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Mr. Eugene Derrickson

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Interviewer: Eugene Derrickson of Claymont, the interview on July 22, 1976. Mr. Derrickson, when was your first interest in the labor movement in Delaware and what was your first active participation?

Mr. Derrickson: This is about when I grew up in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania just over the line from Delaware and I became aware as a high school student and a person who worked in and around the Kennett Square area during the depression that the working people in this country weren't getting a very fair shake in my opinion. And the depression left up a very deep impression on me and then changed my lifestyle radically.

So I had participated in politics in the area, the Roosevelt campaign in '36 and there was a rather well known in that small community, athletics and drama and so on and so forth. And a group that really started accidentally, I was working for the state of Pennsylvania and belonged to a labor union and a group of people from one of the local plants came to me and asked me that what about forming a labor union? They had read that the Wagner Act had been made in the law under Roosevelt. And I told them, "Sure, it was now federal law and federal policy that workers had the right to organize and yes I'd be willing to give them an assist." I thought that was the right thing to do.

They were working for \$0.40 an hour for 65 hours a week and every hour they worked over a 40, they took a 10 percent cut. And I figured they were getting a pretty rough deal in that kind of operation. So I went to Wilmington where the CIO, the Congress of Industrial Organizations which was then headed by John L. Lewis had just opened an office, told the personnel my story, got some card, switch back and gave it to them and described in a – how to start forming a labor union. They had a meeting the following night which I did not attend but 24 workers from the plant did attend. And on the next day 23 of them were fired including my father. So my mother said, "Now, what do you do now," when I came home that night and I hadn't done that yet.

This occurred in 1937, the early part of 1937 in the spring or winter and I really had to turn into a one-man employee agency then and try to find jobs for those 23 people because I had made one slight error in judgment, not my last error, but one. I had not realized that the Supreme

Court had yet to make a ruling on whether the Wagner Act was constitutional or not and it was before them. A few weeks later though by four – five to four vote to the Supreme Court rule that the Wagner Act was legal and this enabled me to start action before the National Labor Relation Board to get everybody their job back.

So not only was I secured at home but they went on to form a union and I was called down to Wilmington and asked that Mr. Lewis had wanted to expand the Wilmington operation would I go to work for them? It was a great opportunity in my opinion and I felt it was a real service to be able to work in the labor movement. So I gave up my employment in Pennsylvania and came down to Wilmington in 1937, the latter part of the year.

And since then until March 1 of 1976, I've worked in this area as a full time labor representative. I was hired for \$5 a day, five days a week with the understanding that I would work seven. And most of the time we did, in those early days, work seven. The CIO had come on the scene under the aegis of Mr. Lewis.

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And he was engaged in a great organizing crusades of industrial workers that the F of L had, mainly Federation of Labor had pretty much left alone because they were basically a craft nominated union. And there were great opportunities and came on the automobile, sit down strikes and the organization steel. And there was very little organization of industrial plants in Wilmington at that time. Two that I can think of were the Pusie and Jone Shipyard and Delaware Rayon. I think they were the only two labor unions in Delaware.

So we then proceeded to engage on a mass organizing campaign and succeeded in organizing most of the major industries in and around Wilmington over the period of years. Sometimes our work would take us into Southeastern Pennsylvania. But I worked through that whole area until 1944 and at that time, I enlisted in the army and spent the next four years as a combat infantry soldier in World War II in the European Theatre for 27 months.

I returned in 1945 and took up the work which by this time involved not only attempting to organize workers into unions but at that time involved the servicing of workers who were already organized, the negotiation of contracts and handling arbitration cases and grievances. And that went on until – well really it went on from 1945 when I returned from the army

up until 1976. I always worked in this immediate area sometimes doing some service as far as south as Baltimore as far west York and sometimes up in the Scranton area. But my basic assignment was always either in the State of Delaware and Chester County and it involved several unions.

I left the CIO organization in 1948 and went with the electrical workers. And in 1952 joined the United Paper Workers International Union and stayed with them for the balance of my career. Now the labor movement, when we started, we encountered pretty massive opposition from the newspapers, the politicians, and leaflets distributed in all the plants, I well remember one a huge picture of John L. Lewis on a leaflet and the headline was, "Join the CIO and build a soviet America."

And so we by nature, the leaders of the CIO, by nature were men who were to the left, certainly up center and considered radicals in those days because we were embarking on a brand new type of an organization. And obviously employers felt we were a threat. And I guess in their eyes, that was – that was probably true because it meant higher wages and better working conditions and new kind of fringes that were being brought up for the first time in the form of vacations, and paid holidays, and pensions, and life and insurance coverage, health and welfare coverage, all of which was alien to the life of a worker prior to the formation of the CIO in the late '30s. And all these things were happening.

But as we – as we triumphed to the extent that built a good sized labor movement with some – in some major industries like cricos and rubber, which employed 14 or 1,500 people, the National Vulcanized Fiber Company with 1,000 or 1,200 people in six plants spread over Delaware and up in the Kennett Square, Pennsylvania by a couple of examples of the larger plants who were involved and of course a later on came Chrysler and General Motors, the auto workers and malleable iron and other plants some of which have long gone which added to the ranks side to strength of the industrial union and made them a formidable part of the community and starting to achieve some cloud.

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Then of course we broadened out as our ranks grew and our ability grew and as we drew able people into the ranks of labor or the movement even though they still worked in the plant, we diversified and branched out and added dimensions to the labor movement and our interfacing with the state and the community. We began acting on boards and commissions. We barely early on became active in the – in the lobbying scene at the state capital of Dover and started to work for laws affecting

workman's compensation, injured workman, unemployment compensation for laid off workers. Such bill is a Fair Employment Practices Bill. That maybe interesting.

I happened to be the spokesman. We had formed the United Labor Committee by that time. The F of L who had good leadership really in the state and we're basically in the building trades realize that we were another dimension of the labor movement and we're quick to – even though there were certain differences between the two organization in Delaware, they were quick to understand that we could be helpful as where the railroad unions. And between this we formed a joint labor committee which went beyond the CIO and beyond the F of L and beyond the railroad workers and became a very effective organization.

And in 1942 I guess it was or maybe in that general area I – we talked on different assignments and it became my task to go to a very hostile legislature dominated by downstairs at a time and speak to them about a Fair Employment Practices Bill. They scarcely knew what it was and they could not really understand and comprehend what we were driving at nor did they want to.

Anyhow not only – not only was that first try – the first try was such a failure that we couldn't even get anybody to introduce the bill let alone get it into the committee and get any action on it. We had written the bill, as a matter of fact, one of our first acts using the offices of the famous attorney, Lewis Retting, a black attorney who was in the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement for a very reasonable sum wrote for us 10 or 15 model bills covering unemployment comp and workman's comp and we took them all down the legislature, but the Fair Employment Practices Bill we couldn't even get introduced for several years. Of course now it's law and so many other things like it.

But we were doing that and early on I became convinced that we had to get active in many faces of the community. It was enough that there was a heritage in the labor movement. It was not enough that we had a heritage in the labor movement of being completely unsupportive such things as free education and social welfare and handling the affairs minimum wage legislation that would take care of workers who were really unable to take care of themselves start getting on boards and commissions.

Now the wars interrupted this to a certain extent. Before I left for the army though I had served with Donald Ross who was a prominent Delawarean and he was pretty skeptical in the beginning of the labor

movement on a war bond drive and that was highly successful both within the unions and the plants. And then it was on a civil defense commission with the mayor of Wilmington. I guess maybe they thought they were going to – Wilmington like it bombs sometime but that never did happen.

But after the war and when we got back and got ourselves organized and got through a long involved series of strikes in 1946 as a result of being freed from the – from the laws of the war which made an imperative to keep our production. The labor movement came out a lot stronger and better able to do jobs. And then I think we worked even harder in the community because by then we were arranging to get workers registered, get all people registered. It didn't make much difference which political party, but get them registered so they could vote and bring the issues to them.

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You can't tell people how to vote, but you can certainly show them how one candidate has a track record superior to other – to another as far as social issues are involved including the items that are very important to the labor movement. And this became a very big part of my life at that time that in the lobbying in addition to working in the labor movement.

Also I started to serve on some boards and I thought that was helpful. And I think now there's a smattering of labor worker – labor leaders spread across the community to serve on many different kinds of boards. I served on the boards of the YMCA. I became interested in the corrections and served on that board by appointment of Governor Carvel and became chairman of the Correctional Council which handled the prison correctional system in the state of Delaware prior to the cabinets form of government.

Interviewer: There's just been a new division in the Department of Corrections involving juvenile delinquency in terms of treatment and punishment. They're not going to try to do the preventive work anymore under the Department of Corrections. How do you look at that?

Mr. Derrickson: I always felt that adult corrections and juvenile corrections should be split and that they were totally different problems. And as much as – and always attempted to keep the youthful offenders away from the adult population in prisons. And then by this time health and welfare had become a very important part of the work of the labor movement in making sure that families were covered as the cost of health care

increase to become increasingly difficult for workers to keep their families properly covered with some kind of prepaid health insurance.

So early on the scene Blue Cross came along in 1935, we became active in that and started getting that kind of coverage in our labor agreements. In those days, I think it cost \$0.35 a week to belong in the Blue Cross and hospital bed was \$4 a day which is a little bit different from the new rates that are gone up to \$300 probably in the next five years when new hospital was built in Stanton. But that became a very important part and I became involved heavily in the health and welfare. And in 1960, I went on the board of Blue Cross, Blue Shield and I am still working on that board, I am now and have been for the last four years chairman of that board.

Also two years ago, the governor appointed me to the post of chairman of the Delaware State Arts Council which distributes about \$300,000 a year of federal and state money to organizations throughout the state who are interested in the arts starting with the – when we – Delaware Art Museum on down through the Delaware symphony and the opera society and the opera house and artists and schools, poets, artists, craftsmen, ceramics, architects, all working with school children and also assisting community operations one in the state of the other who dance and sing and act and all sorts of various amateur groups. That's been a stimulating job also. And I have always been interested since my youth in the – both division on the performing arts. And so it's a source of satisfaction to me to look back upon having a large part really to do with the forming of the unions in the state of Delaware, the industrial unions and the plants. I feel without being duly immodest that I probably play a larger role than possibly anybody else and was able to stay healthy and keep at it long enough so that I see it grow to fruition.

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One of the things that occurs to me as I look back and remember as I best can in the early days and particularly in the Wilmington scene, there really were some fine people that worked hard in the labor movement. There were people like Gilbert Lewis who worked with me in the CIO and replaced me when I went in the army. And a good bunch of business agents that I knew and they have felt who contribute a substantial amount of help because they knew the Delaware scene very well, guys like Sam Smith and John Hartnett and Charles Maden and Clayton Harrison who later became a Republican, important person who died just recently was very viable in those days.

Employers did not take kindly to the union and there were some pretty tough strikes during those early days. Speakman Company was one of the first organizations and they had a long and bitter strike of over six months. And as a result of that strike and as a result of the Back to Work Movement that took place, the strike was not successful. And that union was decertified and they were without a union for maybe a period of 30 years. And it's only been the last two or three years where our union came back in and was certified and is now functioning in the Speakment Plant.

Another organization where there was a long and bitter strike was one between the UAW, the United Auto Workers in malleable iron which is now seized doing business. I was in charge of that strike and it lasted for 13 weeks. In the dead of winter, I could remember spending New Year's eve on the picket line that year which wasn't really the best place to be New Year's eve. There were some violence in that strike and some confrontations between the police department and the strikers. And I remember one day going out there with a leaflet which was slightly incendiary which I had written and we had prepared to distribute to the community around there in support of the strike. And a great number of policemen were there and also a big crowd around the picket line because there was a word that there'd be a confrontation. And the police lieutenant in charge came to me and said, "What are you going to do?" And he said – I said, "I'm going to put a leaflet." And he said, "If you put out that leaflet, I'm going to arrest you." And so both of us carried out a word, I put out the leaflet and he did arrest me. And he put me in jail. But by that time after a few hours in the Wilmington City Jail apparently it came the detention to one of the city attorneys who realized what the first amendment meant. So I was released after that time. And that was one of my few encounters in jail.

But every morning in that strike, I had to go up to the municipal court and either pay a fine or bail out somebody who had been arrested on that picket line. And the judge, every morning gave a pretty tough language addressing down to everybody who was involved in that strike almost a flip, going out and weren't behaving ourselves and how they go comfort themselves with a little more character on the picket line.

Three years later he was in the federal pen in Lewisburg because he had embezzled funds that are left to his care. And I thought, "Well that was a full turn of the wheel in that situation." But the strikes were rugged and that strike lasted 13 weeks and nobody would believe it today, but we settled that for \$0.03 an hour and the union was satisfied, they won a victory and a far cry from the kind of money settlements you get in this

day and age. Now the lobbying – and so the strikes were always upfront with danger because policemen, either state or city seem to always be available to – for duty in strike situations and we're always more than willing to sort of provoke trouble in my opinion.

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And we had a lot of problems in all the strikes. And almost everybody when they were first organized seems to me that in the first five or six years of our existence had to have a strike to prove each other out. I guess that's the way it was. But outside of the Speakman instant which I mentioned earlier, most of the unions survived the problems and came through in pretty good shape.

Of course there was one real war baby in town and that was the Dravo Corporation which expanded by several – from a little dreary sleepy shipyard in the Christiana to one of several thousands of people by the time of the war. I think they made some kind of a ship for the Navy. That was really the only significant war baby in the state. So the work force was pretty stable and that was a help also except for periodic recessions. We generally had a good base from which to operate.

The one significant plant that the unions were never able to organize and which has since practically if not totally disappeared in the scene was Bancroft Mills, a huge textile mill on the Brandywine River. And despite repeated attempts, none of the textile unions were able to achieve that. Outside of that and the DuPont Plants at Edge Moor and Newport and Seaford although they did have unions in there, unions of their own choosing and not affiliated with any major organization. Nobody – no outside labor organization was ever able to seriously succeed in any organization there.

The lobbying occurred in both the Dover and the Washington level because after the war 1945 on it became obvious to both the F of L and the CIO that gains that were being made in bargaining were being taken away from us in the – in the Congress in Washington and the general assemblies in the states. Right to work legislation was being talked about which would have deprived us to the right to attempt to negotiate union shop. And there were serious levels put on workman's comp and the right to handle other kinds of work. So it behooved the labor movement.

And we were close to Washington and we were a part of the – even though we were small, we were a part of the national scene in that we had two senators which was as much as New York had, they were

important and one Congressman. And of course we had some interesting experiences with them.

My first trip to Washington involved a visit to Senator Douglas Buck who had been governor for eight years and was in the Senate, Republican. And he was not particularly receptive to organized labor in those days. So we got a meeting with him at 5:30 in the afternoon late in the day in Washington. And there about five of us in the delegation and then we went in and he had his coat and hat on ready to catch a train to Washington. And as we spoke to him and trying to talk to him about what we thought were important legislative matters, he was going through his mail. So he didn't have a very friendly reception there.

On the other hand, men who were elected in the '40s like Senator Tunnell, James Tunnell became extremely liberal legislators. Even though they were from the southern part of Delaware, they had great understanding with their legal background and were considered real friends of organized labor and education and all the other things that go with it. One of the good anecdote about Senator Tunnell's relation was organized labor concerns that representative of the *[inaudible]* **[0:29:57]** clothing workers who was working heavily for a higher minimum wage.

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Ester Peterson was her name and she later became assistant secretary of labor and right now is heavily involved in consumer legislation, kept lobbying Senator Tunnell even though she was very, very pregnant. And she recounted to me that finally one day Senator Tunnell said to her, "Ester, I'm going to vote for that bill, but will you please get out of my office so that you don't have the baby right here in that office." So Ester got the vote and also didn't bother him anymore because she had the baby. But that was a pretty funny story.

One of the other governors we ran into early was Governor Walter Bacon who had been mayor in Wilmington, had been an official GM prior to that and was a two time governor. Walter Bacon was no friend of organized labor and his particular twin dislikes organized labor and teachers, organized or not. He had some bitter confrontations with teachers and we were not able to do much as far as labor movements are concerned in his administration.

Senator Buggs, Senator Carvel came along then. Buggs served eight years with my opinion some distinction as a moderate who gave labor a fair share of breaks along the line handled legislation pretty well. And finally

in the meantime, Senator Buck had been defeated in 1948 by Senators Freyer a Democrat and Senator Freyer really had a very conservative record and was not doing much for the labor movement or the social forces in the country. And the group of the more active leaders in labor including myself went to Senator Buggs and told him that if he'd run under the Republican ticket we would get him some votes that he would never have suspected he would have gotten. We had a block of labor votes that were ready to move over in mass and vote for him for the Senate and then a close contest might make a difference. Well he did run and we did put on a very large effort 1954 and succeeded in having Buggs elected by a narrow margin over an incumbent Senator which was not an easy thing to do. Freyer was the only incumbent Senator that lost an election that year.

And as a result of that instead of getting about two percent of the votes we're able to get out of Freyer, we got at least 60 percent, at least 60 percent at that time Buggs voted up on the side of labor and a legislation that labor was espousing whether it be necessarily labor legislation or some form of educational benefits or whatever.

So we felt that that effort paid off. Fighting back to governors, Carvel served two terms, not consecutively. He spent four years and then there was another governor and then he went back and served another four. The second – the first four years he served really didn't – really didn't mean a lot. I don't think that he really had a very good term, but the second four years, some of the best legislation that was ever passed in Delaware were put on the books in that term and it became a landmark term.

One of the – one of the other things that happened along the way was that oh, 1945 or 6, the Delaware General Assembly and I believe – I believe Bacon was governor at that time passed a Right to Work law which I described earlier in which outlawed the union shop in the state of Delaware. This really did upset the labor movement and really did cost some legislative act.

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So that two years later everybody who had any association with that bill found themselves defeated or in bad trouble so that when the legislature came up at the next session, two years later, a bill to repeal was put in and this Republican chairman of the committee that was involved with the bill went home and the bill with him which was a violation of law in Delaware and didn't return for three days. And for three days, the

Lieutenant Governor Bard announced that the pending order of the senate was senate bill one which was revealed, the House Right to Work Bill. And he couldn't have the bill and the man did not appear. And finally on the fourth day which again broke the law, they used a substitute copy instead of the original copy and passed it. By one vote, the man didn't turn up to stay and then the Senates of the House passed by one vote over there and that law was repealed. And every person as I said before who was negative and who insisted in the passage of that bill was defeated for office and never became a political factor in the state again.

The labor movement was finally aroused at that time as it probably never had or never will be again to cost that kind of reaction. And that was a very interesting time. And one of the few states that had a right to work bill and repeal it, I believe the only other state that ever did that was Louisiana. And I just read last week that they voted in the Right to Work Bill again.

One of the things that may have be of some interest now as we talk about some of the modern aspect of unions and collecting and barding and as it relate to all of us today. Some elementary considerations are the fact that basically there are three types of collective bargaining going on in this country now. One is in the private sector where there's some regulation and a good bit of it is not regulated in the terms of the – of how the parties reach an agreement. Obviously when the teams choose bargain with the truck drivers and a relief there has to come to the ICC which is a government regulation, not so for General Electric or Scott Paper or General Motors or any of the big corporations.

Another segment that's gotten extremely important in the last five years is the public sector, the great blossoming of unions and school boards and municipalities and cities, fastest growing so that today the state council municipal workers which is the largest state unions finds itself with 700,000 or 800,000 members. Last few months I find them having a tough time meeting budgets and other things that are going on, like New York and Wilmington where they've had problems with trying to handle the wages and fringe benefits within the ability of the political subdivision to come up with the money.

And another sector of course is the public utilities where there the bargaining takes place within the framework of what the public utilities can get through the public utilities commissions in the various states and then passed on into the consumer. So all of those various types are different and all require a different type of bargaining. A collective bargaining goes on today it's sort of a charade in some respects where

the unions have to make some very unrealistic proposals and where the company sits back until the proposals become a little more realistic. And the reason for the unreal proposals are that many workers particularly young ones feel that the union is their only opportunity when the contract comes due to make some advances in wages and fringe benefits and other working conditions. A poll conducted by the University of Michigan recently indicated that 35 percent of the industrial workers think they're in a dead end job.

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And that presents a lot of problems both within themselves and within the – within the job content and then the relationships with the company. There's a deadly monotony and repetitive modern, industrial plants where you run a drill press that handles, punches holes in several million pieces in a day. And the boredom that takes place also is a factor in some of the strikes and grievances and other disruptions that take place daily in factories. I would think that major issues today as far as the labor unions are concerned are job protection. There will be a lot of interesting bargaining on this because of the recent recession, the last year and a half resulted in many people getting laid off who never thought they're going to get laid off for the rest of their working life. Workers with 20, 25 years of service at age 55 finding themselves out of work for the first time in many years made them think more about how they can protect themselves from being laid off in the future. It will be a big factor in the coming automobile talks I'm sure because today in the General Motors plant new ark in order to work in that plant, you have to have 13.5 years of service. That means everybody under that is out of work and there's some doubt as to when if ever they will get back to work in that plant.

Of course the living clauses were important, increased vacations and the largest health and welfare item now on the agendas are dental care. There's the big drive and then pretty soon there'll be as much people – many people covered by dental care as by hospitalization and surgical benefits. Also a new wrinkle in collective bargaining is legally where a pool is created, a pool of money is created and that workers then now have the right to go to a lawyer one time and get themselves a will or advice on divorce or buying a house or selling a house and whatever.

Plant safety become more and more important as the younger workers are more bright to realize the hazards and insist that the company make the work place more safe and they're backed up now by federal OSHA

law which has more teeth in it than any safety law that has been promulgated here before.

One of the things that I realized in the last three or four years at a new phenomenon as far as I was concerned was an increasing desire workers for education. More and more workers are doing what they can in community colleges or at night or any place they can have the opportunity to get more education not just for a degree and most instances it's not for degree, just to become brighter and have more of a better grasp of the world. And it also gives them an idea of what kind of a job they have and what their chances are and a piece of the action and some understanding of life. And I think that bodes well for the future of the country as well as for the individual that's handling it.

Big question of course is seniority and the question really the seniority mean. It seems to me that it means the right to hold the job as long as there are younger people to be laid off and the right to be promoted if you have the qualifications and also improves your pension and your vacation. Inside unions, of course, there are several different factions working all the time. As you get older you get more interested in pensions and other fringe benefits like health and welfare. Younger workers want more money. The maintenance workers who want more protection, the women in the blacks who are minorities in their own right and who have had already struggled themselves getting in to these jobs and find themselves with less seniority and different problems and even a harder struggle. And the legislation is increasingly protecting the cost of both women blacks and other minority groups.

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And this will continue as women and blacks become larger and more important part of the work force in this country.

I think that some new trends in the – in the relationship between workers and companies will be that companies will have to constantly communicate with their workers so that the workers understand the products they're making, so that they have a feeling that they're part of the plant or the factory and that eventually we will lead into as new leaders come in to the labor leadership and the labor movement that there will be more worker participation as we see in Western Europe. And that eventually workers will have a good bit more to say about the means and methods of production and will have even a stronger part with participation on pension boards, participation on boards of directors of company, companies.

And you'll see a real change cost by the advent of younger and brighter workers who are constantly being educated, desire that if they're going to participate in the industry, they have the right to say something about it. I think it's going to be extremely important and will be a factor.

Since World War II, I've been fortunate enough to do quite a bit of traveling around the world, it could have been because of my wife, Western Europe and Italy. And I also made a trip on behalf of our union and really they *[inaudible]* **[0:47:05]** CIO to Brazil for three weeks in 1968 on a nation to nation exchange of paper mill workers which was an interesting experience. And my wife and I visited the Soviet Union in '72 for a two-week trip, just a straight tourist trip. But I discovered in 1974, two years ago, early in the year that the Chinese government was interested and asking some middle level labor union people to come for a visit. So I applied and the criteria was to be a middle level labor leader and have strong community interest which I was able to show. And strangely enough after a long period of hearing and not hearing et cetera, et cetera, I got a phone call one day about three weeks before the party left and said I was on.

And so a group of 20 people met in Vancouver and proceeded to the People's Republic through Hong Kong and roughly we were inside the Republic for exactly three weeks. We went to Canton and flew to Peking and then spent half the trip as we were a labor union group in the far northeast section of what was Manchuri under Japanese control and which is now based for the heavy industry for the People's Republic. We were in Chang Chong and two other cities Ten Shang and Tang Chan in that area and visited 20 factories and then went down to Tenzin back to Peking for a week which was sort of a fun week Great Wall, Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square and housing projects of that sort and a commune and then down to Canton and out.

The overwhelming obviously, overwhelming feeling is the number of people now some 800 million people and that's just an awful lot of people, 500 million bicycles and 24 hours a day people everywhere, people who were extremely friendly, extremely polite, and we just had a very fine visit. They were glad to see us. And oh we must remember that if Nixon did one thing and I can't remember much more than that, if he did one thing, he did open up China. China people have a friendly feeling towards him about that and still do which is you must understand the reason for the second visit when the American people didn't quite understand it that the Chinese are very pragmatic and really never forget their friends.

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And he performed that fee. And as a result we were there and benefited from that opening up in that exchange, friendship. And wherever we went we were applauded and friendly although it was a little mind boggling I know for the Chinese to see a white person walking the streets at six o'clock in the morning as I always want to do every morning taking a walk as they were going off to work.

They work hard as labor intensive. They were kind enough although it wasn't on the schedule to get me into two paper mills which was really my object because I told them early on in the trip that if they did that, I would probably be able to give them some good publicity. And later on I was able to write and did write a series of three long articles for my international union newspaper which should have been read by 300,000 or 400,000 people. And they were friendly because the articles were friendly towards the Chinese because that's how I felt towards them. I think that they are so pleased at being reunited and I don't think that anybody but the columnist at that state could have learned how to feed 800 million people three times a day and I'm sure that how they won them over. Now they're unified and they all work.

And as I said about the labor intensive, I was in the paper mill and in the paper mill in the United States, there would be about 350 workers add 900 in this plant in China. But nevertheless they are working. They work hard. They seem to be yearning for education. Elevator operators nearby you see have a book and are studying and the children are bright and cheerful and healthy looking and dressed in colors. And more and more of the younger women are starting to wear colored blouses instead of the mouse suits which they're all dressed although we didn't see a single women in that dress three weeks I was there. I'm sure that's not going to last long as they develop their clothing.

But we were impressed with the whole gamete. Everything that we saw, the workers in the plant, and remembering of course that this is a close society and totally different than we have. Everybody is in a union except labors role is completely different in China than it is in the United States. They're concerned basically with an increased production and increasing the experience and expertise of the workers on the basis that the country belongs to them. And when they improve production and improve the skill of workers, they are also improving everybody in the country.

The unions are involved in housing, in clinics, in hospitals, canteens, market schools and nurseries on the basis of carrying out those dict them to practice self reliance. Many of the factories have a great complex around them which includes all of those things, hospitals and schools and places to eat. There are eight labor grades. Everybody falls into one of those late either – labor grade and they're paid at that labor grade.

Six-day work week, eight hours a day, a round the clock industries use three and a half crews to man the plant. They allege they have a good safety record. They say that they have eliminated black lung in the mines and that they work at a slower pace and therefore it's not at this stage of the game not as dangerous. They have seven holidays. There are no vacations, but they do get time off without pay to visit relatives otherwise there is not much mobility. There is a very large female participation in the workforce.

So women engage in all kind of labor from production to working on the repair and making highways and in all the intricate skills in an automobile assembly line, making rugs, textile plant which is not unusual, paper mills which is not unusual and the other things that women generally do.

The plant is run by a revolutionary committee. The chairman is the plant manager and all the supervisors, all the plant managers and all the union leaders must go back to their own jobs three months every year on the basis of egalitarianism and they're not going to create a favorite class.

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Pensions 70 percent of pay, women go out of 55, men at 60, minors at 55. We had extremely fine conditions, good hotels, good food. The transportation was excellent whether it be bus, or eight train rides to which we're overnight, two plain rides in modern airplanes.

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