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INTERVIEW WITH:

The Honorable Edward Early (D)

29th District

Allegheny County

1971-1974

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY: Heidi Mays, House Archivist
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Heidi Mays (HM): Hello, thank you for being here with me today. I'm here with former State Representative and former Senator Edward Early who served the 29th Legislative District from Allegheny County from the years 1971 to 1974 and the 40th Senatorial District, serving Allegheny, Armstrong, and Westmoreland Counties from 1975 through 1986. We're here in Pittsburgh today, and we're happy to be here.

The Honorable Edward Early (EE): Well, welcome to Pittsburgh.

HM: Thank you so much. I wanted to begin by asking you about your childhood and your family life and how you feel that prepared you for public service.

EE: My childhood. I was a Pittsburgher. I was raised on the Northside of Pittsburgh and went to Pittsburgh schools up until the eighth grade, and then we moved to the township, as many people did. As soon as your dad gets a job, you move out of Pittsburgh, which is unfortunate, but that's also what I did, and I have to say, my political career really started in high school. I ran for a class office; I was called the Secretary of Traffic. Yeah, that was impressive, isn't it? Yeah, Secretary – I ran for the Secretary of Traffic, and I won by two votes. There were probably twelve hundred votes cast, and I won by two, so I'm known as a landslide, and that really started it. I really enjoyed that. For a week I probably didn't do anything but campaign in school and make posters and do whatever I had to do. In fact, one of the teachers said, "If you worked this hard on your schoolwork, you'd be very successful," (*laugh*) and she was probably right. Yes, so, yeah, I knew then I wanted to go into politics, but as you know, you have to wait your turn and wait your time. I went on to Duquesne University, which I graduated with a

bachelor's degree in education. I never used it. I went into business. I went into the hardware business where I made sufficient money to go into politics. I've always said that there's one way you can end up with a small fortune in politics: that's start with a large one, because you don't make money in politics. You know, and that's a misnomer. Most people think you go in politics to make money. That's really not true. And that, that's not the case, and so I went into the hardware business to make myself some money to afford a campaign, and as you know from talking to politicians, your first campaign you pay for. Yeah, you don't have lobbyists coming in saying, "Here, we'd like to give you money," or a Party giving you money. That wasn't the case. I had to do it on my own, and that was in 1968. I ran against an incumbent of twenty-two years. He was a twenty-two year incumbent, and I lost that one, but I didn't lose by much. I didn't lose by much, and so I was preparing myself for the next two years, and two years later, the incumbent, who I almost beat, he didn't run. He decided he wasn't going to run, so I really had a clear path to it, and got elected then in 1970, and that's interesting. Now, I'll be unique from most people you talk to; I was a Democrat who got elected in a Republican area, first Democrat ever to win the seat, and that's difficult. That is very, very difficult, because your colleagues think because you're a Democrat you have to vote with the Democrats. But when you're a Democrat who got elected in a Republican area, you have to think of your constituents, so it's a, it's a tough situation. You have to balance it. You can't make too many enemies there because you won't accomplish anything. Plus the fact, who wants to go through life with people mad at you all the time? And it was difficult, and especially since it was unique that here I am in my first term, Democrat winning in a Republican area, and one of the first votes we have is the income tax. That was in 1971, the income tax, and Pennsylvania up till that time had no

income tax. That was the first income tax that Pennsylvania had, and the previous Administration, which was Governor Shafer [Raymond P. Shafer; Governor of Pennsylvania, 1967-1971], he left us with a seven hundred million dollar deficit. Now, at the time, Governors could not run for reelection. I don't know if I'm giving a history lesson here, but Governors could not run for reelection, and so in all fairness to Shafer, he did try to get an income tax enacted his last two years in office, but the Legislature wouldn't give it to him because he was lame duck; he wasn't going to be around. So, they would not give him the votes for an income tax. So, when we took over in [19]70, we were seven hundred million dollars in the bucket, so one of the first votes that had to be cast was for the state income tax, and being a Democrat in a Democrat Majority - now, we as Democrats we controlled the Governor's Office, Governor Shapp [Milton J. Shapp; Governor of Pennsylvania, 1971-1979], we controlled the House and the Senate; we had it all. So, it was up to us to perform. When the Governor presented the income tax, I said, "I can't vote for it." It really was too high. Now, in all fairness, I didn't promise my constituents I wouldn't vote for an income tax, which was an issue during the campaign, because everyone knew the income tax was on the horizon. I didn't tell my constituents I would not. I didn't tell them I would. I was free and clear, but what I discovered is the Governor, for his credit, for himself, he went for a whole bunch; he went for a big budget. He went for a big income tax knowing in four years he was going to run for reelection, and he was going to then cut back on the income tax, and history proved me right; he did. When he ran for reelection, he cut the income tax back, so in [19]71, I said, "I can't vote for this. It's too high. Cut the budget," and they used the rationalization that the previous Administration left us with seven hundred million in the hole. So, that was their rationale to pass it, but my rationale was, "Okay. I can vote for

it, but let's cut back on this budget because it was excess." Now, that's difficult. That's difficult to sit in the Caucus where you're expected, your Party's expected to carry the day, both House, Senate, and then Governor, and you tell your, supposedly, friends you can't do it. "I just can't vote for it," and that was tough. That was very, very tough. I'm not one who will shy away, but it was tough. And they even ended up – which is a funny story – it even ended in a fist fight, (*laugh*) a fist fight, and that came when we passed the income tax, and I did vote against it and created some enemies, unfortunately, but only to find out it became unconstitutional. I don't know if you're aware of the fact that our first income tax was unconstitutional, and we had to go back in August to vote again. Now, it's in a hot summer day in August. No one wanted to come back and vote for it, but we had to come back and do it again. Again, I voted – I told them again, "I can't vote for this," and a gentleman who I won't mention his name, but his nickname was Speedo [A. Joseph Valicenti, Allegheny County, 1969-1978], so does that tell you something?

(*laugh*) Speedo had decided that he didn't like to wait – oh, he didn't like me, period – and Speedo decided that he was going to settle this once and for all and settle it outside and challenged me, and I'm on my way out with the realization that I'm going to get my rear end kicked because, do you want to fight someone whose nickname is Speedo?

(*laugh*) Only thing worse than that was if his name was Killer or something. Neither of the two was I interested in, but on the way out, Speedo decided we're going to fight right into the hall and not in the parking lot, which I was surprised, and I must say pleasantly surprised. So, it didn't amount to, you know, a few punches and then, and both of us probably bounced off the marble walls and that, that was the end of it. So that, you know, to me it's an amusing story with – and fortunately, the newspapers were on strike at the time, which worked out in my favor because I don't know if they would have

declared me the winner or the loser. But, they were on strike, so it really didn't get back to the District then. But there were other votes that I supported the Democratic Party as much as I could, and as much as I could I would support the Party, but also, too, I couldn't vote for the budget because I was always under the assumption if you vote through the budget, you're obligated to vote for the taxes. And a lot of times the budget vote is as tough as the tax votes and I never, I never looked at it that way. I always said if you vote for the budget, you're voting to spend the money, you're obligated to vote to generate the cash to do it. Now, I noticed in – I've been reading the newspaper where the House did vote last week for the Governor's budget, and I don't think there will be sufficient votes to pass the taxes that I understand are going to be necessary to do it, but that's present; you want to talk history. But there's parallel there. There is a parallel, and I always watched myself that I didn't, that I did not vote for spending, even though I would like to, you know, like to put money back to my District, which was the name of the game. You know, they send you to Harrisburg, which is also, too, something you have to watch. When you go to Harrisburg, you're there to represent the people, and you want to bring – even though you vote against taxes, and you vote against budget, that doesn't mean they don't have to pay for it. They're still taxed even though their House Member or Senator didn't vote for it. They still have to pay taxes – so, you tried to bring back to your District what you can. You try to vote for your District, and also, you try to keep things as normal as you can in Harrisburg. So, you will find someone like me is altogether different than someone who's a Democrat in Philadelphia or a Democrat in the heart of Pittsburgh or a Democrat in Erie County, or no, the opposite is true, too. A Republican who comes from, from Clearfield County, now, they don't have any problems. You know, they just go with whatever the Party says, and that's it. That's

easy, so I was not that fortunate. I was not that fortunate. There were times when I thought maybe I should switch to the Republican Party, but I couldn't do it. I was a Democrat. That was to say, I was a conservative Democrat. Now, maybe I made the title up, but it suits me fine, but I really think I'm a conservative Democrat. And I look today, and I see votes today, and I think a lot of people have joined me in the Party I started, the conservative Democrats because you don't have the, you know, you don't have the liberal spending that we did at the time. We, you know, we don't have that, so again, I apologize if I'm rambling.

HM: No, that's okay. But coming from a Republican District, how did you decide to become a Democrat?

EE: I believed in the Democratic ideals. I really did. Now, I think a good way to answer that question is Nixon did that. Nixon answered it for me when he said that the vote – to let business prosper, let business prosper. And as business will prosper, it will – and his word was – trickle-down, or the trickle-down theory; that if you let business prosper and make money, then it'll trickle-down to the laborer and that laborer will make money. And I think that's probably the difference in – that's why I couldn't be a Republican. I don't see that trickle-down. I think when business gets it, if there's not an obligation, they're going to keep it, and so I could not really go that way. Now, I'll tell you how I look at it; I always look at politics as a pendulum, a pendulum. If the Democrats are in power too long, the pendulum swings this way; that's not healthy. If the Republicans are in too long, it swings this way; that's equally not healthy. So, I think the best way government can work is have that pendulum right in the center. If business

isn't happy and labor's not happy, hey, we got good legislation, and I think that's true in many legislation. If neither side is happy, that's a good piece of legislation. And I tried to bring the pendulum into the center. I tried to bring it into the center and I don't believe in that trickle-down theory that if business prospers it's going to trickle. No, if business prospers, then their stockholders are going to be very, very thankful for that, and rightly so. And I'm not saying they should be. They, you know, they should do what they should for their constituency. Labor should do what they should do for their constituency, and when either side gets out of line, it'll come back. That pendulum will come back to the center. So, I probably could have been a Republican as well as a Democrat, but I think I favored the Democrats more than the Republicans. Another thing, too, in answering that question; health and welfare were tough issues in that area. We had legislation that if someone was traveling – not legislation; we had laws. If someone was traveling through our state and they were welfare recipients of another state and they got into trouble, they'd go into our welfare office and get a check. You just can't hand money out like that. Also, at the time, if there was a family, say a family of five, when one of the teenagers became eighteen, he would go down and sign up for his own welfare case. So, instead of the mother getting sixty-five dollars a month for him, he was up to, like, one sixty-five or one eighty for his own welfare case, and all he did was have a birthday. You can't do that. You know, you really can't do that, but on the same token, I was in a newspaper office up in Tarentum, and there was a plaque on the wall – while I was waiting to be interviewed by one of the news media – and there's a plaque on the wall. And as newspapers do, they'll take a headline or something and make it out of, out of metal of some sort, put a plaque on the wall, and I read it. And it was a story about a family in Chicago that the mother was on welfare, and there was no welfare of any – or,

no, I shouldn't say that – she needed welfare, but there was no welfare at the time. And the story went on to read that she gassed her children, put her children in the oven and turned the gas on and killed them, because she really could not afford that. Now, I read that story, that story always remembered me. So, when I voted for legislation, I had to say, "I can't go too far here. What about this mother?" Now, it wouldn't happen today. I mean, I'm talking this was yesteryear, but it happened. So, you had to keep in mind you can't have the mother of these kids need food, so you can't be tough on welfare people, but on the same token, you can't be just giving money out, say, "Oh, I became eighteen, so I get my own welfare, I'm my own welfare case." So you, again – let's bring that pendulum back into the center, so that's, again, you know, Democrat or Republican. I was, you know, middle-of-the-road, because even though my constituents were not welfare constituents, I could not go there and just arbitrarily vote against all welfare legislation. I couldn't do it. I did vote for some, for welfare legislation that was, what I thought was legitimate because I just wouldn't go there and just cast away my, you know, my feelings and my morals. I couldn't do that. And the other issue, too, was there was a tough issue at the time. Probably cost me votes and maybe even helped defeat me; the abortion issue. Tough issue and we faced it. In the early seventies, we faced that head on. A gentleman from Philadelphia led the fight. Can't think of his name right now, but, I'm sorry, I can't, but he led the fight, and –

HM: For it? Steve Friend [Stephen F. Friend; State Representative, Delaware County, 1975-1992]? Or is that later?

EE: No, that was before.

HM: Okay.

EE: That was before him. Anyhow, that's a tough issue. That is a tough issue.

HM: The abortion issue.

EE: Okay, the abortion issue. That was a big issue in the seventies, a real big issue in the seventies, and that's a tough issue. I voted pro-life. I can see both sides, but there is no pendulum in that one. I mean, you were either on this way or that way. There is no pendulum. And you can't hide on anything there. That's just a tough abortion – I meant, tough, boy, yeah. That is, the abortion was a tough issue. And I was, I was pro-life. At the time I was Protestant, and people would criticize me. “The only reason you're voting that is because your priest is telling you to.” I said, “Well, that's amazing. I'm Protestant, and my minister he's pro-choice.” *(laugh)* So I did, I voted, I voted pro-life, and I'll tell you why; because I'm a coward. I'm a coward. I don't know that, did God give us a soul at conception? At seven months after conception? At birth? Three months after birth? Or, how about seven years? When did God give us a soul? I don't know, and if someone could tell me, it would have made my life a lot easier, but I haven't found anyone who could tell me that. So, I don't know when God gives us a soul, and I believe in God, and I believe that He does give us a soul, but I don't know when. Now, if we get a soul at conception and I'm voting to kill that, I'm in trouble. I'm in trouble when, if I go to heaven, and that certainly is debatable, but I'd be in trouble when I go to heaven, although I'm going to talk to him about the food chain, too. I love animals and

I'm really concerned about the food system. So, go out now, you're going to have a discussion on that one, too, but that's another issue for another day. But, I don't know when we get a soul, so, since I don't know, I was a coward and I was going to vote on the safe side, and the safe side was to vote pro-life, which I did. Now, somebody listens to this and says, "What an idiot we elected." That's my feelings, and that's, you know, how's that song go? That's my story, and I'm sticking to it? Well, that's my story, and I'm sticking to it. This day and age, you know, the Legislatures really, they don't have that issue now. The courts have decided. And it was a big issue then because the courts hadn't decided then, but the states were trying to – and Pennsylvania was one of them – trying to overturn the Constitution, and you had to pass it in so many states, so that's why we were faced with the issue. Didn't accomplish anything because we didn't change anything, but they were tough folks, and I'm sure that did cost me a great deal of votes, you know, very tough issue; tough issue at the time.

HM: Well, I wanted to talk about the reasons why you decided to run initially for the House of Representatives. You said you said you ran against an incumbent once and lost.

EE: Yes.

HM: And then once and won.

EE: Yes.

HM: So, you know, why would you run against an incumbent, and what was that like?

EE: Well, he wouldn't retire; I had to. This is another story, too. The incumbent that ran, his son and I went to high school together, and we were involved in politics in high school at the same time, and so I was very familiar with the family, great family. I'll mention the name; the name was Wilt [Roy W. Wilt, Mercer County, 1969-1980; Senator, Mercer, Crawford, and Venango Counties, 1981-1990] – great, and, and he became the Senator, too. But anyhow, I was a neighbor of the Wilts, and his father [Raymond E. Wilt, Allegheny County, 1951-1970] was a House Member, a House Member all the time we went through high school and I also campaigned for Mr. Wilt, and I knew I wanted to be a House Member. That was my goal. And I didn't want to run against him because they were a lovely family, just a nice – I could not say anything bad about them then, didn't say anything bad in the campaign. I couldn't say anything bad about them now. They're nice people, but I felt it was my turn. I mean, he was there for twenty-two years and that was the only way I could get there, and he had no sign of retiring, so, I had that. I had to run there, either that or move, and I didn't want to do that, so I did run against him and I guess it worked out well. He beat me. I did not beat him. It was only like four hundred votes, but he did beat, and, you know, I mean, four hundred or four thousand, he beat me, and I think it worked out well. His son at the time was running up in Mercer County, and he won, so it was good. So, you had the father and the son were in the House together, which I thought was great, and I mean, it worked – I'm happy today that I lost so they could say they worked together. And then the next two years, Mr. Wilt, the senior, he did not run for reelection and I then won the seat. So, the son, Roy, he and I served in the House together, and we were good friends. We were good friends through the whole time. We were good friends. Then I went on to Senate,

and then Roy became a Senator also a few years later. But, nice family, beautiful family. But why did I run? I had to. I had to run against him, so that was the seat I was in and running for reelection, you know, fine. Then my career went on to – I had to make a decision. In fact, I did not know if I should run for the Senate or not, and I was taking on an incumbent who was the Senate Pro Tempore at the time, who was in Harrisburg for thirty-six years as a Senator. People were saying, “Are you crazy? You’re not going to beat him.” His name was Senator Fleming [Robert D. Fleming; State Representative, 1939-1950; State Senator, 1951-1974]. They said, “You can’t beat him.” I said, “Well, I don’t know about that. I just don’t know,” but to hedge my bets, in [19]74 I ran – or in [19]73, the election of [19]73, we took office in [19]74 – I ran for both House and Senate in the Primary, and I said, “I’ll let the voters decide. If you want me to go to the Senate, vote for me. If you want me to go to the House, vote for me. I don’t care.” Well, they didn’t cooperate. They elected me to both of them (*laugh*), so I says, “God darn it, now I got to make a decision.” So, I had so many days to make a decision. Now, I didn’t have to. I could run for both House and Senate all the way through. Now, you can’t serve in two, you know, you can’t run back and forth in the hallway. (*laugh*) You can’t serve in two, but you can get elected in two, but I wasn’t going to do that because I would just cost the taxpayers a great deal of money, because if I was elected in two, and I don’t think I would have, they would had to have a Special Election. I’d have to give one or the other up, so I had to make a decision, and that was a tough decision. It was the last minute that I made the decision, should I run for the House or should I run for the Senate? And I decided that even though people told me, “You can’t beat him. Are you crazy?” And not being the sharpest knife in the drawer, I said, “I’m going to try it anyhow.” (*laugh*) So, I did run for the Senate, and I gave up the nomination for the

House and ran for the Senate, and probably the biggest mistake I ever made. Probably the biggest mistake I ever made. I thoroughly enjoyed the House, even though I did have some tough times, I will say they treated me pretty good, even though they didn't like my voting record, but they accepted the fact that that was my District. They accepted it; the Senators never accepted it. I was hated before I even got there. (*laugh*) I mean, and they would never accept the fact that I just come from a strong Republican area. And the Senate seat I had, that was even more Republican than the House seat. And they basically were waiting for me, and they knew of me from my House career, and I didn't like it. I didn't like the Senate at all. I would have gone back to the House in a minute, but you don't – how do you say, "I'm not going to run for the Senate. I'm going to run for the House?" You say, "Boy, that'll be a first time in history." But, it's a smaller group. There're fifty of us and when I got elected, we had the majority. We had twenty-seven Senators. The following year we lost the majority, and I think maybe only one term since I left, which was in [19]86, I think only one term they got it back, and I may be wrong at that; they may not have ever gotten it back. But the Democrats in the Senate, all they were concerned about was Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, and there were others like me who got elected in Republican areas and one-by-one, we were eliminated, and I was eliminated in the Democratic Primary. I was in the General Election. They couldn't defeat me in the General Election. The Democratic Primary – my own Party that was after me, and they got me. They got me, but the seat now is Republican and will always be Republican, which is unfortunate, but yeah, the Senate is not fun in the position I was in. Now, if I was from Pittsburgh or Philadelphia, it would probably be a lot of fun because you have a lot of perks that you don't have in the House. But it wasn't fun to serve as a Senator, no. That was a mistake on my part.

HM: Well, it's interesting to hear you say "from Pittsburgh" because we're obviously here in Pittsburgh today, and you served from Allegheny County. So, tell me a little bit about the District and why you wouldn't consider it Pittsburgh.

EE: My District starts at the Pittsburgh line and goes north. I never had one constituent in Pittsburgh, per se. But I mean, I'm in Allegheny County.

HM: Right.

EE: Which was also difficult, too. You know, you do represent the county, but – and it's difficult. You know, your constituents, your county, your Party, your state, you know, what do you do?

HM: Yourself. *(laugh)*

EE: Yeah, yeah, so what do you know? It was difficult, but I never had anything in the city of Pittsburgh, and then when I ran for my first reelection in the House, my punishment, because I – and, in the first reelection, they had reapportionment. Well, they looked at my seat and I thought, "Damn, I can't even find it," *(laugh)* and they took from me Bellevue, which was a strong Democratic area. They took Millville from me, strong Democratic area. Now, these are the Democrats that did this. These aren't Republicans. The Democrats reapportioned me, and they gave me areas like Ben Avon, Ben Avon Heights, Killbuck [Township], Ohio [Township]. They even sound Republican, *(laugh)*

and they were solid Republican areas, which I didn't have a problem with. They thought they were punishing me, but they weren't; they were not punishing me. But that's, again, what happens if you don't vote Party ways; you are punished. And in that same District I don't know if you talked to Representative Mrkonic [Emil Mrkonic; State Representative, Allegheny County, 1975-1992]. Have you talked to him yet?

HM: Not yet.

EE: He ended up with the House seat after I did, and he was a real maverick, I mean, boy, if you think they were mad at me, they really got mad at him. When they reapportioned him, they looked at his seat, and it didn't exist. He had the 29th Legislative District. They took part of it and put it in – they had like five House seats around him, and each seat around him took part of his District, and the only thing that was left in his District, I think, they had a sidewalk that went from his District, which was North Hills down to Beaver County and had him run against a lady in Beaver County who was so strong in Beaver County. In Allegheny County, he probably had a grand total of three hundred votes because it was – the line was just like a sidewalk, just straight shot down to Beaver County, so he had – there was no District, and the 29th District ended up in Philadelphia. I guess it's still in Philadelphia, because they wouldn't do that until the reapportionment, they'll realign it, but they still have to have 203 House Districts, so when they eliminate one they have to put it somewhere, and the number was 29, and I'm sure 29 is still in Philadelphia and will stay there until the reapportionment again. So, he had more of a reapportionment. That was more of a penalty than what I went through.

HM: So, what were your constituents like? What were their issues?

EE: My constituents were probably the best in the world. They really were. They were good. First of all, they're average, you know, not a great deal of money, many Union members – but Union members that make a decent salary – live in the suburbs, have a mortgage, they have the station wagon. At the time it was station wagon; now it's SUVs. All you know is SUVs; we knew them as station wagons. They had the station wagons, you know, took the kids to the soccer game, and the kids went to high school, and then their ambition was to go on to college; just Joe Average. And their attitude was pretty much, "Senator, you do your job; we'll do ours. I'm a mailman. I'm a truck driver. I'm an executive, and I have all I can do to worry about my kids and that, and we expect you to do your job," and, they were really good people. I had something that was unique. Every Friday night I came home, I would go in to one of the high schools. I had thirteen high schools, and I'd go into one of the high schools, and I'd tell them, "I don't want it in an auditorium. I want a classroom. I don't care if you stack them on the walls. I don't want an auditorium. I want a classroom." And I'd go in, and I'd tell the kids, "Okay, I'm your politician. I'm not your teacher. Now, you tell me what you've been saying about me behind my back. Now, let's go." (*laugh*) We had a ball. We had a ball. Those kids were great, especially in that era when it was the eighteen year olds; eighteen year olds were allowed to fight, and they're allowed to do this and that, and they all wanted to drink. And I'm going to tell you about that issue. This is a funny issue. I would let them, you know, say their piece. "If we can go to the draft, we ought to be allowed to drink and draft, and if I can do this, I can do that, and if I can get married –" and I said, "Well, don't do that." (*laugh*) But they had all kinds, and I would let them expound and,

you know, holler, and do that, and when it's five minutes to go in the class, I'd say, "Okay, everyone take out a pencil and paper. Don't let anybody see what you're writing. Write on your paper." Now, I would give my excuses, you know, the kids that were killed in automobile accidents, and you know, drinking, you wouldn't, you know, you'd end up in trouble, and it's this and that, and I'd hold my own, but I let them give their – you know, I was fair – they gave their time, and I'd say, "Okay, take out a piece of paper. Now, you write on that paper. I ask only one thing; you have to be truthful. You can't lie. You be truthful. Be truthful with me. You put on that paper should I vote yes or should I vote no to let teenagers drink, and no one can see what you're writing. You know, don't let anybody see it." So, they write it. I say, "Okay," – now, I'll take the two that was most vocal – I'd say, "Okay, now, you two collect these, collect the papers." "Okay." "Now you two count them. How many? Okay, what is it?" And I never lost. (*laugh*) I never lost, even back in the seventies, I never lost. Those kids would vote "No, don't vote to permit eighteen year olds to drink," and they were shocked. They, I mean, they'd say, "Wait a minute," and I would make sure those who were most vocal counted the votes. I'd say, "Well, don't look at me. He counted them." I never lost that fight. And that's that same old thing, the peer pressure, the peer pressure, you know. Now, if I would say, "Okay, raise your hands," I'd have never won, I would never won. But as long as it was secret, I never lost, and I give them all kinds of credit. I give them all the credit in the world. So, that was every Friday. Now, we only discussed once or maybe twice, and then we had other issues we'd discuss, and I let them, you know, they'd carry the ball, and they'd give me heck, but everyone was in respect, you know, they respected me. And every Friday I was in one of the high schools, so there were thirteen, so I got into the high schools two or three times during a year. Then, every Friday night I'd go to

the Northway Mall¹. That was our local mall, and I'd have a card table and two chairs and a sign that said, "Senator Early," and they knew that if they ever wanted to see me – because during the campaign people would say, "We only see you politicians at election time." You know, "We won't see you again till the next election," and I remembered that, and I thought, that's not going to happen. So, it was publicly known that if you want me, you'll find me at the Northway Mall every Friday night between seven and nine, and the only people came who really needed me. You know, someone who needed their kids in a special school or something. They came with specific problems, but I never had people come just to holler at me. Except one time; they wanted to close the mental institution in my District, and it had to be closed. We had seven mental institutions in Allegheny County, and they weren't for the patients; they were for the employees. You know, it was for the employees, and we had to close them. We had too many in our state and seven in Allegheny County. We had to close them. So, the Governor, who was Thornburgh [Richard Thornburgh, Governor of Pennsylvania, 1979-1987] at the time, came and told me, "We have to close Dixmont Hospital." I said, "Governor, you don't have a problem with me," which he thought he would. I said, "No, you don't have a problem with me." Well, it ended up one Friday night all the employees, (*laugh*) I'll bet there were seventy, eighty of them there screaming at me about, screaming at me about it, and I held my ground. I held it, and a funny story attached to that; the fellow who's a lobbyist, his first name was Ed, he was a lobbyist for the liquor stores, and I'll get into that issue. He was a lobbyist for the liquor stores. He saw that – and I always voted with him, with the liquor stores – and he saw that, and he was a big guy (*laugh*), and he worked his way through the crowd, and I saw him coming and I thought, "I hope he's not

¹ First enclosed mall in the State of Pennsylvania.

mad at me, because he's too big." He came working his way through, and he said, "Senator, you're doing a great job, and I really appreciate it." I said, "Boy, thank you. I appreciate that." But, it took a lot of guts on his part to come through that crowd who were screaming at me, and so that's the only time at the Northway Mall. So, I did that on Friday night, and then on Saturday I had my own radio program. It was a radio program, and I talked. I would come back, and I'd tell about the bills that we passed that week, and I'd talk about the legislation that was introduced and that, and then I'd open up for a talk show, and that was a lot of fun.

HM: Well, that's a great way to reach your constituents.

EE: Absolutely, absolutely. So, I didn't finish my week until twelve o'clock. Twelve o'clock Saturday, I would say my week was finished, and then I would leave for Harrisburg the following Sunday. I would leave around six o'clock in the evening, get to Harrisburg, and I'd get my office ready for the staff the next day. And there's a funny story connected with that; I had three sons – okay, I have, not had, I still have three sons – and one of my sons was misbehaving, and if I told his punishment, he was grounded, he couldn't take the car. That's it; you're not allowed to take the car. And so, I left for Harrisburg. Now, I got there about nine o'clock, and I always call once I get there, I always call home and said to my wife, "How's things?" And I was pretty tough on my son, and I was a little concerned about it, and I said, "How's Todd?" She said, "I don't know." She said, "You don't know?" She said, "He's not here." I said, "He's not there? Did he take the car?" She says, "Yes." I said, "I told him he was grounded." "Well, he's gone." I said, "Okay," now this is nine o'clock at night after I just drove three hours

from my District to Harrisburg, only to find out that he just totally defied me not expecting to see me until Thursday. I said, “Okay.” I went out and jumped in my car and I’m heading right back to Pittsburgh. Now, it’s late at night; I have to stop at every Howard Johnsons to sleep so I won’t get into an accident. I got back to Pittsburgh probably about six o’clock. My wife was there waiting for me, and my son was, naturally, he’s in bed, now again, not expecting me until Thursday. (*laugh*) I went up and I grabbed him right by the throat – and maybe I’ll have the child welfare people after me here – but I grabbed him by the throat, I dragged him down the steps, and I beat him pretty good. I guess he was thinking, “Damn, is it Thursdays already?” So he got his just due, and maybe people would criticize me. You know, I didn’t kill the kid, you know, there were no bones broken. But he knew he knew he was in a tussle, and when it was over he went back to bed, and I looked at my wife, and I says, “Would you believe now I have to drive back to Harrisburg?” (*laugh*) And I drove back to Harrisburg, and I’d do it again. And all three of them turned out great. Now, they’re not perfect, you know, I’m not saying I had perfect – two out of three got a college degree, and Todd, the youngest one, the one that decided he wasn’t going to be grounded, he didn’t go to college, but he’s doing very well. All three of my kids are doing very well, and I do credit my ex-wife. I’m divorced and not because of politics. I credit my ex-wife for the kids turning out as good as they did because I can’t be in Harrisburg and – although I can drive back if they, if they misbehave, and I’d do that again, I’d do that again. I think that’s a story that’s probably unique that, you know, that, “Well, I’ll see you on Thursday” or something. No, he wasn’t going to see me Thursday; he was going to see me a lot sooner than he expected, and I believe I did the right thing. I always tell people that if they ever put me in jail for beating my kids, I’d tell them, when they let me out, “Leave this door

open because I'm going to be right back." (*laugh*) Yeah, I think if parents would look at it that way, you would probably say that, "We ought to throw him in jail." Well, my boys grown.

HM: Yeah, they're fine.

EE: So, yeah.

HM: But, the political life had its strains, I'm sure, on your home life.

EE: Oh, absolutely. It's difficult. It really is. It's a tough life. You can't be away from home as much as that and not have a, you know, not have a proper home life. It's tough. It really is tough. It was a great sacrifice, a tremendous sacrifice, and the general public, they don't realize that, and how do you say that? You know, they say, "Well, if you, if feel that way, don't run for the job," and they're right. I mean, we go into this knowing that it's a great sacrifice on our part. It's just a shame that the public's not aware of it or the newspapers and the TV stations aren't aware of it. Yeah, it's just, it's a tough life, and it's tough for a home life, but I give my ex-wife all the credit in the world. She did see to it that the three boys turned out – is "great" an unfair word to say your kids are great? They're pretty good. How's that? I don't want to be an egotistic – they're pretty good, yeah.

HM: Do you think that anything surprised you whenever you first came to Harrisburg as an elected Member of the General Assembly?

EE: The thing that surprised me the most was the difficulty. Boy, that is tough. You have to be an expert on so many subjects and, and that is tough. You know, I would say your first year there, you have trouble finding the men's room, and then you have to know all of this. That is really tough to do. In fact, many legislation, I would study it, I would get opinions, I'd talk about it on my radio program, and then I'd pray. You know, is it now that I'm doing a lot of yes or no? It's tough, and you know, the way I looked at it, people didn't send me to Harrisburg because I'm good looking because that's not the case. They didn't send me there because I was the smartest one in the District because that, too, isn't the case. I was elected because I got more votes than someone else who was willing to do it, and maybe he probably wasn't the brightest person in the world either. So, there's no prerequisite to this. So, I went there with the idea that they're sending me there to do what they want me to do, and I really looked at it that I tried to do the best job I can, and to do the best job you can, you better study that legislation and what you're saying, you know, the questions you ask. That's difficult. You know, you study it, and you try to get professional opinions, and then you pray. Because that's difficult; that is really difficult. One day you're dealing with taxes, next day's budgets, next day is abortion, and then highway safety, seatbelts, and then you have the insurance companies are fighting the attorneys, and the doctors are fighting with the chiropractors. *(laugh)* You got all these fights going on, and then you're in the middle of it. The thing that surprised me is how difficult the job was. It is a difficult job, and those who were there today, I give them a lot of credit. I do, and I will say this; being there in the seventies and the eighties and comparing that, you know, if you want a comparison, your Legislators today are head and shoulders above us, and we weren't bad. But they're head

and shoulders above us. They are good. Your Legislators today are good, and the news media just beats the heck out of them. That pay raise, that pay raise was just probably the most unfair issue that I've ever seen. They talk about they got, what, a ten thousand dollar increase, or nine thousand, whatever the increase was. If you divide by two hundred and sixty thousand constituents, it comes to four cents a constituent. So, if anybody wrote a letter to complain about the pay raise, they just spent twenty-nine cents for a stamp on an issue that was going to cost them four cents. That's not fair, you know. If the news media thinks that ten thousand dollars is unfair, fine, say it. But also say it cost every one of you four cents. Now, the people will say, "Four cents?" My veterinarian complained about it. No, it didn't affect me. I'm not involved with it, and she complained about it, and I said, "Wait a minute, hold on now. You know, I'm not going to walk out of this office less than one hundred dollars, and you're complaining about you don't want to pay four cents to your House Member or your Senator?" I said, "What are you talking about for?" And I explained to her that I'm a Senator, it cost her additional four cents. Now, a House Member costs an additional sixteen because they have one fourth the amount of constituents, so there we're up to a grand total of sixteen cents, so let's tell the whole truth. That's my opinion and they can't check on that. Even the Channel 4 last week, they were complaining about the seniors – the Act 1 that lets the school district vote on a income tax instead of a property tax. I mean, he's leading into it, now, what does he lead into but those Legislators who voted for this pay raise in the middle of the night. What the heck does that have to do with – and then he went into the issue of the property tax. Yeah, so, you know, now they say they pass it in the middle of the night. You're sitting in Harrisburg. Have you ever seen them in Session that the news media wasn't sitting there even in the middle of the night? So, what's the

difference if they pass it two in the morning or two in the afternoon? The news media's sitting there. They're going to report it, you know, it's not like, "Well, let's wait till they leave, and then we'll do it." That's not the case. They don't leave; they sit there. So, what's the difference if they pass it at two in the morning? Again, they don't say that, so, what I'm basically indicating to you that the House Members and Senators today, they're the champs. They deserve every penny they get. They really do. They deserve every penny, and I'd like to talk about that legislation that they had, and I made a career of trying to do away with property tax and let the school districts go to an income tax. I mean, I made a career of that. Every two years I'd introduce that legislation. To me it's the best legislation in the world. They voted it. It went to the constituency, and they voted it down. I'm thinking, "What the heck is going on here?" And I said, "I think they made a mistake." The idea behind it – and nobody got it across. The idea behind it is, let the school board – don't dictate - let the school board decide. They do want to generate money for their budget through income tax or property tax; their decision. But the Legislature has to vote to give them that decision, and they did. That was after I left, but the news media did not bring that out. And even the senior citizens voted against it. It bewilders me. The only thing is they didn't know what they were doing. My idea is and always has been and always will be; you should pay your taxes according to your ability to pay. Now, a senior citizen who retires, he has a property tax of four or five thousand dollars, he's in trouble. And some of them have to sell their house, which is unfair. So, my idea is let's let everybody pay according to your ability to pay, and what is a better indication of your ability to pay than your income? And I've always said, not just a wage tax. You know, wage tax that only taxes those who work. There are some very rich people who cut coupons, make a great deal of money, and if you don't have an income

tax, they escape it. Now, if you let someone escape it here, someone else has to pick up the load. School boards; there is no limit to their taxes, there's no limit to their budget, where counties, cities, boroughs, there's a limit to their taxes. Not school boards. So, people confuse that. They say, "We want reform. We want the budget to go down." This legislation had nothing to do with the school board's budget. All it was saying is, "Let the tax be paid by the people who can afford it, and if you're rich or poor, you pay according to your ability." To me, I thought every school district around would vote for that and, what? One or two voted for it, which to me, they were lying to me at the time because my constituents were telling me they wanted it. *(laugh)* Somebody lied to me, and I still say that legislation was the best legislation that really you could – and I'd go to my grave saying they made a mistake, and I don't think, in all fairness, I don't think anyone got it across. You know, how can you argue that everyone pays according to their ability to pay? And then you'd get a household where, say, the wife brings in eighty-five thousand, the husband brings in one hundred and five. They're probably going to pay more under the income tax, but they're going to retire. They're not always going to make eighty-five and ninety-five, so when they retire, okay, they will pay according to their ability to pay. So, I was shocked at that, and I give the Legislators credit. They voted it. No one can complain about them. They voted it; the people voted it down, which bewilders the heck out of me. I'm shocked. *(laugh)*

HM: Well, I'd like to backtrack just a second. I wanted to ask you, I think we talked a little bit about what surprised you the most, but I wanted to ask you about your first Swearing-In Ceremony, after that hard election.

EE: Disappointing.

HM: Oh.

EE: Disappointing. It was a shame. It was a shame. Again, when you're a freshmen – I wanted to take, naturally, I wanted to take my wife, my three sons, my mother and my dad and, you know, I wanted to take them to the Ceremony. Unfortunately, those in Leadership, they take care of all those who are reelected, you know, have been around, their buddies and that, and I didn't know anybody, and I was given just a small allotment, and it was very, very, very disappointing, you know, it was extremely disappointing. My father and one of my sons had to sit up in the balcony and they couldn't participate. That was disappointing, and that's unfair. You know, then, I noticed only later, you know, I didn't know what was going on, but I noticed later as those who were incumbents and over there, they had plenty of seats, and their relatives and that were, you know, taken care of. That was disappointing. For the first time, it was disappointing. Yeah, yeah, that was, but, I'm a big boy.

HM: Did you have any mentors whenever you first came? Someone that would show you the ropes?

EE: Nobody. (*laugh*) Especially when one of my first votes was the income tax, and no, I had nobody. I really had nobody. I'd like to say I did. I had a few talks with K. Leroy Irvis [State Representative, Allegheny County, 1959-1988; Speaker, 1977-1978 and 1983-1988], who was a Majority Leader at the time. Herb Fineman [Herbert Fineman;

State Representative, Philadelphia County, 1955-1978; Speaker, 1969-1972 and 1975-1977] was Speaker, and K. Leroy Irvis was Majority Leader, and I like to say that I had a few discussions with him, but I can't say a mentor of any kind, no. No, I didn't have that. It was tough, it was tough. It was a tough thing.

HM: Who did you sit beside on the House Floor? Do you remember?

EE: Yes, I did. Fellow the name of Walsh [John T. Walsh; State Representative, Allegheny County, 1953-1974] was on my left side. He was from McKeesport, been there quite a few years. And on my right side was Helen, Helen – forget her name now [Helen D. Gillette; State Representative, Allegheny County, 1967-1980]. She was from Natrona Heights, since deceased. I'm disappointed I didn't remember her name, yeah, but Speedo was two seats in front of me, I know that. *(laugh)* I know where Speedo was because I kept my eye on him. *(laugh)*

HM: Could you describe your first office whenever you came to Harrisburg?

EE: Oh, yeah, I couldn't find it. *(laugh)* We were up in the attic, and I was amazed that the state was going to run closing offices because they weren't safe to be in. We were in the attic. If there was a fire, Pennsylvania would have lost, well, twenty-five percent of the House Members. *(laugh)* We were upstairs in just a battery of desks, and you shared your secretary with two others, maybe even three. I know two others. You had to share your secretary with two others, and there was always a fight, "No, get my work done." "I can't. I got to do the –" So that was always a fight. That was, yeah, oh, there was no

office. Now, those House Members get these beautiful – through the addition – they get these beautiful offices. No, we had a desk, a chair, and a chair for a constituent who, if they found their way, and a file cabinet, and a wastebasket, and that was it. I mean, and one file cabinet. That was the extent of it. That was all we got.

HM: Well, who was in your office? Do you remember who was there with you?

EE: Well, no, there were probably House Members who were probably twelve or thirteen.

HM: Oh, okay.

EE: Yeah, no, there were quite a few of them. Yeah, there were quite a few of them. Yeah, one fellow I remember; Sam [Samuel Rappaport; State Representative, Philadelphia County, 1971-1984] something, from around the Philadelphia area. We were talking, and our desks faced each other. We faced each other, and he was telling me he was going to introduce legislation that people on welfare should come and cut his grass. I said, “What?” He said, “Yeah. They get money.” I said, “You mind if I don’t cosign that legislation?” (*laugh*) Yeah, I don’t know if he introduced it, but he told me he was going to. I didn’t think that would fly. Sam, boy I can’t think. We are talking many years now. We, we’re going back [19]71, [19]72. That’s a long time ago. Yeah, so, no, I don’t remember who else was in – I remember faces. Tom Fee [Thomas J. Fee; State Representative, Lawrence County, 1969-1994] was one. Real nice guy, real nice guy. Tom Fee, from Butler County. Real nice guy. His wife used to come up a lot. She’d

come up a lot, and nice lady. Very, very, very nice lady. Nice people. I was in there with a lot of the Philadelphia people. The amazing part of it, even though I voted against Philadelphia, a lot of the Philadelphia, especially the black Members, we got a long pretty good. We really did. We got along pretty good. In fact, I'd have to say I went out to dinner probably with more of the black Members than I did anyone else, and you'd think of all things, you'd say, you'd think they'd want to sic Speedo on me, and that wasn't the case. *(laugh)* No, I got along with them pretty good, and they were in that complex, you know.

HM: Did you ever have a District office as a House Member?

EE: As a House Member? Yeah, but I paid for it.

HM: Okay.

EE: Yeah, I paid for it.

HM: I wasn't sure, since you had your table at the mall.

EE: Yeah, no, I did have, you know, and I paid for that myself, you know.

HM: Okay. Well, what was your relationship like whenever you moved from House to Senate? What, you know, different people have said, you know, it's the upper Chamber, and those types of comments. What do you think?

EE: I think they're the biggest egomaniacs that ever existed. (*laugh*) I did not like the Senate. As I said at the beginning of the interview, I did not like the Senate. The House Members were younger. First of all, they were younger. They didn't have the staff, and they didn't have the, they didn't have the money that goes with the Senate seat, and they certainly didn't have the egos. You know, that wasn't the case. They didn't have the egos. No, I liked the House Members. Those Senators – it was unfortunate.

HM: What do you think the major differences were between the Chambers?

EE: Between the two Chambers?

HM: Just, the staff and – ?

EE: Well, let's depart from the personal. Now, let's forget the personal. Let's just take the two Chambers. There's, there's certainly is more to be accomplished; bigger Districts, four times as big. More responsibility, because you're voting the same as four people in the House. So, more responsibility. Now, let me take it back. When I talk about the Senators, let me take it back to one – I watch the television channel that – what's it? PNC?

HM: PCN. [Pennsylvania Cable Network]

EE: PCN. I watch that, and I was observing Armstrong. What's his first name?

HM: Gibson.

EE: Gibson Armstrong [State Senator, Lancaster and York Counties, 1985-2008; State Representative, Lancaster County, 1977-1984]. Now, he's the only guy I know has two last names or two first names, and I don't know which is which.

HM: I think he goes by Gib; Senator Gib Armstrong.

EE: "Gib" Gibson Armstrong. I was observing him. I was really impressed. Now, when I left, he was coming. I served maybe one term under him, or not under him, with him. And if all the Senators today are like "Gib" Gibson Armstrong, yeah, I'm impressed. He really, really handles himself well as the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, which is the number one committee, I mean, that's the money. And I was disappointed when the program was over. He really, really did a nice job. So, when I'm talking about the differences between the House and the Senate, I want everybody understanding, I'm not talking about present day Senators. I'm talking about the, you know, and I'm talking about Senators then, and I'd have to believe that the most Senators are probably the same as Gibson Armstrong. I have no reason not to. And if that's the case, and I'm going to say that is the case, yeah, they do a nice job. He does, they do, they do, he does. He really did a nice job. I mean, he told about the taxes that were coming and who's going to pay for it, and this is the budget, and you have to make decisions, and he told it just like it is. And he was also truthful; he said, "And now I have a constituency of my own, and my constituents aren't interested in the transit problems of

Allegheny County or the transit problems of Philadelphia,” but it didn’t come off that he was only going to be concerned about Lancaster County. He came off that he was concerned about the whole state, but he also let it be known he’s concerned about Lancaster County. So, I’m trying to be fair to the Senators of present day, so if anyone’s a present Senator watching this, I’m not speaking to you. I’m speaking of those son-of-a-guns who, who didn’t like me. And the House Members, I’m impressed with them, you know, watching them as I do, you know, on PCN, yeah, and reading about the votes. Yeah, I’m impressed, I’m impressed. They do a nice job.

HM: Okay. Well, I wanted to ask you about your legislation now, and what pieces of legislation were you involved in, and what are you particularly proud of throughout your career? You can talk about House and Senate at this point.

EE: Well, in the House, there was no legislation for me. (*laugh*) I mean, I can introduce all I want, and nothing was going to pass. First of all, in the first two years, the Democrats controlled and they weren’t going to give me anything, and the second two years, the Republicans controlled it and they equally weren’t going to give me anything, so I wasn’t going to get any legislation passed there. In the Senate, as I said, I spent a career trying to pass the legislation on school taxes and never got it passed. But I also voted and worked hard, really worked hard on seatbelt legislation. Boy, did I work hard on that. I had meetings with doctors, hospitals, anyplace, in any news – I traveled around the state talking about it, and any talk show that wanted to talk to me, I would talk about seatbelts and how many lives have been saved, and I again made a career of trying to get the seatbelt legislation passed. Governor Thornburgh appointed a Commission to study

the seatbelts, and he wasn't going to put me on the committee, but I think he felt that, "Hey, one thing, you have to put Early on there," because I really mean, I worked too hard at it, and it was public known that that was my legislation. So, he did put me on the Commission, and we studied it, and we studied it hard, and I introduced the legislation, I did get main sponsorship, and it passed in the Senate. I got it through the Senate. It went on to the House, and through no fault of mine, some conservative right-winger decided he was going to champion my legislation. That was probably my fault. I should have appointed somebody, say, "Hey, take this through." Well, he was really so far to the right I don't think his car would make a left turn, (*laugh*) and when it went over there, because of him, even my black friends, including Leroy Irvis, voted against it, and it didn't pass, and I was extremely disappointed. That would have been my legislation; seatbelts in Pennsylvania. It didn't pass that Session. I got defeated, and then eventually, the next Session it passed, so I can't take credit for that. But nobody worked – I don't care – whoever ended up credit for it, I laid the groundwork. I did the work, and I was only disappointed in it didn't pass. I was disappointed because I didn't say I was the sponsor, but also, I was disappointed because people died because **[End of Side A]** of that. If that legislation would have passed that night and people would have had seatbelts, more people would have been saved. So, I resent those House Members doing what they did and delaying that vote until the next Session, because I naturally don't know how many people died because of it, but people did die because of not passing that legislation, which was a shame.

HM: Well, are you happy with it being a secondary violation, or do you think it should be a primary violation?

EE: No, and that was also in my legislation, and that was an insistence on Thornburgh. Thornburgh insisted on that, no, and I don't understand that. To this day, I don't understand it. Someone has to explain that to me, and what it is, for those who are watching this, if anybody's watching, (*laugh*) what that is you have to be speeding or go through a red light or go through a stop sign, and then if you do that, then they can give you a ticket for not wearing a seatbelt. That's dumb. Seatbelts should be, should be mandatory, regardless, and if you don't wear the seatbelt, you should get a ticket. Yeah, I think it's Pennsylvania; Click it or Ticket.

HM: Yep, that's this state.

EE: There's one I had. When I was in Vancouver, there was a billboard and I thought, "Oh, that's beautiful." It wasn't seatbelts – but I want to digress for just a second. It was drinking and driving. It says, "You can drink, and you can drive. Pick one." (*laugh*) I think that's clever. I think that was really catchy. "Pick one." I didn't mean to digress, but yeah.

HM: Well, is there any other legislation or issues you would like to talk about at this time?

EE: No, nothing that I would say to the present House Members –

HM: Okay.

EE: “You ought to do this. You ought to do that.”

HM: Okay. Okay.

EE: No, I think they’re doing – I can’t see that I think Pennsylvania, through guys like Gibson Armstrong – I want to say Armstrong Gibson, you know (*laugh*) – through Gibson Armstrong, I think Pennsylvania – now, I live in Florida half my life, and I live in Pennsylvania half my [life]; I’m a snowbird. So, I see Florida and I compare the two states, and Pennsylvania, even though we’re losing constituents, you know, Pennsylvania’s having problems, I still think they’re doing a nice job. I really do. I think the Governor Rendell, I can’t take issues with him. Can’t say I agree with everything, but, you know, a Democrat out of Philadelphia, come on, you know, people say, you know, “You elected him Governor?” “Yeah, we’ve done that.” But I know, I can’t – if you’d ask me to, you know, to come up with an issue that I disagree or can give you an issue that I think they should undertake, I couldn’t do it, you know, they’re doing fine.

HM: Well, you were on several committees during your House tenure. Do you think you had a favorite committee? I see Public Health and Welfare, Aging and Youth, Finance, Appropriations, Education, Military and Veterans Affairs.

EE: Boy, did I do all that? (*laugh*)

HM: Yeah. Yeah, you did.

EE: Well, naturally, the Finance Committee because that's the one that generates the cash, and I had the interest there, you know, income tax, and so forth. Yeah, I had interest there. I was Chairman of the Veterans Affairs and I was disappointed. I didn't do a good job. I disappointed myself. We didn't have a very long – I wasn't a veteran, but I respect them. I do respect them. Veterans I respect, and the short time that I had that, I did not do a good job. I should be criticized for it. I had [General] Westmoreland², who was one of my constituents, and I didn't know it. I should have had him come to Harrisburg. I really should. I didn't even know it. I didn't know it, and I criticized myself for not knowing it. When I was a little kid during World War II on Northside, there was a fellow by the name of Commando Kelly, a hero in World War II, and we had a big parade for Commando Kelly, and I went from Five View, which is – if you're not familiar with that, but Five View was quite a distance for a young kid to walk, and I'm, I'm like eight, nine years old – and I walked down to Northside because I wanted to see Commando have a big parade for Commando Kelly when he came back from the War, and he was still alive whenever, and I should have had Commando Kelly come to Harrisburg. He deserved it, you know, and to talk with the committee that I was the Chairman, and I'm disappointed with that. I didn't do that. I didn't, and it wasn't out of laziness, it was probably out of stupidity. I should have done more in the short time I had, and I only had it for a short time, but the short time I had it, I should have done more. It's a disappointment on my part that the veterans deserve better.

² WWII veteran and Commander of American military operations during the Vietnam War, 1964-1968; also served as the United States Army's Chief of Staff, 1968-1972.

HM: But you probably didn't realize that you were going to go – move to the Senate, either.

EE: No, I'm talking about in the Senate.

HM: Oh, in the Senate.

EE: Yeah.

HM: Okay.

EE: Yeah, I'm talking about in the Senate. Yeah, yeah, that was a disappointment. I should have done better. Health and Welfare, I enjoyed that. I enjoyed that. Well, I have to tell you a funny story, very brief; his was when I was a House Member. Now, there's nothing worse than a freshman House Member. I mean, we're pretty egotistical, we're pretty bad. So, the Chairman indicated that we were going to go to Proctor and Gamble and discuss with them phosphates they're putting in their detergent because their phosphates are destroying our, our streams and so forth. So, we were going to go to Proctor and Gamble and discuss phosphates and the plane was going to leave Harrisburg and then it was going on to Pittsburgh and then on to Cincinnati, and at Cincinnati we were going to be met with limousines from Proctor and Gamble and they were going to take us to the hotel, and then at night they're taking us to their private dining room, and they're going to, you know, serve us dinner, and everything's going to be fine, you know, and then great. So I said, you know, "Instead of me driving to Harrisburg to get a plane

to come back to Pittsburgh, can I just get the plane in Pittsburgh?” She said, “Yeah, it’ll be fine.” Now, this was all two weeks ahead of time, you know, when everything was planned, so I’m scheduled to get the plane in Pittsburgh. Unfortunately, for whatever reason, I missed the plane. So I thought, “Well, that’s no problem. I’ll get the next plane, and I’ll get a cab, and I’ll catch up with the committee.” So, I got the next plane and when, as you know, in politics, you’re recognized by your county, you know, Early from Allegheny County, and, you know, Representative Early from Allegheny County or from Butler County; everything’s county. So, I got off the plane and the guy says, “Are you from Allegheny?” I says, “Yeah.” He says, “Well, I got the limousine for you.” I thought, “Boy, that Chairman is really great. She sent this limousine back to pick me up.” I said, “Man, this is fantastic. Yeah.” So he says, “Give me your bags.” We got the bags, and off we went. [He] put them in the limousine, and I’m sitting there like King Kong, and he says, “You’re really doing a good job.” I thought, I just had a good campaign, but I didn’t know it was that good. *(laugh)* I said, “Well, I’m trying.” Now, keep in mind, you know, an egotistical freshman House Member, head this big. He says, “People around here really appreciate you.” I thought, what the heck is he talking about? He said, “We never had airplane service like we have since you took over.” He was talking about Allegheny Airlines. *(laugh)* I’m in the middle of the airport in downtown Cincinnati, and I can’t tell this dude I’m not supposed to be there, because I’d be put out in the middle of nowhere. *(laugh)* So, we went to this hotel which I wasn’t supposed to be, so he and I were fighting over the suitcase. “I got it.” “No, I got it.” So, finally I got my suitcase and I ran in the front door and out the back, got a cab and went where I was supposed to be. *(laugh)* And that poor fellow; “Why did you pick so and so up?” He said, “I didn’t pick him up.” But that shows you how dumb we can be, so yeah, I like the

Health and Welfare Committee. I did. I did enjoy that. I was never on the Transportation Committee, but I had a lot of legislation dealing with highway safety that I thought there was a need there, and I enjoyed highway safety issues, you know, the seat belts, and, you know, yeah, it was big on my part, but all those committees, yeah, and I enjoyed most of them. I really did, and I wish I would have done a better job but, you know, you're too soon old and too late smart. I'm not trying to be a comedian, but these are stories. I mean, you want stories, I give you stories.

HM: I appreciate it. Thank you.

EE: Yeah.

HM: Well, what aspect of your job as a House Member did you enjoy the most?

EE: What did I enjoy the most? I can't say there was one thing. You know, as a House Member, you have constituent work. You're out with your constituents. You do legislative work. You do committee work. I have to say I enjoyed all of it. I really did, and if I was to pick one, I'd have to say constituent work. I'd have to say that, but, you know, going into the high schools; that was fun. I enjoyed that. Talking to my constituents at the mall and the radio program, I enjoyed it all. I really couldn't say. Now, you're talking about House, now.

HM: I was talking about the House.

EE: Talking about the House. Yeah, the House. I enjoyed it all. I really did. That was fun.

HM: Well, what did you not like about being a House Member?

EE: Traveling. Boy, that was tough, and it was three and half to four hours. Yeah, that was tough. Being away from home, yeah, I didn't like that, I really didn't. I had a nice family, I had a nice wife, and I had three nice kids, and it's tough to be away from them, but that's the sacrifice you make, and not just politicians but many people make that sacrifice in their field of endeavor, yeah. I didn't like being away from them.

HM: Did you have any bad weather?

EE: Bad weather?

HM: Bad weather travel.

EE: Oh, my, yeah, going through Somerset in the middle of winter. Oh, yeah, except that I will say this; the Turnpike Commission, they did a nice job, you know. There were times, you know, there were times when it was difficult to get through. I don't recall any that I did not make it.

HM: Do you ever travel with anybody, or do you travel solo?

EE: Yeah, Senator Fleming and I – when I was a Senator – I’m sorry, when I was a House Member, he was a Senator, and he was shrewd. He was an old-time shrewd politician. He was an Irish politician from the best. I mean, he was the best. So, when I got elected to the House, and he was the Senator, and he befriended me. I didn’t befriend him. He did befriend me, and we became pretty good friends, and we used to drive back and forth. Now, you probably knew that, did you? You didn’t know that? Yeah, I used to, I used to pick him – by being much younger than him, I used to drive him back – we’d drive back and forth. And he’s the guy that I ran against, yeah, and that was tough. I did not want to run against the guy. I’ll tell you right now, I did not; I liked the guy. I liked him personally. Maybe both coming from the Irish backgrounds, and both being Irish politicians. Nothing worse than Irish politicians, I think. Yeah, we’re pretty bad. I liked him, but I knew I wanted to be the Senator, and he didn’t have any ambitions of retiring. And I said to him – now, you have an interview with Representative Cessar [Richard J.; Allegheny County, 1971-1994], who had the adjacent District to mine, he was also part of the 40th Senatorial District, and he was a long-time Republican. He was a staff member for –

HM: Lee Donaldson [State Representative, Allegheny County, 1955-1970].

EE: For?

HM: Lee Donaldson.

EE: Lee Donaldson, so he was a staff member for Lee Donaldson before he became a House Member. So, he knew his way around, and he knew naturally knew Senator Fleming, and that, you know. And I said to Senator Fleming, I said, “Senator Fleming, there’s no doubt that it looks like Rick Cessar and I are going to be running against each other for the Senate. Where would you be in a race like that?” And he lied. He says, “I’d have to stay neutral.” I knew that was a lie. I knew that was a lie. He wasn’t going to stay neutral. If he would have said to me, “Well, I had to be with Cessar,” I would have respected that more, but he knew Rick Cessar because Rick Cessar worked for Lee Donaldson. Rick Cessar was a House Member the same as me, all Republican, and I knew he was lying to me. And on the way up to Harrisburg – the last time I drove him because he didn’t drive with me after that – on the way up, I said, “Senator, I have to tell you. I’m contemplating running for the Senate,” but I also ran for the House at the same time, as I indicated I ran. I said, “I’m running for both, and then we’ll decide later what’s going to happen.” Well, he no longer rode with me back-and-forth, but yeah, did I ride with someone? Yeah, I chauffeured him. In fact, he was the old-school that he didn’t smoke, but he did chew tobacco, and the side of my car, I’d have to take it in for a tobacco change and then every six months, when he was spitting out the side door. *(laugh)* He was a nice guy. I didn’t want to run against him, but he forced me to do it. Plus the fact that I couldn’t run the risk of someone beating him and then I’d never get the seat, you know, but, so that was my thinking at the time. So yeah, I did travel. I thought maybe you knew that. That’s why you asked the question.

HM: No, I didn’t.

EE: I thought that was unique.

HM: Yeah. Well, you've talked a little bit about your Senate career as well. So, what aspect do you think you enjoyed the most of being a Senator?

EE: *(laugh)*

HM: Oh, I'm sorry.

EE: You know, what did I enjoy the most? No, as a House [Member] I enjoyed it all, as I indicated to you. I like the constituents, the work, and the committees, and I liked it all. The Senate, it was just too tough. I mean, they beat me up. They didn't have Speedo. Speedo didn't go with me. They didn't have him, but they beat me up verbally. Yeah, it was tough. It was, you know, it's tough to be in a group of twenty-seven and knowing that they dislike you. Yeah, no, it was tough. I didn't enjoy the Senate. I can't pick – I can't say anything but, no, I can't say anything. I didn't like it.

HM: Okay. I'm sorry.

EE: You're going to have a pity party for me.

HM: No, I feel bad. Well, since you were in Harrisburg for many years, did you notice any changes to the General Assembly? And this could be House and Senate, and it could

be structural or events; anything that changed during your tenure? It could be – different people talk about modernization during your time that you'd served.

EE: They did some real nice construction after I left. Maybe they were waiting for me to leave. *(laugh)* No, they did a nice job. I've been back, as you know, I've been back and I have to compliment the House. You know, the Senate doesn't do this. The Senate doesn't invite us back as, as the House does, and I give credit to your Leadership, you know, this is only because your Leadership is permitting this to happen. I give them credit. This, I think, is really great, and there's nothing like this in the Senate. Yeah, they modernized it after I left, but if I were to have to say if you really want to know the difference between when I was there and when I left; the caliber of the people. It's amazing. Now, I don't see them that often; I see them on TV. But I'm even going to go one step further; the staff. And the staff, you know, I've spoken to you in the past, and, and I'm impressed. In the past, they were politico hacks, who, if you got someone, "Hey, I need three jobs." "Well, okay, we'll put them here. We'll put them there." That day's gone. I'm impressed. I'm impressed with you, I'm impressed with the other staff members that I've been in contact with since I went back, and I'm impressed with the House Members, and the Senators. I mean, I just can't get over the improvement. And, and I'll say this, too; I was told that the improvement from ten years before I got there – there's a story they tell; there was a Senator who went on vacation while he should be in, in Session, and he'd call back every day to find out what's going on, and his hometown newspaper wrote it up that, "Senator so-and-so was so concerned about his constituents that even while on vacation, he called every day to find out what's going on." *(laugh)* Now, you couldn't get away with that when I was there, you know. So, I see a general

progression of improvement in staff and in elected officials since I left. There was a story, and I just found out this week, just this week; when I was in the Senate, they told about a Senator who had a quarry, and the specifications for the state, especially those cobblestones that you see all over Pittsburgh, the specifications that the State wrote, only his quarry was up to specifications. So, they had to buy it from him, whatever it was. So, I never knew who the Senator was. This week a friend of mine who does volunteer work for what they call the Lawrence Estate; it's an estate that was given to Allegheny County when Mrs. Lawrence died, and the county uses it for Light-Up nights, and they use it to generate money for what they call Bundle-Up, for coats for poor people. So, the county uses it, but when I was touring, when I was going through there, the person was telling me, "Oh, this is the Lawrence Estate. Her father was Senator Flinn [William Flinn; State Senator, Allegheny County, 1891-1900; State Representative, Allegheny County, 1879-1882], and Senator Flinn had this quarry down in Ligonier, and I says, "That's the guy." So, you can never get away with it now. Now, Lawrence, Mrs. Lawrence, she was the daughter of Senator Flinn, and he just had so much money, he gave his kids just everything, and he built her this fabulous mansion that's still in existence out in the northern part of Allegheny County. But, she was just the daughter and that was given to her. Now, can you imagine in this day and age about someone having a quarry, and the state had to buy the stone or whatever from that particular quarry. So, things have changed from there to now, and it's been a progression that I've seen. You know, I can compare with stories of previous to me, and I can compare it with what I was there and compare what I see now, and yeah, in our day, they say you couldn't buy politicians, but you could rent them for a while. *(laugh)* That's not true today. That when we talked about the indictment of the month club, yeah, there were five or six House Members and

Senators in the seventies that were indicted for taking cash for various reasons, and we didn't know on Monday who was going to show up and who wasn't, but that was even worse previously. And I have learned since I left the Senate, I have learned that previous to that, the Pennsylvania Railroad controlled the State Legislature. Did you know that? Have you ever heard that? Have you? I didn't know that until recently, I had found out that the Pennsylvania Railroad actually controlled the State Legislature, House and Senate, so you heard it, too, huh? Yeah, so, you know, when you get the railroad controls it, you know, they control it. The people didn't have much of a say. So, yeah, they were going from that or from the railroads to the Senator with his quarry, and the indictments of the seventies, and today, well, we did have that Habay [Jeffrey Earl Habay; State Representative, Allegheny County, 1995-2006] that I don't think he was as much of a thief as he was stupid. I mean that was just dumb. *(laugh)* When I read that article, I said, "You know, he didn't make anything. He didn't make any money out of it. He didn't even have any money in his pocket. That was just dumb." And he was a shining light. They had big plans for him, judging from what I read. They had big plans for him, yeah, I feel bad. I really, I mean, I really, truly feel bad that, you know, that happened to him. I don't know him personally. I just know him from his conviction, but that's all I know, but I feel bad for him. But I mean, that's one, you know, that's the first one in how many, 203 House Members and 50 Senators? I've always said that two out of three House Members, fifty Senators – I'm a Catholic now, so I can say this – you get more priests in trouble than you do House Members and Senators. *(laugh)* So, it's, you know, the newspapers on you. My father owned the building here in Pittsburgh, and in the building there was a State Store. I got a call from the Post Gazette that they had a real scoop; "Do you own this building on Boulevard of the Allies in Pittsburgh?" "No."

“Well,” he said, “the records indicate you own it.” I said, “No,” I said. “That’s my father. We both have the same name. I’m junior,” and he said, “Oh, he owns the building.” “Yeah.” He said, “Well, why is it he has the state liquor stores is in his building? You’re renting from him.” I said, “Because when he bought the building, the liquor store was there, and when the lease is up, the liquor store is going to be gone,” so the newspaper, they, you know, they divulge into that, but you don’t get away with it, they, you know, if someone gets away with something today, God bless them because they’re really smart. You, you know, you don’t get away with – and rightly so. I’m not advocating that people should. I’m just saying that the House Members and the Senators in this day and age, they’re honest, they’re hardworking, and they’re intelligent, too. I’ve seen them speak, just like with Gib Armstrong; he can really speak. And he mentioned about his background as a Marine. He can handle Speedo, but his background, I was impressed with that, and I’m sure they’re, you know, the fact that he was Chairman of the committee, he got to expound that others did not. And I’m sure that there were others there who, in the House, you know, I’m sure the House Members are, you know, yeah, you have to have some credentials. Most of them are college graduates, and, you know, impressed.

HM: Well, what would you say your fondest memory is of serving in the House?

EE: Fondest memory. What’s the fondest memory? Just the aura of the procedure. Sitting in a Chamber that I sat in, which, you see almost every day, sitting in a Chamber of that aura knowing the history of it, the individuals who sat in those seats, the individuals who did, you know, what I was doing, just the aura of the, of the procedure,

knowing what I'm doing, knowing that I'm representing, at the time, two hundred and thirty thousand constituents back home. The whole thing, what I'm doing, and I looked at it with great reverence and great respect, you know, a great deal of respect for the procedure. Naturally, there were some I disliked. Herb Fineman didn't like me. I didn't like him, but you're indicating you're going to interview Ken Lee [Kenneth B. Lee; State Representative, Sullivan, Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties, 1957-1974; Speaker, 1967-1968 and 1973-1974], or you already did? You already did?

HM: I have.

EE: How can you not respect a guy like that? How can you, knowing that you're sitting there in the same Chamber – even though at the time in the first year, he was the Minority Chairman, and then the second two years, he was the Speaker – but how can you not respect, you know, to think that we're both – even though he had the titles there, I'm still a House Member as he's a House Member – and how can you not respect and be enthralled by the fact that you're working with people of his caliber? Yeah, that, so I can't say any one – you asked for a memory. I can't say a memory, but I do remember, I remember the procedure. I remember the procedure, I remember people like him, and I remember that Leroy Irvis was extremely dedicated. I remember individuals, but the aura of what we're doing; we are lawmakers. We are representing people in the one of the greatest states of our nation. You know, and that's a title you have, and that's a responsibility you have, so the aura of it all, that's my memory. That's really my memory, yeah.

HM: Well, what have you been up to since you left the Senate?

EE: *(laugh)* It's a fair question. I was fifty-one years old when I was defeated, and I tell people I was defeated because of illness; my constituents got sick of me. *(laugh)* What have I been doing? I've been retired. I retired. I was fifty-one when I retired, and I do own a nice condo on the Atlantic Ocean, and I do spend as much time as I can there. But, I have a ninety-four year old mother still alive, and a real pain in the neck. I tell her, "Can't you just get a little bit senile and give me a break?" *(laugh)* No, she's sharp as a tack. She really is sharp as a tack, and we have real estate, as I indicated. My father and my mother did acquire some real estate, and which I have a brother and a sister, and so I'm involved in that as an absentee, so I can't divorce myself from Pittsburgh, but I'm basically retired. And I've traveled, I've traveled. I've been to China, been to Russia, Puerto Rico, Cuba. I'm not allowed to go, but I want to go. I'm going to sneak in again. Americans are not allowed to go there, but I went there under Battista when I was a kid. I went there under Battista, and I went there under Castro, and I want to go back under Castro, and then I want to go back when they finally throw him out or he dies – they don't have to throw him out; he's going to die. So I've traveled a lot. To answer your question, what have I done? I've traveled. I've been an absentee landlord with real estate, absentee. I spend a lot of time on the ocean in Florida. I walk. I'm an avid walker. Try to keep my health as best I can. I am seventy-one, and I want to keep myself in as good of shape as I can. Try to make it to seventy-two, and it's been a good life. It's been a good life. Had an unfortunate situation; my dog died two weeks ago, and I'm still bummed out about it. That's tough, that's tough. She was nineteen. My vet said, "How long do you think you're keeping her?" I said, "I want to keep her another nineteen."

It's tough. And traveling I do since I've been retired, I've been traveling, and I take my dog everywhere. I mean, she's had a good life. She sat on the balcony watching the Atlantic Ocean, so she had a good life. But, traveling back-and-forth with her, and I traveled extensively, so I've had a good life. I really have. I was an avid basketball player up until I was sixty-two, and then I came to the conclusion the NBA was not going to pick me up and draft me, so I better quit this. My knee was going bad, so I thought, "It's not worth an operation," so, I stopped playing it. In fact, I played basketball every day. I'd get up, and I'd be down at the basketball court at the YMCA right across the river, and I'd be there, and eleven thirty I'd be on the court, and they were tough games. I mean, I was the oldest one there, but that didn't mean anything to them. You played, and when your team lost, you had to sit down, and then the next one came up – so, you probably were involved in that type of basketball [*directed speech to camera operator*] – So, you know, If you loose you have to sit down, well, no one wants to sit down. So, that was pretty tough. Anyhow, that was my procedure. Then after basketball we'd go and have a Coke or something, and I'd go home, and have dinner with my wife, and one day I went home to have dinner with my wife, and she wasn't there, and so I had dinner and it got late, so I figured that she was babysitting one of my sons, and she would do that. She'd baby-sit one of the kids and then not come home, and, you know, if they were late, she'd just stay there instead of driving home late at night. So, she didn't come home, so I got up next day, went out and played basketball, and came home that night, and again, she's not there, and I thought, "That's strange." So, by nine o'clock I called my son, I says, "Did your mother leave me?" He said, "Yeah, two days ago." (*laugh*) So, I said, "Oh, okay." So, he was an attorney. I said, "Well, you're an attorney. You have to be my attorney going into divorce," and he said, "I can't be your attorney." I said, "Why

not?” I said, “You love your mother, and you love your dad. You’re perfect. There’s no one better than you.” So, he did, and it worked out well. So, yeah, I got a divorce, and I wasn’t expecting it, but I mean, it happens. It happens moving west, so it was a shame. It was a shame, but, you know, it’s a shame it happened, but that’s what I’ve been doing, getting divorced, and I always kid people and say, like, they say, “What do you do?” I say, “Well, I drink beer, I fondle women, and I get the weekends off.” (*laugh*) None of which is true. Yeah, so, it’s been a good life for me. I do exercise, I travel, and –

HM: Are you still active in politics?

EE: Not a bit. Not a bit. I didn’t even vote the last time. No, no.

HM: (*laugh*) My goodness.

EE: No, I’ll tell you what it is. You all went to high school. You all went to college. You liked it. You enjoyed it. You wouldn’t give it up, but you don’t want to go back.

HM: No, okay.

EE: You wouldn’t go back to college, you know. You enjoy Point Park, Indiana, and Duquesne. You enjoyed it all. Politics is the same way, at least the way I look at it. I’m glad I did it. I enjoyed it. I’m glad it’s over.

HM: Okay (*laugh*)

EE: Yeah, I don't want to go back, no.

HM: Well, how would you like to be remembered as far as your tenure in the House goes?

EE: I can't, you know, I didn't get the seatbelt bill through, I didn't get that through. I didn't get the property tax through. I didn't get anything through that I really, really wanted to do, so maybe I should return my pay to my constituents, but I can't find them. The only thing I would remember is people, even today, people remember me, and I've been out of office since [19]86, and I do go through the malls, and people say, "Hi, Ed. Hi, Senator." I still get that, and you know, I'm really happy with that. And I was never involved in anything tainted, even though we had the indictment of the month in the seventies, never once was I tainted with anything at all. So, I'd just like to be remembered as a Senator or House Member who did his job. I'll tell you what I'll take credit for; I'll take credit for constituent work. I had a lot of constituents that would call me and ask me to help them, and there were things I should not have won. One fellow, he was a State Employee, he filled out his form as to what his retirement should be, he put it up on the mantle and there was a deadline to have it in, and he died. He never sent it in, and his wife called me, and, and they really had no right to it. It was, you know, he just didn't do it, and I won. I won and I won many times on constituent work that I had no reason to win, you know, I just should not have won, and that, I'm proud of that. I'm proud of many constituents work that I did. You know, I'd have to say, I'd like to be remembered as someone – I was available. You know, if they wanted to find me, and I

was there, I was available. I like to say that. I'd like to be remembered as the Senator who was – and the House Member. We're talking about House stuff now, right? I'd like to be the House Member or the Senator who was there for the constituents.

HM: My last question.

EE: This'll be a dilly if this is the last one.

HM: Well, do you have any advice for new Members that would just be starting their careers? Anything that they could avoid as far as pitfalls, or any good advice, good, sound advice, as somebody who's been there and done that?

EE: The pitfalls, they wouldn't have the pitfalls I did because I'm sure the Party is not as strong as it was, and they won't have the Leadership beating on them as I did, so I won't have to tell them to avoid that. Just go there with the idea of dedication. Read the bills, you know, read all the bills. Research the bills. Do the job for the constituents. Remember them back home, and think of it – if I would tell them, when they're sitting voting yes or no with the switch, pretend there are two hundred and forty thousand constituents up in that balcony all looking down on you. I'm talking to those who were them. Think of it that there're two hundred and forty thousand constituents who are just looking right down on you wanting to say, "Now, how's he voting. Is he voting yes or not?" What do you do? Look at it that way, like if they're right behind you. And also look at it, like my grandmother who was really poor but no one knew it, who had to pinch pennies – now we're going back in, you know, history – but, when you do vote for

legislation, think of your grandmothers who had to pinch pennies, didn't have enough money for this and for that. So, when you are spending the taxpayers' money, think of your grandmother who had trouble making ends meet, but you didn't know it; she kept it a secret. So, be conservative. Don't waste it. That's their money. It's not yours, It's theirs. So, yeah, that's what I would give them advice, yeah, but they don't need advice from me. From what I've seen, they'll do the job. They'll do the job, yeah, and if they don't, people will throw them out just like in Pittsburgh. Three existing, three incumbent council members – I don't know if you're aware of this – three incumbent council members in Pittsburgh just got defeated, just got defeated. Three incumbents, that's rare. So, if you think the people aren't watching, you're mistaken. So, for a future House Member, future politician of all office; they're watching, they're watching. And the news media's watching, and they're going to lie, but they're still watching. So yeah, do the job, do the job. Do it as I did it; when I get up in the morning and I shave, I can look in the mirror, and I have no regrets; none, zero.

HM: Well, thank you very much.

EE: Hey, thank you. I want to congratulate you. I want to congratulate you for doing this and for taking your time, and tell your Leadership back in Harrisburg that this is nice. This is great. They really deserve to be given credit for this, because people are going to remember this, you know, thirty, forty, fifty years from now, they're going to talk about – they'll still remember Speedo. *(laugh)*

HM: *(laugh)* Thank you.

EE: Oh, thank you.