

JACK CHURCHILL

TAPE 2, Side 1

March 27, 1996

M.O'R.: This is a continuation of the interview with Jack Churchill on March 27th. Go ahead.

J.C.: Most of my bosses were, as most of the bosses in the government today are hang-overs from - and that's why Clinton can't get anything done - are hangovers from Reagan-Bush. Most of the bosses in those days were hang-over New Dealers. And so there - you know, you were in a very sympathetic ambience, you know, at that - in that setting.

And there was a guy by the name of Allen who taught institutional economics, and we had a great - you know, from out of the Wisconsin Progressive movement. You know, so there were some great people in the Department of Agriculture. Louie Bean was a great statistician and developed all the crop-reporting data. So you know, all that stuff was going on. The Republicans could only scratch around for a while. And so I would say, you know, that bureaucracy survives in itself for a while until it's changed. That's what - we now are looking at Reagan-Bush philosophy in the decision-making ranks of the bureaucracy.

That's looking back from a long - you know, over a half century of governmental dickering around.

M.O'R.: Now, you returned to Oregon; was that from this job in ...

J.C.: Right. My father died, and I decided I'd had enough of Washington. Oh, and I'd gotten a divorce by that time. So I was

kind of free and easy, and so - and we'd just kind of run out of, you know, we had kind of a college romance, and we kind of - you know, that kind of just ran down for a variety of reasons. And we just kind of parted, and we were, you know, always good friends.

And so my father died, and I came back to - and he had something of an estate, and so I bought the *Oregon Democrat* from Monroe Sweetland, and decided I'd become - you know, get involved in politics, and if I went back to government, I'd got back politically. And that was a mistake, but anyhow -.

So the *Oregon Democrat* was not a very - it was very hard to sell ads, economically, but we had a great time writing and taking on the issues, and of course I became very close to Morse and very close to - and the Democratic Party then was - I bought it from Monroe Sweetland, and my brother had worked with Monroe, and Monroe was very close to my father. So even though he was a Republican, you know, and so - and then Howard Morgan I'd known in school, and then C. Gerard Davidson came in, and was the national committeeman, and I worked for him for a while as well. So I got all involved with Senior Democrats and Young Democrats and the legislature and you know, the Congressional campaigns and the big Democratic revival of 19 - what was it? '54? Well, I guess the Newberger thing had - Newberger and been elected by then. He came to Washington, and I met him in Washington.

M.O'R.: While you were still there?

J.C.: Yeah. As a matter of fact, my wife and I were on a train to Sun Valley, and Dick and Maureen - and we had dinner with Dick and Maureen on the train. I'd forgotten about that. It must have been in '54 or '55. Must have been.

M.O'R.: What were your impressions of Newberger, then?

J.C.: Oh, he was a wonderful guy. Very, very - you know, he was a very -. Well, Maureen Brown Newberger was my English teacher in high school.

M.O'R.: Really?

J.C.: Yeah. So I'd known her. I mean, you know, as a young student. I'd forgotten about that. Yeah. So you know, I mean - and she - I guess she's still alive. I don't know. Did she die?

M.O'R.: I think she is still alive.

J.C.: Yeah. And you know, we're still on really good terms. So anyhow, I just remember having dinner with them on the - you know, he never flew. He always took the train. And so - we got off in Sun Valley and went skiing.

M.O'R.: They were on their way to Portland?

J.C.: They were on their way back to Washington, probably after a Christmas vacation.

M.O'R.: Oh, I see.

J.C.: Yeah, I think we went out for Christmas and ...

M.O'R.: Oh, and you were traveling from Portland to ...

J.C.: From Portland to Sun Valley, yeah. I had forgotten all about that.

So anyhow, you know, so I covered the opening of The Dalles Dam, and you know, did helicopter shots and, you know, did big spreads of that, and then got involved in the public power movement.

Oh yeah, and I was the lobbyist at the Oregon legislature when we tried - in 1959 - this is kind of skipping around - but I did a lot of things; wrote about water policy, energy policy - you know,

but from a newspaper perspective, not academic, you know. A political point of view.

And of course we didn't get many ads from the utilities. But anyhow, I got very close to Gus Norwood of the American Public Power Association, and Elmer McClure of the Oregon State Grange.

The Bonneville Power Administration, you know, during the Eisenhower days, was going to build an intertie with California. It did build an intertie with California.

M.O'R.: Right.

J.C.: And the whole thing was, well, then California politically would be able to siphon off the Northwest power and go into the private utilities, and it was supposed to be a bad thing. So the answer to this was to go back and for the State of Oregon to get into the power business. And the State of Oregon was originally interested in going into the power business in 1930 and '32, and they passed Article 11[d] of the constitution to allow them to go in and build dams. Washington did the same thing. Prior to the New Deal coming in and building the dams and so on, the states were going to do that, and they were empowered to do it, and they were going to set up a three-person power authority that was elected by the people. This is all in the constitution.

So we all got together, and we decided we ought to do this, and I became the spokesman for this at the Oregon legislature. And Bob Duncan, who later was a Congressman, was Speaker of the House. I think it was his first or second term. This was the great revival in 1958 - you know, the Democratic sweep. Bob Holmes was governor, and the Democrats were in charge of both the House and

the Senate. Walter Pearson was president of the Senate; I remember that.

And you know, and I got 29 votes in the House to put Oregon in the power business. I think there were 31 Democrats.

M.O'R.: Now, there was also action by the Eisenhower Administration right around this same time to - noises, anyway, that they were going to sell the BPA.

J.C.: Well, I suppose that - there were always noises about that, but that wasn't very loud. The loud thing was that they were going to do this intertie, and if Oregon could control it not only would they make money, but they'd control the flow of power and have - you know, to keep the public power image alive; it was very much involved with the public power versus private power. They weren't all melded together and wearing the same suits as they are now.

M.O'R.: Right.

J.C.: So you know, and as far as fisheries and things like that, those weren't real issues yet. And so I went all through The Dalles Dam. You know, Gus Norwood became kind of a mentor - or you know, you couldn't resist following his point of view, even though he was wrong a lot, but that wore off later on. But at least at that point, he was dictating a lot of policy. And of course I knew Morse very well still, and you know, some of the timber -.

And you know, another thing that happened then was that the - and then Davis had got into a lot of manipulations with the timber companies, and what happened was that the Democrats got really into bed with the medium-sized timber companies, and numbers and numbers of mills were built by young entrepreneurs coming out of World War

II, and the Democrats started servicing those, you know, and getting timber for them out of the national forests, and Morse was one of those, as well as, you know, Allman.

And this was, you know, competitive with the big established, you know, Weyerhaeusers of the world. And McCracken was a great lobbyist for that group, Joe McCracken.

So anyhow, I got all involved in that.

M.O'R.: Right around the same period the Washington Public Power Supply System was formed, too, with Ken Billington as its ...

J.C.: Oh, yes. Not the nuclear part of it. Yes, Ken Billington.

M.O'R.: Oh, yeah, the nuclear projects came years later.

J.C.: Right. Well, Ken Billington - was he totally separate from Norwood? Was that a feud or ...

M.O'R.: I'm not sure of that.

J.C.: ... American Public Power Association? Because Gus was always in Vancouver, and Billington was located in Seattle. Didn't - wasn't he - I don't remember.

But anyhow, yes. I was never closely associated with him. In fact, I knew him very, very slightly.

M.O'R.: Yeah. Well, I spoke to Billington years ago about the genesis of WPPSS, and he told me originally that the original motivation was that they created WPPSS because they actually did fear that the Eisenhower Administration was going to put the BPA on the block, and that way they'd have a public power entity that would be ...

J.C.: Well, that may have been part of it, but at our ...

M.O'R.: Of course that didn't happen.

J.C.: Well, that might have been part of the reason that we wanted the intertie. I'm trying to think of the rationale, but all I remember was the lobbying. You know, once I got started it was a go, go, go on the marble floors, and working with the labor lobbies and these lobbies ...

M.O'R.: Trying to stop the intertie?

J.C.: Yeah. We created one hell of a stir, and I really started to learn something about, you know, political manipulation and lobbying and stuff like that. But you know, I was very successful. And you know, the power companies even got the electrical unions, the national electrical unions, to start turning labor away from our position. And I got Morse on the phone to get ahold of the national electrical unions to pull them out of Oregon. You know, they were -. So you know, I mean, it had big reverberations, because obviously the private utilities did not want any of this stuff going on. I mean, you know.

Anyhow, it was a lot of fun, but it was - and it was a great learning experience in the political field, not just, you know, election politics but legislative politics.

M.O'R.: Did you know - obviously he wouldn't have been on the same side of the fence with you, but did you have any dealings with Paul McKee, head of PP&L at that time?

J.C.: No, I had known him earlier. I think I knew his son. He was a little older. And I think that was all. But no. No. No, I knew - I was acquainted with their lobbyists. Phil Snedika [ph] was one of their lobbyists for PGE, and I forget who was for PP&L - I know who the guy was, but I can't think of his name.

M.O'R.: Jack Lansing, I think.

J.C.: Yeah. They were always wining me and dining me, you know, and berating me and stuff like that.

M.O'R.: One of the projects I'm also doing for the Oregon Historical Society - well, there's a couple projects there that ...

J.C.: Well, they're not paid for by the funds we got for you, I hope. [laughs]

M.O'R.: No, it's different money, but at least part of why I'm interested in pursuing a little detail here is because we do have two projects that relate to this; one is we're doing a history of PacifiCorp right now, and the other is Oregon government.

J.C.: Oregon government?

M.O'R.: Yeah. We're trying to do more or less all the present and past legislators that we can ...

J.C.: Really? God, I wish I'd kept more files. You know, the cartoons I had and all. I had cartoons and stuff. Shit.

But I think those papers are somewhere, you know. They're in the library and - there's a lot of stuff there.

M.O'R.: Well, when you go through your ...

J.C.: I don't have that. You know, I've moved so many times, and I don't know whether I sent some of the stuff to Portland State library or not. You know, sometimes you get where you just dump them. I've carried books ...

I may still - if I have any of those old cartoons, I'll give them to you, and you can dispose of them if you want.

M.O'R.: Yeah, we'll put them in the Oregon government file at the Historical Society.

Well, so anyway, you were beginning to learn the ins and outs of politics as a result of this period when you were - what? - you were the editor or publisher of the *Oregon Democrat*?

J.C.: Right. I had kind of a platform as the publisher, and then, you know, working the lobby for this and working the legislature, you know, and being also in the newspaper, it kind of - you know, people, you know - people always wanted to get their names in the paper and so on.

But I made friends with, you know, some of the people - you know, Dan Demmick, who was a lawyer from Roseburg, and got John Kitzhaber into politics, and you know, just a lot of good people. You know, it was just a - and Duncan and - I'm trying to think. There was a lot of people that I'd keep running across later in life in various episodes of mostly political rifts, rowdies, episodes of some sort or another, on one side or another, not necessarily on the same side, but at least sort of building a network of activists on the scene. Plus a lot of people in the lobby, like I mentioned. George Brown and some of those people.

M.O'R.: Probably Beulah Hand as well?

J.C.: Oh, Beulah Hand's an old, old friend. I've never really run into her in later years. Beulah was very helpful. Yeah, we were very close. Her husband Floyd. I spent time at their house.

M.O'R.: They're still there.

J.C.: Are they?

M.O'R.: Yeah.

J.C.: I'll be darned. Both alive and kicking?

M.O'R.: As far as I know, as of a few years ago. I interviewed Beulah for the Oregon government project at the Historical Society.

J.C.: Oh, she's a delightful person. Very perceptive. Did you ever interview Martha Ann Adelsheim [ph]?

M.O'R.: No.

J.C.: That was too bad. She was ...

M.O'R.: We may have an interview that someone did of her, though.

J.C.: Somebody did one of her?

M.O'R.: Yeah.

J.C.: Good. Because she - I worked with her. In fact, I was a lover of hers. And ...

M.O'R.: You said lover?

J.C.: Yes. We were quite intimate for a long period of time.

M.O'R.: Was this the same period?

J.C.: Well, I forget. I think it was later. But you know, she was Chairman of the Democratic Party for a long time, and was very able. But that was a little later. Why don't we move on? We're not getting to the Tualatin very fast.

M.O'R.: That's all right. Well, before we move on too quickly here, I wanted to ask you, your relationship with Wayne Morse was really developing during this period; is that right?

J.C.: Oh, yeah. And when I was in Washington, you know, we'd go out to his farm quite a bit. And a lot of times when I was in Washington, as long as he was there I was very close to him. I'd go out and plow his corn for him and harvest hay, or go out and count his - you know, he'd go out and move his cattle around and

run them up on trucks and run them off and, you know, move them from this pasture to that.

And so - and that was a side of Morse, you know, that - you know, he was recharging his batteries and, you know, bitching about somebody or other, Lyndon Johnson, whatever. Telling - a great story teller. And his stories were always of who wounded him last, you know. So you know, I spent a lot of time with him, actually. And in Oregon, in Eugene.

And when it came to the Morse-Newberger feud, which we talked about a little earlier, I kind of sat on the - I was kind of on the Morse side, but Morse was certainly baited by Newberger into - well, at least Morse acted very badly in that situation in the sense of letting Newberger get his goat and going public, and he looked bad in public. But Newberger was very able at manipulating Morse. Newberger was a better behind-the-scenes manipulator of people, I think, than Morse. Morse was always straight out and forward and logical and rational, and Dick had more of a feeling for the jugular, in a quiet way. Morse had a great feeling for the jugular in a verbal sense. He was an orator.

M.O'R.: Well, you wound up running Morse's campaign in ...

J.C.: Oh, that was in 1960, just for the presidential thing against Kennedy. But it wasn't much of a campaign, and it wasn't much of a -. But Morse wanted to - he ran in Maryland and D.C. and Oregon. And mostly it was me and the Teamsters, I think. [laughs] Kennedy had voted against the - what Morse kept calling the Kennedy-Landren-Griffin [ph] law or something - I forget what it was. Beat up the unions badly.

Anyhow, I was mentioned in that book *The Tiger in the Senate*.  
A. Robert Smith's book.

M.O'R.: Oh, yeah? Well, it sounds like you were really in the thick of it, then, in the late 50's in terms of Oregon Democratic politics?

J.C.: Oh, yeah. Both at the legislative level and -. Oh, and I knew - the wonderful guy that I always thought was County Chairman and then I guess later maybe in the house at the same time was Frank Roberts.

M.O'R.: Oh, yes. That's right.

J.C.: He was just a wonderful person. Always kind, and a twinkle in his eye, and always asked me, "What the hell are you doing next, Churchill?" But I always watched him, and he was helpful later on in some legislation I did in '83, water legislation.

But I remember, you know, you meet a lot of good people, friends. And then I was very active in the Young Democrats at the time. And that was a lot of fun. You know, you'd go around and elect national presidents and pass resolutions. And I went to a lot of national senior Democratic conferences at the same time, and you know, met Harriman and Stevenson. And actually at a Young Democrat convention I got in the elevator with Harry Truman. It was four o'clock in the morning. We'd been up all night, and Harry was going out for a walk. We'd been politicking all night.

But at the senior conferences, you know, they were really issue conferences, and professors would come in, and they'd talk - panels of politicians, or mostly academics, and so you know, I met some good academics and so on.

Oh, one of the things that happened during that period that's kind of interesting, come to think of it, was - remember Governor Pat Brown of California?

M.O'R.: Yeah.

J.C.: His assistant, who later played a big role in the Kennedy Administration; I forget what his name was now. But - and I had to go up and see his assistant for some reason. I forget what it was. Something to do with the Young Democrats. But I was talking with Peter Otergard, who was then at the University of California, and you know, Peter was a great - was president of Reed College when I was there, and he was a great Constitutionalist in political science at the University of California, and Paul Taylor was the great economist, particularly in the water resource field - you know, I mean natural resources.

And I had lunch with Paul Taylor and Otergard. And you know, we were discussing just lots of things, and they were just devastated about Pat Brown's water policy in California, you know, and these big canals going south and taking all of Northern California south. So I said, "Well, I'm going up and talk to the governor's assistant tomorrow." And Taylor said, "Well, take him a message." And I forget what the message was, but it was, "Goddamn it, you know, we're going to fight you all to hell - or we're going to fight you to the death." And it was a very serious message, that I carried from Berkeley to Sacramento.

And I forget this guy's name, but he was a wonderful guy, and I knew him in Washington later during the Kennedy years, and he worked for the State Department. He became the lawyer for Saudi Arabia. Do you know who I'm talking about now? He became the

lawyer's lawyer for Saudi Arabia, after - you know, after he got out of the Kennedy Administration. He manipulated more law firms in the United States. I think he went over and worked for the State Department.

M.O'R.: And in your role as editor of the *Oregon Democrat* ...

J.C.: Well, that's kind of why they sent me; I was in my role as the editor.

M.O'R.: Right. Yeah, well, in that role did - I'm wondering what sort of - in what sort of ways did you use that voice, that media voice?

J.C.: Well, I think the public-private power issues were one. You know, whatever the issues were at the time, you know, we would argue - you know, we'd be -. Or some of them were developing issues, you know, and so on that -. You know, I'm pretty foggy about specific issues, except the river issues, you know, which have stuck with me. But there are obviously the power issue and the river issue and -. I don't think we had many forest issues at that time. The forests were being opened up for the middle class lumber companies, and that was good. They were all Democrats.

M.O'R.: Was Monroe Sweetland still actively involved with the paper at that point?

J.C.: Not in the *Democrat*. He was actively involved in the *Milwaukie Review* and the *State Senator*. But when he sold it to me he was not involved at all in the *Oregon Democrat*, except as - you know, he'd want to write a piece or something. But he'd come to me and say, you know -. Or sometimes he'd suggest areas, you know - but not writing them; you know, I mean, just - he would inform you of certain things unfolding. And that was good. I mean, he was -

what I mean was, once he got rid of it and dumped it on me, why, he didn't try to hold onto it. Put it that way. He was a very wonderful person. He still is.

M.O'R.: Yeah, I know. In fact, I was going to ask if you could just sort of give me a profile of him at that time?

J.C.: Smiling. Beautiful eyes. His whole face kind of shown all the time. He always twinkled. He'd get mad, but he never -. And his wife was very nice, and his daughter Becky, I remember. They had this house out in Oak Grove. Was it Oak Grove; is that right? Well, Milwaukie, I guess, but right kind of on the wetland.

He was always a little humble. Not like Howard Morgan with a bursting fucking ego, you know. You know, I mean, always - and that's why they fought, I suppose. They didn't get along too well in later years. But you know, they always got along, and it was interesting to watch two different personalities like that, both with strong drives, and really pretty strong egos, as I guess all politicians have. But both of them were really, I think - what do I want to say? They were considerate when it came to - there was a lot of bombast in Morgan, a lot like Wayne Morse in that sense, a lot of bombast and a lot of forthrightness.

But Monroe's issues were always a little bit more social. He always had the poor, the - you know, very socialist - well, I think he was a strong advocate of Norman Thomas. In fact, he was a strong friend of - a very close friend of Norman Thomas, as I recollect. I think he was. He had a lot of friends, all around the country, Monroe had, through his years as Democratic National Committeeman and so - and for other reasons, I suppose.

M.O'R.: Well, before we move out of this period of Oregon politics I can just also ask you, since you ...

J.C.: I got into Oregon politics. I ran for the legislature during that period, I think.

M.O'R.: Oh, really?

J.C.: Yeah. With Keith Burns. We ran on the west side, and we all got - all the Democrats got defeated. That was a Republican district. But I campaigned down on skid row and ...

M.O'R.: And this would have been in ...

J.C.: I forget. Must have been 1958.

M.O'R.: '58, that's what I was going to guess, yeah. And what about Adelsheim, since you knew her as well?

J.C.: Well, she was a lovely person. You know, she was from Massachusetts. I don't want to get into - you mean about what kind of person she is?

M.O'R.: Yeah. Just a - you know, a sketch of her.

J.C.: Well, let's leave it.

M.O'R.: Okay. That's fine. And then ...

J.C.: I mean, I've got so many jumbled thoughts; I don't mind talking about it. It's just there's nothing clear. It's just brought up something that's -.

Why don't we stop for a minute?

M.O'R.: That's fine.

[end of side one]

JACK CHURCHILL

TAPE 2, Side 2

March 27, 1996

M.O'R.: Before we talk about your return to Washington, since you spent these years in the late 50's in the Portland area, I'm just wondering - well, in fact let's backtrack a little bit.

So your father died, and you returned because of that. Was there anything - I mean, what was up with your family? What went on for you around your father's death in terms of organizing the family's affairs or ...

J.C.: Well, I just - you know, it wasn't all that significant. It was just some money and property management and things like that. But it wasn't - you know, it gave me an opportunity to, you know, have a little money and be a little loose, you know, so that I could do this *Oregon Democrat* thing; it wasn't very profitable. And I wasn't married at the time, so you know, there weren't a lot of demands on me. And so that - my brother was on the East Coast by then and married. So you know, we were -.

M.O'R.: What was he doing at that time?

J.C.: He was I think flying for - he was a pilot at that time for Pan American.

One of the things I forgot to mention that was very critical in terms of shaping my - the water policy of Jack Churchill was in 1948 the - as you remember, Vanport washed to hell, by the Corps of Engineers failing to fix the dikes and failing to reinforce the dikes under the bridge, they caused the flood. And it was interesting, after the flood they said, "Well, you know, we need

more dams," you see. I wrote a poem about this, which we won't read, but -. It's called "The Waters Are Coming Again and Again."

But we had our farm on Puget Island, and my father was in California trying to sell the farm at that point. He'd asked both of us whether we wanted to run the farm, and we said no, we didn't, so he said, "Well, I'm going to sell it." It was a big farm. It was 300 acres of dairy land on Puget Island, and he'd developed it mostly and diked it and cut all the spruce trees and burned them up. You know, pioneered with goats in the 20's, and built into a very productive dairy.

M.O'R.: He must have had people that sort of tended it from day-to-day?

J.C.: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. No, no. It was a business enterprise. He did all the latest technology, you know, but he never milked cows. I mean, I milked cows and did a lot of work on the farm in the summer, so we kind of had a good work habit development out on the farm. And I worked later up in Washington, in high school, I guess, in wheat - drove truck in the wheat and did things like that. Stacked peas - took peas out of the field and put them in freight cars. And then we quit and we went down and worked for the Forest Service, hoeing brush right where Lost Creek Dam is now in the Rogue basin.

M.O'R.: Oh, yeah?

J.C.: But anyhow, '48 flood was very - I was at Reed at the time. I was a junior at Reed. And so after Vanport broke, you know, they issued this voluntary evacuation order of the lower Columbia River. And so a guy by the name of Pete Wilhelm and I got - I asked him to go with me, and I got in the car and just drove

down to our farm, and of course you know, going down there you saw all these farmers taking their cows out, and the cows are down on the truck, and the sheriffs are going around like they did, you know, down at Tillamook - you know, what we call a voluntary evacuation.

And we got down to the island, and of course all the diking and the District Commissions had voluntarily evacuated, so there was nobody on the island, really, that knew anything about the dikes. And the Corps of Engineers were coming in, they were flying - I don't know, they were flying in there, but trucks were rolling and Colonels and Generals are coming from the East Coast, and all this to solve, you know, the Columbia River's problems.

And so I talked to the farm manager and asked him what he was going to do, and he said, "Well, I don't know. We've got too many cows, and can you get any trucks?"

And I said, "No. I called all over Portland last night. There isn't a truck to be had or anything."

So he said, "Do you know - maybe we should call Tugpoint Barge Company."

"Oh, yeah," and this Captain McMindus was the old - he was down in Astoria, and he had done a tremendous amount of work on our place in terms of building up the roads - you know, pumping sand in, dredging and barging dredge material around in the farmyards and roads, building some dikes and things like that.

Well, I called him on the ship-to-shore radio, and he was coming up the river. He'd been standing by for 12 days. The Corps of Engineers hadn't sent him to work to do anything with his bucket dredges or anything. He'd just been sitting out in the middle of

the river down there. So he said he was coming in and that he'd come by and tie up and we'd talk about it.

So he came in and had lunch, and he said, "Well, what we're going to do - what I suggest you do is we'll go over to the mill, and we'll get a bunch of lumber to build some railing on the barges. And if the dike breaks or anything, you run the cattle on the barge, and I'll come by and pick them up and we'll take them somewhere."

I said, "Okay. Well, that sounds good." So we went over to Westport, you know, and I bought the lumber, a bunch of lumber, and set it on the barge, and came back and tied the barge up at the dock. One of his great big, you know, sand and gravel barges. These are about four in tow with his dredge.

And then I went back to school. And then later on we got worried that an Army Engineer truck had backed in - the Army Engineers had never used him to reinforce the dikes. And the [indiscernible] scared off, and so there was nobody to walk the dikes at night to kind of hear the trickles where the water was going because nobody could walk there and nobody could hear.

So finally then the Army would go around and they'd throw sandbags out from their truck around these dikes. And so then - anyhow, it was a very dramatic experience.

So I went down there, and my father was back by then, and he tried to get - the Army Engineers truck had backed into a water pipe that was supposed to be turned off and washed out the dike, the upper dike. And so the water came into the upper diking district, and my father tried to get them to start dumping on a crop stack that had leveled off. But by that time they'd taken all

the trucks off because, you know, you can't do that, because look what happened. So they wouldn't send any more trucks on the island.

So I went over, and I hired a couple of carpenters, and they went over and started building railings for the barges and stuff. And I got - we worked as long as we could, and I tried to borrow a light plant - they only had about 300 light plants sitting [indiscernible], but they wouldn't give us a light plant. And so we had to stop.

M.O'R.: So you couldn't work after dark?

J.C.: Well, we couldn't. So we got up very early - we were about halfway down, and didn't sleep much. And anyway, about 3:00 they started milking early. And we had, oh, about 180 milking cows, and about 50 other - about 200 altogether. And the horses and all -.

And you really kind of think about things when all that's going on. And then dawn broke, and we looked across about a mile, and here was the water starting to pour over the dam, and then pretty soon the water started moving in the ditches, and we were hammering - you know, the carpenters were working like hell putting the railing together, and the farm people were milking the cows.

And then all of a sudden the milking machine, the power went off. Another Army Engineer truck had hit a power pole and knocked it out, in the middle of the night. So they had to start the - you know, the engines and then - you know, the gasoline - and then we started to lead the cows out and onto the dike, and I said, "Now, we'll take it in 10 or 20 - groups of 20 or something." I said,

"Just turn them loose. I think it would probably be better." The water was running fast in the ditches.

So all the cows got on, and they loaded them into the barge and they'd fence - you know, build a fence quickly across to put them in small quantities around. So we got Noah's Ark all loaded up, got the horses on and, you know, everything on. And the farm manager's father got in the boat, and the barge came and just took it off, just took it down the river. We'd already made arrangements to - around in Tongue Point and all around - you know, going down to Astoria and up Young's Bay. They had leased a farm down there.

And the farm family lined up all their cars and took off the other way and left me. Before they left there, we put a boat from the river side into the inside, a row boat, and rowed around and tied everything down. Went over and helped some neighbors find a boat, and everybody brought all their stuff over to our house and - their refrigerators and their pianos and everything was in our house, because it was the only one raised up.

I had to go around and take wood out of the basement and raise it up further. These guys helped me after I helped them get them their boat.

My final thing after trying to tie everything down, I kind of rode into the garage and kind of fell in trying to get up some stairs into the upper part of the garage to spread some feed out for the chickens. And as I was rowing out, somebody yelled, "Hey, would you go back and try that again?" And here was the Corps of Engineers coming around taking pictures, movies. So I asked them

for a ride to town, and they said they weren't going - so I had to walk all the way to town, three miles.

And so later on in life when I applied for a job for the Army Engineers, a very wonderful job, I asked this guy, who was a great guy, "Do you think I could really work for you if I have these very bitter feelings?" [laughs]

But anyhow, you know, this was a very moving experience, a very deep one about bureaucracy, you know, in the Corps, and their capabilities, a military organization [indiscernible]. Pretty good lesson. And also my own, you know - you know, a flood is a very teaching experience, in terms of nature, you know, and man's ability to deal with - you know, control it. You know, because remember - I guess that's when I got disabused, really, basically, although I probably didn't realize it, of the whole development ethic and rivers. Or at least that was the first real lesson that no matter what they did, nature was going to [indiscernible] the river.

M.O'R.: And so you felt - you had some pretty bitter feelings towards the Corps?

J.C.: Oh, yeah. Doesn't my voice sound like it? [laughs] Still there. All that Buddhist meditation never took that out. [laughing] Pretty deep. Got a long way to go yet before Enlightenment.

M.O'R.: Well, that's interesting.

J.C.: Yeah, I thought that should kind of go in there, because that - that's '48, but that's still a pretty important episode, I think.

M.O'R.: That's right. Certainly that same kind of learning experience that you mentioned of the flood, I think we went through that just a month or two ago.

J.C.: Yeah, right. Right. Yeah, I wrote some poems about that. I guess I read you one.

M.O'R.: Well, what I was going to ask you about your time when you returned to Oregon in the 50's, late 50's, was whether or not you had any recreational or political - did you have any kind of involvement with the Tualatin at that point?

J.C.: Oh, no. No, no. Not at all. I mean, except to drive out there to the Coast, and you know, driving across Highway 26, and that was about all that I can recollect. Maybe drinking some beer out in the taverns. No, I didn't get involved in anything or any use of it recreation-wise or anything else, because fishing - I did some fly fishing, but it was always in the Metolius, or you know, good east side streams, you know, or coastal streams, but not but none of the coastal streams much except the Salmonberry after the Tillamook burn anyhow, so -.

M.O'R.: Well, by this time the Tualatin was probably starting to be pretty burdened by all of the impacts.

J.C.: Yeah. I don't know to what extent the Lake Corporation dam and the - I really don't know. I mean, I don't know.

M.O'R.: Well, when you went back to Washington ...

J.C.: I think the early impact, by the way - I think - I have a feeling probably just watching the dairy cattle thing and some of the dairy farms were probably the most devastating in terms of loadings in the early - probably the early wave of pollution in the Tualatin started from dairy cattle. That's my - no knowledge of

real fact, just observation and gut feeling, and remembering looking at some of the - in my early days how the cows would get into the streams and so on. And what we know now about dairy loadings and breaking down banks and things like that.

M.O'R.: Well, when you went back to Washington in 1960, was that related to the Kennedy Administration coming into power?

J.C.: Yeah. Yeah, I went back, and I worked in the Secretary's office in Agriculture, for Orville Freeman. I did mostly things not related to natural resources at all. I worked for an Assistant Secretary who was head of the Department of Agriculture in California, and we just set up a lot of marketing orders around the country for turkeys and - you know, California has all these marketing orders for various crops, and this was going to be the new wave - one of the new waves in the Kennedy ...

M.O'R.: Marketing orders, you said?

J.C.: Yeah. Where you control production and price, like raisins and -. Yeah, and Oregon has those marketing orders, like for grass seed and so on. I also helped our grass seed growers, you know, look at their marketing order and see whether they wanted to go national and so on.

But I ran a whole bunch of marketing orders and a lot of national conferences and things like that. We had these national advisory committees, a whole bunch of commodity advisor committees, and I did all that work.

I remember one of the wonderful episodes of that was that we had a potato - we set up a national committee - and potatoes are very complicated, because they've got - you know, spring - you know, whites coming in in Florida, and reds coming in in Georgia,

and russets coming in in Maine, and you know, different seasonal stuff. Potatoes are very complex; how you'd ever set up kind of a marketing order for it - I don't know if anybody ever figured out how to do that, but anyhow, we got everybody excited about doing something, and one of the guys - and we had both growers and processors, of course. And one of the guys that really wanted to be - who demanded to be on this national advisory committee was the great Jack Simplot. And so of course Senator Church called down to be sure that - and I said, "Yes, sir." Or actually it was a woman that was administrative assistant - I said, "Oh, absolutely. We'd love it. You know, I have to call the Secretary. I'll take care of it right away."

So we put him on the list, and even in those days, you know, you had FBI clearances for all your advisory committee people. Oh yeah, we've got to talk about Billy Sol Estes.

But anyhow, we couldn't get Simplot cleared. We couldn't get Simplot cleared, and his FBI file was just horrendous. And Church - and Simplot would, you know, call Church's office every hour. They call down, "What can you do?"

I said, "Well," I said, "you know, God, I just don't know."

And so finally I went in, and I actually - I talked to Charlie Murphy, who was the Undersecretary - remember, he was the big shot in the Truman - Truman's right man in the presidency? Well, he became Undersecretary of Agriculture, Charles F. Murphy, who was a great friend of Wayne Morse's, and that's kind of how I got my job.

And so I went into his office and I said, "What the hell do we do?" I said, you know -. He said, "Just ask Mr. Simplot to come.

Don't worry about it. If you've got any problems, just come and tell me."

I said, "All right."

M.O'R.: So what was the problem with Simplot?

J.C.: Oh, his FBI record was so enormous that they couldn't get through it to clear him. You know, I mean, he had an FBI record a mile long.

M.O'R.: Of various ...

J.C.: Of corruption and crooks, you know, and into this and into that, like all - most of our capitalists have crossed the line so many times. I don't know if Bill Gates has a record like that but, you know, Jack Simplot - well, you know. Yeah.

M.O'R.: Well, I know he was involved in - well, he was prosecuted a couple of times for tax evasion and ...

J.C.: Yeah, I mean it was a tax question, but there was also, you know, a federal lands issue, there's phosphate mining stuff - you know, what the hell, I don't know; I never saw the file. I just know that we couldn't get him cleared. And I don't think it was a question - you know, those things aren't that the FBI makes any judgment, it's just that they couldn't get through the file. And first of all, I think he was a late nominee, and you know - and getting the FBI to work, you know.

So anyhow, the other episode - so I did all that stuff, and it was interesting because I was actually working in the Commodity Credit Corporation or the Agricultural Trust Administration, and all these guys there were mostly Southerners, and they were the old-line New Deal - you know, pay the farmer, you know. The old program. The county committees and the Agricultural Adjustment

Administration, and all these county committees. And you know, mail the checks to the farmers types. And all Southerners. That was the cotton, all those programs.

And they were very, very anti Westerners, you know, and the type of thing we were doing. So I had to be very careful with the Administrator - and the Deputy Administrator was from Minnesota and kind of close to the Secretary, so he was kind of protecting me, because it was very delicate. You were bringing in a lot of their Southern political people and dealing with them, but on the other hand, you know, they played politics quite a bit differently, and a lot of, you know, these commodity groups were a very political animal. And so it was kind of my first real experience with organizational politics in the national framework with a strong Southern influence. I mean, they played politics for keeps. Usually, you know, with knives in the back rather than out front, you know.

But one of the most interesting episodes at that time was the Billy Sol Estes scandal, and Billy Sol Estes was of course one of our advisory committee people, and was very supportive of Kennedy in Texas, spent lots of money. And you remember about - you know, he was selling nitrogen and, you know, tanks - I forget what it was. He was in the fertilizer business. I mean, there was a lot of fraud in what he did.

But he got - he always gave presents to people. I remember one time I drove him to the airport, and I said, "Look, I've got to get to the bank." I said, "I've got to cash my check." I said, "I've got to, you know, pay some ..."

He said, "Oh, I'll cash it for you."

And I said, "Well," you know ...

And he pulls out these bills, and he said, "Well, I don't really have the change. Just keep the change." God. You know, and what did I know, you know? And so - but he gave hats to my boss, you know, and I think paid for some vacations. I don't know what. But he got - my boss got fired, that guy from California got caught in that web, two or three other people did. And actually the Undersecretary almost got hung. Charlie Murphy almost got hung on that. They tried to get him. I mean, you know, whoever was trying to get whomever or whatever on that.

I didn't have any - I wasn't - somehow I was - I think they looked at me but just decided I was too small potatoes to try and hang. Because they were trying to get - I mean, they used the Billy Sol Estes affair to get rid of some of the influence from the West within the Department.

M.O'R.: I see. So you fit the profile, but you didn't ...

J.C.: I fit the profile, but I don't think I had the importance. But anyhow, I survived for a while, and then I went over to the Department of Interior right away, and I got out. Actually, I moved jobs within the Department and I did something else for a little while, but I quickly got - I decided it was time to put an anchor to windward and move.

M.O'R.: So what was the magnitude of Estes' largess in your case?

J.C.: Oh, it was just that. That was - you know, he just cashed my check for me. And I gave him back - you know, I gave him the change, you know.

M.O'R.: Oh, you did give him the change?

J.C.: Oh, sure. Oh, yeah. I mean, it was only a few dollars, you know. Fifteen dollars or something.

M.O'R.: I see. So you weren't really vulnerable on that score, then?

J.C.: No, no. But you were vulnerable just by association, very vulnerable. Because he was always trying to fix something. You know, just the association was - because, you know, there was a big investigation. Phones were tapped, and what else they were running into.

M.O'R.: And he was close to Johnson, I assume?

J.C.: That's it. Yeah, he was very close to Lyndon. That's right. Yeah. You know, I forget all the internal complexities of those things.

M.O'R.: Did you ...

J.C.: But it was pretty scary for a while, because everybody was - everybody's head was rolling down the aisle, or down the hall or something like that. And the thing is, I don't think it would bother me so much getting fired, but you get tainted.

M.O'R.: It's something that could stick with you in the future, eh?

J.C.: Yeah, right. Everyone gets fired once in a while, but you know - I mean, whether for cause or not, but that isn't an issue whether you can get -. So anyhow, I went over to the Department of Interior.

M.O'R.: This was when ...

J.C.: Oh, no. I worked some on the - oh, what do you call it? - the Appalachian - they passed the special Appalachian regional commission bill, and every department was trying to work

out something for Appalachia, and I worked out some forestry stuff for Appalachia. That was fun. Setting up - oh, I forget - buying stations and selecting forestry and trying to get some wood product stuff going in Appalachia. I don't remember the details.

And I did a lot of work in terms of recreation on farmlands for a while, too. Established a program on that. That went over - but that was only a period of about four to six months for those two things. See, things started to break loose about that time in the Kennedy Administration - I mean, getting going.

And then I worked in the Bureau of Land Management as an assistant for the Director, Chuck Stoddard, and - who had been head of the program staff. And Chuck was very close to Hubert Humphrey. Chuck was from Wisconsin and had done a lot of the land use planning up there, and he had been a pretty avid environ - well, conservationist. There weren't environmentalists yet, until the 70's. We were still conservationists and - what else were we? I guess it was just conservationists.

M.O'R.: Did you have any dealings or any meetings with Kennedy himself?

J.C.: No. But Udall. Yeah, a lot with Stuart Udall. I was in a lot of meetings with Stuart Udall because of, you know, being in the Department of Interior. And Freeman, I knew Freeman, you know, who was Agriculture. And they were very nice. And throughout the years after the Kennedy Administration, I kept socially involved with the Freemans a little bit through mutual friends and things like that. But none of the - I don't think I ever met

Kennedy. I met Mrs. Johnson. Met Lyndon, when he was President when I was at a White House conference on natural beauty, later on.

Then I went over and I had this wonderful job in the Bureau of Land Management with Chuck Stoddard, who had just come in - and this by then was about 1962, I guess, and he had engineered - he was a very able politician, and he had engineered through the House Committee, which was run by Congressman Aspenall, a Congressman from the Fourth District of Colorado, Eastern Colorado, and he was chairman of the Public Lands Committee, or whatever committee - I forget the exact title at that time. And so we were going to do something about public lands. You know, at that time they were still in the public domain. They were still issuing homesteads. A lot of land had been withdrawn. I mean, we think about BLM lands in terms of ONC here, which was totally just a very special issue for Oregon. And that was a very important part of some of my work in BLM, but Stoddard had worked out this deal where they passed three pieces of legislation. One was a public sale law which would [indiscernible] sale of public lands and set up some rules to do that to get rid of surplus lands and lands that the federal government really didn't want, and then a classification under the Multiple Use Act, which would classify these lands and set them up for multiple use, very much like forest service land. And this later became the Public Land Management Act of 1974, but it was a temporary act for five years. All these are temporary acts. And the other thing was the Public Land Law Review Commission. Every once in a while - every 20 or 30 years we always have a Public Land Law Review Commission.

And so Aspenall became Chairman - the deal was that Aspenall would become Chairman of the Land Law Review Commission if he would pass these other two pieces of legislation.

Well, Stoddard got them passed. So then I got involved with a guy by the name of Jerry O'Calligan, who was a great historian, by the way, and he'd written a history of the public lands in Oregon, as a matter of fact, for his doctoral dissertation, and he worked for Senator [indiscernible] of Wyoming. And Jerry and I were very good friends, and he was my boss with Stoddard for a while, and we were both kind of there, and I kind of worked into a job of doing some interagency stuff with the Forest Service and the Soil Conservation Service, and I got acquainted with those agencies. So the Forest Service - both of those had things in common with the BLM and joint programs. And - because the soil practices of SCS were ...

[end of tape]