

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Democratic Party of Trumbull County

Political Experience

O. H. 631

DR. WILLIAM J. TIMMINS JR.

Interviewed

by

Mark Dittmer

on

May 17, 1977

DR. WILLIAM J. TIMMINS JR.

Dr. William J. Timmins Jr., Chairman of the Democratic Party of Trumbull County, has played a leading role on the continuation and development of the party in Trumbull County.

Dr. Timmins was born on July 27, 1917 and grew up in Boston, Massachusetts. He studied at Brighton High in Boston and pursued college studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., having graduated in 1941. His ambition in college was that of the medical profession and he proceeded to attend the Kirksville College of Osteopedic Medicine (D.O.) and Kansas City University to receive his degree of M.D. He then returned to Boston until coming to Warren, Ohio taking an internship in St. Joseph's Hospital in 1960.

In 1960, Timmins became active in local politics running for county coroner. Gaining respect in local party ties Timmins was elected to chairmanship of the Democratic Party in 1962. He, along with Secretary Mitchell Shaker, ran a highly progressive executive committee. Timmins worked heavily on trying to gain an increase of voter registration in the county.

Timmins presently is chief of staff at Warren General Hospital and vice-president of the Ohio State Medical Board of Osteopedic Medicine. He is a member of Rotary and has a title of 4th Degree in K of C.

Timmins presides in Warren, Ohio along with his wife Mary Alice. They are the parents of eight children.

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INTERVIEWEE: DR. WILLIAM TIMMINS JR.
INTERVIEWER: Mark Dittmer
SUBJECT: executive committee, role of chairman, views,
internal structure of party, future of party
DATE: May 17, 1977

D: This is an interview with William J. Timmins for Youngstown State University Oral History Program. Today's interview is located in Warren, Ohio on May 17, 1977 at 3 p.m. The topic discussed will be on the history of the Democratic Party in Trumbull County.

First Doctor Timmins, I would like to ask you to give a description of your family and political background and relate what or who has motivated you to go into the field of politics?

T: I moved to Warren. I had a residency at St. Joseph's Hospital. I met my wife and we decided to settle in Warren, Ohio. The fact is we have eight children. We have eleven grandchildren. We live at 3280 East Market Street.

How or why I got involved in politics I really don't know. I ran for public office once and I must have impressed some people, because they wanted me for chairman. The next thing I knew I was rated committee-man and I was elected chairman of the democratic party. I enjoyed the contacts. I just wanted to stay chairman. I've been there ever since for about sixteen or eighteen years.

D: What public office did you run for?

T: I ran for coroner.

D: Could you give a summary of your years in the service

as the chairman?

T: I enjoyed every minute of it. I met some very fine gentlemen. These fine gentlemen are both democrats and republicans. There are a lot of very fine gentlemen, republicans, that ran for office, dedicated people. The democrats also. These people, I think I've been very fortunate to be associated with them. Most of them try to do a job. There's a lot to be done. There's a lot needed. More people should become involved. We try to get people involved. We don't care whether you're a democrat or republican. There's a need for people to get involved and to help make this a better area. I think there's a job to be done. I think both democrats and republicans try to do the job. Both party chairmans work to get good candidates to run. It's not easy to get good people to run for office. For some reason or another, people just don't like the word politics. It takes a tremendous amount of your time, but we still try to get people involved. It qualifies good people to run for office, because there's a job to be done. Unless both parties don't address themselves to it, then we find ourselves with real problems. You read about some of these problems in the paper where we have officeholders who have failed to fill up to the standards which we all have and we all set.

D: When did you first become chairman and can you make an analysis of up to today?

T: We were very elated. When I first became chairman we had many, many republican officeholders. Since I have been chairmen, with good shape there was a secretary of the party due to the work cost. I think we have most of the elected officials in Trumbull County all elected, democratic officeholders, judges, sheriffs, prosecutors, solicitors and so forth. So, there are a tremendous number of elected democratic officials in Trumbull County as compared to the number that were elected when we first became involved in politics.

D: What year did you come in as chairman?

T: I don't remember.

D: You don't know?

T: No, I'm sorry.

D: 1960?

T: Probably about sixteen or eighteen years.

D: Is there anything that you recall as a moment more than any as being chairman, high points and low points?

T: I think the biggest thrill I had was when I was made chairman. I had an awesome responsibility. I had an idea. I only had an idea. I had no idea the tremendous amount of work you had to do of it. You meet a lot of nice people, I've enjoyed every end of it.

D: Could you give a description of how the democratic party in Trumbull County is run?

T: We run it like a republican party. First of all, the smallest political subdivision is your precinct. We try to get people involved in the precinct. The precinct might have 400 voters in the precinct. You try to get people to run for that office. Plus in the democratic party, we always have at least two or three running. There's a lot of enthusiasm in those jobs. They run for it. After when they're elected, then they all join together. We have about 270. Then we meet within a certain time to satisfy the law and go into the rules. Then they all get together, and they elect a chairman and a secretary and an executive. You're in there for two years. You serve for two years.

Then, you come up again. You go before the precinct wherever it has to go before the people on the ballot. You are a public elected official. You're an elected public official. You're on the ballot and you're elected. Then in two years if you want to be a committeeman again you go. You may have competition in your precinct to get elected.

After you're elected, there are a certain number of days after you're elected that you have a meeting of all of the committeemen. They again elect their chairman, secretary. That goes on every two years just like that.

D: Changing the subject a little bit, what is the purpose of the executive and central committee in the party?

T: The central committee as you understand would represent the entire county populationwise. So everybody in the county in 25 townships, each precinct, the smallest political subdivision, will have a representative that meets. They formulate policies as to how you take care of the elections. If there's an opening, say the sheriff dies or something happened to the prosecutor or a judge dies or retires, then it would be their responsibility to get together and appoint someone until the next election.

D: And the executive committee?

T: The executive committee meets more often because it's smaller, not necessarily though. Because again, we like to think that everybody is involved. But the executive committee represents in the county about twenty-two districts. So you take down the 270 committeemen and you divide them into 22 groups. So each executive committee member will have information relative to his precinct. So when you have a meeting, there may be a problem in Brookfield or something like that or they may be behind in registration. They bring that information to the executive committee and we try to resolve it, help it or correct it, whatever we can.

D: In Trumbull County, can you give us an analysis of the voting trend in 1960 and then allthrough the 1960's and through the 1970's?

T: The democrats, we uphold the republicans. We do that continuously. I mean about being registered. An example is the city of Warren with about 14,000 registered democrats, about 7,000 registered republicans, about 7,000 independents.

When you come to Niles, it's crazy. It's about seven to one democrats. Girard's about all democrats. There's only a fist full of republicans in Girard. It's the same way throughout the county. So, we have an outvote. We out-register, put it that way, the republicans. So, this is a strong democratic area.

D: Other than county offices, the city offices seem to be more dominated by the republicans like mayor and your councilmen. Why is that?

T: No, not necessarily so now. We have in the city of Warren primarily democrats. Girard is all democrats. Niles is all democrats. But once in a while you get, and certainly in Girard, a republican mayor. At one time in Warren we had a republican mayor. The republican mayor in Warren just got in.

We had some dissident democrats who came out for the mayor. It was probably enough influence for him to get him elected. But he was just barely elected; nevertheless, he's elected. He's our mayor, but we've had a lot of democrats in there. I can't account for it because again the democrats are real democratic. If they voted a straight party ticket, there would be no republicans in Trumbull County. So when it comes to a general election, they have their own convictions. We try to make available candidates that will be bought by the registered democrats out of concern. It's not easy. That's the problem we have in politics is you get people

who are qualified to run for office. A lot of people don't want to get involved. So many times you may have someone, but unless he's a real extrovert getting out and campaigning and shaking hands and getting to all these meetings and so forth you can't get about to be recognized by the electors. You can't win unless you do that.

So if you get a new face, someone that's well qualified to develop that technique of getting out and shaking hands and having the newspaper support you and everybody else, it's not easy. It's really difficult to get out and do. Campaigning is a real technique. Most of us don't have it. It's very difficult to suddenly get out and move about in the city or county and shake the hand of everyone and say, "I'm John Smith; I'm running for this and I'm running for that." Most people are not built like that. Unless you have an individual who's willing to spend time, it takes a terrible amount of time and a tremendous amount of energy to get out and place yourself before the electorate and campaign. It takes a lot. It takes a lot from your family and if you have an office or profession it takes a lot from that. A lot of people think it's not worth it.

What we try to do is get people who will do that. You just can't get someone to run for office and just put their name down. You've got to get out and work. That is very difficult to get someone who's willing to sacrifice. Really I don't think it's that rewarding financially for these offices.

D: How does a campaign run and is there a large coalition with labor?

T: No, I don't think so. The democratic party is independent and the organized labor is independent. We're very happy when we see eye to eye. We have had many occasions where we didn't see eye to eye at all with organized labor and they didn't see eye to eye with us. Most of the time we work together and we agree on things and so forth. That's it.

They have their own screening committees. So they invite the candidates before them. Organized labor has time after time endorsed and financed the campaigns or republicans for office. But we try to provide leadership that they will buy and we usually do.

D: Can the democratic party in Trumbull County exist without labor?

T: I'll say this, we can't exist without them and they can't

exist without us. I know this is playing make-believe, because we do have problems. Apparently over the years we had worked together and we're still together. But again, remember, you can have five children in a family sitting down and you can't get them to agree. So you have more in common than you don't have in common. As a rule, we have been able to understand each other very well. Yet we each are independent, very independent. The last election organized labor, the auto workers, came out and supported a republican candidate for commissioner. So we do have our differences, but as a whole we're talking now about the future for governors and so forth. This we have addressed ourselves to. I think we seem to have a consensus opinion on that and that's all I'm going to say about it.

D: What are your main political philosophies and creeds and how are they applied to the democratic party in Trumbull County?

T: First of all, we try to get people to become registered voters and we try to get people to vote. But, first of all, we want to get them registered. They should have some interest in the community, that little civic pride, enough pride to check to find out who's running and check their background and get out and vote for them. I don't care what side they're on. That's what they should do and that's what we try to get.

What we do is try to get people to run for office who are qualified. First, you have to be qualified. If we get a qualified person who's willing to work, I told you about working before, it takes a tremendous amount of time. Then we'll go all out and try to get them elected. Once they're elected, as far as we're concerned that's it; they're on their own. We don't go down; we don't have a flower fund; we don't demand this from them; we don't demand that from them. All we try to do is to get someone who is qualified, who is interested and who will work, get him elected, and he is the officeholder. He chooses who he wants to put him there. If he comes to us and says, "Dr. Timmins I have two openings, do you have anybody you would like to have in there, a recommendation?" I will go to the executive committee and say, "Look, John Smith has been elected this way. He would like to have two assistants. He wants two auditors and they have to be qualified." Then what we would do is probably get several names and present it to the elected official and he has his choice. But once they're elected all we ask from them once they're elected is that when we have a general election we don't like to endorse in primaries. When we have a general election they become part of the team

and help us elect that candidate.

D: When do you think the democratic party in Trumbull County was at its peak of existence and who were some of the individuals?

T: I think we're at the peak right now. If the peak means you have more elected democrats than ever before, we have to say now, because we have been getting better every year.

D: Who's responsible for this?

T: I think each and every registered democrat that becomes interested and becomes involved and helps elect democrats, those are the ones that deserve the credit. I can't speak too highly of Mitch Shaker. Mitch Shaker has been secretary of the party. We've become involved in this together. We think he is pretty terrific.

D: Having accounted for highest point, can you speculate upon its lowest ever?

T: Yes, I think the lowest ever was when I became chairman, just before, because they had a scandal and the former chairman went to jail to the penitentiary. I think three committeemen of Warren went to jail. I think that's as far as the democrats got. It was only right after that I was new to Warren. I was a Bostonian. I came here. Several people running for office, I had helped them occasionally. Then, I ran for this office and apparently some chemistry existed there so that I was suddenly made a committeeman and made a chairman all in a short period of time. We enjoyed it and we had a lot of good people that worked with us. The whole democratic party has been very successful since and more successful every time.

D: Have you any internal problems within the party itself?

T: No, we haven't had any. Most of the executive committee members have been elected every year. Mitch Shaker has been secretary, running every year. We've had people who have run against us in the democratic and presented themselves. We have come out with a unanimous decision always. Our treasurer, all of our vice chairmen, the way we've always done this is we try to take care of the whole county. Before we have elections, we draw up a slate. We go to this area and we ask committeemen this, "Look at John Smith. Do you think he has done a job for us? Do you like him again?" They give us blessings and things like that. So we have a slate made up. It's pretty solid in that these people have good contacts before. They've done their job and they're responsible people. It's all

a stand-up vote. It's a roll call vote because we are elected public officials. We receive a certificate from the Secretary of State to the effect that we are elected public officials, so there's no secret stuff. You know you have a right to accept, reject or whatever you want to do.

D: Changing to the national scene for awhile, do you think the days of Mayor Daily are over?

T: Well, I admired Mayor Daily. He was terrific. I came from the city of Boston where we had a team of Michael Kirwan, who was another great leader. I think Mayor Daily did a tremendous job in Chicago. You cannot satisfy everybody. All you have to do is have a family of five kids and sit down to decide who's going to eat what and what you want. It's not that easy when you're trying to run a city like he's done. He's done a beautiful job. I think he should be commended; he did a fine job. I don't know a city that has a leader that you could compare to Daily or Haige in Jersey City or Kirwan in Boston. But whether Daily is good or bad will determine whether people become involved. Whether he's good or bad depends on whether they're going to get involved. Now it's pretty horrible here, the number of people who are interested in elected officials; they do nothing; they sit at home. A lot of them do a lot of griping, but they don't want to get involved. I have no sympathy for people like that. For people who get involved, I think it's wonderful; they should. They should know what's going on. But then the apathy is horrible. Unless we do something about it, you can have people that are running shows that are bad. It's up to the people if we're doing a lousy job. You can't sit back and let someone else put someone in office, then start complaining about it. You should become interested in it. You should read the paper. You should find out about the individual. You can become registered and you get to vote. If you do that, then people like Daily, if they're good you're going to keep him in office. If you think they're bad, you're going to remove him from office. So, I don't have sympathy for people who are going to criticize unless they're going to get involved. Again whether or not he's good or bad depends on the people electing him. Apparently, the people who thought he was a good mayor went and elected him year after year. That's all I can say.

D: Is the democratic party in Trumbull County similarly run to that of Mahoning County or Cuyahoga County?

T: Absolutely not.

D: What's the difference?

T: I know how we run it. First of all, we do not have any flower funds. There are no officeholders, like I say; we don't go to the officeholders and tell them this or that. If they want to, they can come to us; if we can help them, we will. But once they're elected, as far as we're concerned, they are the elected officials and they run the show. They are the elected chair-ups; they are the elected prosecutors; they are the elected judge. So, as far as I'm concerned they run it. I think it's a little different down there in Mahoning County.

Another thing, the ones who determine policy in the democratic party in Trumbull County are elected officials. The Secretary of State, your name is on the ballot. That's not so in Mahoning County. You hear where they appoint people. At first they get elected; then the chairman or someone appoints a lot of people and they're not elected. So everybody in Trumbull County is elected. They're on the ballot. They're elected by the people. They're elected and rejected by the people. So you're elected by the people, everybody.

D: How about in Cuyahoga?

T: Before, I think the chairman down there was on Congressman Carney's payroll. We had never been on anybody's payroll.

D: None of the officials for Trumbull County are paid?

T: No, they receive zero, zilch; there's no payment; there's no flower fund. No one gives you anything like that.

D: What do you see as far as the future of the democratic party in Trumbull County?

T: All I can tell you is from as long as I've known it it has gotten more people elected than ever before. We have more elected democratic officials than ever before. If not for a few flukes, we would have had a lot more in there too. But that's all you know.

D: Ideally, if you could run the party any way that you wanted, what would you change if nobody could stand in your way?

T: I wish I could do something to get everybody registered and to get everybody to vote. I wish I could do something that could get people to become involved, something that could get them involved, so that everybody would vote. This way, we're bound to have a better community, because I think in any area there's a job to be done. I think both

democrats and republicans should try to do it. But, maybe we do it a little differently. Most of the public officials I have met, democrats and republicans, are trying to do a good job. They have different ways of doing it, but at least they got involved and they're trying. For that reason I give them all the credit in the world. But if I had to do something I would like to get more people, everybody, involved. Kids, when they become eighteen, have them get registered. Have them talk about it in their civics class whether we should have sewers here, whether Trumbull County instead of having all of these cities and municipalities, whether we should have a metro form of government, which I think is terrible. Metro form is where you have one police chief in Trumbull County, one fire commissioner. You would not have school buses running all over the place. You would have one organization that takes care of all of the buses; transportation, communication, sanitation, water, zoning would be for the whole county. You wouldn't have a school like they have in Lordstown that paid six and one half million dollars and another township has a school that doesn't have any money. It would be a fair distribution of the talents of the county. Now, people should talk about that and address themselves to it. There used to be a time when Girard and Niles, and Niles and Warren, there was a great distance between these cities. Now we butt up against each other. Our utilities are back to back. There should be some relief like that. So maybe a talk about a metro form of government or something like that. . . But people should get involved. Kids should get involved in their civic classes. They should be able to go home and talk to their parents to have an idea of the needs of the community and how we're going to meet them. So I think this is what I would like to see. I would like to see more people get involved, more people with qualifications decide to run for office. You don't have to make a career out of it. You could run there. You could run for commissioner. It's not a full-time job; it's a part-time job. You could run for it, and a man who has a lot of ability could go in there with his business knowledge, and he might be able to do terrific things for the county. He doesn't have to stay in there all of his life, maybe go in there for a couple of terms or something like that; then someone else could become involved. But we have got to get involved. If we don't, then we are going to have problems.

You know with the environment, pollution and so forth, we have more problems every day.

D: Speaking upon the youth now, where is the youth vote in Trumbull County and why is the percentage so low?

T: It's no lower here than it is in Peoria, Illinois. We had the same enthusiasm in the eighteen years that it became of age. They were going to go out and do this and that. We knew they were going to do no more than the adults. They're no different than your adults, their parents. They have apathy; we have apathy. But, at least we went to the civic groups and the classes and we brought some in by buses and so forth. We did everything possible to get them involved. We talked to teachers in civic classes and asked them; we have been out to the Howland Schools talking in the classes to try to get them enthused. We'll do anything to get them registered. But once they're registered you can't go out and bring them in to vote. We have all kinds of places available to make it easy for them to register, schools, libraries, malls; you name it, we provide it. Just to get the community to register then, it's up to them to get involved. But we would like to see many, many more involved. It's the same all over.

D: With the youth, concerning about 15,000 youth in Trumbull County that are eligible voters, why isn't there a young democratic society? One has never been organized?

T: Oh, we've had numerous young gentlemen who've been very, very active. It's just like the adults, you get women's clubs in Niles, Hubbard, Girard, and so forth. I was at two meetings last night, one in Warren, Jefferson Democratic Club, and the Federal Democratic Women's Club. They had a large turnout at Girard. But we have a Federal Democratic Women's Club in Warren. They're the same faces. You don't have a lot of new faces. It's not easy to get people. You have Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts. You've got junior this and junior that. You have the Latin Club and the French Club. These kids are tied up more than they ever were. There are all kinds of activities. You have baseball, basketball, and so forth. They don't have a chance to get together unless they have them at school. You know the activity at school, once kids get out they want to get home and do whatever they want to do. So it's not easy, but we did have some young dems in Trumbull County that were very successful. Again, they had other things they wanted to do. It's not easy.

The same way with the parents. We can't even get their parents to vote. Now you get the parents and what kind of an atmosphere is it when kids come home from school and have stuff and so forth on election day and the parents are not even going to vote. The kids are aware of that, because you read about it in the paper, tomorrow's election day. Kids come home and probably say to their mother, "Did you vote?" "Oh, I wouldn't vote for that crook," or something like that. These are the things, the discouraging remarks. You're not going to get the

kids to do it. We've had a lot of young kids in Trumbull County who were bubbling over with enthusiasm. They're to be congratulated, but we don't have enough of them.

D: Is there a comparison between the students of the late 1960's and the students of today?

T: No, I think they're always the same.

D: Even with the student movements of the late 1960's and the demonstrations?

T: Well, they petered out fast. They were very vociferous at one time. We probably had more people call us up and say, "Doc, what can I do for you? Can I help you?" Offering services. We don't have much of that lately. We kind of have to get out and get it. When you do get someone, they always want to make a few dollars. We don't have that kind of money. When we have elections, the candidates decide what they're going to do. We'll spend this much for this, this for radio. They have their own budget, so you don't have much left over to pay kids like that. A lot of them, "Doc, can you give me this" Can you pay me for doing this?" We try to get people from headquarters to volunteer and so forth. Then you have problems, rent and so forth. I don't think there's too much, but at one time there was a lot of enthusiasm in the community.

At the board of elections we had problems with someone who wasn't quite the right age and wanted to know if he could register now because he was going away to school and that sort of thing. The same apathy exists with the kids that exists with their parents. When you've got parents that are voting, they're involved and they talk about it at suppertime; chances are the kids will vote and talk about it. But if they don't, the parents didn't vote today, then the kids are not going to.

D: In the past election the percentage for Trumbull County was the fourth highest in the nation as far as people apt to vote, which 93% of the registered voters did vote in Trumbull County.

T: In the presidential election our district, the nineteenth congressional district, was the second highest in the state. We understand from good sources that it was the second highest in the United States.

D: So Trumbull County isn't apathetic?

T: This was a terrific election. Here was a man--they always

accuse the democrats of machine politics--that nobody knew. I was so happy about it. He didn't know anybody. He went everywhere he was invited. He went to present his credentials. You either accept them or you reject them. He went all over and he was accepted by the majority of the people of this country. He didn't come up from the ranks. He was just a fellow from Georgia who worked hard to gain governor and he worked hard to get the job. Now he decided he wanted to be President of the United States and he sold it to them. People liked him. He was refreshing. He was somebody different and people liked that. We went crazy when we had his son Chip, when we had our county fair up here, which was one of the first county fairs in the state of Ohio. When I talked to Chip, I picked him up at the airport, Chip Carter; he said he was playing ball, 10:00 in the morning playing ball. Some said, "Hey, you have to go to Warren, Ohio. They want you up there." He went home and took a shower, got on the plane, and flew up here. They flew him. He took a commercial flight up here just like that, spontaneous. You know that reflects the attitude of the father, the president. He went wherever he was invited. He would leave on the deck. Who the hell knew him? Well, nobody until now. But whatever it is, he sold himself. He appealed to the people, and we never had such a turnout. He was easy to buy and easy to sell.

D: You brought up the term machine politics. But actually, what is this in Trumbull County?

T: You don't have it in Trumbull County.

D: Did we used to have it back in the 1940's?

T: I think machine politics was an idea associated with Chicago and the big cities where they expect to get certain votes out, when there's a close proximity, in these areas where they have tenement houses and so many people in there. The bosses and the ward captain knew everybody. If you moved in or moved out, they had a card on you. On election day they could guarantee to get so many votes out. That's what I say is machine politics. You know they were close to the group. He has been all over the place. Then they probably paid him and they're guaranteed in this precinct that they'll have 800 voters. They can get those 800 out there by telephoning. They call them up, "Did you vote yet?" I think that's more or less machine politics.

D: But Trumbull County doesn't have the organization for machine politics?

T: No, no, that would take money and so on. We have not had that. I think this is the way it should be. You don't

want to have people come in there with a barrel of money and try to buy this and buy that. There's no remuneration for the chairman or the secretary or treasurer, not like that. The only money spent is when the prime result in the general election comes up. All of the candidates get together. This term we're going to have eight or ten parties in certain districts. What do we have? We usually have a spaghetti or something like that. We invite the policemen from this area. They have it over here. We might have it at the Howard Johnson, have a breakfast on a Sunday, invite them, have some eggs, bacon, toast and orange juice. We try to get them together in small groups of forty or fifty like that and go around. The candidates go with us. We go together. You can talk to the people if they're out there all day. You have a committeeman. These are the ones that have been elected in their precinct. They probably know more than anybody else and know more people. And if they want to, they can get out and do a little bit of job for you. Maybe later on they'll decide--well, I'm going to have a couple of block parties on Saturday night. We'll meet at Joe's house at seven or something else now. We'll have coffee and donuts. If you all come in, I'll introduce you. So all of the candidates are happy to move in that small group. But if you multiply that many times, you find you can cover your area very well. So this is what we do. We see it more successfully.

D: Changing to the national scene, what future do you see for the democratic party?

T: I think Carter is terrific. I think it's fantastic. That's good, because it's for the country, for the whole country. It's just not for the democrats; it's for the whole country. I think he's doing a good job. He has got a tremendous job, you know, just air pollution and cutting down on the contaminating of lakes and everything else. To have people abide by rules and regulations, it's tough.

You know what they do in Africa now, giving the majority their rights. You have a problem with the English. Fighting people over there starts easy. The whole world, it's tough.

Look at the energy crisis. It's rough. When they make rules, it's not for me, it's for you. It's tough. We're all a little selfish like that. We're not as noble as we should be. It's tough to try to get people to comply. Anybody, I don't care if they're republicans or not, I'm very sympathetic. I'm very understanding when the problems erupt, but we have to do something about it.

D: Do you think we'll always have a two party system or do you think it's going to change?

T: You've got to have a two party system. It's a check and countercheck, check and balance. You've got to have that. When the democrats go to bat, you've got to have somebody to go in there. If they don't then you and I, the ordinary people, they're going to take an awful beating. We've got to have something like that.

D: Do you think the national republican party is in danger right now in 1977?

T: I think that if Nixon keeps going on television it's going to hurt them more and more. I think that they are in trouble, serious trouble. It's too hard, because they have a lot of very fine gentlemen, republican officeholders. I'm for a two party system, check and balances. It's good. It keeps you on your toes. It keeps both parties on their toes. They both try to get better candidates to run and so forth. That's good. I want to see the republicans stay strong.

D: Summing it up now, being a doctor and being the chairman of the democratic party, is there any way of coalition of the intertwining of thoughts or have you yet to keep them separate?

T: No, I've always been for Medicare. I think we all have a responsibility to the unfortunate. I'm very serious about that. I'm afraid that most of us doctors do not contribute as much as we should to the community, back in to the community. By that I mean become a member of the civic committees and communities and so forth, taking time away from your office and family to get involved. I'm afraid not many doctors do that. I think that they should, because people used to look up to the doctors. That image is not like it used to be, I'll put it that way. The doctors do have a lot of influence. They should get out and get involved. As far as I'm concerned, I've always thought that you are your brother's keeper. I'm very serious about that. I was for medicare or anything. These people are entitled to it. They are entitled to the best. There should be no grades in medicine. They're entitled to it.

I'm violently opposed to sending all of this money to Europe. I think that's terrible. I think that's a catastrophe, a disaster. Send them everything, give them the best. But to just pour money into some of these countries that are a direct conflict with our philosophy when there's so much needed here. . . If we had a surplus here, that's different, but we don't. We have problems here. We have people that are not being fed properly.

We have cancer that we have to get after. We've got to get rid of this cancer. We could do it if we spend money on research and multiple sclerosis. There are things here that we could correct and probably cure, like we did polio, if we spent money on it. I think we should do that. I think we should take out money and spend it on this country and make it the best country in the world, second to none. Get rid of the poverty. Get people jobs and so forth, rather than spend it on a foreign country, because those people don't give a damn for this country.

D: I've covered most aspects of the democratic party. Are there any aspects that I haven't covered that you would like to cover?

T: No, I can't think of any. The only real problem we've ever had is that more qualified people should get involved. I think people should get involved. There's a lot of fine, great people in office that are officeholders. They're good people and they're trying to do a job, but they've got to have help. As we get old, we have to have young people come in that are willing to get involved and help to make this a better place. You need this. If they become complacent and don't even want to vote and don't want to do this, then it's going to be kind of rough. Then you might get another element that steps in that may not be just what you wanted.

END OF INTERVIEW