

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

YSU Law School Graduates Project

Law School Experience

O. H. 94

JOHN J. LESKOVYANSKY

Interviewed

by

Paul C. Carlson

on

May 6, 1977

JOHN J. LESKOVYANSKY

Judge John Leskovyansky was born on March 28, 1925 in Senecaville, Ohio and graduated from Wilson High School in 1941. He served as a motor machinist on a minesweeper during World War II. On December 22, 1953 Leskovyansky became assistant to the police prosecutor, Irwin I. Kretzer, and on December 31, 1958 he succeeded Frank J. Battisti as First Assistant Law Director. Judge Leskovyansky began his first six-year term at the Municipal Court in 1963, collecting 36,345 votes and on May 3, 1972 he defeated Judge Flynn by 16,541 votes for the Judge of the Division of Domestic Relations Mahoning Court of Common Pleas.

Leskovyansky got involved in politics on the local level as a Precinct Committeeman, an Executive Committeeman and Ward Captain, a Young Democrat, and he became a member of the Mahoning County Democrat Club. He had also worked for the Ohio Department of Industrial Relations as a factory and building inspector, the Hughes Provision Company and Republic and Youngstown Sheet and Tube.

Paul C. Carlson

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

YSU Law School Graduates Project

INTERVIEWEE: JOHN J. LESKOVYANSKY
INTERVIEWER: Paul C. Carlson
SUBJECT: Law School Experience
DATE: May 6, 1977

C: This is an interview with Judge Leskovyansky for the Youngstown State University, Law School Graduates Project by Paul Carlson at the courthouse on May 6, 1977 at 10:05 a.m.

Judge Leskovyansky, could you tell us something about your background?

L: I have a rather varied background. Do you want to begin from birth?

C: That's right.

L: I was born in Senecaville, Ohio, March 28, 1925. Senecaville, Ohio is located in the south central part of the state. Cambridge is a near, large city. Senecaville is located at, now, Senecaville Dam, which a lot of people use for recreational purposes, part of the Muskingum Conservatory District, I believe.

We moved here to Youngstown when I was probably a year old. Dad, at the time I was born, was a coal miner. He came here from Europe and married my mother here in the U.S.A. So that I have been, you might say, a lifelong resident of Youngstown except for that first year of which memory is nil, none.

Then I attended the schools here--at St. Matthias School, grades one through eight; Woodrow Wilson High School, nine through twelve. I went to the service in the Navy; and came home from the Navy, went to work at the Sheet and Tube. I started college at Youngstown State--it wasn't Youngstown State then, it was Youngstown College--in 1948, and went full time, liberal arts school and eventually went to Ohio Northern to Law School for the first year.

I was married in the meantime in 1948. Things got a little close financially and so my wife was here while I was away at Northern. At the end of the first year of Law School at Ohio Northern, financially I was unable to continue so I got a job and worked for the State of Ohio as a factory and building inspector, and pursued my education until I graduated in 1953; and was admitted to the bar and then was appointed first assistant prosecutor in the administration of Mayor Frank Krysan, where I stayed for some period of time until I was given a promotion to the first assistant law director's job for the city of Youngstown, which is the trial lawyer for the city.

And I stayed there through Mayor Krysan's Administration and Mayor Franko's Administration; and was then appointed Municipal Judge in December of 1961 and was subsequently elected to two terms and eventually sought the job of Domestic Relations Judge here in Mahoning County.

- C: Could you tell us a little bit more about your family? You mentioned your father was a coal miner.
- L: My dad came here from Europe and went to work in the coal mines. His educational background [was almost none]. Some people wonder about the fact that I went to college and eventually received a law degree, which is university training. My dad went to work in the iron ore mines in Slovakia when he was six years old. And at that time, that's when people went to work. And the school they went to would be a parish school, a church school, if you please, when they had time, when the educational circumstances permitted.

And it's interesting to note that this man was literate, could read very well, read Slovak, was able to read and write, and eventually gained some command, certainly an understanding of English. Although most of our first generation people in those days were very reticent to speak it because, different from today, I think in America we're much more tolerant than they used to be.

Today if some of our fellow citizens or some of our visitors here don't speak with a clear enunciation of what we deem to be American English, we enjoy it, tolerate it, and perhaps really are interested and listen much more closely. In the old days, I know what used to happen. They used to laugh at them. They used to call them "green-horns" and "hunkies" and "dummies." But my dad did understand English and was able to speak some and was able to read English. So that was his educational background.

My mother was the daughter of parents who had thirteen children. The last child was born when the father had been deceased. They lived on a farm near Cambridge, Ohio, closer near the town of Byesville. They were rather hit hard by the Depression and the girls used to take turns going to school and the boys used to take turns going to school because there were only two sets of clothes that the children could wear to school. So Mom never got past, I believe, the seventh grade. And that's my mom and dad's educational background.

They were very deeply devoted, religious people. I would say that my dad's life was centered around about the church and family; obviously devoted to work. And my mother was very much the same way, although she was born here in the United States of America and was ten years younger than my dad.

- C: What were your parents' names?
- L: Susan Younger Leskovyansky and, of course, Stephen.
- C: Could you tell us more about some of your early experiences?
- L: Well, if you want to go back through grade school: As I'd already indicated to you that my parents' life was centered about the church and family, of

course, naturally it was centered around us. And our attentions were devoted to church and school and home. But perhaps this is some part of America that a lot of people like to forget about. I was a youngster when we had the Depression. And I could recall days that there wasn't too much to eat. I very clearly recall standing around Adams School in a soup line, and hoping that the fellow would reach down with the spoon to the bottom of the pot and give us some goodies instead of just the soup on the top.

I can recall in the morning we used to get Mother's Oats, and then we could go and get soup and a loaf of bread, and they weren't big breads. There wasn't enough to go around but I can recall that. I can recall when we didn't have shoes to wear and we all went barefoot except for when we were going to church.

This is a side of America which people want to forget, but I think it's a very important side of America to remember because today when America is so generous and gives of herself to the whole world, of course, when America needed help, everyone says, "Well, there was no help to be given." But if you recall a few years ago, when one of our Canadian friends wrote some lyrics and a poem which was played quite a bit around this country. I enjoyed that.

Of course I have a lot of Canadian friends and maybe it was for that reason. But it also made me think about the fact that someone finally recognized that the American heart has always been generous, whereas some of the rest of the world has never been generous to America. Except, of course, for the early generosity which was displayed by France and that was not perhaps of a real generous nature. Maybe they had an ulterior motive when they did that. But nevertheless, we did receive the benefits of some of those people's efforts.

I don't know. I could probably expound on these ideas for hours. I don't know how I got from my parents all the way to the American Revolution! But that's my way of relating, and how I got to the Depression, because I'm sure you never heard of the Depression. Oh, you may have heard somebody refer to it obliquely but to stand on that hot

pavement in the afternoon with my dad's old miner's pail. Most of the people could come there with pots and pans. And there were an awful lot of people in this neighborhood who were miners; and you could tell the miners' pails because they were made of aluminum--good, strong, sturdy, thick aluminum, which you couldn't buy that kind of a bucket today, not just because they don't manufacture it, but because of the good quality aluminum which was made.

And of course, they made those with aluminum because it was necessary to take down the coal mine so that they didn't rust. And one of the things that kind of sticks out in my mind was the fact that the aluminum would wear and the hinged handle that used to go with it would sometimes fall for people. So the whole deal was to find someone who was able to get a good copper rivet to replace the old worn steel rivets which were used in those; or some of the pails had aluminum rivets, so that then you wouldn't lose your Mother's Oats or lose your soup on the way home.

Do you want to talk some more about the young days? What did I do? All right. I went to school. I, of course, had to study because if you didn't study, that was a beating coming. We had a very strict regimen at home.

I was an altar boy, which was I think a very important part of my life. It helped form some of my thinking because it exposed me to the clergy, to the priests, and I was able to talk and visit with people who had a lot more education than my parents did. We grew up, obviously, in a rather closely knit community because in those days communities were knit with ethnic and religious backgrounds being very determinate of where people lived.

Our neighborhood on the south side of Youngstown, which is commonly called Lansingville, was very representative of an ethnic, religious oriented community, and some people in those days used to call it "Holy Hill." And everybody went to church. Everybody observed holidays.

We did have some people who were not Catholic, but we talk about religious tolerance--every one of us understood and tolerated each other's views and

why they were. And in those days that was kind of a really ecumenical situation because in some neighborhoods they didn't. But still, the fact that there was a religious difference, almost all the people were of the same cultural background too, with Slav. We had some few Italians who lived in our neighborhood.

Growing up, I did the usual things: played on the street, baseball--no one would think about doing that today--three feet off the mud gutter, and hide-and-seek. Put your finger on a telephone pole, if there was a nail in it, you could get the tickling sensation of electricity flowing down. Youngsters wouldn't know about that today.

We played down what was at that time known as Pine Hollow Park. We used to swing on a vine like Tarzan of the Apes. There were some caves down there that we used to explore, which were explored every day by the same group of people. (laughter) And we'd build a fire in the cave; and I can still recall the place we called "Devil's Cave," which is very representative of that which is depicted in some pictures--as you see the picture of the caveman with a flat rock and trees and the forest growing overhead, and a rather concave formation at the bottom of the cave. And we'd have a fire there; and some of us would bring some bacon from home or whatever food and then we'd roast it over this fire [and drip it on] a piece of bread. This was a real big experience. This was our way of entertaining ourselves. I could go on and on.

We did play baseball, day after day after day. That was one of the greatest things that there was. Every day there was a ball game. And that was a big thing in our day. Perhaps I ought to amplify. In those days, everybody had a league except the little people, boys, and different from today, we could never get to play on the ball field, Shady Run Ball Field. We used to be relegated to playgrounds, streets, and whatever empty lots we could find.

And certainly contrasting that with today, where the youngsters have all the places made for them and have all kind of uniforms and all kinds and types of equipment. It makes someone perhaps a little bit, oh, envious, jealous. It reminds us

again of our very humble beginnings. Well, I suppose I could keep on talking about baseball day after day here, because that did involve quite a bit of our youthful activity, but perhaps that's enough.

C: Could you tell us something about your schooling? Were you a good student? Did studies play an important part in your early life?

L: In my early life I was regarded as an excellent student. I would say that my studying ability declined for a little bit as most boy's do when they get closer to girls and so on and so forth. But in my early days, I can recall my first grade report card: 49 A's, 19 B's, and 2 C's. It didn't continue on that way! I was an "A" student, probably the first six or seven years of my life except that I was never, never very good at math. Math was one of the subjects which probably kept me from ever becoming an engineer, because I'm so interested in mechanical and structural things. And I suppose I relate that to society, and that's the reason I generally try to dissect society and analyze it because I'm so interested in machines. And I still am interested in machines. I do a lot of repairs on my own automobiles and my wife's automobiles and my daughter's automobiles, and repair lawn mowers and do all the chores around about that people don't know about. Of course, that's the way I worked my way through school, by being a mechanic.

I had a lot of jobs which are not in that category yet. If you want me to run through that category, I could probably start off by telling you I used to peddle groceries from P.H. Butler Store which is no longer in existence, and sold a lot of newspapers-- in those days we used to wait for extras. And I helped a family of boys with their newspaper route. We had what was probably two-thirds of the area. We used to cover all of Lansingville plus part of Cochran Park, plus part of the area of Alexander and all the streets in that area. So those were the early jobs, of course. And I would help my neighbor repair automobiles. Eventually I got a job in the Hughes Provision, and I believe I started there at the magnanimous sum of thirty-five cents an hour, which was much advanced from some of the other people. And I used to sell hog mawls, chitlings, sauerkraut, liver, next to the fish counter there.

Eventually I received some promotions there. I think I got up to about forty-five or fifty cents an hour.

I can recall, I used to walk to work sometimes. I didn't have the bus pass because Dad would be riding the pass to work and I'd walk down and walk back. I can recall, we used to knock off for lunch but it was on our own time. And we would clean the butcher shop at the end of the day all on our own time; counters, floor, the whole thing. Of course, we were very happy to be able to get a job.

I eventually tended some gas stations and worked in those areas. When I got to high school, I did have a job with the bus company. During my time in high school, the war was on and they needed mechanics and so I worked there a little bit, but prior to that I did a lot of work.

I used to run cars up and down a ramp here, it was Youngstown Garage, which is now the Downtown Garage; and I worked for a gentleman with whom I even to this day maintain a very good relationship. I'm very proud of it because he was a real good boss. And one of the first men under whose immediate direction I worked was a Negro gentleman who just recently died, Clarence Dent. And between Mr. Denison, the gentleman I referred to who was the manager of the Downtown Garage and Mr. Les Donnell, who is one of the greater known business entrepreneurs in our community and I, we for years used to visit this gentleman on New Year's Day because that was his birthday. I mention this in job light to show how sometimes in job situations you do develop friends; and I did.

After I left the Downtown Garage, I did go to work for the bus company. I had taken that out of order. Eventually I went to work for the Sheet and Tube. But once--I suppose this is a confession--the summer before I was old enough, when I was sixteen, I went to work at Republic Steel Corporation. I had a cousin whose name is John Leskovyansky, he was John Francis Leskovyansky, and I took his baptismal certificate down and sort of kind of managed our way into the Republic Steel Corporation when we were sixteen. Sort of kind of told a lie. I was a steel rigger at Republic. And eventually after I left there that summer because of some safety dispute, I went to work to Canton for a gas station,

Melanie Oil Company. And I had a good experience there. I lived with my aunt and uncle and it gave me an insight as to how a person, I suppose, can live alone and depend upon one's self. My visit to Canton was between my junior and my senior year in school.

And the oil company that I was working for, Melanie Oil Company at that time, desired me to stay there because I had taken a gas station which they were about to close and brought it up to, I guess we were selling about eight or ten times more gasoline than they were selling there; doing service work, doing grease jobs and all kinds and types of repairs. And so then they took me from that station and took me down to the main station because I displayed some ability. And they had a truck service area there. And again, this was during the war and so they were short of people, experienced or knowledgeable or desirous of work for whichever reason, and I received money that way. Eventually they were about to put me on the road as a salesman for oil, calling upon a number of large companies. But I did come back for my senior year and finished high school.

When I came back for my senior year, I went to work at Sheet and Tube. I first went to work there in the mason labor gang, which is probably the toughest way to break into a steel mill because the first thing that you do there, my first night at work there I'll never forget. I came down in a thin pair of pants and a shirt, and probably the thinnest pair of shoes a lad ever had. They gave me a pair of wooden shoes to put on. And they took and put a steel ball on top of the open hearth furnace which they had just got through tapping the turn before, and then they said, "Okay boys, go in there and throw the brick out," so they could rebuild the furnace. And it was still hot, very hot, and the bricks, you couldn't take up with your gloves, you had to use some asbestos gloves. They wouldn't do that job that way today. They first tried to have us go in and burn up our own hot mill gloves; then eventually when our gloves were burned up, no one cared too much about the skin or the rest of the people. "Go and throw the brick out of there."

So then you'd get a job also which was cleaning the checkers, which was also regarded as a very nasty job. You'd go down into the area where the flue dust would collect. And I don't think today under OSHA standards one could work there as we did, without respirators or anything and stay in that heat, and that absolute dry heat and dust. There would be a lot of graphite floating around in the air. So after some effort and some of the men in the steel mill knowing that I'd worked as a rigger at Republic and had some experience in that area and knew how to splice cable and knew a little bit about that kind of work, I was transferred over to the rigging department of Sheet and Tube and I stayed there until I graduated from high school.

I graduated from high school and went to the service, the United States Navy on June 17, I believe or somewhere thereabouts we were sworn in. Then I had a leave, a week or two and reported to Great Lakes Naval Training Center. At Great Lakes Naval Training Center we received what's known as boot camp, and of course, that's another period in history. But during my service in the Navy I did become a motor machinist's mate, first class.

Eventually I did come back to Sheet and Tube and went to work in a garage department. They wanted me to go back in the rigging department but I didn't do that. I went to work in the garage department.

For months I quit to go to college and when I quit to go to college I went down as a part-time worker; and it was a very demeaning proposition because a week before I was acting as a gang leader and giving people tractors to use on the coal strip mill, and the foremen were my best friends because it was up to me to repair a tractor or let them have a tractor.

And a week later--I'll never forget this--one gentleman who eventually was beaten by a number of people who worked there, who wouldn't give me the turns--we used to come out and stand around and hope that they'd give us a job. And he'd pick all his friends, give them a job and he'd sent me home. He showed me my pants were too clean, no use getting them dirty, go on back home. I needed to work very bad because I was married, we had a child, and I

was really hurting, but it was a real comedown and it sort of kind of made me remember about life and some things you don't really forget. One day a hero, the next day a heel. I part-timed at the Sheet and Tube for many, many years, all the way through liberal arts school and until I did get to as I say, a full year of law school. Then I went to work for the State of Ohio as a factory and building inspector.

My qualifications for the job, of course, were the facts that I did know about structural rigging and knew about construction work from being a rigger. But I learned quite a bit about the diverse interests of building and safety. And even to this day I maintain a great big safety interest because it did play a big part in my life in those days, and I like to think that we did render a service. I was regarded as perhaps a rather strict inspector. I was kind of proud of the fact that I never went to lunch with any of the people that I ever inspected.

The respect which I gained from both the industry and the construction labor people maintains till this date. Many of the people who were business agents in those days who have gone on and who have retired still maintain a very great social friendship with me. I think that helped demonstrate to me the benefit of doing your job, doing it the best way you know how, showing no favoritism and gaining the respect of the people that you work with; not because you're doing them favors, but because you're doing your job. I always like to think that that's one of the things that has helped me to do my job as judge.

Going along, I suppose we ought to continue with the fact that as I graduated from law school, I left the State Building Inspection Department. Incidentally, I was at that time considered and was offered the job of being Assistant Director of Industrial Relations of the State of Ohio. Because I had gained some skills in inspection and because of my law school training, I obviously was able to read and understand the requirements and requisites of the job better than perhaps some of the other people who had more building trades experience than I did. But rather than go to Columbus and get involved in that situation, I took the job as First Assistant

Prosecutor which paid about, I guess four or five thousand dollars a year less. But I stayed in Youngstown with my family. I already indicated I went from the prosecutor's job to the First Assistant Law Director's job, eventually was appointed judge, and here I am. There's no use repeating that.

C: I just read quite a few Vindicator articles about that. As First Assistant Law Director, you were making \$5,639 and then with your promotion it went to \$8,117.

L: How about that? That's interesting because I obviously can't remember and I could recall what the difference was. I think the job of Director of Industrial Relations at that time was in the thirteen thousand dollar category and I was being talked about as ninety-five hundred dollars or ten thousand dollars and I took the difference in the salary and stayed here.

C: About your years in the liberal arts school up here at the Youngstown College, what stands out in your mind about that period?

L: Oh, okay. My Youngstown College days: The thing I suppose I remember the most is the fact that I worked and went to school, and I met so many nice people. I still recall some of them. Something that you youngsters today wouldn't know about, we had a lot of barracks on the campus. And I suppose the great social highlights were the fact that there were always a group of us that were willing to study together, and always a group of us that would go to the cafeteria and study and then take a break by playing some cards, some different kind of cards, pinochle or whatnot, never for money. Always enjoying each other's pleasant sociability.

And I'd like to say this: during those times--and you understand most of us were GI's, and some of the gals were younger and some of the gals were our age--I wasn't aware of any, you might call on-campus or off-campus petting or social sexual situations which one is exposed to now. I would like to characterize my time at Youngstown and the people I associated with as being very, very interested in study, study, study. If I could tell you that

we would not only study during the day but we would meet and study in the evening in the library or whatever place was made available to us, they'd close down the cafeteria, we would study in empty rooms. We'd find out that a room was empty at a certain time, and we'd get together and really study. If I was able to devote the time that we spent analyzing and understanding our courses, now to perhaps life, I would certainly be an expert!

Now the studies that we did, I suppose we worked against ourselves because most of the professors graded on a curve, and those people who didn't study just couldn't survive. I think the attrition rate should have been much higher, but I think the professors graded on a prejudiced curve in some cases. Some of our groups, certainly, would get A's and B's, but there would be an awful lot of people that would get these low C's simply because the professors were making allowances for those of us who really worked real hard.

I suppose the difference is, and the reason was that a lot of us were ex-GI's--that's what they called us in those days--we were GI's and we were very serious about life; and realized that we'd given up some of our years to activities which I think enhanced our educational background, but certainly not the formal type of education which we were trying to amass or attain at Youngstown. So we were a very studious group.

Our social amenities were reduced to a minimum in the manner that we have today. I would say we would attend one or two or three dances a year, which would be about all. There was not much on-campus activity in those days. People were very busy.

I remember some outstanding instructors of course. I was assistant to Dr. Riley. Dr. Riley is still there. I graded papers for Dr. Riley and did a lot of work for him. I have so many fond memories of people there, but Doc always sticks out in my mind and I suppose, with a bit of a guilt complex because I've never taken the time to develop a deeper friendship than we had at that time and to expand on it, now that I've been busy. But our paths are so different.

I can recall Mr. Schultz. It's almost totally unfair to talk about one professor when they were all so outstanding. Listening to our children talk about their instructors and professors at the school today--and this is not being nice perhaps--but I think the quality of teaching has somewhat suffered. It seemed that in those days, those professors had a very deep personal interest in people, seeing that they got it, seeing that they understood it, and were always willing to give you that little extra help if you needed it.

Of course, maybe it was because we displayed so much interest, but the staff at the College at that time was tremendous. They were very devoted to their students and wanted Youngstown to excel. I think that was the whole thing. Youngstown was a small, independent college and everyone who was associated with it wanted it to excel. And I suppose that's the reason it worked so well. I don't know, we could probably talk about a lot of other things.

We had one thing I'd like to talk about in a positive and negative factor. Dr. Karl Dykema, who was regarded as one of the giants at the University and in American literature and language, was a professor with whom I had very violent disagreements. I took a course from him in summer school which really sharpened up our disagreements because his basic philosophy and mine, I could see the differences there.

You probably don't know, but Dr. Dykema was credited with being the man in America in literature and grammatical education, who was the proponent of the idea that, "Let us forget the formal matters of grammar and English and all those necessary things. Let's see if we can't communicate." In other words, perhaps using some which might be called "slang language." But Dr. Dykema impressed us with the fact that he didn't too much believe with diagramming sentences and punctuation marks and all those formal things. I disagreed with the doctor in that area and I disagreed with him about the philosophy of life.

About that time, I was already spending time in some law offices--Mr. Beatrice--and watching and listening to what was happening. And I made many

visits as life would have it to Domestic Relations Court and listened to what was being said. And in those days, the judge didn't hold court as I do in the courtroom. He held court back in his chambers. And the people would come in very quietly; this was a surreptitious thing that was carried on. And so I had to gain the confidence of the judge and everybody else in order to be able to listen.

And the things that came out in Anna Karenina and all these different old philosophies about why people didn't live together and so on and so forth, weren't holding true from what I could hear and from what I could see in court. So although I respected him for his views and his ideas, he and I disagreed rather sharply. But in spite of our disagreements--and this was the beauty part of it, and I suppose the reason I'd like to mention Dr. Dykema--we did hold a respect for each other.

And this was important. I gather today that's not quite true. Of course I'm judging not from my own experience but from what I hear from some of the other students today, which is not a high rating for our educational system. And of course, you don't want to hear me about that because I think our educational system stinks, especially our public educational system. I know that's strong language to have down there for posterity but I use it when I talk in public, wherever I speak. I think our educational system is very devoid of the necessary requirements for our people to understand about America.

The very interruption that we had here a few moments ago, for young people who were coming in during Law Day and Law Week, that very interruption is proof of the fact of what I state. And people come here from various grades and from various schools. When I was in Municipal Court, we had the same thing occur. One of the things which teachers and instructors do is bring children around and show them some of the governmental functions in our community. And if they came to my courtroom, I would visit them, I'd give them an opportunity to see a real live judge with the robe on, have the bailiff open court so that they would get the flavor of the fact that this still is a formal thing and we carry on that which some people regard as archaic--the fact that the bailiff opens court by saying,

"Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye, this court is open," et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. But I would then begin a talk to the youngsters about our Constitution and about our three branches of government. And it's very, very disappointing to know that there are seniors graduating from high school who don't know that. They're the products of a public educational system. John Q. Citizen pays for it.

It's very disheartening for me to see young America not know, not know, "Why America." Oh, the history courses which we have today apparently don't give the emphasis and they don't--and maybe I'm wrong in this area--they don't seem to generate in our people the spirit of appreciation of, "Why America." And I don't mean just getting up and waving the flag, but the ideological and the philosophical propositions which bring about government and how government functions. And it's for this reason that I severely criticize our educational system. I think it's atrocious.

If this public, if this government which makes this educational system possible can't be understood by the people who receive the benefits therefrom . . . it reminds me a little bit of the rest of today's philosophy. The respect for parents and the respect for family and the respect for home apparently are somewhat degenerated, and yet the youngsters still demand, I didn't say expect, I said demand all the things which they think their parents should give them.

And so we do the same thing with society, which brings us down to the basic proposition that if we understood our Constitution, if we understood the fact that our Constitution gives us a lot of privileges, but again it also imposes upon us a lot of responsibilities, I think the entire philosophy of not only our country, but of our moral, economic, and our political system would change considerably. So that's the reason I said our educational system stinks.

C: Judge, I'd like to ask you: when did you get the inkling that you wanted to go to law school? Was that always in the back of your mind?

L: Always in the back of my mind was the idea that I'd like to be a lawyer. But I never thought I'd have the time, the devotion, or ability to go forth, because I realized that it cost a lot of money. And so when I first went to college I thought that I would do the next thing which I thought I'd like to do--be a foreign correspondent. So I was going to go to journalism and I almost went to Kent State. As a matter of fact, at the end of my freshman year I had prepared to transfer to Kent State. One of my friends and myself prepared to do that but I just didn't quite get around to it.

You see, I got married at the end of my freshman year of college, and I talked about it with my then wife and she said, "Well, if you want to be a lawyer why don't you just keep going to school?" I said, "Well, because it takes too long." Well, she was a nurse and she said, "I'm willing to work if you're willing to go to school." So, I then went on to be a lawyer. I always wanted to be a lawyer. I always admired lawyers, I suppose from the early days when I first heard some of them talk at the church breakfasts and things of that nature. I was impressed with their idea to present philosophy and ideas. They were probably, next to the priest and the sisters who taught at our school, the only learned people I came much in contact with, other than schoolteachers, of course.

C: This might have been a mistake in the Vindicator but did you go to the University of Alabama Law School, also?

L: I have attended courses at quite a number. After I graduated from law school, I didn't quit, and I still haven't quit. There is a maxim which says, "The law is a jealous mistress." I can still recall the Dean of Ohio Northern saying that to us, and I thought at that time that the poor Dean just didn't know what he was talking about, but he certainly did. Yes, I have attended many courses since I have graduated from law school. At Western Reserve, I took quite a number of medical legal courses there. At the University of Alabama, I took some courses down there. And I've attended numerous seminars. But lately, it seems since I've become the Domestic Relations Judge here, immediately after my first exposition to a domestic relations seminar, I've been giving seminars in this area.

I still try to keep up with the rules of evidence and some of our criminal procedures and some of our probate procedures, in other words, law which is not utilized in my court. So, yes, I did attend other schools. For a couple of years there was a group of us who continued on and studied at Western Reserve. We studied the anatomy, the brain, the back. We took many medical legal courses. A number of them were taught by the man who was the expert witness in the case which convicted the famous doctor from Cleveland. Dr. Gerber was one of the instructors there. We're getting too far afield.

C: Could you tell us more about your experience at Youngstown's Law School?

L: At Youngstown's Law School? Certainly. Being a part-time law school, being a night law school, being taught by only one full-time professor and the rest being practicing lawyers, well, first of all, similar to what I had described at Youngstown College--during my undergrad days--similar to that, everybody who was in the law school was involved in some other field, working hard and studying real hard.

I suppose, to tell you how hard we studied; there are a number of us and we still have pictures of now Attorney Lawrence Damore, Attorney Donald L. Hanni, Attorney Walter Stoner, Attorney Anthony Grybos, and Attorney Lynn Bernard, breaking in, literally breaking into the old barracks law library window on Sunday mornings after church so that we could study and make our reviews. (laughter)

The president obviously knew about this because we'd come and park our cars and the prexy could see our cars parked in the parking ground, and we'd break in. Eventually, they came around to where the building custodian sort of kind of saw that we were able to find a key so we didn't have to push the window in to study. But later on, as I took a couple of fishing trips with Dr. Jones, he said, "Yes, I knew you guys were breaking in there. How do you think eventually you guys got so you didn't have to break in there? They'd come around and open the building for you guys. But you weren't breaking in to do any harm so why in the devil should I holler about it?"

We had some obviously outstanding people who taught at the school. The regimen there was either you got it or you hit the road. I think it was a good law school as law schools go. Having attended full-time law school down at Ohio Northern and comparing it with Youngstown, I would say perhaps I was exposed to probably two of the best. Youngstown was regarded as the best night law school, at least if you were to take and see the number of people who were able to pass the bar examination.

And the way law schools are rated is to the number of their graduates which are able to pass the bar after they get through school. There are an awful lot of law schools who have a high mortality rate when it comes time for bar examinations for the students. Youngstown had the highest rating in the state in night law schools consistently. And of course, Ohio Northern consistently had the highest or next to the highest rating as to its students that passed the bar.

One year when there were less than 49 percent of the people who took the state bar examination that passed, Ohio Northern had the highest percentage of all the schools combined in the state. So I was exposed to the best in the full-time law school and in the part-time law school. And as I contrasted our experience here at Youngstown and night law school with perhaps Akron or Cleveland or Franklin Marshall or wherever around about the state I would have to feel certainly that the quality of our student and the quality of our professor, and the regimen which was maintained there was a very high one. I'm not saying that because we graduated or we made the grade, but you're asking me and I'm rating you in the manner in which one would try to. And I'm doing it rather objectively I think, and I hope. And statistics ought to be able to bear me out.

C: Do any of the instructors come to your mind?

L: Oh, sure! Clare Westenfield; Ray Falls, whom I saw die. Gosh, the most colorful one of them all, he died and he smoked cigars. You think I could remember his name for the moment; it's embarrassing. God, how it's embarrassing! But I see his face in front of me. He was regarded as the fellow who had no favorites.

The classical story about him was that when an attorney, a man who is now a judge, the County Court Judge in Ashtabula County, was the district manager of U.S. Steel--a fellow by the name of Brown, whose brother is Paul Brown, who is on the Ohio Supreme Court now--which is a big job, tried to walk in a classroom at one minute after seven, when he closed the door. He threw him right out on his ear. He had no favorites. His name began with a "K." God it's embarrassing, I can't remember his name.

C: Knolls Wyatt?

L: Knolls Wyatt! Yes, by God, okay! Yes, sir. He was regarded as an outstanding instructor. Of course, some of the people who taught me, now come to my court and that's somewhat embarrassing, not embarrassing, but it tips the scales a different way. I recall one of my evidence teachers, Mr. Newman, who comes to court here rather infrequently but when he does and I rule on evidence I sort of kind of look at him and give him a smile. And I kid him very graciously. He accepts, and I do of course, because I mean it in that manner. I got a "B" and I thought I should have gotten an "A" in that course. I sort of kind of tell him, "You just gave me a "B" so now you've got to get the gourd."

I could go down almost all the instructors, which sounds funny because I couldn't remember Mr. Wyatt's name. But yes, they're all practicing lawyers here. Most of them are still alive. Ray Falls was a gentleman who was a real gentleman; he was the Dean at that time. Clare Westenfield, who was the full-time professor but he also taught political science and I did study political science from him. And I always credit him with being the guy responsible for my getting into politics because when I was taking political science from him, taking a course, he insisted that we come down to City Council and watch it operate. And that's what sprung my idea in politics. Eventually he became the Dean of the law school and he taught us a number of courses in the law school.

C: Were you well prepared for the bar exam?

L: The group of us that studied for the bar exam took the review course in Cleveland. We took turns driving and I already mentioned our crew, of course, Tony Grybos didn't take the exam with us; but Don Hanni, Larry Damore, Walter Stoner, and yours truly went back and forth from Youngstown to Cleveland twice a week and took that review course.

Eventually, that was known as the long course; then there was the short course, a two-weeks course. Through Arseny Melnick, a group of us stayed at Dr. John Melnick's, that which is now Dr. John Melnick's fraternity house, for the summer. They were so happy to have us rent the place and sort of kind of watch it. We went there for two weeks. I guess there were about ten or so of us or twelve of us there but we each maintained our own groups.

If you ever saw ten or twelve people more devoted to study than we were--our daily regimen was getting up possibly around--some of us got up earlier than others--but getting up around five-thirty, six o'clock and reviewing the things that we were going to go downtown to review; getting prepared to be able to assimilate that which they were going to throw at you.

We went down to the studies that they offered us, the review course that they gave us. We'd come back, eat, and then we would review that which they reviewed, and begin to review the matters of tomorrow. And very rarely did we ever hit the sack before eleven or twelve o'clock at night. Yes, we really studied. We were, I think, as prepared for the bar as anybody.

The tragedy of my time at the bar was that at the end of my first day at the bar, I ran into a fellow who would eventually play an important part in my life--one Mike Disalle. I ran into him and the fellow I worked with in the Department of Industrial Relations, Ed Fink. We were staying at the Seneca Hotel, rather than at one of the larger downtown hotels for two reasons: One, I knew everybody around downtown Columbus from having worked for the state. And two, it was a little bit cheaper.

So I walked into the Seneca Hotel at the end of my first day of writing the bar exam and I ran into Mike Disalle and Ed Fink. And Mike says to me,

"John, how about a drink?" [I said,] "No sir, Mike, I'm down here taking a bar exam. I can't afford to take a drink." He says, "Gees, that's the very thing you need. How do you feel?" I said, "I don't know, boy, they come up with questions!" And I took the paper out of my pocket and I'm starting to try to prove to him what I knew and what I didn't know about the questions. And he laughed it off and he ordered me a Manhattan. I drank some Manhattans in those days and they proceeded to get me drunk. At the end of the first day of the bar, that night when we were going out to eat, I was drunk.

I got up the next morning about four o'clock, sick, miserable, hurting; decided that I'd better do what I was supposed to do anyway, got up and showered and shaved and cleaned up and went to church. One of the things we did everyday--we went to church. So I was down bright and early to church that morning, down in Columbus, to that which is the cathedral. I walked in that day and I don't think I understood anything--and that was the long day, the second day of taking the bar is the long day--I think I didn't write anything on my paper until around ten-thirty, and we were in there at nine o'clock.

I spent an hour and a half being in a rest room trying to get some fresh air, trying to clear the cobwebs off my mind, fearful to write because I didn't trust myself. So I must have been well prepared for the bar because I survived that and eventually did pass. One bit of advice: when you go down to take the bar exam, don't drink.

- C: (laughter) Do you have a favorite course that you were most interested in in law school up at the university?
- L: I guess the course that I was the most interested in at law school was the course that Don Hanni and I did the most work in, the business courses, corporations and partnerships. Don and I took the trouble to outline those two courses. And we made outlines which we proliferated around about the state. Our outlines were in great demand at Ohio State, Ohio Northern, anywhere in the state of Ohio, because he and I diagrammed that as best one could.

Don loved to write and I loved to argue; and he had beautiful handwriting and no one could read mine. And so just because he had the chance, eventually, to finish writing it, I suppose, is the reason he and I did it. And we argued and fought then as we do now. So those were, I suppose, our favorite courses.

I still thought my best course was Evidence, although I only got a "B" in it. And the joke of it is, of course, that I never got a chance to use much of the business courses although I did represent some commercial clients, but certainly not as many as I did in personal injury and probate work.

C: Why do you think the law school was closed?

L: Basically, because the lawyers in Youngstown wanted it closed because they felt that they were creating too much competition. That's the reason the law school at Youngstown was closed. I don't think that's a secret. I don't think that's even debatable. The way it came around, the way it was brought about was they put the squeeze on the budget and said, "Well, we can't afford any full-time professors and you guys just don't go teach."

I think it was a bad thing. I would certainly think, and like to think, that because of the quality, and if you look around our community and you look around the state, some of those lawyers who were produced have been really good lawyers. And some would say we produced some giants in the law field. We've never produced Harvard graduates or these graduates that come from Columbia or Yale, whom I don't think are as good as some of the rest of us are, but law school is a little bit like buying name brand clothes.

If you went to Harvard or Yale, immediately you're set aside in a category; if you went to a small-time law school, the big firms first of all don't want to touch you because the big employers, the big retainers don't come in for people like that. In government work, if you say you went to Youngstown College of Law, the President of the United States wasn't too interested in appointing you to some Cabinet position. But if you went to Harvard or Yale, even though you were just mediocre, all of a sudden you become a giant.

I think it was a mistake to close Youngstown Law School because of the quality of people it produced.

C: Would you be in favor of them re-establishing a law school?

L: Absolutely, absolutely. One of my sons wanted to get into law school couldn't get into law school because the standards which they set up for getting into law school are high; and good, fine, they should be, now but I want to say this at the outset: the boy's point average was a 3.4. That wasn't good enough to get into law school. They want 3.6s and a lot of law schools were taking just people above 3.8. Why? Because for 210 openings in a freshman class, they had 2,200 or 2,300 or 2,400 applicants. Certainly some of them were doubles. Certainly some of them were doubles. But the point is, there were just too many people who wanted to go in the field of law. And one of these days we're going to find that we're going to be in the same situation that we are now with our doctors,

Our doctors restricted the medical schools and so we have today a proliferation of doctors from all over the world coming here and making a good living in our country and this is not so wrong, but we denied the opportunity to so many of our own young people who were qualified, but we just said arbitrarily, "Hey, we aren't making anymore!" And it's wrong. I could go on about this medical school bit, that's one of the things which I also have very strong opinions about.

I'll tell you an experience about my neighbor who graduated from Ohio State, a straight "A" student, except "C"s for gym because he had a gimpy knee, which he could do nothing about, and who couldn't get into Ohio State Medical School because he didn't have a brother, father, cousin, uncle or anybody who had gone to Ohio State Medical School and didn't have any connections. And I could tell you that George Tablack, the father of the current representative, finally took the whole damn appropriation bill for Ohio State University and stuck it in his pocket, and said, "There'll be not a dime go to Ohio State University till they can tell me why this kid, Nick Martin, can't get into medical school."

That was, I suppose, my first real exposure to power politics and understanding how it's played. And eventually that lad got into medical school but he had to go to school for another year just marking time till he'd get into medical school. You talk about discrimination, Mister, that was discrimination.

And you talk about people not being able to gain education, you talk about our country suffering because we don't have enough qualified people to operate it. Well, we do it with our own restrictive type of educational system. And when our professional people criticize our unions, they are just as damn bad as the unions are, probably worse, because they rob people of their mind, whereas the unions only say, "Well, we're not going to let you work over here; you go work somewhere else."

But these people don't permit the mind to be utilized. And I think we're familiar with one of the things that's said today by a certain group of people who seek money for educational purposes. They say, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." Let's go on I suppose to something else because we're going to run out of time.

- C: I think you already answered my question on the ABA [American Bar Association] and the AMA [American Medical Association].
- L: Why is it so necessary--I have not a thing against the people of India or the Philippines--why is it so necessary that we have so many of those doctors here and we didn't educate our own people? America wants to know that. Who do we blame? You know, you've already had the answer.
- C: I think this is the hardest question that I'll be asking you and you can probably fill a whole tape answering it.
- L: Maybe I'll try to surprise you and see if I can't condense it because I'm given to being verbose.
- C: Okay. One of the works that I read preparing me for these questions was by Common Pleas Judge Lois Forer in Philadelphia and she wrote a book called The Death of the Law, published in 1975. And she's more or less caught up in this anti-

Watergate political feeling that's so deluded people right now. The question is: do we live in a "just" society? She is claiming that we really don't and, of course, it took her about five hundred pages to explain why we don't live in a "just" society, and I'm asking you right now in . . .

- L: I didn't read the book and I'm going to be very brief in this area. We live in as "just" a society as our people allow it to be. We live in as "just" a society as our educational system has taught our people to understand, to expect, to support, to promote. Our educational system has not prepared our people for a "just" society. If we're going to get into semantics and diagram--some would like to say, define the word "just"--we could spend certainly more than the five hundred pages that you talk about this judge who wrote the book.

But I believe justice is expressed in our constitutional framework as being very jealously guarded by the few people--and I'm not saying this simply because I'm a judge--but by the few people who are entrusted with it, the judiciary. But I think the judiciary is getting a little bit tired, a little bit weak, a little bit weary because John Q. Citizen doesn't seem to really always want it.

Our business people who are supposed to be the basic quality because of our economic philosophy, are not supportive in many instances of good judiciary and good justice. So, yes, we live in a "just" society. We live in as "just" a society as we want. If you want more I can give you more but I think if you're looking for a capsule situation, I think that does it. I think that tells you what I think. More importantly, why I think it.

- C: In our attempt to get an overall picture of the graduates of the law school, I've been asking questions on current controversial issues. Would you mind if I ask you a few of them?
- L: Go ahead. You understand, as a judge, I am somewhat limited in my public expressions, or I feel I should be. However, I have very regularly expressed myself in this educational field because I feel I should and I have a right to, and I don't think my judicial duties should prohibit me from

doing that. But go ahead and let's see what you have.

C: Well, I generally ask opinions on capital punishment.

L: What do I think about capital punishment? Am I for it or against it?

C: Is it a deterrent to crime?

L: I think it is. Not in all crimes, but in some crimes it is. You see, the classical argument against capital punishment is when a guy is mad and he wants to kill somebody, he kills them anyhow; he doesn't even think about the electric chair. In that case, nothing is a deterrent because the human mind isn't functioning. When you talk about a deterrent, you're talking about a functioning mind. And when you're talking about people who are angry, who have temporarily lost the complete or at least a partial use of their mind, certainly, nothing's a deterrent.

No matter what types of punishment are designed, whatever sanctions are imposed, those sanctions in some way, shape, or form, deter activity; I think so. I am not saying to you that I'm for or against capital punishment. I say to you that-- and I suppose I would be willing to take a stand-- I can't see that capital punishment is so wrong. And of course you can harken back to the biblical proposition, "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth."

And, yes, we talk about the innocent people who are executed because the law has gone awry. However, the law I think has a lot of preservatives in that area and protections. I would not take a stand against capital punishment. I suppose if you had to categorize me, you might say I'm for it; but there are propositions in capital punishment as being advocated by some today which I very much am consistent with and some which I am inconsistent with.

C: What about the decriminalization of marihuana?

L: The arguments for and against, again, I could probably recite better than some people. I saw those earlier when I was on a municipal bench, I recanted them in those days. Most people like to compare it to alcohol. They say, "Look, you legalized alcohol, matter of fact, the state makes a lot of profit out of it and alcohol blows the mind the same way that this does." Yes sir, there's a lot of arguments to make against that proposition.

As we check around about our society, and I have done some work in alcoholism, obviously here in Domestic Relations Court and certainly in Municipal Court, I saw the wreckage of society and that which was reeked upon people because they became addicted to alcohol. Notice I use the term addicted. Yes, one could say that. But there are people who are able to tolerate alcohol, whose body has a tolerance for alcohol, and who do not become addicted thereto, who suffer perhaps very minimal or almost none.

No matter what you ingest into the human system, it's going to change the system in some way, shape, or form, even the matter of proteins or fats or whatever. So when you say, "Well, soon as you take the alcohol in, it degenerates something," well so do all the other things that we take into our system. But I am sure as you look around about our society, you can see people who take alcohol and who have, let's say, no ill effects within the parameter and bounds which I outlined right now.

Whereas, I have yet to meet with people who began to take marihuana, dope, whatever kind, the drug situation, who have not suffered therefrom. And I'm one of those who thinks not just forbidding the sale on the street, not just permitting the people to have it because they want to use it, but I think our medical people give too many people too many drugs. I see, for example, young ladies coming in here for a divorce, because of this trauma, they come in here and they are thoroughly and fully unable to comprehend what's going on because the doctors give them all these mental suppressants. Why? Because people don't want to face reality? I don't think that's an excuse to blow the mind.

Again, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." And this marihuana and drugs certainly waste the mind. And I don't know what the relationship is, but it seems to me that it not only wastes the mind, it also affects some of the other parts of the body. I have yet to see the people who have been on drugs for a period of time whose eyesight is good, who don't have to walk around wearing different kinds and types of glasses.

Decriminalization? Let me tell you, Mister, obviously, already by now you can see, I am not much in favor of. And I thoroughly disagree with the national people who advocate this. You know what we're saying? We're saying that this is not a crime of violence, so we're saying let's not do this. But yet, we want to prosecute the people who are involved in prostitution, who harm nobody but themselves, and there's no permanent scar.

We want to do the people who mess around with gambling. Ho! All the people stand up on Sunday morning and holler against it. And what do we hurt here? We hurt a pocket. Oh, then we go on to the derivative arguments; we hurt the family because a man gambled his whole pay away and the kid suffered. Now what happens when this kid of his who becomes addicted to marihuana and all these other different things and has to go down the street and bump somebody over the head in order to get the money for it? Sure, I know if we make it so cheap that he can have it or we give it away to him for free, that's what he's going to have.

But let me ask you this, those who advocate the decriminalization, the People's Republic of China forbids any use of drugs. For centuries and for ages the drug culture came from the East. And in China, those people, their sociologists who study this--and let's not just call them dumb or stupid because we don't understand them; they study, too--they're producing a bomb the same way as we have. They produce some modern technology that we're very much surprised because our news media tell us that they were backward and ignorant. Why did they come to the conclusion that this is no good? Why won't they give it to their citizens and they had it for centuries? Why did they say it's no damn good, stop it? We could go on and on and on but I think that suffices.

- C: Just one last question on current controversial issues was abortion, the abortion issue. Should a woman have the right to have an abortion if she feels--I guess this is individual rights.
- L: Of course, you come into the religious proposition there. The argument about abortion, for abortion, against abortion, centers down to what you believe. And there's no way that whatever law is fashioned or not fashioned, it's going to square with all of the various shades of religious belief in this area. And perhaps it's a way of saying, "Well, there's no solution to this problem." And there isn't, because as long as you're going to allow people to have freedom of religion, as long as you're going to allow people to have their own philosophies and religion, you're going to have this. And the people who spend all this time trying to engineer our society to their own ideas are just a little bit wrong.

I could tell you this; Look at the birth control that was practiced in France prior to World War II and World War I. France practiced quite a bit of birth control. It was regarded as a Catholic country. The French didn't have enough people to get up and defend their country, did they? They had an aging society and their people who were on retirement far overwhelmed the people who were in production.

Look at India. India had an overpopulation, didn't it? Still was unable to defend itself. Now I'm trying to show you, I'm trying to say to prove my proposition that there is no solution in this area. I'm showing you the two puzzles.

- C: Yes, the two extremes.
- L: And the people who go around about doing this, fine. They're doing a good job, they're interested in it and whatever your church teaches you, that's what you're going to believe.
- C: One last question.
- L: Okay.
- C: Your political experiences, I haven't asked you anything about that.

L: Holy cow!

C: That could take a tape itself?

L: That would take a tape by itself. Suffice it to say I already told you the basis of my political experiences occurred because Mr. Westenfield sent me down to City Council; I became a Democrat and am still a Democrat, however, when I was appointed to the bench by Governor Disalle, the gentleman whom I earlier discussed with you as the guy that got me drunk at the end of my first day of taking the bar examination, I was accused of going to become--because I was very active in partisan affairs--as a matter of fact, I was one of the vice-presidents of the Democratic party here in our community--and there were those who thought I would be a political judge.

I think since I have been on the bench I've been accorded what I deem to be the highest honor of any other honors which I have received from a lot of people and I'm very appreciative of those honors, is the fact that as lawyers come into my courtroom, they tell their clients, "You're going to get a fair shake in there." So much so that I know sometimes one party or both parties and I have never been asked to step aside. Once there was an indication that I might be asked and I indicated I most certainly would if people even have the feeling that there might be some pain or prejudice in my mind.

But politics is an important facet of our society. I don't think enough people are involved in it, and there again I'm very strongly opinionated. I don't think enough people participate in politics. And I think our press, certainly our press, make politics seem so bad and so dirty and so mean and so horrible. But yet, it's the only form that we have for the people to express themselves. And I don't care if they're going to stand down there in the streets and holler for days at a time. There still has to be some regimen by which those loud shouts and those hollers and those screams are channeled and made to work, and it has to be some form of politics. I think we need a lot more politics.

Judges ought not to participate in politics to the extent and degree that other people do. And I have maintained my position, I have maintained my activity, a very low profile in the political field ever since I've been judge.

C: Okay, is there anything that I haven't asked you that you think you might want to respond to, or any area of your life that I haven't really covered thoroughly enough?

L: Well, I could talk about my experiences in the Navy and the World War and all that sort of thing.

No! I would like to say this: In my contacts with society, as a result of my official positions and as a result of my activities in society, I think that the worst thing that has happened is that John Q. Citizen is unwilling to give a little bit of himself to make this a little better country to live in.

And I suppose I have two mottos which are somewhat attributed to me or at least I like to think that these are the things that I choose to expostulate the most. One is, and you see over there I am going to post this in my courtroom, "None of us can get along without the rest of us." I thoroughly believe about the interdependence of our society and about the need for each of us to help sustain the other. My activity with young people perhaps is best summed up by this--and of course, it shows my selfishness, why I'm interested in youth: "Put a little bit of yourself into tomorrow by doing something for a youngster today."

I guess that says about what I think and I suppose that I consider myself very honored by the fact that I've been permitted by our community to serve the community. And I know this sounds like a lot of political hogwash, but then again, in the official service which I've had, they've also given me the privilege to serve in other situations. Just as I look around about the room, I see the Bicentennial Committee and the Commission that I worked with and on, and interested in the people who did that, and the various lodges and societies in our community which make ours a community.

LESKOVYANSKY

33

C: Thank you very much, Judge Leskovyansky.

L: Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW