer, yeah, but the other so the other 11 would have had at least been on the phone and a

sign in the yard, had a sign in the yard been on the phone or gone on a weekend rally kind of thing, or done something like that. Some of them, a couple, three of them, my memory, three or four of them didn't have a sign in the yard, but did the other things, which are even more impressive, but they didn't have a sign in the art because they lived in an apartment Yeah. And by the way, they weren't all from Portland, either. That's the other thing I would put back. If they were, if I got two or three, four from Portland, I would figure that was enough, and I put back I get right, make sure I had somebody from the valley, and somebody from Eastern Oregon, somebody from the coast, somebody from Southern Oregon, tried to split around, yeah. And I had a couple from Medford, I know, and one from Coos Bay. But I used to have a story I was. Couldn't find it in my filing, my files listed who they were. I didn't just do it. I actually wrote about it. Yeah, I'll look for that. I never, that's my style, is I never do that much work without writing about exactly, exactly. But that's what he that's what he talked about at my retirement party. He was very, very heartfelt for me. I loved that anecdote to hear it. I loved other people to hear that, that I did, that that was the way I got I weighed his boast of the with the truth to investigate it. But he was great. He was Paul Phillips was then his driver, yeah,

James Moore 1:01:02

Vic's nephew, Ed had been the driver through the primary, and then Paul came on. And Ed, who's not a political guy, loved the time with his uncle, but was so happy that Paul Phillips came in. Somebody likes to do this.

Wayne Thompson 1:01:19

I'll never forget I used to go on these trips with guys. I went on a campaign trip with Wendell Wyatt, and just I loved to watch the styles of these guys. And window would stop. He had the driver stop in a town. He'd walk into a store, and he'd go up and he'd shake hands with everybody in the store, and didn't just introduce himself and so forth. And then wonder would get back in the car and we'd go on and off, and Wendell would. Wendell was actually a funny guy, satirical satire. He'd say he'd get out of we head to the next town when it would say, I wonder if they'll ever remember me. What they'll say about me in that town years from now. Yeah, but he, well, never forget I shouldn't say this. I'm going to say it. What the hell we stopped at one spot Wendell was not a big, not a big fan of the Mark Hatfield in terms of Mark being sort of prude. So we were driving, I think we're going toward the coast, and we saw some small town on the way to the coast. We haven't forgotten what town now, but we stopped anyway. The corner window points up road to his driver says, up here, because the corner spot up here you can stop. It's where Mark Hatfield used to stop get on his knees and pray. He just always come up with these little funny things that showed his total disrespect for somebody that he thought was a phony. What it was if we were talking about Mark Hatfield? Now, I'd add to that, there's another guy that surprised me. Mark Hatfield was a prude. To me. Was somebody that I really didn't like at all, until his senior years in the Senate when I thought he was fabulous, yeah, I think he made a personality change. He transitioned into a guy you really wanted to be around at the end of his career. He's another guy. He didn't come to my retirement. But he he called me a day afterwards and said he wanted me to come down and have dinner, have lunch with him, sort of a post retirement lunch, I mean, to talk about my future. Actually, my futures tell you what that's going to be like. Tell you right now. But anyway, he's another one that I ended up I did a lot of energy stuff, and he respected that, but, but he's somebody who, unlike Atiyeh Atiyeh, I respected all the way, but didn't particularly think he was doing as well as he, as I later thought, later, just determined that he was one of the best at going Hatfield. I just thought was a prude, somewhat of a phony. And it turned out to be, he surprised me, and essentially turned out to I had a different view of him later on. Yeah, yeah, this may have been me. I may have been me that had a different view. You may have been the same guy, but it was comfortable to know that. Wendell, I felt the same way.

James Moore 1:05:13

You covered the 78 election pretty closely. And there, there's a lot of Straub and Atiyeh campaigned hard against each other. I mean, they weren't afraid to take shots and debates. They were they were pushing each other pretty hard, and then later on, Vic is asked to be part of the board of the Atiyeh or the Straub archives, and Vic writes the intro for the Straub biography. I was talking with Ted kulinowski Earlier this week, and Ted's relationship with Vic was a good relationship. I mean, they just agreed on issues. But Ted said, you know, after that 82 campaign, it's not that we were angry at each other, but we just didn't have anything to do with each other. You know, they just went off, and then Ted kind of came back. When Ted was governor, Ted would get on the phone and call Vic and say, you know, can I talk to you about this kind of stuff, and they, they got really close the last 10 years of Vic's life. From your position, watching campaigns like that, especially that 78 one, did you see any evidence that they made it personal, and then things would calm down later? Or, you know, how did that between Straub, between Straub and Atiyeh, are they playing? You know, the roles that they know that they have to play. Or

Wayne Thompson 1:06:52

Straub, Straub had a short fuse. Uh huh, they sort of had a temper. He wasn't as forgiving on anything, if he had an enemy and on an issue, it was hard for him to get over that person not being an enemy. I think I could say this. My brother in law ran for governor against de Straub and Betty Roberts, the three of them primary Straub one, I think was trying to remember, I think Straub won The election, obviously, but Straub and Redden weren't even they were Democrats and they were both, say, treasurers. They turned out, you know, we're not comfortable with one another, and then all out. And it wasn't my brother so much, brother in law, that way. It was job. He was an enemy in the campaign. So he was an enemy. And so I think there's somewhat, there's some of that in what you're saying, as far as any situation during that campaign, anything to you would have said that would be critical. Would be critical criticism of Straub administration, or how he ran things, or him himself, would have been taken personally and more, more than people do when they're in campaigns. Not much a pro. I'm not very professional in that. As far as running campaigns are concerned, on the other hand, Straub, I'm not very good at This, at this one, because on all circumstances, I was never an admirer of anything Straub did. I'm one person on our editorial board. I didn't I wasn't involved in his Straub elections, but I I didn't vote for him. Put it that way, I thought he was an egotist. He had a superiority complex to a lot of all kinds of issues. I think a smart guy like he had. But I just, I just don't think. I don't know who his friends were. They certainly weren't people in politics. I can tell I can't really relate. If you're asking me a question, who were Straub ally? Guys in politics who were his friends in politics after he was elected, who were his chief backers, who are there? I know who people gave him money were. In many cases, I know. I know who his friends and family were, but I don't recall that he had anybody, or I talked to anybody, he would say, Well, I really liked Bob Straub when he was governor. I really, I really, I really wanted Bob Straub to be this or that. So I would, I just find it been hard for Bob Straub to to have had a relationship. It's surprising he had a relationship at all with with an opponent after after his even, if you even know he won, it's like somebody like, it's almost like, if, if you, if you had a bad time On a rainy day, you don't like rain anymore. We Yeah, but all these other one thing I always like about many things about Oregon politicians, is that, particularly Republicans and Democrats, is that they always unlike with having the national sense, they always seem to get along well,

James Moore 1:11:49

there's ups and downs with that, yeah, oh, much less partisan than other

Wayne Thompson 1:11:53

places, right? Tony Meeker was great with Democratic leadership. And my brother in law, I know was really good with Republicans. Lee Johnson, example I gave you earlier, Ted COVID, I think was pretty good that way. I'm not sure about gold Schmidt,

James Moore 1:12:16

he's kind of the exception, because he it's like he swung in on a vine to be governor. He had to it was mayor of Portland. You were

Wayne Thompson 1:12:25

doing a book on coachman. I could kill your day.

James Moore 1:12:29

There's a Nigel jaquis at the Willamette week has been toying with it for a long time, but we all know that Neil is not going to talk to Nigel. So

Wayne Thompson 1:12:37

I wrote the book. I wrote a thing on Neil for the I was asked to do it for the encyclopedia. Yeah, I did the Vic one. They couldn't get anybody to do it. Yeah, I did it and I I covered him pretty closely, but he's the example I always give about the difference between his office and Dick's. And you'd have to, you know, you'd have to have a, basically get a passport to get in to see gold? Yeah,

James Moore 1:13:21

I talked to Verne Duncan, who's a good friend. And Verne Verne had his first Cabinet meeting with McCall just before

McCall left, and then Straub at the all the way up. And so Vic was saying, with Straub staff, you could talk to Straub, and you could talk to the staff, and whatever Straub said, there was a good chance that it would come to fruition. When you talk to Vic, whatever you talk to Vic about, the staff would be on it. It would happen. There's no, no question whatsoever. And when you talk to Neil. You couldn't talk to Neil. You couldn't even get to see him, right? And so it was just a different planet.

Wayne Thompson 1:14:09

Then Neil thought, Neil, I'll tell you this story. Won't help you on this one, but you'll like to hear it, because you love politics. I got a call from Neil Goldschmidt when he was working for Nike and Canada, and he was asked to think about running for governor. And basically, I'm trying to remember how this works now. I can't remember any. I can't remember exactly how I got this. I'll start with this. I got a call from Neil. He wanted to have lunch. Excuse me, breakfast. I don't my eyes don't open until 10 o'clock. I don't think much until one. Yeah, and I just let you know, everything you read in those clippings, almost everything, I can't swear to every one of them, but almost everything was written in the PM. I don't write in mornings. I don't think in the mornings. I, you know, I just, I stay up every night till two or three, and I wake up, I have to be at work at nine or something, but, but I never, I'm just numb. So I never scheduled any breakfast. But anyway, he called wanted breakfast, and so I go down there and we have breakfast at the one of the hotels on Broadway, and his son's with him. And his son went, and he starts, first thing he did, he said, I asked you here today because I know you covered the legislature, and I'm thinking about running for governor, and I want to know what your thoughts are about how, how that works best?

How do you handle how does a governor work best with the legislature, and how does what you have to do? And I remember I had the only time I talked at one time, I answered the question as well. I said, You're used to as a city, as a city mayor, you're used to calling in five people, and you've got to get three of them just to agree with you. That's all you have to do. You have to see anybody else. It's called it gets three people admitting they're sometimes tough cells, but you get three people to agree with you, and it's over the legislature different. You've got to get 16 people in the Senate, at least, and in the house, 3031 31 Yeah, 3131 2931 in the house, there's 31 people in the house in different parts of the state, different agendas. And in the Senate, you have to get 16, same thing, only with only with less opportunity to influence or blackmail, because they have four year terms and you can't scare them into their next election problem. And I said, So it's different. So then he spends the next hour and 15 minutes, because I was late for work, talking about himself and what he hopes to accomplish and what his dreams and hopes and so forth are. Never, once, ever asking me one other question about the legislature or what I think about him running, or anything. This is his idea of I think this was his idea of reaching out and collecting

James Moore 1:18:21

opinion. Right. You remember was this before the 86 election? The reason I ask is Vic told me, and also in his oral history, Vic wanted to take him on in 1982 that would have been his ideal opponent. Yeah,

Wayne Thompson 1:18:41

he would have had good shot at beating him. Tell you the reason. One reason why he would had a good shot at beating him is sort of an unfair reason. I don't think bick would have even used it or mentioned it. Goldschmidt had this aura about with most people in Portland metropolitan area, at least as being like coming in on a white horse. He had this because of what happened downtown and the way the city was managed and Metro and all that, all the things he did progressive, things he did downtown among the progressive left of the left voter never seen, I've never seen a left wing like a left wing in Portland, Oregon, anybody from McGovern? I mean, you know, this is as Republican, Democratic an area has ever been in history, in my mind. But anyway, he, he was thought of as sort of like coming in on a great white horse. A Camelot. He was the Camelot guy, I guess. And when you do that, and you come in and you have such awful results, it's such a huge disappointment. You're so badly disappointed your base and the people who really love your ass. I mean, I mean disappointment is not, is really amazing how much it's not just to sell out parts stuff. I mean, it's, you know, a lot of people had that concern. But he went to Nike and learned how to please business. And he was the car people loved his. Loved him. I went back and spent a month interviewing all the people in the automobile industry, Estes, General Motors and Caldwell Ford and the heads of every car company, and they loved him because he followed.

He followed the guy that wanted to reinvent the automobile, and what goes with did for them. He promised them and didn't deliver on having when they had a problem with government of any kind, any agency, he would line everybody

up that they needed to see, get them all in one room so they could have one visit to Washington, DC, one day, spill it out and go home. Didn't have to spend a week there. Didn't have to, you know, he made life so much easier on them. There was almost a point that where some of them, when Reagan took over, were recommending that they keep him, believe it or not, but Reagan keep Gulch. He was so good as a US. In fact, transportation secretary, it's probably his greatest success, yeah, before I continue this, because I have something else to say, my wife left three sodas back in the other room. There's ice in the refrigerator, there's this, and there's coke and there's orange. Okay, I'm fine right now. But yeah, that's good. Thanks. I meant to say that earlier, anyway. So on that lunch, on that breakfast, I went back and just walked all the way up that street to the Oregonian building and said to myself, I can't believe it. He didn't ask me one other goddamn thing. I mean, I you can know. You can tell from talking to me today and reading my notes. I have plenty to say. Yeah, I've never been short on opinion, and so I don't know what he was quite looking for. We had some personal experiences together when I was a reporter who covered. There was a guy that was bombing power towers. Oh yeah, he threatened the Portland water system.

Well, I was a reporter that first one that sort of discovered that same guy that was doing that to the towers was also threatened the water system, and so Goldschmidt. I talked to Goldschmidt about it, and he, he finally took me in to his confidence, and I went back to my papers, and I'm not going to I'm going to write the story, no matter what he says, because I've got facts, and my editor notes said, Well, this will panic everybody in the town, so let's play ball with them a little while. Let's give them a deadline. You, you get your get your strategy involved in how you go deal with this, and we're going to write a story. We'll give them a week, or something like that. And but Goldschmidt was because of our willingness. That wasn't my willingness. A nastier person in that their willingness to put off a week talking about that threat, he had a respect for me that probably wasn't earned, but at least that's what started. What's why he called and so forth. And also, I my trailblazer and stuff involved. I remember going back to Washington with David Halberstam. We traveled for a week with the Blazers in 1979 and I took a week's vacation to do it, and we spent a couple of night a day or something with Goldschmidt, when he was wasn't 79 Yeah, 39 he would have been, yeah, he was Secretary, by the way.

I think it was, that's what I was stumbling over when he was the time frame, when he was Secretary transportation, I think, is when he really got the corporate bug, and when it really changed From the from the heart throb of the of the Liberals left wing, because he was playing too much to corporate types. Became a bit big friend of business. That's what sort of that's what they sort of thought, yeah, and I think it's probably true. He saw where the money was, and I don't know if he started out to be a bad person, but he ended up being a bad person, but not because of the because of the rape, just because of some of the changes in his philosophies. But anyway, his office was he's hard to get in. Barbara Roberts was different. She was She's friendly, but she's very partisan, incredibly partisan. She hated Kitzhaber. She does unbelievable. Of course, he's, he was nasty with her, so you know, and Kitzhaber, I know an awful lot about him, of all the people ran together, including Atiyeh I spent more personal time with Kitzhaber than anybody. We wrote songs and stuff together, new lyrics, satirical lyrics for political happenings when he was a state senate president. His fianc © at that time was Stephanie Fowler was one of our best friends. Still is, although she's gone through some bad times lately, she had breast cancer, still getting treated but Stephanie has a similar view to me about Vic. She's another one that covered him both as channel six and channel eight, and she may be the first one that said it to me from the media. I think she may have been she went to that you mentioned on the phone. She went to that meeting. We went to Jack Fauci when he talked about the dog, your uncle.

James Moore 1:28:36

Oh yeah, yeah, Jack with Jack Walker's dog, yeah, yeah.

Wayne Thompson 1:28:39

She was there, oh, yeah. She, she and I were there. Yeah, I wrote that column for that, but she, we were the only media people there. Yeah, she, but she's, she was a big fan of Biggs. I don't know if she picks liked her or not.

James Moore 1:28:59

I know Denny thinks that she was really critical while Vic was in office. I definitely want to talk to her. If you have contact information I'd love to have. Yeah,

Wayne Thompson 1:29:13

that's the last thing about coachman. I don't think I he Well, I put it this way, he disappointed me. I took it from my colleague, Larry Hildebrand. I I thought coachman had done a wonderful job as mayor. I know nothing about I never covered City Hall, and so I can't really talk about that. I do know that. I do know that to get something done in city is nothing like getting something done in the state.

James Moore 1:29:56

It's pretty focused. You know, who's up, who's down, and there's as you. Said there's only five of them. Yeah,

Wayne Thompson 1:30:01

right. Get three, get three, and you're done. You only care about the other two, yeah. But, you know, it's a chance for bargaining. It's limited. But same time, if you're not a bargainer, you know, Goldschmidt would be more of a guy like Lee Johnson. He'd extort your vote. He would say, you want to do such and such, and it's not going to happen unless you do this. It'd be his style, yeah, yeah.

James Moore 1:30:40

I know when Vic came in, Bob Straub had left him, in effect, a list. This is what you know governors do, and here's how I've done it. And the first thing Vic did, his very first official act, was an extradition he was stunned by how much extradition stuff there was when you're govern, you never hear about it, but there's just a whole bunch of that kind of stuff that happens. And then Vic, in fact, you wrote a column about it. Heads did not roll when Vic was in, he kept a lot of the straw people, you know, head of this agency or department and that kind of thing. And partly because he had just a tremendous respect for state employees, and he worked with them in the ways and means. So then at the end, when he leaves, he does the same thing for Goldschmidt. And Goldschmidt not only fired everybody, it's like he took the list and threw it away and just did completely different things,

Wayne Thompson 1:31:46

except for my wife. There you go to appointed her teacher, standards and practice commission and go Schmidt gave her second term. Oh, great. The but he came. George Smith walked in that door, uh huh, at a Christmas party that I had looked down and I on all my land, three acres. There was no houses down there. Then we owned that acre and half down there. He says, Is there water down there? I said, What do you mean? I saw, I was looking at a city map, and looked like there's a stream down there. I said, I think it's maybe in this, maybe a heavy rainstorm, but I don't think things any Creek says I'm going to look into it, because if there is, we're going to get a sewer in here, which is going to cost, and he did. He's an invited guest in my house. He ended up Caesar for the first time, and a few years later, I'm selling the land because I can't afford to sewer. Thanks. Thanks a lot.

James Moore 1:33:03

This is Vic talking about the Goldschmidt people.

Victor Atiyeh 1:33:15

So you would know her, but her husband is a senator I know very well. He was very well known, nice guy to like him. She went to work for my successor few months after I saw her, she said, this job is tougher than you made it look.

James Moore 1:33:43

That's a particular -- that's a very telling and wonderful, but there was another one. I think I've nailed it down, but I'm not quite sure who it is yet, but that's Vic, you know, talking about her, but that may become the title of the book. Go. But that's the, you know, the in effect, the the assuredness or cockiness of the Goldschmidt people. It's like, you know, yeah, there's a lot of stuff that goes along with this.

Wayne Thompson 1:34:15

Well, we had, he's sort of crazy. We invited a gold Schmidt to spend a weekend with us at the beach when he was mayor, and we stopped at a restaurant on the way down on Friday night. He was tight. He was he was all just really tight. I mean, wound up, what I'm trying to say like a string, and the waitress had a piece of lemon pie that he liked. He liked his lemon pie. So did his wife, and she wanted a lemon pie. And he said, I'm. I'm going to have it sorry. It says I like lemon pie, and we're sort of laughing about it, you know, I like lemon pie too, but it's lemon pie somewhere else. I'll get anyway. I'll just talk about lemon pie and then getting into discussion about ethics and the idea of it, if it's ethics, if

you write, if it's selfish, if it's selfish to let your friends have what they want, because that is selfish, because you're turning the light on yourself as being someone who's willing to share. Next thing I know before I can stop, gold Schmidt is chasing his wife around the restaurant room. She's got the pie in her place. He's chasing he's chasing her all around the room, and we don't know they're out of control. She goes in a women's room. He goes in after her. This is the first one, and they're laughing about it, but it didn't seem to be any anger, but it was just like they were having this children's like game. And we're older than they are, of course, but they came out and finally had some comment that she settled it, and he was eating the pie. He got in the lemon pie. Spent the whole weekend he didn't, you know, he talked about himself. He talked about my beach house. Talked about his brothers having a place nearby.

And then finally, on Sunday night, we're about to go home, he finally loosened up to where he was. He started to be interesting. He find wound down to the point he find to be what maybe the real Goldschmidt was. We stopped and had a late, late dinner with the owner of what's her name, the one that has that great in Newport, that great fish house. Oh, Moe's, Moe's, yeah, mo, mo, yeah, Mo, whatever, yeah. He knew her well from somewhere, and we stopped in her home, stopped at her home, and had late dinner at Bo was mo didn't get back to Portland about one in the morning, and at that point, you know, and I thought that he was pretty interesting guy and weird, but, you know, had been very self centered, but in a in a funny way, and it's certainly smart. Yeah, no, never an argument with me about his intelligence. He's a very smart guy, but he's obviously his parents. His parents loved him to death and made him think he was king of these and being so he he was spoiled that way. But, but from that except for that moment, that weekend at the beach and relationship I had briefly with him, when about the towers being blown up, and that breakfast with his son, I didn't have any other really things to say. And yet, Spencer Hines and some other people that were gone in thought that I was had this special relationship with Neil -- Three things, yeah, in his whole career, I to this day don't know what in his issue came up and all that I never heard from him.

I called his office and expressed not my sympathy. But I told him, I sorry, this, this, and he let this, this himself, that just happened to him, and if you wanted to talk about it, I was free to talk about it, but I didn't say why. I didn't offer support like for you or To hell with your babysitter. I don't know what to say at the times like that, but I don't wish things like that. On anybody but he. He was a discipline I can measure from my own senses here that he was just a disappointment to a lot of people. Kulongowski, I got to know really well too, from his days as the insurance commissioner. And he was, he's very media oriented more than other governors were. He went down to the press room all the time. But the Republican, I mean, all the Republicans, Norma Paulus and I had a really relationship. It was good. David Frohnmayer just died. He's another one penny Willis and so forth. He'd come down there quite a bit, and we'd talk. Lee Johnson came in there quite a bit. He didn't hesitate to use the media. If we could Vic didn't do that, I could say that Vic was probably of all the people and I had I stayed in Salem so I was in the media office all the time. Wasn't like just in the editorial board, I told you earlier, I was assigned to Salem, so I covered it, both as a political reporter and then later as a tour writer. And the whole time I was in Salem office. So of all the governors from Atiryeh, Straub, as I say, I wasn't there for strong but Atiyeh Goldschmidt to Roberts, to Kulongwoski, Kitzhaber, every one of those governors, except for Atiyeh, we would see in the media some at some point in the day, usually almost every day, if not every other day in the media room. We didn't see Vic there, and the reason we didn't see him there is because you could walk into his office the same way as we walk into ours. Yeah, the others, you couldn't do that. So

James Moore 1:42:25

that's what Chuck Banks was telling me as well. You know, walking down the hall, talked of the governor, yeah,

Wayne Thompson 1:42:31

go. So I think it was, it was, yeah, it was sort of like, I don't need to go there. They know they can come up here and walk in and not just want me walk in is just walking in is one thing. It's walking through that room, passing by the Secretary that was usually there, walking through the door, not waiting for it to open, not waiting for somebody to say, Who do you want? Walking back to his where the governor sat on the left hand side, just as you walk in. That was that way again. And tapping lightly on the door, if it was closed, you tap lightly on the door. If it was not, you just tap lightly and walk in. He'd be on the phone, or he'd be working. He'd be, you know, he'd say something like, if he's working or on the phone each sometimes they sit down and then to go back to doing what he's doing. Then he finished. You know, he didn't hide. He wasn't hiding anything. He wasn't embarrassed to be you know, he wasn't any sense of intrusion. I mean, it's almost like he was respecting us as much as he's respecting his own people. It goes a long way with media. Believe me, media has a big example. Media has big egos. Our egos grow, our stories grow. And so when you're treated with

respect by people who have been elected by the citizens as their leader, it resonates. You get, you get you don't ask for autographs, but you get shows up your spine and he treats his treats you with respect. That's literally I saw.

[Recording ends.]