

A TEI Project

Interview of Gladys Meade

Contents

1. Transcript
 - 1.1. Session 1 (June 21, 2006.)
 - 1.2. Session 2 (July 12, 2006.)
 - 1.3. Session 3A (July 19, 2006)
 - 1.4. Session 3b (July 19, 2006.)
 - 1.5. Session 4 (July 26, 2007)
 - 1.6. Session 5a (January 26, 2007)
 - 1.7. Session 5b (January 26, 2007)
 - 1.8. Session 6 (February 14, 2007)

1. Transcript

1.1. Session 1 (June 21, 2006.)

MEADE

OK, now the mic's pointing up, here we go.

COLLINGS

OK. All right. Good morning, Gladys; let me just ID the thing here. Jane Collings interviewing Gladys Meade in her home in Redondo Beach, June 21, 2006. Good morning.

MEADE

Good morning, Jane.

COLLINGS

Why don't we just start off very simply, and tell me when and where you were born?

MEADE

Ah, well, the date is easy enough; it was December 20, 1931. And probably not a great year to be born; the Depression was in place. My mother [Isabel Duff] and father [Maurice Ellis Fuller] married very young, and the marriage did not survive. In fact, when I was just a baby, I went to live with my great-grandfather [Thomas McDonald], great-grandmother [Mary McDonald], and great-aunt [Agnes McDonald].

COLLINGS

Wow, my goodness.

MEADE

I was born in Somerville, Massachusetts, in terms of location. The great-grandparents and the great-aunt lived in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and I lived with them until first the great-grandmother died when I was five, the great-grandfather died when I was 11; the great-aunt continued on and was living in the house where we had all lived together. It was one of those three-unit old clapboard-type houses in Cambridge, which is still there; in a trip back to visit.

COLLINGS

It's still there? That's unusual.

MEADE

-- back to Cambridge -- yes, it's still three units; there's an old barn in the back that was a garage for anyone who had a car, which I think they have converted to living quarters. I wondered how they did it, but anyway, it was still there and still looking very much like I remembered from my childhood. In any case, I lived there until I was 11, attended the local Catholic grammar school, and was quite content. And even though we were not the usual family kind of unit, in terms of "Where's Mommy? Where's Daddy?" -- my great-grandparents and great-aunt took very good care of me, and my great-grandfather was sort of a patriarch figure, I guess, because my mother remarried when I was about -- I guess about five, and she had at that time, with her husband, wanted to resume a family-type gathering, and came -- she had been visiting off and on during my early years, but had not lived there. But my great-grandfather decided that it was in my best interests to remain with him and his daughter, my great-aunt.

COLLINGS

I think he liked you. (laughter)

MEADE

(laughter) I think so, too. I can remember as a small child being told that I was the most beautiful child in the world. Now, somewhere along the lines I realized that this was not quite true; the girl down the street who had long blonde curls and so forth -- but any case, he told me I was the most beautiful girl in the world. So at age five, my mother apparently decided that she would try -- you know, now that she was married again -- to resume a family life, but my great-grandfather said no; he thought it was in my best interest that I remain there. So she acquiesced to that; as I said, he was sort of a patriarch-type in terms of laying down the law for any of the family. My father, by the way, lived at that time in Falmouth, in Cape Cod, and did not bother to visit. So in later years, I did make an effort to meet him out of curiosity more than anything else, but at least in my early childhood, he did not visit. At age 11, my great-grandfather had died, and I remained with my great-aunt, but meanwhile, my mother had divorced the second husband, and had a small child, my half-brother [Frank Kearful]. And she had decided that, again, based on advice from

the patriarch, my great-grandfather, because he knew he was dying, that she moved back in the house in Cambridge with her young son; my great-aunt could care for the young son and continue caring for me, mother could work, great-aunt would collect the rents from the other two units in the house; the ménage could continue, in terms of whatever. So for awhile, it seemed that was going to work out. However, mother remarried, and -- really a very short time after he died. So she wanted to move out. My half-brother stayed with the great-aunt and me for awhile. Her third husband was a fascinating fellow, in that he -- I think he was striving to take over the patriarch role in the family that the great-grandfather had had. So he had all sorts of ideas about who should do what and when and where and how; sometimes he was just persuasive, other times he was terribly manipulative. But of course, I was only 11, so I didn't recognize all of that, and apparently I was a very obedient, quiet child: when told to do something, I tended to do it, and not argue about it or whatever. In any case, he arranged that Great-Aunt Aggie, who was there, was going to sell the house to him and my mother, and that I would be sent to live with my grandparents, who also lived with Cambridge, at some distance, though. And that Auntie Aggie would be on her own, although she would get the price of the house. Of course, the price of the house in those days -- I think she sold the house to him for \$6,000. And she would be on her own, but she would still visit me, and I would be with these grandparents, who I really didn't know that well, but they had lived upstairs in that strange house, in terms of the three units. And so I did know them, obviously, but I had a very volatile -- my grandmother had a very volatile personality, was difficult to get on with her, and even though I was the obedient child, I didn't seem to have an easy time. But in any case, that was sort of my early childhood. As I say, not the traditional kind of family. On the other hand, not terribly unusual during the Depression, when people were having great trouble getting a job, have to combine families, to do all kinds of things that perhaps under better economic times would not have been necessary. So that's early childhood.

COLLINGS

Yeah. Was this an Irish family?

MEADE

Irish and English and Scottish. My great-grandfather, he was Thomas McDonald, and he came from England, Rochdale, and the county and that time was Lancaster; Rochdale, Lancaster, England. And he had come as a young man of 16, invited here by his aunt, who had preceded him in emigrating with her husband, who had been a soldier in the Boer War. And so he came at a young age, although I guess at the time he came, 16 was considered a man; it's not how we look upon 16-year-olds now. So he was English, but the McDonalds, it had a Scottish ring to it. And while doing some family history, I

did determine that there were McDonalds in Ireland, too, who had come to England. So I'm not really sure about the Scottish connection. He had always denied any Irish connection, because he married an Irish woman who had come from Galway as an émigrée, and he was always very proud of that, that he was English, and he had become a citizen, by which she had become a citizen too, but at various times, if he was upset, he would remind her that she was not an American citizen on her own, that she had not had to take a test or anything; just because she was married to him, she had assumed citizenship. He felt he was totally English, rather; she felt totally Irish, and at times, there was a contentious of -- mostly it was more of a joke than anything; my father's side of the family, his name was Maurice Ellis Fuller from Falmouth, and his family went back years and years and years, in terms of English, in terms of the founding of the Cape by English settlers and so forth. There were two Fullers on the Mayflower, but I've never been able to make a direct connection. I once in awhile have a foray into looking at genealogy, but it's difficult; the first years after the Mayflower have very, very good records. After that, they began to dispersing all over the place, and it seemed to me that the Fullers who had some get-up-and-go did exactly that; they went to Ohio, they went to the Midwest -- difficult to track. So the Scottish comes in, in terms of a grandfather whose mother came from Scotland, and his father also came from Scotland, and his name was Duff, D-U-F-F, and they both came from Glasgow. My grandfather was born here in the United States, as was one brother, although they did have another brother who was born in Scotland. So it's sort of a British background; the -- at the time I was growing up, no one seemed terribly interested in all of that, other than kidding around with my Irish great-grandmother. But I think in later years, people have become somewhere interested. And I, in planning vacations, take a chance to go see if we could find this or find that in some census records or whatever. It's a good hobby, which I haven't really pursued, and I really should take it up again.

COLLINGS

Were you raised as a Catholic? Did you --

MEADE

Yes. Yes, I was. I continued -- when I went to live with the grandparents in Cambridge, I also started attending a Catholic school there, and then Mother's third husband decided that since I didn't seem to be getting along well with the grandparents and they with me, I guess, that boarding school would be a good idea. And this actually was a good idea, although I wasn't given a choice; I was told this is what was going to happen. So I went to a Catholic boarding school in Watertown, Massachusetts, Rosary Academy, which no longer exists; they closed down and became a senior citizens' development and retirement-type community, so it exists as something entirely different. But the setting there

was very pretty; it was on a hill, and they did at one time have a large apple orchard, and walkways and so forth. And I have visited it in its new reincarnation as a senior citizen retirement community; very nice, very pretty. The nuns who ran the boarding school were Dominican nuns; they still technically own it, I believe, and had worked to change it from the school into a senior citizen, on the basis that that was a community need greater than having a boarding school or a day school. But I did, I stayed there for four years, and it was tremendous; it was all girls, and the nuns were very kind, very good. So many of my classmates there also came from rather mixed up families, or single parents who were working and could not care of a child. Because the school did have from first grade through high school, in terms of boarding. At that time, of course, there was a plethora of nuns, and all of our teachers were of the Dominican order, and once in awhile somebody was brought in to give a special speech or special presentation, but generally, it was the nuns who were doing it. I would say that truly it was very good; I got away from any of the family arguments or ranklings, and I think I got a very good education.

COLLINGS

Yeah, it sounds like it. And were you planning on a career at that time? I mean, how were they directing the girls?

MEADE

Oh, they were telling me I could anything. (laughter) It was back to the days of my great-grandfather telling me I was the most beautiful child in the world. They told me I was smart; I could do anything I wanted to do. I should aim high, choose something that I enjoyed, wanted to do, felt strongly about, deeply committed.

COLLINGS

Oh, that's wonderful. Because this is the '40s now, right?

MEADE

Yeah. I graduated in 1949. But those nuns really were wonderful. The one thing that I might fault them on was that they did feel that I should go on to a Catholic college, that this was a continuation of my Catholic education, and that thinking in terms of another non-sectarian college, even though they admitted they were probably very good, but, you know, I really should go on to a Catholic college. Which I did; I went to a small Catholic college in Worcester, Anna Maria College, and that still exists, and it was -- it was quite different from Rosary Academy; on the other hand, so is college different from high school. But I must say I enjoyed it generally. Mother and her third husband by that time had moved to California. He had found a business opportunity out here, and so they had moved with my half-brother to California. The great-aunt, by this time, had exhausted her resources in terms of the money she obtained from the sale of the house, and had been invited by my mother to come visit

and live with her for awhile. And it seemed to work out to some satisfaction, anyway, or all of their satisfaction, in that my mother wanted to go back to work, and my half-brother was still in school, and the husband felt that it would probably would be a good idea for my mother to go back to work; she was not a housekeeper type: boiling water was difficult (laughter), and certainly any of the -- which end of the broom you should use, it was equally mysterious.

COLLINGS

Good for her. (laughter)

MEADE

It was not the popular thing, and her third husband was an Italian fellow, of Italian extraction, who really had believed that a woman's place should be cooking, cleaning, taking care of things, ironing his shirts and so forth. Anyway, [Great] Auntie Aggie loved all that; she loved to cook, very good cook, loved to clean house, loved to iron shirts and keep everything neat and clean and what have you, bake and so forth. So he had a built-in housekeeper, and so that was working out. Meanwhile, I stayed back East, and did go out to California on some school vacations, and then came back to go to school.

COLLINGS

Now, how were they able to pay for your college education and the boarding school as well?

MEADE

The mother and the stepfather. Originally, my mother, remembering that my great-grandfather had said Auntie Aggie would take care of me after his death, had asked her to help pay for Rosary Academy tuition, which she was able to do for two years, and after that, as I say, her money was exhausted; she'd gone back to work, but she was getting older, too, and work was not that easy to obtain. And so moving to California, then it became Mother and her husband Joe's responsibility to pay my tuition. I did work during Christmas vacation and Easter and during the summer sometimes, and actually when I stayed in Massachusetts, I had to go back and live with the grandparents again, which was no better a situation than it had been originally, but at least I was a bit older and a bit more confident, in terms of -- and also a bit more adept at avoiding controversy. And so it was a little bit easier; I won't say great but a little bit easier. And during my college years, I met my future husband [Donald F. Meade], who was a student at Northeastern [University], and we began dating. Then in the call-up for the Korean War, he was going to be drafted, and he decided instead to enlist, and choose the service that he wanted. And so he enlisted in the Air Force, and we continued our correspondence, in terms of -- and we both sort of felt that this was going to be a permanent arrangement, although I was still 18, 19, 20, and he was a few years older. But in any case,

we felt that it would be eventually a permanent arrangement, which it turned out to be.

COLLINGS

Wow. And so after the war, presumably, you got married...

MEADE

No, we actually married -- his commitment to the Air Force was I think four years; let's see, I was a junior in college, and he went through the Air Force training, but then was picked out by the -- I guess they gave them tests or something to determine interests or abilities -- he was sent to the Army language school in Monterey, California, which was --

COLLINGS

Oh, I see. Oh, it's nice up there.

MEADE

-- which was coincident in terms of my summer vacation or something, and staying with my mother and her husband, and still Auntie Aggie. So we dated; he would come down from Monterey on whatever weekends he could get away, and we'd date again. But then when he finished his Russian language training at the language school, he was sent to Alaska to be part of the Air Force listening post closest to Siberia. And so he was in Nome, Alaska, and he was going to be in Nome, Alaska I think a year and a few months, and during our correspondence, we had said when he came back, he would still have an Air Force commitment, and probably -- he didn't know where he'd be sent exactly, but he thought he probably would be sent to Washington, DC, for what has become a familiar name now, but at the time was totally hidden, was the National Security Agency. They collected and analyzed all this radio traffic data that was coming in from Nome, Alaska, and much was sent on to Arlington Hall, which was the National Security Agency. Anyway, he presumed he would be sent there, but we didn't know. But we decided we would get married, that if we didn't get married by the time he came back from Alaska, and continued onto Washington, seeing each other would be very difficult, and we know had a year almost, less than a year, by the time we decided to get married. So when he returned from Alaska, I left school; I was a -- I guess I'd just about completed my first semester junior year, but I left, came to California, and we were married out here in West Hollywood. Went on together then to Washington, DC, and he continued doing his Russian language thing, except now he was on the receiving end of the tapes and things that he had been recording, transcribing -- actually, they transcribe it in terms of the transliteration of Russian; he typed what he was hearing on the radio, not in the good Russian, but sort of a transliteration kind of thing of sounds, which was then retranslated back at the National Security Agency back into original Russian and also to English. Anyway, he was analyzing the traffic, and we had

our first child here, my daughter [Mary Louise Meade]. Then he completed his service commitment, and by that time, we had had a second child, a son, born in Virginia at the hospital; the Air Force used an Army Corps of Engineers hospital at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. So two of my children have Virginia birth certificates, which they laugh about now, and say -- any time they would say -- where were you born, and they would say, "Fairfax, Virginia," and, "Oh, you're a Southerner?" and they would say, "Well, no, not really." Anyway, he -- I had not completed school, but when he had joined the Air Force, he too had not completed school; he was an Industrial Engineering student at Northeastern University. And so he felt it was very important to go back and complete his university training. He checked into possibly coming out to California again, because being at Monterey, he had formed an attachment to California, thought it was a great place to live. But he would have lost a number of credits in terms of transferring, because Northeastern also has a -- what they call a co-op program, and students go to school every day for a certain number of weeks, and then they have an internship for a certain number of weeks. And at that time, it didn't equate to say UCLA or other schools, so we decided to return to Massachusetts, and he'd get his degree from Northeastern, which we did. When he graduated -- preparing for graduation at Northeastern and looking for a job, he thought he might as well look in terms of California. And so he did find a position with Alcoa; they had a facility there in Vernon, I guess they still do. And so he went to work for Alcoa as an industrial engineer, and the family, two kids and I, moved out. This time, it was kind of interesting, Mother had gone back to work off and on for a number of years, but one of her last arrangements, in terms of going to work, had been that -- last time her husband had said she really didn't need to work, in terms of financial needs, it was unnecessary, he was doing fine. But so she'd go to work, and she'd just save her money for investment. So she did that, and her investments turned out to be three different houses, apartments, in West Hollywood. And so she had an apartment -- it was a little house, actually; two houses, one lot, which is not unusual in West Hollywood, they have some nice little houses. Anyway, she kicked out her tenants in one of the houses and said we would have a place to stay when we came out here, which was very helpful. And then she said that since they were renting out the house in front, if I wanted to collect the rent from that house and pay the mortgage and so forth and then send the remainder to them, my rent could be -- our rent could be less. And so that worked out nicely; it was very helpful. She by this time was living with her husband and my half-brother in Palo Alto, so she was no longer in the area. But anyway, that's where we settled, and happily so.

COLLINGS

Yes, that sounds nice, especially at that time.

MEADE

Yeah, at that time, it was -- West Hollywood was in transition, I would say, but in a good way; houses were being bought and refurbished and repainted, updated in many ways; there were a lot of interesting neighbors in that area, some who were involved in the movie or television industry, or who were striving to be involved and working at whatever they could, as happens now frequently. But we had a group of neighbors who some of them had young children, same age as ours, and so that worked out very nicely. But it was a mixed neighborhood; our neighbors across the street were older, their daughter was in high school when our kids were in kindergarten. So it was mixed, in terms of older neighbors as well as young ones. And then some really old ones that lived there from the time the houses were built, and they were sort of the grandparents of the neighborhood, because many of the young families were like us, and come from other areas of the country, and grandparents were far away. So it was kind of fun; I enjoyed it, for the time we were there.

COLLINGS

So you had the two children at that time.

MEADE

At that time, yeah. And while we lived there, I had two more children: another girl and a boy. And so by the time we were leaving, we had to get a larger house, obviously. We began looking at houses; we liked the beach, so we started at Santa Monica, found that houses in Santa Monica are very expensive, in those terms in those days. Then we continued on down the coast; we got to the beach cities. We went through Westchester, we tried that, and they still were very expensive houses.

COLLINGS

Even at that time.

MEADE

Even at that time. And the quality of the houses in Santa Monica was really pretty good for many of them; the Westchester houses were -- they had been built during the war, I guess, after the Second World War, and the quality was not very good. So we continued coming down the coast, and we finally found this house. At the time, it was 1960, and we paid \$26,500. And it was not a bargain, it was a fair price, but it was not a bargain. The house was well-built, it had been well cared-for, so we thought we were getting a better house for a price we could afford, although we had originally started -- I think our limit was going to be \$25,000. But we were able to up it to \$26,500. So four kids and husband and I moved in here then, in 1960.

COLLINGS

And you've been here ever since.

MEADE

Well, not exactly. After we moved in, my husband had started, while we were still in West Hollywood, he had started at -- first at UCLA; they had a night school at that time -- to get a Master's of Business degree. UCLA decided that they couldn't continue the Master's of Business at night, and he would have to go during the daytime hours, which he couldn't, he was working. So he switched to USC, which did have an MBA program at night. And so he had completed the MBA program just about the time we were moving down here. It was kind of fun, having him back in the days of going to school, doing homework, my typing his papers and so forth, as we had done in Massachusetts when he was at Northeastern. Although he had less papers to type at Northeastern; they were more different types of courses. The MBA program at USC did have a lot of writing involved, whether it was, you know, research-type stuff or a book review or whatever. In spite of his work at Alaska on this typing business, he was not a good typist. I wasn't particularly fantastic either, but I was better than he, so I got the job of typing his papers. And by the time we had moved here, though, he had gotten the MBA from USC, and then, as so often happens, after you get your MBA, you think, "Gee, now I've got this marvelous new degree; I wonder how much more money I can make, either where I am, if I tell them, or if not, then look for something else." So he was still working for Alcoa, but they were not able to handle any great increase in salary. And so one of the résumés he sent out reached Arthur Young and Company, which was looking for management consultants; they were expanding their business beyond accounting into management consultant. So he was interviewed there and hired. But part of the arrangement was that he wouldn't be working in their Los Angeles office; their clients for management consulting were scattered around the countryside. And at that time, there was a big push on Air Force contracts to work with the contractor to reduce costs. And the industrial engineering management MBA, he seemed like a perfect candidate to work on their program. So our first assignment was to Seattle, Washington, and we moved up there in February. And it was quite difficult with young children, coming from California, the time difference in Seattle and the weather, because the sun would set in the winter about 3:30, it was dark. Of course, by the time the summer came, and the sun didn't set 'til 9:30 at night, we'd already endured the dark hours, plus the misty rain coming down. On other hand, Seattle was a charming community, and we lived on Mercer Island, which was just a great place; it was very small-townish at that time, you had the lake in front of you, some good schools -- just very, very nice. But it was quite a switch from California, from Redondo Beach. But we retained this house, because we thought this moving around with this management consulting may not be the thing that will be for the future 25 years or whatever. It may be something we'll do for awhile, and then think about working for maybe one of

the companies that you've been consulting for, although there was a certain bar against that, in terms of the consultants, at least for a period of time. But we felt we would want to come back, and since we had done such a strenuous job of searching out a house at an area that we liked, we thought we don't want to give it up now and have to start all over again. So we didn't; we rented this house out, and we're in Seattle. We stayed in Seattle for about -- oh, I would say a year and a half, and it was in Seattle that there was all these small children, and plus I'd lost my own support group of friends, old neighbors or whatever here; I thought, "Oh, I've got to do something." And this little local paper that came out indicated that there was this group of League of Women Voters that were meeting and discussing the United Nations, and that had always been an interest of mine, in terms of way back to high school, when those nuns were saying I could do anything; I thought -- the UN was just opening up, you know, and I thought the State Department and United Nations would be where I'd like to go.

COLLINGS

So this is when you were in high school, that's what you were thinking of, in terms of a career for yourself?

MEADE

Well, yes. Plus I had gotten involved in some outside activities, which the nuns by the way encouraged; there was no telling me I couldn't do this or couldn't do that. The United World Federalists were an interest of mine when I was in high school, again connected with the United Nations and world government, and were also hopeful and so optimistic about the fact that we could make this a better world, we really could. So I became a member of the United World Federalists --

COLLINGS

As a high school student?

MEADE

-- as a high school student, and attended some of their meetings, and met some very interesting people, although there weren't too many high schoolers involved; there was a lot of college students involved, and some older people who had been involved in United World Federalists for years. That continued through college, but I also had developed an interest in Pan-American things, in terms of -- remember Roosevelt -- well, you can't remember possibly, but you've read about it, or mother told you about it, that there was a push in terms of South America and the US being able to help governments and economies in Central and South America. Sometimes our help was not very good, but other -- at least in the level that I was looking at it -- seemed like it was very good; it was sending teachers, professors, so forth. And I guess that was another interest. But back to Mercer Island, the rain coming down, the sun setting every

day early in the winter. So I saw this, and it was an evening meeting; the League of Women Voters was having an evening meeting, so hopefully my husband could be home; it was only one evening a week, and since I had been alone so many evenings while he went to school all those years, I said, "Hey, it's my turn. I want one night out a week." Or I guess it was two nights in a month, because they didn't meet every week. And I said, "Let me try this and see if this is interesting." And so I did, and I met some very interesting women, and we had a wonderful discussion about the United Nations, and then I discovered they had more than the international program; they had national issues as well as state and local issues. So although I had joined originally on the basis of the international issues and learning more -- which I did; the League Study Program at that time was really very, very good: you did your own research library stuff yourself, or they had syllabi that came out that --

COLLINGS

To figure out what the position of the group would be for voting?

MEADE

Yeah. And then they had a very strong thing -- it's less strong now, but it still continues somewhat -- of this consensus position, that you would learn all this material, then you'd discuss it, and perhaps you'd set some criteria as to what you felt would be the solution, and then determine the solution, or at least an interim solution. But as it turned out, as they went through the national program and the state program, I certainly learned a lot about state government; Washington's quite different from California. And they finally got to local government, and the local thing was fascinating to me, in that Mercer Island was not incorporated. They had a county territory in the middle -- of the whole island, but right in the middle was this little town that had been incorporated as a town. But the development of Mercer Island even at that time was surrounding the town, because the town was where the drugstore was, the supermarkets, that sort of thing. But the development and the families there were all in the unincorporated area, and we decided we would look into this situation of unincorporated area surrounding the little town. And what we came up with was that it didn't make a whole lot of sense for Mercer Island to not incorporate, and to try to incorporate as one unit. The people in the town did not agree with this; they were not part of our group and our consensus. And nevertheless, it came to pass that indeed the rest of the territory did become a city, actually, it was large enough to be a city, although difficult, because the city was mostly residential; they didn't have a tax-base coming in, although the Washington tax arrangement is very different, and so it wasn't as critical then in Washington as it is perhaps now, in terms of California, when you think about incorporation, there has to be a big push, in terms of, well, how will we support a new city? What other tax sources, particular sales tax? Well, this was all very,

very different back then. In any case, since we did manage to get the city incorporated, the question was, now we've got to follow the city and see what's happening. So I became an observer at the Mercer Island City Council, and there was a very informal group. And the League, all the instructions that they've had for the League, in terms of being of service, and this came from the national, state, and so forth -- we should always dress nicely, wear your big League button, and certainly they didn't require white gloves, but it was close to that, in terms of you would get dressed up so you would not appear as just some sort of wandering off the street coming to listen. And you would not speak at the council meeting; you were just the observer, but you would carry the fact back to the Board of Directors, who would then determine if a speech was necessary or whatever. So I started attending the Mercer Island City Council. It was -- fortunately, it was just at a school down the street, so it was no big deal. But again, my husband had now acquired a second night when he had to be home on time. (laughter) And so I very much enjoyed that, and we published a report, in terms of the incorporation and the functioning of the new city, and our suggestions for -- which was -- a big suggestion was that eventually the town should be involved, that it made no sense to have this enclave in the middle of Mercer Island City as a township. But by the time I was leaving, this still had not occurred. But I showed a transition from being very, very interested in international and national issues to becoming fascinated with the local government issue. We picked up from Seattle, again, with the job, he stayed with -- do you mind if we take a break? I've got to --

COLLINGS

Yeah.

MEADE

Let's turn this off --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE

I'm so sorry to interrupt you.

MEADE

That's --BREAK IN AUDIO

MEADE

Now we'll go on again.

COLLINGS

All right. OK.

MEADE

There we are.

COLLINGS

So you were talking about the transition from an international, sort of a generalist focus, to --

MEADE

Right. I had become fascinated with local government, perhaps because of the situation where I was in a small community that was concerned about local forms of government, and being so distant from the county, all the usual reasons why cities incorporate. Anyway, by the time the report was finished and the city had incorporated, and we had suggestions in terms of their committee structure. Oh, and back to about getting dressed up though for meetings, the first few meetings I went to, the new City Council members were coming in generally informal clothing, and I sat there, after a few weeks I noticed they were getting dressed up. (laughter) And I got such a kick of that --

COLLINGS

You had started a trend. (laughter)

MEADE

I had influenced the attire of the City Council. If not their decisions, at least their sartorial attire. Anyway, we left, and our next assignment for Arthur Young and Company was Florida, was the Orlando area of Florida. And we packed up and moved, and unfortunately, we seemed to pick -- or Arthur Young chose a very difficult time in terms of moving.

COLLINGS

August?

MEADE

No, this was in the middle of winter, and Orlando -- and the community where we ended up renting a home was Winter Park [Florida], and we got there, I think, in -- I guess it was around Christmas, and they were having the worst cold spell they'd had in I don't know how many years. But before they had the cold spell, we had chosen a house to rent in Winter Park, had some lovely palm trees and the tropical foliage that's so typical of Florida; it was a lovely old house. And -- but came the freeze, and I didn't realize that these tropical plants went, "ooh," and it didn't look as pretty as when we were moving in. But the house -- my neighbors told me not to worry, don't trim them back, just let them sit there until it warms up. And when you're sure it's warmed up, then you can trim them back, and the freeze probably hasn't killed them; it's just sort of incapacitated them for awhile, because they look terrible. And to be told not to trim them at this time was even worse, because you had these dead fronds hanging down. But anyway, we took the advice and waited, and sure enough, when spring came and we could cut, they all came back and it looked as lovely as when we had first seen it. But the children, you know, they made the transition pretty well to new schools, and I enjoyed Winter Park -- again, it was very much like Mercer Island, except it was larger, but it had young families, and the schools were good, and so forth, so we settled in. And with my very good experience with the League of Women Voters in Mercer Island in Washington, I thought, oh, it's a good way to meet people; it's also a very good

way to learn more about your community. So I looked up in the phone book to find League of Women Voters, and sure enough, there was a chapter in Winter Park, so I rejoined the -- and meanwhile, of course, I was becoming somewhat active in the children's school, the usual PTA and cupcakes on birthdays, that sort of thing. But I continued working as a volunteer with the League of Women Voters, and the issues we were working on there took me back to the national League program, in the Voting Rights Act. The reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act became terribly important, and here I was in the middle of Orlando, Central Florida area, where there was still drinking fountains for black and for --

COLLINGS

Yes, and what year was this now?

MEADE

This would have been '62. '62. So while I was working on -- there were other study programs with the League, but at that time, the National League received an offer from the NAACP, in terms of voter registration drives. The NAACP, in certain parts of the South, and Central Florida being one of them, could not really come with a voter registration drive campaign of their own, but they felt the League of Women Voters could, and that if given some funding for materials and so forth -- because we were still all volunteers -- that we probably could put on a voter registration campaign that could be very successful. And we proved that there was discrimination about voter registration of blacks in the South. And so I became involved in that, and I lost some of my good neighbors who were old Florida Floridians, old people in the neighborhood across the street was a retired military couple, and we had some League meetings at our house at night, which there was one black couple. And my very nosy neighbors across the street saw a black couple, I guess, coming to my home, and they were really very upset, asked me what was going on. So I explained that the wife was a member of the League, and this happened to be a social activity for wives and husbands of League members, and I was active with the League of Women Voters, but there was a social activity, and that they weren't moving in (laughter) and so forth. But that was an unusual reaction, but as I learned more about Central Florida, it was not surprising. Thank God I had a number of neighbors who were transplants like me from northern or western states and did not have that old feeling of prejudice. But in any case, in organizing a training program, we had to train ourselves first to figure out what the situation was and getting your registered voters in -- it was Orange County, Florida.

COLLINGS

Orange County, yeah. Mm-hmm.

MEADE

Anyway, we searched that out and found -- for a white, it was very easy. You came in and they saw you and you signed here and gave your new address and so forth; they smiled and everything was great. For a black coming in, they were going to ask you questions about the Constitution, the US Constitution, and this could go on for a period of time. And many of the blacks had no idea about the provisions of the Constitutions, and so we decided, well, our training thing then would have to involve a fast course in the US Constitution, and while we didn't like the questions to be asked, because many of the registrars in Florida, and certainly in Orange County, they themselves did not have a great knowledge of the US Constitution; they could not off the top of their head come up with another question on the Constitution; they had a script. And so our first deal was, how can we get ahold of the script? (laughter)

COLLINGS

Good, very good.

MEADE

And this was really -- it was kind of a fun exercise, in that as I say, many of our members had come from other parts of the country, and so were not burdened with the bigotry that was really rampant here. But we persevered, and then we had to figure out a way to get our trained new prospective voters down to the registrar's office, because it wasn't as we do in California and many places, people can be deputized to take voter registration -- oh, no. This you have to go down to the county office and stand there and wait your turn and so forth and so on. So we decided we had to hire buses, but it was all right, we had the money. And we couldn't advertise that this money we suddenly had acquired came from the NAACP; that was kind of a hidden thing. This was a program of the National League of Women Voters to get voter registration numbers increased in the minority populations, and so it wasn't until -- I knew it, because I was involved from the beginning, but not many League members were aware that the money had come from the NAACP.

COLLINGS

Would that have been a problem if they had known?

MEADE

Well, I think it might have tainted the work that we were trying to do in the community, to come in as the League of Women Voters and saying, "We're going to do voter registration training, and help people to get registered to vote," was OK in that community; they couldn't really say, "Well, no, that's terrible; you can't do it, you can't use our office to do this training." So we had to have places to give the training, and in any case, it was sort of kept a secret. And probably well-founded, from a PR-standpoint, it would not have helped at all for the league to say we're funded by NAACP and this is what we're doing. But in any case, in the middle of this -- we'd been there about a year and a half,

which seemed to be the maximum amount for Arthur Young's contracts and all these consultants, we were told that we were off again, and this time, we were going to Wichita, Kansas. Our kids, by this time, were advancing in school, and were not particularly happy with leaving friends and so forth. I still enjoyed it; I thought, "Hey, I've never been to the Midwest; I've only flown over it. Wichita, Kansas might be very interesting." But anyway, we uprooted, and I left the good ladies of the League down there, which I heard from them later was quite successful, although they had one difficulty: this bus that we hired from the blacks -- it was a segregated community; the blacks lived exactly in their own community, and were not integrated in any way. So we hired the bus, and -- I wasn't there to see it; we had gone on to Wichita -- they said there was a number of the trainees, who were mostly women who had the time to take the training and go down -- which was OK with the League; we were a bunch of women too -- but the bus that was hired, they collectively said, "Well, gee, we're going to be downtown -- could we take an hour or two to shop?" (laughter) "Do we have to come right back?"

COLLINGS

Oh, that's funny.

MEADE

So they worked out an arrangement that yes, indeed, they could take an hour or two shop, and then the bus would leave to take them back. So anyway, it was a successful effort, and this was repeated, I understand, later, from League members and others, and even some of the League history-writing, in terms of the history of the League, this was something that was being repeated in various parts of the South, with the funding from the NAACP for the League to do the training and so forth and so on. Anyway, by this time I'm off to Wichita, Kansas, which I think was really a great change from these smaller communities, Mercer Island and Winter Park, Florida. And so we rented a house in Wichita; it was a very ordinary house, but it was OK, it was -- the one we had in Florida was really quite a very nice house. But the one in Wichita was sort of Midwestern, and it was nice, it was OK. I thought, "Well, let's get settled, and then we'll see what I'm going to do." By this time, the kids were advancing in school, and I thought, "You know, I've really got to go back to school myself, in terms of completing my degree. My husband had gone back and even gone on to get an MBA, and I was still without my first degree. So Wichita State was just down the road.

COLLINGS

How convenient.

MEADE

How convenient. So I thought, once the kids were in school, and if no one got sick or anything, I could probably take one or two courses at Wichita State.

And so I got their catalogue, and meanwhile I had done a very good thing in terms of having stopped going to college. Mother's third husband had had a connection with the Jesuits, and had a good friend at Loyola [University] here. And when we moved to West Hollywood after I was married, Father MacIntosh, who was an industrial relations -- and he's dead now, God rest in soul -- but he had suggested that in terms of completing my education, I really should get myself accepted by UCLA, even though I could not start immediately, because here I had babies and toddlers and so forth, but that I should go through the formality of a transcript, an application, and so forth and so on. So I had done that while we were in West Hollywood, had been accepted at UCLA for a later enrollment. So in going -- thinking about Wichita State, it's a long way away, but in case, I thought, well, you know, I might as well try to take some classes that would advance my degree thing. Because it would make more sense, plus it would be interesting to me, because I was a history major, so I thought, well, let's see what they do in history at Wichita State. Well, as it happened, they did quite a bit, and I was in European history, so I think I found, in terms of time and day, in terms of the children's schedule, get them off to school, make the lunches; I could get to Wichita State -- and this was a good one, so I took, I think, Russian Political History -- yeah, Russian Political History. And as it turned out, the professor at Wichita State was a graduate of UCLA. So I had explained that I was a future student at UCLA, if we stop this crazy moving around, and that meanwhile, from looking at both catalogues, it seemed this would be a fit, in terms of completing some requirements. So I took that, and I think I took another one, another history course, too, I can't remember which -- I think I got two classes out of the way in the year and a half we were there. It was kind of fun going to Wichita State; the basketball team was very big at that time, and my husband was thrilled that I could possibly get some student tickets, student tickets and spouse type of thing, so we did some of that. Plus the management consulting group in Wichita felt very lonesome, in that Wichita was not a welcoming city for out-of-towners, particularly to someone like myself who knew we were not going to be there very long, and yet there were people who had lived in Wichita all their lives, couldn't understand why someone would possibly want to keep picking up and moving, and so forth. So we sort of formed a little close-knit small group of the consultants and their wives, and we did a lot of social things together. Somebody had an interest in golf, so we all joined the Wichita County Club, which was good, because it also had a pool, and the kids could get swim lessons and have the pool, and they also had -- oh, I think once a year they had a formal dance, and so we all got dressed up and so forth and had a formal dance. So it made for a nice social life, but I also did join the Wichita League of Women Voters, and that was interesting, in that it -- let's see, I can't even

remember what I worked on there, though. It must have not been so interesting that I remember, anyway. But there were some studies that I worked on there; I really can't remember what it was -- I think I was distracted, probably, by the election. This time we had Barry Goldwater running against our great Texan [President Lyndon B.] Johnson, and the Wichita papers were very much in favor of Goldwater. I remember being somewhat outraged by all of this, and thinking that Johnson wasn't getting a fair shake. And so I called the Democratic headquarters for the campaign, and said I was willing to do some volunteer work. So they asked if I could come into the office, and I guess check voter lists, and all of the usual campaign kind of things, get out the vote -- planning for get out the vote type of thing. So I discovered, when I went to Democratic campaign headquarters office, it was in a storefront office that was exactly opposite the building where Arthur Young and Company had its offices, so I could wave to my husband up at the top floor or something, although he was working for the client; the client was Boeing. Anyway, I devoted a morning a week or something to that, so I guess the League didn't get a lot of my time. During the campaign, I spent a lot of time doing what I could there. And it was obvious, perhaps, that Kansas was going to go for Goldwater, but Wichita had a chance, in terms of the city, turning out greater numbers for Johnson. Anyway, we worked away, and I had my one morning a week, and sometimes I guess I had two mornings if things were tight. I met some very interesting people, a lot of the labor unions in Wichita -- which there aren't many, but some -- were involved, labor union members would be also devoting some of their time to it. I remember one in particular, the Butchers' Union; we had big beefy guys coming in to help on the campaign. Anyway, came Election Day, and the returns were starting to come in, but I had planned ahead in terms of, well, gee, we have a storefront window here; we could mark up the election returns as they're coming in. It'll probably take today and tomorrow before the count is done, but we need something to put up in terms of that. I thought, well, I know: Arthur Young and Company is right across the street; I know they have a conference room that has a great big blackboard and a supply of chalk. So I called over to one of the fellows that we knew from this social group of Arthur Young, and I said, "You know, I'm across the street working on the Johnson campaign, and we'd like to borrow a blackboard and some chalk to put in our front window so we can inform the people walking by, --"

COLLINGS

Tally the --

MEADE

"-- keep a tally." And so he laughed, of course, and said, "Well, sure. I don't see why we couldn't do that; it's only going to be across the street. You're not going to run away with it." So he had a janitor or somebody get this thing down

across the street and put in our window with a supply of chalk and an eraser, and so we did that for a day and a half. I think we -- if I remember correctly, we barely, barely made a good showing in Wichita, the City of Wichita, but the rest of Kansas was not really that. But -- so be it. But that was I guess my most interesting thing, and it came about because I was just -- I guess I was just angry that it wasn't a fair campaign, as I would describe it, in terms of the Wichita population, the newspapers, the radio, television, anything. It was very, very one-sided. Now, of course, my participation didn't make it any less one-sided, but it gave me a feeling that I was doing something, any way to help. But then after the Wichita experience, the kids were getting older, and it really was difficult for them, having to change schools so frequently. And our two older children, who had experienced most of it -- our oldest daughter was really quite shy and didn't make friends easily, and it seemed like by the time she had one good friend and school, we had to move. The next in line, our son, was a very active young man; I guess today, he'd probably be classified as the -- what is it, over-active -- A.D.D., or whatever it is. At that time, he was not; he was just a rambunctious handful. And he too was having difficulty in terms of adjusting always to a new school. The two younger ones, not too bad. In any case, we decided, hey, this is it; Wichita has done us in. We'll get back to California. And so we picked up and told our tenants here in the house and we were returning, and gave them the notice they would have to leave. And they were very unhappy; they wrote back and said please couldn't they -- "Let us buy the house," we said no, we were coming back and we needed someplace to live. So that brought us back to California. Maybe that's a good stopping point.

COLLINGS

Yeah, maybe that is.

MEADE

OK?

COLLINGS

OK.

MEADE

I haven't gotten -- [END OF Session 1 6/21/06]

1.2. Session 2 (July 12, 2006.)

COLLINGS

Whoops, I always forget to turn the monitor down. (laughter) OK, this is Jane Collings interviewing Dorothy -- Gladys Meade, (laughter) I just finished with Dorothy Green. Gladys Meade at her home in Redondo Beach on July 12, 2006. Good after- -- good morning, Gladys.

MEADE

Good morning.

COLLINGS

I wanted to ask you, before we sort of plunged into your life after Wichita, just a couple follow-up questions about your League of Women Voters days.

MEADE

Activities, yeah.

COLLINGS

Yeah. I just wondered if you could kind of describe what your general impression of the women who participated in the League of Women Voters were. I mean, were they like women's rights, people who supported women's rights, civil rights, Republicans, Democrats -- I mean --

MEADE

Well, there certainly was a mixture of Republicans and Democrats, although mostly -- I knew people for years in the League without ever knowing their party affiliation. I think the membership, as many organizations, changed over the years. When it first began in 1961, it was because, you know, I had four little children, and many of the other members on Mercer Island, Washington, were equally situation; the husbands were working and we were left home with the kids, and it was a need for sort of an intellectual outlet, if you will, and the very program of the League had national issues, state issues, county issues, and local issues -- you could choose what area you were interested in and have very interesting discussions and friendships formed and so forth. And then even more play dates for the kids, because, you know, "I have a four-year-old who's not good in school," and so forth; "Well, I do too, let's get them together at the park," something of that sort. And then as time went on, I think during the '60s, pretty much the same, in terms of women who were not working and who enjoyed the research, the program studies, the discussions and so forth of the League. And then as we got into the '70s, maybe somewhat different, in that -- well, mid-'60s, maybe, to '70s, and then really '70s -- a number of women were going back to work; also a number were going back to school. So the membership sort of changed a bit, because once you went back to work full-time, there wasn't a whole lot of extra energy for volunteer work. And so then you have a problem in terms of, "Can I do one thing for the League, rather than a constant membership and meetings and so forth, but if we just choose one thing," and I think many of us did that. And then for a period of -- during the '70s, '80s, when I was working full-time, and even up 'til I retired in '94, I think more of that was happening; more women to work and fewer members, volunteer members. And this is true, I think, not just of the League of Women Voters, but all sorts of organizations, AAUW, American Association of University Women, even Garden Clubs were having a problem in retaining membership, because you ended up with a lot of older women who had retired

from work, and who did have the time now returned to volunteering. So it's a change in membership, and it's a challenge for organizations to keep their membership numbers up, in terms of how do you attract people who are very, very busy? But I think most of the women I met through the League were interested generally in politics, in the issues involved, national, state, county, local, and really wanted to work on those issues to effect some sort of change that they felt would be for the better.

COLLINGS

And did you tend to have any single women, women without children, in the membership?

MEADE

Yes. There were some members who were single, or who were married and did not have children, but were attracted for the same reasons the rest of us were. And that continues to this day, I think, in terms of I think the Torrence League of Women Voters at the moment, do have some -- a few single women, and some who are working, most of them were working; some of them are retired. And again, because of the interest in politics, international or whatever, this is what attracted most people to the League.

COLLINGS

And you said that people would kind of informally -- would women like babysit for each other through their association with the League, or was that not really addressed?

MEADE

Well, we did some of that, I think, probably, like special conventions, because the League does have annual conventions, or the National Semi-Annual... it was some of that, but not a whole lot of it, because don't forget, we had -- I had four children, and the others had three, four, five children, and you can really babysit one extra child when you have four, but you can't take the whole crew. And so I think, when the kids got to school age, it was easier, and then we sort of had fun being able, with the little freedom, to say, "Let's go to lunch somewhere; let's buy lunch and go sit on a bench in the park and eat lunch while the children are in school."

COLLINGS

Now, I was just wondering, since so many people had the question of how to deal with their kids when they went to meetings, if that was something that the group addressed as an issue, or just everybody -- it was understood that everybody would handle that individually?

MEADE

They sort of all handled it individually, except for conferences; there were other -- not League-sponsored conferences, say, but conferences were being held in the community, and they'd say, "Oh, I'd like to go to that, and the

League would like to know what's happening at that conference; we can share some babysitting: two go here and two go there," and work that out. But as a routine thing, not really; we were all sort of committed to having to get a babysitter of some sort. And most of the meetings, at least during the '60s, were evening meetings; we had daytime meetings and we also had evening meetings, so you could choose. When my husband was home from work and he could do the babysitting, you could go to an evening meeting. And then when the children were in school, then it was easier to go to a morning meeting, which would be over by noontime, and you'd be back by 2:30, 3:00 or whatever, even if you went out to lunch afterwards, you'd still be back when the children got home from school.

COLLINGS

Right. And was there a lot of that kind of thing; a lot of sort of social life associated with the League?

MEADE

Yes, I think in terms of couples, and having husbands work, and maybe similar occupations, and we tried to socialize once in awhile just on a couples basis, because our husbands would hear us talking about the various things that were going on and the people we met, and it seemed like we really should get together, so there was some socializing, which was good, too, especially for me who was active originally, because I'd moved to a location where I didn't know anybody, any of my support group and neighbors and so forth were back here, and there I was in Mercer Island, Washington, and it was true again when we went to Florida, and again when we went to Wichita, Kansas. So there was some, yeah. It was spotty; I think sometimes the husbands really had nothing in common, and we'd say, "Hm, why did we put this together?" Other times, they would hit it off, and it would work out OK.

COLLINGS

You know, when I was interviewing Dorothy Green, she talked about her involvement in a group called Women For: -- you're familiar with that?

MEADE

I am familiar with it, yes. It was a West Side group that had some real movers and shakers that wanted very much to effect change of some sort. And they saw it as not so much issue change as they saw it as political campaign-type things, but they would interview candidates for City Council, Los Angeles City Council, and give their endorsement. And I did know some of the founders of Women For:, and they were so anxious to show that they could be for -- only things that they all sort of agreed on, their very name had a colon at the end, Women For:, and then you'd have to fill in, each time there was an election or what was going on. The West Side, some movie quality types, other who were attorneys, attorneys' wives...

COLLINGS

Fran Diamond, for example. (laughter)

MEADE

Yeah, yeah. So it -- I never joined, because it seemed to be concentrating very much on Los Angeles City, and these were not issues that I was involved in particularly. But I did know some people who were involved, and it continued for some years, and actually established some clout for itself, by supporting candidates and helping them financially, so that their endorsement for a candidate was sought. It sort of died down after awhile, and I don't know what the status is now --

COLLINGS

Yeah, I don't think that it -- it doesn't exist as far as I know anymore. But I mean, one thing that Dorothy Green said -- characterized Woman For: as consisting of frustrated League of Women Voters people, and I just --

MEADE

Ahh, that's because, you see, the League does not endorse candidates, and the League works very much on process, procedure, changing the law, changing the ordinance, changing whatever, and stays strictly away from endorsing any candidates, and for some active women, they felt that this was a constraint, that they would like to do something about it. I've not really had that kind of feeling of constraint, because I think one person, while that person can do a great deal in a leadership spot, you'd better back that person up with those ordinances and laws and statutes and so forth, and procedures, and open process, and all of that can be equally if not more important than the support for the individual.

COLLINGS

Oh, so that's very interesting, because this is a group that supports players, particular players, and League of Women Voters is dealing with the playing field.

MEADE

The playing field, yeah. But at times, the LA city government was such a mess that I think they perhaps felt again frustrated, that they way to effect some change that they wanted was going to have to be campaign and push a good person into office, and they were successful in it.

COLLINGS

Let's see. Something else. Oh, yes. Just in terms of your growing up, was there much in your household discussion of religion and politics?

MEADE

Oh, yes, and sex, too. Oh, yes. The -- my great-grandfather, the English one, was very much interested in politics and religion and sexual exploits of the neighbors and who was this and that and so forth. And so as a child growing up, certainly politics was a big topic. The gossip was more on the sex thing.

You know, people say today, in terms of "polite conversation," you don't discuss politics or religion, and certainly not sex, but I didn't grow up with that inhibition; the dinner table was -- I mean, my great-grandfather held forth, in terms of strong opinions and so forth and so on, engaged others at the table, if there were visitors or relatives who were there. Some of them agreed with them and some didn't, but the idea of this exchange, I grew up seeing that, yes, and so I -- it was like no-holds-barred in terms of this sort of thing. And certainly with our own family, the kids growing up, we had very good dinner-table discussions in politics and religion. Of course, we avoided sex for awhile; didn't want to give any encouragement to those kids, in terms of the adolescent hormones. But yeah, I had lots of encouragement. And then in clubs in high school and in college, international relations was a big deal, and I think we spoke of the wonderful optimism we saw with United Nations being formed. We were also absolutely altruistic, thinking, you know, there wouldn't be wars if the United Nations would sit together, and they would hash things out of the security council, and so forth. And of course, that optimism was doomed, I guess, but in any case, it was part of my growing up, yes, early years in high school and college, to be involved in issues.

COLLINGS

So would you say that there was like a social justice awareness or teaching at Rosary Academy [Watertown, MA]?

MEADE

Very much so. Oh, yes. And the cyclical of the Pope through the '30s, in terms of social justice, yes. And the right of the working man to organize, which was certainly reiterated again and again by my great-grandfather, who was a member of the plasterers' union, and he felt that the two most important things in his life had been his citizenship and his union card. And -- but yes, certainly, the cyclical of some of those long-gone Popes were stressed in a Catholic school setting. And I think the foundation of democracy, and that people, whether educated or uneducated or anything in-between, could participate and should participate, and should be given the opportunity to participate in a democracy. So it was very strong, yes. There was also another group, when I was in high school, I guess my senior year, there was a group called the Christophers; it was formed by a priest, [Father] James Keller [MM], out here in Los Angeles, in Hollywood, I guess. And it was a time then of the power of positive thinking, and all that optimism about world of affairs and so forth, but this was sort of a one-to-one kind of thing, but it could enlarge into the larger world, too, in that the slogan was, "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness." And that organization still goes on, and it's -- I think for awhile it looked -- they hoped that maybe it was a counter-force to Communism, that this would be the parishional responsibility, I can do something, I light that

candle and not just complain. After that, it took on various things, depending on society at the time.

COLLINGS

You mean, the response to Communism within Communist societies?

MEADE

Within the world.

COLLINGS

Sort of spreading it within those countries?

MEADE

I think world Communism, you know, from the famous writings, of course, was world domination; this was not to be confined to one country, and in fact, Communism started in the least likely country of Russia. It should have been in Great Britain, it was supposedly the workers rising up from this industrialized society, and Russian did not have an industrialized society by any means. But the --

COLLINGS

And then it went to China. (laughter)

MEADE

Right, yes. The early writings have not been followed very carefully. (laughter)

COLLINGS

No, not really, no. (laughter)

MEADE

But I think, at the time, various times, in terms of dealing with Communism as a threat or whatever, the point kept being made that it was to be carried around the world. And of course, there was a Communist Party in the USA, and they were quite vociferous, too, in terms of saying this was the way to go. So the Christophers, I think -- they weren't specifically to oppose that, but I think they were certainly opposing some of the things in Communism that they felt were tenets of Communism, and emphasizing personal responsibility, not the group dialectic whatever, in terms of that you would follow once the group had decided that we would follow straight down the line, where the Christophers were pushing more in terms of your personal responsibility, personal independence. And again, the social justice thing came in very strongly, in terms of everyone participating and having an opportunity to do so.

COLLINGS

Yeah. So this was -- was this a group that you feel influenced your thinking?

MEADE

I think it did, in a way. Take you back years to 1948, my high school, Rosary Academy, had an oratorical contest. This was an all-girls school, now, so I had no competition from loudmouth boys. The -- and we could choose whatever topic we wished to speak on, and we had to compose a speech, I forgot how

long, so many words. But we had to memorize it; couldn't have any notes in front of us, had to memorize it. And then we had to declaim from the stage -- well, anyway, I won the oratorical contest when I was a senior, and my issue was the Christopher movement. And, oh, I'm sure I declaimed mightily in terms of the benefit of the Christophers and to join the Christophers. So, yeah, they certainly did influence me, yeah. And I still get their newsletter, so it's --

COLLINGS

Oh, you're in their [caller-base].

MEADE

Yeah, I don't know where I put it now, but it's a little every-other-monthly newsletter, with little vignettes and stories in terms of good deeds being done and people being made happier and so forth.

COLLINGS

You said that your mother was "unusually spirited", and "not a housekeeping type".

MEADE

Right, yes.

COLLINGS

What kinds of advice did she give you along the way?

MEADE

None. None. She was absolutely silent. You see, I was not living with her, and only in later years did I end up living with her for a short period of time, and her third husband. But I was aware of her, she used to visit, but in terms of advice, even when I was a teenager, and perhaps could have used some, I don't know, or pre-teen or whatever, and certainly in my 20s, she was an independent spirit herself, I think, and she hesitated to tell anybody what to do under any circumstances. Although she did take somewhat of a different tack with my half-brother, but as far as I was concerned, I don't remember great motherly advice, or -- there was encouragement, certainly, in terms of anything that I was doing, or there seemed to be; at least, I was never told not to do it, so I guess it was in terms of absence of anything to say, "Don't do this," but there was very little of, "Do this," in terms of --

COLLINGS

So she didn't encourage you to seek a career, or...?

MEADE

No, no. She assumed that, I guess, I would, that if I wanted it, I probably would do it. And she, herself, I think by the time she was on the third husband, perhaps felt she didn't have much that would be worthwhile saying, in terms of advice that -- her second husband was a spectacularly bad choice, and her third one was a poor choice, and certainly my father was a youthful very poor choice also. Anyway, in terms of maternal affection, that came from the Great-Aunt

Agnes, who I did live with, and the great-grandfather, although in terms of giving advice -- she certainly gave advice in terms of what to wear, how to dress, fix my hair, buy things for me, that sort of thing. And the cooking, she was a very good cook, and I did stand at her elbow, and whatever I learned about cooking, I certainly learned from standing at her elbow when she was doing something, because there was a day of the week set aside in the morning for making pies and cakes for the week, and every Sunday was a roast with potatoes and vegetables and so forth, and then during the winter months, we had soups. So I did learn to cook from her, yes. And she was a kind, good soul.

COLLINGS

And what kind of work did your grandfather and father do?

MEADE

My father was an automobile mechanic in Falmouth, Massachusetts. And as I say, I really didn't get to know him either. Every encounter we had came after I actually initiated it, but that was his profession. (phone ringing)

COLLINGS

Should I turn my tape off? Do you want to get that?

MEADE

Turn the tape off just a second.(break in audio)

MEADE

I think that's the same place. OK, where were we? What was I saying?

COLLINGS

You were saying that your father was a mechanic.

MEADE

Yeah, an auto mechanic at a local gas station type of thing. He went to high school, but he didn't go beyond that.

COLLINGS

And what your grandfather did?

MEADE

My grandfather was a welder, and he had worked for the railroads at one time, and then in the late '30s, the -- FDR's lend/lease program opened up a number of facilities across the US, and there was one in Waltham, Massachusetts; they called it the Arsenal. And they were making armaments of some sort, I don't even really know what kind, to be specific; I assume guns and cannons and that sort of thing. Cannons, more likely. And so he got a job at the -- it wasn't Waltham -- yeah, Waltham Arsenal -- Watertown, Waltham? -- It was Watertown Arsenal, or between the two cities. He got a job there, and at very good pay, apparently; the government jobs at that time were as much in terms of the British lend/lease stuff, because we weren't in the war right then; we got into it later. But FDR's lend/lease program had us producing a lot of armaments for shipment to Great Britain, and the wages were very good, which was

getting us out of the depression. And I'm sure the railroad probably paid adequately, but the Arsenal paid more, and so he was there.

COLLINGS

So that probably helped matters, in terms of tuitions and whatnot?

MEADE

Well, I think my mother came through with my tuition for Rosary, although my Aunt Agnes had tried to contribute for the first couple of years, and then she was not working, so my mother was picking up, and her husband, her third husband, was picking up the tuition at Rosary, and then when I went on to Anna Maria College, she was picking up the tuition there, although from the time I was 16 and I could get a job, I did work, department stores mostly; I worked summers, Christmas vacation, Easter vacation, to pick up some spending money.

COLLINGS

What kind of work would your mother do?

MEADE

She had a varied and sundry experience, in terms of a career. She had not originally graduated from college; she'd had a few years, when she was married to her second husband, and then went to work as a bookkeeper/accountant to help put her second husband through Boston University; he was a musician, aspiring musician, and I guess the decision was made that there wasn't enough money for them both to go to school at the same time, so she went to work as a bookkeeper. And it was something I guess she learned on the job, almost, that she'd had no prior training in bookkeeping/accounting. Then later, with the third husband, he insisted that she go back to school; he felt very strongly that she should get a degree, and even a Master's, if she wanted. And since money now was not a problem, she did return to school, and did stay on to get a Master's in English. And she went to a small Boston college that -- I think it still exists; it's what started as Portia Law School, and when she first started college, she had I think thought about law, perhaps, and she had a scholarship from a friend who felt that she should be going to school; it was an older woman who felt that this woman needed a mentor, apparently, and encouraged her to go to school. But she dropped out again, and -- let's see, in terms of -- she stuck with the accounting for a long while when she did want to work. But after she had gotten the undergraduate and then a Master's degree -- I can't remember the name of the college; it's still around, it's still a very small school in Boston -- Suffolk [University], that's what it is now, it's Suffolk. They have expanded some, I think, but it's still a small private college. She and the third husband moved to California, and she did have the two English degrees, and so she decided teaching might be a good idea, or something she could get very quickly. So she got her -- what do they call it, experimental or something

credential, to start teaching, and she taught at Inglewood High School. And then when they moved up north, she continued the teaching, and taught at a high school up north. I think her final teaching assignment, she went back to school again to get a new credential; they were mainstreaming the developmentally-disabled children, and there was an opportunity for teachers who wanted to take on the task of working with the developmentally-disabled, and I think there was a salary increment involved, too. But you had to get a special credential to do it, so during the summer, she went back to school, San Jose State, and got this new credential. And then up to the time she became ill, she was teaching the developmentally-disabled. And she had an apparent knack for it; the non-directive towards me, in terms of saying what to do, how to do it, she apparently did not ever have that, and the developmentally-disabled children apparently very much appreciated that in her, that she was more indirect, in terms of helping them or assisting them or teaching them.

COLLINGS

Oh, that's wonderful. It sounds like she really evolved throughout her life.

MEADE

She did, she did. It's interesting; her husband died only six months before she herself died, and I've often thought she would have married again if she had lived long enough to do so, and would she have made a better choice the fourth time? (laughter) Who knows?

COLLINGS

Who knows? Yeah, that's interesting. My grandmother was a bit like that. OK, so here we are. Why don't we resume the chronology? You left Wichita and you came back here --

MEADE

Came back here, right.

COLLINGS

-- this lovely setting in Redondo Beach, California.

MEADE

Right. And we had planned, coming back to this house, we had bought it -- now the kids were older, and we felt we were going to need more room, so we had contacted a friend, an architect, who had been one of our neighbors in West Hollywood when we lived there, and had talked about an addition to this house, a master bedroom and bath. He said, you know, did we have the plans to the house, and actually, we did really; this house had been built by a contractor, and we had left the plans to the house in the linen cupboard in the hall. So we did have them, we sent them to him, and then I think he made a trip down to look at the house, too, and then he sent us back some sketches for what he would suggest for the addition, which we liked very much. So we were set to do the remodeling when we got back, and I also -- I told you I had been accepted

at UCLA some years; I thought, "Well, now's my time to do it." The youngest child was in middle school, so I said, you know, before I think about going to work again or who knows what, I should go back and get that degree. And although I was a history major originally, I thought about changing a major into something else. I'd taken some classes at Wichita State in history, but also in psychology, and I was very interested in psychology, thinking in terms of a social work kind of thing. But in order to get that degree in one year, I had to stick with history, because I had all those credits with history, and I thought, well, better that I have a degree in history in one year than that I become a permanent student here for awhile and switch around. So I graduated with history, although I had enough credits to have a double major with sociology. So I graduated '66; the construction on the house was going on same time, which was great, because I didn't have to worry about cleaning the house particularly, everything was covered in sheets. And it -- we couldn't really keep up with much cleaning while they were banging and taking apart things and putting it back together. So that was actually helpful, that I didn't have to worry about housework and that sort of thing.

COLLINGS

Were they working on the kitchen as well?(laughter)

MEADE

Yes.

COLLINGS

Wonderful. (laughter)

MEADE

We took out a wall in here. They did leave the stove, so I could keep cooking, and then the day they took the old stove out and put the new one in, it was just one day. But yeah, there was a wall that came across here. Anyway, I then had the degree, and during that time, I had not been able to do very much with the League of Women, because I was too busy going to school, and the ride from here to UCLA and back again, and all the walking on campus; gracious me, I was tired. And then some weekends, I really had to hit it, in terms of -- at that time, a history major at UCLA, you had to do an original research paper, and it had to be really well done, even though you were not in graduate school, you were just a senior, but that was your senior thesis.

COLLINGS

Oh, this was, yeah, for your bachelor's.

MEADE

Right, right. So that took a lot of research and work, and I can remember typing madly away on my little old Underwood typewriter, and getting it done. But it was worth it; it was a good effort. The subject matter was interesting; we were supposed to use a second language, if we had a second language to use, and I

had some acquaintance with Spanish. When I was visiting from both high school and college in the summer to my mother and her husband, and he ran a language school, by the way.

COLLINGS

Oh, interesting.

MEADE

But she fell in love with Mexico, at least in Baja California, and she would rent a place in Baja California during the summer, in which I picked up a lot of Spanish. And then at other times, I got some lessons from one of the teachers at my stepfather's school. So in choosing a research topic, I chose Charles III in Spain, and I could read some of the Spanish stuff on that part of history in Spanish. This was -- Any of the students who had a second language -- my history advisor, Albert [Huxley], was an icon at UCLA; he thought that was marvelous, because most of the students did not have a second language they could deal with, and they chose an English history subject. He said he was so tired of reading about Churchill. (laughter) Anyway, it worked out fine, and I got out. So then I thought, well, OK, now the house is fixed up, I've got the degree: now what am I going to do? And I thought, "Well, for the moment, at least, let's think about getting reacquainted with my neighborhood and the city and so forth, so I rejoined the League of Women Voters -- I was a member, but I had not been active during the period of going to school, and so I got back involved. And as it happened there were some interesting local issues going on, and I became involved as a city council observer. And it was -- observers for the League; do not testify or participate in anything, you just sit there with your clipboard and take notes or whatever. But it was a good introduction to the city council and the business of the city.

COLLINGS

So you would go downtown for this?

MEADE

No, this was in the city of [Torrance].

COLLINGS

Oh, city of Torrance, OK.

MEADE

Yes, city of Torrance; it's still only, I think, 139,000. When I started, I think it was only about 130-something-thousand. Anyway, that got me back involved, and certainly gave me a whole new circle of friends and acquaintances, and again, when you asked about do the husband and wives together, yes; by this time, our children were somewhat older, although many in the League had started as I did in the early '60s, and so there was a more social atmosphere, too, of getting together with husbands and having dinner at each other's houses; we all fancied ourselves good cooks. And the wonderful casserole, that sort of

thing; we could all put together a fantastic casserole. Anyway, the next round was -- I was on the local board as a city council observer, and the end of the League year came, which was usually May, and we take the summer off, mostly. But during the summer, there's a lot of people who can take a new study program or do something, and the woman who was then-President, or outgoing President of the Torrance League, had a call from somewhere at the Los Angeles County League, asking if she would like to take on an air pollution study chair, that they were looking for someone who would be able to do some research and take the time to be involved, and present a study kit for the county League. And she said no, she would not, but she said she knew someone who probably would like it, and so she asked them to call me.

COLLINGS

And why did she think you would like it?

MEADE

Because I had done some research stuff for the local League, in terms of issues, mostly. And she apparently felt that I enjoyed going to the library and opening books, and also, I could use that wonderful little Underwood typewriter, and bang out some testimony for someone else to give what I was observing, and I would also write articles for the local newsletter of the Torrance League; I had done a lot of writing articles for it, much of it accounting for what the school -- what the city council was doing, somebody else was watching the schools. Anyway, she felt that I was interested in research and writing and I could do it, because the county League -- well, I had pushed the Torrance, in terms of they had a study to produce a result, a study kit, at least, you know, ten pages or more, if you could, on what the subject matter was, the research that you'd done, the interviews you'd held, and to have that as a study kit. And Torrance had not done that before; the Torrance League had not done it before I came. But I was so insistent on that that I think she probably remembered this idea that we had to have a study kit, and since this county League program on air pollution was going to require a study kit, not just for one League but for all of the county Leagues; she thought that I probably would enjoy it. So I said yes, I would do it, although I said, "I have to tell you: I know nothing about air pollution, absolutely nothing." And I remember the woman on the phone said not to worry, there were several people in the League who were from the Pasadena League who were very knowledgeable about air pollution, but none of them were fair enough or --

COLLINGS

Unbiased?

MEADE

Unbiased, yeah. She felt that they would not serve well as the program chair, but that I would have the benefit of their experience. Plus, she said, you know,

"You'll begin the usual way in terms of League studies; we interview people, our expert in the field, and gather knowledge that way, and also read books, pamphlets, whatever is available." So I did, I took that on, and that required my driving downtown, because the county League met in downtown Los Angeles, so I became more familiar than I had been in some years with downtown Los Angeles. But from that county study, that is how I met Dr. [Arie J.] Haaggen-Smit, we interviewed him, and interviewed some of the state legislators who were involved in air pollution legislation, although it was a very early beginning field, except the Air Resources Board at that time with Dr. Haaggen-Smit as the chair, we did not have a lot of state law giving authority to the Air Resources Board to regulate vehicle emissions, and so every new thing that came along, it was felt that we had to go for special legislation. So there were a few people in the legislature who were willing to carry that type of legislation: Pete [Peter F.] Schabarum was one; I believe he's still alive, although he had an interesting career after the legislature. But in any case, the study kit came out; I had a 15-person committee, I think, from various Leagues around, and we examined the national law, in terms of the Clean Air Act, and somewhere in the midst of that study, the Air -- what was it called? -- the Air Pollution Control Administration -- it was a national agency for air pollution control -- someone there had gotten the bright idea of -- there was a lot of citizen groups springing up to fight air pollution, and the league now was also studying it in Los Angeles, and perhaps they should have a conference, pay for a conference to bring these people together to Washington to talk about air pollution. And I was chosen to go on that, and that was very interesting. I met people from all over the country who were [sub-group] members who were also working on air pollution studies; others were from citizen groups formed specifically to fight air pollution; then it got a lot of the agency people who were there. The Environmental Protection Agency did not exist at that time. But anyway, that was very helpful, too. But anyway, my committee and I, the county, all 15 of us decided that we should really do a bang-up, kick-off something or other to show that our study was done and we're now going to move on to the next stage of bringing it to all the Leagues in the county, and we were asking the consensus questions: how do we solve this, how do you see this being solved? So to kick that off, we decided a conference would be a great way to do it with a luncheon, and we'd have speakers, and holding it in Pasadena seemed like a very good idea, and so we held it at that wonderful old hotel, the Huntington, and we had panel speakers, and I think Pete Schabarum was our luncheon speaker. And we thought we'd probably have maybe 100 or so attend the lunch

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COLLINGS

100 League of Women Voters people?

MEADE

Yes. We weren't -- it wasn't closed to the outside community, but it was generally considered that this was a League conference or luncheon and so forth. We had like 500 people show up. The Huntington was delighted; the reservations came in and so forth and so on. It really was very exciting.

COLLINGS

What year was this exactly?

MEADE

This would have been what, let's see, 1969? 1969, '70. So then, with the study kit and so forth, one of our major recommendations was going to be -- and you could see it coming from the study kit, because we were really telegraphing what some of the solutions might be, but the biggest solution we saw for Los Angeles County and Southern California was to form a regional air pollution control district. Smog didn't recognize county boundaries, and the contribution from the city of LA, highly industrialized, blowing across the basin to Riverside and San Bernardino, and even then into Orange County -- at that time, Riverside/San Bernardino did not have a lot of industry; most of the cars in the industry were LA. So LA was really inflicting on these other counties the problem of air pollution. And there was also a push in terms of the Feds were looking at the boundaries of air basins, shared air, and so we were timely in terms of saying, "We should have a regional air pollution control district in Southern California." And sure enough, that was one of the strong consensus points that came out from the study and was agreed upon. So the next step in that League process is, you know, you've done this study, you've had the discussion, you've got the consensus, now go do. But to go do, it meant you had to go to Sacramento, and so -- it was a great feeling of, "How are we going to get Gladys to Sacramento to carry the word?" And it seems that I could do a lot in terms of the legislators from the Los Angeles and San Bernardino and Riverside areas when the legislature wasn't in session, when they were home. And at that time, the legislature also did have a habit, during the interim, of holding informational hearings, accepting testimony from groups, individuals, whoever, and the Air Resources Board itself at that time was only five people, and it met at least, oh, three or four times a year in Los Angeles, and so I could attend that without ever having to go to Sacramento. So it worked out pretty well; I was representing the League and providing testimony to the Air Resources Board on specific issues. With the permission of the state League, I could go promote our idea of a regional air pollution control district with our local legislators from where they were here, and then get to know the staff people, which were very, very important, in terms of some of these legislators, and also the staff to the committees. And so when they were looking for someone to testify, or wanted a particular point of view contributed to an

interim hearing. I got a lot of calls on that for the League, and we were able to give some really very good testimony.

COLLINGS

And how in particular did you get to know the staff people? What --

MEADE

Well, in these interim hearing, which you know, now they're not really held anymore, although Congress is doing their thing with immigration, which --

COLLINGS

Yeah, and they're holding it like on the border. (laughter)

MEADE

But at the time, the California legislature did all these interim hearings on various topics, and there's a staff person on the committee to help set it up in terms of the logistics, just where it's going to be held. Usually it was the state building or something like that. And I would get to know those staff people, because I'd be called to say, "Would you testify?" "What's the topic?" -- and so forth and so on, and then meet with the staff person perhaps prior to the hearing, because they were always interested in terms of, "Do you have a copy of what your testimony is?" And I learned that was not a good idea to give it to them ahead.

COLLINGS

Oh, really?

MEADE

No, it was not, because they'd have so many answers to supply to their legislature, if they knew what I was going to say ahead of time. And so I would say, "Well, no, I'm still working on it." The Underwood typewriter, "I'm still working on it."

COLLINGS

Yeah, just not ready yet.

MEADE

Not ready yet; can't give it to you. (laughter) Other times in the future, there were times when I actually did give testimony, for the very reason that I did want some support for what I was going to say, for whatever organization. But anyway, at that time, it was -- we were busy, and I think we were making some inroads; there was a legislator from the San Fernando Valley -- what was his name? -- oh, I can't remember his name. Anyway, he was a legislator from San Fernando Valley; he was actually a car dealer by profession. And he had been very interested in air pollution; he had co-authored the legislation that had set up the air resources board as a five-member volunteer kind of board, and so the next -- it was obviously the next step: what do you do now, in terms of the county and the basin idea? And so I appealed to him in terms of legislation, and he actually came up with some legislation that didn't go very far, but at least it

started the ball rolling. Because in Sacramento, the first iteration of the proposed legislation, maybe it's going to take years before it gets through, but each time, each year, you have another go at it. And so he set the ball rolling. But then an interesting thing happened. The League also had a position in terms of opening up the gas tax for public transit, mass transit. There was a push to put on the ballot an issue of opening up the gas tax. It had not happened as easily as it might have, in terms of the legislature. There was a Northern California legislator who was a friend of the Constitutional Revision Commission, which, in one of their recommendations from that year's Constitutional Revision Commission, was that you would open the gas tax for other things besides roads, and transit being one of them. Air pollution control being another. But the League had a position on this at the state level. And another organization, the American Lung Association of California, also had a position on it. So somewhere in Sacramento or San Francisco, they were joining forces in terms of a campaign. It got on the ballot, not in terms of what it was originally intended to be, but rather as a compromise, which so many times happens in Sacramento. John [F.] Foran had been the real push-and-shover behind it, and he had taken the words straight from the Constitutional Revision Commission, the wording they were suggesting for this, because it had to be a constitutional amendment. And Jim [James R.] Mills, a legislator from the San Diego area, with a lot of internacine warfare going on in Sacramento, had emerged as the author of another bill that had not been so carefully worded as the Constitutional Revision Commission had, but did had an opening of the gas tax. I still to this day could not explain to you exactly how Jim Mills' bill was going to work; it was that arcane. I mean, he -- brilliant man, probably. But in any case, Foran's bill didn't pass; Jim Mills' bill did, and it was getting on the ballot. I had gone to Sacramento on behalf of the League when they were getting into this Constitutional Revision thing, at their request, to help John Foran lobby. He had been out of favor with the Speaker in Sacramento, and so when you're out of favor with the Speaker, you end up with a very small office up on the sixth floor somewhere. And so he was pushing this in the Constitutional Revision Commission, but he wasn't getting very far on it; they figured he could use some help. So I was making trips up to Sacramento to work out of his small office with his secretary, and see if we could get something going. As I said, this was sort of a one-year thing; Jim Mills' bill prevailed and got on the ballot. Well, he's this arcane wording on the ballot, and you say, oh, my Lord, the League is going to have to explain what this is, because we've been pushing this, and it does do what we've been pushing, but not in exactly the way we said it should be done. On the other hand, we have to support it; we cannot not support it. So we worked on that, and the American Lung Association and the League, and there were other organizations; there

were clean air organizations that had sprung up statewide, and the Sierra Club, were all working on it. And in the Los Angeles area, there had been a strong push from the LA Chamber of Commerce to do this, to open it up for transit, because as you know, Los Angeles, over the years, they never have enough money for their transportation, and public transit has been like a stepchild. Anyway, the American Lung Association was going to put some money into the campaign; the League didn't have any money to put in, we would get lots of stuff out about it, pros and cons as well as our position things, but we didn't have any money for the campaign.

COLLINGS

And they never -- did the League not tend to have money for campaigns; they did not have --

MEADE

No.

COLLINGS

-- donors or delegates --

MEADE

No, no. Because of the non-partisanship thing, they didn't want to take money from any political party, particularly, or any interest group that was identified with a particular party. The only time we had taken money was on that voter registration drive back in Florida.

COLLINGS

The NAACP?

MEADE

Yeah. And that we considered such an overriding issue that it was OK. But no, the League had lots of volunteers to offer, but no money. The Lung Association did have some money to put into it. So I had been asked to attend some preliminary campaign committee meetings in Los Angeles at the Lung Association office, and while at one of the meetings, I met one of their people from the Oakland office, which was the headquarters of the state Lung Association. As the committee got going a little bit more and more, it appeared the Chamber of Commerce was going to pull out. They had some members of their membership that were really quite opposed. The oil companies, (laughter) quite opposed to it. They would not have enough money to put in, and could they participate, and so forth, so it looked like it was really going to be a volunteer effort here between the Lung Association, Sierra Club, and League of Women Voters, and the Coalition for Clean Air, some of the other smaller groups. Anyway, the fellow from Oakland, Bill Roberts was his name, after one of the meetings, he asked me if I would be interested in taking a job during the campaign that the Lung Association didn't really have any campaign experience, or anyone who seemed to be experienced in a campaign. Well, I

didn't have a lot of campaign experience; what I did have was ten times more than some of these good folks at the Lung Association, so he asked if i would take a job. I said, well, I didn't think I could take a full time job, but on the other hand, for a campaign, I could do as much time as I could, halftime-plus, depending on family responsibilities. And he said he would pay me, of course. So he gave me a trip -- paid for a trip to Oakland to meet his boss, who was a fellow named George Williams; I guess I couldn't be hired until I'd been interviewed by him. That worked out fine, too; they offered me the job, although the location would be the Los Angeles office of the Lung Association. So for about two and a half months, three months of the campaign, I worked almost every day at their office, trying to organize, trying to find those who were supporting and get them to work, and Bill Roberts, who had originally suggested that I do this, he was very much a public relations fellow, writing pamphlets, posters, bumper stickers -- he was doing that sort of thing out of Oakland, and so much of the campaign literature that we had was prepared by the Lung Association, although they were careful to give credit to all the other organizations, some unknown to many people, that were supportive. The end of the campaign -- we lost rather spectacularly; you can't fight all that money. (laughter) But it had some spin offs that were pretty good. Jerry Brown got in as Secretary of State, and he felt the unevenness of the campaign, since we only had pennies while the opposition had dollars all over the place, really should be looked at from the Secretary of State's standpoint, the unfairness of the campaign, that you cannot campaign with any fairness if one group has lots of money and the other group has almost nothing. And so that became an issue for Jerry Brown, and brought out a lot of the subsequent Clean Money Campaign, still what we're going through now, in terms of -- but it also pushed, at the Federal level too, and at the state level, for advertising: should the radio stations have to give at least an equal amount of time to the opposition or the other side? If they were getting big bucks from one side, they had to provide freebies for the other side. And that was Jerry Brown's doing at the time, though it certainly has continued today. And it does make it a fairer campaign. But anyway, there I was with the Lung Association; we'd completed the campaign, and as I said, I didn't hold sway here, in terms of hiring me to help get this thing through, and I didn't do it, did I? They said, "It's all right; we understand, and we'd like you to stay on." So I said, well, I wasn't geographically mobile; my home was here, and their main office was in Oakland, and most of their employees were in Oakland for the state office. They said, well, no, they'd work out an arrangement with their local Los Angeles chapter, and I could have an office there, but basically, I would be working on state issues. And since opening up the gas tax seemed to need something more, and they said they would pay me to go to Sacramento and

lobby for it. So back to Sacramento I was going with John Foran -- plus I had other things to do for the Lung Association; they have local chapters throughout the state, and many of the local chapters didn't know a great deal about air pollution, other than they're opposed it, it was bad for the lungs, and so forth and so on. But still in all, they didn't have a lot of informed people, so I kind of put a dog and pony show together, and went around from one chapter to the other. I mean, I was in Bakersfield; I was in Fresno. The garden spots of California. And then I was also getting called up north; they had a chapter in Eureka. You just wouldn't believe, in terms of how many places you can do which you haven't been before. It was kind of fun; I enjoyed it. And the kids were older now, and they could help get themselves off to school and get home again and so forth. Anyway, that continued for some while. And then one of the suggestions I made to the lung association was that it would be helpful if we got a physician on the Air Resources Board, because the health effects of air pollution was what the Lung Association was promoting, that we want to get rid of air pollution not just because we can't see the mountains or it's nasty and we're sneezing and coughing; this is really a health issue. Air pollution is truly a health issue. And I said, if we're really pushing that and that's our message, then one of the ways to get that across politically would be to change the law to say there had to be a physician on the Air Resources Board. Well, changing the law was going to be a little more complicated, but in any case, it was an opening, in terms of the Air Resources Board, so I began lobbying the Governor's office and some key legislators with the résumés of two wonderful physicians who were willing to serve, who were respiratory specialists, pulmonary specialists, and so I was running around passing out their résumé and so forth. I got a call from the Governor's appointment secretary, and I thought, "Oh, gee, I'm going to hear -- they're going to want one of these doctor's I've been pushing." And that didn't quite -- he wanted to interview me for the position. And I thought, "Oh, my." So I said, "Well, I have to call my boss." So I thought, "Now, how am I going to tell this man I've been pushing these two doctors that are far more qualified than I to serve on this board, and the call comes for me." So my boss was a great fellow, and he laughed, and he said, "Well, gee, you didn't make it with the campaign, and now you didn't make it with the position," but he said, "Grab it. Take it." And it didn't -- I think it paid \$100 a meeting plus expenses, so the Governor's office paid for me to fly up to Sacramento for this interview, which was very nice, and this was the Reagan administration. I remember we had tea in china cups.

COLLINGS

So you met Ronald Reagan?

MEADE

Yes, later. Later, I did. He didn't do the interview; he was very much the delegator, in terms of whatever. I didn't meet him at that time, but I went through the interview with no idea if this was going to work or not. I was trying to determine how on earth I was picked, and it turned -- it was really Dr. Haagen-Smit; I'd become good friends with him, and he was chair of the Air Resources Board, and it was also the time when the Reagan Administration was beginning to look for more women. At the same time I was being asked to serve on the Air Board, a fellow League of Women Voters person who had worked in water quality, Jean Auer, was asked to serve on the Water Board. So it was kind of like, gee, here were are. Anyway, it was Dr. Haagen-Smit who really was pushing, plus the staff person of the executive officer of the Air Resources Board, John [A.] Maga, had also become a good friend throughout the time of the League study of interviewing people and attending meetings and taking notes and then testifying and so forth. So I got to know them. In any case, apparently I passed muster with the appointments secretary; he called me back and said yes, indeed, they would like me to serve. The first meeting that I would be invited to serve I would be sworn in and so forth and so on. My legislature, State Senate legislature -- this required Senate confirmation -- and you do get a breathing spell; you don't have to be confirmed immediately, although in the '70s, it was considered the right thing to do: if you were appointed to the Board, the Governor's office wanted to bring you to the Senate for confirmation as soon as possible. Now they play a game, you know, in terms of, they can keep the person on there without being confirmed for a year, and then bring them up at the last minute; if he's not confirmed, well, so they had a year of his votes before he was kicked off. Anyway, for me, it was going to be immediate, and I had known Senator [Robert S.] Stevens, who -- again, through the Sacramento stuff and working on air pollution, and he was delighted that one of his constituents was going to be on the Governor's Air Resources Board. He happened to be on the Senate Rules Committee that does approve -- sends the recommendation to the Senate floor for confirmation. And so he was very much my promoter and helped and so forth. So I did: I got on the Air Resources Board; I raised my right hand; I did it all. Got confirmed by the Senate, and we're off, you know, do my thing as the Air Resources Board person. By this time, I had quite a bit of experience in terms of air pollution, information, research, health effects. I certainly was not a physician or a public health worker, but I did -- I had acquired a lot of information. The Lung Association was very good in terms of orientation; they also sent me to conferences that were put on by their medical group, the California Thoracic Society, and so I met a lot of doctors and listened to a lot of speeches and conferences and stuff. I saw more slide shows with the doctors than I ever want to see again. Of course, some of them would be interesting, and they'd throw in

a nude figure once in awhile in their slide show to wake everybody up. I thought that was pretty sexist myself. I asked one of them to, if he was going to do that, to get one of those wonderful male figures and throw that in. (laughter) But, see, most of the doctors there were men.

COLLINGS

Was most of the membership of the Lung Association men?

MEADE

Yes.

COLLINGS

I see.

MEADE

There were a few women, but mostly men. I stayed with them 23 years, and by that time, there were more women. But anyway, we're up to an hour and 15 minutes here --

COLLINGS

Yeah, OK, and you've got to run --

MEADE

Well, not run, exactly, but you know

COLLINGS

But get ready.

MEADE

I'll limp, yes. (laughter) I'll limp.

COLLINGS

OK, so let's -- [END OF Gladys Meade Session 2]

1.3. Session 3A (July 19, 2006)

COLLINGS

OK, let's all turn on then. Let me just note that it's July 19; Jane Collings and Dorothy Meade -- Gladys Meade (laughter) -- I'm sorry, I can't get Dorothy Greene out of my head.

MEADE

Have you finished your interviews?

COLLINGS

Yes, I just finished it. Gladys Meade in Redondo Beach, yes.

MEADE

I think last time, we had worked up to, I had been hired by the American Lung Association in the state office. And during the almost a year that I worked for them, I'd end up going to Sacramento to lobby on the formation of a regional air pollution control district, and also to observe the Air Resources Board meetings -- at least those were within a reasonable distance.

COLLINGS

Now, and when you say that, it's because of your family obligations?

MEADE

No, it was more of a question of cost. The American Lung Association did give me a travel budget, but the Air Resources Board at that time, and continued for some while, to meet from Eureka all the way down the San Diego. Dr. Haagen-Smit had a son in Eureka, so he was particularly fond of having at least one meeting a year in Eureka so he could visit his son, and then down through Fresno, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, of course the Bay Area, San Francisco and then Los Angeles and then San Diego. So it was a lot of traveling if people wanted to observe the Resources Board, and the Lung Association budget really couldn't afford to send me to every meeting, but I did make them to Los Angeles, San Diego, and sometimes to San Francisco, if I could combine another trip, because the state office of the Lung Association was in Oakland, and so that made it kind of a combined thing that I could do. In any case, I had been observing them, and then also, part of my work with the Lung Association was not strictly totally on my own, other than having a boss, obviously, on the staff, there also was a volunteer, what they call an Air Conservation Committee. And the committee usually was comprised of at least two physicians, one usually a researching and one a doctor in private practice or clinical practice, and others who were volunteers, also from throughout the state, because the Lung Association had chapters indeed up to Eureka and down to San Diego too, and these were members of the state boards or local boards who were interested in air pollution and wanted to join the committee. And the committee met three to four times a year, and we would go over various issues. Of course, one of the main issues for the Lung Association was getting out more public information about health effects of air pollution; we felt that was more our call to do that, and to provide this information to the press, the environmental organizations, to provide testimony to the Air Resources Board on various issues that why a particular rule or regulation should be adopted because of health concerns. And so I worked mightily on that, and then I didn't tell you, in terms of returning to work after all these years of being home, although doing all that volunteer work, on other hand, I had actually had an office, and in this case a secretary and a telephone and so forth. And that was quite a transition, and at that time, other friends of mine were also making the transition, and we used to have lunch once in awhile and kind of laugh, saying we were afraid to tell anybody in the office, whichever office we worked in, that we could type, because we were assigned secretaries to do our typing. And then we even hesitated to answer our own telephones, because the secretary was supposed to answer our telephone. And so we would -- I mean, I look back on it now, it's kind of silly and comical almost, in going into an

office situation where they suddenly kind of tell you that you can't answer your own telephone.

COLLINGS

Were the secretaries used to working for women, do you think?

MEADE

No, I think the office that I went into with the Lung Association was the Los Angeles chapter office, and there was, I think, two other women working there, but about ten -- in terms of professional level, I should say; there was a social worker who did various things in terms of lung disease patients and their families, there was an RN who covered tuberculosis and emphysema, and again, helping patients and their families, and also working with county health departments, because tuberculosis is an infection disease, and the county has continued -- had a higher interest then, because the TB rates were higher. So those were two professional women. The rest, there were about ten professional men, and then all of the secretaries, of course, were women. And it was quite stratified, in terms of who went to lunch with whom and that kind of thing, which I look back on, again, it's almost comic to think how we were doing this minuet, in terms of who's the professional staff and who's the secretary and who's the clerk and so forth. I somewhat overcame it, and then gradually, the others did too. But I think I probably was the first one at the Los Angeles office that really pushed to say, "Well, let's invite the secretaries to have lunch with us, our secretary or somebody else."

COLLINGS

Yeah. Oh, that's interesting.

MEADE

Yeah. Because I think now, this is far more usual, in terms of working together. Plus, by the time I had left the Lung Association, I retired in '94, there was less relying on secretaries, because computers had come in, and we were all using computers in one way or another. My secretary at the time, up until I retired, was certainly a much better typist than I was, but instead of having to write longhand on yellow lined sheet of paper, I'd quickly do a first draft on the computer, and then she could take that, and I could correct it, do first drafts, second drafts, and so forth. But any final, I usually let her type, because she was much better with layout, and could make a prettier thing than I did; I was competent in terms of getting it down, but I couldn't make it as pretty as she did.

COLLINGS

So you mentioned Jean Auer was another woman like yourself who came from the League of Women Voters --

MEADE

Yes, she was from the Bay Area, and she was appointed to the Water Resources Board about the same time I was appointed to the Air Resources Board, and we kind of laughed about it, saying that work in the League had really promoted us to this -- well, by this time I had been working for the Lung Association for almost a year, but it was, it was coincidental --

COLLINGS

Were there a lot of other women that were being appointed sort of all around you at that time?

MEADE

No. No, there wasn't. There was volunteer groups of women that I worked with, one way or another, to stamp out smog in Los Angeles, that were all women. They were mostly wives of Hollywood producers or executives or PR firms or whatever. In fact, the woman who had started Stamp Out Smog was Marge Levy, and her husband ran a talent agency, a really big one, I think, in Los Angeles. I'd had no contact with Hollywood and these types before, and they were rather fascinating, to tell you the truth, in that they were supremely confident, and they had quite a bit of money to finance whatever they wanted to get into. They lost it for awhile, and finally, as time and tides both take their toll, some moved away, some died. Marge Levy died, but before she died, the thing was sort of folding upon itself; there weren't as many volunteers. In terms of who was working on air pollution control, I'm attending Air Resources Board meetings, it was almost entirely male. It was engineers from oil companies, automotive manufacturers, automotive after market manufacturers; there were very, very few women who were attending these meetings. In fact, I used to laugh, saying it's too bad that I'm not looking for a husband, that I'm married with four children, because this would be happy hunting ground if you were searching for mate.

COLLINGS

And were they -- these men were not volunteers, though.

MEADE

These were employees of the various industries who were impacted by rules and regulations, and obviously, their interest in attending and testifying at the Air Resources Board meetings were self-interest and was their job; they were essentially lobbying the Air Resources Board, and some of them also went off to lobby in Sacramento, although many of the corporations hired PR firms to do their lobbying in Sacramento, or they would have representatives from the legal department speak, in terms of state legislation. But the -- yeah, it was a very limited female participation, except for volunteers at Stamp Out Smog; that was an all-women group, and they were interesting, and continued their interest.

COLLINGS

So speaking of the volunteer contribution, you were talking about how -- well, there was this -- earlier on, there was this initiative process, and with a lot of volunteers participating in that --

MEADE

Well, initiative in terms of going on the ballot?

COLLINGS

Yeah.

MEADE

No, that didn't arrive 'til very much later. That was the Planning and Conservation League and Jerry Merrel, who really pioneered in getting signatures on initiatives and getting on the ballot, and spearheading the campaign to pass it. His initial interest had been in acquiring parkland; the Planning and Conservation League was a spin off in some ways from Sierra Club, some members of the Sierra Club who felt that they needed some help in all of their activities, whether it was public information or lobbying or whatever, that it would be helpful if you could have an organization that was not bound by the rules of the IRS in terms of, you could only do a minimum amount of lobbying, minimum in terms of your budget, if you exceeded the certain percentage of your budget in lobbying, you were very much in danger of losing your 501C3 designation. And so the Planning and Conservation League was set up not to be a 501C3, but rather to be a lobbying organization, and it was really founded, I think, by some Sierra Club members with that in mind. Of course, in later years, the Sierra Club did lose its 501C3 over the Alaska campaign, but by that time, they had also gained an enormous amount of members throughout the environmental interest years of the '70s, the Sierra Club membership went sky-high, and people were very willing to contribute to the Sierra Club, so their loss of the tax-deductible 501C3 really didn't bother them. But in any case, the initiative thing was very much Jerry Merrel. It became somewhat distorted in some later years, when Jerry Merrel realized there was a sure-proof way of getting money for the campaign, in order to gain the signatures, with paid signature gathering, but also to then run a ballot-issue campaign, which is very, very expensive. His sure-fire method involved reaching out to various other segments in the community: the railroads, automotive manufacturers, anyone that would be interested; its basis became, if you contribute such-and-so, you can be a partnership in this group that's going to put this on the ballot, and you'll be able to influence what the wording is, and what -- in other words, we'll give you a chance to put your \$.02 in if you can give us \$500,000. This was quite successful for a few years, but then Jerry got into a lot of problems. The head of the Senate, president [pro-tempore], John Burton, became very angry at some of the inclusions in the initiatives; they were touted as being environmental, but frequently had some wording that

would be anything but considered environmental. On the other hand, it was not environmentally abusive, probably, and so Jerry Merrell felt justified in giving other entities an opportunity to get something on the ballot. His last big effort failed; it was one of these combination things, and he alienated John Burton so much that John Burton said that he didn't want to see Jerry Merrel in the capital again anywhere, let alone his own office, but anywhere. The Planning and Conservation League did some soul-searching on that one, and Jerry did himself, too -- plus he'd lost the last campaign. But that was really the initiative thing that -- in terms of individual groups doing that. Since over the years, Jerry Merrel proved a pretty good guy; a lot of industries are -- I would say, interest groups, I guess I should say -- a lot of interest groups have copied it, sometimes to their advantage, sometimes not. The public, amazingly, I think is really pretty smart about some of the initiatives on the ballot; they really are not overwhelmed with sound bites on television, and do tend to look, I think, at what does this really mean, or what is it really going to do, and then choose to vote against it or for it.

COLLINGS

So was he the innovator of the pay-for-signature method of signature-gathering?

MEADE

I think it was always available; PR firms or some firms were set up specifically to be able to do that. But he certainly brought it to the forefront. In fact, I can't remember the fellow's name who's in Sacramento who established a whole business of just hiring the signature-gatherers, giving them some training, in terms of how they had to go about it, and then also the legal requirements of the -- you had to be a resident of that county and a registered voter yourself. But he -- I don't know where it is now, because I've been out of it for so long, but he had a very good business going on, in terms of, yes, I can -- you need signatures in a particular county; I'll take care of that. You want it statewide? I can take care of that. Although obviously, the interest in statewide, you'd go where the population centers are. I mean, why spend an awful lot of time in Bakersfield or in [Rosed] gathering signatures when you could spend the same amount of time, hours, in Los Angeles, San Francisco, could get hundreds of signatures. So he worked that out very well, only he did have to have a percentage of valid signatures of it was a statewide initiative, from a variety of counties; he couldn't just stick with two counties. I guess I would say Jerry Merrel was the father of (inaudible). Dorothy Green worked with him; she was on the PCL [Planning and Conservation League] board.

COLLINGS

Because she sort of decried the way that the initiative process had been --

MEADE

Stolen?

MEADE

Stolen, yes.

MEADE

Well, she was in a better position to do something about it than I, in that she remained on the PCL board. I was on the PCL board for awhile. But then there were changes coming, all volunteer board membership -- as the environmental movement grew, and as foundations were available to help fund some of the programs of the environmental groups, then you could hire staff who really, I was say, in some ways took over; they became the experts in the organization. And this was true at PCL. They became the experts, and they really only wanted to have a board of directors that would do some fundraising, and the rest of the time, be quiescent in terms of issues. Now, someone like me, and for Dorothy too, for that matter, or many others -- we were hands-on volunteers, and we had either been members of, help organize, whatever, organizations that were filled with volunteers who did staff-level, if you will, work, research, writing. But as the money began to flow from foundations to these organizations, and that money could be used to hire staff and support staff too, as well, renting office, pay for the telephone, all of that we struggled with as volunteers, the staff became more and more front and center on issues. And then I found that somewhat difficult, and got into some difficulties with it, with other organizations. With PCL, I just was really too busy to stick around. They had some very good leadership when I had worked closely with them, and who had been more collaborative as a staff and volunteer; I forget -- I have to look at my resume to see when I did drop out -- I resigned -- but no particular one reason. Let's see -- Land Use Task Force, I see that. Oh, there it is. Planning and Conservation League. I was on their board of directors from '74 to '78, and there wasn't anything particular issue that I resigned over, and Jerry Merrel had really not gotten into his big push in terms of initiatives. But it just seemed the change in what was happening made it less important that I spend a great deal of time as a volunteer board member than perhaps spending my time elsewhere. Plus I did not have the connections to big money that I could tap my friends for big contributions to any organization; I would give generously myself, as much as I could, and I certainly could encourage others, but not in terms of big contributions that the organizations were looking for, that was supplied by foundations. So it worked out pretty well for them.

COLLINGS

So, and also I would think that another issue, with regard to air pollution, that it's such a technical issue that the volunteer staff would sort of have trouble, after a certain point, keeping abreast of all of the developments.

MEADE

Well, yeah, it was somewhat my job in the Lung Association, the Air Conservation Committee. Of course, the physicians on the committee that we had were very quick to bring us all the health information, and there was an increasing amount of research on the health effects of air pollution, which continued to reinforce the position of the Lung Association, that indeed air pollution is not just a nuisance, but truly had a health impact. But in terms of the technical, we did have some people who were volunteers for the Lung Association who were engineers, and who did understand a lot of the technology of air pollution control. Plus I was supposed to keep up as best I could, since I did not have an engineering background, with what was happening in terms of the decisions of the Air Resources Board, and also decisions of various local or regional air pollution control districts. And it wasn't too difficult, since the staff reports that came out of the agencies were usually very well-written and explanatory, with references if you wanted to pursue the issue deeper, they would have references that you could go look up something else. And this was even before the days of Google, you know, on the computer. You could still go to the library and look up things, which I did. But it seemed to me on the Air Conservation Committee or the Lung Association, I had technically help, both the medical side and the engineering side, and then also the land use issues. One marvelous fellow had been much involved in land use with California Tomorrow, which was another organization, and he had worked on that, helped found it, I think, and he ended up in the Air Conservation Committee. Very helpful. So it wasn't that difficult, in terms of the technical issues. I mean, obviously, you knew if something burned, because there were emissions. The type of thing you were burning depended on what kind of emissions you could; the heat of the burn made a difference. So there were simple concepts that you could latch onto. The internal combustion engine became less of a mystery, as to what was going on and why we were still over and over again trying to do something with that internal combustion engine. There was a legislative -- Petris -- what was his first name? Senator [Nicholas C.] Petris who year after year for awhile introduced legislation to outlaw the internal combustion engine. (laughter)

COLLINGS

That sounds like a good idea. (laughter)

MEADE

Well he got more laughs than anything else. But it was his point that he wanted to say, with the health regulations going on, both at the federal level and the state level, we're still fiddling with the internal combustion engine. And perhaps what we should be doing is looking at something very different, that no matter what you do to the internal combustion engine, it's going to burn something that's going to have emissions. And you talk about having a closed

system and so forth, and the catalytic converter -- what an incredible breakthrough that was, to put on the internal combustion engine. But it was not a closed system; you still have emissions. They were somewhat lessened and somewhat cleaner, but they were still coming out.

COLLINGS

Yeah. So what are your memories of Dr. Haagen-Smit?

MEADE

Oh, very happy memories. He was a charming European gentleman who had worked for many years in Holland, until he was enticed away by Caltech, to -- and he was an atmospheric chemist, and obviously, to be enticed by Caltech, he had established an international reputation in Holland, at the conferences; so many of the academics go to international conferences, it's kind of a nice trip for them, they also get to see all their fellows and exchange papers and learn something or whatever. But Dr. Haagen-Smit was very charming; he also had a charming wife. Their children were grown by the time I met him and met her. But he had obviously been the one who had suggested my name to the governor's office, mostly because from the very first interview that we had with him, when I was doing the League of Women Voters work, and then subsequently when I was employed by the Lung Association, and attending Air Resources Board meetings throughout the state, or as many as I could attend, he would always take time to talk with me. Plus I got to know the Air Resources Board staff and spoke with them. The Air Resources Board meetings were all-day meetings, with a break in the mornings, intermission, coffee, whatever you want, break at lunch, afternoon, and then get a late afternoon break, and then usually they closed up by 5:00. But sometimes, with public testimony, they waited around longer. But in any case, I was -- and I sort of -- being a woman, it was an almost all-male audience, I think I sort of stood out, plus I'm 5'8 and then not exactly slender, so I would stand out anyway. But in terms of the male audience, I think I stood out. And Dr. Haagen-Smit also attended -- I had asked him to attend an Air Conservation Committee meeting to meet the volunteers of the Lung Association, and he was always very willing to do that. And I was impressed with them at the Air Resources Board meetings, although I learned later that he was quite an actor himself. But he would be very, very welcoming to members of the public who wish to address the Air Resources Board; he always had time -- well, he could address any issues; it was an agenda issue, they could address the board on the issue. But if they just had something to say that was not necessarily tied to an agenda issue, he would have a portion of the meeting at the end where they could speak on whatever. And that agenda's some interesting times. I remember one time, I was in the audience before I was on the board, and there was this woman --

COLLINGS

Here, let me take the wire away from you.

MEADE

-- in a mermaid outfit, with a very revealing-type top and a scale-type thing over her body, and then from her feet there were like fins trailing down the back. And she made quite a dramatic entrance into the -- I should say, it wasn't the old state building -- we had two state buildings downtown; one was a very old building that had a mural that had been painted during the WPA [Works Progress Administration] time, a very interesting, realistic mural; oil wells and digging for gold and that sort of thing. But anyway, that was the old state building. Then there was the new state building, which has since become the old state building across the street. Well, she came into that new state building, and there was quite a ramp down to the speaking dais thing, and the board was sitting up above, and the audience were all in seats. And everybody was sort of looking saying, "What does she have to say?" Well, to tell you the truth, I can't remember what she had to say, really, except that she did tie it in with air pollution, ocean pollution, and taking care of God's world or some such. And then she happily flounced out again.

COLLINGS

So was she from some sort of, I don't know, more counter-cultural environmental group?

MEADE

I think she was a budding actress. I think she wanted to make an impression that would be remembered, particularly the press were around, because the press did follow the meetings of the Air Resources Board; it was a special table on the side from the reporters to sit at and take notes and so forth, and I think really her motivation was less on saving the environment than on, see me, wouldn't I look wonderful in a movie? (laughter) But there were various sincere members of the public who would come in, certainly organizations like Stamp Out Smog would present testimony on one issue or another, and others sometimes, just ordinary people, lived in Pasadena for 25 years, can't breathe anymore, that sort of thing. And Haagen-Smit was very good on that; he really encouraged people and allowed them to speak their points, because sometimes people get carried away; they've got the microphone, they've got the press over here, and they'd get carried away a bit with this, particularly if the flashbulb went off, probably from a newspaper taking a picture. But he was very patient and very nice, and always said, "Well, thank you for your testimony," and he and staff would look into this, and so forth and so on.

COLLINGS

Well, air pollution is an issue that has to be balanced with economic growth, so it seems that it would be very important to keep that balance in mind for some of the more government-sponsored groups.

MEADE

That was actually a big issue for the Air Resources Board and the statute that set it up, in terms of what rate should be given to the economic consequences, or were there economic consequences, and how would you know if there were, and what studies were done or should be done. I became rather cynical about it, and I think Dr. Haagen-Smit was too, in that -- maybe he influenced me, I don't know -- but it seemed like the industry representatives would always inflate the cost of regulation enormously, by a factor of three or four. And this was usually proven after the regulation was adopted, the technology, whatever it was, was developed, installed, put in, and the cost of this would be looked at after the fact, and then you'd look at the testimony from the automotive lobbyists, the utility lobbyists, and obviously, their numbers were highly, highly inflated. Now, I don't say that they deliberately did that, but in terms of their staff and how they figured things, what calculator they were using or whatever, I don't know, they truly believe, perhaps, their own numbers. I had great fun informing them afterwards, you know, after a couple of years or so, once we had some hard data in terms of what it did cost, to say, you know, "Did you look at this report about how much the cost was of this...?"

COLLINGS

And were there any correlations of costs to businesses with costs to government, in terms of healthcare costs?

MEADE

Yes, we tried very hard on that, and there is some data now that came out in later years, but interpreting the health data and the cost of hospitalizations, some efforts were made, in terms of correlating the hospital admissions with the air quality data that day, and we did come up with some interesting data, in terms of the admissions at the hospital in terms of respiratory distress or heart problems, angina, did not occur the first day of the smog episode or smog alert, but maybe the second, third, or fourth day; there sort of was a building thing. Either that, or people on the first day they were having symptoms, they tried taking their medications and saying, "Well, obviously, medication will work;" on the second day, determining, "Well, it wasn't working very good," and maybe taking more; and then by the third day, determining they were really sick and should go to the hospitals. That was some of the early stuff. Later on, Jane Hall, who's an economist at Cal State Fullerton, did some really earthshaking stuff on the cost of -- health cost of air pollution. She actually was able -- great elan, I must say, to put a cost on it, the cost of the cough, the cost of a sinus infection, and so forth. She was very much a pioneer in that, although there were a few other people, economists, who were working around the country and looking at similar things. Now, it's almost a given; the EPA goes after some of this information and funds research in to see what is happening.

And so the Lung Association took advantage of all of this during my years with them; we couldn't afford to do the research ourselves, but certainly be aware of what was going on, and help publicize this research, and that there was a tremendous cost to the public and to municipalities, to counties, health departments, because of air pollution. And getting rid of it would be a cost benefit.

COLLINGS

Yeah. OK, last time we talked about you being appointed to Reagan's -- by Governor [Ronald F.] Reagan to the ARB. But you were going to sort of share some of your remembrances of actually meeting Governor Reagan.

MEADE

We have to go back a little bit in terms of -- the Air Resources Board was being reorganized; when I first started attending the meetings, it was a 13-member volunteer board, and Haagen-Smit also was a volunteer, although with much complaining, he was able to get a secretary and some sort of reimbursement, I guess. Of course, members did get their travel expenses paid, but other than that, I think -- maybe they did have a \$50 compensation, but I don't believe so; it was strictly the travel expenses. After 1970, when the Federal Clean Air Act passed, California was in a bit of a pickle, because we didn't have the structure to follow through on the mandate, the federal mandate on the Clean Air Act. And part of the lack of structure was an Air Resources Board that had some authority and responsibility. There was a Legislative Annals Report that had been requested by a member of the legislature to look at the structure in California, and to suggest what changes were necessary to be able to comply with the federal law. The Legislative Annals Report was very, very good, and I had had the opportunity to talk with some of the staff of the Legislative Analysts Office, which over the years when I was in Sacramento, I had a very, very high regard for their competence, their ability to analyze, and to also remain non-political, non-partisan. In any case, the report came out, and it strongly recommended that a full-time Air Resources Board be appointed by the governor, a five-member board that would be a full-time board, adequately compensated, and one of the members, a chairman, appointed by the board. This was picked up by legislators, but the one who got the prize to actually carry the legislation was Pete [Peter F.] Schabarum, who was an assemblyman from West Covina. Pete was a very nice fellow, a good Republican, and had the confidence, I guess, of the governor. But the bill he actually put in which was eventually passed and signed was for [half time board]. It was just at that time he was introducing the legislation, and the legislative analysts' report had come out; the personnel board had gotten into a big flap, in terms of one member -- Personnel board was a full time and, and one member was being compensated for being a full time board member, but living in his home area, and then flying

his own plane to meetings in Sacramento, and this was splashed across the newspaper, in terms of boondoggle and all the rest of it. So the governor's office, in their wisdom, decided that this was -- full time boards were maybe not such a great idea, in terms of future board construction, it would be a halftime board. But they would receive some compensation, I think \$100 a meeting, plus travel expenses. But this halftime board for the ARB, I spent a long time talking with Pete Schabarum and with others about the likelihood of them getting very competent people to serve halftime. I said, you'll probably get a lot of retired people, and it'll be difficult to fill the board with competent people. Because as people retire from all sorts of industries, because they're at the end of their career, 65-plus, and perhaps not the best choices for serving on a very important regulatory board. However, that's the way the bill went through. Five members; there was some pushing and shoving in terms of getting an agricultural member on the board. The Air Resources Board had been looking into [teepee burning] of woodshavings and sawdust in the Northwest, and the wood people, the lumber people, found -- they thought they had no other way to handle woodchips and sawdust other than burning it in these teepee burners. And they were the wildest-looking things, because they really did look like a teepee, and with the smoke coming out the top. Except there was a lot of smoke coming out the top, because they were burning a lot of sawdust and woodchips. So that was -- the lumber interest was worried about the Air Resources Board bearing down on them too hard, and then the agricultural industry, particularly the rice growers, were concerned -- they were burning the straw; after the rice is harvested, there's this very strong cellulose-type stalk that's left, and the only way the rice growers felt they could get rid of it was to burn it. Plus it had a second advantage, in that if they had any rice blight of some sort, the burning of the straw would kill it, so that the next year's rice crop would not be assaulted by something that was still in the soil. Because the other way was to plow it under, but if you plowed it under, you would have to wait a couple of years before replanting that particular plot. So from a combined sort of agricultural/lumber thing, they determined there would have to be a spot on the five-member board for someone who was familiar with agriculture. And so they appointed a retired -- the governor appointed a retired agricultural department employee, Al Leamon. There was also concern that one of the volunteer members of the -- I shouldn't say volunteer, ex-officio members of the Air Resources Board when it was thirteen [members], had a representative from the California Highway Patrol, because we were talking in terms of vehicle emissions and checking vehicles; they had a CHP checkpoint for checking vehicles for excess emissions, but also to see if you had -- if the vehicle had whatever devices you were supposed to have on it, the -- most of it's a PCB valve, it's a very simple thing, but they did have a CHP checking for

it along various highways at those times. So they thought a CHP member should be appointed, and so indeed, Harold Sullivan, who had just retired as the CHP commissioner, was appointed. They said there should be some technical expertise on the board; the thirteen member Air Resources Board had had a technical advisory committee that had a lot of academics as well as industry types, but since they were only advisory, it was considered the industry types were not overwhelming. But there had been the chair of the technical advisory committee, a fellow named Robert Brattain, who was a former retired oil company exec who is a chemist by training; very, very experienced in technical -- very good fellow; Let's see, we had Haagen-Smit, Sullivan, Leamon, Brattain, and then there was a public member. I was appointed as the public member, although there had been a little bit of twisting, in terms of the public member; there was some people who had retired from air pollution control districts who thought that this would be a nice step for them to complete their retirement. \$100 a month doesn't seem much, but at that time, it was still something to augment your retirement. And so they had got Pete Schabarum to include that the public member should be someone who had knowledge of air pollution control. Well, my knowledge of air pollution control was OK; it was not extensive, and certainly was not technical, in terms of what an air pollution control office would have. However, because of Haagen-Smit and the governor's office, desire, And I was Republican, by the way. You say it doesn't make a big difference; indeed, it does -- in some instances it does. And in Reagan's administration, indeed, it did make a difference being a Republican. And being able to say very frankly, I've been Republican for a long while, and I didn't know Haagen-Smit wanted to appoint me, so I ran down and changed my registration to become a Republican. I had been a longstanding Republican. And so Haagen-Smit was really the force behind it, as well as the executive office of John Maga, who worked very closely with Haagen-Smit. And so the first call that I'd gotten was from the appointment secretary, saying they would fly me up to Sacramento for an interview. And I told you, I'd called my boss and explained, even though I'd been pushing for getting a doctor onto the Resources Board, this wasn't going to happen, and he was fabulous about it, saying, "Hey, by all means, they're offering you the opportunity; you take it." There was not at that time a conflict-of-interest type of bar, which I think there would be now, in terms of hiring a person who was employed by the American Lung Association, even though we were a 501C3, we were an interest group, we were pushing the health effects of air pollution. But at that time, there was not. So anyway, I flew to Sacramento, and somebody met me from the governor's office, and took me for an interview, which was a long, long-lasting interview. I thought of the interview I'd had in my position with the Lung Association, which had been a very friendly, informal, out-to-dinner kind of

interview. This was really quite formal and quite in-depth, and I wish I could remember the fellow's name who was the appointments secretary who did the interview. But it was conducted in a very nice fashion; we had tea in china teacups, and it was -- in any case, I felt I had been thoroughly interviewed, and then, of course, I got a piece of paper to fill out and so forth, put various things down, and we talked about -that had been sent me before- we talked about that. I did not meet the governor at that time. I was ferried back to the airport, got on a plane and flew home. And then a couple days later, I did receive a call from the lieutenant-governor. The governor was out of town, I forget where Ronnie was, but the governor was out of town, and the lieutenant-governor -- oh, names --

COLLINGS

Now that's an easy one; I can look that up.

MEADE

Yeah, you can look at a certificate in my office -- it's still on the wall -- with his name on it. He called, and said they wished to offer me the position on the Air Resources Board, if I were willing to take it. I said yes, I'd given it consideration, and checked with my employer, and indeed I would be happy to do it. So I remember calling to Haagen-Smit and saying, "Guess what, you know, you got me on." (laughter) And he didn't want to take any credit for it. "Oh, I'm sure it was," -- my own competence and so on, but he worked to get me up. As I say, he's always a gentleman. So the -- still hadn't met the governor, but the governor's rule at that time, which I was somewhat aware of, was that his employees and appointees were not to wear pantsuits. This was the age of the pantsuit, it was just coming --

COLLINGS

Just coming in, yeah. That's right.

MEADE

And of course, I was wearing pantsuits like everyone else. Some days dresses, some days pantsuits, but certainly no avoidance of the pantsuits. And so the day I went up to attend my first board meeting and be sworn in, in terms of a new member, I wore a pantsuit; it was a lovely blue and white one. (laughter) And I thought -- you know, I thought the whole thing was so silly. And it extended even to secretaries in the capital who, were not wearing pantsuits because their boss was a Republican following the governor's lead. So I don't know if Ronald Reagan ever saw me in a picture of my pantsuit being sworn in. I think most of the pictures were from the chest up, it didn't matter. But it was later that I actually met the governor. My assemblyman at that time was Robert Beverly, who was a Republican, and who I had known as a constituent, in terms of interest in legislation. And certainly he was helpful as my representative up there when I began going up first for the League of Women Voters, and then

professionally for the Lung Association. I mean, I could always use the telephone in this office, always get a cup of coffee or whatever, because I was a constituent, and his secretary and others were glad to see me as a constituent. In any case, I was -- I don't remember what I was doing, but I was in Senator Beverly's office -- Senator, he became Senator Beverly -- I'm going down to see the governor, come on, you should meet him.

COLLINGS

Were you wearing a pantsuit?

MEADE

I can't remember. You know, isn't this awful? I switched back and forth; this is what many of us did, depending on the weather, the day, whatever. I can't remember. So he said, "Come on, we'll meet the governor." So down we went to the governor's office on the first floor, and went in these big doors, and then you go in the side door, you walk through a hallway, and then you go around the corner, and then you finally get to the governor's office. And so we came in; I don't remember what Beverly was seeing the Governor about, but he said, "Governor, I want you to meet one of your very wonderful appointments, and I understand she hasn't met you yet, and so I brought her down." He says, "Oh, yeah," he took both his hand -- he had come -- I think I mentioned -- he had just come from his weekly press conference, and he still had makeup on. And I knew he'd been at a press conference, because everyone knew he really liked to engage the press. He didn't always say a whole lot, but every once in awhile there would be something good, but he enjoyed the encounter. Anyway, he still had his makeup on, which kind of -- I don't wear very much makeup myself, (laughter), but I did notice his dark, dark hair. So we sat down, and Beverly and I sat down, and we had a nice chat. He really didn't ask me anything about air pollution control or whatever. I think he was talking in terms of other things that were happening; I guess his mind was probably still on the press conference he had, which had nothing to do with air pollution control. So he chatted a little bit with Bob Beverly, and with my occasional comment about whatever the issue was, which I cannot remember. And then Bob Beverly took us, "Well, thank you, Governor," and got up to leave. Again, shook hands; he stood up when I stood up and so forth. But I found him very charming, and I remember Bob Beverly, as we were walking back, I was saying what a charming man he was. He said, "Yeah, and he's really -- he's very good on issues, if I can get to him with my information and my position on the issue. But I have to work through three or four staff people; it's not as good." But he said, "If I can get to him myself, he listens to me, and we can usually agree." But he said he had several layers of staff -- but that was my encounter.

COLLINGS

I mean, this is a very small matter, but you said that there was this prohibition on pantsuits, but you continued to wear them anyway. Did nothing ever happen -- nobody ever said anything --? And were you the only one who did that?

MEADE

In terms of the women staff on the Air Resources Board at that time? Yes, they all wore skirts. There were women -- as more women became involved in the air pollution work, there were others in the audience who would wear a pantsuit. But it seems a silly thing --

COLLINGS

It does, but these things did happen, so --

MEADE

It's also the idea that I went to the office the first day of the Lung Association not daring to tell anyone I could type or answer a telephone. It's just -- that's the way it was. And of course, pretty soon pantsuits were all over, and women still choose a dress or a pantsuit, whatever, it doesn't matter. No one called me on it, though. I guess no one dared. (laughter) I think one of the things I did on the Air Resources Board, and in other jobs too, and certainly with the Lung Association, I tried to establish a good rapport with the media who attended these meetings. And the succeeding reporters at the Times, who were given the -- well, I guess first it was for the air pollution, and it was on the business section as vehicular regulation dealing only with automobiles, so a fellow, John Dreyfuss, who was their automotive reporter, was one of the first ones, I guess. Later it became an environmental beat, and the Times established an environmental reporter. They kept these reporters, usually, in the same slot for only like two or three years, which I found stressing, because by the time I'd get one trained --

COLLINGS

Trained, yeah. (laughter)

MEADE

-- he or she would be off to something else, and then I would have to meet and spend time with another reporter to try to bring one up to speed as I saw it. In any case, I had -- one guy I liked was Larry Stammer, O'Reilly, Rich [Richard] O'Reilly said maybe I should send a bill to the LA Times for orientation of environmental reporters.

COLLINGS

Right. Were there any reporters that you found particularly sympathetic to your point of view?

MEADE

Oh, they were very careful in terms of that. I would say, without exception, yes, they were all sympathetic to my point of view, but they could not reveal that, really, in terms of the writing; it had to be a balanced approach, and they were

certainly very, very careful to do that. There were a couple of reporters that I met that were willing to violate that to a certain extent. Bill Greenberg from the San Bernardino Sun, who was only there a short time, but he did write an article that appeared later in an anthology on air pollution in Los Angeles or in San Bernardino or [South Coast Basin]. I would say he showed a bit of bias; he wanted anything I could give him. There was another on the Long Beach Press-Telegram -- oh, what was his name? -- Well maybe before I lose it -- he had covered LA County air pollution control district things, and particularly the appointment of a citizens' committee, after he had written a very critical article in the Long Beach Press-Telegram on the state of air pollution control in Los Angeles County. The supervisors were somewhat stunned by his questions, and decided to appoint a committee to look into it, using, as the basis for the committees checking and looking, the questions he had raised in the newspaper article. And Ellen Stern Harris was appointed to that, but Ellen didn't know a whole great deal about air pollution control; she was much more involved in water quality. But I had been friends with Ellen for years on various sundry -- so she said -- on the first committee meeting, she brought me as her alternate. The first committee, she brought me as her alternate, and said every committee member should have an alternate in case they couldn't attend, and I would be her alternate. And alternates could attend meetings of the committee to keep up with what was going on. I actually -- I was going to be Ellen's unpaid research, if you will, or expert advice. But anyway, in terms of the [San Jose] Mercury, some very good reporters. Some very astute -- and they too covered the Air Resources Board. Sacramento Bee, which owned the Sacramento and Fresno Bee, the same articles appeared back and forth. There were local writers in Fresno who had local articles. But those are the major papers that come to mind. The Chronicle and the [San Francisco] Examiner were more problematic in San Francisco; they always seemed to be fighting each other, and they didn't have an appointed person who seemed to be covering air quality while covering environment. But certainly, I think the sympathy of the press was certainly -- I didn't set out to get their sympathy; I set out to get them informed, in terms of what the issues were. But then when I was on the Air Resources Board, I had them informed about where I stood on certain issues, and this got me quoted at various times, which was significant only in the fact that I was later fired, you see, by Governor Reagan.

COLLINGS

Well, before we get to that, was there ever a time you were on the board -- this was a report -- a board under a Republican administration -- where the environmental issues were sort of at loggerheads with the business, with sort of pro-business aspect of the Reagan --

MEADE

I wouldn't exactly call it pro-business or anti-business. I think the major sources of pollution that were being regulated by the Air Resources Board. We're not framing the issue in those terms. They began framing it more in those terms later on, but say the utilities -- they were under the gun to control oxides of nitrogen, which was a -- I shouldn't say favorite pollutant of Dr. Haagen-Smit, but he had done some research in his laboratory, and felt very strongly that we had to control oxides of nitrogen. Plus, prior to my coming to the board, the board hadn't experienced controlling reactive hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide with particular control systems, which unfortunately, in the '66-'70 cars, with that control system in place, that increased the oxides of nitrogen. So Haagen-Smit was feeling guilty, if you will, in terms of they'd adopted the control mechanism system that had increased another pollutant, and he was very strong in terms of feeling we should control oxides of nitrogen. But the other large, large contributor of oxides of nitrogen was utility plants, power plants. And power plants felt they were in the unique position, they were controlled by the public utilities commission, their increase in rates could only happen if the public utilities commission went through an exhaustive hearing and recommended that indeed, based on their costs, they could increase their rates. So they were sort of out of this business, in terms of cost involved. On the other hand, the automotive manufacturers were in there with both feet. Their big thing was the cost to the automotive manufacturers, and they always related it back to the vehicle purchaser. Anything that was going to cost more money would cost the vehicle purchaser more money. And they did it not on the basis of General Motors having to eat the cost, but rather, the vehicle purchaser would have to. That was somewhat modified by the EPA coming out in later years and saying, "You must internalize the cost of air pollution control." Now, this is a nice accountant's term, in terms of your auditing and your accounting of it in a company, there are certain things you're going to have. You're going to have a telephone bill, utilities, rent, whatever, and you internalize those costs. This is the cost of doing business. So the push was on from the EPA, and certainly picked up by the environmental organizations, to internalize the cost, instead of talking about \$2,000 more for your car when it's for sale; you internalize the cost. Well, it was a good phrase, it was bandied around a whole lot. But the automotive manufacturers continued to push in terms of that. Chambers of Commerce would somehow sometimes get in on the act with the oil companies, because the oil companies had many reps on local and state Chamber of Commerce boards, and the oil companies were forever pushing bad for business, which it's Chamber mantra; it's -- their whole thing on supporting or opposing legislation is based on, is it good for business or bad for business? And so we'd hear that song from the Chamber of Commerce and the oil industry very much so, in terms of they would indicate, as the

automotive manufacturers did, increasing the cost of gasoline. They would get it down to how many cents this particular regulation, would impose at the gas pump on the vehicle owner. When you talk pennies, it's hard to pay a lot of attention, but they would add it all together, and as I say, then multiply by three or four, and this would be the number they would give out. But the -- so many of the slogans that are bandied about in the last, oh, five to ten years, were not present originally. The LA Chamber of Commerce, they had an air pollution committee that was looking in terms of tourism in Los Angeles, in the Los Angeles region, and figuring we had to get rid of smog or the tourists weren't going to come. So for a long while, they were very supportive of regulation, because of the industry, the hotels, the other major businesses that would be a chamber member, that were so interested in tourism and so forth that they were modified in terms of saying bad for business, but rather cleaning it up would be good for business.

COLLINGS

OK. So Ronald Reagan fired you.

MEADE

Yes. This was after I was on it about a year, almost two years. It was around one of these damnable [add-on] devices for the cars, that very pro program that Haagen-Smit was embarrassed about, because the '66 to '70 cars, because of their controls, mandated by the Air Resources Board, they were producing more oxides of nitrogen. And Haagen-Smit began pushing the aftermarket automotive manufacturers to find a solution to this, that there must be something that could be put on the car that would reduce the oxides of nitrogen in that car population, '66 to '70. With that kind of encouragement from the chairman of the board, which they assumed was also the Reagan administration encouragement, and in many cases it was similar, they set about trying to invent something. So they did; they came up with a device to reduce oxides of nitrogen that would be applicable in terms of the existing population of the '66 to '70 cars. The ARB staff evaluated one device and then a second and eventually a third to see if it would work, and they came back with reports that it would work. This wasn't a panacea, but it would work, in terms of that small population of cars. But it would have to go on the car -- obviously, since there were -- now, these cars were in the hands of whoever was driving them, whoever had purchased them. It would have to go on as an after-device, and this had occurred -- an after-device had occurred once before, and disastrous way, with the Air Resources Board, the old 13-member board, which I had not been following the board that early. But I was told by the staff and by Haagen-Smit that the last time they tried to put an aftermarket device on, it had sort of blown up in their faces. So Haagen-Smit was very insistent that this time the staff report would be very carefully evaluated, and they would be able to justify

this oxides of nitrogen device as being technologically good, feasible, etc etc etc. And also the new price range that would not be exorbitant, that the vehicle owner of the segment of the cars would be able to afford to do it. And the enforcement mechanism on this was a parallel program of vehicle inspection that was going on, it was being talked about and trying to be planned, as to what kind of vehicle inspection would be possible. In any case, the -- perhaps not -- for me, unexpected -- maybe for Dr. Haagen-Smit not so unexpected -- overwhelming, as far as he thought he'd covered all the possible bases of complaint about this, lower cost, technical feasibility, etc. And need, the need to control oxides of nitrogen. And a very small segment of the population who owned the '66 to '70 vehicles. Anyway, it blew up, mostly because of outside influences, in some ways. The automotive aftermarket is a cut throat industry, absolutely cut throat. They don't like each other, they come from a background of trying to outdo each other with their one product, that their product is better than your product; they don't mind telling you your product is lousy, our product's best. And then they continue that, in terms of the mechanics, the automotive aftermarket, in terms of, "Our product is better, buy this one; don't put that other cheapy thing on." So some of that was happening, and it was obvious at Air Resources Board meetings, that these guys were arguing with each other in terms of whose was the best device to put on. So Haagen-Smit was very insistent that we should not authorize, or bless in some ways, only one device, that he'd wait 'til there was a second device, which was probably a fair idea, and we all agreed with that, because we need at least in the marketplace two devices, and hopefully the third in the pipeline coming along. So we did approve two devices, but the one who had thought he was first in line, and in fact expected that particular meeting to authorize his device and not the other, was very, very angry. He happened to be a blustering fellow who -- I became a good friend with him later but it was tough dealing with him in the beginning -- he always brought his attorney on to the meetings, and he was always threatening -- or began threatening, not always, but began threatening from that time on -- that someone our vote on the Air Resources Board approving another device at the same time we approved his device, had somehow been illegal. And I remember somewhere along the line, I was really getting upset with him, and I had suggested that he might spend more time with his sales department on the device than with the legal department on suing the Air Resources Board and others, because he was going to sue the other company, too. It was awful. Anyway, he was very upset with that; he complained to the governor's office that I had insulted him. It was -- fortunately, Dr. Haagen-Smit laughed about it and said, "Good for you," -- after the meeting; he didn't say it in public, but after the meeting, he said, "I've often wanted to say something about that lawyer who's always with that fellow and likes to file a lawsuit. The lawsuit

was filed against the Air Resources Board, and I think he was asking \$100,000 in damages or something, because he had been the first with his device, and he was entitled to have a monopoly on the market with this one device, and we had deprived him of having a monopoly. And I remember saying to the attorney, the attorney general's office, who has to represent if you're sued -- in the course of your duties as a member of a state board, the attorney general has to represent you and defend you in some way. And I remember meeting with the fellow who would be doing this from the AG's and laughing, saying -- and he said, "Well, why don't you take it as a compliment, that the guy would try to sue you for \$100,000 -- he must think you have lots of money."

(laughter) Anyway, then some of the radio station people and television people took this up in terms of that this device would lower gas mileage, and there had been a slight lowering of the gas mileage in the device that had come out in all of the technical reports that the staff had done. Then others picked up the thing that it some way damaged the engine, perhaps; putting this add-on device is a bad idea, General Motors and others, in their wonderful technical wisdom, had devised this perfect car between '66 and '70, and adding something to do that would be destroying the vehicle, destroying the internal combustion engine. Well, this just kind of built and built and built, and the device manufacturers were very busy lobbying the legislators. Oh, it was -- campaign contributions were flying; it was unbelievable. There was a namesake assemblyman, Ken Meade, in the assembly, very nice fellow, who had -- I had spent some time with him, although the first time I went to see him, I told his secretary to tell him to tell him that Cousin Meade was here to see him, and he looked out the door, "I've got relatives here?" And we kidded about it. But he ended up getting socked in the face by another assemblyman, and this was campaign contributions from these guys, because Ken Meade was going to hold the line, in terms of not introducing legislation to wipe out the requirement for the NOx device. The -- oh, who was the fellow? -- he was a former FBI agent -- tried to make it back into the legislature just a couple of years ago. Anyway, he was arguing -- he was on the committee, Ken Meade was chair of the vehicle emissions committee, whatever they had in Sacramento, and this guy socked him and knocked him down. The thing got that hot, in terms of who was in favor of retaining the regulation for the device and who was ready to wipe it out and say no more. Haagen-Smit and I were so -- we didn't think it would come to this.

COLLINGS

Yeah, come to blows. (laughter)

MEADE

Right. In fact, we did have to close, over that issue on that day -- this was gossip all over Sacramento. Was Ken hurt? The was of course no, he wasn't

hurt. It built and it built until environmental groups and those who were supportive of controlling air pollution wrote letters, held press conferences, tried to do various things to support the installation of the device, but their efforts were minuscule compared to the brouhaha that was going on in Sacramento and on the radio stations, some television but more radio; the radio station guys -- well, they still do it, in terms of getting the issue, they would follow through, and they'd get more listeners by yakking and yakking and yakking about this, and it was all a question of, write letters to Sacramento, tell them to get rid of this terrible thing. Well, in any case, the word came down from the governor's office that the board would have to vote to delay this -- or, preferably perhaps, just go to a change of ownership for this installation of the device, and this would be a calming sort of thing. I talked to Dr. Haagen-Smit, and I said, "I don't know if I can do that." All the staff reports says, every one of them, the advantage of this device is to install it on those '66 to '70 cars as quickly and as fast as you can, and there will be a noticeable decline in the oxides of nitrogen emission. If you do a change of ownership, this is going to be spread out over such a long period of time that it really will have no significant effect in cleaning the air. But all it will do is make the owners of '66 to '70 vehicles, buy this device and put it on. I said, there's something to have to buy a device that isn't going to make a measurable difference in air quality -- how can we do this? And Dr. Haagen-Smit said - He said, "Well, you know, the governor's people expect us to do this," and I said, "Well, you know, what are you going to do, Dr. Haagen-Smit?" He said, "Well, the governor already has my resignation. He had asked me way back when, in one of the early days of taking this job, that he wanted my letter of resignation, undated."

COLLINGS

Oh, really?

MEADE

And so he said, "He already has my letter of resignation." We had lost one member of the Air Resources Board for a technicality -- the Al Leamon was the agricultural/lumber guy. He was collecting his retirement benefits when it suddenly came to the notice of the personnel board or whatever that he was collecting retirement benefits, but he was also getting this stipend-type salary on the Air Resources Board. And he had had to step off the Air Resources Board, we hoped for a brief period, to straighten this out with the personnel board. He couldn't give up his retirement benefits; that's what he was living on. And he couldn't live on this little bit of money he was getting as compensation from the Air Resources Board. So we were down to four members. So it was Haagen-Smit and me, and then there was Bob Brattain. Bob [Brattain] agreed with me; he said -- he was a technical guy, and he said, "However politically, this is just not going to go." Harold Sullivan, the CHP guy, was the other one,

and he was outraged that the governor's office was sort of issuing order's to put on the agenda an item to rescind the installation schedule for the NOx device. But the governor's office used the DMV, in terms of notifying the owners of '66 to '70 cars; the DMV said they couldn't put an extra piece of paper in the annual renewal of registration. And I remember saying, "You can't put a third piece of paper?" They said no; their machine would only take two pieces of paper to put in the envelope, and they couldn't put -- they had to do a special mailing, this would be a big cost. Every stop was pulled. Brattain, Haagen-Smit, and Sullivan resigned; the Governor's appointment office had called me, I had gotten a message from the Governor's office, saying that I was being (inaudible), because they're going to reconstitute the board, and the other members of the board had resigned, when they were told that the board was going to be reconstituted. Meanwhile, this reporter in Long Beach we remained friends with who was really neat; he was sent up to Sacramento and was having more fun with the Sacramento scene, he made me promise I would tell him first if I got fired. I said, "I'm not going to resign, I'm not going to be ladylike about this." And so back to work in the pantsuit; I said, "They're going to have to fire me." So I asked the appointment secretary, I said, no, I felt that I was fulfilling my obligations as a public member of the board, while I realize the governor was the appointing authority, but that my responsibility as a public member that I felt I could not vote to wipe out what would be a successful program in terms of reducing air pollution for a program that would only be a cost to the consumer, the vehicle owner, that would do no good. So I got the letter from the governor's office, it's framed in my office, saying that they were reconstituting the board. Well, I became an instant folk hero in Sacramento, because all of this had gone on before, you see, with this NOx device and the two legislators, one hitting the other, and all the radio stuff, and all the stuff in the newspaper. Oh, Lordy, I became a folk hero for a short period of time. And I was interviewed, what is it, your 15 minutes of fame or some such. I had less than that, really; the interviews were usually very short. But it did get a lot of notice, and it got a lot of attention in terms of administration directing their appointees for a particular vote, which had gone on, I think, for some while; this was something that was nothing new, nothing -- that goes on today probably. But I had brought it to the forge, the technical report supporting the ARB staff reports who were technically qualified -- all of this came out. It was a lot of fun. I got a couple of editorials; the Sacramento Bee and the Fresno Bee had editorials; the [San Jose] Merc[ury]. I didn't get one from the LA Times, but I got a dandy article, I think, from Larry Pryor. But anyway, it was fun. That may be a good point to stop.

COLLINGS

Oh, OK. All right, yeah.

MEADE

We haven't hit other issues, which -- [END OF Gladys Meade Session 3]

1.4. Session 3b (July 19, 2006.)

COLLINGS

Yeah, go ahead.

MEADE

It was an exciting time, in that here I was bucking a Governor. I was not behaving in a very ladylike way, which Haagen-Smit would have expected me, since he was behaving in a gentlemanly way, that I would, you know, ladylike, resign too. Bob Brattain was fun in that he said that I was doing absolutely the right thing, that technically I was on solid ground, and he was standing right behind me and would support me. Well, he was resigning too. When I passed Bob Brattain's name onto any of the press that were calling me, Bob could not be found. So he was standing right behind me but somewhere in the distance.

COLLINGS

Somewhere in the distance. (laughter)

MEADE

Although he had reinforced me idea that technically, I was on good solid ground, and that what was being planned was just not right. Harold Sullivan, who didn't say he was standing right behind me, but he said, you know -- I think he said, "You've got a lot of courage, haven't you?" (laughter) But he did, you know -- everyone was off the board. They reconstituted the board with a bunch of -- I think the chair was -- assemblyman who'd been voted out of office, a guy named Conrad. And Harold Sullivan and I decided to attend the next meeting of the board, where they were going to discuss this issue and do away with the requirement. And Harold Sullivan, as you might imagine, CHP fellow, they're usually very big and strong-looking; as an escort, he was unbelievable, I was dwarfed by him. We sat together in the hearing room, and I said, you know -- I wanted to say something; it's on the agenda, so as a past member of the board, I'm going to say something. So I did; I got up, and I think I said things like -- awful clichés, throwing the baby out with the bathwater, some such. And the new members, none of whom knew me, listened politely --

COLLINGS

But they already had their marching orders.

MEADE

Oh, yeah. We knew what the vote was going to be; I did it only in terms of -- I was in the audience, I was a member of the public; I'll be damned, I could get up and say something. I must say, at this time, the automotive aftermarket manufacturers, the guy who had developed the first one, as had the other guy

who developed the second one and the third one -- they had a lot of their people, too; they were going to talk about why they want to keep it. They gave me a round of applause after I spoke. So I had friends in the audience, and Harold Sullivan didn't escort me out. Hopeless by that time. Anyway --

COLLINGS

Yeah. OK, all right. [END OF Meade Session 3b, 7-19-2006]

1.5. Session 4 (July 26, 2007)

COLLINGS

-- turn on here. Whoops, let me also say the date. The date is July 25; Jane Collings interviewing Doro- -- Gladys Meade (laughter) in Redondo Beach.

MEADE

Dorothy Green is surrounding us. (laughter)

COLLINGS

(laughter) OK, all right.

MEADE

OK, the article in Air and Waste Management Journal this month is "California's Achievement in Mobile Source Control", and I've got a copy here for you, so that -- it had some good charts, in terms of actions (cough) Sorry about that. --

COLLINGS

That's OK.

MEADE

Besides these two very old pictures of Los Angeles with a line of smog -- and that used to be really how it looked; you could see it as a line. I remember taking the bus from west Los Angeles in towards downtown Los Angeles along Wilshire, and you'd reach a point on Wilshire where you could look ahead at downtown Los Angeles, and you actually could see this kind of line of the smog hanging over. Now, of course, it's more dispersed in terms of its layer is higher up -- you've still got it, but it's not so visible as this one was, in terms of downtown Los Angeles. It has long ago moved out to Riverside, San Bernardino, and Orange County.

COLLINGS

And it was at that time that Dr. [Arie] Haagen-Smit was doing his first experiments at Caltech to say that this was being caused by automobile emissions?

MEADE

Yes. It was ozone, and it was because he was working at Caltech on something entirely different. The pineapple industry was canning pineapple, and very much wanted to be able to keep the fresh odor of pineapple in the container

with the canned pineapple, and they were looking for something that they could add to the pineapple juice that would somehow retain the freshness and particularly the odor of fresh pineapple on the basis of a marketing thing, open this can of fresh pineapple and it smells just like it. So Haagen-Smit was working on that, and he was using ozone as a possible addition to the can to retain the freshness of the pineapple. And of course, in those days, Caltech, the chemistry lab opened all of its windows, because it didn't have air conditioning over there. And one afternoon, whatever, morning that he was working, the smog was coming in. Because Pasadena was truly very, very heavily polluted with ozone. And Arie said, you know, that smells to me like ozone, and so then he said he'd see if that was possible. It was the hydrocarbons and the oxides and nitrogen mixing together in the presence of sunlight that caused the production of ozone. And the poor man, he was vilified; no one wanted to believe him, mostly because the automotive manufacturers felt that he was maligning their wonderful product, and this could not be right. It took about seven or eight, nine years before the automotive companies and others had duplicated Hagie's [Dr. Haagen-Smit] experiments, in terms of making smog, that you could do it. He had large canister-type thing, irradiated, put the oxides and nitrogen hydrocarbons in it, irradiate with the sun --

COLLINGS

Voilà!

MEADE

He was vindicated totally, in terms of his original research, which made him very happy. He was a charming European gentleman, but he also, of course, had pride.

COLLINGS

Of course, yeah.

MEADE

in the fact that he was a good chemist and that his research was carefully deducted, and that he had been right. So he eventually smiled at all of this and was magnanimous in victory. The -- looking at this article, though, and the chart they have in here, I was going back to the Air Resources Board [ARB], remembering that I was on it in 1971, and the -- just before I went on the board, that newly re-constituted five-member board -- in 1966, they'd had the first light duty vehicle, hydrocarbon and CO exhaust standards. And the way the ARB had to operate in those days was that they had to adopt annually, the emissions standards for new cars four or five years hence, because it took the automotive manufacturers that long, in terms of retooling and getting ready for the assembly line. So they were adopting emission standards, and then the automotive manufacturers had to meet them. Some of the other things -- this is in 1970 -- the first light-duty vehicle fuel evaporative standards, and that was

important, because it was determined that between the gas tank being filled and the gasoline flowing into the engine, and then even when the engine was off, the gas tank and the hot engine were inducing evaporative emissions, they'd be -- gasoline, it's volatile, and it does emit when it's warm, when the air is warm - - but each time the ARB acted at this time, they actually thought a little bit ahead and went to the legislature to get very specific direction from the legislature, they could do this, because we didn't have a California Clean Air Act and the Federal Clean Air Act at that time was more a process, sort of thing; it didn't seem to zero in on the authority that was needed to control fuel and engines. So the ARB was being very careful, on the advice of legal counsel and the attorney general's office that when you had something new coming up for adoption, preparing ahead by going to the legislature with a specific bill, that it give the authority to the Air Resources Board. And so that was one of the things they had to do. The other was to read vapor pressure test in '71. That was to cut down on the volatility, so that you'd have -- gasoline produced would not be as volatile as it previously had been. The first light-duty vehicle standards in '72, this was really going to be the catalytic converter. The catalytic converter was not mandated by the Air Resources Board; they didn't feel they had the authority, the legal authority, to mandate a particular technology. So their way of getting around it was to adopt more stringent vehicle emissions standards, presumably aiming at the 1975 vehicles, new vehicles. It was rather a roundabout way to have to go about it 'cause the catalytic converter at the time seemed to be the only answer that was being pushed around, and actually, the catalytic converter had been mentioned much earlier by some independent automotive types. I remember being asked in 1969 and 1970 to go out and view a catalytic converter in a garage in Monrovia, two vehicle engineers had put this thing together that was basically using platinum and having the exhaust before it went out the tailpipe, run through the catalytic converter, over a honeycomb type of thing, and the platinum would take out some of the hydrocarbons -- the unburned hydrocarbons -- before it hit the exhaust in the air. So it was a known technology, sort of, but the car manufacturers were very much opposed to it. Eventually, Ford and General Motors acquiesced, more or less. Chrysler held out until the very, very end; they did not want it. It was going to be quite a change, and an expensive one, but the Air Resources Board had to adopt the admission standards that would in fact mandate the catalytic converter. And I was on the board and it was rather a split vote. The Haagen-Smit and Harold Sullivan and I agreed this is the only way to go, and again, the staff reports were very good, in terms of it's the only technical solution that was found out there. Bob Brattain was not so sure; he felt that the -- and he was quite right -- the gasoline composition would have to change, because if you allowed continuation of the lead in the oil in the gasoline, it would

pollute the catalytic converter and totally destroy it. We were still fiddling with whether the feds were going to adopt Get the Lead Out, or California was going to adopt it, or who would go first. And the second reason I think Bob Brattain was not enthusiastic about it was the effect on the operation of the vehicle; there were all kinds of predictions that a catalytic converter on a car would not have the performance capability that a car without the converter had. And I think Bob Brattain sort of bought into that somewhat, and he was quite right, in actual fact. When the '75 cars did come out with the catalytic converter, it was not an easy ride. These were the first ones to come and there was a learning curve. But in any case, the vote on the board was kind of split. Al Leamon was off, because he was accepting his pension from the Agriculture Department, and he couldn't serve on the Air Resources Board, even getting such minor compensation as \$100 a month; he was not supposed to be able to do that. But in any case, Haagen-Smit, Harold Sullivan, and I were voting for these emission standards, and Brattain was abstaining or not voting. It was got to be kind of interesting; Brattain actually wanted to force the federal government to do this, to adopt the emission standards and get rid of lead and gasoline. He felt it was really more their job than it was California's job. So in some ways, he was agreeing it should be done; he just didn't want us to take the heat, at the Air Resources Board, when the cars came out and perhaps they didn't perform as well as people liked. Or the oil companies were saying that they couldn't take the lead out, and they knew if they took the lead out, they'd have to put in types of aromatics, and he was an oil engineer geologist -- no, not geologist -- he was a chemist too in terms of the composition of fuel and worked for an oil company in their laboratory. And he felt the addition of aromatics might in some ways be worse for the production of smog than the take the lead out and put the catalytic converter in. In some ways, it was true, they did replace the lead with aromatics, but not to the extent that it could have, and the oil companies were being very fearful and very careful that they weren't accused of poisoning the American people, and put in aromatics. And this was all based on performance of the gasoline, the burning of the gasoline. But the vote on the board became rather contentious, because there were others in the state government who also felt that the feds were not doing their job, and they should have been doing more of this than we were. The feds, on the other hand, seemed to recognize that -- by the feds, I mean those working on air pollution control, that somebody was going to take the heat for lowered performance on the cars, and that California could be sort of a test laboratory for catalytic converters, that all bugs could be worked out with the catalytic converter performance, and then the feds could -- if it worked, then the feds would be willing to go forward towards their movement of nationwide catalytic converters. So this was sort of going on back and forth, and Haagen-Smit -- he

really wanted a consensus and push for this, and he was working with the feds trying to get them to be supportive of us, which they were, because they saw us as the experimenters so it would get them off the hook. Anyway, several meetings were held, and in the midst of this, I broke my leg.

COLLINGS

Oh, my gosh.

MEADE

Not because -- not my leg, my ankle. One of these domestic accidents. I was carrying out trash to the outside barrel, and there was a light rain, and I had old, old sneakers on that were smooth, and I slipped on the step going out the door. I was going to miss an Air Resources Board meeting where this critical vote was coming down again, again and again it was coming, because Haagen-Smit again was dragging it out a bit. I remember Bob Brattain called me, and I said I couldn't get to the board meeting; I was in the hospital with this ankle, and they were doing all kinds of other things to me -- it was quite painful, I couldn't walk for -- even with crutches, I couldn't walk very well. It was shortly after it happened. So he said, "Well, I know how strongly you feel about the catalytic converter; I will give my vote to you so the thing will go forward." I said, "Bob, that's a wonderful idea. I do thank you very much." He said, "Well, I know if you were there to vote, you'd still be voting with Arie and Harold Sullivan. So I will explain at the meeting so I am actually voting as you would vote if you were there." He was a character. Anyway, he did, and the thing continued. At the next meeting, we were finalizing it and so forth, and it did go forward. But we were going to be leading the way in California, and yes, there was going to be some criticism when the cars actually came out. But on the other hand, they were going to be, as far as we could tell, effective in reducing smog. And if they were, then the following year or two years, whatever the feds decided, they would follow suit, and nationwide, as would have catalytic converters, which is exactly what happened.

COLLINGS

-- what has happened, yes.

MEADE

But the NO_x [nitrides of oxygen] control device --

COLLINGS

Well, I was just going to ask you. Why was the catalytic converter able to pull forward when the NO_x control device disbanded?

MEADE

One was original equipment. The automotive manufacturers were going to have to put the catalytic converter on the new cars in '75. And so the vehicle purchaser, owner, would only know that car with the converter on it, and if he had complaints about performance, well, he'd just say, "maybe I got a lemon."

He might not connect the catalytic converter specifically to the performance of the car. So it was sort of only the knowledgeable about emissions and control that had these big discussions about the catalytic converter; the ordinary consumer was not particularly involved.

COLLINGS

Right. Whereas if they were going out to their local service station to have the NOx device put on...

MEADE

Right. And so the aftermarket approach of NOx device was the big difference in that people had their car, knew its performance capabilities and what have you, and were told by these warring manufacturers of this device, "My device is better and this is lousy; put his on and your car isn't going to work very well, you're going to use more gas," all sorts of things. If the manufacturers had a united front, and been able to maintain that, it would have been much better, I think. But the consumer became confused, in terms of, "Well, what is all this? Why do I have to now pay more money, take my car in, and have this thing put on it?" It was (inaudible) situation.

COLLINGS

And the radio stations got involved.

MEADE

Oh, the radio stations, disc jockeys. A number of politicians then were feeling the heat, and campaign contributions were being distributed very nicely, in terms of who was supporting what and so forth. It really was tough. The automotive manufacturers, they were not thrilled with the idea of a retrofit either, and they felt their cars in the years produced had met all emission standards, and why this retrofit program now -- and they also were saying, you know, these '66 to '70 cars you're talking about, they will not be on the road that long. They won't be out, so why are you asking the consumer to pay this additional money, for a car that is older and probably will not be around that long. Others, of course, said, "Oh, these cars will be around 10 to 15 years, at least."

COLLINGS

Well, probably a good portion of them.

MEADE

Yeah, and this would be helpful. And actually, the technical report of the ARB was based on these cars having a longer lifetime, and that this would be very beneficial. But that was the principal difference. Once before, there had been an add-on device back in the '60s, I don't know if this chart has it. No, the predecessor of the Air Resources Board was the Motor Vehicle Pollution Control Board, and they had had an add-on device on existing cars that had also blown up, and the -- Haagen-Smit remembered it, I didn't, but others did --

saying that this is -- we'll have to have a really good public information program to go forward with this otherwise there will be objections. And so we were planning a public information program. And one of the things that, during the ARB, was to get them to vote to have an annual report, and -- the old Motor Vehicle Pollution Control Board, it had some reports, but not a specific aim at the public type of report. And I thought the Air Resources Board with its new configuration would do well to have a public information type annual report. And so the woman who was working on that was very good; she had come from other agency in the government, but agreed that yes, a public information report aimed at the general public would be a really good idea. So she was working on that, and willing to take on the task of getting information out on the -- that's one of our helicopters going by -- The Torrance airport has a helicopter facility adjacent, and they train, or at least check out, new purchases of helicopters. We were planning a really good public information campaign.

COLLINGS

How would they disseminate that information?

MEADE

Well, the annual report was going to go to all of the legislators in terms of starting, might as well start at the top, in terms of the public information, and the working down, in terms of all state agencies, and then also having public workshops where people could sign up, having some advertising that if you wanted a report of the Air Resources Board, call, you know. And then anything, we put them in libraries and have that, anyplace they could think of where it might be read and people would be interested in what the board was doing. But the final argument, in terms of -- well, next to final action of the NOx device was that after the board was reconstituted and duly voted to, the change of ownership program only, the device manufacturers for the first time got together and decided in their general self-interest that maybe they should work together on something. What they decided to work together on was suing the state and the Air Resources Board for violating the provisions of the state law that had set up the program for the NOx device, because like the other issues, as I mentioned, we had to go to the legislature each time to get a particular statute that would seem to authorize the Air Resources Board to do something. This has happened with the NOx device. So there was a state statute that clearly had stated that the time limits of getting this device on was a key element, that if you did not quickly get it on, there would be very little air quality benefit. So the device manufacturers, for the first time, were going to work together, and combine their financial resources to challenge the action of the board. And since I had been the most visible one on the board who had objected and waited to be fired, as I said, became a folk hero for awhile in terms of being fired, where Dr. Haagen-Smit returned to his hideout at Caltech,

and Bob Brattain, I don't know where he disappeared to. Harold Sullivan was available but had not made a point of being out front. So the device manufacturers, at least their representative called and said they were going to sue.

COLLINGS

Oh, because that was one of my questions for today, why you were sued, rather than and the others, or --

MEADE

Yeah, but I was the plaintiff, in terms of they asked if I would join them as a plaintiff in the lawsuit, and then I said, "Well, I'll have to consider it," and I did; I thought I would prefer to have my own attorney, because they were hiring some very well-known law firms in Los Angeles; they had the money to do it, plus they knew that if this program continued, I'm changing ownership. Their return on their investment on these pieces of equipment would be much, much less than if they were forced on all the '66 to '70 vehicles. Anyway, I knew Mary Nichols, we did work together on other things; she was at the center of (inaudible) on the public interest. And so I called her, and I said, "How would you like an opportunity to work with these big firms downtown on this NOx device thing? The manufacturers are going to sue." I said, you know, "Check the statutes; see if you read it the same way I do, that we have a case." So she called me back a little later, said yes, she had read the statute, she agreed that yeah, there was a case there, and that she would represent me at no cost, (inaudible), and she would meet with the other attorneys, and they would go over it. So indeed, they did, and the case proceeded. It was heard first, I believe, in San Diego, and we lost; the court, in their wisdom, said no, they didn't read the statute in that fashion. The attorneys said, "Well, we disagree, and we'll take it to the next level." Well, eventually, it reached the Supreme Court, and it was interesting; we had some very, very good briefs, and Mary certainly held up her own with the big boys from the law firms downtown, and we won; the Supreme Court (inaudible). That was a cause for celebration, of course. The manufacturers felt they had been vindicated; I felt at least I'd been vindicated by reading the state, and knowing this is what had started the whole business. In any case, the legislature became aware that all of the sudden, the Supreme Court overturned this denial, in terms of the --

COLLINGS

The denial of the reconstituted board.

MEADE

Yes. That they had gone for the change in ownership, and they had done that, I think, hoping to avoid a lawsuit, because these manufacturers and warehouses filled with these devices. Plus, you know, (inaudible) Dr. Haagen-Smit had encouraged some of these manufacturers to produce these devices, maybe

because he felt, you know, the [pollution] emission standards and controls had increased.

COLLINGS

So initially, it didn't go forward because the manufacturers were competing with each other over which device, and created the entire controversy --

MEADE

Well, not created entirely; they certainly contributed greatly to it, and it was distressing. And I really felt they were damaging themselves --

COLLINGS

And then they turned around and banded together and sued, because they found that they had lost this market in the end. (laughter)

MEADE

It was -- anyway, I was working with these manufacturers, the (inaudible) fellows that I felt were -- anyway.

COLLINGS

So I just wanted to ask you: why did you alone insist on being fired from the board, rather --

MEADE

It was a point of pride with me.

COLLINGS

But do you have any idea why the others didn't --

MEADE

(inaudible) gentlemanly thing to do. And then after all, the appointing authority was the governor, and if he chose to unappoint one, then one should take (inaudible).

COLLINGS

And do you feel that your further career was affected by the fact that you were fired rather than resigning?

MEADE

(inaudible) a little easier in dealing with -- when I was back working with the [American] Lung Association, a lot of my time was spent in Sacramento promoting new statutes, new laws, and the story quickly spread, in terms of -- as I said, I was a folk hero for all of 15 minutes or something, with the firing and so forth, but it was a story well-known, should I say, to a lot of the staff and the legislature, many of whom were Democrats, and while we didn't have the partisanship that was so awful today, of -- you know, if you're a Republican, you're nothing, and if you're looking at a Democrat, then vice-versa. And still, out here, I was a Republican, you see, and that was well-known too, and the governor was Republican. But I had felt like I was appointed to the Air Resources Board by the governor, but my title was "public member."

COLLINGS

Ah, this is a crucial distinction.

MEADE

Yeah, and that the others had other disciplines in which they were -- Al Leamon was the agricultural person; Bob [Robert] Brattain was a chemist, technical-type person; Harold Sullivan was law enforcement, CHP background, and Haagen-Smit, of course, was also chemist. And so I was the sole public member, and I felt I had a responsibility to the public, even, in terms of saying, "This is how I see it, and I'm not just going to step aside quietly and go back into the woods. What's happening with this board and air pollution control in California should be a much larger issue with more people involved, and perhaps my waiting to be fired and the publicity (inaudible) out a bit. And I must say, I worked on some of the publicity, because the media was at all times, throughout my time working on air pollution, very much my friend, although they were certainly very fair, astute reporters; they were not listening only to me. They knew that I would tell them the issues; I would give them my opinion on it; I would even suggest other people to call. But they were not just taking my side as such. It was balanced reporting, but at least I did have the ear of some of these reporters; I could get it out. So that's really the reason that I -- plus I felt this whole thing was so damnably unfair, that Haagen-Smit had promoted this device, asked the automotive manufacturers to get busy and work on it; they had done so, even though they were fighting among themselves in terms of the quality of their various devices. Still and all, government had [imperished] these guys, in the form of -- the Air Resources Board and Dr. Haagen-Smit to get busy and do it; the statute was quite clear, in my mind, anyway. I checked out the report, it was very good for the staff, and I felt it was just wrong, totally wrong. Since I felt it was played wrong, and I dug heels in, in terms of quietly retiring. But after the court indeed agreed with Mary Nichols and the other attorneys that the statute was clear, and the legislature heard about it, and so those who had opposed the program anyway were very quick to submit new legislation, urgency legislation, that would change the statute, which they proceeded to do. So even though we won the Supreme Court, we lost to the legislature. I still remained -- there was a couple of the big device manufacturers, one in particular, stayed in contact with me over the years -- I don't know where he is now, we sort of lost contact -- but it always made for a good laugh, in terms of, "Well, we tried. (inaudible), we tried."

COLLINGS

Right. I don't know what else you could have done. OK, so you -- the next thing we were going to talk about was how you had gone on to work on the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

MEADE

Yeah. I had worked very, very hard afterwards off the Air Resources Board -- there wasn't too much I could do while I was on the board, there was a constraint in terms of getting to the legislature; I couldn't really represent my association in legislative hearings when I was on the Air Resources Board. I understood that, and that was OK; somebody else could do it. But once I was off the Air Resources Board, I returned to this appointed formation of the South Coast District at the legislative level. That was all back to the League of Women Voters and their consensus that this change in status of the control system would make a big, big difference. We had the advantage of the Air Resources Board and the federal EPA, by that time, I guess saying air basins were very important, that planning and control should (inaudible) basin, which in California, in the Bay Area district, was the only one that was a multi-county regional district, but it certainly is important, in terms of South Coast air basin, where the smog was very much the worst in the entire state, if not the entire country, to have clear authority for controls on a basin-wide basis. And bit by bit, we gained some support for this. When I was working for the League of Women Voters, and I had gone to see -- and I [wrote] the fellow's name, [Sirrell] -- no, [Senator Thomas B.] Carrell, Carrell, sorry -- (inaudible) -- he was a legislator from the Valley, and had actually been an automotive dealer; I think still had some interest in an automotive dealership. But he had introduced legislation [Mulford-Carrell Air Resources Act] on the basis of sort of keeping the issue alive from the late '60s, with the encouragement of the fellow who was the air pollution control officer in Los Angeles County at that time, a fellow named [Lou] Fuller. But Carrell's legislation didn't go anywhere. When I got back to working, we decided that it really needed a really big push. I was on the Planning and Conservation Board; I was on the board of the Coalition of Clean Air; the Lung Association, of course; the League of Women Voters. And it seemed that we had to build and build and build a case for this. Fortunately, we were helped in building that case by the LA County Air Pollution Control District suddenly becoming less than the great smog fighter agency. The citizen's group Stamp Out Smog had been very, very upset with the County Board of Supervisors for not adopting a regulation proposed by Fuller as APCD for the control of oxides of nitrogen from (inaudible) utilities and the oil refineries. And Fuller had apparently admitted to Marge Levy and Afton Slade, who were very active in Stamp Out Smog, that he was bring the issue to the Board of Supervisors, and they were the ones that were returning it back to them. And so Stamp Out Smog again making noise in terms of the ineffectiveness of Los Angeles APCD. We got other things going, in terms of a grand jury report that was -- LA County grand jury report -- that was critical on the APCD. We were helped by crazy things, like the chairman of the variance hearing board in Los Angeles County was asked to -- a reporter called and

asked to interview him, concerning the issue of some variances. And the chairman said no, he never gave interviews; he'd given one once and the reporter had gotten it all wrong, so no, he would not give an interview. Now, this is a rather ridiculous way of saying, "I won't allow myself to be interviewed by you, because one of your clients told lies about me, or didn't properly quote me years ago." So one thing after another, the -- it's all detailed in this book, in terms of how many committees and hearings -- one of the helpful people was the -- Gil Bailey, from the Long Beach Press-Telegram, who had a series of questions (inaudible) to the LA County (inaudible) about air pollution control, which sparked some interest, in terms of the Board of Supervisors, because the way they divided up their responsibilities at that time, they had one supervisor who was in charge of air pollution control and overseeing that agency, other than (inaudible), it was Animal Control, or -- it was Warren Dorn who was the supervisor at that time. And so he had to reply in some fashion to Gil Bailey's request. And in true bureaucratic fashion, what do you do? You establish a committee, and they can hold hearings. So he appointed a number of different people, some of whom were very well qualified, others who were not so. But Judge [Herbert] Walker, who was made the chair of the committee, I think was well qualified. He was number one an attorney, a judge, and he had been involved in -- before he was a judge, I think he'd been involved in some air pollution control controversies cases. And so he was very well qualified; he was also a nice man. But Ellen Stern Harris was appointed, and she had become very knowledgeable and a community activist in the water quality, and she didn't know that much about air quality. So she called me and asked if I would be her alt, and then she insisted that alternates attend all meetings. And when the first report -- well, they held hearings that were disastrous, in terms of LA County Air Pollution Control District, (inaudible) damn fools that they weren't doing anything that they were supposed to be doing. And they defended themselves --

COLLINGS

And who would attend the hearings?

MEADE

Oh, let me see. We have everything (inaudible) -- everybody we could turn out. Let's see, [outside pressures] --

COLLINGS

And this is an example of something that wouldn't have gone forward without the citizen groups pushing it forward.

MEADE

Yes. And someone -- I was in the fortunate position of being able to feed a lot of information to the citizen's groups on health effects of air pollution. I also tried to get them talking to each other. The Planning and Conservation League

was up in Sacramento doing lobbying, that was their reason for being put together. Stamp Out Smog was working strictly in Los Angeles, mostly with some very wealthy west LA women who certainly recognized the importance of media attention, and they tended to put on events or pull press conferences to gather media attention. The Coalition for Clean Air was more plodding, if you will, but (inaudible) located in the Los Angeles area; they were meeting in the Lung Association conference room, because they needed a place to be, and so I was able to offer them the conference room. Well, it turned out to be a little difficult or inconvenient to me. And so many of the members of the board of the Coalition of Clean Air worked during the week, and so their meetings had to be held on Saturday. And the rule with the Lung Association, which was very good, that if you had a group meeting in the Association building, then a staff person had to be there with a key to open up the door, turn off the alarm, make the coffee or whatever. So I did that for years, one Saturday every month. But it was worth it; they all came together.

COLLINGS

So those were the three major groups?

MEADE

Yeah. The [younger?] club was supportive but not out front on the issue. They decided the Planning and Conservation League could be the one out front. But, let's see, we had the accounting division, accounting committee, looking at what (inaudible), published reports -- oh, I should finish the report. The first report that came out was prepared by the staff of (inaudible) the report of the hearings and any findings we could make, in terms of the hearings. And both Ellen [Stern Harris] and I thought it was the most namby-pamby, mealy-mouthed things I ever laid eyes on. And so Ellen, who enjoyed making waves, if you will, said at the committee meeting that this was totally unacceptable, that she was going to do (inaudible) board. This was our majority report; she would do a minority report, and present it to the group at a later time. And everyone was sort of what, what, what? Because many -- not just [Judge] Walker, he got a kick out of it, I think, in a way, although he certainly found her difficult to get on with; he told her she was a [scold], and contorted his words, all kinds of things.

COLLINGS

Well, probably in her line of work, (inaudible).

MEADE

Anyway, the others (inaudible); they were -- let's just put it this way, they were sort of non-entities that were willing to serve if asked by a member of the board of supervisors on almost anything. Anyway, Ellen and I left that meeting, and Ellen was still steaming about that namby-pamby report, and I said, "Well, now (inaudible), we've got to get busy because we have maybe a month to do it

before the next meeting of the committee." So she said, "Well, how fast do you type?" I said, "Not very. I can type, but I don't type fast." She said, "Let's get Gil Bailey; he's one of the fastest typists I know. Plus he asked the original questions, and we probably should use his original questions, (inaudible) on this report. So she called Gil Bailey in Long Beach, and he came up to her office in her home, (inaudible), she set him up with a typewriter. The one requirement that he had that she didn't like was that he smoked; he couldn't write unless he was smoking. And he had the usual (inaudible), two fingers in each hand --

COLLINGS

But at lightning speed.

MEADE

At lightning speed. Anyway, she fed him coffee, in the afternoon iced tea, and in two days, we got our report. We did a little polishing of it afterwards, but basically, it was what he had put down. And Ellen was very encouraging, you know, allowing him to smoke in her office, supplying the coffee. And she had some good ideas, in terms of formatting this and so forth. We ended up with a minority report, which we then happily carried back to the original committee, and we were discussing the minority report. And there were many ideas and thoughts in the minority report. Somehow or other, that majority report just got lost.

COLLINGS

And what was the substance of the minority approach?

MEADE

That things were very, very bad, in terms of we needed a regional approach, we needed greater public information from the air pollution control district; we needed changes in terms of annual renewal permits. Some of the very things that were in the first drafts, the second drafts, and the third drafts of the state legislation to form the South Coast District; we somehow integrated them. We had a lot of stuff on health effects, in which the State Department of Health Services -- they sent someone down to testify. We had a doctor from the Lung Association, and a number of ordinary citizens also turned out. Anyway, that report came out, and along with the ecology report of the grand jury, it all came together. And it all came together. Now, we'll get to the page that lists it all, but I can't find it. You'll find it anyway. Oh, here it is. Quality environmental quality committee recommendations. There we are.

COLLINGS

And had anything been learned from the experience where counties were participating in an air basin situation earlier, but it was voluntary, and the one that the League had put together originally?

MEADE

Well, those -- we tried to put something together in terms of the League, and supporting federal authority (inaudible), federal recommendation that was for a basin coordinating council, and these were composed of supervisors from each of the counties involved, mostly meeting in Los Angeles, because it was determined that the only way you'd get the Los Angeles County Supervisor to attend the meeting was to have it in the LA County building. If they had to drive to Ventura or to Riverside or to San Bernardino, they wouldn't go; they didn't leave Orange County. And so we had some great fun at those meetings, in terms of -- lots of talk. The reason (inaudible) council was to form a basin-wide plan, which was to take the individual plans from the counties, somehow push them together, and make a basin-wide plan. Well, Ventura wanted to lead the way, in terms of -- and it was producing regulations that were quite stringent, as compared to the others. Riverside and San Bernardino wanted to push -- because they kept saying, as was now accepted almost, that the county boundaries --

COLLINGS

They were getting all the smog from LA.

MEADE

They were getting all the smog. And the Orange County rep was sort of in between, but the LA County suits were totally against it, and they didn't try to hijack the whole planning process, but they certainly were able to slow it down. There was some heroes that came out of that. Norton Younglove from Riverside County was particularly good at trying to get this thing pulled together. And at times, they would have, you know -- they'd want to have a closed meeting, I guess, to sort of really hash things out, and one of the other attendees at these meetings in the county building was a representative from Chevron Oil. And so we used to sit together and chat, because sometimes what was going on up at the front was really not of interest at all; it was just sparring with each other. But anyway, the two of us were there, and there were very few of us (inaudible), and sometimes you'd have a representative from one of the supervisors' offices come down to see what was happening, or somebody from LA city would come over to see. But (inaudible). They had to ask us to leave. So the Chevron guy and I'd get up together, and he said, "Now, you must, in the minutes, report that a representative from the American Lung Association and from the Chevron Oil Company have left together, arm-in-arm." In which case, he grabbed my arm, and we marched out. Things were so boring; you had to have a little fun once in awhile. And we did; we marched out down to the cafeteria in the basement and had a cup of coffee. But it was -- anyway. Cafeteria in the basement; that was City Hall. You had to go up to the cafeteria on the patio. Anyway, the interest now in the formation of the South Coast District was growing and growing. All these reports showing the

nonperformance of the LA County district; the dissatisfaction of Riverside and San Bernardino with the inaction, as they saw it, of LA County, particularly when LA County had most of the vehicles and certainly most of the industry that was polluting the inland empire. So we had -- let's see, after I was fired, Arthur [Reddy] was the speaker of the Assembly, and there was some interest in terms of what to do with me. Some of the people didn't realize that I was working for the (inaudible), and so my loss of the Air Resources Board job was not a financial disaster or something. I had met with (inaudible) who was very concerned about me, was like, was I all right? I said, "Oh, absolutely. I'm fine." But it was nice to have some concern. A representative from Bob Moretti's office met with me (inaudible) Sacramento hotel lobby, and he almost wanted to hide behind a palm tree, I think, so nobody would see him talking to me at that point, because Bob Moretti was very interested in (inaudible) legislation that had formed the South Coast District. And I said, "Hey, splendid." Getting an author to speak with the Assembly was a big deal. Usually, they only carried (inaudible) or was likely to do them some marvelous good somewhere or other, with campaign contributions or who knows what. So Moretti became our (inaudible) legislation through, believe it or not. And again, I had the citizen organizations helping as much as they could, but it got to the governor's desk (inaudible) and Pete Schabarum was passionately opposed to it, and he was a Republican who had been appointed the first time to the Board of Supervisors because of a vacancy by the governor, and he had somewhat of a relationship with the governor, and he wrote and asked for a veto, which Reagan gave them. The funding of the district would greatly depend on Los Angeles County's contribution, but Los Angeles County would not have the weighted vote of our (inaudible); they would be able to veto something that they didn't want. So we said, "OK, regroup." And someone suggested, "Well, Craig Biddle," a very big supporter of clean air legislation, which he had. A very nice man, very popular, if you will, in terms of -- he was from Riverside, and I knew him. And we said, "OK, let's act right now and see if Craig Biddle will help carry the legislation next year." Plus, he's a Republican, and maybe if we got him, they'll find it more difficult not to sign a Republican-sponsored bill, because Craig Biddle certainly knew the governor. So we went through another year of this. Meanwhile, we were changing the legislation a bit to try to overcome some of the opposition. We early on had decided the bill would have annual renewal permits. And we also emission fees, so this annual renewal permits, which each time you renew your permit, you pay something, and emission fees, based on the quantity of emissions, particularly of hydrocarbons (inaudible), but an emission fee would also help fund the district, so that the counties would not be having to come up with property tax money to fund the district. And a few other things were in there too. So (inaudible) Craig Biddle, we got it through

again, and went to the governor's desk, and again Pete [Peter F.] Schabarum said no, no, no. Plus there was other pressure too, from -- some of the industries really didn't want a stronger South Coast Air Basin District, and emission fees scared them out of their wits. Even though we were indicating we were not going to charge thousands of dollars per pound or something that like, that it would be a fair emission fee, you know. The annual renewal permits; they also saw that as an onerous task, if every year they had to come up with another permit application. We said, no, we'd streamline the permit application. Annual renewal would not be the same type of documentation that you had to do for your original permit. But anyway, we were not successful; we lost again. But then we had a gubernatorial election coming up, and Mr. [Houston] Flournoy and [Emund Gerald] "Jerry " Brown both indicated to us that if that legislation came before them, they would sign it. So rejoicing in the (inaudible) because this meant we got two candidates for governor; no matter which one --

COLLINGS

No matter which one, yeah.

MEADE

Yeah, it wouldn't matter; we'd get our bill through. Then came a thing of, well, OK, who's going to carry the bill? And there was a lot of interest in terms of -- Walter Ingalls, who was a legislator for Riverside, and who had been quite active with other legislation (inaudible), but there was also Jerry Lewis, who was from San Bernardino, Redlands, who had been the chair of the subcommittee of Walter Ingalls on his air pollution, transportation, what have you. Jerry Lewis was a very, very nice fellow, very easy to work with, and Walter said that he was carrying other air pollution legislation that was critical, too, and that he felt that Jerry Lewis would have more time to devote to (inaudible) this bill. From a single standpoint, if that was going to be his only air pollution legislation; Walter had about five or six (inaudible). And so a number of us went with Jerry Lewis, and it was decided, indeed, he would go forward with it. So then the Planning and Conservation League really took the leading way in having our -- I was still on the board; we were having our annual conference. And there were two people who had worked very hard on the original bill for all these years with me. An attorney from a downtown law firm -- [Ralph B.] Perry [III] -- what's his first name? -- and Ward Elliott, a professor from Claremont. Ward Elliott's big thing was the emission fee concept. He had been pushing very, very hard, any way he could think of, to establish a marketing approach to air pollution control, emission fees being one of them -- other types of fees also, but emission fees particularly, and he was really very, very helpful in trying to refine that portion of the bill on the emission fees that would perhaps pass mustard even with the industry; he was trying to (inaudible) some of their complaints with the prior bills. (inaudible)

COLLINGS

OK.

MEADE

This is so very, very important. Ralph. Ralph B. Perry III. I came back all of the sudden. Ralph Perry as an attorney was also very, very good at working out in statute language, the legal language, because we didn't have real assistance -- many times in Sacramento, if you're going to propose a bill, and you find an author, a willing author, he will then assign the legislative counsel's office to help you write the bill, or many of the industries, of course, are not concerned; they have a whole fleet of lawyers to write their bill and bring it in. But in any case, with Ralph Perry, Ward Elliott, and then the new executive director of the Planning and Conservation League was a very knowledgeable fellow named Bill Press. Plus we had a staff person from the air pollution committee who was assigned to Jerry Lewis' subcommittee called John White, and he too was very, very good; he worked as a student intern at UC Riverside where he got his degree, but he'd also been back to Washington as a student intern also and worked, and came to the legislature, very knowledgeable in terms of air pollution control. So he was the fourth person involved in actually writing the bill. So we came up with what we thought was a pretty damn good bill, and Jerry Lewis said, you know, "Forward, troops!" And so we did, and we still had (inaudible). One of the problems that turned up that hadn't really surfaced much before was the employees' union for the air pollution control district in LA County. They were afraid that this gathering together of the four, five, six counties; Ventura and Santa Barbara were reluctant, Ventura because they wanted more stringent regulations, Santa Barbara because in the air basin, only half of their county was included. Eventually they dropped out, and those of us who were supporting the (inaudible) four and not have this problem. But in any case, the -- Bill Press came from a background (inaudible), and he decided we should take this on full front and center, go see the union guys, talk to them, saying, "How can we help you?"

COLLINGS

What was the union issue?

MEADE

They felt that their retirement, their salary level, their benefits, would be diminished, that the lowest common denominator of the four counties, in terms of employee benefits, would be chosen over the one that was paying the most, not only in cash salary, but also in benefits, and that they wouldn't be able to fight that, that supervisors would, in their wisdom, decide to go the cheapest way possible. So Bill Press worked with them, and we put in safeguards, actual paragraphs, about (inaudible), to say this lowest common denominator would not be chosen, that the LA County local would --

COLLINGS

Which union was getting the highest at that time?

MEADE

It would have been -- service employees [Internation Union SCIU]? I don't know the name of it. They certainly weren't organized in terms of their own specific union; (inaudible) had to be one of the larger unions in LA County, county government. But we gave them the assurance that their benefits would not be diminished; their salary level would not be reduced.

COLLINGS

SCIU, perhaps?

MEADE

Could be the SCIU. And Bill Press handled that, and handled it very well. Plus, for the Planning and Conservation League, he was stationed in Sacramento and could work very closely with John White and Jerry Lewis. I was up there a lot, but I was not there all the time. Ward Elliott and Ralph Perry were attending PCL meetings with me, but they were not directly involved, except they were fast at work on the original work, and then various iterations, too, because they continued their interest and help. So finally, yes, we got it through. Jerry Lewis was (inaudible) -- we lost by two votes on the floor, and Jerry Lewis asked for a reconsideration, and we were in, that's it. One of the things in the bill had been the provision for a public member, because I still remember the concept of public member from the Air Resources Board, except this time, (inaudible) five-year term for the public member.

COLLINGS

Oh, there you go.

MEADE

I thought I never wanted again to be fired by somebody, so over the five-year term, which was to exceed by one year the governor's term. So we had fun about that; it was a kick, in terms of -- perhaps not really appropriate for the bill, but everyone agreed I should get my sentence in. So then the question became, OK, who's going to be appointed to the board? The LA County and the San Bernardino and Riverside and Orange had tried to head off the success of this legislation by forming what they call the Southern California Air Pollution Control District, and so they had made some strides in saying -- each board of supervisors chose one of their reps to serve on the board, and they were meeting, in terms of trying to organize the district. And their hope, of course, was that they'd get so very good at this and get a lot of attention for it that this would derail the legislation in Sacramento. But they stumbled along, so it didn't derail it either. Some of their pronouncements, actually, we found helpful.

COLLINGS

Like what?

MEADE

Oh, the -- the chairman appointed by the other members of the board who were there was Al [Alfred A.] McCandless, who was from Riverside. A very straight fellow, (inaudible). And he certainly didn't like the idea that in this -- as he saw, the chance to reorganize the four counties, he didn't agree with the legislation that the union in Los Angeles had insisted on, and which we had agreed to. He was going for the lowest common denominator, in terms of knowing what those in Riverside (inaudible), air pollution control work. He saw no reason that if they had to get rid of the LA County folk, they would, because they had talent down at Riverside and San Bernardino and Orange County. Which was not exactly true; the talent that was in LA County was very good. The lower echelon, the APCD, was very disappointed, worked so hard against the legislation, and his predecessor and a couple of his staff people had worked so hard to stop our legislation, and of course, weren't successful, only because of Pete Schabarum, not their lobbying. But anyway, (inaudible) were made, and we could make hay out of that and say, "Hey, this is the better effect of the legislation. This poor group over here is stumbling over each other." So the legislation passed under a reconsideration, we got the votes, and the Southern California Air Pollution Control District sort of stumbled along some more, and then it was of course absorbed by the new legislation and the statute (inaudible). The governor was delayed in appointing the public member, unfortunately, and so even after the new legislation went into effect in January, the public member was not appointed until February/

COLLINGS

And this was by Jerry Brown?

MEADE

By Jerry Brown. He was incredibly slow in appointing people, throughout his administration. Sometimes (inaudible) make an appointment that turned out to be totally inappropriate, and he'd make up his mind fast about something. He appointed Yvonne Brathwaite Burke; (inaudible) board of supervisors of LA County for a district that had very few blacks, that he, for some reason, he thought she was a good person, she'd served on the board of supervisors, and didn't stop to think she'd have to run for reelection sometime. He could appoint her the first time into an empty seat. He did the same thing with a fellow in Orange County board of supervisors; he leaped to an appointment there, a fellow who was a flaming, flaming liberal type, and when he had to run for reelection, he didn't make it. But it was too bad, because there were perhaps too many people who could have served well elsewhere. But in any case, many of his appointments were very slow, agonizingly slow. Mine was slow, but only because (inaudible) board continued meeting, because they're -- although they were going to have to put a Los Angeles City Council person up too, and his

appointment was a bit late, (inaudible). My appointment, by this time -- because everyone who'd been working with the bill said, you know, "This public member seat is yours." I said, (inaudible). But Jerry Lewis was one of my great supporters too. Governor Brown had working for him a fellow, Tom Quinn, who had been his campaign manager running for governor, and who was very interested in taking over some air pollution control duties, in terms of the state government. He eventually did become an employee of the Air Resources Board. But in any case, he was most desirous, though, that the public member, or any member (inaudible) who works in commissions at the governor's office, had control, should be a Democrat. He was a campaign guy, he was Jerry Brown's campaign director; he felt strongly that there are good Democrats out there that should be appointed, and here I was a Republican. Jerry Lewis went to bat for me, and -- it was Tom Quinn -- and pulled together a consensus in terms of, I should be the public member. So I found that -- I was called by the appointment secretary, I think I told you that, up to Sacramento, had a very, very lengthy interview, and there we are. Tom Quinn, (inaudible) -- that was interview with Reagan, I'm sorry.

COLLINGS

Right, right. Yeah.

MEADE

I'm sorry, I'm confused it. Tom Quinn came to see me shortly after the election, and in fact, he came down here with some other campaign people, two or three. And I guess I was rather impressive, (inaudible), couldn't be, because I was a Republican, and he was very partisan. But in any case --

COLLINGS

So how did he end up appointing you then? What was overcome?

MEADE

Jerry Lewis never went into detail.

COLLINGS

Just wondered what was promised, what was given. (laughter)

MEADE

Lots of things, in terms of the (inaudible). I will -- it really was Jerry Lewis that went to bat for me. John White was continuing to work for Jerry Lewis, and he also went to bat for me too with other staff (inaudible) Jerry Brown's office. And I think there were a number of friends in the legislature that I had made over the years, both staff and legislators, who would be my supporters, and they would be pushing for it. But some of the organization, you see, was already in place, (inaudible) to the board, in terms of the chairmanship, vice-chair, that sort of thing.

COLLINGS

And they were all Democrats.

MEADE

Well, in the south coast district, though, it didn't really matter. The board of supervisors supported one of their own; the city selection committee, in terms of -- we had a particular seat for LA city. (inaudible), he'd been another supporter on this thing, on the city council, and he wanted a special seat for Los Angeles city, (inaudible). (inaudible) on the board at that point was difficult, because there was so much work to do, and trying to gather the four counties together, and just their levels of expertise and what have you in the four counties. And granted, Los Angeles county did really have the expertise in the staff; they also (inaudible) retired folk who had worked for a long time with very little recognition. So trying to pull all of this together somehow was (inaudible). I worked very well with [Al] McCandless on these organizational issues, and trying to pull a program, a coherent program that would meet the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act. And McCandless was good to work with; he -- even though he didn't want to go full-speed ahead on air pollution control, perhaps, he was a strong supporter of the fact that there was a federal Clean Air Act, and it did have certain benchmarks we'd have to meet, and certain (inaudible) processes we had to go through, and was a great promoter of saying, "We will comply with the federal law," where many from the industry where saying, "This law is impossible; we can't comply with it. It costs too much money; the health effects information isn't really concrete enough to move heaven and earth to take care of. It just isn't (inaudible)." But we prevailed; I think -- McCandless and I continued to get on very well; we disagreed sometimes on the issues of stringency of the control regulation, but basically, I enjoyed working with him, and he was very fair; he conducted the meetings very fairly, and I think worked very hard at the job, when he really perhaps didn't have to. He, believe it or not, had been a new-car dealer in Riverside; we go back to old Mr. Carrell and his car dealership in San Fernando. But the -- I think it was a Buick agency -- he lost his dealership, he wasn't selling enough cars, apparently. But meanwhile, he'd been in the area a long time; I think he'd got other investments and so forth. He eventually ran for Congress and made it. And (inaudible); I thought he'd be very good in Congress. He was extremely conservative, and when he got to Congress, he became more so. He was conservative throughout his campaign, which is (inaudible), and he also became extremely conservative in Washington. When I would make some trips to Washington with the Lung Association, I'd always stop by and see him. There were problems that the district had that were almost -- it seems when I look back on it now, I don't know how we had the courage to go forward with some of the things we did in this organization. But that's described very, very well in here, so maybe we wait, and you'll get a chance to look this over.

COLLINGS

Yes, absolutely.

MEADE

And then when I come back from the hospital and so forth, (inaudible) --

COLLINGS

We can talk about that, yeah.

MEADE

It probably will be a little while, because this --END OF Gladys Meade Session
4 7-26-06

1.6. Session 5a (January 26, 2007)

COLLINGS

So let me just -- this is Jane Collings interviewing Gladys Meade in her home in Redondo Beach. I just showed Gladys an article, a new study about freeway air and developing lungs in children, and Gladys, you were prompted to say something, so I quickly turned everything on. (laughter) Go ahead.

MEADE

It was a continuing research study that's been going on at the Keck School of Medicine at USC. It's an interesting one that they've been following the same group of children, with apparently giving pulmonary function tests, over several years. And the results are very discouraging, in terms of the effects on these nine and ten-year-olds, that they do seem to have diminished lung function because of living close to freeways --

COLLINGS

Within 500 yards, according to the article.

MEADE

Yeah. But it's supportive of other research that's been done. There was a collaborative study between USC and UCLA, and each new research study and the results build upon other studies in the past to show that indeed there is lung function diminishes because of air pollution. I think, you know, the more exciting research results came out awhile back, in terms of asthma: the contribution of ozone exposure to asthma as -- actually as a trigger for asthma. And they have found so many children who have asthma these days that that was a very significant finding. But --

COLLINGS

Let me pull this cable; you shouldn't put your hands on it. OK. So we ended up last time, you were just being appointed to the South Coast Air Quality Management District Board by Jerry Brown as the public member. You were sworn in on February 4th, 1977. In some ways, this board was in competition with the Southern California Air Pollution Control District.

MEADE

Yes, and that the Southern California Air Pollution Control District dissolved itself after Governor Brown signed the legislation establishing the South Coast Air Quality Management District. And I think that's detailed in the study that I did with Jo Anne Aplet of the history of air pollution control.

COLLINGS

Beyond County Boundaries.

MEADE

"Beyond County Boundaries [to Clean Air]", yes.

COLLINGS

Yes. And in that study, you say although formation of the Southern California APCD did not derail AB 250 as intended by some of the signers of the agreement, it had the beneficial effect of beginning the process of consolidating four counties into a regional district. So how did it have that beneficial effect?

MEADE

They were talking to each other, where there had been disagreement among the counties, and the support or non-support or absolute opposition to AB 250. But at least they got them talking to each other.

COLLINGS

And AB 250 was the bill that established the South Coast --

MEADE

Yes, the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

COLLINGS

So that's what at least got them into dialogue with each other and got some of the players talking with each other.

MEADE

Yes. And of course, during the course of the passage of AB 250, there had been communication with some of the unions involved in the county -- separate county districts, because there was great concern, particularly on the part of the Los Angeles employees, LA County, that they not have any diminished benefits because of the formation of the new district. And that has sort of been worked out as part of negotiation on AB 250.

COLLINGS

Yeah, I can certainly understand how they'd feel that way. OK, and you write also that the board members were politically conservative, and that you were the relative liberal of the crowd, that Marvin Braude, Eric Haley, followed by Lionel Hudson and Ed Edelman, could not gather a majority vote, but you could block votes, and this led to compromises that would not otherwise have been possible. Can you point to some instances where this action was crucial? This cooperative action between the three of you?

MEADE

Well, it was easy working with Marvin Braude, even though he was very protective of the Department of Water and Power, since it is an independent agency with its own board of directors within the governmental set-up of LA city. And the Department of Water and Power in LA was going to come under the purview of the South Coast District, in terms of emission control, which Marvin, to give him his due, certainly did want to reduce emissions from the facilities. On the other hand, the Department of Water and Power had always -- and still is, to some extent -- a sacred cow in the city of LA, because it makes so much money and can contribute some of its revenue to the city budget, the city of LA budget. But in terms of specific instances, gosh, I'd have to go over the minutes of the meetings, which by the way was one of the first motions that I made, is that we would have minutes from our meetings. The Air Resources Board had minutes of its meetings available to the public, and the South Coast District, some of the people there saw no need for minutes, and I pushed very hard in terms of the public's right to be able to review what had occurred at a previous meeting, perhaps prepare for the coming meeting or the next meeting. So we did get that through.

COLLINGS

And as the public member, you were sort of putting this through on behalf of those that you represented.

MEADE

Yes, yes. Although it's always hard to say, who did I represent, in terms of the public as a large block of people? But the interesting thing was that some of the board members looked upon me as a Jerry Brown appointee, which politically, many of them had opposed, in other venues, Jerry Brown's appointees, were still opposing them in many ways. And yet in actual fact, I was a registered Republican all the time I served on the board. And Jerry Brown as governor, or people on his staff, did not in any way try to influence me, in terms of votes --

COLLINGS

(vacuum cleaner?) (inaudible) Let me turn it on. Go ahead.

MEADE

-- was dealing with the Air Resources Board [ARB] --

COLLINGS

This is the largest problem?

MEADE

Some of the -- one of the largest problems. The Los Angeles County District, and other districts, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and so forth, had for some while engaged in a lot of infighting with the state agency or even moving up a bit to the federal agency, EPA. And this was considered sort of, well, if I make that agency look bad, we'll somehow look better. I stopped that to a large

degree, in that I pushed very hard for cooperation, rather than this aggressive "who's king of the smog mountain?" type of thing.

COLLINGS

Now, did the fact that you had previously served on the ARB help in any way?

MEADE

Yes, I think it did, in a way, in that I knew the staff working for the Air Resources Board, as well as some of the current members of the board who were Brown appointees, but who I did know. But perhaps the staff connection was the strongest in recognizing that Air Resources Board reports were not all based on, "Let's go get the county district to show how bad they're doing," although that did happen at times. But in general, I felt cooperation would get us a lot further along the road to clean air.

COLLINGS

(vacuum cleaner?) Oops, hold on. OK, I think --

MEADE

Before I retired, I had worked on --

COLLINGS

Let's go -- let's turn it back. Did you want to take an aside and talk about the gas blowers? You started to say a little bit about the gas blowers.

MEADE

Oh, well, before I retired from the Lung Association in '94, I had been an American Lung Association representative to a negotiated rule-making effort by the Environmental Protection Agency that dealt with these small engines, whether they were on blowers or tree-cutting, big saws, anything that used an engine as a source of fuel, gasoline, although some of them could run on kerosene. And the negotiated rule-making experience was a good one for me and for the other people who also were involved in it, but we came to no conclusion; there was no consensus. It was all of the representatives of the engine manufacturers for these small engines, as well as the marine engines on boats. It was a continual round after round of trying to negotiate with too little information that was acceptable to all. The manufacturers did do some research in terms of what the amount of emissions were and so forth. But EPA unfortunately did not have enough independent research to sort of support those of us on the negotiated rule-making committee to have that independent information to be able to counter the manufacturer's information, which sometimes I'm sure was very accurate, or accurate; other times, I did suspect it was not as accurate as I would like to have it.

COLLINGS

Yeah. It almost sounds like a repeat of the NOx device kind of thing.

MEADE

Well, EPA was trying very hard to see how they could get a regulation through that would not be challenged in court, or would not be subject to a lot of political maneuvering with Congress to stop the EPA from being so aggressive. And so the idea of negotiated rulemaking was put forward, which would get all of the players, both the clean air advocates and the environmentalists, as well as the manufacturers of the equipment and the users of the equipment together for meetings, and we would negotiate the wording of the rule and the regulation, therefore avoiding confrontation later. It was a fine concept, at least in my experience with this particular small engine group. It did not result in a regulatory rule that was acceptable to everybody.

COLLINGS

Yeah, (inaudible). OK, so you're on the board, and there's a lot of tension between the ARB and the South Coast board. And the Levine hearings were largely convened to deal with this kind of conflict. Would you say a little bit more about that?

MEADE

Yeah, I think the adversarial approach that for some staff, both at the state and local regional district level, had become their way of doing things. I tried very hard to stop that, and I think was -- I was successful, because there were others on the South Coast board who also saw that this was useless, that we would establish our own good record of regulation and enforcement, and that we didn't have to point fingers at other agencies in order to make our own actions look better.

COLLINGS

So that was the basis of the conflict then.

MEADE

It was, to a certain extent. And other times, there were conflicts because the Air Resources Board would be adopting a particular regulation on a stationary source that would be named a best available control technology, and it would be adopted on the basis of not that it would apply to the individual districts, but rather that they would adopt the same technology enforcing type regulation on their own. So we're sort of a model regulation, which the local or regional districts were then expected to adopt at least as stringent, or if they wanted, more stringent, but at least as stringent as the model regulation. This caused problems back and forth, but again, it was always my feeling that it could be worked out, and usually, it was.

COLLINGS

Take it (inaudible). (laughter)

MEADE

I'll fool with my glasses instead.

COLLINGS

So they were adopting regulations that were perhaps not applicable to the specific regional situation.

MEADE

Mm-hmm. The model rule adoption process was one fraught with difficulty, but again, it could be worked out, although there were still episodes where the South Coast District would want to adopt a particular rule of its own, which they found to be somewhat in conflict with the model rule adopted by the ARB. But, you know, the ARB had the responsibility to see that the state air quality attainment plan would be that attainment plan, and so they really had the legal responsibility to push forward with as much new technology and cleanup measures as they could do.

COLLINGS

Whereas the regional people were more in touch with the constituency on the ground --

MEADE

Yes, right.

COLLINGS

-- and political pressures.

MEADE

The constituency of some of the polluting industries that were very good at lobbying, obviously, and did a great deal of lobbying when a proposed rule was coming up for adoption. I think some of the internal things of forming the regional district -- the labor negotiations dealing with the unions; there was also the need to upgrade the facilities from the old LA County APCD, and to see that the staff of the regional district had access to the best information available. I pushed by suggesting we have a good library, that the library was totally inadequate, in terms of access to information from other sources, and that computers were just beginning, in terms of having the internet to be able to supply, oh, vast sums of information, that formerly you would have to read from a textbook or write to the researcher or write to the institution to send a hard copy of whatever it was. And so it seemed that the library should be computer savvy, and it did work out, and I did have a lot of help in that from the staff, who really wanted to be able to have access to all this information. And in a comfortable setting that was not some former broom closet that someone had found room for a bookcase, so working on the library was, for me, very fulfilling, in that it seemed my long-ago reason for pushing for a regional district, and that this was one of the benefits I hadn't really thought much about, but it certainly was a benefit that would accrue to the district staff and to others, to the public who wanted to be able to come in and do some research too. And once they were able to access, a lot of the -- the Los Angeles

Times and other newspapers, that was again a benefit for the staff, being able to read information from newspapers on a computer.

COLLINGS

Right. Now did you bring in materials from the other -- what had previously been the other regional districts?

MEADE

They really did not have much in the way of useful material. A library consultant was hired to assess and inventory what was available to see what could be used, and if I remember his report correctly, it was not very much; it was ancient reports and outdated textbooks and that sort of thing. But the district board supported -- I pushed for a well-equipped library that was computer -- up-to-date computer/internet access.

COLLINGS

Now you faced -- that wasn't the only obstacle that the board faced, in terms of office equipment, in terms of word processing. Why was it so ill-equipped overall?

MEADE

It was ill-equipped because even that APCD, the forerunner of AB 250 -- many of the counties realized that they were going to have a regional district, and they figured, "Well, let the regional district's budget take care of any new acquisitions or purchased of equipment. Why should our county get hit for it when this new regional district is coming? And they can take care of the expenditure, and we'll keep our money."

COLLINGS

Because I was particularly struck by reading about how difficult it was when you were putting together the report in conjunction with SCAG; you were trying to merge their report and your report. What were some of the hurdles that you faced? It sounded like people were going in and working all night and converting things --

MEADE

It was a tribute really that the report emerged in the form that it did that was good to the staff and SCAG, and to the staff at the South Coast District. And I think the woman who worked hardest on that was Jo Anne Aplet, who was the planning director at the South Coast District, but responsible for putting the report together, along with her colleagues at SCAG. And, yes, it was certainly something that was amazing, in retrospect, to say that such a good report, and a readable report, was the final product.

COLLINGS

Right, and it also sort of speaks to the dedication of the individual staff members involved. What was some of the things that you had to go through to put that report together?

MEADE

Well, they could tell you the details of it. But there was a bit of rivalry, true, between the district staff sometimes, but staff worked it out better than the board members did, in terms of why was SCAG involved at all, and yet SCAG was responsible for the transportation portion of it. But there was rivalry, because based on local consideration, most of the counties and cities in Southern California were members of SCAG, Southern California Association of Government, but there was varying degrees of acceptance of the need for SCAG, and the fact that the local jurisdiction did have to pay sort of a membership fee to be a member of SCAG and serve on their boards or committees. And so it was always a question of saying, "What local government is fighting SCAG at this point?" And of course, it wasn't just SCAG, in terms of the geographic region; there was also something called ABAG, and -- no, I'm sorry, that's the Bay Area's governments -- what is the one in San Bernardino? -- SANBAG, there it is. SANBAG. Terrible name, acronym.

COLLINGS

But memorable, at least.

MEADE

But the -- Jo Anne Aplet and Arnie Sherwood -- Arnie for SCAG and Joanne for the District -- fortunately were able to work well together and understood each other, and it was their dedication, really, that allowed that report to come out, and of course, it became part of the state air quality attainment plan.

COLLINGS

Right, the goals for 1979.

MEADE

Yes, yes.

COLLINGS

But you felt that you were facing a situation where the attainment of the 1979 goals, this air quality management plan which was put together, were impossible; it was impossible to actually implement these.

MEADE

Yeah. It was very difficult. I had worked hard as part of the administrative stuff, my roles on the district board -- I kept pushing in terms of a committee approach to dealing with items that would come before the South Coast District Board, that perhaps having two, three, or four members -- three, usually; try for the odd number -- committee approach various issues and come up with a recommendation to the board, would perhaps make our work a little bit easier, rather than starting new with no real recommendation from a committee. It's an organizational, obvious kind of thing. And fortunately, Al McCandless, as the chairman of the board, very much agreed with me in terms of let's try to get

organized here in terms of a committee structure that can examine the issue and then bring a recommendation on that issue to the board prior to the board's deliberations.

COLLINGS

Yeah. So with regard to Al McCandless, he was the chair, the initial chair?

MEADE

Yes, and I enjoyed working with him. He was a supervisor in Riverside County.

COLLINGS

Yeah, but then -- I'm sorry, then he was replaced by Tom [Thomas]--

MEADE

Heinsheimer. Yes, he was representing the -- I think the city of Rolling Hills in Los Angeles County -- Rolling Hills being the smallest and perhaps least polluted city, too, on the [Palos Verdes] peninsula. And Tom Heinsheimer had his own personal agenda; he was going to run for Congress later, and he apparently thought that running as a council member from Rolling Hills was not as impressive as being a member of the South Coast Air Quality Management District Board.

COLLINGS

You didn't support him in his run for -- you did not support him in his run.

MEADE

It was very difficult.

COLLINGS

Sorbonne. Did he speak French?

MEADE

Yes, he did, I believe.

COLLINGS

Well, that's good. (laughter)

MEADE

I believe he did, anyway. I never tested that one out or knew that he did.

MEADE

But he seemed to feel that fighting with me would somehow make him look more important or more interesting to the press, which was quite true; you have a fight going on, the press is going to report it. And so he labeled me as the Jerry Brown appointee who was more interested in doing the bidding of the Air Resources Board than I was in supporting the South Coast District as a unique entity of its own, which was totally untrue. But he did get some coverage in the press about fighting the Jerry Brown appointee. I was grateful then, and still am, to those reporters who saw what was happening and chose to do some good reporting on it. As of many years of my career in air pollution control or air quality attainment, I'm grateful to members of the press who were able to dig

out facts; were able to see beyond the easy and really do a very good job of informing the public as to the issues involved and the cost involved or whatever.

COLLINGS

Well, you called him and erratic and destabilizing force.

MEADE

Yes, he was. Because he would want to get his name in the paper as chairman of the Air Resources Board, get some publicity for himself, for his efforts at ballooning from the desert to the -- and he had the assistance of a public relations staff person at the South Coast District, Jim Barakos, who saw that he could be sort of an advisor and PR to Tom Heinsheimer, and see that his name and his titles, chairman of the board and so forth, got into the papers as frequently as possible.

COLLINGS

Because of his upcoming run for Congress?

MEADE

Part of it was that.

COLLINGS

So, I mean, what was it like to be the only non-politician on this board? And as you've said, as you pointed out, it's a board that you had, even from your earliest days here in Southern California, worked so hard to form?

MEADE

Well, Heinsheimer promoted the concept that the other board members, excluding me, all had elective positions; somehow they had been subject to voting in some jurisdiction, their city or their county, while I alone had been appointed by that terrible man, Governor Jerry Brown, and was a Brownie. One of the things that some of the committees did not want was to have committee meetings open to the public. I had publicly announced at a board meeting that the air quality plan committee meetings would always be open to the public, and that there would be no bar to the press, members of the media, or to the general public, that any committee I was chairing would be open to anyone who wished to attend.

COLLINGS

Right. And you were also asking for more public members, weren't you?

MEADE

Well, that's how it worked out, you see. The media, doing their good job of reporting, there's this sort of controversy in the South Coast with the chair, the current chairman of the South Coast board, seeming to --

COLLINGS

Additional public members, (inaudible).

MEADE

Yeah. So I had talked about perhaps the possible solution to this would be additional public members so that I would not be the single public member. And I had talked to the members of the media as well as some representatives of state legislators, and then of course when Assemblyman Levine decided to hold a hearing on the issue, I had testified as the public member on the board, which was -- his hearing obviously was open, and suggested additional public members would be a good idea and would provide a broader perspective. And he and members of his committee that were holding this hearing on the issue -- I remember he asked me if having the Senate Rules Committee appoint a public member, and the assembly speaker appoint a public member, and then the governor continue to appoint a single member, if that would satisfy my concerns about additional public members, and I indicated that it would; I did not have any objections to other entities besides the governor appointing members, the idea was to get more public members -- from my perspective, get more public members on the board. And eventually, he introduced -- or his committee introduced legislation just to do that exact thing, yes. And so we ended up having additional public members to be appointed, although my term on the board was coming to a conclusion, but still and all I was very happy that the future of the district board would have additional public members to assure a broader perspective.

COLLINGS

Yeah. And at the same Levine hearings, the representative of Clean Air Now, Judy --

MEADE

Oritung, yes.

COLLINGS

She pointed out that very few of the board members lived in the most polluted areas of the basin.

MEADE

Yes. Of course, I could be hit with that charge, too, in terms of Torrance, Redondo Beach, was considered a cleaner area than, say, Riverside, San Bernardino areas. But she did hit hard, in terms of the Rolling Hills council member who lived in absolutely one of the cleanest areas, and she was suggesting, too, that representation from those areas most affected by air pollution would be a good idea.

COLLINGS

But nothing happened on that front.

MEADE

No. I think the City Selection Committee process for appointment did, in the future, after Judy's urging, think in terms of the membership of the board having representatives from the more polluted areas of the basin, and that was

taken into consideration. Of course, there was the subsequent legislation that divided Los Angeles County, so that a larger role was given to the City of Los Angeles, as again being one of the more -- if not polluted areas, certainly the contributor to a lot of the pollution to the entire basin, and the City Selection Committee was rearranged so that voting for a city other than Los Angeles representative would require more votes. This was perhaps a thinly-disguised means of eliminating Tom Heinsheimer from future election to the South Coast District board.

COLLINGS

I see. So you weren't the only one who was finding him to be a bit of a problem, it sounds like.

MEADE

No. By this time, it was a recognized problem by some members of the state legislature who were interested in giving a larger role to Riverside and San Bernardino in the representation, and also a strong role for the city of Los Angeles. It was not the greatest piece of legislation that I ever had anything to do with; it would not be my proudest moment to say, in terms of good government, this way the way to go. But it certainly was an effective mechanism for removing a problem member of the board from future election.

COLLINGS

It sounds sort of skillful, really. (laughter)

MEADE

Friends in high places. Senator Robert Presley was a representative here, from Riverside. He carried legislation. And that was always very helpful to the South Coast District.

COLLINGS

Sure, yeah.

MEADE

And he had, I guess had formed an opinion of Mr. Heinsheimer that was not very complementary.

COLLINGS

OK. Too much ballooning about.

MEADE

Something like that.

COLLINGS

Yeah. You were also concerned at the Levine hearings about -- you didn't want -- you wanted supervisors to be required to attend meetings rather than alternates. Had this become a real problem?

MEADE

Well, we had -- the original legislation had not included alternates for the supervisors, but Supervisor [Ed] Edelman, during the course of the progress of

AB 250, Supervisor Edelman from Los Angeles County had convinced [Senator] Alan Sieroty, a legislator from the Beverly Hills area, that it was unrealistic to assume that supervisors from Los Angeles County particularly, but also perhaps including Orange County, who were so busy attending so many meetings of so many subsidiary districts, sanitation districts, or other things that the supervisors were to attend, that they would have a very difficult time attending the meetings of the South Coast District. And so Supervisor Edelman suggested that alternates be provided, which Mr. Sieroty agreed with, and pushed the author, Mr. Jerry Lewis, to include in the legislation, and it was included that alternates would be able to attend. And there was a provision in terms of the alternates could not vote on the budget, that the designated supervisor would have to vote on the budget. But it was not just a convenience, or had turned out to not just be a convenience, for the supervisor to have an alternate for some meetings, but rather to have the alternate attend all meetings. And that was unfortunate, in that I think the alternates were, in many cases, unfamiliar with the kind of lobbying effort that would be brought to bear on them on certain types of regulation of emissions sources, and they were unprepared to counter it. My method was usually to ask a staff member to sit in with me -- staff member from the district -- to sit in with me on a lobbying type appointment with some of the polluting industries. I did not wish to exclude meeting with them entirely, because I felt that was not fair to them. On the other hand, I felt I might be receiving only one viewpoint from the industry rep, whereas if I had a staff person from the South Coast District in on the meeting, he could or she could counter some of these arguments for my benefit.

COLLINGS

Going back to the relations between the board and the ARB, Mary Nichols was -- when she came in as chair of the ARB was helpful --

MEADE

Yes, she was very helpful, in terms of -- That she disagreed totally with [Tom's] evaluation of my performance, and that he should, on the other hand, take advantage of what expertise I had to offer, as well as my connections with environmental groups and representatives, and also, frankly, with the media, that I had much to offer in the work of the board that he should take advantage of and actually solicit my assistance in dealing with environmental groups and other clean air groups in the state or in the South Coast District. I don't think he paid much attention to her letter, but at least it was a definite turn-down, that his request that I be removed from the board by the governor was not going forward.

COLLINGS

That's very distracting.

MEADE

It was a waste of time, really. The insistence of Jim Barakos and using his PR talents and skills, which were, as an employee of the district, was to be used to further the interest of the district, not the man who happened to be chairman of the board at that time; it was a waste of his time and talents, I think. And other staff people, too, in pursuing Tom's suggestions for one thing or another. It was counterproductive.

COLLINGS

OK. You know, the first hearing that the board conducted was this Ohio hearing.

MEADE

A public hearing, yes.

COLLINGS

And you were -- it produced a voluminous amount of documentation.

MEADE

Yes. In fact, I worked very hard after that Ohio hearing with Al McCandless to see that there would be another mechanism to hold a public hearing than having the full board have to hold a public hearing on a challenged EIR or challenged permit. And so there could be a hearing officer, because it was lengthy and it was exhausting, frankly exhausting. And in the end, it was financing, I think, that stopped this Ohio project more than anything else. The financing that had been originally available for the project seemed to fall through or become not as readily available, anyway, and I think that doomed the project.

COLLINGS

So it was almost like a war of attrition. (laughter)

MEADE

Yes, it was, it was. All of us were exhausted -- the board members who did attend those hearings -- of course, alternates were still being sent, but the --

COLLINGS

So the board had its real reservations about this Ohio project in the court.

MEADE

Yes, yes. And I think subsequent data has come in about the contribution of the port of Los Angeles and Long Beach, thanks to the litigation started by the Natural Resources Defense Council, in looking into the contribution at the port of -- particularly -- and other types of pollution from the port. The addition of this Ohio project would have been a tipping point, perhaps, for a very, very bad level of pollution.

COLLINGS

OK. So you were on the board; you were appointed for five years, but you were there for five and a half.

MEADE

Well, the appointment was actually an open-ended appointment. When I first -- AB 250 did have the year, because it was intended to go beyond the term of the appointing authority, the governor. But I stayed, in terms of -- I guess, let's see -- God, I have to go back and count the years. I left about the same time Jerry Brown was departing. I could have stayed on until a new appointment was made, I guess, in terms of the term, but I chose that point to leave; it seemed like a good time to leave. And --

COLLINGS

How would you sum up the work of the board during the time that you were there?

MEADE

I think we did a lot of things that were very good, in terms of the internal organization, as well --

COLLINGS

Because it was just starting out, yes.

MEADE

Yes. And all of the -- putting together an organization, and developing some sort of pride of organization among these employees who had come from the counties and so forth, and then also, new hires, in terms of the ability to hire people, new hires for the district, who had skills that were needed, technical skills particularly. Land use planning skills that had not been part of the portfolio of an air pollution control district before, but which were very necessary under the federal Clean Air Act to recognize the role of land use planning. And I think we did adopt a number of strong and stringent regulations. Some of them took a long while to be adopted, with reluctance on some part of the board members to bear down too heavily on industry, because they were lobbied heavily, and it's difficult. And in some technical areas, we were forging ahead of other districts, and under the Clean Air Act, federal law, the most stringent regulation adopted could become the model for other districts to adopt, or have to adopt, under EPA push. And so the South Coast District, in many ways, when it did have the courage to go forward, and it did at various time, became a forerunner of a type of regulation for not only the South Coast but for the entire country. And that was certainly a feeling of satisfaction, that we were pushing forward.

COLLINGS

Well, how did you feel about leaving the board, given that the existence of the board was something that you had worked on for a very long time, even really from your early days in the League of Women Voters?

MEADE

I had a feeling that it was going to continue, it was not in jeopardy, either by legislative action or the action or inaction of individual board members, that

there had been enough legislative action and media notice of what was going on at the South Coast that I thought it was in a good position to continue and be able to do more and more, in terms of cleanup. Because I repeatedly reminded my board members, by asking for legal counsel of the district, to indicate a particular regulation was needed, because under the federal Clean Air Act, we had to do certain things for cleanup, that it was not just a whim of the district go for cleanup; we were acting under federal law. And in this, I was very much supported by Al McCandless, who said that indeed, we were a creature of federal law, and we would obey federal law. He was not going to chair a board that would vote in any way to challenge federal law.

COLLINGS

But were you able to -- I mean, you worked with the air quality management plan; you -- with SCAG, and you felt that you were mandated to make these provisions for the 1979 deadlines, but you felt that they were unattainable. Was this --

MEADE

In many ways, it seemed that we would have to be given another waiver of being able to meet the standards in that time. The South Coast District -- the measures that on stationary sources could be taken were then complemented by what the ARB was doing on vehicular sources, and in some cases, in looking at the south coast plan, there was too much reliance on the vehicular controls that were not going to be available to the Air Resources Board to complement the stationary source control that was going on, and of course, the land use issue was very, very difficult, in that the transportation, our public transportation system was inadequate, continues to be inadequate. The development of new housing, putting more and more cars on the road, particularly in Riverside and San Bernardino where the housing prices were lower, and people were traveling great distances. But because of the -- really the tri-partite approach, the Feds were responsible for safe locomotives and seagoing vessels, for reducing emissions in our air quality plan, and it was difficult to know if the Feds would go forward with some of the controls that were going to be necessary, and the state commerce clause always came into play here, in terms of what could be done and what couldn't be done, and the Air Resources Board pushing and pushing, mostly successful, on the automotive industry to reduce emissions, and even later on to think in terms of alternative fuels. But again, it became an issue of, could they do it, or would the automotive manufacturers file suit? Which, of course, they did, actually. The automotive manufacturers were very fond of filing suit against the Air Resources Board for usurping what they felt was the authority of the federal government only to be able to set air quality emission standards -- I shouldn't say air quality, but emission standards from vehicles. And -- but fortunately, my feeling of optimism about the board

continuing and being able to do more I think did come true, although successive public members -- Sabrina Schiller was appointed from, I think, Senate Rules Committee as a public member of the board, and Heinsheimer immediately began the same type of pettiness with Ms. Schiller that he had with me, and she, too, tried to fight back a bit, and to push forward as best she could, and was successful in many ways. She followed my example, in terms of asking for legal counsel to explain the federal Clean Air Act requirements when there was an issue before the board that really was mandated in many ways by the federal law.

COLLINGS

Did the public members tend to be women?

MEADE

It turned out that way, didn't it? Well, of course, you know, I said early on, my appointment to the Air Resources Board in the early '70s was because there was a lot of push to get more women appointed to positions in government that were appointed positions, although women were also doing just fine in running for office, too, and gaining a seat in elected office. But there was still the concept that women should be given the opportunity by appointing them to various boards and commissions.

COLLINGS

Did you ever consider running for office?

MEADE

Yes, of course, because I thought I was -- and still am -- interested in local government; in the city of Torrance, I worked on political campaigns for friends who were running for council in Torrance, and continued my work, after my retirement -- well, my final retirement in 2000 -- with the League of Women Voters of Torrance in doing some volunteer work with them. But I really thought that it might be too confining, and since there was no dearth of other good people to run, it seemed to me that I wanted to keep my options open, in terms of what I would work on or what I would like to do, and there were others who could run for local elected office and have a good chance of making it, and that I would be supportive of them. So there was no dire need for Gladys Meade to have to step forward; there were others who could do the job. And in terms of rising higher than, say, local city of Torrance, there was assemblymen and so forth. Campaign contributions have always been a sore spot, in that you cannot make it to assembly or state Senate, and certainly not Board of Supervisors, if I wanted to look at that level of government, without a great deal of money. Not being independently wealthy, the recognition was there that I would have to do a lot of fundraising, and that that might be difficult to do the fundraising and to make the commitment, frankly, that campaign contributions require. No one is giving money just for the sake of

giving money, at least in very large sums; they hope for some benefit to themselves or their interests. And I thought I would perhaps have a very difficult time making decisions if I received large campaign contributions and being constantly reminded that I was going to have to run again in a few years anyway, and I'd need more campaign contributions. I'd seen it happen to too many politicians who went to Sacramento with very high-minded, ethical concepts of what the -- the independence of the legislator should exercise on behalf of his constituents, but of course was soon reminded that he was there, had been elected on this campaign, but he'd better start collecting campaign money for the next run, which was going to be just a couple of years. And those who had contributed to his campaign were quick to remind him that they would be watching his votes and so forth, or her votes, and campaign money would be available, of course, if they remain friends. That whole scene kind of got to me, in terms of, oh, I could have played the game, too, and I could have even tried to be independent, and remain so. But the toll I thought would be too great. And again, because there were good people willing to take that route, I felt they didn't absolutely need me, so I would go on and do other things.

COLLINGS

Well, what has been your opinion on term limits, then, with regard to that issue?

MEADE

The term limits now, with the legislature?

COLLINGS

Yeah.

MEADE

I think change is necessary. There was a lot of good people who were termed out, but of course, as the -- Pete Schabarum, the former supervisor of LA County, he was the instigator of the term limit legislation, and he built the campaign around getting rid of Willie Brown, the Ayatollah of the assembly, and frankly, he found a lot of support, from me as well as others, in thinking that, indeed, someone like Willie Brown had been Speaker of the Assembly for too long, and that -- well, if you were his friend, he could do much to help you; he could do much to hurt his enemies from his position as Speaker of the Assembly. And there were other instances of people who had been too long, and perhaps become too lazy, even. Willie Brown was the Ayatollah, but he certainly wasn't lazy, and still isn't; he's quite a forceful man. But there were others who, without term limits, had become lazy, in terms of well-known in their district and campaign contributors and so forth, and could make it year after year to return to the legislature to do almost nothing, and it seemed to me some fresh new blood would be wonderful.

COLLINGS

How did you manage your home life and your board work?

MEADE

Well, I had a very supportive husband, number one. And I had children who at times would become upset that Mother wasn't always available for car driving or the carpooling turn. But as the children got older, they did understand, and we talked politics a lot, in terms of dinner table conversation, and why was Mother doing some of this, in terms of cleaning up the air. It was a good reason to be involved in some of these things, and so generally my children were supportive, particularly as they got older, too. And I would also invite them to attend some meetings, again when they were older, older high schoolers, and to see what was happening. And I think that was very helpful to them; I had one son who was in high school debate, and who had become very proficient in terms of arguing on one side or another. The rules of high school debate were that you could, by drawing straws or whatever, you could have to argue a pro or a con, so you had to be prepared to argue on either side. That was part of the rules of high school debate. And so he became familiar with that there are always two sides to things. So I think in some ways, the kids were exposed to some of what I was doing, and I'm very happy about it.

COLLINGS

Yeah. [END OF Gladys Meade Session 5a]

1.7. Session 5b (January 26, 2007)

MEADE

-- see you to flier from the Coalition for Clean Air that they are sending out this flier to solicit a new employee who would be executive director or president/CEO is what they're looking for. Our executive director was kind of vague; I'll have to go back and look at it. But one of my last actions in a leadership role with the Coalition for Clean Air was to be insistent than in looking for a new executive director or staff member, we put out a flier and solicit resumes and applications for the job, which was opposed by the then existing executive staff director, who was leaving, but she wanted to make sure she had a designated successor, who was a fine young man, and I had no objections to the fact that he was qualified, and should, I thought, apply with others. But I thought any organization, particularly one that was a 501(c) 3 and solicited contributions from the public should make every effort to be totally open in their hiring practices, which involved announcement that there was an opening and to see who would apply. Well, apparently my advice is now being taken several years later, in that the flier is going out. But at the time, there were board members and the executive director who did not wish to do that. The executive director had much to do with the appointment of board members

who were very loyal to her, and who, in this instance at least, looked upon me as, I guess, a interloper, trying to stop something that they felt Linda Waade was correct in promoting her successor.

COLLINGS

OK. So that's where we'll go this time.

MEADE

Yeah. [END OF Gladys Meade Session 5b]

1.8. Session 6 (February 14, 2007)

COLLINGS

Oops. OK, the date is February 14th, 2007. Jane Collings interviewing Gladys Meade in her home. Gladys, you were going to comment on the LA Times article from February 2nd, regarding Jerry Brown's first action as Attorney General of the state of California.

MEADE

Yeah, Brown was on the right track, try to negotiate and see if he could get agreement from the automotive manufacturers. They had been so busy suing either the Air Resources Board or Cal EPA or the state of California, or up to and including the executive office of the Air Resources Board. There's always been such a tentative feel about California controlling vehicle emissions because the Clean Air Act clearly states it is the Feds who will establish the emission standards. But California's been able to establish its own standards, based on supposedly the very great need in California for cleaner air. I don't think the automotive manufacturers really like the whole thing; they'd rather deal with just the feds, probably. On the other hand, the California emission standards on vehicles has always been a selling point in other states; other states like to say we will -- like Massachusetts -- we will adopt the California standards for sales of new vehicles in our state.

COLLINGS

Well, since we're on the subject of Jerry Brown, just as a sort of follow-up from last time, you had kind of touched on the question of his relationship with his appointees; you said that you were one of his appointees, and that he never interfered. I wondered if there was anything further that you wanted to say on that.

MEADE

No, I think it was a vote of confidence that he chose good people, myself among them, and then gave them the freedom to go ahead and provide the public service that they were appointed to provide. And that certainly was a happy change from my previous experience with Governor Reagan, whose

people had tried to direct my vote in a particular way on the retrofit NOx devices. So I appreciated Jerry Brown allowing me to act independently.

COLLINGS

Directing your vote to the point that you were actually fired when you didn't go along with it.

MEADE

Yes.

COLLINGS

So were there instances where you and Brown clashed?

MEADE

No.

COLLINGS

Yeah, I didn't get that sense.

MEADE

The -- no, we didn't clash. His appointees to the Air Resources Board at that time, when I was on the South Coast District, was Tom Quinn, and it was an interesting experience in that Tom Quinn said he was going to approach selling air quality like selling cereal; it needed some good advertising. He successfully did, for awhile anyway -- the legislature seemed to become restive with some of Mr. Quinn's decisions, and attempted to curb the authority of the Air Resources Board in many ways, sometimes unsuccessfully, sometimes successfully.

COLLINGS

OK. Last time, you also mentioned that you and Mary Nichols would meet frequently in Sacramento and that you were friends.

MEADE

Yes. We had been long-term friends in that she had been at the Center for Law and the Public Interest when the NOx device controversy was going on, and I was fired by Reagan. And the emission device manufacturers of the NOx devices, based on the clarity, I would say, of the legal authority of the ARB, and the urgency with which the devices were supposed to be installed in order to achieve a dramatic, if you will, reduction in air pollution. The NOx manufacturers read the [lore], obviously, the same as I did, and I read it the same as they did, whichever way you want to look at it. And they decided to sue the Air Resources Board for having backed off from the original schedule -

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COLLINGS

Right, because they now had produced all of these things.

MEADE

Yes, they had. And they called me because they felt that perhaps this lawsuit would need -- they being the device manufacturers' representatives -- called and

asked if I would join them in the litigation, in case they needed a particular plaintiff who was in some way breathing Los Angeles air and might be harmed by the decision. I was somewhat intrigued by the thought, because I really did believe the law was quite clear. And so I called Mary Nichols, who was at the Center for Law and the Public Interest, and asked if she could be my attorney, that I would feel more comfortable having some attorney representing me alone, rather than just joining with the manufacturers of the devices. And so we met and we talked about that. I knew Mary Nichols from her work at the Center for Law and the Public Interest, and I was at that time, and had been for years before she arrived, been a member of the board of directors of the Center, board of trustees, I guess they called it. Anyway, Mary did say she would represent me, and the suit continued on through the state Supreme Court and won. And so I felt vindicated, and I guess the device manufacturers did too, in terms of the reading of the law. However, it was Pyrrhic victory, because the legislature, as soon as the appeal was upheld, they did not direct the ARB to comply with the law as now pronounced, but rather began legislation, new legislation, to change the law, which they were successful in doing. And so legal problem no more, it was changed by the legislature.

COLLINGS

And you and Mary Nichols were -- you would meet for coffee --?

MEADE

Oh, yes. We would meet for lunch or for coffee at various times. And not specifically to discuss air pollution problems, legislations, or what was happening, but we were friends. She was pregnant and was going to have a baby, and I, mother of four, could offer some advice in that area. So I would say we spent more time discussing family things in general. And of course we did discuss some of the issues in air quality, and Tom Quinn's approach to it, as chairman of the Air Resources Board.

COLLINGS

Were there any other women that you were friendly with, (inaudible) ones?

MEADE

Oh, yes. Judy Orttung, who was an active member of the League of Women Voters in Riverside, and had participated in a number of presentations to the Air Resources Board, and later to the South Coast District, and she was involved in the petition to have a public hearing on his Sohio permit application, and she had appealed to the Center for Law and the Public Interest to represent the League of Women Voters of Riverside in the Sohio case, which they did. Jan Greenberg Levine was the attorney for the Center. A number of these women, obviously -- Jan Greenburg Levine knew Mary Nichols from Mary's previous work at the Center. And there was Jan Chatten Brown, who came into this Ohio case on behalf of the city attorney's office, and Jan also

knew Mary Nichols. So yes, indeed, we were a women's caucus of a sort, I guess. And...

COLLINGS

So would you say that you had had anything that you might call sort of an old girls' club...?

MEADE

The new girls' network.

COLLINGS

The new girls' club?

MEADE

The new girls' network. Pat Russell, when she was first elected to the LA City Council, had coined the phrase of the new girls' network, because she certainly ran into the old boys' network on the city council and felt that some of the women -- many from the League of Women Voters, but also in other organizations or areas -- should form the new girls' network, which we sort of did, but it was nothing formal. Nothing formal.

COLLINGS

But were there any instances where these passions were useful, politically? Where the fact that you were friends with some of these other women was -- I mean, you sort of suggested before that the fact that you and Mary Nichols were friends was sort of helpful in straightening out some of the conflicts between the district board and the ARB.

MEADE

I think -- my original comment was that my familiarity and knowledge and acquaintanceship with the Air Resources Board staff was helpful, particularly because the South Coast District staff, at times, seemed to distrust the ARB staff, and the ARB staff seemed to -- not distrust, but not have confidence in their findings, shall we say. And I think I was trying to get these two groups closer together, and I think I was helpful in that. And knowing that we were both working for the same goal, that these regulatory agencies should get on, not be continually fighting with each other.

COLLINGS

Right. OK, one of the things that we said that we were going to talk about this time was the professionalization of the environmental activist area.

MEADE

Yeah. That has pluses and minuses, in terms of the -- also the role of foundations in funding some of the environmental organizations, and also the Astroturfing with green money going to environmental organizations from companies or corporations that had a stake in some of the actions that some support or opposition that would come from environmental organizations. And I think a lack of volunteers being available as they had been in the past, in

numbers sufficient to run an organization -- I think particularly the Coalition for Clean Air, which was formed in 1969, as it happens, in the conference room of the Los Angeles Lung Association -- two statewide organizations, Planning and Conservation League and the Sierra Club, had become concerned that they were the only ones with representatives in Sacramento working on clean air legislation and air quality issues. And although there was a group called Stamp Out Smog in Los Angeles, they were working more on the county Board of Supervisors and sometimes the LA City Council, and were not totally engaged in Sacramento. Anyway, the Sierra Club rep was Phil Berry, who is still an icon in the Sierra Club, and active. Planning and Conservation League was represented by Ralph Perry, an attorney in Los Angeles, who is still active with the Coalition for Clean Air. Ward Elliot, who was also a Planning and Conservation League board member; he's a professor at Claremont College in political science, and he represented PCL. And the American Lung Association could not at that time join in; I was by that time working with the American Lung Association on behalf of the League of Women Voters on certain campaigns. Neither the Lung Association nor the League of Women Voters joined at that initial meeting, in that they had a process of -- criteria had to be met in order to join a coalition. But in any case, Stamp Out Smog, that had been active for some years as a volunteer, mostly women -- women in the movie -- whose husbands were in the movie industry. Marge Levy, Edith Koch, Afton Slade...

COLLINGS

Margot Feuer?

MEADE

Margot Feuer. Ruth Demmler, who was not the Hollywood type, but who was a resident of Pasadena and very, very concerned, and she did join Stamp Out Smog, and became one of their leading voices, although Marge Levy kept very close control over Stamp Out Smog. But by the time the Coalition for Clean Air was being formed, some of the Stamp Out Smog members were getting a bit tired, and welcomed the addition of another voice. And the pattern set in the conference room of the Lung Association continued, in terms of helping the Coalition provide a meeting room on Saturday morning for their board, providing some telephone answering service for them, and depending on the staff load at the Lung Association in Los Angeles, sometimes an empty office with a desk and chair and so forth could be provided. But I think that was the heyday of a lot of volunteerism; that gradually declined as the money flowed in from foundations. And foundations would frequently be very directive, in terms of how they wanted the organization to behave, if you will, or what particular tasks the foundation felt needed to be done. As time went on, I think foundations took a larger and larger role in some desire for basic community

organizing. I think environmental justice became a phrase that meant, somehow or other, the poorer communities of the region were suffering; the people there were suffering more from air pollution because of their location, the location of various industries. This was certainly very true of toxics. Obviously, living next to an oil refinery or a chemical factory that was producing not just hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen but toxics had a very great impact on neighbors. The impact of ozone was not so clear; as you'll remember, the highest levels of ozone were found in the Pasadena/San Marino area, which would be considered an affluent area. And the concept of environmental justice was not suggested for Pasadena and San Marino. But in any case, the staff hiring at environmental organizations, with the assistance of foundation money, tended to produce a cadre of professional environmentalists, some who were specifically trained from a college education, others who had been volunteers and had learned perhaps on the job, others who had returned to school to learn more about environmental quality. But with the professional-type staff, the volunteer aspect of some environmental organizations became lesser and lesser, and I found it unfortunate, because I had come from a volunteer activist background, and it seemed to me that there was a vitality and a diversity in the volunteers that added greatly to the success of an organization, particularly in terms of membership. And I found that later on, long beyond the -- in fact, after I retired in 1994, I became more active in the Coalition for Clean Air, on the basis that I would be volunteering in air quality, and I was very surprised to find that basic communications like a newsletter had not occurred with the Coalition for Clean Air. I realized I hadn't been receiving any newsletter from them, but I thought perhaps I was the exception rather than the rule. But it turned out that it was not considered important for fundraising, because their fundraising was being done with foundations, or with a -- shall we say an angel, a wealthy individual whose interest in the cause of clean air was backed up with a frequent check of substantial size, as compared to, say, individual membership contributions. But I wanted to return the Coalition to its original volunteer activism, and I felt it could be done by, again, the newsletter, asking for volunteers to come into the office to do various chores. And also to join the board, in terms of after they'd volunteered for awhile and saw what we were up to, perhaps they would be willing to join the board. The professional staff at the coalition at that time felt any new board members should only be those Astroturfing types that came from public relations firms, representing various corporations that could give very generously to the Coalition for Clean Air for its work. Of course, there was a quid pro quo involved, but as long as both the client of the PR firm and the Coalition for Clean Air were on the same track, say on legislation or regulatory action, which at times, they were, it seems -- I don't want to say harmless enough, but it seemed -- at least didn't have too

much of a downside to it, as long as the cause and the criteria for activism at the Coalition remained the same. But what I didn't realize was that the Coalition board was, in many ways, left out of decision-making by the professional staff. And that I tried to establish a nominating committee to get some new members under the Coalition board, people that I knew from the community who I thought would believe as I did that volunteerism was not dead and gone, but that we could get more volunteers with more communication, membership drives, and outreach to the community of those who would have the time to give, and perhaps some technical help, in terms of -- the model of the Sierra Club has been very active, and still is very active, and is the exception to what I have to say about volunteers working very hard. The Sierra Club has, in their membership, many who are engineers, who are professional in the environmental field, in water quality, air quality. They also attract, of course, those who are interested in hiking and camping and saving the forest, the redwoods or whatever. And they do have a number of volunteers who are very active and do very professional work, actually. But I found that the Coalition for Clean Air was really being directed by the professional staff, and that the nominating committee was never really appointed, and any proposed names that I brought to the professional staff as possible additions to the Coalition board were rejected for one reason or another, mostly on the basis that the fundraising aspect of getting someone who was willing to give large contributions. So to demonstrate to them that ordinary people could give large contributions too, that I contributed to the Coalition for Clean Air, and, as I say, the demonstration that ordinary people contributed, and that they could, with an increased membership, expect increased fundraising opportunities. And that didn't seem to work very well. I was becoming rather disappointed in the not very strong role of the Coalition board in directing activities, and not having much support on the board, because the board members who were there when I joined had been working with professional staff and allowing decisions to be made on that basis; it saved them a lot of trouble. Didn't have to argue about things or try to reach a consensus; it was just sort of go along with the staff recommendations. In any case, it became an issue that I did feel very strongly about, was the succession to the executive director of the Coalition. She had working for her a very qualified young man who had done a very good job with his assignments and program and so forth, and so it was to be announced at a board meeting that she was leaving and that Tim Carmichael was prepared to take over. I congratulated him on the fine job that he had done in the areas that he'd been working on for the coalition, but I said I felt very strongly that any time there was an opening in any organization, but particularly a charitable 501 (c) 3, which the Coalition is, that there should be a flier produced about the opening, and the flier should be widely circulated, with the requirements for the

job, and then a committee should be established of board members who would review the applications and perhaps interview the applications. This was the better way to go, and I must say, quite a discussion ensued at the Coalition board, most members of whom had been already contacted by the outgoing executive director, and their votes were lined up for Tim Carmichael. And Gladys Meade's suggestion was rejected. And then as a follow-on, it was suggested by one of the board members that this sort of dissension among the board was not good, and we should have a facilitator come in and help us learn to achieve consensus. And one of the board members remembered that as -- I guess my title at that time on the board was president and CEO, a peculiarity of the bylaws of the organization. But in any case, I had cast the deciding but dissenting vote on an initiative that was on the ballot, placed there by the Planning and Conservation League, which subsequently failed at the ballot box, but which had a number of deficiencies, as I saw it, and others did too, and obviously eventually the voters agreed with me. The board was actually divided equally on the vote taken of whether to support this ballot initiative by the Planning and Conservation League. As president and CEO, in chairing the meeting, I had not voted originally. But when the impasse arose, I voted no, in terms of endorsement. And a couple of the people on the board had been very unhappy with me for that vote, because of their other involvements. But in any case, that board meeting became rather difficult, in that it was pointed out that I was disagreeing with some of the board members, and indeed, I said yes, but I was always willing to explain why and how and so forth, and that I didn't think we needed a facilitator particularly to tell us how to reach consent; it was discussion, full discussion with full disclosure, as much information as possible. But in any case, the facilitator had already been contacted by the staff, and at a fee of \$5,000, was going to come to a Saturday morning session to have board members there, and perhaps interviews with some board members would take place prior to a Saturday morning session. Continuing my contrary view, I suggested that \$5,000 was an enormous sum for an organization that did not have substantial amounts of money, other than for very narrow criteria we had for the program, and that I really didn't think it was such a good idea, but if arrangements had already been made, then obviously, we could not go back on our commitment to the facilitator. I indicated to the board that I regretted that we'd had disagreements, whether it was the ballot initiative or the concept of advertising an open position at the Coalition for an executive director, and that in the past, none of my suggestions for new board members had found acceptance or agreement. I then said I had to excuse myself; I had an accident with my foot, I think it was -- anyway, I was using a wheelchair, and I said I was tired, the wheelchair was not that comfortable, and that -- I think I asked one of the other board members to continue the meeting to its conclusion.

Ralph Perry, the Coalition board member with whom I had the longest relationships, had not been able to attend that particular meeting. Ward Elliot was there, and had been supportive of my position, but -- in any case, I left early, and I think my husband was picking me up, as I couldn't drive -- whatever the leg problem or foot problem I had at the time. So when I came home, I thought, well, you know, my idea of volunteering and becoming involved and so forth was because I enjoy it. I just went through a meeting I did not enjoy at all, and I thought the time has come to think of myself perhaps as a dinosaur in the volunteer environmental arena, and gracefully depart. So I called Ralph Perry, who was the vice-president, and said I wished to submit my resignation, and told him why. And he agreed with me, he said, you know, "I know it's been difficult for you, and you've really given it your best shot." And I said, "I don't want to argue with anyone, particularly the executive director of the Coalition, or some of the other board members who are her support group, and let's just let it go with that." So Ralph said, "Well, I do wish, though, if you're not going to come to this Saturday meeting that's been set up, would you be willing to talk to that facilitator? He should hear at least your viewpoint --"

COLLINGS

Yeah, good point.

MEADE

"-- on the organization, and what's been happening with the organization." I said, "Oh, splendid. Give him my phone number, and I'll be happy to speak with him." Later that afternoon, I guess Ralph had called the executive director, Linda Waade, at the Coalition office, indicating that I had resigned, and she called me and asked why I was resigning. And I said, well, it just seemed the right thing to do at this time, that the board as a whole was not supportive, and I felt Linda herself was not supportive, of what is the role of the so-called president/CEO and the board as compared to the role of the executive director of an organization, and I was afraid this disagreement would continue, and I did not wish it to continue. So I wished her well. The facilitator did call me, and I explained, very much as I explained to you, the question of volunteerism, the role of the volunteer, the role of professional staff. And in most cases, these roles can work very well together. But in some cases, no. I think a similar thing happened with Heal the Bay, and maybe other organizations that I'm not aware of.

COLLINGS

Well, certainly Friends of the Ballona Wetlands went through an organizational assessment as well; I think it's probably something that many organizations that start out with a mission and a large base of volunteers gets to a point where they need to --

MEADE

Well, I think it also happens when you have an individual who has sort of led the way or been a leader, is a leader, and someone else, perhaps consciously or unconsciously, thinks, "Oh, I could do a better job than that individual is going," and so there's a certain rivalry that comes about. And certainly, in the Coalition for Clean Air, which is the one I know most, the executive director did feel that she knew best how to direct the organization, the best strategy and tactics to use, and so forth. And when I disagreed, you see -- I'd say the issue of the PCL ballot initiative -- she very much wanted to join with PCL in support of that initiative, and felt that I had stopped that by my negative vote, and that the Coalition could not gain whatever luster or benefit there would be of joining with the Planning and Conservation League in a campaign for the initiative. In any case, I think that happens in many organizations, you're right. Ballona Wetlands is another example.

COLLINGS

TreePeople had a lot of -- had many forms over the years --

MEADE

Yes, yes. Different models of organizations --

COLLINGS

-- as did Heal the Bay, of course.

MEADE

The Coalition for Clean Air obviously continued after my departure, as I knew it would. Ralph Perry has perhaps been the most forceful and longest-term board member of the Coalition, and Tim Carmichael, who was appointed executive director, did a very, very good job. And Ralph Perry, through contacts through PCL, managed just about a year and a half, two years ago, to get a very, very large foundation grant, which allowed the Coalition to open a Sacramento office, and have Tim Carmichael as a lobbyist in Sacramento for the Coalition for Clean Air, at which he's been apparently very happy and successful. But he also retained the position of executive director of the Coalition, which he just now has sent out, would believe, a flier advertising the opening for an executive director at the Coalition for Clean Air.

COLLINGS

(laughter) Oh, interesting.

MEADE

I have it around here somewhere; I was going to put a few notes on it and send it back to him, remembering times past. Anyway, on the flier that he sent by email, and I'm sure it went to a number of people, not just to me, obviously; the whole purpose of it was to get it circulated far and wide. Tim now wants to be just the lobbyist for the Coalition in Sacramento. But back to the foundation grant that Ralph Perry arranged, it seemed to me -- and this was a private discussion with Ralph, because I was not attending board meetings, I was no

longer on the board or anything -- that the foundation wanted a task completion from very different tasks than the Coalition had formerly been involved in, and this was pretty much community organizing in environmental justice, geographic areas, in both water quality and air quality. And Ralph did say, there was some discussion as to whether or not this was going to be good for the Coalition, but basically, they felt that much money is fantastic, we could open our Sacramento office and so forth. And so the deal was done, and they'd been working with that foundation money. If it's going to be renewed or not, I don't know; I'm overdue to call Ralph for a personal chat, in terms of how are things going.

COLLINGS

Wonderful. So what kinds of things were volunteers doing for the Coalition for Clean Air initially?

MEADE

They did a newsletter; they held membership rallies, if you will, in terms of visiting the Board of Supervisors, testifying before the Board of Supervisors on proposed air quality regulations. They also became somewhat involved with Sacramento, and proposed legislation there. It was volunteers who went to Sacramento on their own nickel; there wasn't enough money to be able -- we were scrounging for money to buy stationery to put the Coalition's name on it, and using the address of the Los Angeles Lung Association. The original concept of Sierra Club/Planning and Conservation League/Stamp Out Smog being the organizations within the Coalition, ran into a bit of difficulty, in that Stamp Out Smog did not always agree with the position of the Planning and Conservation League, which did not always agree with positions of the Sierra Club. So again, we have some breakdown here, in terms of who's on first. The Coalition then decided, its board members, which had acquired other board members besides just representatives of the original organizations, which was a change in itself from the original meeting that representatives from the organizing organizations would be the board members. Individuals had come on and been voted on the board, so it wasn't just organization; it was individual. And they decided to open a Coalition membership far and wide to individuals, and not be concerned just with organizations, since the organizations didn't seem to be getting on too well together, or their reps. And so they did that, and they acquired a number of individual members of the Coalition for Clean Air.

COLLINGS

Unaffiliated members. (laughter)

MEADE

Mm-hmm. And every once in awhile, a discussion would come up, in terms of, gosh, are we really a coalition of organizations, because we don't seem to have any organizations left. That was sort of settled by the Lung Association and

Sierra Club saying, "We'll remain as organizational members." But that only lasted a short while, because the volunteer member of the Coalition, individual, who was on the board, but an individual, was doing a lot of traveling to Sacramento on proposed legislation, and when someone would ask her, "Who do you represent?" she'd say, "The Coalition for Clean Air, which represents the American Lung Association, Sierra Club, Planning and Conservation League," which caused some very serious problems, because the Sierra Club, Planning and Conservation League, and the Lung Association had their own representatives in Sacramento, and although there was usually support for a particular proposal that was unanimous, on the other hand, Sierra Club is very proud, and the other organizations are too, of their individual group and how they take positions. And they resented that the Coalition representative was speaking for them when they felt she really was not.

COLLINGS

So in your view --

MEADE

(coughing) Oh, excuse me.

COLLINGS

-- in your view, the site for environmental volunteerism now has shifted into the environmental justice arena.

MEADE

Mm-hmm. And quite successfully; I think Communities for a Better Environment organized many of the people, neighbors of each other in the Harbor area, to fight Los Angeles.

COLLINGS

Expansion --

MEADE

And eventually, litigation was brought by Natural Resources Defense Council, and successfully, to clean up the port. And I think that is similarly going on in the Oakland-San Francisco Bay area, a lot of chemical plants and toxic emissions that CBE, Communities for a Better Environment, has organized, with the help of labor unions at times, trying to clean up the toxic corridor in Contra Costa County.

COLLINGS

OK. One of the other things that we were going to talk about was your involvement with the Rose Foundation, and the establishment of the Meade Prize for Clean Air.

MEADE

Oh, right. Tim Little was someone I had worked with at the Coalition for Clean Air. He was their executive director at one time. Very competent fellow. He had also -- I had first met him when he was in charge of the door-to-door

fundraising cadre that -- Communities for a Better Environment, which formerly had been Citizens for a Better Environment. And they had done their fundraising door-to-door; also, their program information, on a door-to-door basis, collecting donations, leaving pamphlets, and whatever oral information they gave at the door. And Tim Little was actively involved in CBE at that time, and so we had first met there. Then he became, later on, the executive director of the Coalition for Clean Air, and we worked on several things there. And he met and married a woman that he met while he was at the Coalition for Clean Air, Jill Ratner, whose mother, upon her death, left money to her daughter, with the idea being that perhaps there was some sort of good deed that Jill still wanted to do, and maybe some money would help. The mother's name was Rose. By this time, Jill and Tim were married, and I think they even had a couple of children. And they jointly decided that Rose Ratner's contribution would be the beginning of the Rose Foundation, and Tim and Jill would be the organizers of it. At that time, there was still court-awarded settlements or penalties which could go to a non-profit organization, if both sides of the settlement agreed. And so the Rose Foundation began getting some money from the settlement and penalty fines, and so that contributed to what the original amount was. Then Tim was also trying to seek other ways to raise some money, and was generally successful, mostly in terms of the fines and penalties, but also with the membership of people [sending]. When I was sort of winding up with the Coalition for Clean Air, and of course, I'd already retired from the American Lung Association. And thinking back on who and what had been most helpful to me in my career, both professional and volunteer. I remembered all of those newspaper reporters and investigative reporters who had written pages and pages, reams and reams; many of them from the Los Angeles Times, many of them from other newspapers. Sacramento Bee, the Fresno Bee, San Jose Mercury. There was just a whole group of reporters who had raised awareness of the issues that I was working on, to the benefit of those who wanted to know more about these issues, and certainly they were sticking some pins in politicians who were making contrary statements, or giving out misinformation on that particular issue. And so I decided that newspaper reporters didn't really have a -- like, win a Pulitzer, of course, but environmental writers tended not to be writing in the area that attracted the Pulitzer Prize. So in a modest way, I decided I would establish a Meade Clean Air Prize, but I needed a foundation of some sort to be able to do it. So I talked to Tim and Jill Little -- Jill Ratner and Tim Little -- Jill, by the way, is an attorney. And we decided that indeed it could be a donor-designated-type prize, run through the Rose Foundation, although the Rose Foundation would also have a voice in the selection of the Meade Prize winner. And so that's how it came about. As with the contribution I'd made earlier to the

Coalition, I had some stock -- well, my husband and I had some stock jointly together, which had greatly appreciated, and we decided we would establish the Meade Clean Air Prize with this stock contribution to the Rose Foundation, and then periodically add to it as we could. So we did that. But there is a new wrinkle in the Meade Clean Air Prize: the Congress has voted restrictions on donor-directed gifts from foundations, because of hanky-panky by legislators setting up foundations to which lobbyists could contribute to the foundation, and somehow, that money from the foundation would somehow come back to the politicians. So there's an actual federal law now that the donor-directed prizes or whatever must be given another look, and the prize must only go, perhaps, to a non-profit foundation, from a non-profit foundation to a non-profit foundation. This will greatly impact the selection of the Meade Clean Air Prize, and Tim and I have not yet figured out what to do. The criteria for the Meade Clean Air Prize was very much the best writing, film documentary, video, of the previous year, and given to the reporter. Although we did run into some interesting stuff; the Fresno Bee had a very, very good series of articles on air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley, and there were three reporters and one photographer. And there also was, of course, the paper itself --

COLLINGS

Right, all working on this project together.

MEADE

Yes, yes. And Tim and I had a great discussion about -- we hadn't thought about photographers and pictures, although the photographer who worked on this story with the three reporters had taken some wonderful photographs, so we decided, gosh, this was going to be more difficult than we thought, in terms of the Fresno Bee. And I think we finally decided we would give the \$1,000, which is the amount of the prize, to the Fresno Bee editor, with directions that he would choose how the recipients -- and I think facetiously we suggested, "Perhaps you take them all out to dinner," including the photographer, of course. Take them all out to dinner, and maybe that's it. So what the Fresno Bee actually did -- Tim might have gone back to them to try to find out, but I did not. Whatever they worked out, I'm sure it's fine. But this year, we must work up new criteria about investigative reporting and so forth, because I would like -- the original intent of the Meade Clean Air Prize to be continued in spite of the federal legislation. So we'll have to work on that.

COLLINGS

Because journalists that were friendly to your point of view were extremely to you.

MEADE

Very important. I was very grateful to them. Very, very grateful for being able to write clearly and give all sides of the issue. But of course, particularly the

side of the issue that I was interested in, but in being fair, that's what they do. And the -- of course, newspapers themselves now are becoming less pioneering, if you will, in investigative reporting. The LA Weekly continues to remind us that it is still possible to be an investigative reporter. Ah, the LA Times -- too bad.

COLLINGS

Let me just move this cord here. You know, I forgot to ask you, when we were talking about organizational changes, restructuring -- did the League of Women Voters ever go through any of these kinds of organizational assessments or structural changes that you --

MEADE

Not to the same extent that -- not with the same -- I shouldn't say extent: the same dissension, perhaps, that other organizations -- surprisingly, because the League of Women Voters are usually very outspoken women. There was a change at the national level, not so much in the structure, but in procedures for study and consensus, because like other organizations, the League was suffering a membership loss, and the very exciting meetings that we'd had on issues, and as these things -- issues we were studying, which those issues had been voted on by an annual meeting, as to, you know, we will study this and make presentations to our members. With a declining membership, there weren't as many women to be able to do the studies and direct the discussions for consensus and so forth. And so the national organization came down with some -- I guess originally suggestions, but they shortly became decrees, if you will, of -- consensus could be achieved by a mail vote, which was always contrary to what the League described as consensus; it had to be discussion, face-to-face, negotiation, if you will, in some cases, in order to arrive at a consistent one opinion. So that came down from on high. And some local Leagues felt restive under this arrangement, but recognized that it perhaps was the only sensible thing to do, in order to keep the organization as an organization. And so that was as close as the League of Women Voters came to dissolving itself into two camps or three camps or whatever. They were, perhaps, mostly willing to accept the advice, edict, of the national organization, as to how to continue.

COLLINGS

Can you sort of -- looking back, sort of point to a heyday for these kinds of volunteer organizations?

MEADE

It was the '90s. Yeah.

COLLINGS

And -- it was the '90s.

MEADE

Well, '70s.

COLLINGS

'70s as well.

MEADE

'80s, '90s. '70s for my involvement with the [wee], particularly, on air quality issues. And I remember we had a kick-off luncheon to begin the study of air pollution in Los Angeles County, and this was the Los Angeles County League of Women Voters. And we had -- I was chair of the study committee, and we thought a kick-off luncheon in Pasadena would be a great thing to do. Smoggy, smoggy Pasadena. And we had hundreds turn out for that kick-off luncheon that we had thought would only be a couple of hundred people.

COLLINGS

And this was sort of the beginning of what turned out to be the district board.

MEADE

Yes. That was our consensus.

COLLINGS

Little did you know. (laughter)

MEADE

That was our studied and discussed and negotiated consensus for the LA County League, and that's what carried me on to push for a regional control district. No, I think the '70s was a time -- although, I mean, I can go back to -- it was 1961 when I joined the League of Women Voters. And I guess my reason for joining then was to meet with women my own age, and I had small children, as did many of the other members of the League have small children, and this was an opportunity to discuss issues of interest, international, national, whatever. And the opportunity to study various issues. So there was an activist time in the '60s, but I think in terms of environmentalism, probably the '70s was the flowering of it, if you will.

COLLINGS

So looking back, since that luncheon and perhaps before, how successful has air pollution control been?

MEADE

I think it's been very successful. The gradual change from what they all agreed was a successful approach, the so-called "command and control," in other words, you will emit so much -- or no more than such-and-such pounds of pollutant, the push for market incentives came in. A lot of economists seem to think that the way to effect change in the world was through the economy, through the market. Not being an economist, I was not enthusiastic, but I can certainly see the merit of saying change behavior, if it costs too much money, you won't do it. And in fact, we had included an emission fee authority in AB

250 to allow this regional district to actually charge an emission fee: the more you polluted, the more you paid. And that was -- yes.

COLLINGS

Yes, there's some discussion of that again now.

MEADE

Mm-hmm. And -- but the command and control was a successful model, and everyone agreed, and said, "Let's try the economic model and see what happens there." And that's a switch. Yeah, I think in terms of clean air advocates, I think you can now count just about everybody. Certainly the mother of the asthmatic child, the senior citizen who has emphysema, and everybody in between, who just coughs and chokes and doesn't like it. There used to be a great division between those who visually wanted to be able to see the mountains -- that was the goal of clean air, was to be able to see the mountains. But then as the health effects, which I pushed a lot, in my role as an employee of the Lung Association, to push the health effects of air pollution. Everyone had become very concerned; it isn't just an aesthetic anymore, we want clean air, which for a long while it was. Now it's everybody's health.

COLLINGS

So what would you like to see happening right now in Southern California, if you, you know, sort of had your wish?

MEADE

Well -- you mean a change that I would like to see now in Southern California?

COLLINGS

Yeah. I mean something, based on your experience, something that --

MEADE

-- is doable, or just a wish list?

COLLINGS

Well, let's hear both.

MEADE

My wish list would include, you know, get the cars off the streets. How to convince people to walk, bicycle, or attempt, at least, to use public transportation.

COLLINGS

Just overall, how serious have the efforts been to get people out of their cars?

MEADE

Oh, I was on the board of [Commute a Computer], and we certainly tried with public information and prizes and plaques and ribbons of the commuter of the month, in terms of carpooling. And of course, carpooling regulation from the South Coast District. But then the carpooling regulation was sort of undercut, in that the original regulation was, if you had so many employees, you had to have a certain percentage carpooling, if they were arriving at the same location. But

then there was a new board member, after my departure from the South Coast Board, Hugh Hewitt from Orange County, who suggested that there would be employers who would be willing to pay into a clean air fund if they didn't have to come up with the percentage of carpoolers among their workforce. I remember Jeb Stuart, who was executive officer of the South Coast District at that time, sort of pooh-poohing the idea that, "Oh, I don't think they would want to pay money instead of organizing the carpooling." Well, surprise, surprise: Hugh Hewitt was quite right. The number of industries' employers that now provide money for the clean air fund instead of doing the mandatory carpooling is quite significant. But I guess, in terms of getting cars off the road, we certainly can't do it with some Draconian things, "You may not drive your car on the road between 3 and 7pm," -- Shanghai can sort of do that, but we can't. And public information has really not convinced people that taking -- or trying public transportation even one day a week is worth the effort, apparently. More of the same, I don't know if it's going to help or not. Perhaps congestion will keep building until people are finally so outraged at the congestion that they will consider personal change of trying public transit, bicycle, walking, whatever, carpooling. The elected officials will realize the incredible frustration, and try to think of a political solution, which of course would be maybe free transit available on everyone's corner, so you would not have to walk very far. I don't know, but I think, again, another reporter in the LA Times, Steve Lopez, has been doing --

COLLINGS

Oh, yeah, I've been following that.

MEADE

-- his blog on congestion, and he's sort of waving the challenge --

COLLINGS

Yes, he is. Yeah.

MEADE

-- to City Council, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the board, anybody else you can think of. Federal money, state money. Do something. So maybe the day is coming that my wish will come true, and it won't be just a wish; it'll actually be a reality that there are fewer cars on the road.

COLLINGS

So that's sort of the underlying requirement, I would think.

MEADE

The other corollary to that is clean cars, zero-emission vehicles. I guess you'd have to see the movie *Who Killed the Electrical Car?* to sort of understand that. But I think the hybrid cars that we have are becoming more popular, particularly as gasoline prices seem to rise, and people do want a more fuel-efficient car. And then the fact that it's fewer emissions is sort of frosting on the

cake. So maybe the reality is closer than I think, in terms of wishing. For those cars that remain on the road, I'd like to see them zero-emission. Jan Sharpless, when she first announced the ARB was working together to try to draft regulations that would encourage -- incentivize, if you will -- zero-emission cars. We never really thought it would happen, but it did for a bit, the electric car, although of course, zero-emissions from the car, but they were always worried about the emissions from the power plant that supplied the electricity. But then with, you know, hydrogen on-board-type generation of energy, it's possible. It's possible.

COLLINGS

So, do you remain optimistic?

MEADE

Off the record? For what?

COLLINGS

No, optimistic.

MEADE

Oh, optimistic. I thought you said "off the record;" I thought, "Oh, no, the things going round there; it's all on the record."

COLLINGS

(laughter) It's all on the record.

MEADE

Yes. In spite of numerous setbacks and experience to the contrary, I do remain optimistic. I do think that people, in making demands upon their government, and much of this is flowing from government, people can make a difference. And I've never demonized the oil companies, in terms of being out to somehow kill us all off with air pollution: not the case at all. These are good men, and they now, I think, have a very good understanding that public health is at stake in cleaning up the air. It's not just aesthetics and seeing the mountains, or having some annoying substance in the air, that if you just blow your nose hard enough and cough once in awhile, you're all right. They now realize that public health is at stake, and I think the political figures also have a good understanding. And, heck, I can pat myself on the back for some of that; the American Lung Association from the time that I was employed by them, that was the push that we had, to make the public aware of the health consequences of smog. And fortunately, the researches kept coming through for us, and reinforcing past data by showing, indeed, health effects were there. So, yes, I'm optimistic.

COLLINGS

OK. So if the problem doesn't lie with the oil companies, and it doesn't lie with the --

MEADE

-- chemical companies, yeah.

COLLINGS

-- chemical companies, and it doesn't lie with the elected officials, where does the problem lie?

MEADE

I think the problem, or the guilt, if you will, is shared by all. Of course, I should throw the Arabs into the mix, too, shouldn't I, in terms of, maybe they should just keep on raising the price of oil.

COLLINGS

There you go. (laughter)

MEADE

That was the charge that Sierra Club took, that they were -- years ago, when there was a period of increasing gasoline prices because of increasing oil prices from overseas, and the Sierra Club was sort of supporting the increased prices. "Go ahead, great idea." We were talking about economic incentives, well --

COLLINGS

Here they are. (laughter)

MEADE

-- here they are, in terms of, use less gasoline; it's costing you so much, you'd better use less. No, but I'm still optimistic.

COLLINGS

So, you know, you're well-known around the town; you know Andy Lipkis, and you know -- you're well-known by other environmentalists around town. Andy Lipkis knows you, and Dorothy Green knows you --

MEADE

We all know each other.

COLLINGS

You all know each other.

MEADE

We ended up at the same conferences year after year.

COLLINGS

Yeah. That's right. So is that how you know each other, through those --

MEADE

Yes, and also through Planning and Conservation League. Dorothy was on the board of the Planning and Conservation League at the same time I was on the board, and we got to know each other there. PCL at the time used to have annual conferences at Asilomar, and we'd all get to walk the woods and the shoreline, and we had study sessions, too, in terms of the program for the Planning and Conservation League for the next year, which was the stated purpose of the conference. But we also got to know each other. At Asilomar,

their conference center, you eat meals in the same dining room, and you are off in the woods, literally.

COLLINGS

It's lovely up there.

MEADE

Yeah, it's very nice. Wonderful for a conference center.

COLLINGS

Mm-hmm. Especially environmental issues.

MEADE

Yes. Because there you are. Many of their meeting rooms, you'd see the deer walk past the windows. Well, Margot Feuer, Dorothy Green, Mary Nichols, we all knew each other, and were supportive of each other, and very proud of each other too, as each success came along, or even a small success, we rejoiced. Or certainly sympathized with each other. Ellen Stern Harris was another one, although she was a bit prickly; she didn't always get on well with everybody.

COLLINGS

OK. And what would you recommend to young people starting out today in public policy, with an interest in air quality issues?

MEADE

Yes. Any of the public policy issues, I think: go to school. Educate yourself on what has gone before, in order to form some sort of opinion of what should come in the future. And certainly, there's enough sources of education in public policy administration, and political science, of course, has always been the old standby, as has history. But I think you have to have a basic interest in politics, electoral politics as well as appointive.

COLLINGS

So you're saying it's not enough to just be interested in like air quality issues; we must be interested in politics as well.

MEADE

I think so. And public policy. If -- I mean, conceivably, you could be interested in air quality or air pollution, and go into a scientific endeavor, in terms of I'm going to clean up emissions from that stack by adding something, or -- and this is possible, too, for those who are interested in a specific topic area. If there is a technical solution that's out there, then I would suggest to young people, hey, go for it. But it's education. Get your engineering degree; get your whatever degree so that you know what you're talking about and what solutions might be there. And then if your role is a lab bench project that you're going to clean up something, by all means, go for it.

COLLINGS

So earlier on, you sort of pointed to a period when volunteers were people who just had a general interest in the subject, and had -- but now, you're saying that the expertise must be there.

MEADE

I think the age of volunteerism, perhaps, is in decline. [Alexis] de Tocqueville, when he toured the US, America, wrote his book, was so surprised that all the volunteers doing so many things, oh, they were handling all kinds of problems and issues, and they were all volunteers. I think if he were traveling now, he'd find far fewer volunteers. And maybe the other forces in society have contributed to that, the need for women to work, the desire of women to work full-time, because most of my volunteerism was in the days when I was not working. I had small children, staying at home, the need for outlets, and our feeling that taking care of the children was wonderful, and family life was marvelous, but we wanted something else, too. And great books was not the only thing out there. So maybe, you know, volunteerism -- or maybe it's more narrowly defined now. I know I've just watched my husband, who's an Alumni Association volunteer, he was on a committee, then their board of directors, and their this and that, and he spent about three, three and a half years being very active with the alumni association, and enjoying it. So I don't know, but I do think, in terms of even something as simple as the Parent-Teacher Association, their membership is -- they no longer have the leadership opportunities there that many women took advantage of, in terms of still involved with family and school, but in an organizational setting with the PTA.

COLLINGS

OK, I think we've come sort of to the end.

MEADE

Yup.

COLLINGS

Is there anything that you would like to add?

MEADE

No, other than to thank you and UCLA. It's been a marvelous project; I've enjoyed being a participant, and really felt quite honored to be a participant. But it also came at a time in my life where ill health was bothering me, so as an ego boost, while I was trying to settle my mind on ill health advancing, this was an ego boost to go back in time and remember the good days and the good things that happened.

COLLINGS

Well, perfect timing.

MEADE

It was perfect timing. And I do want to keep in touch, in terms of when you complete, if it is going to be published and so forth.

COLLINGS

Oh, yes. Of course.

MEADE

Oh, and plus, my daughter Susan is fascinated, when I was telling her about the project, and she said, -- please, if you have an extra card, could I send it to her, so in case you don't keep in touch or I don't keep in touch, Susan someday will call you and say, "What happened to my mother's tapes?" (laughter)

COLLINGS

Oh, of course. I'll definitely give you that.

MEADE

Good. [END OF Gladys Meade Session 6 END OF GLADYS MEADE]

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