

Timothy Naftali

I want to welcome you all to this oral history with Edward Nixon for the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum. It's January 9, 2007, what would have been Richard Nixon's 94th birthday. I'm Timothy Naftali, incoming Director of the library. I'm joined today with Paul Musgrave, my assistant, and John Powers, head of the Nixon Materials Project staff in Washington, D.C. Mr. Nixon, thank you for joining us today.

Edward Nixon

It's an honor.

Timothy Naftali

John, would you begin with the first question?

John Powers

I was kind of interested in learning a little bit about Whittier and what the store was like.

Edward Nixon

When they moved from Yorba Linda to Whittier, eventually my dad decided that they needed to establish a base that could take advantage of traffic that was bound to grow, as he saw it. The road was called El Camino Real, which was Father Junipero Serra Trail connecting all the missions on the California coast. And El Camino Real was also Whittier Boulevard in that place between La Habra and Whittier. It's about three miles from Whittier and about halfway between Whittier and La Habra. The Leffingwell Ranch, which was south of the boulevard and the Murphy Ranch, which was north of the boulevard, were citrus ranches, essentially. Mexican labor was everywhere, the pickers, the food pickers, and mules and mule-drawn wagons hauled the cases of harvest. The store initially was a small building and two gasoline pumps, called the service station Nixon's Service. They built in all the things that could be considered modern today, like compressed air for tires. They actually sold tires. Kelly-Springfield was my dad's favorite. And the gasoline was anything but Standard Oil. I remember -- Gilmore Red Lion was the one that I remember as a child, but of course, it was there before I was born, so who knows what was there initially. Traveling across country, for example, my dad would not buy anything with Standard on it.

John Powers

Why is that?

Edward Nixon

I'm not sure. It could have been because he resented monopoly, as it was perceived, among the Rockefellers. On the other hand, if you're willing to buy Shell or -- there were others doing the same thing, but he just had his preferences. We always stopped at Shell stations or Texaco or something else.

Now it wouldn't matter; the price is too high. The store grew from that, selling tires and pumping gas, the old type of pump, the big brag pump handle and a glass tank, about 10 gallons in each glass cylinder. And I can remember doing a few gallons like that myself. It's an approximation of gallonage, but it worked. Besides, gasoline was so cheap then, you know, 10 cents or whatever a gallon, that you just had to be sure they could buy more, keep it supplied. They eventually added a few grocery items, much as you would think of a 7 Eleven today. Bread, I'm trying to think of the name of the supplier, not certified. Smart & Final was one of those wholesale outfits, that if you had a business, you could buy wholesale grocery items that they could stock their shelves with. And it became more and more popular, so popular, in fact, that my dad finally decided we had to have a larger building, and the East Whittier Friend's Church, which was across the boulevard and about 100 yards east, was going to be moved, so he bought it, bought the building. They took the steeple off, but the tower was still on it. They hauled it across the boulevard and planted it with the steeple to the back of the building and the store became -- it was a pretty big building. And I think there are many pictures showing the interior of it. I'm not sure what made it so popular except my dad was one for freshness. And he got started with the Los Angeles Produce Market -- Wholesale Produce, down on 7th Avenue -- 7th Street. I don't know if it's still there, but I had many visits to that market and learned a great deal about how commerce worked. If you get there first, you get the best, so we always got up about 3:30, 4:00 in the morning to be the first into the market. Farmers brought their produce in in the evening hours and readied to sell it the next morning. The store was called, at the time, F.A. Nixon's General Merchandise. What did that mean? It didn't mean that we had clothing, but practically anything that could be bought and sold, dad was willing to try. A lot of circular traffic went with that. Refrigeration was a big thing, and dad was always game for trying anything. He always considered himself a jack-of-all-trades. Dick was not so much mechanically inclined, and Don was more inclined to work the food, especially the meat department. So, eventually, Dick became the produce man, and he got the job driving into the market, bringing it back to the store, setting it up and then going off to school. And Don became the meat man. He became famous for his selections of prime beef. Manning's Baby Beef was the big firm that we used here. And another one was Luer, L-U-E-R, Luer Company. They sold pork and ham and lard, all kinds like that. Interesting stories surrounding that, but see where you're going with your question. Am I answering what you're after?

John Powers

Well, I was going to ask you what kind of driver was your brother?

Edward Nixon

He was stable, straightforward and cautious. My brother Don was a little more, as the ladies would call, wild but very good. He could miss them even when they were close. But Dick was a cautious driver, more interested in what people were thinking than what their mechanical abilities might be. He'd always rely on someone else if he had a mechanical problem.

Timothy Naftali

Was it understood that you all worked after school?

Edward Nixon

Yes, or for me, even before I was in school, I'd be in there with a feather duster. They had a hard time keeping me out of the candy department, but dusting the cans and then later on marking the prices on cans and boxes, cereal boxes and whatnot, with an old, wax, Crayola marker, no such thing as UPC codes in those days.

Timothy Naftali

This was during the Depression, so how well did the market do?

Edward Nixon

It did very well. It kept books so that people who didn't have the cash on hand could take some credit. And I remember a box about two feet by three feet filled up with these little, what would we call them, notepads and they'd write the name of the customer and keep track of what they bought and what they'd paid for. And a lot of charity went out of the store, but also there was a sense of loyalty in the customers. They came from all over the area. Some from the wealthy side up the hill, in what is now Friendly Hills and La Habra Heights, and then south of the boulevard, which was more in the pickers' zone, and those folks were anything from janitors or whatever job they could do. The Depression, everybody worked and never complained about it if they could get a job. Depression, fascinating years.

Timothy Naftali

You once told a story of how your family handled a shoplifter.

Edward Nixon

I could name the shoplifter; I could do a lot of that. But I remember that my mother, listening to my dad and my brother saying, "She's doing it. She comes in here, and it's warm weather, she's got a big coat on. You just have to challenge her." And my mother wouldn't hear of it. She called her out one day after she was about to leave and took her out to the house, and they sat down. And I happened to wander in. I didn't know what was going on. And I wandered in and my mom gave me an errand to do. And I remember the lady was in tears and, as I understood it, she paid back every penny of what she took, just by negotiation.

Paul Musgrave

Now, your mother also baked for the store, right?

Edward Nixon

Famous pies. My aunts' were just as good, but my mother's pies became famous because she was willing to sell them, 25 cents a piece. You name it, apple, cherry, the whole works. Fortunately, she did give my wife lessons in how to do the crust, which is the secret. And she can still do it better than anybody.

Paul Musgrave

How early did your mother have to wake up to make the pies?

Edward Nixon

Very early. I wasn't aware of it too much until a little later in life, when my brothers told me she was up there at 4:00, 4:30 in the morning, firing up the ovens down in the room beside the garage, and rolling dough, and everything was manually constructed. No fancy automation until she got the mixer, electric mixer, back in '33. She wasn't even inclined to use it. She'd rather whip it by hand than to remember how it came to her, if that story's familiar.

Paul Musgrave

And your father had an interesting way with customers. I understand that your mother was in charge of customer service.

Edward Nixon

Customer service, yes. Customer handling is probably a better word, but customer service, Dad would service them with a lot of opinions and asked them what they thought about this and that, where did they stand politically, and tell them exactly what he thought if they disagreed. Many a time, I'd see him read somebody out and then my mother would go out as they were getting in their car and say, "Don't pay too much attention to him. He just believes in what he believes so firmly that he wants you to understand it the same way." But she was the peacemaker above all. And so was Dad in a sense, because unless you came along with his way of thinking, you weren't going to have peace.

Paul Musgrave

Now when the war came along, what did your father think about the rationing that took place after '42?

Edward Nixon

Many funny stories there. Rationing, which we have not really seen in this country, but I remember it, A stamps for gasoline, B stamps for another class, C for commercial, and each allotted you a certain amount of gasoline to operate your vehicle. And it wasn't much. Rationing for things like butter, bacon. Foodstuffs that were in high demand for the military were rationed as well. Many appeals came in, even to me, to just sneak out a little pound of bacon. My neighbor, you needed some bacon badly. I said, "I can't do that. I don't need a whipping right now." They honored the thing, but my dad thought it was kind of preposterous on one side. That is, let us ration it according to what you need, and the government doesn't need to write me a 50-page directive on how to do it. One particular instance like that was meat was in short supply so the Department of Agriculture sent out a little directive on how to prepare an old hen and make it a good meal for a family, several pages, a pamphlet, and my dad was really disgusted with that. He couldn't see spending taxpayer money to print anything and distribute it to everybody who might sell a chicken to tell them how to fix it. So, he wrote them a note, kind of crude note, sent it back to the Department of Agriculture asking for the photograph of the one who

designed that brochure. And Dick asked him, "What do you want that for, Dad?" "Because if they'll send me that photograph, I want to flush it down my toilet." So, that's the kind of attitude he had. He actually was a kind-hearted soul, but he was brash in his presentation of it. As he would say today, quite brash.

John Powers

Could you talk a little about the adventure -- or just the Depression? Can you talk about the Depression in Southern California?

Edward Nixon

Memories, memories, yes. Whittier Boulevard became filled with caravans of people coming out of the dustbowl. Okies and Arkies we called them. Wherever they came from, they'd suffered through terrible drought and looking for something, looking for food, but even a job, especially. If you give me some work, I'll do anything. I need to feed my family. But they had a peculiar mark, old jalopy kind of cars, a couple of mattresses on the roof. You'd see them going down the highway. Occasionally, they'd stop in at my grandmother's house, and some of them, if they were on foot, would stop in and say, "Excuse me, ma'am, do you have some food?" And I can remember my grandmother at one point saying, "Yes, I can give you some food, but I have some wood to chop. Would you mind cutting the wood out there in the pile?" So she'd always get something in return for what she gave unless they looked destitute. Then she'd just feed them, bring them in and feed them. It was a time when people had to take care of one another to survive. And that kind of compassion we really need to restore, but I hope we don't have to go through the depths of a depression to do so.

Paul Musgrave

Tell us about what people were saying about the New Deal in the household.

Edward Nixon

The New Deal. To my dad, it was an unfortunate take-off on a square deal, which was Teddy Roosevelt's idea. And he said, a square deal is one thing, a new deal, show me where it's been used before. I don't want anything new until it's proven. Well, in the depths of the Depression, President Roosevelt had some extraordinary problems, and he had to address them drastically, he thought, as most Presidents have to do when problems come up that seriously. So, Dad was understanding of the need to do something, but he resisted the idea that government should do it. He wanted to enlist the community to organize local employers who had something to do and take on the visitors that were coming through in such dire straits. Of course, that wouldn't have survived over the whole country. We were pretty well off in California. And my family, we really were never hungry. Of course, we had a grocery store. But there were people who were really hungry. And in Arkansas, oh, yeah, it was in Arkansas, in grade school, I remember one of the kids that came in, I think it must have been in third grade, and he was so barefoot. Of course we went barefoot to school anyway, just to make the other kids not feel bad about not having shoes, but we wore coveralls, kind of a thing you get into, like a fad. And coveralls and overalls were two different things. And this kid went home and begged his mom to get him some coveralls like the rest of the kids, and she bought him overalls. And my classmates made fun of him. That was my first lesson in how to get compassionate about how somebody else was treated. And I told my mom about it, and she gave the lady enough to buy him a regular set of clothes

to match the other kids. It was a hard time, but on the other hand, and I guess you could say we were poor, but as Eisenhower used to say, we were poor but we didn't know it.

Timothy Naftali

Do you remember any -- were there political discussions in the house?

Edward Nixon

There were; I avoided them. I guess that's why I remain kind of apolitical. On the other hand, some of the rationale that my father used and was heard by my brother, Dick especially took it to school and tested it on the teachers, the professors and so on. And there we got a clarification of what Dad was trying to say. Socialism won't work but for a very short time. And we've seen people trying to bring that out of history and declare that democracy won't work for more than a certain period of time because once the people get their hands in the treasury, it's going to be broke. Then you're back to despotism again. That's been reiterated a number of times lately, but that was the kind of thought that my dad had. Keep us independent; keep us free. Don't become dependent on anybody if you can avoid it. Otherwise, you'll become weak.

Timothy Naftali

But did your brother Dick ever debate with him?

Edward Nixon

They had lively discussions, and I didn't understand what they were saying, to tell the truth. I mean, I was pretty young, grade school. And then, of course, when World War -- when Pearl Harbor hit us, my whole outlook changed. Then I was looking at the whole world. That's when I began looking at newspapers, especially the maps, because they had a daily situation worldwide of where the enemy lines were and so on. And I watched that and read the subtitles, eventually read the whole article because it became very interesting as the war went on. The political discussions that you're curious about, I'm sure Dick took that strong, totally conservative -- I'm not sure conservative is the right word -- bold stand that my dad had, his attitude toward strength and independence and freedom. Dick measured that against the thought on campus, and I'm sure he could see that where we need to have government interceding in things, it had to be a pretty dire situation, as Roosevelt had to handle it. But you have to bring the whole country along with you if you're going to do it. You can't go with half the country when you're doing government activity. Otherwise you have too much division, too much conflict, too many poles working against the middle. And polarization doesn't necessarily mean you only have two poles. If we didn't have a moon, we would have many poles, and that would really be bad.

John Powers

You just mentioned about World War II. Did Richard ever talk about his experiences during the war?

Edward Nixon

Very little. He was there 13 months in South Pacific, Bougainville, Green Island. And, of course, I was vitally interested in it. I wanted to know what's going on because I'd been looking at it ever since he

took off in '42 and started DREC commission as a lieutenant JG, since he had a law degree, Ottumwa, Iowa, for basic training and then eventually sent off to South Pacific. He wanted to get into action, but he wanted to see it first hand; that's the reason. Not so much to blow somebody's head off, but I'm thinking, you know, who's going to prevail here, Frank Nixon or Hannah Nixon? He was in foxholes, told enough to know that he was hearing the bombs blasting around them. They'd have to hit the hole. And occasionally, as sleeping in a pup tent, he'd tell about a two-man pup tent, and his tent mate screamed out one night, and Dick reached for a flashlight, startled to sit upright, and his tent mate had flipped a scorpion off his hand, and it landed right on Dick's chest. And they were sleeping pretty bare in the heat. And he flipped it off and fortunately, neither one of them really got hit. But that scared the living daylights out of him. He said, that's one thing that was worse than hearing bombs go off. War time experience, whether you're at home or abroad, is vital so long as the whole country can be brought to support what you're doing. Think of the isolationist attitudes we had before World War II. It was quite the thing. Roosevelt was successful in bringing that into the living room of every home by whatever means, fireside chats and everything else, and the country responded. We still had our isolationists, those that objected it, but nothing like we have today, where the country's polarized to the point of no strength.

John Powers

Do you remember hearing about Pearl Harbor?

Edward Nixon

Oh, yes, I was up early that morning. It was a Sunday morning, and my buddy Billy Harrison and I were building a coaster. We lived up on a hill in Whittier at the time. And his dad came out, and William H. Harrison, the architect, he said, "We're at war." And Billy said, "What do you mean at war?" "Well, the Japs have bombed Pearl Harbor, and we're bound to have a response where we're all going to be at war." So I asked, "What does that mean?" So, Billy, who'd had been reading, he was my buddy who read the encyclopedias, that's how he kept himself going, he said, "Well apparently we're going to have rationing, and we're going to have to do all kinds of things and sacrifice everywhere." And I thought to myself, "That doesn't sound very good. I think I'm going to go home and ask my dad." Eleven years old, frightening prospect, but it awoke a certain urge in me to find out what is it that people do that will cause them to fight, to kill other people? I've been working on it ever since. I haven't figured it out. It has something to do with beliefs that go too far.

Paul Musgrave

Speaking of beliefs, both your brother Richard and you served in the military, and that can't have pleased Hannah or her sisters. What did the Milhouses think about that?

Edward Nixon

They weren't displeased. They were pleased that they made their own decision, but they wished it had not been something that they felt they had to do. Conscientious objectors were an option. Some of my cousins, my first cousins, went that direction. Another one had his doctor's degree, so he was obviously a medical officer. Don had flat feet, was 4f all the way through, so he worked in a, not emissions, Sperry Gyroscope doing ball bearing fittings and whatnot. But everybody turned to -- I mean were doing something in the war effort. Same direction, same objective, common goal. Some went to war,

some bore arms, some did other things in the military. My Uncle Oscar Marshburn had been an ambulance driver in World War I. But that question of Quakers going to war, again you have to come back to the Quaker faith. Each individual must decide and have a personal relationship with God, no intercession, nobody else telling them what to do. It's between you and the man upstairs. So that enabled each of us to do our thing as we saw best fit. For me, I was drafted, but that's another story. I graduated from graduate school, worked in an oil field on Signal Hill when I came back from North Carolina. In 30 days, got my hand smashed in an accident where a crane operator prematurely moved the derrick while my hand was still up there. So that put me out of commission for about a year. Physical therapy and all the rest got it back in shape. And the next thing I know, I'm applying to fly in the Navy. I wanted to go to Pensacola because Pat's brother, Tom Ryan, had been a naval aviator and he said, "You can do that very well. You're smart; you can do all that. You like science. You could probably navigate before I could." So, I had my application in, and I was at home there on Beach Boulevard, Friday afternoon, "Whittier News" came in and my mother reads the papers, and she spotted a little article, "Vice President's Brother is Drafted." I said, "Mom, did anything come in the mail about this?" She went through all the mail, "No, nothing; just this article." So, I immediately called the office of officer naval recruitment over in L.A., and I had already gone through the all the tests and everything. What about my application to go to Pensacola? "Well, it's still in the mill. Why, why do you ask?" "I've just read that I've been drafted." "Well, how could you know that? Did you get anything in the mail?" "No." "Well, you get your butt over here at 7:30 in the morning. We're going down to San Diego. You're going to boot camp." So, they got me in the Navy, and then, after 13 weeks of boot camp, got into the Navy, and another 16 weeks in preflight, I was in pretty good shape by the time that was over. But Dick was always amused by the story; just because he was Vice President of the United States, I didn't get in the Army and I got to fly, something I always wanted to do.

Paul Musgrave

What did you fly?

Edward Nixon

My choice was helicopters. I wanted to be able to pause long enough to inspect something on the ground before we had to move on. They're slow but very versatile. And the guys that recruited me over there said, "Don't you want to fly jets?" I said, "No, you know that familiarization flight you gave me in that F-80? All I could feel was a very hard seat and a parachute strapped around me and you're at 40,000 feet, what can you see? I want to fly down to the beach where I can wave to the girls." Only do that in helicopter, so that always amused him. But, seriously, the Navy was a very wonderful experience to me. It gave me a chance to learn something that I would not have otherwise learned, and eventually wound up teaching at the University of Washington for a couple of years, naval history, of all things. What's a geologist doing in naval history? I had to read like crazy to keep ahead of the kids because they could read fast and I'm very slow. But we got through it.

Paul Musgrave

Now, speaking of reading, I understand that your brother wrote you letters during the war in order to get you to read.

Edward Nixon

Oh, yes, oh, there's another story, yes. I was still reluctant to try anything reading, and he worried about that a lot. So, he made a deal with me as he headed off. He said, "I'm going to make a deal, and mom is going to proctor this. Every page you read in anything, "Reader's Digest," not funny papers, but something with words in them, I'm going to give you one savings stamp, 25-cent savings stamp. And you stick them in a book, you get enough of them you can trade them in for savings bonds." I was motivated. I had an incentive. And by the time the war was over, I had enough savings bonds to buy a car by the time I went to school, except we couldn't have cars until we were sophomores, and we had to have good grades then.

John Powers

Good thing Richard Nixon was a good poker player.

Edward Nixon

That is another story, yes. Many people have remarked about it. Oral histories have talked about it. I didn't hear it directly from the oral history interviewees, but I do know that Don asked him one time, "How much did you make on all those poker winnings?" And he said, "Well, probably \$8,000," which was a huge amount of money in 1946, by the time he got out of there. But that sense of the glum appearance, no expression, reading his antagonist, protagonist, whatever you call them, and reading the subtleties and the hand movements or whatever, he was able to really second guess them. Don't know how well he'd do today in these TV poker contests that they seem to be running.

Timothy Naftali

Where did he learn how to play poker?

Edward Nixon

In the Navy, I suspect.

Timothy Naftali

It was in the Navy, not something --

Edward Nixon

I don't think so, no.

Timothy Naftali

Did you play cards?

Edward Nixon

Although, Harold might have. Cards weren't all the popular in the Milhous family.

Timothy Naftali

I didn't think so.

John Powers

Were they popular in Whittier at all?

Edward Nixon

My Uncle Tim Timberlake -- the thing is, the first cousins are more exploratory who we tried everything, test everything. You know, Thomas told us that, right? Test all things. I don't know who it was; I don't know. So, we came up with games that we could play, and sometimes the parents disapproved of it. We acknowledged their disapproval. Some continued and some didn't. But what else are you going to do on long, long days, day after day in tropical heat? The cards are sticking together. I was just imagining. I have no direct experience.

Timothy Naftali

But this wasn't the first time that Richard Nixon might have done something of which the Milhouses would disapprove. He brought dancing, didn't he?

Edward Nixon

Yes, music was always part of the Milhous family, but dancing was -- if you reviewed Jessamyn West's story, "The Friendly Persuasion," that depicts the attitude we came to the West with. And we grew out of it. The Quakers that were in the East are still reluctant to do anything flamboyant or have steeples on a church or bells or anything else. Even music or choirs or paid ministers were frowned on. So, in California, what they call the early meeting, they gradually changed and California was the forefront, the pioneering place to try new things and see if they weren't workable without destroying our morality.

Timothy Naftali

Did your brother ever talk to you about how he brought dancing to --?

Edward Nixon

It's been described by others, and I'd have to say, you'd have to talk to those and listen to that. He did not talk to me about it. He enjoyed the music so much that music will make you move, and when the music is lyrical and rhythmic to a point where your feet move, you should dance. Celebrate it; rejoice. So, that theory sold with most of my first cousins, and we were okay with that. We could even have parties where dancing was permitted.

Paul Musgrave

When you say that there was always music in your house growing up, was this classical music, serious music? What sort of music was it?

Edward Nixon

There's a story that goes around with that. My grandfather was quite a musician and my Uncle Griffith, superb voice. Grandfather Franklin Milhous played a concertina and the piano, of course. And he insisted that the kids all try something. Christmas reunions where they're all together, we all had to perform something musical. When we got to my family and Dick's appreciation of it, classical music was preferred, but my brother Harold was a cowboy. To use a term that no longer has the same connotation, he was a gay blade, as my brother used to call him. It had nothing to do with what you think of today. He liked the ladies and he liked country and western music, as we would call it today. And the reason I can recall that is not long after Harold died, I was probably five or six years old by that time, and I found on the radio some country and western music, somebody singing in, you know, Roy Rogers style, and Don came in and switched it to KFAC, which is the classical station, used to be, I don't know if it's still here or not, and said, "You ought to listen to that music. Don't bother with that other stuff. Just listen to that music. It's much better." I've come to realize that the reason that he - I really think the reason that he cut it off right there was that mother was hearing it in the kitchen and thinking of Harold. So, classical music was then my venue. I was there all the way. My kids still prefer classical music, but they know every popular tune there is and can name the artist.

Timothy Naftali

Talk about Harold for a moment. This isn't the first time you've told us about how fragile your mother was about Harold. The fact that she wouldn't use the mixer or she -- tell us, unless it's too hard, but we would like to memorialize Harold. Tell us about how Harold was spoken of or not spoken of in the family. You were only three when he died, I know.

Edward Nixon

He and Dick were real buddies, and Dick was a follower at that point. And Harold led the stroke. When Harold was in the recuperation stage in Prescott, Arizona, Dick would spend summers over there working as a barker in a sideshow thing at the, what do you call it, the rodeo, Frontier Days, Prescott, Arizona. They still have that, by the way, still goes on. And Don was there, too, and Don told me that Dick wasn't all that great a horseman, but Harold was a real trick. He just loved the horses, and I think Roy Rogers captured his imagination as well. Don was an observer. I don't think he even rode a horse, but maybe, he was probably the one who had to feed and clean up. Harold's influence lasted a long time, especially with Dick. Hard for him to talk about it; he did it in the memoir and so forth. I think when you lose an older brother, you suddenly have to take on the role of elder son. Jack Kennedy was much the same himself when Joseph died in the war. What effect does that have on motivating a young man to take a leading role? Maybe it makes more of a leader after that kind of thing, seeing a great one -- a greatly admired young man, blond hair, blue eyes, going -- going crazy with everything in the world. Mechanical horses, airplanes, he loved to fly. But the tuberculosis got him. And I think in later years, my parents realized that bovine tuberculosis could very well have been the reason that both my brothers caught it. Dick had been exposed to it, undulant fever, and Don had a shadow on a lung, and every time I take that, what do they call that skin test, it's positive; I've been exposed to it. Anyone who's ever been exposed to the tubercular bug will turn up positive. That doesn't mean you have it, but you've been exposed. Medicine, cancer inspired a lot of Dick's feelings toward what government can do in the way of heading off medical problems with the full strength of the federal government and everybody contributing because it's common to everybody. Let's beat

cancer, so his war on cancer was developed out of that seeing what penicillin could have done had his brothers had it in those days. It's valuable and National Institute of Health and things like that, were all together in his camp to promote.

Timothy Naftali

I'd like to prompt you to talk about what you remember of your brother's sense of government. You talk about what kind of Republican he was.

Edward Nixon

I suppose you have to go to the origin. The Nixons were Democrats. And I don't know if it's still in the East Room, but the portrait in there of William McKinley that I saw last time I was here told the story. Has that story been told anywhere? I don't know. In 1896, McKinley was governor of Ohio. He was running against Grover Cleveland. And they were having a parade in the small town where Dad was working in a suburban farm, suburban rural farm nearby. And Dad had charge of a very well-formed Palomino stallion, and the organizing committee for the parade for McKinley asked him to clean up the horse and ride it in the parade because they needed more show. So Dad really polished that thing down. He cleaned it up with saddle soap, polished it off, braided the main, braided the tail, magnificent animal. And William McKinley arrives in his carriage and notices Dad sitting on the horse waiting to join the parade, and McKinley says, "Young man, that's the most beautiful horse I think I ever saw. Would you mind riding right up behind my carriage?" So, at that point -- Dad loved to tell this story. He told it over and over. "Even though all my family was Democrat, I thought, this man has a sense of humanity. I like him." And as soon as the parade got underway, or right after, I guess, McKinley said, "Now, young man, are you going to vote Republican?" "Yes, sir. I'm not old enough yet. I'm only 18, but when I'm 21 I'm going to do it." And he was converted at that moment from all the family tradition of being Democrat, being in the northern reaches of Appalachia, relying on government to help them through hard times. He said, "We can do it without the government." And that is where the split came. Dick, on the other hand, listened to all that, appreciated it, amused by it as well as taking it to heart, the influence of conservative thinking in the sense that individuals have to be strong. Don't cripple them with too much subsidy. Don't give them a crutch and teach them to be cripples. So, en garde, socialism is fine as long as everybody's participating willingly and that we're not destroying individual initiative and invention. Memories of stories is what I'm relating to you.

Timothy Naftali

You did describe him as a Massachusetts Republican.

Edward Nixon

Oh, in a sense that -- as he became, as he came through the 1960 election, he could see that vanity would prevail. You have to rely on the cameraman to dress you up and primp it up, put you in the right color tie on, shave, look good in the camera, because radio is not the only way you're going to get elected anymore. So, that was his awakening. Then he got to 1968, where we win the election. He respected Lyndon Johnson. He respected Hubert Humphrey. How do we bring those things that you respect about them to bear on solutions for the country? He's been accused -- Richard Nixon has been accused of being more of a liberal than some people elsewhere in the party, anywhere. How can he be calling himself a Republican? Dick's theory of that was, unless you can get elected, you can't do much

except talk, make noise, cause dissent, polarize the country. Get elected; give them a little bit of something that you can take back. Wage and price controls recommended to him, he says, "Don't think it will work. Try it; let it fail; let them learn. Come back to reality." So, that attitude got him accused, you know, he was accused of going way too far with government intervention and everything, but he decided, "No, as I see it now, we have to test all these things to see, if they will work, let them. But if they fail, call an end to it now and let those who promote these ideas see the consequences of their idea. Otherwise, those ideas will just germinate into more problems.

Timothy Naftali

Were you with him on any of the campaign trails? Were you with him in '46? You were 16.

Edward Nixon

'46, it was the only campaign that I did before the Presidential years. I was a senior -- no, no, I was at Whittier High School, just had my driver's license, and I drove the old 1937 panel truck with signs all over it every weekend. We'd go through Alhambra, Puente and El Monte, wherever the district went. The 12th District it was in those days, 25th now, I guess. They change the numbers every time we grow a little bit. I think La Verne was even in there. That was a great experience because I got to drive. What else would a kid want to do? Drive that truck, people are cheering along the sidewalks, and we're throwing out these little thimbles -- little ladies' thimbles, "Put the needle in the PAC." Do we still have some of those down here? Political Action Committees were persona non grata at the time; now we rely on them to raise money. That campaign was interesting in the sense that I was able to participate, and it meant something to me, but by 1948 there wasn't much reason to go back to California. I was in school, or about to run into it, and he was reelected handily in '48. 1950, I was still in college. No chance to come back. I did come back, but I had to go to UCLA and do a make-up course in economics, not my favorite subject. So that campaign went along, Helen Gahagan Douglas. When he won that election in November, Governor -- who was governor?

Interviewers

Knowland?

John Powers

Knowland, I think.

Edward Nixon

No, Knowland was the senator.

John Powers

No, Warren.

Edward Nixon

Warren was still there, that's right. Warren appointed him to the vacant seat vacated by Sheridan Downey. So, he had seniority over incoming newly elected senators. At that point, senator 1950 to '52, normally, you'd say 1951, but he beat him out by getting in before the end of the year. 1952, Eisenhower made his announcement that Nixon was his choice for Vice Presidential running mate, and then all --

Timothy Naftali

Where were you when you found out your brother was the Vice President?

Paul Musgrave

Had he given you any suggestion that he was even being considered?

Edward Nixon

No, this was a total surprise. It really was. The family said, "Wow." I had the impression all through that Dick Nixon never really pushed for becoming the President, but he knew that he had some leadership skills, and he had a mission in his mind, problems to solve a good way. So, naturally, how else are you going to do it unless you get into office and make some moves that will have good results?

Timothy Naftali

When you were with him on his first campaign, what kind of campaigner was he?

Edward Nixon

'46?

Timothy Naftali

Yeah.

Edward Nixon

Oh, the debates with Jerry Voorhis, five debates I think there were, and I remember the one where Dick challenged him on what had he done in Congress. He'd only introduced one bill that'd gone through, the Rabbit Bill, and so Dick made some wry comment, mean spirited, I thought. "Well, I guess you have to be a rabbit to be a Democrat," or something like that; I don't know what it was. Those debates gave him a reputation for being a strong debater. Debates are always questionable in my mind because you exaggerate to make a point then you get called on your exaggeration to prove it. So, be careful, be honest, but call up the questions that are there and make the opponent answer them. But those debates carried the day. I don't remember any other issues in '46. After all, I was taking "American Life" in high school, what we called "socialist studies," very interesting course.

Paul Musgrave

Can we go back to the late 1930s for a second? I'd like to hear what you remember about your sister-in-law Pat. Especially, I'd like to hear it, because I don't think I've ever heard the story of the wedding at the Mission Inn in Riverside.

Edward Nixon

It was a very secluded wedding, a very small group. The Mission Inn was the place to do one of those things if you want a very small, intimate wedding. Pat was not one for ostentation in any form. She wanted it simple, have the immediate family there, closest friends, nobody else. So, it was in the -- I did research this. I went to the Mission Inn a couple of years ago and found that room. It didn't look the same because when the wedding was going on it was draped with Mediterranean drapes from the ceiling hanging down and it looked like something you'd see in the Vatican, you know, beautiful little room. I was 10; Dick and Pat took off for Mexico for honeymoon, 1940. And they came back -- this was really something. My dad had been looking for a daughter for so long. In fact, when I was born, the fifth of five boys, my name was supposed to be Patricia. So, here she came, and he really took up with Pat, thought she was the world. That wedding was, I don't remember how many, but I know Tom and Bill Ryan and Dorothy and Marie, Don and Clara Jane -- no not Clara Jane. Don hadn't even met Clara Jane yet. Aunts and uncles, but only those that lived nearby; Pat didn't want to cause anybody to have to go a long way. You know, don't impose; don't make problems. She had a hard life herself: Depression years, her father died, her mother died, taking care of her brothers when she's only 16, 17 years old. And besides all that, going to USC, wow, great lady. Julie wrote about it; she did it really well. I found very little to disagree with Julie on that story.

John Powers

I'm going to fast forward a little bit. Do you remember anything about, I was thinking about David Halberstam and his book "The Fifties" when he talked about consumerism and the growth of mass culture. He had a chapter on Walt Disney and one on Ray Kroc. I was kind of interested your thoughts are on those, being a Southern Californian.

Edward Nixon

Well, Disney became a close friend of my brother Don. Don had a special relationship with Walt Disney, and another thing about Don, he developed the first drive-through, talk into the microphone and place your order and drive through, pick it up, which was copied by a number of burger stands since. His business failed because he just got spread too thin, and that's a long story, I put that in the book, but could not raise money because he couldn't incorporate in time to go public and keep the thing growing. He had five restaurants at one time. The last -- no, not the last -- was it the last one? Maybe the last one was the drive-in at Disneyland. Walt Disney encouraged him in every way to push forward. Do it your way and don't give up, those kinds of thoughts. Don really got hurt by it when he had to collapse the whole thing and go to work for Carnation Milk and then Gladio [phonetic sp] and then, finally, Marriott family. Now, you're talking about a Halberstam book, and I don't read that kind of book. Tell me what he thought? How do I get a question out of it?

John Powers

I think I'm just interested in getting your perspective on being a Southern Californian, especially someone who's met Walt Disney and knew Walt Disney, and the same with Ray Kroc. And both of these gentleman got their starts very close to here. I'm interested in learning about --

Edward Nixon

Well, one thing about that then, the entrepreneurial spirit that Don possessed more than either Dick or me, start-up, do something good, make sure that people like it and sell more if it. This was entrepreneurship. In fact, Dr. Abe Zierum [phonetic sp] remarked one time, he came out to Don's restaurant talking to me about continuing my graduate school studies. And he admired Don. He really thought -- "You know, I know your brother Dick, but your brother Don is really an entrepreneur." I didn't know what the damned word meant. It hadn't occurred to me that, yeah, that's what we were here in California. We're entrepreneurs. We start things up and watch them grow. Some fail; pick it up, start again, something else. Those that succeed, the Ray Krocs and the Walter Knott, those were other great friends of the family, the Knott family.

Timothy Naftali

I'd like to go back a little bit and ask you about your recollections of the 1960 campaign. You said you participated.

Edward Nixon

'60, I was teaching at the University of Washington and the Navy had assigned me to an instructor's orientation conference, which was at Northwestern University. So, the Republican convention was in Chicago that year, so it was convenient for me, after sessions, to run down and see what the convention looked like. But I did not become involved in the '60 campaign in any way because the marine colonel who was running the NROTC unit at the University of Washington said, "You really can't get involved in that, but just tell me when I can put the 'Nixon for President' sign on my bumper." Okay, I'll pass out the bumper strips, but I won't say anything. So, it was kind of a hard result for me going in the next morning after the election and my midshipmen class is sitting out all four classes of 25 each. And I have to smile through it all and say, "Rely on the Constitution, study that book, preserve the country, we've not yet begun to fight," that kind of thing.

Timothy Naftali

Did you speak to your brother that day?

Edward Nixon

No, it wasn't that I was aloof. I protected him, or I thought I had to protect him. Everybody's bugging him. And he knew where I stood; I didn't have to reassure him. So, I didn't bother him.

Paul Musgrave

Did you call your mother or Donald?

Edward Nixon

Yeah, that was a -- Don and I were quite conversant throughout all of these years. He'd pour his woes on me, and eventually we got together in the late '70s to do some international work for Don's clients who had involved technical matters and he thought I could help him. But conversing, discussing political campaigns was out of my realm from '47 '46 until 1968, when I went into the old American Bible Society on 57th and Park Avenue. All four floors of the building and the basement were filled up with Nixon-for-President staff. And I was head of mail operations, candidate's mail. Wonderful people, volunteers are always wonderful, but they are unforgettable. They hired just one person, and that was Sarah Currents [phonetic sp], who I worked with on Project Apollo. But the campaign itself went along fine. I didn't go anywhere that year; I made, I think, two appearances outside of New York. Yes, a rally out in Westchester County, New York, at which we were -- there had been an accident. Our caravan had been delayed. The rally was canceled. So, all I had in my hand at the time was the Roget's Thesaurus. Why I had that, I don't know. But sitting there for an hour and a half going nowhere, jammed in traffic, I started looking at it and all these things were coming into my mind, like the missile gap, the generation gap. I said, "Gap, gap." So I started looking at all the G words and I made an alliteration with all the G words I could think of, called the Gallantry Gap. It'll be in the book. The other occasion in the 1968 campaign was with Bill Buckley at a rally in New Jersey right across the river involving Eastern European ethnic groups, Poles and Hungarians and so on. And we didn't have to work hard with that group. They were really all Nixon fans and very loud about it. So, Bill Buckley made his marvelous presentation, pedantic as it might have sounded to me, because, you saw how I talk, I don't talk pedantically, except I try to pull up a word I don't understand sometimes and test it. So, after he spoke, he excused himself, saying he had another engagement to go to. I'm sure you don't want to listen to me anyway. But I got up and talked to those people and told them how much Richard Nixon appreciated the support that the Eastern European people in this country have before they're citizens, and after they become citizens, they become the most loyal Americans we have. Cheers, anything I said, it was a cheer. So, I said, maybe I can speak after all. That led to the 1972 reelection campaign. And John Mitchell and John Ehrlichman and Maury Stans and all these people had heard about that, I guess, and thought maybe I shouldn't be doing mail operations, put me on the road. So, I was assigned to my own little corner as a co-chairman of the Reelect Committee. It had nothing to do with the committee, but it was a title. That gave me invitations all over the country to speak, little penny-ante money-raising funds. The Businessmen -- Business -- I forget what they all were. So, I got into about 45 states. We avoided five states that really -- who was all sold up anyway, we didn't need them. I'm not sure we needed them anyway, but they got me on the road. That kept me out of Washington, D.C. Maybe that was the purpose. Don't stay too close to the White House; you might get infected. Very interesting year.

Paul Musgrave

In 1968, did you go down to Miami for the convention?

Edward Nixon

Yes, and '72, both of them.

Paul Musgrave

Now, you said that in '68 because, of course, the nomination wasn't locked up yet, you were buttonholing delegates. Can you tell us about that?

Edward Nixon

The delegates go, and they're supposedly uncommitted. So, they're invited to go out for a little cruise out on Miami beach and several -- and George H.W. Bush was on one of these and began chatting about our common Navy aviation experience, and my wife got upset because some young girl was sitting on his lap, and I said don't be upset. That's probably his daughter. I don't know who she was but he was having a good time. We had a wonderful conversation, noting that he was the youngest naval aviator, and I was the skinniest. I was too late for World War II, a couple years too late. Good man. Then there was another event, but there were events everywhere. You don't want to hear all these events.

Interviewer

If you'll go back and talk for us, do you remember anything about the Hiss hearings? Did Richard ever talk to you about Alger Hiss?

Edward Nixon

When Dick was in Congress I was in high school, still in Pennsylvania. I don't know when it concluded; maybe I had already gone to Duke as a freshman. But I remember Dick coming up on weekends in the midst of the hearings and laying it off on mom. "What should I do with this guy? I know he's lying; he's broken the law. Should I pursue it or not?" And Whittaker Chambers got involved in it, and Dick suggested that my mom go down and visit with the Chambers. Ruth Chambers was of similar state of mind as my mom and got along well. Dick finally decided, "I have to do what the law requires," so Hiss was convicted of perjury, nothing to do with disloyalty or anything of the sort. But he was actually affiliated with Whittaker Chambers and the world of Communism. And Whittaker Chambers' book "Witness" reveals most of that story better than I could ever contribute anything.

Timothy Naftali

When your brother was elected President the first time, for a while it looked like you might be going to Alaska.

Edward Nixon

Another story, you sure like these stories, don't you? Maurice Stans and Wally Hickel, who was secretary of interior by that time, decided that I should take this job in Alaska, the Federal Field Committee for Economic Development in Alaska. At that time in history, the native lands dispute had not been settled and the existing director of that Federal Field Committee was well qualified to carry on, but it apparently had to have a political tone to it. So, they asked me to go up and interview some of the people involved, and I did, made the trip up. I had been up there with my wife. We drove up the Alaska highway one time when the kids were very young, but we liked Alaska. I thought it was

interesting, resources everywhere, and things that needed to be preserved, natural things. So, I was fascinated by that prospect. And I met with two of the native leaders, which I did record in the book, and I don't have in my mind anymore. But I thought that was a really interesting thing -- And so that afternoon I went out looking around town to see what kind of place we could live there. I had two daughters growing up, and my wife loved it, beautiful country. But I had a call from John Ehrlichman tipping me off to a senatorial committee looking at the problem in Alaska for the native lands settlement dispute. And he said, "You know, Ted Kennedy is going to be on that, and it's been suggested he's going to object to your appointment from the nepotism cause, for reasons of nepotism." And I said, "What's that mean?" And he said, "Well, you know, if you're related to someone in a chain of command, you can't have a federal position." That was a rider on a Post Office bill, an act in 1967 to preclude postmasters from having their wives on the same payroll, but it was going to be applied to me. I said, "John, it sounds to me like we don't need this noise. There are plenty of good people who can take this job right now." And John Ehrlichman said, "You're an officer and a gentleman." At that point, I made my arrangements and Ted Stevens said, "You really should stick it out. You know, Alaska's for you; you like it here." I said, "I know, Ted, but the President doesn't need a problem up here." So, I was on my way back to Seattle, and en route, "The New York Times" had called my number, an unlisted number, to ask what my opinion was of this news that I had left Alaska. She didn't know anything about it. And she got so ticked off that she took the phone out of the wall and when I came home said, "You can plug it back in, but John Ehrlichman's calling, the White House is calling, everybody's calling and I'm not going to talk to them." So, I call John Ehrlichman and I said, you know, "I sympathize with your position but I'm not going to say anything, and I'm not going to do what you're suggesting, that Gay really doesn't like Alaska, because she does, and I am enamored with the place. In fact, I had tried to get a job up there with a helicopter company a few years ago, so I can't use that. I have no excuses; make up something." So John Ehrlichman had to put some kind of blurb in "Newsweek," and I should probably research that, but it's a painful time; I don't like to remember it.

Timothy Naftali

Did your brother talk to you at all about this?

Edward Nixon

No, he could've, but I made the decision and he didn't need to. He felt bad about it because Don got on his tail and really read him the riot act. How could you let him get into a jam like that? Why should he even have to go up there, make an embarrassing move? So, Dick was thinking, receiving it, digesting it, feeling bad about it, but what could he do? Don't say anything; just be quiet.

Timothy Naftali

So, is that how the brothers' communication system worked when Richard Nixon was President? Was Don the one who would call him?

Edward Nixon

Don would do his best to relay a message he thought the President should know. My old partner, Harry, he was here this morning, said, "You know, all the times you were asked for getting five minutes with the President, I just did a little calculation. Do you know how many years your brother would have to be interviewing people if they each had five minutes? Four hundred and thirty two years." Well,

that explains why I wouldn't relay any of those messages. I said, "You have to go through the White House staff, front door. And I'm not a doormat." And Don felt so strongly about these things sometimes that he got into a lot of sad situations, and I always got an earful from it, sometimes even involved in them to get him out of it. But Don loved Dick so much that he wanted to give him every tool he could possibly have to carry on. And sometimes the tools were faulty, lots of bad apples. As a matter of fact, a lot of people in our family, Don's family especially, still have a problem with the fact that Don's phone was tapped. The reason -- and I've explained it to him over and over, the reason it was, they would have found out who these guys are down in the Dominican Republic that are trying to get you to come down there to do something. They're just trying to get you involved, and the President wants to know who's calling you. You don't need to be bothered with that kind of thing when we know who these people are, and they're bad apples. So, it was in defense of Don that his phone line was tapped to receive these incoming calls from known predators. But that didn't set well with Clara Jane or anybody else for that matter. Nobody wants to have their phone tapped; although, I don't mind. You might hear a funny story if you're going to tap mine.

Timothy Naftali

But do you remember during the Presidency occasions where you went to your brother to talk to him about something that was on your mind?

Edward Nixon

Well, the prospective trips to China really didn't start until after he was out of office. I might have thought going there. In fact, I was asked to see if I could make a trip on behalf of a potential client in '73. And again, I felt like the doormat. I said, "No, I know it's going to be important sometime, but right now I'm not going to do it." Good thing. Fred Dent -- Harry Dent, one of the Dents from South Carolina called me in '73.

Timothy Naftali

Harry.

Edward Nixon

Harry Dent. Early '74 he called, maybe '73, asking if I would run against second district congressman, a pretty unproductive congressman from the second district. And I declined. It was Harry, yeah. I said, "Harry, my brother knows that I follow his every move as best I can, but I'm not a political person. I have no legal interest, no law -- not that the Congress has to be populated with lawyers, in fact, it shouldn't be with more than a few, but it's just not my world. I have a mission in the world that's different, and that's to find a way for us all to stop burning fossil carbon." That's been my main mission since 1950.

John Powers

What was your first impression the very first time you went to the White House? Do you remember?

Edward Nixon

First trip, wow. There have been a few. During his Presidency, I had a pass. I could walk right through it. They looked at my face, said they didn't have to look at my pass, but I showed it to them anyway. So, I gave a lot of tours. Remembering my own first trip there -- The inauguration of 1969, we were in the Presidential reviewing stand. The President was down in front; Agnew was in front of us. My Uncle Earnest was there; Pat's brother, Tom Ryan, was right next to me. And an inaugural parade can be very long, military unit after unit after unit. After a while, Tom Ryan leaned over and said, "Eddie, you know, that marine company has gone around the block three times, I know." Well, that inspired Uncle Earnest to whisper in my ear, "Eddie, you've got to have somebody show me where I can take a leak." Or, he might have said bathroom, but I think he said leak. So, I motioned to one of the Secret Service guys, and he took Uncle Earnest down the long wooden steps up into the front door of the White House and apparently went to the bathroom down in the basement in the library. He came back to the reviewing stand and he says, "Man, I know I've made it now; I finally went to the bathroom in the White House." After that, we had a family -- we had 205 relatives at that thing, and it was my charge. So, Dick had arranged for us to have a reception. I think it was before the inaugural ball, which had to be pretty rapidly done, efficiently done. We went into the White House, and there were some hors d'oeuvres and everybody was going through and getting photographed in quick succession. Dick had requested mom's favorite piece that he played when he was a kid, having learned it from Aunt Jane, to play Sinding's "Rustles of Spring" on the Truman piano. So, that was a real touching event. Oh, the only time I slept in the White House, no, I can't say that. Yes, I can; I only stayed there once. And it wasn't the Lincoln bedroom. That was sanctuary, sacred. But Gay and I were invited back to a state banquet, a state dinner for President Georges Pompidou, and we were assigned the Queen's bedroom. The only trouble with that was Gay stayed up all night writing notes, couldn't sleep at all. So, the next day, she was falling asleep at the next event. It was a very, very moving thing, and, of course, when you have the first tour, that's something. Then when Beth went through, I'd been there, Gay and I had both been there, but Beth sent a letter that got us in. It was revealing in the sense that I hadn't been up to the top floor when I was sleeping in the Queen's bedroom. Very interesting house, hidden passageways. Kids love to show you the hidden passageways. It really is what the maids use going up and down the stairs with cleaning equipment. The White House, think about Dolley Madison and the War of 1812, hauling things out, preserving them, just so you archivists would have something to keep.

Paul Musgrave

Now, your Aunt Jane had a special trip to the Kennedy Center, I suppose it was, for a piano concert after the inauguration.

Edward Nixon

Who did?

Paul Musgrave

Aunt Jane.

Edward Nixon

Kennedy Center?

Paul Musgrave [1:27:19]

Kennedy Center.

Edward Nixon

Maybe --

John Powers

This would have been the '72.

Edward Nixon

[unintelligible]

Paul Musgrave

'69, I thought.

Edward Nixon

I don't know that, but Dick looked after us. That's the point. Every one of us, he wanted to know, "Now, what would you like to do?" He knew Aunt Jane was great with music, so anytime he saw an event, if she'd had any money at all, but music teachers don't make a lot of money, so when we got them all together back there for the inaugurals, that was really an opportunity to let him shine with the family, because he loved the reunion idea. Grandmother did that to us. It's still with us. Get together, make sure you know all the family, know where they're going, who the kids are, where they're going to school. Questions, questions, he's asking questions all the time. Strange thing is, he remembered the answers years later. My wife's sister was 11 when we were married, and Dick came down to Pensacola for the wedding, and Joy was crying the whole time, in the wedding, at the reception, the whole time. And Dick asked her, "Why are you crying, Joy?" "Well, your -- your brother's taking my sister away, and I won't see her for a long time." She was also at the inaugural in '69, and this is a few years later because Dick was Vice President when I was married. And Joy came through the line and Dick says, "Well, I see you've stopped crying. How old are you now?" He remembered details, and that's how he could amaze people going through a receiving line, asking them questions. And I asked him many times, "How do you do that?" He tried to give me the secret, "When you meet someone, look them in the eye and make sure you have the name. Say it three times out loud while you're talking to them and ask at least a couple of questions about something personal. You'll remember them three or four years later." He could do it; I couldn't ever quite do it. So I couldn't run for office, you see; I'd never make it.

Timothy Naftali

Can you tell us about the first time you saw your brother after he left office?

Edward Nixon

19 -- might have been in '75, I'm pretty sure. The latter part of '74, he was pretty much in seclusion all the way through. My Uncle Oscar came the closest, because Oscar was his mentor on so many things, religious and otherwise, Oscar Marshburn, Aunt Olive's husband. But even Uncle Oscar couldn't crack through when he first came back. He tried to go down and give him assurance of the family's full support, never wavering, proud of the way he honored the Office of the President when the country was sick, and the only way to cure the country is to leave the office and its honor in honor of the office. And I insist he did not ever resign in disgrace. That's a political adjective used by detractors who don't like him, never will, inveterate haters. But thanks to Jerry Ford, the Presidential physician saw the sickness in the country and knew that in order to carry on the mandate of 1972, he had to relieve himself of the burden that would be imposed by the haters intruding on his office time. So, the pardon came.

Timothy Naftali

Did your brother -- did your brother Don see President Nixon in that --

Edward Nixon

Yes, he lived down here. He was closer, and he'd -- he had come down a number of times. As the '70s progressed, Don formed a company called Don Nixon Associates, partnering with a Japanese entrepreneur, Aki Kawaguchi. And they operated out of an office in Fashion Island down here. Eventually Don called me to come in and join him as some title or whatever because when they traveled to Japan and looked at IshiKawajimi- Harima Heavy Industries or Fuji Electric or whatever they were looking at, he wanted my advice so that he wasn't listening to Aki Kawaguchi for everything. So he'd ask Aki to describe it to me, and then I'd relay it back to Don, looking for an interpreter. Well, Aki spoke perfectly good English so I knew what he was trying to do. But we had some very interesting trips around the world for that, six times around the world. The visits that Don made, we usually came down together. As a matter of fact, as I think about it, if Don wanted an interview, he'd have to call me to come down because he was being rebuffed.

Timothy Naftali

He was being rebuffed?

Edward Nixon

Well, he was -- whoever was running the admissions office at San Clemente knew that Dick was still pretty far down psychologically, and so they protected him. And for some reason, they would let me visit, so occasionally, I'd bring Don along and go. I know Don attempted to get closer because he really felt bad about it. He blamed himself for the loss of the '62 governor's race and -- but he was not the cause of the loss. Haters cause losses for everybody.

Timothy Naftali

Why did Don blame himself for the '62 loss?

Edward Nixon

That '62 was a -- when did all this occur? '62, [unintelligible] and oh, the Hughes loan, the Hughes loan. What a joke. My mother's property, the old home place on East Whittier Boulevard, was used as collateral. It was assessed at \$425,000. So a \$250,000 loan came out of the Hughes establishment to Nixon -- Nixon's Incorporated. That drew all kinds of criticism, thinking that the President had arranged it. Not at all. Don arranged it. Dick wouldn't do that. He wasn't entrepreneurial enough. And so they attached Don's name to Dick's intercession notion with Hughes. When Don's company went bankrupt, the property was taken for twice the value of the loan. And my mother was left with nothing but the house she lived in on Beach Boulevard. So it had nothing to do with Dick's or any special favor. We avoided that, both of us. We didn't want a special favor. And Don certainly didn't want his phone tapped. But Dick was protective, always trying to look out for us and caught a lot of blame for it occasionally.

Timothy Naftali

So when you saw your brother for the first time, did you get a sense then that he was going to come back?

Edward Nixon

You know, I think my first reaction to him was, you know, "You left a lot of things incomplete. They will be completed to the extent President Ford can carry them out, but you still have a lot more to offer. You got to write." He says, "Well, I'm gonna write. I'm working on the memoir," which he did, and he completed. And then he went on and wrote eight more books. So every time I would speak to groups of people around the country in the '80s and the '90s, I'd say, "Listen, Richard Nixon didn't leave you in disgrace. He left you with a great challenge. Read his books, especially the last one that he never saw in print. And look on page 141 and think about the world we're in today." Direct reference to Iran's move toward operating through proxies in the Middle East, taking no blame for what goes on. Of course, it's all come out in the open now. But he was really prescient in those observations, which he drew from interviews and his knowledge of the players in the field, Reagan and -- who was the other Israeli prime minister?

Timothy Naftali

Well, he talked to a lot, I mean, Golda Meir.

Edward Nixon

Oh, yeah, but right at the last.

Timothy Naftali

And Rabin.

Edward Nixon

Yeah.

Interviewer

Let me ask you -- your mother passed away in 1967.

Edward Nixon

Right.

Timothy Naftali

What did she think of her second son's choice of politics as a career, as a vocation? Did she ever talk to you about that?

Edward Nixon

No, we could only observe it; she was very proud of him. Whatever we did, she was proud of us, provided we weren't hurting anybody. If anything would have disturbed mom, it would have been attacking somebody, make them look small so that you look big. She'd come back to the Shakespeare something in "Henry V" or something about, "I seek not to wax great by others waning." She would take on the classics and apply them to her life, whether it's from the Bible or Shakespeare or anybody else, and try to relay that into our minds as this is how you should really look at it, but whatever you decide, I will support you. To say that was bold because she didn't know that we would be that good. But she had faith, a whole lot of it.

Paul Musgrave

Now, your mother and father moved to Pennsylvania in the late 1940s.

Edward Nixon

'46, Dick was going to Congress. They have a new granddaughter. And Dad loved to be close to anything political. And my mom missed the farm life. She grew up on the magnificent Indiana countryside, Mount Vernon, Butlerville.

John Powers

Well, had Whittier changed that significantly?

Edward Nixon

Whittier was becoming crowded. Whittier Boulevard would become three lanes with a suicide lane in the center, and, you know, people were moving in right and left. That wasn't so bad. But, you know, going through all those years of actually inflating tires and pumping gas herself, she said, "I'd rather go and see the cows and slop the pigs and harvest some peas and beans and whatnot." So they found the farm in Menges Mills 12 miles southwest of York, 60-acre farm. They bought it for \$12,500. And that's -- from that point and that place, I commuted from there 12 miles into York every day with four neighbor kids that we pooled with, trading off the driving job. Menges Mills still looks much the same,

but she loved it there. It was another world that she'd forgotten existed. She loved the people; the Mennonite church was a little bit different. Mainly, they still had the men on one side, the women on the other and things like that, but she could absorb that. Dad broke his arm while we were on the farm. It was a very bad break in the wrist. And it wasn't set properly. And it never did heal to the point where he could resume the duties of keeping track of all that going on the farm. So they moved to Florida, Lakeland, Florida, 1025 Walnut, Lakeland, Florida. So that was one of my residences while I was in college, changed from Menges Mills, which nobody knew where it was, and Lakeland, oh, some of them knew. A lot of them were from Florida. But the move in '46 was really so that they could be close to Dick and Pat. They had already spent a lot of time with Don and Clara Jane and their kids in California. And the store was left to Don. He managed that and then expanded it into a restaurant and then another restaurant and then another one. Food was his world. But for Dick, it was that crazy town inside the beltway, which didn't exist then, where the streets were quite smooth, traffic was reasonable except they had a lot of circles that all the tourists got lost on. And they could come up to the farm on weekends. Dick could retreat and get out there and think back in the corner room. Tricia was just a toddler; Julie came along in '48. By that time, yeah, they were still there. Okay, but she was an infant; I don't think she ever really knew the farm.

Paul Musgrave

How did you feel about moving for your senior year of high school?

Edward Nixon

The -- I never really was much of a social cat in high school. I had a few very technically oriented friends that, you know, were willing to make a telescope or do something interesting. But it was traumatic in that the school system was different. Good teachers in Pennsylvania, don't get me wrong, but, you know, you've got a homeroom; we had The Lord's Prayer and then salute the flag and all this sort of thing, and I had never experienced that before. And I said, "That's fine." There's always a switch-around of sequence in courses. Chemistry is taught first in California, and physics was taught first back there. So I had already had chemistry. I had to take physics with the juniors. Well, that's all right. The physics teacher was great, David Beckmyer [phonetic sp]. You're killing me with these memories. It's a flood.

Timothy Naftali

Mr. Nixon, let's take a five-minute break so you can get some water, so we can get some water. And I want to ask how much time we have.

[1:45:29: Interview resumes following break]

Paul Musgrave

So, Mr. Nixon, I'd like to turn back a bit and talk about your memories of early Whittier and specifically about the Quakers. Because yesterday, when we met in the bookstore, you were saying that even though there were no bars or night spots, you could still --

Edward Nixon

Oh, that was something that -- that my book collaborator brought up in reading, Steven Ambrose. And his comment was that the Quaker influence, having come to Yorba Linda, left it a pretty dry town. There was nothing to do but go to church. So my response to that was, "Well, Steven Ambrose has a limited frame of reference." He didn't know what it was like when you're riding around in buckboards and riding horses, and there's no cars. And yeah, we had churches, but we had many things to do: inventing games and learning new games, and going to school and learning new things, probably more important than the things we do today, becoming independent and creative instead of dependent and weak.

Paul Musgrave

And now, your father was not a birthright Quaker. And what sort of -- was there a difference in the way that he practiced the Quaker faith compared to your mother and her sisters?

Edward Nixon

No, well, yes, in the sense that the Quakers had already modernized to the point that we had a choir. We had an organ; we had a steeple, very, very -- you know, that's avant-garde. That's out of stretch with the Quakers from the East. His upbringing was -- well, originally, if he came out of Scotland, as he always said he did, and his ancestry, they were probably Presbyterian. They moved into County Antrim and then to the New World, but he grew up as a Methodist himself. What's the difference between a Methodist and anything else? You go to church to hear a message to inspire you to think. That's the Quaker look at it. And then as far as the Quakers go, you don't go to church. You go to a meeting house because you've been in church all week, every day. Different outlook, took him a while to get onto that, but he came around to it very quickly. My mother was persuasive. It's called the friendly persuasion.

Paul Musgrave

And did he ever attend revivals or anything of that sort?

Edward Nixon

Yes, he got very active. He became especially active after Harold died. And revivalism -- I can't remember the names of the preachers he referred to, Billy Sunday and people like this and, you know, fire and brimstone types. But he was reluctant to get over the -- over the limit. Uh, we went to a church in Indianapolis when I was 16. My mother had an old friend, Josie Jefferies [phonetic sp], I think, and she was going to a Nazarene church, Church of the Nazarene. And my dad got in there and realized that "No, this is not the Nazarene I knew. These are holy rollers and I don't want to be here." We didn't leave early because he didn't want to embarrass Josie, which was mother's best friend as a child. But that was the only time I saw him react to going too far with making noise in a house of thinking.

Timothy Naftali

John?

John Powers

What were your first recollections about the Watergate break-in and your thoughts on that?

Edward Nixon

Watergate was the year of '72, when I was running around the country making speeches everywhere. I came back to the office only to get walking papers to go to the next one. I knew Jim McCord as a very quiet, mild-mannered security man for their headquarters. I had met him. And in fact, Gordon Liddy interviewed me before I joined the campaign to determine if there were any conflicts of interest that I might -- might be introduced if I joined the team. Gordon was, I thought, a little overly reactive to some of the things that I had on my resume, such as the Sea Grant Advisory Committee at the University of Southern California. He said, "That grant bothers me. You should probably get out of that." And it had nothing to do with the Federal Government. It was a private institution engaging in oceanography. So that was Gordon Liddy. I didn't know much more about him. When the thing all broke out in the course of the campaign, it looked like, to me, those guys made a big boo-boo. They didn't need to go in there. Dick might have suggested that that might be a way to solve some things. But if so, why do it? If you know it's not legal, don't do it. Well, they did it. And all hell broke loose that I wasn't even aware of until '73 or so when it all began to hit the fan. I was -- again, I was aloof from all those considerations. My interest was, when I talked to my brother about issues, issues about the environment, that had been going on from when he was in Congress. I'd come back from the hills and banging on rocks and studying what's left in the old coal mines and the tailings piles and the mess that's left behind by miners. I said, "Dick, we really need to clean this kind of thing up." And, "So how do you propose we do it?" "Well, I don't know, but maybe there should be a law that anyone who takes wealth out of the ground ought to be required to take a certain part of that wealth and make it better than they found it." "That's a good idea. How do you suppose you do that?" Question, always asking me, "How you gonna --" "You're in office; do something." Well, nothing happened in 1950, but in 1970, we got the Environmental Protection Agency. And that was the kind of issue that I would discuss with him. When people -- I was at a White House -- oh, yes, it was Prince Fahad, who later became King Fahad, a luncheon at the White House. Greg told me the date of that by looking it up. I was going into the State Dining Room to be seated next to Brent Scowcroft, whom I knew nothing about. But before I went in, I was buttonholed by a couple of beautiful young reporters, Lesley Stahl, I think she was Bob Woodward's girlfriend, and a couple of others, asking me about how was I involved in Watergate. I was not involved in Watergate. What's Watergate? Watergate to me is a little restaurant down on the Potomac River. They serve good popovers until they tore it down and made this big monument of a condominium. So my memories went back, as far as Watergate, the word goes, to these wonderful popovers. It's famous in this country. Well, that didn't please them, so they kept bugging me. And I said, "Listen, you kids ought to start asking questions that are meaningful. We're trying to do something here with the leadership of the country. And you're trying to peck it apart with petty little things about people making mistakes doing things they shouldn't. That may make news for you, but to me, it's a boring thing to say. Get off my back." And I walked into the dining room, and kind of ticked off, sat down with Brent Scowcroft, tried to figure out who he was. Later I found out he is the most significant advisor that I have come to admire. I think he told us, "Don't dive in to a religion that has no way to accommodate. They will be at odds forever."

John Powers

So in early 1973, when things did start to expand, then the Senate Select Committee, led by Senator Erwin, they kind of did manage to drag you into the investigation.

Edward Nixon

They tried.

John Powers

Can you talk about that a little bit?

Edward Nixon

Sure, they tried. Don and I were not involved in it in any way, of course, any way that I knew of. We were summoned to come back to go before the committee, which we did. We had an excellent attorney who advised us that you do not have to appear. You've appeared; you've been sworn. Now you can wait for their questions to come to you in writing and submit them, and you don't have to appear again unless another senator swears you in again to acknowledge what you've, what you testified to." So Hawaii Senator --

Interviewer

Inouye.

Edward Nixon

Inouye. He came through Los Angeles on the way to Hawaii. My brother and I were over there in LA, -- he swore us in and the white -- the Watergate Committee staff took us in one at a time and took a deposition. Don was in for six hours; I was there for an hour and a half. And I don't know what came out of that. And I'm sure they'd have got, they got nothing out of Don. They tried to pick him apart, I'm sure. With me, they finally came around to wanting my telephone number. And I said, "The number is not listed, but if you need it, call 'The New York Times.' When I was in Alaska, they called me within 10 minutes after some news broke out there." That didn't set well. I was running on the edge of contempt of Congress, but I would not cooperate. That testimony has been written up, and somebody in Canada sent me a copy of it and said, will I autograph it. He thought it was hilarious. That's why I'm not in politics. I could never survive the lawyers that make it work. I don't criticize them. We need it. We need the debate. We need the discussion, wide open. But if you can't get down to serious brass tacks and real facts, in my mind, a fact is far more elusive than any lawyer would ever believe.

Timothy Naftali

Did you talk to your brother at all at the time that you were getting deposed? I mean, did he say --

Edward Nixon

No, I talked to James Sinclair, who was on the team here, and my own attorney in California, Elmer Stone and Stanley McCurrin [phonetic sp]. Both of those got involved in there one way or another. Stanley was representing Don, and Elmer Stone escorted us both back to Washington. When we came out of that hearing room at the Senate office building, all we did was to swear in, and then they took a break; senators broke. So I came out; we came out of the hearing room, and Elmer Stone said, "We need to find a way to get out of here right now without going through all that bevy of press." So I thought, I knew something about the Senate office building, and I looked up at the corner, and Ted Stevens -- we went into 'Ted Stevens' office, and I asked, "Is there an elevator here that goes down so that we can bypass the main entrance where all the reporters are?" "Sure, right across the hall. Just have your attorney make a distraction, go across, push the button, go on down. You're out of here." Thanks, Ted Stevens. We went back to the hotel; we were at the Marriott over there at Crystal City. And Elmer said, "Now all you have to do is simply get all of your facts straight that you have facts. And where you don't, all you can do is repeat that you have nothing." And indeed, it was nothing. The fact that I knew -- had met James McCord, what could I tell them? Well, James McCord, when I said we had had a break-in at our house at home in Seattle, he gave me some little magnetic switches that I could rig up and make an alarm, which I did. He was very good at that. He knew how to create a security arrangement. And when I heard that he was one involved in getting into the DNC headquarters, I said, "Well, he's probably capable of that." It's not something I asked him to do, and I don't think Dick did, either. But, you know, what could I say? Don't guess, don't assume. Say what's true, that you know to be true. So the Watergate was something that I made jokes about occasionally, saying I wasn't involved. And, in fact, somebody on TV asked me a few months ago, did you ever talk about Watergate with your brother? And I popped off, and I said, "No, we talked about serious things." The illness in the country is what we were focusing on. And that is that we were divided. There was a polarization. We had some people saying we need more mass transit and fewer cars, and the other side is saying something else. Those are the discussions we talk about where there is a solution. But to drag something into the press so that you can get paid and make a big name for yourself, no, that's not for me.

Timothy Naftali

But you talked about the environment.

Edward Nixon

We did, yes.

Timothy Naftali

Did your brother talk to you about the EPA?

Edward Nixon

No, I never did try to confirm that our discussions many years before had any influence on him, but I'm sure it must have because he kicked it around. He was really interested. You know, the coal measures down in the southern West Virginia, Welch and Bluefield down in there, it's a mess. Any place you see a mine today, the commercial interests see the treasure. They want the treasure. What

they leave behind, they don't care about. But you have to care. West Virginia could be -- the whole state could be a national park if we paid attention to what we're doing to it. Hmm, would we have senators from there still? I don't know, but he was fascinated with that kind of geographic discussion. And one mission I did in China -- in fact, that's years later, nothing to do -- I'm off subject. Hunan Province, walking in a tin mine. Presidents don't get a chance to do that.

Timothy Naftali

One thing the Presidents often don't get a chance to do is to show their private self. And you were talking earlier about your brother's sense of fun. Here is an opportunity for you to tell a few stories about your brother's sense of fun.

Edward Nixon

My brother's sense of fun, he was not one to practice a practical joke. He would laugh if he saw somebody laughing. But if they were hurt, he would sympathize. So his idea of fun was a game with rules, and take any game. As a kid, Uncle Oscar told the story about before I was born, they loved football. All of my cousins, and there were 30 of them, they'd get out there on the front lawn at grandmother's house and play football. And the older ones would start acting up and cheating, breaking rules. So Dick -- Uncle Oscar says, "Dick, grab that football." Cupped it and ran over on the porch and sat on it. And kids were yelling at him. His cousins were saying, "Come on, let's play." "It's no fun if you're going to break the rules. Now, you play by the rules, and I'll give you the ball." So his idea of fun is have rules and enjoy it to the hilt. Break the rules, make somebody cry. That's a life; it's an objective. We don't always make it, do we?

Timothy Naftali

You mentioned that Uncle Oscar was a major mentor for your brother. Can you tell us more about that?

Edward Nixon

Uncle Oscar was devoutly a Quaker supporter, I mean community supporter. He -- his fan was mainly conscientious objectors. And I'm sure when Dick went off to do his thing in the Navy, Uncle Oscar was right there to discuss it with him. But again, never to push, never to try to force or to say, "You must do this." But you have to think and decide and stick by your decision. That was his influence, I think. Did me, too, I mean, he was -- and Don. Oh, there's a lot more life there. We better not get into all that.

Timothy Naftali

Well, I'd like you to talk a little bit more because it -- I don't -- I haven't seen a lot of references to the role that Uncle Oscar played in shaping your brother.

Edward Nixon

His wife, my Aunt Olive, was deaf. She read lips very well, and she could hear, but not distinctly enough. Well, my father was deaf, too. Had to sit on one side of the back pew in the church in the

auditorium and get the reflection off the wall. And the two of them were opposites as any can be. And Olive was just as pure as the driven snow in my view. And my dad was flamboyant and boisterous and getting everybody fired up to comment. Because once you comment, then you have to respond to questions. And he wanted to hear their questions so that he could give the answers. Uncle Oscar mediated in that realm any time we had a reunion. My dad would be there and five of my uncles maybe sitting there chatting, and Dad would be telling a story. And Oscar would just smile, never criticized, but when it was all over, he'd say, "Now, Frank, you know, you really ought to think about that because I saw some of the kids were taking it the wrong way." He says -- Dad said, "Well, I'll fix that, then, next time they're in Sunday school." It's a strange thing to remember now, how different all these people were. My aunts, all my mother's sisters, were practically identical, looking at it from the outside. But Aunt Martha was a fun-loving lady, a nurse, and she is the one that would say, "Don't put ice in your water. It causes gas." And Edith married Uncle Tim, the last marriage. She was the oldest of the sisters. And she lived in Riverside, and Uncle Tim was an entomologist who barely spoke, and -- to anyone, unless it was something serious. But Uncle Tim was the one that gave Dick the tools in his first debate in high school to win: are bugs more beneficial or less, that sort of thing. So Aunt Edith was not the same as Aunt Martha because the marriage made them different. My mom marrying Frank Nixon, I don't know how she did it when I think back. But they certainly were in love for life. Aunt Beth, Russell Harrison died of cancer, and her kids were very young. They came to live with us, I guess. I was not there yet. I never knew Beth, but I named my daughter for her. And then the last aunt, Aunt Olive, with this quiet countenance, she tried not to yell because she knew she couldn't hear anyway. But if she made -- and she spoke perfectly well. She must have acquired the deafness from later in life. But it was hereditary, I guess. The contrast of the family -- in the family seemed what the marriages did to each. Aunt Olive was the one who thought my mom shouldn't marry my dad. The famous story about her on their wedding day taking a paring knife and carving in the pepper tree "Hannah is a bad girl." And she was, what, 11 years old at the time so -- They looked after each other, as we still do, those that are left. Are there any left? I'm the last one. No, there are more Nixons coming. Donnie had them: Don's son, Donald Anthony Nixon, Jarrett and Devon [phonetic sp], very smart boys, a very strong mother. So there will be more Nixons. Dick's first born was a blonde, blue-eyed girl. My first born was blonde, blue-eyed, second, both brunette, brown-eyed. Something in the genes must have caused that, and I suspect it was because we both married redheads.

Timothy Naftali

Do you want to say anything else about how Uncle Oscar shaped your brother? Because I think it's really --

Edward Nixon

He always -- Dick always told me that Uncle Oscar is the one you have to talk to if you have to figure something out. So I don't know personally, but I know that they had a very special relationship. And Dick came to Aunt Olive's funeral and spoke at the Whittier Friends Church. There are areas of memory that melt away when there is any painful aspect of it. And you have to really struggle to bring it back into focus. I'm feeling for what was going on in those, in the personal relations between Dick and everyone else. But I haven't had any direct experience. I avoided it, in fact.

Timothy Naftali

Now, you talked about -- we talked about your brother's sense of fun. Your brother also had a toughness to him.

Edward Nixon

Well, yes, a firmness in holding to rules. And toughness in the sense that he -- what would he tolerate? What was his tolerance level? He would tolerate anything anyone would say, and he may not even respond to it, but he was certainly -- you could see him digesting it and coming back with something off the subject that was still related.

Timothy Naftali

Did he have a temper?

Edward Nixon

Did he have a temper? I never saw him with a temper. He has had a temper boiling in his mind on many occasions when he sees something wrong happening, accusations against Alger Hiss, I mean Whitaker Chambers, for example. He became very close to Whitaker Chambers and dedicated a sense of protection in his mind when all the criticism came back to him. That Hiss case, there's no doubt about it, people have alluded to it many times, that created a whole cadre of haters. Never forgave him for putting Hiss in jail for something so simple as perjury. Oh, well, where are they coming from? So he would be -- he had already tested himself, and his mind was made up. "I have to prosecute; it's my duty. I was elected to do this." So he did it, took a lot of heat, gained a lot of enemies, and they've multiplied since.

Timothy Naftali

Did you ever see -- I mean, he was aware that people disliked him, that there were haters. Did you see -- did it have an effect on him that you could see?

Edward Nixon

His advice to me when I would say -- I would complain about having critical questions poked at me or anybody else, or to Don for that matter. He said, "The best rule is to realize, keep in mind, when you're talking to them, you know that they're just making a living. If you can answer their question without hurting somebody, do it as simply and as straightforward as you can without tearing yourself apart. If you can't, say 'no comment.'" I don't know how well he took it many times. And what you're asking is, did he ever become so riled up by someone's behavior that he had a violent reaction to it? I know he had a violent reaction to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. I know he -- and yet it was tempered. He said, "We can win this if we follow a common leader, the President, and keep the country together. That's how you win." Is that violence? It's dedication to a principle. Tim, your effort here is -- it has to produce something for posterity that will teach, instruct. Young people are vulnerable to off-the-cuff hurtful comments, criticisms, amusing, telling jokes on someone, things like that. It was almost bred out of us, but you never do get that out. And if you're pestered, beaten down, hit from every direction,

you're bound to react at some point. When Dick said, "You won't have Nixon to kick around anymore," this was, when, '60, no, '62.

Interviewer

'62.

Edward Nixon

'62, that was the only time I really saw him bounce off the wall and say, "So long, sayonara." There have been other times, but he tried his best to hold it, and occasionally lost it. "Well, your President's not a crook." That thing gets quoted over and over and over. He wasn't a crook. Who would accuse him of that? Someone who wanted him to say that so they could print it and make a headline. Ah, yes, mean motives sell papers.

Timothy Naftali

How did your mom react to -- because she was around for the Hiss case and --

Edward Nixon

Yep.

Timothy Naftali

-- she was around for '60 and '62. How did she respond to some of these negative comments about her son?

Edward Nixon

Well, she was completely aware of it. We had a little difficulty getting the news where we were. Dad would only listen to WOR New York, and the evening was the only time you could get it. Fulton Lewis Jr. was his favorite commentator, kind of the Rush Limbaugh of his time, I guess. But mom would listen to Dick when his -- those couple of weekends especially. He came up to the farm and unloaded on her, "What do you think this is coming to?" And she would say -- she was the one that really advised him, "You must do your duty as the law requires it." And, needless to say, he had the greatest respect for her, her comments, because it was never a forceful comment. That was the only time perhaps she ever used "must." "You should try" would be more like her.

Timothy Naftali

Your dad was around for the Hiss case. What did he think?

Edward Nixon

He listened to Fulton Lewis Jr. and reveled in them in the way it was running. In fact, in 1948, I witnessed my first Presidential nomination. What am I trying to --

Timothy Naftali

Convention.

Edward Nixon

Convention, Philadelphia, we were only 90 miles west of Philadelphia. And then Dad said, "Eddie, we're going over to the convention. Come on, let's go." So we drove into Philadelphia and found a place to park the car. And not knowing anything about credentials or anything else, we got into the convention hall, and they would only let us into the basement. That's all right, because down in the basement Dad saw, for the first time, a little cathode ray tube, which we now call a television. And up there was Tom Dewey making a speech. And Dad said, "Is that real? How do they do that?" He couldn't believe it. Well, of course, he was born in 1878. What was thought of in those days? Not even a car. That was my own personal exposure to my dad's push on politics -- get interested in them, you've got to see what they're doing. Well, I did. I told Dick after that convention that -- well, maybe no, this was later on -- that Tom Dewey was an extraordinarily good speaker. I could understand what he was saying. And Dick said, "Yeah, Tom Dewey's good," but he wouldn't say much more, not wanting to mislead me or make me think one thing or another. Make up my own mind, this thing that bugged our family for a long time. Make up your own mind. Don't let me tell you what to do, but learn the facts before you do.

Timothy Naftali

We have a few questions about the helicopter --

Paul Musgrave

About the helicopter. And these are for -- these are for Olivia. And as we said, we'll have a television screen and part of --

Edward Nixon

Okay.

Paul Musgrave

-- the exhibit will be these answers. So, how often did you ride on Marine One?

Edward Nixon

Twice. The first time was a result of my daughter's request to come and stay at the White House with her Uncle Dick. And that finally did happen because he invited us to go back there in 19 -- well, a couple of years after he was in office. I need to get those dates. Anyway, that was a very interesting ride because going back to Andrews Air Force Base from El Toro was less than four hours. Wow, must have had a shortcut somewhere. And then off of Air Force One right into Marine One, landing on the South Lawn, a matter of minutes. And that one thing I noticed about that helicopter, an H-3, Sikorsky H-3, which I had flown, was it was extremely smooth. I think my comment was, "They must have had those mechs working on that thing for hours to balance the blades that well." There wasn't even a one

to one. It was just, "mmm," smooth ride along, really a beautifully clean helicopter. The other time was in San Clemente. I was down here for some event, visited with Dick. Might have been -- no, I can't place the time. That's a hard --

Paul Musgrave

Could it have been for a birthday?

Edward Nixon

Pardon?

Paul Musgrave

Could it have been for a birthday in '71 or '72?

Edward Nixon

Don't think so; maybe it was. We'll have to have the archivist check it out. It was -- anyway, I was in San Clemente and Jack Brennan, who was military aid to the President at the time, said, "How would you like to take a ride in Marine One? The pilot's out there; he's going to go up to Seal Beach and back." "Boy, I would love that." Same thing, absolutely smooth, climbed out up the beach. I didn't much wave at the girls in there because it was -- you know, had the "United States of America." But a short ride in Marine One helicopter would convince anybody that it's the way to go, beautifully done. And it could have been Army One, I've come to understand, depending on who's the pilot. And the one out here I noticed is painted "United States of America," right? So that could be either one, but it is a Sikorski helicopter.

Paul Musgrave

And you flew those?

Edward Nixon

Yep.

Paul Musgrave

Not as nice on the inside.

Edward Nixon

Well, yeah, those anti-submarine helicopters were a little bit more cluttered with debris, dipping sonar and --

Timothy Naftali

And they were noisier.

Edward Nixon

Well, yeah, they would -- they would have a little more flip-flop-flop and a -- you know -- the story I got when I checked into Ellison Field as an instructor, he said, "Now, you know you've been flying those Italian helicopters out there in the Pacific, and then there's these in here that are completely different." I said, "What's an Italian helicopter?" "Well, you know, the egg beaters are the ones that got this like a banana, and they got two counter rotating blades, but an Italian helicopter is the ones like Sikorsky makes. You know, they got a big blade up on top that goes "Wop, wop, wop." And the one in the back goes "Guinea, guinea, guinea." That's an Italian helicopter -- -- not significant for the archives of the United States. But it is what the Americans say that make it an archive.

Timothy Naftali

Well, speaking of what Americans say, tell us why your brother wanted you to go to Duke.

Edward Nixon

That is a story in itself. It was convenient, for one thing, to his location at the time, and I think he planned on staying there a little while, and it was close to the folks in Pennsylvania. And despite my insistence that I wanted to go to Stanford or a California school or to Cal Tech or someplace where I could get the kind of technical stuff I needed, was looking for, he said, "Yes, but you can do that at any great university, and Duke is a great university. Let's go see it." So he found some time and drove me down and from Washington. What did it take, three hours, three and a half hours, something like that? And indeed, it was a magnificent campus, very impressive, modern form of Gothic -- classical Gothic architecture, and -- but it was in the South, Durham, North Carolina. At the time, Durham, everything, Virginia and south, was the South, prejudice, discrimination common, prevailing everywhere. I really think -- and I don't know for sure, but I really suspect that he wanted me to see something different from what California had taught me. What are the extremes in the United States that we need to be thinking about? Because it can't stay like this always. So indeed, checking into Duke, I could see it, except that Duke was a very cosmopolitan school. It wasn't a Southern university. There were many students from New York, New Jersey, Washington, D.C., Florida. Was Florida a Southern state? No, most of New York had moved down there already. So not only from the United States, every state in the Union, countries worldwide, so that cosmopolitan atmosphere could have been a more significant reason, but I don't know.

Timothy Naftali

Do you think that he wanted to -- you gave the impression that you thought he wanted you to see how African-Americans were treated in the South.

Edward Nixon

I wanted to see how whites behaved toward other humans.

Timothy Naftali

What had been your experience with Mexican-Americans in Orange Country?

Edward Nixon

Well, keep in mind that I went to Lowell joint elementary school, and the eighth grade was the end of grammar school as they called it. But from first through eighth, it was a small school. First grade was all first grade; then it was two/three, four/five, six/seven, and then the eighth was all alone. In every class we had a full mixture of ethnic, racial, if you like the word, everybody was there. We had a black girl, we had three Mexican kids, one of which beat me in math and it really ticked me off, and Jewish girls, two of them. It didn't matter; we didn't even know that there was a difference between us. I knew that Alvira Rodriquez [phonetic sp] was smart, because she could do those numbers faster than anybody in the class and she won. And Marjorie Weinz [phonetic sp] must have had a Jewish mother, because she knew everything. She beat me on the Constitution test, and I thought I was pretty good. This kind of revelation really opens your eyes. So going to school in Southern California, it was already, we were already integrated, weren't even thinking about holding a prejudice or using an off-color named for another person. We respected each other. Southern California -- we look at this thing now, and we say we've been flooded by Hispanics, whether Mexican or any other country. The rule we would go by now is if you come to the United States -- by the way we all spoke English, and we took English, and we mastered English as best we could, doesn't matter where we came from. A Japanese kid that was, until Pearl Harbor, was my best buddy. I could never understand why he had to get off the bus at the Japanese school after he's gone to high school. "Why can't you come out and play after school?" "No, I have to go to Japanese school." But I understood that; that's what his parents required. This idea that we bring tolerance up to a certain level, provided we all have a common ground, the language, an appeal for learning that language firmly and well and help the parents learn it as well, and then require a second language of every child, from the ground up, doesn't matter what it is: Spanish, German, English. And then you have a healthy, healthy youth core. We need more language skills; don't discourage it. If you have somebody who's perfectly bilingual, that's a treasure in this country. We don't have many. We certainly need more Arabic-speaking people. We need Farsi-speaking people, Pashtun, whatever. But unfortunately, unless we're privileged to travel and see the rest of the world without behaving like an ugly American, we won't grasp that need. We have to encourage the kids to travel, intermix, intermix with your social arrangement so that you become acquainted with people of another culture and speaking a different language. That's the broadening experience that will make us strong. What did I just say? What question was I answering?

Timothy Naftali

I asked you about what your brother -- you think you remember your brother wanting you to go to Duke to see how whites treated others. And I asked you what had been your experience here in Orange Country because there were a lot of Latinos or Hispanics at the time, and to what extent was there intermingling? And you argued that there was a lot of intermingling.

Edward Nixon

Well, there was. It was not only intermingling; it was genuine friends. There was very little prejudice of any kind. Well, some of the -- I guess some parents might have been pushing them who came from someplace else. But we grew up respecting one another in Southern California. That's come down too far; we got to bring it back. Honor somebody if they can speak a second language, but insist that they learn English. It doesn't -- whether you call it official or whatever, it's the language of the country, and if we have two languages, it won't be as strong.

Timothy Naftali

You wanted to ask about --

Paul Musgrave

I just had one final question, very briefly. Richard Reeves mentions in his biography of your brother that at some point, I think this was in 1971, you suggested to your brother that he try to use motor sports, NASCAR, car racing, that sort of thing, as a way to connect to a new base of voters. Is there anything to that? Do you remember that discussion?

Edward Nixon

Reeves suggested that I said that? Through an intermediary perhaps, and I don't know Reeves, Richard Reeves. He was living in Paris or that's where I heard from him last. He has a limited frame of reference; that's the problem with a writer like that. He knows a lot. He studied a lot. He's read a lot. What I said on that question that you just raised, I recognized here in Southern California at the Pomona Raceway, is it called out here? We went out there one time to a rally, and Dan Gurney, Mario Andretti, several people who really were friendly toward Richard Nixon, appreciated him, they had us into their own private little drinking club, I guess you would call it, to have a drink and watch the race. Well, my brother Don liked that kind of thing. And I watched and I listened and I said, "You know, these people, the fans who come to these races, are great candidates for political support. Don't put them down; compliment them. They entertain, and they entertain without hurting other people except as accidents would occur." Well, I don't know where that went. Who'd I say that to? Ooh, boy, these names, you're going back in time into a realm of names, but he's still alive. He's from Dayton, Dayton, Ohio. Andy Granatelli was there, too. The guy that worked in the '68 campaign rounding up sports celebrities. And that was agreeable to Dick, of course, because sports, he's a sports fan from word go, but not motor sports so much. Andy Granatelli came to me and said, "You know, if you could get your brother to enlist the crowds that are coming to these races, you got a huge base. It's bigger than any other sport." So I passed that on, and apparently Dick picked it up and maybe it leaked back to Russell and Richard Reeves, is that his name, yes? That's fine, I don't object. But I do object to some of the things Richard Reeves assumed from his limited frame of reference.

Timothy Naftali

Tell us about Project Apollo.

Edward Nixon

How much time do we have? This was my most favorite endeavor, not my favorite job. However, let me tell you why. In 1958, October Sky, we had Sputnik. Suddenly we have a missile gap. And Dick says, "We don't have a missile gap; we're on target. And as Congress will let us do it, we'll have a lot more work going on." So this led up to the election of 1960. And with Kennedy's inaugural on January 20, '61, was that when he said we should go to the moon or was that a State of the Union?

Timothy Naftali

It was the next year, in '62.

Edward Nixon

'62, okay, and we said, finally we're getting some interest to get out there and find out what we're all about. And I called Dick, and I said, "You know if they give me a shot at this, would you think I should accept the job?" I was working at the time at Pacific Northwest Bell and interviewing candidates for management positions, craftsmen being considered for management, and that lasted about 13 months. And I got a notice from Bill Bromworth [phonetic sp] from AT&T, he came out and said, "Would you be interested in taking a job at Bellcomm?" I said, "What's Bellcomm?" He said, "We formed a new company out of a core of experts from Bell Labs, and I think you should go back and interview." So that's when I called Dick and he said, "Absolutely, if we'd been in there right now we would be doing something just like this right now. Do it, go, find out what it is. If you're going to spend \$25 billion, make sure they're doing it right." Well, I didn't have any say in that, but I went back for the interview expecting I might be considered for something with selenology, which is moon geology. No, they had a selenologist and he had a Ph.D., and I didn't. So I found out what they really wanted was somebody to interview candidates who were coming out of graduate schools in physics and chemistry and mathematics and so on to try to recruit them into this program. We didn't have to recruit very hard. The applications poured in; everybody wanted to work on it. And my job was to evaluate resumes, hundreds of them, and then find those that I thought various managing directors would like and forward it to their office. If they came back with, "Yes, I want to see this one," or two of them came back, for sure we would invite the candidate at our expense to come to Washington for a day of interviews, a full day and an overnight. They really tore those kids apart, but they were so brilliant I had to leave the reviews. I couldn't understand what they were talking about. It was, well, when you talk about orbital mechanics, that kind of mathematics, it's way beyond my aspheric geometry, let me tell you. And so those were wonderful people, and they're still friends, and I know many of them, know where they've gone. But Apollo became a mission to the moon and Bellcomm was right in at every countdown for launch of the Saturn boosters. Was checked off, Bellcomm was on the check off. They'd sound off this one, that one, Bellcomm go, go, go. So they were very well respected, and I could see why. They were brilliant people. Bell Labs had beautiful people anyway that were way out there. But that was a fascinating experience, and the fact that Dick encouraged me to do that, take that job, go for it, I felt no compunction about his welcoming the astronauts back on Apollo 11. Some people criticized, "Well that should have been Kennedy's job. Or Johnson should have done that." Dick was just as much an astronaut fan as any of them.

Timothy Naftali

Did you go to any of the Apollo launches?

Edward Nixon

Yes, yes, Apollo 14, and I got acquainted with quite a few of the astronauts. Gene Cernan was very -- he was the one that went on the last one, Apollo 17, with Jack Schmidt. Jack Schmidt was the only geologist, you know, that made it to the moon, the last flight. And they found some very exciting rocks, looking like volcanic origin, orange colored rocks. And Buzz Aldrin has become a frequent communicator. I call him anytime I can't answer a question, and he lives over in Beverly Hills. And he

also shares the same guesthouse with my friends in Washington. When he's not there, I can use it. When I'm not there, he can use it, that sort of thing.

Timothy Naftali

So, please tell us about the Apollo 14 launch. You were there.

Edward Nixon

Yes, you're quite a ways from the launch pad. And all kinds of dignitaries are in there, special passes. And I was surprised I even had an invitation because I was a nobody, you know? I was just one of those 400,000 people who worked on Apollo for NASA, man space flight. But there we were; my wife and I both got passes to go. So, you know, it's most exciting when you're in a very balmy climate. You want to take more clothes off, and you can't. And I like cold weather, so you know how many I tried to take off. But I was dressed; I had to be. And when that thing fires off, the sound is just -- you can't record it. You can only experience it. That hydrogen dumping out of the engine, hitting the oxygen, and wham, pop, pop, pop, pop, cracking, cracking. What you call a compression stall on a jet is something like that because that's really what it is. The explosions are just violent explosions. And up it goes, and you watch that trailing trail of water, steam, bon voyage. We need -- we'd been there on number 11, we knew 12 had made it, 13 was not so lucky. Pray that 14 will go all the way. They've learned on each one how to avoid the mishaps, but even on the last one they had things to check out.

Timothy Naftali

Did you talk to -- when he was President did you talk to your brother ever about the Apollo program?

Edward Nixon

Oh, yes, he was extremely, almost gleeful, when that -- you know, with the telephone conversation with the astronauts up there. And then he went out on the carrier, the hornet, for the recovery of Apollo 11, and Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong, as they came aboard the ship he was there waving to them through the glass on the whatever they brought him in on, they had to come in in quarantine. I saw expressions -- and how do you read faces? How do you read hand signals? Were they wondering why is President Nixon here? Later on I'm pretty sure they realized that at least there was one Nixon that had helped them get there and back, so I didn't worry too much about it. But Dick was, he was really elated, and the thing that happened after that, of course, we had a state dinner, the only time we had a state dinner outside of Washington. Now, why was it a state dinner? Because there were representatives from I don't know how many countries, ambassadors and so forth, at -- what was it? -- Century Plaza Grand Ballroom. Neil Armstrong, the Apollo 11 astronauts were there, and the President was giving them an award. There's a tragic story associated with that evening, but that will be in the book. I was seated with an ambassador from Eastern -- maybe it was a Czech ambassador, but Czech -- it would have been Czechoslovakia. And they were all looking at my nose and saying, "Did you have the same parents?" That explains my nose, yes. Sorry, I get that all the time. They look at my face and say, "You must be related." I have to get a little older; we got to get away from that. Apollo was an exciting time for all of us, and Dick was especially pleased that I'd had something to do with it. Good time. A follow-on --

Timothy Naftali

Please.

Edward Nixon

In 1999, I tried to arrange a commemorative journey to China. July 9, 1999, was exactly 28 years after the day that Henry Kissinger landed in '71 starting that opening, cracking the gate. I had requested to re-visit all the spots that Dick had done on that very first trip: landing in Beijing, greeting Zhou Enlai, traveling down to the Hongshui, composing the communiqué, going to Shanghai, delivering the communiqué and leaving. So I asked Hang Zhou if he could help. And he assigned the mission to a thing called the Chinese Peoples Association – [Chinese Peoples Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries] It's in the book. But retired ambassadors formed this association to respond to requests from foreigners who wanted to visit China for special purposes. And I had the most remarkable time organizing this with James Humes, and his sponsor Dr. Riles [phonetic sp], and we previewed what we could do. We made a trip in '98. We were met by Ambassador Jong Zingsong [phonetic sp] who told us what we would do. And he brought in ambassador, former ambassador, retired Ambassador Chaozhu Ji [Ji Chaozhu] who was the interpreter who had grown up in the United States, in Manhattan and was Zhou Enlai's interpreter. His English was impeccable, and he was delighted to come and meet somebody wanting to commemorate him. There must have been at least a dozen other ambassadors. They came in one by one, and I'd interview each one, and then James Humes had his turn at it, and you know James Humes. He could have written the biography of that story, easily, still will, probably. The most interesting one was the one who was assigned to clean up the road from Beijing airport into the town, the city. And his comment was, "You know, we were very happy to see that you could accomplish that voyage to the moon and back. And we understand that it took 400,000 cadre to do that." He said, "But do you know that Zhou Enlai beat you?" I said, "How?" "Well, he called up 700,000 cadre to sweep the highway from the airport to Beijing on the day your brother arrived." It's worth a laugh, and it was true. He actually had them out there, and Dick remarked how many were out there with these little straw brooms trying to keep the snow off the road. Remarkable, and boy, has that place changed since then. Unfortunately that year, '99, we had bombed the Chinese embassy and that -- where was it?

Timothy Naftali

Belgrade.

Edward Nixon

Belgrade, yes. And I had 250 volunteers not wanting to participate, take the tour. We wound up with three. We had a red carpet that was designed for a lot more, but they were very gracious and it worked out fine.

Timothy Naftali

John, do you have a question?

John Powers

I think I'm done. Thank you.

Timothy Naftali

We would like to have a number of exhibits in the museum and we are using these interviews as a way of capturing some wonderful anecdotes. And if you're not too tired of us, I'd love to end this interview on the story of your daughter's trip to the White House, which you told in front of everyone, but we now have an opportunity to capture it on tape. It's a wonderful story, and if you'd indulge us, please tell it to us, Mr. Nixon.

Edward Nixon

We need to get it in the right context and timing. I think it's -- I have it pretty well. I've looked at it a lot. 1968, after the November election, my youngest daughter, Beth, who was the literate one in the family, more literate than Amy, but then Amy was the artist. It takes all kinds to make a family. Beth wrote a letter, and her mother and I knew nothing about this letter until a couple years later actually. And it was spring break time, maybe it was 1970. I can't remember the exact year, but I had a call from Rose Woods. My brother was down in San Clemente. Pat was still back at the White House; she hadn't come out this trip. But Dick had instructed Rose to call me and ask me to gather my family and bring them down to LAX, Los Angeles International. They picked me up in a limousine and took my family over to El Toro for a ride on Air Force One. And I said "Rose, what's this about? Where did this come from?" "Never mind, we'll tell you when you get here." So I said, "Okay, we'll take that as a Presidential order." We bought our tickets and went to L.A. and they picked us up in a limousine, drove us to El Toro. We boarded Air Force One. Gay and the girls went aboard and Dwight Chapin appeared in the doorway and said, "Ed, you were wondering what all of this was about. Here's the reason you are here." And I saw this little letter. "Dear Uncle Dick, I'm glad you were elected President. I'd like to come and visit you at the White House. Please write and tell me when I can come." We made the trip, landed at Andrews Air Force Base about four hours later. Boarded Marine One, landed on the South Lawn and going into the diplomatic reception room on the ground floor right off the South Lawn, Dick started talking to the girls. He knew I'd been there before and Gay, too. And he said, "Now girls, you look around the White House, you'll find phones everywhere. If you ever need anything, just pick up a phone. You don't have to dial anything, there's always somebody answering the phone saying, 'Can I help you?' Just tell them who you are and where you are and what you want." And then he headed out the door and said, "Now let's go look at the rest of the house." And Beth piped up and says, "But Uncle Dick, how will I know where I am?" "Well I'm going to show you the whole house so come along, follow me."

So he proceeded through every floor, all the way to the top, all the rooms. And up at the top level, I don't know how many people know what it's like up there, but on the south side of the White House overlooking the Tidal Basin, the South Lawn, there's a place called the solarium. And from the hallway being down in the solarium there's a slight slope. And he said, "You notice that this, the hallway goes downhill right here. That's because President Roosevelt was crippled, you know, and he used to take his wheelchair down here and watch the sun rise. He really enjoyed that view, looking out over the Potomac, the Tidal Basin. Now let's go eat." So we proceeded down to the family dining room on the second floor and had a wonderful meal. Got the girls to bed, we thought, but not Beth. She was determined to make notes on everything that was happening because she had been instructed to do so.

Her mother said, "When you go back to school you're going to have to tell about this. This is an extraordinary, inspiring experience for us all." So Beth was living up to the word. Amy was making notes about the décor and the color of the paint and everything in the house, but not Beth. She got up at about 5:00, determined to see what the sunrise looked like over the South Lawn, sat in the solarium waiting for the sun to come up. Pretty soon she decided to test Dick's offer. So she picked up the phone and said, "Hello, this is Beth. I'm in the solarium, and I'd like a Coke and some creamed corn," and hung up the phone. Well, about 30 minutes later in comes the guy, white tails, silver tray, Coke, creamed corn, set it down. And of course she made notes. She wrote it all up, all ready to go. The sad part of the story is that when she got back home, expecting to tell all about her experience in Washington at show and tell, the teacher wouldn't call on her, not for the rest of the year. She'd hold her hand up. She had a story to tell, an inspiring story. But it seems the teacher, who I don't name, but she was too politically correct and was afraid she might hurt the self-esteem of other children who didn't have such an opportunity. What a mistake. Inspiration is how we gain, inspire the kids. So that's a story that touches a lot of people, especially young teachers.

Timothy Naftali

Do you have an anecdote about your brother that you'd like to share with us before we end? One that we haven't touched on today that you'd like to preserve in our archives?

Edward Nixon

One thing, going back there at the age of seven at Duke to watch his graduation from law school at Duke, it was hot. I fell asleep on a hammock until the mosquitoes woke me up. And when we went back in to get dressed for the graduation ceremony, I told my mom, "I never want to go to this school. It's too hot and mosquito-y." Dick, though, persuaded me years later. "You can tolerate the mosquitoes, and the heat isn't that bad. Just wear a t-shirt." Dick was involved in so many family things. My girlfriend at the time, when I was in college, was the daughter of the candy salesman who used to come to the store. And she was working for my brother Don as a receptionist, beautiful Mary Irving. And I insisted that she stay for lunch because Dick and Pat were there, and my mom was cooking some things, and I said, "Mary, you could help mom set the table." She says, "I'll do that, but I don't want to stay." She was too shy, and Dick made her feel at ease. And so she met the guy who would become President. And she's reminded me about it a few times; she remembers it. There are memorable things in life, some that you could never forget. And kindness is like that, where it would stick in your mind.

Timothy Naftali

Thank you very much.