

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Democratic Party of Trumbull County

Political Experience

O.H. 190

LYNN G. GRIFFITH JR.

Interviewed

by

Mark Dittmer

on

April 16, 1977

LYNN B. GRIFFITH

Lynn B. Griffith Jr. was born in Cleveland, Ohio on November 6, 1927 to Stata M. and Lynn B. Griffith Sr. He graduated from Warren G. Harding High School in Warren, Ohio. His family was active in the politics of the Democratic Party and he was influenced by his father to proceed into the field of law for a career. Lynn graduated from Youngstown State University--then Youngstown College--in 1951 with a degree in Business Administration with a major in Accounting. Then in 1955 he graduated from Youngstown Law School with a Bachelor of Laws degree.

Lynn B. Griffith Jr. proceeded from law school and went into practice in Warren as a Certified Public Accountant and worked in the tax field with commercial businesses in the area. Thinking that it would be interesting to visit the courtroom as a criminal attorney, Griffith was initiated into local politics in 1960 when he was elected the County Prosecutor of Trumbull County. Holding that post for four years, Griffith Jr. ran for Common Pleas Judge and served as such for seven years. He has stepped aside since 1971 as is currently practicing law privately in a firm in Warren.

Lynn B. Griffith Jr. resides in Warren, Ohio with his wife, the firmer Frances Iannizzaro, whom he married in August of 1947, and they are the parents of six children. Lynn holds high recognition in the community for

social service activities and has served with the Urban League and the Northeastern Ohio Council of Drug Abuse. His hobby is collecting American political items.

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INTERVIEWEE: LYNN B. GRIFFITH JR.

INTERVIEWER: Mark Dittmer

SUBJECT: Political background; philosophies;
judicial system; party at peak and at
ebb of existence; internal structure;
executive and precinct committees;
changes to be made; future of party

DATE: April 16, 1977

D: This is an interview with Judge Lynn B. Griffith Jr. for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program. Today's interview is located in Warren, Ohio on April 16, 1977 at 9:30 a.m. The topic discussed will be on the history of the Democratic Party of Trumbull County.

The first question I'd like to ask you is for you to give a description of your family and political background and relate what or whom or who has motivated you to proceed in the field of politics.

G: In regards to my background, my father--Judge Lynn B. Griffith Sr.--was undoubtedly, the motivating influence in my political future. As a matter of fact, we used to say we took the religion of our mother and the politics of our father. But Dad had been actively involved in politics before my birth. As a matter of fact, when I was born, he was Trumbull County Prosecutor and fighting cases against, on one occasion, Clarence Darrow.

Dad was a Democrat by his own analysis, that is to say his background was rural; he came from the farm, which would have possibly symbolized a Republican background. However, his grandfather had run for Trumbull County Commissioner back in the 1880's as a Democrat, when Democrats were not getting elected to any post in this country. Dad had been the Service Director under Billy Kilpatrick, the first Democrat mayor of Warren. And he was with the breakthrough in the involvement by

Democrats. This area had been, traditionally, Republican and he was active in that.

Since I was a little boy, as I've looked back on the historical figures of greatness as indicated to me by my dad, they usually turned out to be Democrats-- Wilson, Newton D. Baker. The great leaders of the past were never listed as Landon, Hoover, Harding, and Coolidge; they were the Democrat people and that stuck in my mind. I think it's also factual, in a sense.

D: Can you tell me about the development of your political career, as you started and on up till today?

G: Well, I wish I could make it sound more noble, but I was not particularly motivated towards personal involvement in politics until I'd been practicing law and accounting for four or five years. My training was both as a Certified Public Accountant and as a lawyer. And as you can imagine, that led to work in the tax field in large part. And I had been engaged, primarily, in non-political activities for a period of about five years and the thought occurred to me, I guess as it does to every law student, that it would be fun to try the deep involvement in the courtroom for awhile. And in 1960 the prosecutor's post opened up. That is, the fellow who had been prosecutor for several years was moving on to probate judge and had left an opening there. And I was blessed with a good political name. Dad had built up a favorable reputation in the area and it would be possible to get elected with my name; they were the same. So, I ran with some young enthusiasts.

As a matter of fact, the young enthusiasts I speak of are the likes of David McLain, who's on the Common Pleas bench now and whose father was my father's assistant when he was prosecutor, that is, William McClain. As a matter of fact, he was the first Catholic in the courthouse. At that time, not only were Democrats not plentiful, but there was little in the way of Black involvement, no Jewish involvement, and no Catholic involvement. And also on my staff was an associate I have now, Tom Letson, who was a young man interested in trial work also and it made for an enthusiastic staff and a fun experience for the four years in the prosecutor's office.

After four years in the prosecutor's office, a new common pleas judge was established by the legislature for Trumbull County. It was an opening that would be easy to get elected to with my background as prosecutor for four years. We had extensive litigation

in those four years and had built up a favorable political reputation in that period, which is kind of easy to do with diligent performance in the prosecutor's office. That's one of the compensations of the post, is the ability to develop a good political image so that I was able to run for common pleas judge in 1964 and prevailed by a wide margin. And I stayed on the common pleas bench for seven years.

I finally stepped aside and came into practice with my former associate in the prosecutor's office, Tom Letson and my father, who had since come down from the Supreme Court of Ohio and was practicing with Tom here. It seemed that I thought I'd enjoy practicing with them, so I came over and have been practicing in this office since.

D: Can you give an analysis of your main political philosophies and creeds and how you apply them in practice? And are these philosophies in contact with those of the Democratic Party of Trumbull County?

G: That's a pretty broad question and I'm not wure that I've ever formalized my philosophies. I guess, probably the uppermost in my mind, as is in the minds of many people, I think, of the current generation is the importance of providing equal opportunity for everybody. Consistent equal treatment would be a hallmark of my political beliefs, I believe. That is, part of the prosecutor's office, I felt it was extremely important for people of means and people of prestige and people of position to be given exactly the same treatment as those with no political connection or economic prestige or such things as that. And I think that's consistent with basic Democrat philosophy.

I guess you could run the guns on the liberalism and conservatism and the experiences that I've had have lent themselves to a cross-philosophy. That is to say, I'm enough of a pragmatist to be quite conservative in the area of law enforcement, the Miranda-Escobedo decisions were an error to me. I never shared the philosophy of them. And I think my fears were overstated, but I've never changed my thought that they were poor decisions. They provided a criminal with a right arising from the failure of an individual. That is, Cordoza and Holmes never shared the philosophy of the current trend in decisions in law enforcement.

They never believed that a guilty party should escape punishment by reason of the failure of an improperly trained or incompetent police officer or even a mali-

scious police officer. True, they would have a cause of action against the police officer, no question, but what should they be able to sue the police officer. And I only suggest to you the old line theory that no confession should ever be admitted as evidence, which has been obtained by threat, promise, or duress. Now, that's fundamental with anybody. And during our period in the prosecutor's office, if we ever heard of confessions that had been obtained by any type of threat or duress, they obviously, were thrown out and the accused was released.

But where we see the recent decisions where a person points out a body maybe because they were being taken to the police station at the time, that would seem to me it should not preclude their prosecution. Well, that stemmed from my prosecutor's background. So, you can conclude, that philosophically, in the area of law enforcement I would be quite conservative.

As I have mentioned, in the area of civil rights, it seems to me that no person should be deprived of the right to purchase a home, for example, anyplace in this country by reasons of color of skin. So, that's fundamental to me and I would put that right over property rights. That comes into direct conflict of a property owner to do with it as he pleases. If a property owner can do with his property as he pleases, then he can refuse to sell it to a man by reason of the color of his skin. And I would put that right of a person to live and participate in democracy, irregardless of his race, creed, or color, above property rights. So, I would say, in that area I would be regarded as a liberal.

As a matter of fact, my public activities, any of the awards that I've ever received, any involvement really, in attempts at correcting government have been in the area of trying to provide involvement for all. That is, I headed up an organization called the Alliance of Community Understanding, which was dedicated to the principle of open housing. I had been a member of the Warren Charter Commission to provide a charter to the city of Warren that would have provided efficient, business-like management to the city of Warren--a city manager. Such as a hospital hires a professional manager, the city would have been able to have done the same rather than elect somebody from within our ranks.

I have been interested in drug rehabilitation, seeking to help those that had become outcasts from our society by reason of a youthful failure; in most instances they were youths. So, equal opportunity, efficient management and a pretty conservative attitude on law enforce-

ment.

And I hasten to say, in regards to law enforcement, that my main philosophy in that area was not severity of punishment, but certainty of punishment. I believe that a burglar, when he's going in a house, is not worried about the fact that Ohio, for years had a life sentence if the house was inhabited. I don't think that was on his mind. I think his whole concern was: Will I get caught? I think certainty of punishment is the deterrent, and not severity of punishment. So, I've been criticized, in fact, by the hard-nosed law enforcement people for a philosophy of fairly tolerant punishment. If somebody kicked in a cigarette machine, they were very apt to get probation. I did think they ought to be brought to justice. If they violated the terms of their probation, then I did think they ought to serve time. They weren't able to handle prosperity. So, it was certainty of punishment, not severity of punishment that I did and do believe in right to this day.

I don't know whether that's a political philosophy, but it's a governmental philosophy if you like.

- D: Do you think the judicial system here in Trumbull County is efficient and well run?
- G: I think so. I think we've had some examples of poor individuals as most anybody will or any business will. We've had some examples of extremely enlightened personnel on the bench. We've spent years with Judge Birrel, a Republican, incidentally, and finally, in his very late years had become--I'm reluctant to use the term--but I'd say he had become senile. But he gave us many years of competent performance and judgment vigor. I make no apologies for my father's nineteen years on the bench. I think that historically, Trumbull County has had a strong bench.

I can't resist mentioning two traits of two judges that are worthy of mention. I think David McLain, who is on the bench now, is one of the sharpest legal minds, I think, almost in Ohio. I think that he could sit on any court and provide intellectual leadership. Judge Battin has an enthusiasm in the probate court that has brought his docket up to where you can get your probate matters handled with great dispatch. I think that's an asset. Yes, I think we have a strong bench.

- D: When do you think the Trumbull County Democratic Party was at its peak of existence and can you recall some of the individuals and events that were causes of this

high point?

G: I think that, from its start, it has increased in stature. I guess, like a high school kid thinks that the football players in the twelfth grade are really big when he's a ninth grader. As he gets to be in twelfth grade, somehow, they're human beings. And that's a little bit, maybe my image, back in the 1930's when my dad was on the Court of Appeals and Judge McLain--well it lasted even into the 1950's when Judge McLain was on the Common Pleas Bench. You had Dewey McVicker on the Common Pleas Bench, I thought those were strong days. And Roy Hardman, a man of little academic training, but had some natural ability as a sheriff, I thought. I can't resist mentioning your grandfather [Harry L. Dittmer] as County Engineer. It made for a very strong Democrat Party.

We had the sheriffs--when we, I say we, the Democrats-- had in their patronage ranks, the sheriff; the treasurer's office, Walter LaRue; the County Engineer; and the Clerk of Courts, Pete Campana. Now, those are all jobs that provide the means of building up a party. And we were fortunate to have people that did the job; they were Democrats as present representative said in a talk last year, Charlie Carney said, "I never told anybody that I wasn't pro labor. I never told anybody I wasn't liberal. I never told anybody I wasn't a Democrat," but he said, "By God, I've tried to serve everybody in this district. Anybody that had a problem, I tried to serve." Well, I think that was a little bit the philosophy of these people.

Dad always had the attitude that you were a Democrat during the election process and after the election was over, you served everybody. But the possession of the patronage offices really helped build a strong party. And that was, I think, the real heyday of the party, but I think they're strong now. We've got the sheriff's office, clerk of courts, treasurer's office, auditor's office, and I think, some fairly strong personnel in those posts.

The Republicans, for years, had held the sheriff's post. And if you were to take the people in the county, we had more Democrats registered than Republicans and the Democrats had to help elect the Republicans that are in office. Ed Ryser of the County Engineer's office had to get elected with some Democrat support. He does a good job. Bob Barnett was a good sheriff for years. I think Dick Jakmas is going to provide an outstanding example for the Democrats and we'll be proud of him. So, I think when you get a man able to do the job and you do have the patronage posts avail-

able to you, you're able to build a strong party and I think they're strong now.

- D: Having accounted for the high points of the Democratic Party, could you speculate upon its lowest ebb?
- G: Well obviously, in this county it's not hard to pinpoint the low ebb. It was in the early 1960's when what has been referred to as a sewer scandal came up. The Warren City Council was controlled by some Democrat councilmen and they had been extorting money from anybody that was seeking to do business with the city of Warren. That is water, if you wanted the water line extended, you had to pay the councilmen to get their vote. And strangely enough, you'd have thought it would have been big dollars. The money involved in that sort of thing, zone changes, anything that required legislative action, was small dollars. By that I mean \$200 or \$300, but it was just enough to corrupt a person, to corrupt a person that needed the zone change and that needed whatever it was they wanted, water extension outside the city.

As a matter of fact, the practice started fairly accidentally I think, as a political maneuver. Mayor Burbank, Republican mayor back in the late 1950's had attempted to get some worthwhile legislation passed and the Democrats, at first, obstinately resisted just, I think, more on political grounds than anything. Later, they were approached by the local underworld operator here, Mike Farah. Mike started extorting money to get legislative support and he went through some of these councilmen. He would ask them to hold their support. They later cut Mike out of their dealings and would handle it themselves and we were able to convict them of bribery. That is, we had three councilmen and the chairman of the Democratic Party convicted of bribery, and some of their personnel, of extortion back in 1961 and 1962.

When I say that the work of the councilman was small potatoes, there were some big dollars involved in the extortion by the Democrat Party, I believe. Thirty-five thousand dollars was paid and they were talking about far more than that to obtain a sewer contract here in Warren.

Those fellows were convicted and properly convicted as indicated by the fact that they took it clear to the United States Supreme Court, four cases, and sent away. I suppose you could call that the low ebb in the Democrat Party. I never really felt that.

But first of all, it was our office; I was prosecutor and I handled the cases with McLain and Letson, who were very instrumental in developing the cases. And I think that the fact that it was a Democrat prosecutor that was pursuing it and the fact that the Democrat Party did go through a rejuvenation program, that is, we elected many new precinct committeemen; we got folks in there with some real enthusiasm and young people and I think, by 1964 the party had come back and was putting itself together with new faces and new enthusiasm.

B: Now, speaking on the internal structure of the party itself, what is the significance of a person that's a precinct committeeman, and the principles and the purpose of the Executive Committee in Trumbull County?

G: Let me go with figures that I had back in the late 1960's. They're more than that now. I think they're about 260, but back in the--I call them--the olden days, 1964 or so, we had 230 precinct committmen, And the fact of the matter is, to give you an idea, you could control the party with 40--now that's not a true statement, but it'll illustrate my point. We had the prosecutor with others involved in politics and we had sought people to run for precinct committee-men that would be willing to engage in some reorganization of the Democratic Party. With the election of 40 people--that was all that could be listed as folks we had induced to run and got elected--with those 40 you had enough swing votes that, coupled with the other precinct committeemen, that would split pretty much down the middle on issues to prevail on most votes.

We had one instance in which labor sought to put in one of their supporters as a recorder. Mrs. McElrath had died and they indicated they had a fellow that they wanted to put in office and called to obtain support of the precinct committeemen. This was a labor leader from Youngstown I might say, and a competent fellow, but he, I think, was off base in this instance. He said, "We are expecting you to support the man we are interested in." Margaret Manassa had been the First Assistant County Recorder for years. She was a delightful person, well qualified and the only reason they didn't want Margaret Manassa was, they said she couldn't get elected because her name wasn't Jones or Smith or something. Well, we didn't have any doubts about Margaret Manassa getting elected. She was competent, qualified, and the days of not being able to sell a name other than a white Anglo-Saxon-Protestant name, I thought, were over and so did our reform group. And we prevailed by a wide margin in

getting Mrs. Mannasa put into the post on that vote, and we were able to get her re-elected when it came time for election.

Well, the 230 people vote on the general governing policy of the Party, they vote on any replacement for Democrat officeholders that leave office during the term then they have to be replaced for a period of time and it's important for that reason. So, the Executive Committee is a small number. I think it's about 25 of the precinct committeemen that meet for the purpose of carrying on the day to day activities. The fact of the matter is, the Executive Committee has not been very active. The Central Committee only meets once a year or so, and the Executive Committee meets not much more. The work of the Party is carried on, in no small part, by the secretary and chairman. The Secretary of the Party in Trumbull County's instance [Mitchell Shaker], does the bulk of the work and accordingly, has much of the say so in the Party. Now, that's offensive to many people. They say, "Gee, he's running the Party." Well, somebody has got to run it and there aren't too many people that really want to run it. The pay is not good--like zero.

Now, I suppose the way you make up for that, as a practical matter, is that you put the chairman of the Democrat Party and the secretary of the Democrat Party on the Board of Election's job. Now, that's the practical aspect of it. The Board of Election's job, I think it pays \$6,000 a year. So, they make some money from that job, which has little in the way of any activity on it. They'll meet twelve times a year, maybe more than that, but it's a pretty nice job. In this instance, our secretary couldn't be on the Board of Elections. His wife is. So, the family . . . And his wife is a very competent lady, Mrs. Shaker. But that's kind of the workings and the way that the Party operates.

D: If you yourself were ordained as the head of the Trumbull County Democratic Party, what changes would you like to see come about?

G: The changes that I would be interested in would be more in government rather than politics. I'm not unhappy with the Party system. I realize it's not as powerful as it was back in the days when they didn't have television and they were interested in meetings and people enjoyed a community get-together, a meeting of the candidates and so forth. If I was chairman of the Democrat Party, I might try some modernized approaches to the creation of the images

that gets people elected come election time. That is to say, I would move more towards--rather than the old traditional Democrat meetings where you gather fifty people, the same fifty people that go from one meeting to another and you lug thirty candidates in front of them to express their views and tell them how good they're going to be in office. I would probably work towards trying to obtain financial support to get us television exposure. I regard the media as the main means of acquainting people with what their candidates are like. And I would seek out a candidate's night or nights on television. It could be expensive and it would be particularly difficult because we do not have a television station in Warren. We'd have to use the Youngstown facilities. So, you've got wider coverage than Youngstown is interested in. It's a tough problem. But that would be where I would be leaning. I would be leaning more toward modern approaches to presenting the candidates rather than the old traditional approaches.

Like the political button--the days of the political buttons are fading. That used to be that everybody wore a political button. Well, they don't do that anymore. And I don't think that the Democrat meetings and the Republican meetings are the answer to getting wide support anymore. I'd move, obviously, towards the image makers, the advertising people, Bob Sherman. Sherman is able to take a person's traits and accentuate the positive ones in the public's eye.

One of his great ads I thought, was he was working on an ad on Robert Nader, who was running for State Representative. And Nader has got to be one of the most stubborn men that ever came down the pike. That is Bob Nader's nature. And Sherman's ad read, "Stubborn? You bet your life--in the cause of righteousness. Insistent on equal rights; insistent on good government; insistent and stubborn." Well, that was the thrust of the ad. So, he capitalized on a trait that could have been--you might say stubborn is kind of a negative trait. Sherman was able to make that into a positive trait. I think it is a positive trait and it was a true image. And images fly when they're true. And I would work towards that I think.

I would be inclined to seek out competent candidates. Now, I think our leadership is trying to do that, honestly. You can't control the incompetent candidates. Anybody can run by getting so many signatures on the petition, but if I was working in the role of chairman, that would be my interest.

- D: What would you say is the difference between a Democrat in Trumbull County and a Republican in Trumbull County as far as basis and as far as today the very little difference between the two parties as far as ideologies?
- G: Taken the differences, fundamentally, the Democrat Party has the people and the Republican Party has the funds. That's a fact. When I was running for prosecutor, I had to contribute money for the Democrat Party to pay for joint ads. My opponent was getting paid. He not only was getting his joint ads, but he was getting paid from the Republican Party to carry on his own personal advertisement. They had the industrial leaders by and large, in their corner, and they were people that were willing to put their money where their mouth was. And we sit here with 60 percent of the voters registered Democrat in Trumbull County. We've got to say we got the people. So, if we just go with our voters, we've got the Republicans.

They have been able to, through the proper use of their funds--and they have used them wisely--hang in there and maintain a fairly equal balance of offices in Trumbull County. I give them credit for that. I give them credit up in Cleveland. Bob Hughes up there in Cleveland has taken a town that should be Democrat by a wide margin, sitting there with Perk as Mayor. We see it down in Youngstown, Jack Hunter, and it has been imagery. They have been able to create the image of the bright, young, fair, non-political figure. Well, I do not mean to detract from that, but I think they certainly have gotten their most out of Jack Hunter, who is an average fellow and a pleasant fellow. But they have been able to bring out the best virtues of Mr. Hunter and put them right at the top.

And Charlie Carney, who, as a practical representative of the people, I believe, can hardly be beat, has never had the favorable image. Jack Hunter came within, I think, 10,000 votes in his district of taking Charlie Carney and that's with very little effort in Trumbull County up until the last two weeks of the campaign. That never should have been. As I say, Charlie certainly has been a representative of the labor philosophy. This Valley represents the labor philosophy. Why in the world would they not be with that? He certainly has served the people. He has one of the best organized offices.

When they came in here with the attempt to take over Copperweld Steel, where did we get our help from? We got it from Charlie Carney and we got it from Bob Taft

We got nothing from Glenn! Glenn was a non-political animal! He was still studying the issue after Bob Taft had a bill in Congress and Carney had hearings going on up at the Kent State University. When this Valley needed help, we got more help from Barbara Jordan in Texas, who came in here and said that she was with us! It was a question that should be looked into and should be studied and should be resisted until we had an appropriate answer. Now, I don't see that Hunter has provided the dynamic leadership anymore than Glenn has. And I'm just trying to give some examples of what I mean by a practical political . . .

There's a tremendous tendency to resist the term politician. When I think of a politician, a real contest between a politician and a non-politician is Eisenhower versus Truman. And let me tell you, I'll take Truman anyday, anyday! And when they get all done with it, I say Truman will ride higher in the history books in the year 2000 than Dwight Eisenhower or Zackry Taylor or William Henry Harrison or any of these wonderful non-political figures. I don't distrust politicians And Charlie Carney is a politician. And when he gets done with it, he'll be called a statesman when he's gone to the hereafter. Mike Kirwin is another example. Well, I guess that's kind of a long winded answer, but it's kind of some of the thoughts.

- D: What do you see for the future of the Trumbull County Democratic Party and also, what do you see for the future in the National Democratic Party as a whole?
- G: Oh, they've got the upper hand. The Republicans, in spite of their funds and their ability to create a favorable image, there's no way they can get out of their exclusive club concept, it seems to me. I'm probably unduly critical of them, but I believe that. They listen to themselves talk up at the Buckeye Club and the Country Club and they don't even know what's going on down in the street. And I think, Good Lord, they were the party that freed the slaves, and they lost the solid South from 1876, when they finally turned it over, when they traded the solid South for Hayes' election. They had the Blacks from 1876 until, let's say, 1960 when John Kennedy came in and the Republicans, Jerry Ford come in to vote against the Civil Rights Bill, Barry Goldwater, the leadership of the Republican Party. When you start to look to see who voted against the Civil Rights Bill, you'll find the real leadership of the Republican Party. When they say Jerry Ford is such a wonderful fellow, I just think he was out of tune with the times. Personally, I'm sure he must be as delightful as every-

body says he is. I have no reason to think any different. He's honest--I'm confident of that, but he does not represent my philosophy by any stretch of the imagination and I think he is out of tune with the times.

Now, Nixon provided the fantastic bit of corruption that really brought out the maliciousness of the Republican philosophy. And he, I think, drove the Blacks right out of the Republican Party right at a time when the Blacks were coming into political power. It's stupid! And I don't think they can change it. Once an image starts going, once you get the ball rolling, it's hard to turn it around.

And you can come in with Edward Brooks; you can come in with a few involved Blacks and try to turn that around, but the fact that the Blacks put in Jimmy Carter, a redneck from Georgia, that tells you something about whether they know whether they're being accepted in the Republican Party or not. They say that the South went with Carter. The South did go with Carter, but it wasn't because of the whites in the South; it was because of the Blacks in the South.

And I give them credit. I think Carter may be a pretty good answer for us at a time when we need some conservatism. I don't know that it's a time to run wild with liberalism. I think Carter is very conservative. I think he may be a wholesome kind of a catalyst for our country.

But I think the loss of the Black support in the Republican Party may put them in serious trouble. They may pick up some ethnic support, which have traditionally been Democrat, that may keep them alive for awhile. But I noticed in the Plain Dealer this morning they were suggesting the possibility of changing the name of the Republican Party. I think they're in trouble. When you get an election base clear down around 20 percent of the people, you're in a heap of trouble. And I think they're in trouble. I'd hate to be running on a Republican label, it would be a handicap.

D: These are all the questions I have to ask. Do you have anything to add that you'd like to elaborate on?

G: No, you've pretty well covered the political philosophy. I might say that the general image of the people of politicians is that they're a corrupt, stupid lot that could never make it in dependent industry. And I should tell you that that is not my

image of the people that I have seen in politics. In business, not always I hasten to say, there are many business executives that welcome something other than folks behind them, that completely agree with them. But fundamentally, the best way to get along in business is to agree with management. And I tell you that a political leader's every comment is going to get challenged. It's going to get challenged by the press. It's surely going to get challenged by the opponents. And the end result is that many of the people involved in the political scene, that I have been exposed to, I've found to be very sharp, quick-witted people.

We've seen the corruption exposed on the front page of the newspapers whenever it occurs and it creates image that the bulk of the officeholders, I think, have an element of corruption to them and I don't believe that. I've just seen so many dedicated officeholders that are completely satisfied with their salary and merely want to do the job of serving the people to the very best of their ability. And that's the image that I have of the public officeholder, by and large. I give thanks for the competence and for the integrity of the mind-run, public officeholder as I have come to know them.

- D: Over the recent weeks Jimmy Carter has . . . , the main newsmen have come out; they fairly give him favorable support. He hasn't received a bad press.
- G: There's no question about that. I think you're absolutely right. Lord, they could have really bounced him on a number of things. He was going to reduce the administrative agencies from 1,700 to 200. He has found out you can't reduce them a bit. He was going to reduce the White House Staff and the fact of the matter is, it has gone up. And they have not taken him over the coals on those things. I guess the press has come to recognize that the people probably thought it was puffing anyway. And they may be thinking: Well, he's still trying; he's still hoping to do that. I think maybe they took his commitments as symbolic and are giving him a chance to do what he can to try to reduce the occupants of government.

His exchange on human rights with the Russians, let me say, I think he's dead right on that. I think he's got a very tenable position. And I think he can hang in there and support that from now till doomsday. Now, the collapse of the SALT talks, I feel badly that that has happened and it may be there's some element of compromise there. I suspect that some of that stems

from his human rights comments. If that's the case, I would be ready to stand behind human rights. I don't think we have the right to run the other country's affairs. But I think we have a right to comment on them. They have a right to comment on ours. But to quiet us for speaking out against their abuses is more of a suppression of the press or of the government than I would care to have and I think he's in a tenable position.

I was not a Carter supporter let me say. I was a Moe Udall supporter, but I'm not unhappy with Carter's performance and I realize that much of the stuff he got into office on he has not performed on and said today he was going to take inflation down to two percent. I don't believe that for a second, but I don't mind him shooting for it. You got to have a goal and if he's setting a goal that he can't make, I'm with him to try to help, at least, move in that direction.

As a matter of fact, I don't think they gave Jerry Ford a bad press. I think Jerry Ford would have beat Carter if he hadn't pardoned Nixon. He blew the independent vote with that move, in my judgement.

END OF INTERVIEW