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Contact:

Special Collections, University of Delaware Library
181 South College Avenue
Newark, DE 19717-5267
302.831.2229 / 302.831.1046 (fax)
http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec
askspecref@winsor.lib.udel.edu

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ELBERT N. CARVEL
Former governor

Transcribed by:
Rebecca Herman
August 7, 1979
Elbert N. Carvel
Interviewed by: Rebecca Button
Place: Kent County, Maryland
Time: July 12, 1976
B: Rebecca Button
C: Elbert N. Carvel
B: This is an interview with former governor Elbert N. Carvel in his home near Kent Island in Maryland, an ancestral home. The interview is being done on July 12, 1976, the bicentennial year.

Governor Carvel, could you tell us something about your ancestral home?

C: Well, to begin with, the Carvels came over with Lord Baltimore in 1634. Of course Lord Baltimore, Lord Calvert his name was, was the original settler of Maryland in St. Marys County and he had a grant from King Charles the First. Of course, King Charles the First was trying to help his Catholic brother, his wife's Catholic brother to find a new place in the new country because they were being somewhat persecuted over in England. But at any rate the Carvels stayed in Maryland for about three years. And they went down to Virginia, picked up six hundred acres of land in Virginia and stayed there for almost one hundred and fifty years and came back to Maryland in 1780. This was my great, great, great grandfather, Edmund Carvel. And he came over the South River and picked up a small piece of land there and when this property here on Kent Island which was known as Craiford and this was where William Claiborne had his plantation when he first settled on Kent Island about seven years or three years before Lord Baltimore arrived here. Claiborne did come here seven years before when he discovered the location and then he came in 1631 to settle here. Well, at any rate, my great, great, great grandfather bought this property in 1799 for seventeen hundred pounds current money and there was three hundred acres in the farm at that time and about six thousand feet of waterfront on the Chesapeake Bay. We're about eight miles southwest of Annapolis at this point and I've often thought that the Carvels have watched many things across the
bay. For example, when the Naval Academy was being built and perhaps when they built the N.S.S. towers over here for the Naval Sending Station and also they probably watched the building of... I know we watched the building of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge because I was one of the ones who watched that and helped to dedicate it. I was governor at that time. Well, at any rate, the reason we bought the farm here was because it was about a mile away from a public landing over here on Shipen Creek and of course in those days there was only one way to get rid of your grain to send it to the terminals in the city and that was to ship it by water. And so this made this a very valuable farm. Not because it was on the Chesapeake Bay but that it was a mile away from a public landing where they could haul their grain and have it taken away out on a barge on sailing vessels and shipped to Baltimore. So, this part of the Carvel family, now my mother was a Nostrand and she was a descendant of the early Dutch settlers of New York who came over to New York City in 1639. My great, great, great, great, eight times great grandfather was Hans Jansen Van Nostrand. He came over from Rotterdam in the Netherlands and so all of our family on both sides are either Dutch or French or English and have been settlers in this area for a long time. It was just by chance that they didn't get to Delaware until 1936 when I arrived there and of course Mrs. Carvel was a Valiant. She was a descendant of French Huguenots and they came over here... I think John Valiant came over near Bellevue back in 1641. So, we're very happy to have come to Delaware and we came there because Mrs. Carvel's uncle, William E. Valiant, had started a fertilizer company there back in 1914 and it needed management and so I left a good job in Baltimore and came over here at a lower salary because I thought Delaware was a
land of opportunity. Of course at the time that I arrived it was right after the depression and there was only about one house and one farm that had any paint on it and it looked like kind of a poor area but suddenly things got a lot better and first thing I knew I was called on the grand jury in 1941 to investigate the election of 1940. This was a federal grand jury and I didn't really want to serve on the grand jury because at the time Mrs. Carvel wasn't feeling too well. But, I managed to be talked into serving on it and when I ran into some of the things that were going on in Delaware in the way of buying votes and voting dead people and things of this sort it sort of upset my Puritan conscience and I decided we ought to do something about it. So, in 1942 I took a lot of interest in the election for state senator in my district and we succeeded in getting him elected and the first thing I knew in 1944, six years after I...or eight years I had come to Delaware they asked me to be a candidate for lieutenant governor on the Democratic ticket and I was delighted because this gave me a chance to do something more about improving the election laws in Delaware. So, I served for four years as lieutenant governor and I found out there are a lot of other problems besides the election laws that needed attention in this state. For example, I found out that our educational system had been somewhat neglected and that during the war years many of the facilities of the state had not been maintained and there were many, many problems to take care of. But, the big problem was as I saw it was that education should be improved and that facilities should be provided and also that our election should be overhauled and put on a basis where people could...where they'd have to identify themselves in order to vote and also by using voting machines they could vote by a secret
ballot. Now, we didn't get the election law passed while I was governor but it was passed a year after following my term as governor and I felt that much that we had talked about helped to bring about...raise the conscienceness of the people of Delaware to the point where they wanted election reform. But we did get a great deal accomplished during my first year...first term as governor in the way of improving our educational facilities, upgrading the salaries being paid for...paid to teachers and also providing for first class maintenance of our school facilities.

B: You were elected governor. When you were campaigning did you present a program?

C: I campaigned on numerous things when I was governor...when I ran for governor in 1948. Of course that's the year when Harry Truman was running for re-election as president and everybody said he couldn't get re-elected and of course he did. And...but the thing that I stressed more than anything else when I was running for governor in '48 was that we should have a strong program for education within our state because of the fact that if we were going to build America we had to have a good program to teach the future citizens of our state. Now, this is one of the things that I gave a great deal of support to when I ran for governor. I also campaigned on improving the election laws which I thought was highly important. I said that we should streamline the govern-ment of our state and make it more responsive to the people. And...of course nothing at that time was said about taxes and it wasn't until I became governor that I found out that we had to raise taxes in order to do some of these things which we set about to do and incidently that was quite unpopular.

B: You're sounding the way a Republican expects a Democrat to think.
C: Well, of course...but there's one thing about it. When I left as governor the first time, there was no...there was a cash balance. I left a cash balance. But when I came into my second term as governor following a Republican, he left me a deficit. Again I had to raise taxes and when I left a second time we had a twenty million dollar cash balance. Besides, there was thirty five million dollars in the fund. So, I may be sounding like a Republican thinks a Democrat ought to think but I can tell you this, I've heard a lot about the Republicans talking about balance budgets but all I ever see from Republicans was unbalanced budgets but I left balanced budgets.

B: When you needed to call for new taxes for a very expanding needed state program, you didn't find a lot of negative feeling in the citizenry then did you?

C: Well, it was strange. The negative feeling was mostly in among my Democratic contemporaries in the city of Wilmington. They're the ones who were mostly upset. For example, those people had been paying ten dollars a year taxes, income taxes, and had their taxes raised to fifteen and that was a fifty percent increase and they were very much upset about that. Now the people who had to pay the great amount of tax didn't say much because they could deduct it from their federal income taxes. And, this cut the tax back considerably. It wasn't a very big tax really. I think something like three percent but it hit some of the little fellows on a percentage wise basis a whole lot higher than they had been expected to be hit. We also urged that veteran's bonus be paid. This is one of the things that we stood for. You see, World War II had just been over a couple of years before that and we urged that a veteran's bonus be paid and that we had a referendum to see
if the people approved that. We did have a referendum. They did approve it and we did pay the bonus.

B: Many things were on the drawing board then weren't they following the war? Highway programs, facilities of all kinds?

C: Well, I don't...apparently the facilities had been neglected. You see, my predecessor, Governor Walter W. Bacon, a very nice person, but he had been sick for several years and as a result the... things were not on the drawing board that might have been there if the governor had been in better health and more aggressive and so when we came about saying that we wanted to build schools and we wanted to do the things that would be helpful and we had a lot of co-operation from the agencies. For example, the school, the Department of Education came along with a bill to provide twenty million dollars for the construction of schools. Well, this seemed like an enormous amount of money but...for a bond issue...but we went along with it and we started constructing schools. So, they were ready to follow up the leadership which we were willing to provide. Also, on the highway situation, one of the things we started to get done in those days was to encourage the building of the paving of dirt roads. Most of the roads in Delaware were dirt roads at that time. Now they're all paved. Now, we didn't get very far with that program there but we did have a start on encouraging or supporting a program for the paving of the dirt roads and this did a lot to help the school buses and people in the country to bring their produce to town so these things just sort of came about because the people wanted them done and the people told me they wanted them done and little by little we got a dirt road program and now practically all the roads are paved in Delaware.
B: That's almost like R.E.A. happening. When you think back twenty years or more and you think of the people that were your people that you worked with in both administrations, who are some of the ones that come to mind immediately?

C: Well, of course when I was running, a man who was very close to me... see, I became the state chairman at the request of Senator Tunell when I was lieutenant governor. I served as state chairman of the Democratic party in 1946. I only served for about four months and told them I was not going to serve as state chairman while I was lieutenant governor. I didn't think they were compatible so I resigned at the end of... right after the election in 1946. Well, we lost the election in '46 but I did get to meet and know a lot of people throughout the state and met a lot of Democrats and they kind of thought I was pretty aggressive in that campaign and even though we lost the election I met quite a few people. Now, some of the people I have in mind are former Congressman Harris B. McDowell. He became Secretary of State and after I resigned as state chairman I encouraged him to become state chairman and he served as state chairman all during my term and also as Secretary of State. Another man I'm thinking about is Alexis I. Du Pont Bayard who served as my lieutenant governor who was a very capable and helpful person in that office. He served as president of the Senate and lieutenant governor and as president of the pardon board and he supported our program whole heartedly. Of course, we had Wilson Baker who became the auditor when I ran for governor at that time and he was an excellent auditor. He has since passed away in the last couple of years but he did a fine job in auditing the books of the administration. Then there was Harvey Lawson. Harvey Lawson was the Republican Speaker of the House. In the House when I became governor we had
eighteen Republican members and seventeen Democratic members. But we helped Harvey get elected Speaker of the House because...he wasn't the choice of his party but he was a friend of ours and we wanted to see Harvey Lawson in there and we provided the votes to overcome the Republican majority along with Harvey Lawson's one vote. Then in addition to this there was Mrs. Vera Davis with whom I had served in the Senate and we helped Vera Davis become president pro-tem in the Senate because the Republicans had nine votes and we had eight votes. So, we just provided our eight votes with her one vote and elected her president pro-tem. So we had quite friendly people in leadership of the houses even though the Republicans had a majority in both houses and we were able to accomplish eighty percent of the platform that we had put forward to the people even though we had a Republican majority in both houses so we made some progress there. One of the things we did was to repeal a very bad anti-labor bill which the previous administration in their peak had passed. They were really anti-labor and they passed a real mean anti-labor bill.

B: That was the Taft-Hartley Act then.

C: No, the Taft-Hartley was passed about that time. I think they passed the Taft-Hartley Bill in about 1947 and about that time the Bacon administration passed these anti-labor laws and some of the people they were getting ready to put some local labor leaders in jail because of this and we were able to accomplish the repeal of that with quite a lot of maneuvering. What happened in that case was that this was House Bill #1. Well, it...we got it passed in the House to repeal this House Bill 210 which was the infamous anti-labor bill passed by the previous administration. And then we had another bill which was passed in the Senate but we couldn't
get them together. Mr. Lawson wouldn't go along with us on this and so we knew the identical bills had passed in the House and the Senate but they were never certified to my desk by the Speaker of the House or by the president of the Senate. So, what I did, I took...I recognized...I took recognition that both bills had passed and they were identical and therefore we prepared a duplicate bill which I signed and placed into law. I don't think this has ever been done before or since because it wasn't certified by the clerk of the House or by the clerk of the Senate or the secretary of the Senate but I knew that as a matter of record they had passed both houses. I signed a bill that became law. It was never questioned.

B: Did that happen at the end of a session when nobody was looking? or what?

C: Oh no, everybody was looking and as a matter of fact we gave it as wide publicity as we could give it and the public knew and the matter was never questioned in the courts in the state of Delaware. And it was accepted and that bad anti-labor legislation was then hereby repealed and it was a very simple thing. All it says... in effect I think...resolved...House Bill #210...whatever the name of the law was at that time...is hereby repealed. That's all. It wasn't any long laws. It was a very short sentence.

B: That sounds like interesting labor history. What just...excuse me.

C: Yes, well, also along with the labor history at that time, the labor people were very anxious to have what is known as the negotiated wage rate. This was a wage rate which was negotiated by the builders and the labor people and they wanted this to apply to all of the construction by state throughout the state. There was a lot of opposition to this down in the lower counties but we put this
negotiated wage rate into effect throughout the state and we built millions of dollars worth of schools and colleges and hospitals when I was governor at that time and this was very helpful to the working people of our state.

B: What exactly was the negotiated wage rate plan?

C: Well, it was the wage rate for public construction just as it's done on the federal level too...that provides that all the buildings built by the federal government shall have the...this wage rate which is a uniform rate to apply to the construction of these buildings and this was done on a state level with us and of course the down state people tried to say well, it doesn't cost as much to live down here but what we said was this, if you had the negotiated wage rate then you have a lot more competition in the bidding and another fact was that the people of Delaware were better served because their construction rates in the final analysis were really cheaper than if they let somebody get in there who had no competition and where for example if organized labor organizations weren't bidding this gave people a chance to go higher and get better prices for themselves to the disadvantage of the state. So, we supported the negotiated wage rate.

B: The Pennsylvania railroad finally sold the ferry during your administration did it not and did you start the building of the Memorial Bridge?

C: I participated in the legislation for the Delaware Memorial Bridge because when I was lieutenant governor the Republicans wanted to...Frank Du Pont himself wanted to get the authorization for the Delaware Memorial Bridge and he got through first of all a bill to provide twenty five million dollars and sell revenue bonds for this purpose. Well, we needed a three fourths of the General Assembly to
do this and the Republicans didn't have three fourths in either house and so they needed the support of the Democrats to get the bill passed. Well, the Democrats were upset with the Republicans at this time and this was in 1945. They were upset because the Republicans were holding their bills in committee and wouldn't let them come out and the wouldn't vote on them and they wouldn't even discuss them in committee. So, I got the Democrats together as lieutenant governor and we had...provided a package and the Democrats needs were...the requests were not very great. They didn't have any, bills of a great moment but they were important to them and they wanted to get their bills passed. So, I got an agreement between the Democrats and the Republicans that if the Republicans would vote for the Democrats bills and at least bring them out and have them considered and then we'd go ahead and vote for this and if possible the governor would sign all these bills if they were good bills. And another fact was that we could put together a package in '45 that got the Delaware Memorial Bridge underway, thirteen million dollars worth. It was a Republican bill and Frank Du Pont was the father of the Delaware Memorial Bridge. He was head of the highway department at that time, chairman of the Delaware highway department, but...and then two years later we had another bill passed providing fifteen more million so we had a total amount of forty million dollars for the Delaware Memorial Bridge, that first bridge and then in the final analysis, the Delaware Memorial Bridge was completed in 1951 and then we had a special session of the legislature to authorize the sale of the ferries and we had a group that gave an appraisal of what the ferries were worth and we authorized the sale of the ferries for that purpose...we authorized the purchase of the ferries. We bought
the ferries. The state of Delaware bought the ferries. I think it was somewhere around two million dollars. Walter Carpenter was very active...Walter Carpenter Jr. who was then the chairman of the DuPont Company was very active on that committee.

B: How was the railroad able to prevent or use the ferry service and hope to prevent the bridge for so long when the traffic was an hour or two hours waiting?

C: I don't think the railroad had anything to do with the ferries. No, the railroad didn't own the ferries but as a matter of fact the railroad wasn't very happy to see what was happening because they knew that the New Jersey Turnpike and the Delaware Memorial Bridge was immediate competition to them and I'm sure they weren't very happy to see the Delaware Memorial Bridge come at all but you can't stop progress.

B: It just seemed looking at it...looking back now in 1976 when we see the traffic on those bridges, now two spans, it's hard to believe that that late we managed with only ferries taking traffic across the river.

C: Well, interestingly enough, people used to line up especially on the weekends and wait there three, four and five hours to get across those ferries and that's why it made the building of a bridge absolutely essential. So, this is...when I was lieutenant governor I knew that this was good legislation and I thought my party was making a big mistake just trying to stop the building of the bridge just because they couldn't get a few of their bills passed so we worked that out quite well. One of the things that happened too when I was lieutenant governor; the teachers were asking for a salary increase and I think Republican administration gave them something like a hundred dollars and they weren't very happy about
that and the Democrats did all they could to be helpful to the teachers and they became our firm ally when I was running for governor in 1948. Incidentally, you might not realize this but no governor in the state has gotten more than ten thousand and three hundred votes majority. They run for...people have run for Representative. Mr. Du Pont got...Pete Du Pont got in 1972, Pete Du Pont received fifty eight thousand votes majority. But no governor has ever gotten over ten thousand votes and this is a very hard fought job. Of course I was the second Democratic governor up until 1948 in this century and it was almost regarded as an impossibility to get to be elected governor so I guess I was fortunate to have been lieutenant governor, to have known what the issues were and be able to present them to the people.

B: Did we have the traditional northern, southern split? We always talk about it above and below the canal. Well, was the Democratic party unable to capture the governorship? Was it largely below the canal?

C: Well, what happened for example, Mr. Layton, Mr. Landreth Layton ran for governor in 1932 when Roosevelt was first elected president and he went to the canal that year with a majority but Mr. Buck defeated him because the majority of Republican vote north of the canal was enough to defeat him. Now, when I ran for governor in 1948, I received about seven thousand votes in Wilmington majority, about fifteen hundred in New Castle majority which was very good because New Castle was a strong Republican area. I received a majority of about a hundred and fifty in Kent County and about a thousand in Sussex County. So, I had a majority in all three...all four political subdivisions.

B: Well then, you were the first Democratic governor to win in all
constituencies or all areas in history or since the turn of the century?

C: No, well, I don't know. Governor McMullen was elected in 1936. He was elected by four thousand majority that year and of course the Republican party was split and Roosevelt as you remember carried the state by a big majority. That was a big landslide for Roosevelt and that's when Governor McMullen went in. Now, I'm not sure how the subdivisions were split up at that time but it was a great...the Democrats were very happy to have elected a Democrat at that time and that was the time when the Republicans in the second part of his administration... in the second part of the legislative area...you see you had a biannual legislature at that time and that was when the Republicans ripped the highway department away from the Democrats because they had enough votes to do it to override the governor's veto when he vetoed the bill and this made a great deal of bitterness between Democrats and Republicans. And incidently, back in 1954 when Boggs was governor, they had the big question about the integration, Brown vs. School Board and Delaware elected Allen Furr by twenty thousand majority and Harris McDowell to the Congress by fourteen thousand which was most unusual for Democrats and we elected an overwhelming amount in the Senate and the House in the Legislature and I was the state chairman at that time. You see, I had lost the election in 1952 to Governor Boggs and at that time the Democrats did the same thing to the Republicans. They ripped the highway department away from Governor Boggs and the way they ripped it was by adding more people, more Democrats to the highway commission. They couldn't fire the ones that were on there but they aided more Democrats and so I opposed this concept because I thought this was irresponsible.
I saw no reason that just because the Republicans had ripped the highway department in 1939 under Governor McMullen's term why we as Democrats would turn around and be just as mean as the Republicans were because I thought this was irresponsible government. I think the governor has to have some control over the situation and I was proved right because there was a lot of criticism about how the highway was run. There was a great many overruns in 1948 ....in 1958 and '59 and the Democrats of course were in the majority in the General Assembly and the governor was Governor Boggs at that time but there was a lot of criticism about it and the Republican members of the General Assembly tried to make a big issue out of it but I resigned in protest when the Democrats ripped that highway department I resigned as state chairman so when I ran for governor in 1960 they tried to make an issue about that. I said well, I couldn't agree with them more. I was totally opposed to it and I resigned because of it and I believe I won the election in 1960 because I had taken a statesman like attitude about the ripping of the highway department in 1955.

B: Then you were state chairman in '54 and when did you resign?
What was the year again?
C: 1955...spring of '55.
B: Right, and then you ran for governor in 1960. So, you were always active. You've never stopped being active.
C: I also came back as state chairman in 1956 for the campaign. That didn't last. I only stayed on for about four or five months at that time.
B: Who was your opponent in '60 and who was your running mate?
C: In 1960 my opponent was John Rollins. In 1948 my opponent was Hylan George who was a well known contractor and a very fine
gentleman. He was from Kent County. He was of the firm of George and Lynch. Also in 1958 I ran for the U.S. Senate against John J. Williams and he defeated me during that election by ten thousand votes majority. I also later ran against him in 1964 for the U.S. Senate and he only defeated me by five thousand but that was enough. Now, the lieutenant governor in 1960 was Eugene Lamotte and he had been mayor of Wilmington and he was put on the ticket at my request because they had defeated him in the primary for the second term of mayor in 1960 and I wanted to see him give us his support. So, I urged him and urged the party to put him on their as lieutenant governor and he did and he served with me as my lieutenant governor from '60 to '64.

B: Throughout the interview today you sound as though you've been a very good compromiser. You could turn your Republican majority into a Democratic controlled House and Senate essentially and you've talked about incorporating the mayor of Wilmington into the ticket. Is that something a governor of Delaware always needs to do because of the two areas of the state?

C: I think it's very important to be able to bring people together. You know, Johnson...Lyndon Johnson used to quote Isaiah in the Old Testament, "Come let us reason together." And this has always been the basis and I've always tried to work for the things that I believed in but in addition I haven't hesitated to raise issues with my own party when they...for example, when they ripped the highway department and I was state chairman in 1955. I resigned because I opposed what they were doing. I also opposed my party in 1964 when they tried to put a lopsided levy cart or county council act through and then whereby they had thirty three thousand in one district, thirty two in one district, thirty three
thirty three in another district. These were Republicans and then in the Democratic district they made one district with nine thousand and one district with five. This was wrong. I opposed it. I vetoed that bill. They had passed the bill in the Legislature. I vetoed the bill. I didn't hesitate to oppose my party when they were wrong... when I thought they were wrong and support them when they were right and naturally the art of democratic self government is a matter of trying to get together many different views and trying to see if you cannot compromise or harmonize their views and bring out some good answers, something that everybody doesn't always agree with one hundred percent but something that almost everybody can agree on just as Mr. Carter is trying to do today.

B: When you were governor did you have the problems that we find... we surprised Americans found under the Nixon administration? Did you have to knock any heads together at any point?

C: Absolutely. I took the position when I was governor that number one as a Democrat I could help bring Democrats into the government. You see, Democrats hadn't been in government for a long time and then when they were in with McMullen they were only in there for two years and then McMullen promptly lost the department... the highway department because the Republicans ripped it away from them. So, they were hungry. The Democrats wanted recognition. Now, the thing I told the Democrats was this, that number one; As a democratic governor I could be helpful in providing opportunities for Democrats in our administration but number two; they had to hold their jobs with... and they had to be responsible for the way they held their jobs. That I couldn't hold their job for them. That if they were dishonest or incompetent that I could not keep that job. It was up to them to hold a job and this happened time and time again. I
did knock heads together. I remember one chap in the right of way was a big politician who'd gotten a job in the right of way and he tried some what we call hanky-panky. He did improper things which were...which I thought were dishonest and the highway department had fired him and the matter he appealed the thing right up to the governor and I said,"No, he can't stay. Absolutely he cannot stay." And, yet he was a man who had converted a Republican district of three hundred majority to a Democratic district of three hundred majority but that wasn't...as far as I was concerned we couldn't put up with that kind of business going on and this...it didn't take too much of this. I had two people when I was governor who came in and tried to bribe me and that was the first term. One person when we had just started what was known as the development department, we had a man who was to run the development department and this particular chap...I mean this particular job only paid five thousand but the man came in, never saw him before in my life, and he offered me two thousand dollars as a bribe if I would give him that job. I said, "If you don't get out of here in thirty seconds and leave here and I don't even know what your name is now I've forgotten and I intend to forget you but if you don't get out of here I'm calling the Attorney General and I'm going to prefer charges against you. I don't even remember that man's name but he never came back. Then I had another fellow who wanted some other kind of job who I had known. He was up in Kent County and he offered some kind of situation like this and I promptly booted him out of the office and I guess the word got around because those are the only two people I ever had come to me. And I had one chap in the Senate who got very much upset with me because I wouldn't appoint a man who was a very incapable chap and
his cousin to the public service commission and strangely enough I found out later that they were going to split the salary on that between them if I had appointed them and this was a case where I just would not appoint an incompetent situation. Incidentally, one of the things you might be interested in is the fact that we did put the Supreme Court, the Delaware Supreme Court into effect when I was governor the first time and this was a very important step in the state of Delaware because we had not had a Supreme Court as such. The lower court sat as a court of appeal as a whole and this was not very satisfactory because we had too much to do in our state so in 1951 we had the Supreme Court Act passed and I appointed what was considered to be one of the best Supreme Courts in the United States. Chief Justice was Clarence Sutherland. James M. Tunell Jr. was one of the associates from Sussex and the other associate was Daniel F. Walklet who later became Chief Justice and incidently I appointed him as Chief Justice. But, originally Daniel F. Walklet was from Kent but he was then living in New Castle County so it was a fine Supreme Court and regarded as such.

B: And his grandson is now I believe in the Attorney General's office, Daniel Walklet.

C: That's right.

B: He also played the part of his ancestor, Caesar Rodney, during the Bicentennial.

C: Oh, that was excellent. Incidentally, it was a lot of pleasure to me to be at the old Dickenson Mansion at five o'clock in the morning on July 1st when John Dickenson was given a fine send off by people from all over the state and all over the country as a matter of fact with television and every thing else recording the occasion.
I don't usually get up that early in the morning unless I'm going duck hunting or goose hunting but this was quite an occasion. I think I got up at three o'clock that morning.

B: Speaking of duck hunting and goose hunting, or ducking, have you done much shooting with former Governor Boggs at any point.

C: No, I never went shooting with Governor Boggs. I did go shooting with Governor Terry on several occasions up in Kent County and of course we have lines down here on Kent Island. I have a blind here on the farm and we have some down on the lower farm. There's a farm down on the lower end of Kent Island which my great grandfather bought in 1876 and we still have that farm and we have quite fine facilities for ducking and goose shooting down there.

B: Well, we shouldn't have got away from the legislative record too much I guess. The bridge was happening, the highways, the schools, the post war boom you might call it. What might have been some problems in those years? We have a picture of prosperity and growth. Were there any kinds of disturbing points that were happening?

C: Well, I was very fortunate as governor because the racial problems just didn't seem to be the problems they were. You know one of the first things we did was to build a good school in Kent and Sussex County and New Castle County when I was governor the first time, a good high school which we then had never had before for the black people of that area. That was a time when they were segregated. It wasn't until 1954 in Brown versus School Board changed the segregation pattern. But in 1948 to '52 we saw that there was good facilities, that there were equal facilities which had not existed for many, many years for the black people of our state. For example, in Sussex County, you could only go to the tenth grade in two schools.
I think one was in Laurel and one was in Seaford and then you had to go to... if you were black you had to go to the Delaware State College where they had the last two years of high school and this was very unsatisfactory because they had high schools for white students in practically every town in the state. So, this was taken care of and of course when we had all this raucous about Brown versus School Board, Governor Boggs was there and that was very unpleasant. One of the things... probably the most unpleasant thing I ran into was the raising of taxes. That was pretty unpopular because it hadn't been happening for so long a time and people were a little bit shocked about it but they came to accept it and then what we did... we did repeal that income tax in 1950 after we'd raised enough money to do what we needed to do and so we repealed it. That was the first thing. Now, number two, one of the big problems I ran into was to get involved in the strike... the bus strike in Wilmington in 19... I think it was probably in December of 1949. I intervened and suggested that we do certain things, charge for a transfer and make the fares ten cents straight instead of perhaps four for thirty five and then that effect was that raised a lot of hackles at that time. That was a very bad mistake to have raised the transfer. The other would have been alright but that upset a lot of people. But we did get the bus strike settled and what concerned me, why I wanted to get the bus strike settled was because I was afraid we'd have a lot of snow and people would be very much in-convenienced with a bus strike and there might be a lot of loss of life and things of this sort take place and so I tried to do what I could to settle the end of the bus strike.

B: Were the trackless trolleys still operating then?
C: I think there were some at that time but there were mostly buses
throughout the city of Wilmington and this was the major concern. During my term some of the landmark legislation was to provide for the water pollution law which was a real step forward in the state of Delaware and a law that has helped to clean up the various rivers and streams of Delaware because we had a law with some teeth in it and stopped the dumping of industrial waste and raw sewage into the streams of our rivers. I think this was a good step forward and...

B: Did you have any difficulties with large corporations over that legislation?

C: No, indeed. In fact we had full cooperation with the DuPont Company for example. One of the best men on that commission...we had a three member commission was a member of the DuPont Company and he did a fine job. Another important act that we passed was the Delaware Geological Survey which was passed in 1950 and had my sanction and for the first time in the state we had a real working geological department which as most people realize more and more the need for good, clean, pure water as a number one priority and I think this has served quite well in working with the University of Delaware.

B: When you have been in many political meetings; national, state, other kinds of meetings, have you ever seen another politician as tall as you are?

C: Oh yes, Jim Fulson of Alabama was two inches taller and to me he looked like a mountain. I'm sure I look like a mountain to the average person. You see, I'm six foot six and when I see a man just as tall as I am he looks big to me because I'm used to looking at average people. Incidentally, another thing took place when I was governor from 1948 to '52. I was a delegate to the
Democratic National Convention in Chicago and I was also chairman of the Delaware delegation. We had six members at that time. Harris McDowell was another member and I think Lex Bayard. I can't think who the rest of them were. We had six altogether and I was wholeheartedly at that time in favor of Adelai Stevenson. When I went up there I wanted to see Adelai Stevenson nominated and I had talked to a number of governors about it. We were all at sixes and sevens. We were all disorganized at the Democratic Governors Conference and people down South wanted a southern man and that wasn't satisfactory to the people in the North and Adelai Stevenson was the governor from Illinois and I said he'll make the best president that we could put in there and most of them agreed but we couldn't get the thing together so when we went to the convention a lot of talk about who was going to be the governor...or president and Alben Barkley came in with great gusto and looked as if he...he was the vice-president as you know at that time...he came in acting as if he was going to be the nominee and he was told by the labor people he was too old and this really upset him and so Alben sort of withdrew to a...he was getting ready to go home and then they told him...they told Alben Barkley that they wanted him to make a big speech because they didn't want him to go home. They wanted to sort of provide balm for his wounds and so he made a tremendous speech on the floor of that convention. Well, in the meantime...I had been working very hard...Alben had asked me to second his nomination...but I had been working very hard when he got out of the picture...I had been working very hard for Adelai Stevenson and I had called Adelai up and found out that he would be a candidate. I talked with him for half an hour and I found out that he was a very willing draftee.
So, after I found out that Adelai was a willing candidate I really went to work and I sent telegrams to all the Democratic governors and invited them to meet me in the basement of the convention hall to discuss this man's candidacy. Well, I would say out of twenty four governors or maybe twenty six governors about nineteen did show up but we did not arrive at any consensus at all. I told them what I had to say and I told them Adelai ought to be the candidate and we ought to run him but they didn't give any strong support at that time as a unit. They were the same way they were at the Governors Conference. Well, at any rate, about that time Jake Harvey...let me see...Paul was the governor of Massachusetts. He was the permanent chairman of that convention and he said to me...I was waiting for a taxi that night...and he said, "Hey, Jake Harvey wants to talk to you." Jake Harvey was the national committeeman of Chicago and a friend of Adelai's and Jake wanted to know whether or not I would be willing to nominate Adelai Stevenson and I said, "Well, I'd be delighted. And...but I've got to get busy on a speech." So, I went into seclusion and wrote my speech and in the meantime I found out the governor of Indiana who was a man of about seventy years old, sixty eight or seventy and at that time I was forty two and of course this would be his...Governor Shreiker of Indiana...used to wear a white hat and he said he was going to nominate him. Well, of course the reason they wanted Delaware to nominate him...they knew I was supporting Adelai but Delaware came before Indiana for example and they wanted to get someone in there early because all the states before us were southern states or western states that weren't supporting him and Delaware was the first opportunity. So that's one of the reasons they asked us and I said I'd be very glad to do
it but when Shreiker said he wanted to do it I said, "Well, I'll tell you what we'll do. We'll both nominate him and you go first and I'll go second. So, this is what we did. I prepared my speech and Governor Shreiker talked for fifteen minutes then I got up there and started to talk for fifteen minutes and of course you couldn't hear this on television but the crowd wanted to parade after Governor Shreiker's nomination...nominating speech and I made my mind up I was going to complete the nomination before they paraded and so I had to fight that crowd off for about five minutes to calm them down so I could give my speech because they were clamoring to parade down below and Sam Rayborn who was the chairman of the convention who was the presiding officer at any rate...he held me close to my fifteen minutes, right close to it and he was getting ready to gavel me down and the papers said, well, he ad-libbed five pages and threw away fifteen. So, this is the way we got through the job and completed the nomination and I considered it was a high honor because I had a high regard for Adelai Stevenson and he became the candidate and Delaware did get a measure of publicity for having done that much. My friend over in Maryland was Theodore McKeldon at that time the Republican governor of Maryland and he nominated Eisenhower. I suppose you remember that. So, we often talked about it when we'd meet on that occasion. One of the interesting things about the '48 campaign was our association with President Truman. I had never met President Truman before although I had served as lieutenant governor for three years while he was president but I'd been to the meetings where he'd talk but when I ran for governor we were invited...that is the state chairman and I who was Harris McDowell, we were invited to come to Washington. and board the
presidential train which was going to come to Wilmington and make a whistle stop in Wilmington on the way up to Philadelphia and so on and so we boarded the train and got about to the Susquehanna Bridge and we were in the front part of the presidential car, Ferdinand Magellan and the President sent word that he would like us to come back to his private quarters. We were back in the part where the news media people were and so on. It was very comfortable. So, we went back and the President introduced Harris McDowell and myself to Mrs. Truman and he said, "This is the boss"and sort of smiled and very jolly. Margaret was there and we met her and the President sat down and we were talking about the situation and he says, "You know, we're going to win this election." And of course everybody was saying...gallop polls and all the polls were saying he couldn't win and we'd almost gotten to believe he could win. We'd almost gotten to believe that President Truman was going to be a burden for us to carry especially in a Republican state like Delaware but in a very confident way he said, "Well, we're going to win. I had this same kind of thing happen in Missouri. The Democrats tried to boot me out and I wouldn't let them do it and we went out and talked to the people and we won and we're doing the same thing today and if you had seen what we have seen during these past few weeks that we've been on the road you'd realize we're going to win because the people are turning out by the hundreds of thousands and they're not just turning out if they're not going to vote for us. You can depend upon it. We're going to win." And from that time forward...and we stopped at the whistle stop in Newark and then we also stopped...no, I don't think we stopped in Newark that time. We stopped in Wilmington, Delaware that time. There was about ten
thousand people there. And in 1952 I think we stopped in Newark at the whistle stop. Apparently we did stop at Newark just for and appearance but we didn't speak but we did stop in Wilmington and there were about ten thousand people there and President Truman was very well and warmly received and although he didn't carry Delaware, he only lost it by two thousand votes in 1948 and he carried the rest of the nation and we were really delighted when we found that after we'd been elected we thought he lost because everybody was saying that Dewey had won that night and the next morning after we came to Wilmington with a great big group of people...I think we started out with about twenty five cars out of Laurel at about three o'clock in the morning and by the time we'd gotten up to Wilmington we must have had about one hundred and fifty cars. We had a long line of cars and we all came into the Hotel DuPont about six o'clock in the morning and had breakfast there. We used up the whole downstairs...the basement of the DuPont Hotel where they have the...what do they call that?

B: The Grill?

C: The Grill, yes, down at the Grill, down at the...where the cafeteria now is was called the Grill and we...I guess there must have been two hundred fifty, three hundred people there and we had breakfast altogether and then we went to bed and Mrs. Carvel and I had been up all night and we slept until about twelve o'clock in the afternoon and then we got the news that....Speaking of Harry Truman, we had some very interesting experiences with him. You know when I was governor the first term, he was in the process of restoring or really renovating the White House. They almost had a floor fall on them and things were in very bad structural
condition in the White House and so what happened, the whole time Truman was in there they were busy putting the White House in first class shape and what they did was take everything out of the White House except the four walls and while I was...whenever I'd go over to see Harry Truman I'd go over to look at the White House and see how they were getting along with it. At that time...the first time I saw the inside of the White House, everything had been removed except the four walls. There were no floors. There was nothing at all except the walls and the ceiling. Everything had come out the front door and then...and I noticed that the walls were quite black and this was probably because of the fire back in the War of 1812 that caused these walls to be black. Well, at any rate, the next time I came over, maybe a couple of years later, they had the...they had steel construction and reinforced concrete which was...they were building the White House just like an office building really. And of course I don't suppose they had too many bathrooms in the White House but this time I noticed they were putting bathrooms in practically every room in the house and it was truly a very excellent restoration of the White House and I'm sure the White House will be there many, many years. Well, why did I go see the President? Well, I went to see him because we had different things that we wanted to talk about. For example, one time we wanted him to put a housing office in Delaware. We were one of the forty eight states...we were the only one of the forty eight states that did not have a housing office at that time. So, he did promise to put one in for us. But, I remember talking to the President one time and we were discussing interest rates and at that time all of the banking community were trying to get interest rates raised and Harry Truman was doing everything he could to keep them
stable. At that time we could borrow money as a private corporation. I'm president of the Valiant Fertilizer Company and we could borrow money for three percent. The federal government was borrowing money for two and five eights, two and a half and the state of Delaware was borrowing money at about one percent because there were no taxes on that money and the income tax was very high at that time, up in the ninety percent bracket. Well, at any rate, Harry Truman was...we were talking about this business of the tax proposition being so...we were talking about the business of the interest rates being so low and the fact that the financial community was trying to cause them to be raised and Harry Truman looked at me and he says, "Governor, it's very simple," he says, "We're right" and he banged the table and "They're wrong." And why he said this was because he knew that if he raised interest rates; he allowed them to go up, that it would be burden on the states as well as the federal government. It would be a burden on the house holders and he was doing everything he could to keep them down. Now, the financial community was saying well, the President's using artificial means to keep them down and all the President would have to say about that was, what do you mean, artificial means? Isn't the money an artificial medium? So therefore, why not control the situation to the benefit of all concerned. And this is the way Harry Truman was. If he believed in something, he didn't hesitate to make the decision and I think he was a great president and said so. I said so while he was president and said so many times since and I was very proud to be associated with him. Just for example just to show you how down to earth he was, I had never met him but one time when he was elected president in 1948. I met him on the train that time and
when he got elected I called him up out in Missouri, out in Independence and he came on the phone and we congratulated him, told him how happy we were. Mrs. Carvel... she didn't want to talk to him because she felt very much embarrassed because she had never met him. She couldn't imagine talking to the President and I said, "Yeah, go ahead and talk to the President." He talked to her and, you know she's one of his strongest supporters... she herself had been Republican inclined. Her father had been a Republican and she voted for him though and she told him she voted for him. I think it was the first Republican president she ever voted for but she... he became... she became one of his strongest supporters from that time forward and he was just as....

The first side of the Carvel tape runs out here.

SIDE II

Another time we had an experience with President Truman was in back in that time when we went in 1964 to see the President about bringing a housing office to Delaware. At that time Delaware was the only state in the union which had no housing office and this was for the purpose of processing loans, FHA loans and things of that sort. At that time we had to send them up to Philadelphia and we thought... well, this was in 1964... excuse me, this was in 1952 which was literally at the end of my first term as governor and the end of his first elected term as president and we took Harris McDowell, the Secretary of State and Allen Freer a Delaware Senator with us. Now, Allen Freer at that time had not been getting along very well with the President because he had not given the President the kind of support the President thought he should have. As a matter of fact, Allen
Freer was working very closely with the Southern Democrats and they were not very helpful with the President's program. So, we thought we should take Allen along because he was our U.S. Senator and we wanted him with us on this effort and of course he was willing to go. So, we sat up there and the President agreed to give us this special office in Delaware. He said he would do everything he could to be helpful and so later on we did get the office established as the President said it would be done. Well, he then asked us well, who are you going to run for the position of United States Senator against John Williams? And I said, "Why Mr. President, we're going to run Alexis I. Du Pont Bayard who comes from a long and established line of Democrats in the state and they've been statesmen and held positions of ambassadors and senators and representatives in the Congress ever since revolutionary times. Well, he says fine, I'm glad to hear that and I hope you'll send somebody down to the Congress who's going to support the President more than one time out of ten and Allen Freer hopped up and said, "Oh he will Mr. President, he will." Well, as a matter of fact, Lex Bayard did run for the U. S. Senate and I ran for governor and of course Eisenhower was the candidate of the Republican ticket for president and he won in a landslide and John Williams defeated Lex Bayard by fifteen thousand votes and Cale Boggs defeated me for governor by seventy two hundred votes and so we have a change of the guard. Well, after that however, I had to make the budget up for the state of Delaware and at that time...you know today the budget is made by the department of finance I believe but at that time the governor and the budget commission made the budget and we held hearings and people came in and told us what they wanted and then
we sat down long hours sometimes until two and three o'clock in the morning and pared the budget down to where we thought it should be. Incidently on the budget commission at that time was the Secretary of Sate who was Harris McDowell. There was treasurer and the auditor and the budget director who at that time was E. Hobson Davis. Later Hobson Davis became state tax commissioner during my second term and we finally prepared the budget and it was a long drawn out affair and of course it's very difficult to do this thing after you've lost an election. But, we presented the budget to the people, to the General Assembly and the last day that I was governor in 1953, January the nineteenth, Allen Freer came into my office, our United States Senator just to pay me a courtesy visit and we talked for a bit and I said, "Well, you know Allen, I just wanted you to know that I will not be a candidate for the U.S. Senate in 1954 because I knew that from experience that if I didn't burn a few bridges the first thing I knew I would have been a candidate and I wanted some rest and relaxation and I wasn't unhappy that I lost. I wanted to win of course but I kind of welcomed the opportunity to have a breathing spell and those who are not in public life and who yearn to be in the public eye don't realize what happens when you're in the public eye. Publicity if fine but after a while it begins to wear on you and you begin to yearn for privacy and this is the way I was beginning to feel. I'd like a little privacy. So, I told Allen so he would know so I wouldn't be running for something that I wasn't too anxious to run for because I knew he wasn't too popular with some of the more liberal people, Democrats in Delaware and of course the administration as you know had been a liberal administration. Well, he said, "Well, Bert, I didn't ask you whether you
were going to run again. I said, "I know Allen but I'm telling you so you'll know. I want you to know that I'm not going to be a candidate." Well, what happened? As things unfolded in 1954, even though I didn't agree wholeheartedly with how Allen Freer operated, as things unfolded, competition began to develop against Allen Freer. James N. Tunell Jr. came off the Supreme Court to run for the U.S. Senate in the primaries and this upset me that James Tunell would leave the Supreme Court because Boggs was governor and that meant Boggs would appoint a Republican to the Supreme Court and that would give the Supreme Court over to a majority of Republicans and I couldn't conceive that this would be done. But Jim thought this was what he wanted to do and of course he was the son of an illustrious father who was also a U.S. Senator and so Jim went around and campaigned against Allen Freer and I went to see Allen Freer and I said, "Now Allen, I want to know if you're still serious about staying in here or not because I'm having a lot of pressure put on me to be a compromise candidate." And Allen Freer said to me that yes, I intend to stay in there. Well I said, "If you stay in there the word that I gave you in 1953 is still good and I will abide by my word in what I told you." So, I came out in support of Allen Freer for the U.S. Senate and I worked in Sussex County and all over the state to help get him nominated and Allen Freer I think won something like a hundred and twenty five to seventy five, something like that for Tunell and I'm satisfied that I helped him get the nomination for the U.S. Senate at that point. Then of course I took over as the state chairman in '54 to help get the ticket elected because Harris McDowell asked me to because...it's most unusual to have a governor serve as state chairman after he's been governor but I
thought I could help the ticket and I wanted to see this ticket elected and we elected that by...in an off year election, the whole business by an overwhelming majority. I also was asked in 1956 by the party leadership if I wanted to run for governor there and I said, "No, I don't want to run for governor." We talked about who would be the proper man. I said, "Well, there's a man in the state who served as chairman of the state highway department during my last term J.H. Tower McConnell from Virginia, a Democrat and a man who comes well supported by the establishment in the state. I think he'd make a good governor. So, they asked me to serve after I had resigned you know because of the ripping of the highway department in 1955. Mr. Lyons who became the chairman following my resignation had a heart attack and they asked me if I would step into the breech and serve so for the third time I became state chairman and worked on that campaign and Tower McConnell lost by about sixty...about sixty five hundred votes and Harris McDowell who also ran for the Congress lost by about sixty five hundred votes and of course Eisenhower won in Delaware and he won in the United States. It was a pretty hard thing to buck a Republican landslide in a Republican state and I thought Tower McConnell and Harris McDowell both did quite well. Well, I had helped Allen Freer and indicated that I wasn't going to run for the Senate in '54 but at that time...at the end of '54...this was after the '54 election, I told Allen Freer that I might well run for the Senate in 1958. Well, I think he was kind of glad to hear this because if I ran for the Senate in '58 and got elected this would mean that I probably wouldn't be any competition against him in 1960. So, I did run for the Senate against John J. Williams in 1958. I got the nomination. As a matter of
fact, my party has always nominated me and I've run for office six times and been elected three and it's always an honor to be nominated whether you're elected or not and I think most people don't realize that at least you've had an opportunity to take a shot at the job and not everybody gets nominated. So, even though I've opposed my party in numerous things, even for example, in the one man, one vote situation, I came out for this picture in the House of Representatives in the Delaware Legislature. I urged back in 1949 before a group of women that we have one man, one vote in the General Assembly in the lower House. I thought the Senate ought to stay as it was but I thought the House should be as it is in Washington and of course this didn't please my Sussex County or my Kent County friends down there because they had the majority of the votes in the General Assembly at that time and this meant taking power from them and of course we never did get that job done until 1964 when the Supreme Court made that decision so...but I did have the privilege of setting up the first arrangement in Delaware to provide for the one man, one vote concept in the General Assembly. Well, at any rate, I ran against John Williams in 1958. We had a strong campaign and he knew that he had been...he had opposition. I can tell you that. Incidentally, we had help from John F. Kennedy who came to Delaware in 1958 and campaigned for me. Hubert Humphrey and Lyndon Johnson both did television spots with me and did some tapes for me and interestingly enough these three men several years later became candidates for president and two of them were elected president so I did have...picked the right people to support me at that point in time. There's one more thing during my first term which is of interest. For two years running, I received a recognition from the Women's National Organization of...for
appointing more women per capita to public office than any other
governor in the United States.

B: That happened because the organization was simply checking through
state rosters. You had no prior knowledge of that.

C: That was entirely correct. I didn't even know that there was such
a medal to be given. I just went ahead and started appointing as
many women as I thought would accept to public office because I
thought at that time women should be recognized. So, I received
this medal, two years running in 1949 and 1950 and it was called
the Women's National Organization or something of the sort. I
have the medals at home and they were fine bronze medals and you
see what...not based upon the total number I appointed but the
number per capita because Delaware is a small state. And I had
appointed more women per capita I think the first time by...I
had twice as many women per capita in Delaware government as any
other state in the union.

B: Did you find any kind of opposition at all when you made these
appointments?

C: No, I found no opposition. The only opposition I ran into was the
press didn't want to give me any credit for it. In other words,
they wanted to play it down as much as possible and this was the
problem I ran into in Delaware all the time because we did have a
press and in my opinion it was a Republican press in the state of
Delaware and they weren't about to give much credit to a Democrat.

B: Would you find...

C: It has improved since then.

B: Oh, I was just going to ask if you thought it was very much differ-
ent today.

C: Oh yes, I think it has improved greatly. Of course, one of the
problems was I was pretty antagonistic towards the Republican party when I was first elected governor and you almost had to be because Democrats were regarded in those days as being in a very low position and if you were going to be anything in Delaware in 1948, you were supposed to be a Republican. A Democrat wasn't even regarded almost as a human being and it was unthinkable that any Democrat could get elected governor at that time and of course I used to make some pretty harsh comments about the fact that the Delaware press was very partisan and that you couldn't get a very fair shake and they didn't hesitate to come right back at me and give me as hard a time as they could and we sort of had it back and forth during my first term. Incidentally during my second term I took the Delaware press into my confidence and we got a long a whole lot better because everytime that I'd have something of interest to talk about I'd call a press conference. As a matter of fact, we had a press conference every two weeks and we started our press conferences in Delaware early in the operation during my first term. But during my second term we had regular press conferences every two weeks and used to have cruillers and coffee and they were homemade cruillers and everybody seemed to enjoy it and we had a fine group of people and a fine relationship and also about every two months I would get together with the editorial staffs of the newspapers, sit down and lay the cards on the table and talk about the problems which existed in the state and so as a result, the second term we had much better press relations than we had during the first term and I think that they've even improved since that time.

B: What about Senator...President Kennedy's leadership?

C: Well, I first met John Kennedy in...during the...when I ran for U.S.
Senate in 1958. Of course he was the U.S. senator from Massachusetts at that time and and Lyndon Johnson was senator from Texas and Humphrey was senator from Minnesota and that's when they did the tapes for me. And when John Kennedy came to Wilmington in '58 and he created quite a sensation. He just came down the main street and the whole...just in short order hundreds of people started gathering around on the main street of Wilmington when they heard he was there. He created quite a...wherever he went he created quite a sensation. He had a very magnetic personality. There wasn't any doubt about it. Then back in 1960...the question about who was going to run for governor and of course Garrett Lyons then was the chairman and he died suddenly and Elisha Dukes was his assistant and I felt that Elisha was too much influenced by Mr. Lyons so I supported a man from Wilmington, John Conway, for the state chairman. Now, Elisha was from Sussex County and I had to have Sussex County to be with me if I wanted to get the nomination. But at any rate I opposed Elisha and they made me go on record. I was a member of the state committee and I opposed him and yet he came to me after that and he says, "Now Bert, are you going to run for governor this time?" Well, I say, "If the party wants me I'll run." He says, "Well, you'd better take a different tact than that because if you don't let the party know that you want the nomination somebody else is going to get it and I know of a half a dozen people who are out to get this nomination and if you want it you'd better go after it." I said, "O.K. Elisha starting today I'm going after it." So, I went out and called on every committeeman and committeewoman in the state of...well, probably not all of the committeewomen but all of the committeemen and many of the committeewomen in the...in Sussex County and I said, "Now look,
there are three people from Sussex County who are talking about running for governor; there's Harry Smith who was Insurance Commissioner. They called him "landslide Harry" as you recall because he did win when nobody else was running in 1958 for Insurance Commissioner. So, he was one of the candidates. Senator Hoy, we called him "Doc Hoy", was another candidate and he was a very conservative chap and I was the third candidate. But the man who was the real candidate was J.H. Tower McConnell who had been the candidate for governor in 1956 and that was what the leadership in that area wanted. Now, on the other hand, Harris McDowell was in the Congress and he'd just been elected by about fifteen hundred votes in 1958... no, I'm sorry, yeah... I guess that's right, probably by about fifteen hundred votes, very small margin and the people up in Wilmington he thought if they were going to support McConnell that they were going to dump him because I think he'd had some differences with some of the leadership up there. So, I knew that Mr. McConnell was encouraging "Doc" Hoy and Harry Smith to run for the nomination for governor and I knew that if one of those got it down here that New Castle wouldn't pay any attention to Sussex. They would then call for it up in New Castle County because they had the majority of the votes up there and that they would go with Tower McConnell and so would Kent County. So, I did all I could to talk to the people of Sussex and I said, "Look, for the past nine governors, eight out of the nine ever since John Townsend have been from New Castle County and Wilmington, both Republican and Democratic. Now, we don't need to help them get a governor. They've had eight out of nine. And who was the ninth one? It was Bert Carvel back in '48 as you remember." And I said,
"Now let's join together. If I can get the nomination from Sussex, Kent County has endorsed me. They haven't endorsed anybody else from Sussex but they've endorsed me and the executive committee with Harris McDowell's help had endorsed me in New Castle. Now if I can get this job done down here, we'll have a governor from Sussex County and strangely enough, the people asked me from the newspapers...Dick Rennard who was the city editor of the Evening Journal and Cy Liverman, the night before the convention...they said, "Well, how many votes do you have Bert?" I said, "Well, honestly..." We had sixty votes from Sussex County in the convention. I said, "I have forty votes, but if I have forty I'm sure I've got at least fifty because I knew that there were some wavering." If I got the majority, they'd go along. Well, they just laughed at me. They didn't think it was possible and they didn't know what I had known that I had made personal contacts with everybody and things were coming along quite well and so that day, the News Journal published a two...the day before the convention, the News Journal had published a two page article about Tower McConnell's wife, Willie DuPont's daughter, and all the things that she had done. I don't know whether they thought that would help any or not but wasn't that quite a coincidence that they would publish a two page article in the society area to help give him a major prestige, At any rate, when I came in that morning...I was rounding up my friends in Sussex County and I got word from two or three places that people that I didn't think were going to support me were going to support me and Mr. Potter, who was the national committeeman came in and he said to me...and he was a matter of fact the man who...one of the men who was supporting J.H. Tower McConnell. He says, "Bert, you kill me." And he thought I was
working very hard to try to get the Sussex County crowd lined up which I did and I had them lined up and that was the key to the whole situation and by gosh we did get the job done. Now I talked with some of the people that day down at the convention and they said, "Well, such and such a chap," who was a red haired chap... used to be with the News Journal. Fact is, I think he was then, was working for Tower McConnell down there at the convention. They said, "He's got a roll of bills big enough to choke a horse." And I said... I thought to myself, well, I wonder how much money I have and I looked in my pocket and I had three dollars and twenty seven cents. I didn't even have enough money to buy a delegate dinner. But as a matter of fact, I'd been all over Sussex County and having lunch and dinner and maybe I took one or two out to dinner during the time, but mostly talking to farmers and people around there and I figured to get that nomination in 1960 I spent seventy seven dollars and that was spent for postage, printing and stationery where I sent position papers out to various delegates all over the state and that's the only money that I really spent during that campaign. So, when people say that you have to spend a whole lot of money... I say, it isn't money you necessarily have to spend. It's ideas you have to convey to people. That's the only way that I think that you can really, truly, sincerely get a nomination and do it the way it ought to be done. At any rate, when the roll was called, it happened the way I thought it would happen. We came to "Doc" Hoy... Senator Hoy came to me and told me he was going to give me his full support. He knew he couldn't make it but Harry Smith thought he could so I came down half-way through Sussex County with thirty out of the sixty votes. Not a single one voted against me on my side of the county. So,
as we got over to Curt Stevens area where it was a little un-
certain, and all of his people came along and the only people
who voted for Harry Smith were I think five...four...six people
which were all right over in his district and the district next
to him and as soon as they found out that the majority was going
to be for me, most of the people went along for my proposition.
Now, as a matter of fact, the chairman of Sussex County, Democra-
tic chairman of Sussex County did everything he could to try to
get a secret ballot so I wouldn't get these votes and as a matter
of fact, we voted openly for an open ballot and he declared that
we'd have a secret ballot so we had to override him. We had to
override his decision and I couldn't get up and speak and the
man that I had asked to get up and speak seemed to be glued to
his chair and he wouldn't get up to make the motion that the
thing be override. Finally Bill Dorney who was from my own home
town and is now a Representative up in the General Assembly...I
said, "Bill, somebody has to get up and make a motion that this
thing be overridden or that decision is going to stand." And so
Bill got up and made the decision and the first opportunity I had
I appointed Bill as a member of the Industrial Accident Board and
he was one of the finest members they ever had. But the chap that
I had asked to do this, to get up and make a motion to override
the chair, was a graduate of a college. Bill Dorney wasn't a
graduate, but he had the guts to get up and say what he thought.
Well, so the matter of the fact was that we carried...we came out
of Sussex County with fifty four out of sixty votes. Kent County
stayed with us as they said they would, most of New Castle, as a
matter of fact the whole thing went together at that time. Harry
Smith thought he was going to get some support out of New Castle.
He didn't get any support at all. All he ever got was the six votes and so Tower McConnell never did surface. So, that's how we won that nomination in 1960 and it was one of the most delightful things that I've ever had happen to me. Well, at any rate, we ran against John Rollins that year and he was also well financed. He was supposed to be a big millionaire and John Rollins had all kinds of people dressed up in uniforms going all over the place. He had a Rollins wagon and I think he spent thousands of dollars on the campaign. Again, we didn't spend very much. As a matter of fact I got a... during that campaign... now there's some campaigns where I put up five thousand dollars. I put up five thousand dollars to run in 1948. I put up five thousand dollars in 1952 and in 1958 but I don't recall putting... you see I had lost two elections and therefore the party didn't press that too much. In the meantime Elisha Dukes who I'd opposed for chairman, did all he could to help me win the election and I made him Secretary of State and he was a good man, excellent Secretary of State. In the meantime, we were talking about Kennedy, and here was Kennedy had done a number of things that Sussex County didn't like and here I'm a candidate and things are very tenuous in Sussex County and the nomination out in Los Angeles was two weeks before the nomination for governor in Sussex County. The people in Sussex County were very much opposed to Kennedy. Now remember, I had... they were opposed to him mainly because of the religious issue and because of prejudice and I'll come back to that later on. And I knew this. I had made a survey and I knew they were opposed to him. So, what had happened was, I had been importuned by Jack Kennedy several times and by his administrative assistant. Who was the man that wrote the book? Begins with...
B: Sorrenson

C: Sorrenson, Theodore Sorrenson. I had been asked by Theodore Sorrenson to, very strongly, to support Kennedy but I had never given my consent because I knew how Sussex felt. Remember this, I had to get my nomination, first of all from Sussex County. If I didn't get it from Sussex, I would have lost Kent and New Castle. But if the Kent and New Castle people knew that the Sussex people were behind me, they were going to support me so here I had done this against Sussex County. I had opposed the man they had wanted for state chairman who was their own Elisha Dukes. I had supported one man, one vote back in 1949 and continuously...I talked about it in the election of 1958 and this is something Sussex did not want. They were bitterly opposed to one man, one vote. This meant they'd lose power. I had gone along and opposed the ripping of the highway department. Sussex wanted that so bad that they could taste it and I'd done these things and also I had been in favor of the negotiated wage rate for the building and the people in Sussex didn't like that. I'd done all these things that Sussex didn't want and if I'd gone ahead and supported Jack Kennedy before my nomination they'd of just wiped me out. I would like to have supported Jack but I couldn't do it and so when we went to the convention, it was Cliff Hall's vote and my vote that made the decision to support Johnson and Kennedy never forgave me for that until just about a month before he died...not a month but about a week before he was assassinated. He always called me governor. He never called me by my first name. Of course he was about eight years younger than I was and he felt...I think he felt the difference in the age because he knew I'd been governor before. But he was always sort of at arms length. He was never too friendly. But
he came to the dedication of the new interstate highway which we
built in 1961 to '63 and completed it in November the fifteenth of
'63 and we had invited him to come, Governor Tawes and I. It was
a joint project and we welcomed him. He came in by way of hellicop-
ter. We were right in the middle of Delaware and Maryland, right
on the line there and there's no way to get there except by auto-
mobile or by helicopter and the automobile situation was all tied
up because there was at least ten thousand people coming by auto-
mobiles and some of them had to walk three and four miles to get
there because the cars were all parked on the highway. Well, at
any rate, he came in and we gave him a fine welcome and he had a
say and then as he was leaving...he was going up to New York with
his helicopter...well, I always made it my purpose to not only
give a man a greeting, governor or president or whoever when he came
to this state, vice-president, but I always saw that he had a fare-
well and Governor Tawes was all tied up with his people, politicians
talking and so on and he missed the fact that the president was
getting ready to leave. So, I escorted the president back to his
airplane. I said to him,"Mr. President, this is a fine, enthusiastic
crowd and I know you're concerned about whether you can be re-elected
or not and I can tell you here that these people came from all over
the country to see you and I think it indicates that they're going
to support you wholeheartedly without any question. It's not going
to be a close election next time. You're going to win in a land-
slide." Well, he seemed to like that and as he got aboard the air-
plane, for the first time in his life he said, "Well, so long Elbert." Well, I knew then that maybe he'd forgiven me and I never did try
to explain to him why I couldn't support him in 1960. Because I'm
of this school. It's not necessary to explain. Your enemies won't
believe you and your friends don't need an explanation. And I knew that eventually Jack would see that I was his friend because I...on numerous occasions I went to Washington. I appeared before House and Senate committees in favor of legislation that he wanted. I supported his program and he knew I was on his side and he knew he had carried Delaware but he never did forgive me for voting against him for the nomination until just about a week before he died. During the 1960 campaign we invited President Kennedy who was then Senator Kennedy...we invited him to come to Delaware and he obliged and again interestingly enough Harris McDowell was then running for Congress and I was running for governor and so President Kennedy invited us to come to Washington, meet him at the airport and we flew up in his private plane first to New Jersey and then back to Delaware. Well, in the meantime we were at the small airport in Washington which was right next to the National Airport and he had a private plane which was owned by his family and his wife was there and she...Jacqueline was most concerned about his welfare and how he was going to get along. At that time she was pregnant with John-John and everything seemed to be very cordial between the two and she was most solicitous about his well being and of course then we took off and went to New Jersey. We went on the other side from Wilmington. I've forgotten the name of the town but we arrived there late and left there even later so that when we came over to Wilmington to the Wilmington Airport I guess we were an hour late. But the thing that really gave us the tipoff as to what was going to happen. There must have been thirty five or forty thousand people at that airport and Jack Kennedy was really quite well received. I said there was a time down in Sussex County when Jack Kennedy was...when there was a lot
of prejudice because of his religion against Jack Kennedy. But we did something about this prejudice and one of the men who was so very helpful in this area Houstan Wilson a very active Episcopal church member who raised the issues that everybody was prejudiced about and then proceeded to knock them down in a very fine fashion and very Christian fashion and as a result, Jack Kennedy almost carried Sussex County. He only lost by six hundred votes and I won by a majority I think at that time of two thousand votes which was pretty good but this just goes to show you how Sussex County can be. Sussex is probably in my opinion the most sophisticated county in the state because they see what the picture is and they use good wisdom and they talk about politics I would say in three hundred and sixty five days of the year except leap year and then they talk about it three hundred and sixty six days of the year. But during the campaign of 1960 one of the things that happened was that the Republican party especially including Senator Snowden was trying to make an issue of corruption in the Delaware state highway department and the Attorney General had made an investigation and they tried to get me to call for the results of his investigation and I said, "Well, number one, I did not ask for the investigation and the governor, Governor Boggs is the governor and it's up to him if he wants the results of this investigation to be made public, let him call for it because he is the governor of the state." Well, Boggs never did call for it and I also pointed out during the campaign very effectively that I had designed as state chairman a protest to the Democratic legislature ripping the highway department and believe me this was very effective as far as the people in the state were concerned. But I also said that I will appoint a blue ribbon committee to investigate the
highway department's situation and make a recommendation as to what to do and then I would try to follow the results of this blue ribbon committee. This became almost the most important issue during that campaign was the issue which the Republicans had made of corruption in the highway department and with some justification because I know in one case there were overruns in just on one job of about a half a million dollars which were not even authorized by the highway department, just authorized by the chief engineer and so we very well laid out the rest. I did appoint the commission after I was elected governor. The commission did make several recommendations. I followed those recommendations out except for the fact that instead of appointing seven members to the commission, I appointed eleven. This gave a broader representation all over the state and after this commission was appointed and after we took over the highway department early in my term in 1961, I banged the table month after month indicating that we must have inspections and must make the contracts of our highway department. We must bring integrity to their contracts. That we must not have overruns unless they were justified and that effect was that within a year our underruns exceeded our overruns and our overruns were running into the millions of dollars. One of the things I'm as proud of as anything about the highway department is we had some fine co-operation from the commissioners and one commissioner especially, Mr. Max Terry who was chairman who was the soul of integrity and he along with William J. Hopkins who was one of the Republican members, a very close and dear friend of mine, served to really bring full integrity to that highway commission. In addition to this, one of the
things they did...it used to be that when we'd get federal matching funds and realized this when we'd build interstate highways, ninety percent of the money in those highways came from federal matching funds. Sometimes we had to wait months and years before we got the federal matching funds but one of the things that they provided that Mr. Hopkins especially worked for...he worked hard to get the federal government to accept what is known as a concurrent audit. This meant that our highway departments accounting was so good that they...if the job was approved to be done that they would advance the money to pay for the building of these highways which in the interstate case was ninety percent and in the case of regular highways was fifty percent. It was known as a concurrent audit and they would advance the money instead of us having to wait months or years. This has saved the state of Delaware millions of dollars because if we had to wait say two or three years for our money and in some cases we never did get the money because they didn't approve of our figures and didn't have confidence in our figures but we had...by the time I had left office, we had concurrent audit in the highway department and our bookkeeping was immaculate and right up to exactly what was happening day after day and there wasn't any argument about how the federal funds would be provided. They were provided promptly and so this was a very important situation as far as the state's concern. Another thing, we took this state from where there was a great criticism, challenges and indications of corruption in the highway department and we changed the overruns from being very heavily in the millions a year to actually being underruns in the highway department. I think this is an indication of...

B: This hadn't been done anywhere?
C: Well, I'm sure in some places it has been done but the point is... this indicates that we can have honesty in government and I'd like to point out that during my second term as governor we must have spent a half a billion dollars in construction of highways, bridges, bought some ferries, built hospitals, university buildings, school buildings, public buildings of all kinds. We must have spent half a billion dollars or more. There was not one breath of scandal about how that money was spent and what I want to say is that I believe that if the proper leadership is given, we don't have to have corruption or scandal in public life. We certainly during my eight years in government, the people who worked for our administration understood that we were going to have nothing but honesty and integrity. That that was explicit and that if the price were being otherwise was to lose your job and this was very well understood and therefore we didn't have any scandal. We didn't have any problems. During my administration, during the second administration, first problem we had was we inherited a two and a half million dollar deficit from the former Republican administration. In addition to that, that administration had estimated that in 19...for the fiscal year and in 1962...we were on a two year basis then, that we'd have a deficit of seven and a half million. Well, we promptly faced up to our problem. We raised a few taxes, mostly income taxes and a few others like corporation franchise taxes and we promptly balanced the budget within a year and at the end of my year we had almost twenty million dollars surplus plus a thirty five million dollars in the divestiture fund which came from the Du Pont divestiture from the General Motors and I think that this was an indication of the serious responsibility as far as our administration was concerned. Also as I say, we went ahead and
either built or authorized to be built a half a billion dollars worth of construction at that time. During our administration we authorized the Delaware Memorial Bridge, the Lewes Ferry and there was a lot of criticism about the Lewes Ferry because they said it wouldn't ever pay. Well, I can tell you that at that time I said, "Even during the colonial times they sent missionaries over here and they spent a little money to try to encourage the future and this is what I was trying to do for Kent and Sussex Counties here." Well, I notice that here we are in 1976 and I understand that the Lewes, Cape May-Lewes Ferry is now in the black and this just shows that with a little bit of confidence. But here again is where the Wilmington newspapers criticized me severely because we put the Lewes-Cape May ferries in. On the other hand, I said this is something we need to help develop Cape May County and Sussex County and I'm glad to see that our vision has been justified in this matter. Of course, even though the Cape May Ferry was in the black, it was not costing the tax payers of Delaware one single cent because you see revenue bonds were issued to build the second Delaware Memorial Bridge which was authorized during my term as well as the Lewes-Cape May Ferry and if the ferry was losing a little bit of money, the bridge was making a great deal of money and the tax payers didn't pay one cent for building the bridge. The bridge was paid for and the Cape May Ferry is being paid for by the people who use that facility and eighty or ninety percent of those people are from out of state. So you see that does indicate that this was a good effort and a chance to take to not only develop Sussex County but Cape May County in New Jersey and I think the people in New Jersey felt the same way about that. During my second term we built many schools
where we thought we'd spent a lot of money for schools during the first term, we spent probably three times as much money to build schools in the second term. We probably provided great deal of funds for highways. We started the new Dole highway over on the eastern side of Sussex County from Selbyville on north and we authorized the Kennedy Turnpike. We authorized the thruway through Wilmington. We had a terrible time trying to get the Republicans to go along with that but we finally got that job done because what was happening because they hadn't authorized these things, the contract...the people in the contracting business were about going bankrupt right and left because there was no business and the Republicans were holding this up. Well, with the help of Henry DuPont, that's Henry Bulin duPont who was a very close friend of mine who worked closely with me and I made him... put him on the planning department and encouraged him to participate in public life and he was in my opinion one of the outstanding Delaware citizens of his time who was really public spirited about many things. Of course Mr. duPont was very much interested in land planning. He realized there was just so much land and when we put the planning department into effect which came under my administration and I also put him in incidently on the Goals committee. But when we put the planning department into effect, this was approved by the General Assembly by unanimous vote on both sides and he was delighted to see this and he was most helpful in making that part, he and Chief Justice Daniel L. Herman were most helpful in making that a very successful operation. As a matter of fact, we had a Goals committee which was instituted at the suggestion of Justice Daniel L. Herman and Mr. Bulin du-Pont, Justice Herman and Mildred Tunell and Max Terry and Otis
Smith were among the ones who were on there. I think Mr. Carter who became head of the Delaware Community College complex was part of that operation and we even had...we even had on the committee because we were looking for a critical viewpoint. Russell Peterson was a member of our Goals committee and...

B: Was that the governor to be's introduction into government?
C: Well, I can tell you this. It didn't hurt him any and of course one of the things we fought very hard for was prison reform. That's one of the first things I did when I became governor the second time was do something about the correctional situation. I appointed a fifteen man committee to look into that situation. We ended up changing the correction laws of the state and also in authorizing the facility at Smyrna because our facility at...in the Wilmington area was very unsatisfactory and was out dated and had to be replaced and so Russell Peterson also took an active interest. He was head of the 3-S campaign when I was governor and that's why I brought him into the picture because this 3-S campaign came to the public sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, Russell Peterson was a Kiwanian, and this came forward after I had come out strongly for reform in the penal program in our state. Incidentally, when I was governor one of the things that happened was that the General Assembly tried...passed...we had a very vicious murder in Sussex County right next door to us and...right next door to where I was at Laurel. When I say next door I mean within five miles or so from my home place in Laurel and the General Assembly which had passed a law against capital punishment about three or four years before promptly passed another law to bring capital punishment back to Delaware which I vetoed which was another situation I'm sure Sussex County didn't like too well. But then they overrode
my veto and they only overrode it in the House by one vote but they did override the veto. I considered the capital punishment as not the answer to the problem. As a matter of fact, I have served with a committee of governors, former governors to support the appeal of the capital punishment before the Supreme Court and we have been fairly successful with this committee.

B: You must have been disturbed by the latest ruling.

C: Well, the Supreme Court changes you see and we have a Nixon court now and this is probably more or less the Nixon viewpoint and philosophy. Now, as regard to capital punishment, I've often felt this way and I think it's an old biblical axiom, "Vengeance is mine, sayeth the Lord," and interestingly enough in my political philosophy, I've had people who I thought were trying to work against me and I always tried...I never tried to reek any vengeance upon them. Many times I tried to be helpful and tried to do things to help them and sometimes this was...this almost caused them to be more shaken up than if I'd tried to reek some vengeance upon them but and of course that I realized that Kennedy used to say, "Don't get mad, get even." But in politics I never tried to get even. I always tried to follow what was a pretty good basis for returning evil with good and you'd be surprised how this confounds your enemies. Now, getting back to the problem of capital punishment, I was satisfied that this was not the way to bring about good law enforcement because as a matter of fact, when we had capital punishment, we had more murders than when we had repealed the law so I thought if we were ever going to stop murders that capital punishment was not the way to do it and of course as my Secretary of State, Elisha Dukes said on numerous occasions that many times an innocent man may have been killed or harmed just because
somebody made a mistake and this is always a possibility. Of course when we're talking about capital punishment also let's not forget that Delaware has had the whipping post for a good many years and as governor occasionally I'd receive letters from outraged people throughout the country wondering why we had such an outmoded punishment as the whipping post and of course I was very glad to say that during my time as governor it had never been used. Now, during my term and less during my second term as governor one of the justices of the Superior Court, Stuart Lynch, provided that certain persons should be given fifty lashes and I got in touch with the Delaware Pardon Board and urged them to place the case before me. You see I cannot...the governor cannot act upon any...give a pardon unless the pardon board recommends it. So, I urged them to come before me, Secretary of State being very important member of the pardon board, also the lieutenant governor, the chancellor, the auditor and the treasurer. They had five members. I used to be the president of the pardon board as lieutenant governor so, I knew pretty well how it worked and one of the advantages of the pardon board is this, that a matter can never be before the governor unless they place it before him so you see the governor to some extent but I urged them to promptly...to place the question before the governor and make a recommendation of clemency and I promptly stopped the lashing during my term as governor. No lashes were ever applied. One of the things that came up during my second term was the fact that many people wanted to start selling some of the land that Delaware had started accumulated over a period of years. For example, we had the beautiful oceanside area down below Lewes which goes all the way down to Fenwick Island. I think the state
owns about twelve miles of waterfront there. Well, we had numerous people who were saying well, what we ought to do is to sell a lot of this to people and we get taxes from it and we'll put a lot of money in the treasury and so on and I would say, "No, instead of selling land while I'm governor, we're going to acquire land. As a matter of fact, I don't want one single square foot of land sold while I'm governor. I served notice on the real estate people who were anxious to make a big profit in doing some business with the state and selling land but we needed more land instead of less land and what we wanted to do was provide for the welfare of the people. That the people of the state of Delaware should have that land on the Atlantic Ocean for their benefit and their welfare and I'm glad to say they still do and I hope that they will continue to hold on to the land and I must say...tell you that of this thirty five million from the divestiture fund from the DuPont Company that over half of it was spent in buying land and at very reasonable prices for parks for the people of this state and I think this is very important. Incidentally during my first term, the first real state park was started at Trap Pond when we took it over from the federal government and got the Park Commission to operate this for the benefit of the people of Delaware. This was a very popular thing also. It's really as Mr. duPont said, "You can't make land." There's just so much land and when you realize that we're using millions of acres of land for athletic fields, for arenas, for roads, for buildings, for houses, for almost everything you can think of, it's very important to conserve land for future generations. Well, to sum up the situation, I believe that one person can do a great deal if he's in a position of power. I believe that the president of the United States can do a great deal
in a constructive fashion and in a negative fashion. We've seen examples of that in the last fifteen, twenty, thirty or forty years; saw what Roosevelt could do, what Truman could do, what Eisenhower could have done but didn't do although he had preached the whole thing when he was there; what Kennedy for example tried to do and what Johnson did do and then made a mistake of doing by prolonging the war in Vietnam and we see what...the negativism of what Nixon did although he did some constructive things while he was president. I think recognizing China was a very important step and I supported him when he did that. But the important thing is that in this land of the free people where we can express our views and where we can contradict what somebody else expresses and where we can have a difference of opinion, that one man can make a difference; one woman can make a difference. It's important to realize that you can be elected because you had good ideas, because you have programs that the people believe in and that you espouse and that's more important than all the money in the world to run a campaign that publicizes a lot of Madison Avenue froth which doesn't mean a thing. I have seen for example during my experience running for governor in 1948. We were just as poor as we could be. We had no money and of course we knew the other side had more money than they knew what to do with but we won the election in 1948 on ideas...1960 I ran for the nomination and I didn't spend any money but I had ideas which I presented to the people and the party and money didn't make any difference even though I knew a millionaire, multi millionaire many times over was a possible candidate. I knew that ideas were the most important factor. I've often heard people say, you know, if I were just president of a company or if I was just a senator or governor, I would do thus and so and it was given to me an opportunity to be the governor of
Delaware for two terms and I did the things which I thought were going to be helpful to Delaware and for future generations. I fought for strong education, for parks for people, for good roads, and mental health improvement, for better conditions in our penal system. I fought for things that I thought would help to build a stronger Delaware, a stronger nation and strangely enough even though the legislature which time and time again would say, well, when I introduced a bill, he doesn't think he's going to get that passed. Six months, a year later or two or three years later, the bill would be passed because it was good because it was right. The General Assembly by and large are a cross section of people who are honest, intelligent, dedicated people but you know they're so crowded with problems that when somebody brings a new idea to them, they dismiss it immediately because that's one more problem that they don't want to cope with but after they become familiar with it eventually they pass it and so you've got to have confidence in our system of government. It's slow, it's cumbersome but in the final analysis it works.

The end of the Carvel tape.