ON A ROLL: A PARTICIPANT'S VIEW OF DISABILITY RIGHTS AT UCLA

Douglas A. Martin

Interviewed by Danni Bayles-Yeager

Completed under the auspices
of the
Oral History Program
University of California
Los Angeles

CONTENTS

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

PERSONAL HISTORY:

Born: May 8, 1947, Lynch, Nebraska.

Education: B.A., M.A., UCLA, 1973; Ph.D., UCLA, 1975.

CAREER HISTORY:

Co-founder and executive director, Westside Center for Independent Living, Los Angeles, 1975-78.

Disability services coordinator, City of Culver City, 1983-89.

Special assistant to the chancellor/ADA and 504 compliance officer, UCLA, 1989-present.

AFFILIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES:

Member, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, 1981-86.

Fellow, World Institute on Disability, 1985-95.

Chair, Social Security Subcommittee of the National Council on Independent Living, 1986-91.

Participant, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation's Forum on Supported Employment and Social Security Work Incentives, 1987.

Founding member, Society for Disability Studies, 1987.

Participant, National Council on Disability, Forums on the Americans with Disabilities Act: A Challenge for New Information and Research, 1991.

Member, Advisory Committee for the National Council on Disability Study of Health Insurance and Health Related Services for Persons with Disabilities, 1991-92.

Member, National Academy of Social Insurance, 1993-present.

Member, Senator Barbara Boxer's Central District Judicial Appointment Advisory Committee, 1993-97.

AWARDS AND HONORS:

Phi Beta Kappa.

Pi Gamma Mu National Social Science Honor Society.

Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Fraternity.

Governor's Trophy, California Governor's Committee for Employment of Disabled Persons, 1985.

The President's Distinguished Service in Encouraging and Promoting the Employment of People with Disabilities Award, President's Committee, 1990.

INTERVIEW HISTORY

INTERVIEWER:

Danni Bayles-Yeager, Interviewer, UCLA Oral History Program; B.A., Drama and Dance, California State University, Chico, 1974; M.A., Theatre Arts, California State University, Chico, 1980; M.L.I.S., University of California, Los Angeles, 1998.

TIME AND SETTING OF INTERVIEW:

Place: Martin's office, UCLA.

Dates, length of sessions: April 13, 1998 (72 minutes); April 17, 1998 (81); May 4, 1988 (84); May 18, 1998 (90); May 27, 1998 (85); June 1, 1998 (81).

Total number of recorded hours: 8.2

Persons present during interview: Martin and Bayles-Yeager

CONDUCT OF INTERVIEW:

In preparation for the interview, Bayles-Yeager reviewed materials in the UCLA Chancellor's Communications Service and the UCLA University Archives, as well as books and journals dealing with disability issues. The interview is organized chronologically, beginning with Martin's early years in Nebraska and his attack of polio in 1952 and continuing through his education at the University of California, Los Angeles, the establishment of the Westside Center for Independent Living, and his efforts to secure improvements in access services for the disabled on the UCLA campus. Major topics discussed include the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the establishment of the Westside Center for Independent Living, and the current state of disability services on the UCLA campus and of the disability rights movement nationwide.

EDITING:

Gail Ostergren, editorial assistant, edited the interview. She checked the verbatim transcript of the interview against the original tape recordings, edited for punctuation, paragraphing, and spelling, and verified proper names. Words and phrases inserted by the editor have been bracketed.

Martin reviewed the transcript. He verified proper names and made minor corrections and additions.

Jane Collings, senior editor, prepared the table of contents. Ostergren assembled the biographical summary, interview history, and index.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

The original tape recordings of the interview are in the university archives and are available under the regulations governing the use of permanent noncurrent records of the university. Records relating to the interview are located in the office of the UCLA Oral History Program.

TAPE NUMBER: I, SIDE ONE

APRIL 13, 1998

BAYLES-YEAGER: Good morning, Dr. Martin.

MARTIN: Good morning.

BAYLES-YEAGER: I think the very first thing we need to get to is where and when were you born?

MARTIN: I was born in Nebraska, in 1947, in an area near the South Dakota border, in a small town neighboring the town that my parents had a ranch near, called Lynch, Nebraska, at a small hospital there. It's about fifty miles from my hometown. My parents had a ranch about nine miles from my hometown, Naper. That was the nearest hospital. I was born there on May 8, 1947.

BAYLES-YEAGER: May 8. And your family-- Why don't you tell us a little about your family background?

MARTIN: My mother was from the area around there, as was my father. They met because my father worked for my mother's parents on their farm.

BAYLES-YEAGER: What was your mother's name?

MARTIN: My mother's name is Julia.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Her maiden name?

MARTIN: Weickum.

BAYLES-YEAGER: And your father's first name?

MARTIN: Arthur [Martin].

BAYLES-YEAGER: Ah. That accounts for the-- Arthur is your middle name.

MARTIN: That's correct. Yes. Some people mistakenly believed at the time I was born that--because of the renown of General Douglas MacArthur--that Douglas Arthur Martin was somehow a tribute to him. In fact, however, it was my father's name. Perhaps the name Douglas, though, was influenced by the prominence of the general. I think that that may have been the case. But the middle name is not in any way a play on or intended to be related to his, MacArthur.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Oh, well, still that gives you a good strong beginning, right? And how about growing up in those early years there in Nebraska?

MARTIN: Well, as I said, my parents had a farm outside of Naper, about nine miles away. Naper itself was a very small town, about 200 [people]. I don't think it's ever gotten to much more than 200. In those days, perhaps, it was 150 or so, but it's closer to 200 now.

BAYLES-YEAGER: That's small.

MARTIN: That's small. And we were a long way from anywhere really sizeable. I guess it was considered to be a trip to the big city to go to O'Neill, which was a town of a couple thousand which was about sixty miles away. And it was really quite idyllic in many ways. Growing up on the ranch, we had

mixed farming. It was an area of dry-land agriculture--some corn. In fact, a lot of corn and alfalfa. We had range cattle and we had milking cows. We had purebred range cattle and we also had purebred hogs. And chickens, of course, ducks. The whole complement of farm--

BAYLES-YEAGER: This sounds like your all-American childhood.

MARTIN: It really was, you know. I remember a line from Housman's "A Shropshire Lad":

Into my heart an air that kills
From yon far country blows:
What are those blue remembered hills,
What spires, what farms are those?

That is the land of lost content,
I see it shining plain,
The happy highways where I went
And cannot come again.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Oh, that's beautiful.

MARTIN: And I think of that-- When I read that, it still calls up those childhood memories. They were very pleasant.

I had a lot of time in the open air, although, being an only child I was, you know, engaged in solitary sorts of pursuits--out on the ranch. Of course, I had the company of other children from the neighborhood for birthday parties, things like that. But much of my time was spent with my faithful dogs. I had two dogs. We would go out on the property and do all kinds of adventures, sight-seeing, looking around the place.

BAYLES-YEAGER: It sounds like *Lassie*.

MARTIN: I had my provisions for the day, some food, some water, and my dogs. And I would go down to the pond in good weather, the summer. Out in the snow--fox and goose, that kind of thing, the games that children play out in the snow. Really had a great time.

Growing up, I remember my parents provided me with some building blocks that had the letters of the alphabet on them and whatever the first letter would begin, the name for whatever: like A for apple. There would an apple on the block and an A. I managed to learn those fairly quickly. I didn't have a lot of exposure, early on, to things like preschool, things of that nature. But being an only child in an adult environment, I suppose I got some--

The radio was a very big source of information and entertainment in those days. Of course, we had a large console radio in the living room, and-- The farmhouse was fairly roomy. It was not by any means expansive, but on the other hand it was a comfortable place. We had a living room and bedrooms. It was two stories. And we had, of course, a storm cellar as well, for those vicious Nebraska weather changes, in the summer especially. My mother canned extensively, so we had provisions that could last us through probably a couple of years of bad weather. We would often find ourselves down

in the storm cellar. I remember that as a vivid memory of growing up.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Was that a regular thing when you were a kid?

MARTIN: Well, in the summer it was. July, August-- My father was fairly expert at recognizing the signs of approaching bad weather if he was out in the field. Those were the days before, of course, Doppler radar and all those things telling you in advance there's a storm coming, get cover, or telling what kind of a storm it was. My father had something of a meteorologist's eye that he had developed over the years of working in the fields.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So you never got caught, then, out in one of these storms?

MARTIN: We did not. We did have some very severe hail storms that broke windows and tore up the roof, but never were we struck by a tornado. Although there were those that came close. I remember the tremendous noise outside the storm cellar. We had to hold the doors so they wouldn't come open, because the winds were so vicious. But they never actually hit directly, though.

BAYLES-YEAGER: When you were a child, did you get to go see the *Wizard of Oz*?

MARTIN: I think that came later, but I recognized-- It seemed to me familiar territory. Kansas and Nebraska are not that

much different in that regard. We were on a fairly flat area, gently rolling hills. My parents got the farm, the ranch, I think in 1939 or 1940. About '39 I think it was. So coming out of the Great Depression.

They had, interestingly enough-- It may be the all-American story, but it also is kind of the Joad family, in a way it always strikes me. After I read [John] Steinbeck [*The Grapes of Wrath*] later in life, I thought, "My gosh, there's a lot of stuff that I can really relate to," because my parents got married in 1933 in the real depths of the Depression and worked for my mother's parents [Lena and Gus Weickum] there on the farm. But they really had no prospects of being able to get a place of their own. They lived with my mother's parents for a number of years.

They decided, after some years, that it might be worthwhile to try to go to California and find a job. And they understood that there were some jobs out in the Central Valley. And they and my uncle [Rudy Martin] got in their--I'm not sure what model car it would have been, but one of those that has a roof that comes up and down--Ford Model T or Model A. Model A it must have been, because it was later. So they packed all their belongings in the car and drove to California. I don't know if they had some distant cousins or something that

lived around, I believe it was around Fresno [California]. For a year or so they worked in the fields there, picking potatoes and other things.

BAYLES-YEAGER: How many years were they--?

MARTIN: Well, this was a year or so that they were in the Central Valley.

BAYLES-YEAGER: They must have gotten disillusioned.

MARTIN: Well, it was difficult to find work. Although clearly I think that they were spared some of the worst kind of deprivation. But they had a difficult time finding lodging that they could pay for with the wages they got. They had work, but it didn't really amount to enough to accumulate, to put them in a better position than simply endlessly toiling in those fields. And after having looked around for opportunities, it seemed pretty limited.

Then they heard that things were getting better in Nebraska, because the dust bowl was what really caused them to move on. They couldn't make enough to support everybody on the land. It was exceedingly dry and there were dust storms and the crops didn't produce. Of course, there was no way to irrigate. There were no reservoirs. There was no groundwater, no technology at that time

available to bring it up-- That's changed somewhat these days, of course. But in those days you relied on the rain.

We're in an area in that part of the Central Plains that is notoriously fickle with respect to rainfall amounts. It's what's called the twenty-inch isohyet, which is twenty inches of rain a year, but the average might be ten and thirty, and in any particular year you don't get twenty. And twenty inches is just about the margin for growing things, rather than for grazing. So if you try to grow crops in that land, it's a--

Well, my father often said, "Who says there's no legal gambling in Nebraska?" [laughs] Farming was it. We had years when we'd watch the storms go, the rain clouds go to the north, to the south, and we'd be left in this little band that was drought stricken. Then the next year, you watched the hailstorms come and wipe out your crop after you'd worked on it for the whole summer. And this would happen in August and sometimes you would have two or three of these. What one storm didn't get, another one would. So it was really kind of a roll of the dice.

But some of the changes that came about because of the Depression and dust bowl were better soil conservation methods, the planting of shelterbelts--we did a lot of that on the ranch. The trees were planted to cut down on wind erosion and to create windbreaks--and we built dams that created water ponds for feeding the livestock and so on. So that was after, you know, my parents returned to Nebraska in the later thirties

and when the worst of the drought and the dust bowl and the wind storms were over. Land, then, was then very cheap. In fact, the banks were really promoting the resettlement, or selling these things to clear their record. Although, at that time it didn't appear to be much of a--

BAYLES-YEAGER: Investment.

MARTIN: --not much of an enthusiastic prospect to go back to, considering that this was when it wasn't clear whether the worst of the climatic problems and the environmental problems were over.

BAYLES-YEAGER: But the New Deal had come along, so did that give a little more hope that it was going to be better?

MARTIN: Yes. The New Deal, certainly. It certainly did. I say the New Deal instituted some significant changes in agriculture. They educated and encouraged people about how to till the soil along contours, instead of in straight rows, if you had hilly terrain--cut down on erosion. How to plant shelterbelts, dam up small streams you might have on your property and create a fishpond and water for the livestock, and-- A whole lot of things that were instituted in the Soil Conservation Service came out of that era.

But before that, the widespread breaking up of the prairie-- The prairie, of course, was a long-term climax ecosystem which protected the land and was very rich in nutrients.

But when it was plowed--especially in those areas that were dry or marginally dry--there could be serious consequences. The thirties were really an example of tilling the soil, not providing enough ground cover, overgrazing on the grass that was left. So these things were made more scientific and there was a lot of work that was done subsequently that helped. Also the introduction of new plants for cultivation--

I think, in fact, the book *O Pioneers!* [by Willa Cather] has a good thing about-- The University of Nebraska had a number of experiments on what would grow best in the area, and alfalfa was one of those crops that they came up with. In fact, it's still a staple for providing feed for livestock and it holds the ground cover much better than things like wheat or corn.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Well, it's an example of something good coming out of something that was truly disastrous at the time.

MARTIN: Yes. It was. It was thought by many of the old-timers that they'd seen the country in great shape and then the dust bowl hit, and they basically thought that it would never return, could never be productive again. I think in some respects that it gives us hope, even for some of the damage that's been done other places, that maybe it can be healed with the right-- We can restore some of the problems we've created some other places, because you go back there now and it's--

Well, it's God's country. It looks great.

BAYLES-YEAGER: By the time you came along, then, you saw a totally different landscape.

MARTIN: I did not have that experience. No. I only heard about it, but it was vivid in people's minds and it was only a few years past. Plus, the outbreak of World War II, in Europe, a year or two after my parents returned from the Central Valley and tried to eke out a living-- There were these farms on the market for what today would be considered small amounts, but in those days, of course, relatively speaking, large amounts, even then. Although of course, a fraction of what they would have been worth probably in the twenties. But since there was no money and there was no work, even a down payment of a couple hundred dollars was exceedingly difficult. But fortunately, they decided to risk it all again. They were eternal optimists, you know. And I suppose that's part of the pioneer spirit.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Well, how old were your parents? How old were they at this point? How long had they been married?

MARTIN: Well, let's see. My father was born in 1907 and my mother in 1915.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So at this point, they had been married a couple of years? So they were still a young, optimistic couple.

MARTIN: Right. Even with the experience of working in the

Central Valley, basically a kind of hand-to-mouth existence, moving with the crops, they came back and purchased the ranch. I guess it was probably late '38, early '39. Then the outbreak of the war kind of altered the market situation for livestock products and farm products in general. And of course, the entry of the U.S. into the war, later yet-- Agriculture became exceedingly important.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Important, yes. Did your ranch have a name?

MARTIN: Riverside Ranch. We were near the small river there.

BAYLES-YEAGER: What was the name of the river?

MARTIN: Keya Paha River.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Keya Paha?

MARTIN: It's a great Sioux Indian name. I wish I could tell you what it means. That is a tributary of the Niobrara River, which is a little further from our ranch, but-- The southern part of our ranch overlooked the valley of the Niobrara and the Keya Paha. It was very bucolic.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Were there any Indian reservations?

MARTIN: Not right there. They were further west. But yes, in southern South Dakota, western, southwestern South Dakota. Around there, surely there were. Not immediately adjacent.

BAYLES-YEAGER: All right. So you were--

MARTIN: But, in fact, I remember well-- We had "town nights" in the small town of Naper, for the locals to come from the

farms to do their shopping on a Saturday evening. And I remember quite well seeing Native American people there as well, shopping and walking the streets. It's an interesting thing because they often had-- They were bringing things in that they might want to sell, that they had perhaps trapped or something like that. And they were wearing, sometimes, some of their jewelry or costumes and Native American finery in some cases, but the--

BAYLES-YEAGER: So for a little boy, this must have been really impressive.

MARTIN: It was really interesting. I remember having had more than one encounter with medicine men at one time or another, in that area.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Can you remember any stories? That's fascinating.

MARTIN: Yeah. Trying to think now. I can't recall the name offhand, but he was a medicine man who had a sweat lodge and would try to heal people or if they were ill to help them or whatever. I recall someone, I'm not even sure who, suggested that it might benefit--at least by his prayers or spiritual incantations. So I believe that he did something with sage, and some other materials in this ritual, that I found fascinating. This was after I returned from the hospital. I guess I'm getting ahead of the story.

BAYLES-YEAGER: How old were you at that time?

MARTIN: Must have been about seven, I suppose, or eight.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So you remember it pretty well.

MARTIN: Oh, yes. I remember. That was rather vivid. Of course, he did a lot of chanting and so forth. This was out, really, right out on the prairie where he had a very small hut. So it was very colorful, very kind of moving, because he chanted these rather haunting sorts of chants that seemingly were repeated, but in different cadences.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Well, we are getting a little ahead of the story. Why don't we go back? Now, the polio epidemic begins in the fifties--

MARTIN: Well, yes. I'm on the farm and-- I should mention that to supplement our family's income, my parents took in schoolteachers and had them board in our house because--I had mentioned--we had a bit of room there. In those days there was a school, often, every several square miles, or sections of land. And a corner of that land would be dedicated to a schoolyard. We had one on the corner of our property. So it was possible for me to be taken down to the corner school. The teachers who taught there would reside in our house. So I got exposed to, I think, quite a bit of educational background, even though I wasn't formally taught, being too young. But as I say, we had the company of adults and these

teachers, who were interesting and always were paying me a good bit of attention, I recall. They to talked to me a lot and would read to me or whatever. And I would go to the schoolhouse, I think basically when my parents thought that it would be good if I got out of the house for a while. So they would take me down to the schoolhouse and these teachers would have me there with the other kids who were quite a bit older than I. It was a form of recreation.

BAYLES-YEAGER: There was no kindergarten, no regular--

MARTIN: Not really. But I got in on a lot of those things up until the age of five when it would have been time to go to school. But in August--that would have been in '52--there were the, of course, polio epidemics of that time and I--

Interestingly enough, the state of Nebraska had the highest per capita average of polio cases in the country. Nobody knows why to this day. So far as I know, the epidemiology of the outbreak is still a scientific uncertainty. The vector, the means by which polio spreads, is still not known so far as I know. It still remains a mystery, but with the advent of the vaccine it became irrelevant. But how and why Nebraska--But I came out of an area where it was a very common thing. That is, the state. Now, in the area where I lived, there were no other cases in the county. So how and why I contracted it is still unknown and no one has ever ventured a guess.

I suppose it can be suggested it could be airborne or something, but it must have been airborne a long way, because I didn't travel widely in those days at all.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Is it possible that one of these town nights you could have been exposed to so many--?

MARTIN: You know, people came from around. But the county was not a small place, so-- I mean, yes, I suppose it is.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So you became ill in August.

MARTIN: Didn't have swimming pools. You know, those were-- The real fear was public places, and while people didn't know what caused it they didn't let their children get together with other children in places like pools. There was a real fear.

BAYLES-YEAGER: I remember that too.

MARTIN: A great fear in the land about this. It seemed to me a very terrifying kind of thing, to think that children could be contracting this just very suddenly. And '52 was one of the worst outbreaks in history, maybe the worst, actually. Because then the vaccine came along in '53, I believe it was. Or thereabouts.

BAYLES-YEAGER: I remember in first grade being lined up for that shot.

MARTIN: That's right. When the vaccine came it was such a phenomenon--miracle, kind of--that this could be prevented,

that everyone basically got the shot. Even those that had polio were given the shot to prevent contracting other forms of the virus they had not contracted. There was more than one kind of virus, so you're-- You can get one kind of polio and get another version later.

BAYLES-YEAGER: I didn't realize that.

MARTIN: Yes.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Do you remember actually coming down ill? Did you think, "It's just a bug or flu"?

MARTIN: I remember it was August. It was hot. Nebraska summers, hot and humid. And I woke up one morning and had a neck ache and a sore throat and didn't feel well, was feverish. Thought it was some kind of a cold or-- Didn't know what it was immediately, but by evening I had a hard time holding my head up. Then, I think it was yet that same day, I had a hard time standing up. Overnight I seemed to be getting weaker.

So my parents arranged for a person that had a crop dusting plane to fly us to Omaha [Nebraska]. It was really the only place, which is 250 miles away. But we commandeered a plane, a single engine Cessna, or whatever, a very small plane. This was my first plane ride, so even though I was quite ill, I remember the exhilaration of it.

BAYLES-YEAGER: You were flying. You're a little kid and

you're in a plane.

MARTIN: That's right. Exactly. So you know, you're getting polio, but still remember--to me--the adventure of getting on this plane and flying to Omaha-- By the time I got to Omaha I was almost completely paralyzed, just within about twenty-four hours of the onset. They had to put me in an iron lung because I wasn't able to breathe. Immediately. And that's where I remained for about three years.

BAYLES-YEAGER: What was the name of the hospital?

MARTIN: Children's Memorial.

BAYLES-YEAGER: This is in Omaha.

MARTIN: In Omaha; it is not there any longer. But it was-- And because of the epidemic and the tremendous number of children that had polio-- And adults, some adults as well-- It is not just a children's disease, although it's common in children. The halls were full. The rooms were full. The wards were full. They were overflowing. They had people in beds in the hallways when I was wheeled in. I couldn't believe all of these other children. The ones that could be left in the hallways and attended to there, were. It was sort of a triage. And others that couldn't breathe any longer were put in the iron lung ward. And there were wards and wards of these people and children in adjoining rooms. And then even some of those had to finally be put in the hallway. The iron lungs-- There

weren't enough rooms to hold them. And there almost weren't enough iron lungs anymore to hold people. So they were having a hard time. They tried other-- There were other devices to help people breathe, but the iron lung was really the one of choice for the seriously impaired.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Do you have any idea of how many people were in iron lungs?

MARTIN: Well, there were certainly hundreds. A couple hundred, at least, at the time I-- Probably at the height of the epidemic. And some of them didn't survive very long. And others, if they did, it usually was-- There were some that had a quick kind of paralysis of the pulmonary system that passed over and they recovered in a few months. And there were people who, even with the iron lung, didn't survive. I remember this happening often--more than once--in the ward that I was in, where we'd go to sleep and the next morning the lung would be gone with the person next to us. You know, the kids would have been talking to each other and got acquainted, "What's your name and who are you?" We could see each other because our heads were out. We could see at least the people right on either side of us. And some mornings you'd wake up--in the night they had wheeled the lung with the deceased--

BAYLES-YEAGER: This must have been terribly traumatic for a five-year-old.

MARTIN: Well, yes. Because I had been in an idyllic, sheltered, pleasant environment and was wrenched away from that. The first night I recall being especially confused, because I wasn't able to move or turn in bed, nor was I able to get the attention of just anybody to help me because I was uncomfortable lying there. It seemed like an endless night of calling for the nurse. The nurse, of course, was overwhelmed. The nurses. Anybody who had anything as simple as "I need to be turned over" was not likely to be attended to.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Now, your mother wasn't able to stay with you?

MARTIN: No. Because of the fear of the contagion. They really discouraged people from-- And we were often-- We were in isolation to start with.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So you're five years old and you're not only wrenched away from home, but [from] your family.

MARTIN: Oh, yeah. And it went on for some months before they finally would allow visiting a little bit. But even then it was very restricted. The biggest time of the year was in December, at Christmas, when they allowed five hours of visiting in a stretch for parents on Christmas Day. And that was our, you know--

BAYLES-YEAGER: You must have lived for that day.

MARTIN: That was it. And then, since I was there several

years, of course that became-- But other than that, it was about fifteen minutes maybe once a week. They were very strict.
BAYLES-YEAGER: And your parents were the only ones allowed to see you?
MARTIN: There were other family that-- But you know, they lived a long way away. There were a couple of friends of the family in the Omaha, Lincoln area--relatives that came. But again, they were probably restricted. They would come for, you know, a little bit, what they could do.

After it was apparent that I wasn't able to return home anytime soon, my parents rented the ranch. That would have been, I suppose, in '53. My mother took a job in Omaha in a dental office and my father in a macaroni factory so they could be near me. They worked there until I was able to return home, which would have been about '55. Three years, yes. Three years.

I got out of the iron lung at the age of about eight. I was able to graduate, little by little, to breathe on my own, painstakingly slow. The first time they turned it off it was really frightening, because nothing happens when you try to take a breath. They turn it off for thirty seconds and then turn it back on. After a while I had enough return of my pulmonary function to breathe a minute, perhaps, before I was tired out. And then, two minutes and five minutes and

so on until-- This must have taken a year or more to build up to going out of the lung an hour at a time. To have a bath-- It could be done through portholes, but it was really difficult. Just being out and sitting up. It took a couple of years before I was able to do that.

By that time most of the other children that were there had gone. There were only a few of us left. But those of us that were around did form a pretty strong bond, and our parents did. That became a lifelong attachment, that those that did survive have always been in touch with each other, close to each other.

TAPE NUMBER: I, SIDE TWO

APRIL 13, 1998

BAYLES-YEAGER: When we left off you were in the hospital and you had just started breathing on your own. Now you're down to a small group of children who became very close. I think that's remarkable that you've kept in touch all these years.

MARTIN: I have. Sad to say, most of them, now, in the last few years, have passed on, so-- Actually, I think I'm probably one of the only ones left from that time, that I know, to this day.

BAYLES-YEAGER: While you were there, these were just normal children talking about things, even though they all happened to be in iron lungs, right? They're just kids.

MARTIN: That's right. Still kids, including being mischievous. Those that were not actually in the lung but in the ward, that had some ability to get up or whatever, would do kind of minimally destructive things like turn on the lights in the middle of the night and make the custodians come around to find out why they were on. Because there was the light switch and-- We had one person in the ward that could do this. But it was great fun to have this guy turn on the lights and then go back to bed and then they would try to figure out what's going on. He, of course, was under

suspicion all the time, was the only kid that could do anything in there. But we enjoyed, vicariously, seeing him do something, anything, to break the monotony.

BAYLES-YEAGER: You kids were egging him on, right?

MARTIN: One thing I do remember very vividly was the advent of television; it's the placement of a television in the ward. It would have been about '53, just in time for the Army-McCarthy hearings. So we had nothing else to do. We're in iron lungs all day and we listen to the Army-McCarthy hearings. I got firsthand exposure to day after day of these hearings. Not that I was old enough to comprehend everything. But it made an impression that when I see those kinescopes of the time, I remember it very well, including some of the famous things like, "Have you no shame? Have you no shame?" Those things are very, very strong in my mind. And other things, at one point, where they're questioning and he says something about--There was a photograph that a person was cut out of and he said something about "Is that a pixie?" To this day, it's very memorable--some of these exchanges that they had between [Joseph R.] McCarthy and others.

BAYLES-YEAGER: You must remember Edward R. Murrow, then?

MARTIN: Yes. Certainly. And then of course we started to get these--now--classic TV shows on. Milton Berle and all those things. So that opened up an enormous window for those

of us who really were just lacking stimuli. We drank it in completely. So all of that stuff. Of course, *Howdy Doody* was the biggest thing. And right after that, a huge thing was *Davy Crockett* of course.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Fess Parker.

MARTIN: Right. I suppose in some strange way, those kinds of shows really affected one's, kind of, values and outlook on the future. *Davy Crockett*, especially, was always talking about, you know, being the individual and making up his own mind. Once you're right, go ahead.

BAYLES-YEAGER: "Be sure you're right and go ahead."

MARTIN: Right. That was-- That's still-- Cutting across the grain or being different never seemed to be as scary. And I was different already, having come out of this-- Returning home in a wheelchair. Those kinds of things lent itself to, maybe, a development of a self-concept that one could be different and it was okay.

BAYLES-YEAGER: But it's strange that you came out of this into a society that really still had problems adapting to people who were disabled.

MARTIN: Oh, yes. Yeah. While you were-- You were called a shut-in and really, I often have said, "Yeah, we were shut in and that's because we were shut out." It wasn't that we were shut in, it was that there wasn't any way for us to get

out, get out and about--get out to the corner drugstore or the restaurant or the movie theater. Anything like that. It was impossible.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Well, this brings me to a question I had then about Nebraska at this period of time. How far advanced was it in its programs for people who were disabled, especially children like you--? The educational prospects--?

MARTIN: Well, I wanted to mention that when I was in the iron lung for these several years, that I had no schooling, except when I finally was able to get out of the lung enough to be up in a wheelchair for about an hour. They would wheel us down to a classroom that was in the hospital. By this time the numbers of people had thinned out. So there was a good bit better ability to serve, to provide some additional things for the patients, because there wasn't this enormous overload of the epidemic that first struck-- However, as the epidemic declined, the resources of the hospital went elsewhere also. It wasn't always that we were just able to receive everything--like tutoring: we didn't have that. But we did have about a half hour of school and that was probably when I was seven or seven and a half, eight. About a year before I left, I think, I was able to start going and would be in a class of five or six others. Basically, we were starting with things, some of which I already knew, because as I said

I'd learned the alphabet and other things and knew how to read. I learned how to read more with those "See Jane. See Dick run," those books.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Yes. The Dick and Jane series.

MARTIN: The Dick and Jane books. I learned from them. One of the things that happened was, before I was able to do that though, somebody wrote-- In the iron lung you have a mirror up above the top of the lung so you can see, since your head is-- You're prone and you can't turn too much. You can only see to your right and left. This mirror allows you to see around quite a bit of the rest of the room. So on the sides of the mirror somebody wrote the alphabet and the Arabic numerals. Then, I think it was a nurse or somebody, they'd ask me what letter is this, what letter is this and how do you spell that and so on. Now and again they'd come along and engage the people there in discussions of one kind or another. So it was kind of a-- I already knew some of these things, but it did give me some--

BAYLES-YEAGER: Intellectual--

MARTIN: Yeah, intellectual stimulation. Then, the television really was, though, the stimulus of-- Bombarding you with all kinds of images and things about a much bigger world and much more going on. And you can imagine in this place that one didn't have any idea of whether one was going

to leave or that one could even live necessarily very long.
BAYLES-YEAGER: This was a wonderful time for television to come alive.
MARTIN: It was--in a way, yes--because of that exposure that it gave. The other thing that happened, though, that was, I remember, very formative-- We had a night nurse whose name escapes me, but she was a good bit more caring, it seemed to me, compassionate, concerned, to the point that she would sit at night-- We weren't always asleep or didn't sleep well or had nightmares or were lonely. Certainly very lonely. And she would sit by our lungs and she would often come to me.

It seemed to me that she was spending more time with me than some of the others and they were always-- You know, if they were asleep then she could do so. I guess maybe I was awake more than anybody else, asking for somebody to talk to me.

But she brought some photographs of the moon taken with a high-resolution telescope--the Palomar telescope--and showed me the moon and pictures of planets and told me what they were. Of course, I knew what the moon was, but I hadn't seen anything like that, the craters, the seas of the moon and the rings of Saturn-- It got me interested in knowing a lot more about the universe and our place in it and the

earth and its motions and-- So I got a real interest in science that came out of that. Just that offhand exposure there that if it hadn't happened, I don't know if I'd have been triggered that early. But when I was able to go to these classes, I wanted more books on things other than "See Dick run."

BAYLES-YEAGER: Did they have books for you to read there?

MARTIN: Well, they did. They really weren't prepared to give kids, I think, that kind of-- They didn't think that would be called for. But, you know, I could read and the subject matter was boring and, "Give me something about dinosaurs," you know. Dinosaurs were one of my favorite things.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Of all kids! All kids!

MARTIN: What kid does not like them? So I was able to name them all and read all about them. And of course read a lot about astronomy.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So your curiosity is really going now.

MARTIN: It was.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Thank goodness because you've been--

MARTIN: Well, I always had, even before the polio, of course, a lively interest and was able to read and identify things and had a vocabulary that was--I'm told--unusual for my age. Exactly where I got the words, I'm not sure, but I must have picked them up from the radio, I think. Again, the role of--

BAYLES-YEAGER: Mass media.

MARTIN: Yes. There's no question. I was a sponge in front of the radio. You know, the radio had its--seems to me--its great advantage in that you could use your imagination to paint these remarkable pictures, as much as you could reading. But television kind of took away the need to imagine so much; you were told things-- And still, you--you know--could pick up a lot. But I still remember those kind of-- What was it? *Sergeant Preston of the Yukon* and imagining what was happening. Seeing that, just in my mind's eye, very vividly as a child. *The Shadow* and some of the others. Of course, the *Lone Ranger* being probably the big one there. But *Sergeant Preston* was a real memorable thing. So I probably picked up quite a bit of this kind of rudimentary, early educational background without actually being formally instructed.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Oh, I think people denigrate mass media far too much. I mean, its amazing how much a child can soak up. And good stuff--

MARTIN: And the three year, two and a half year hiatus of study wasn't necessarily a complete loss. I started reading quite a bit on my own. I was able, then, to leave the iron lung for a portable machine, not very portable in those days. It was a huge device, but it had a hose and it would attach to a shell--kind of like a tortoise shell--that fits over the abdomen and creates a negative and a positive

pressure, moving your abdomen, filling your lungs with air. But because the shell was just from here, covering your abdomen with straps around your back, you could be very much more mobile in this unit.

BAYLES-YEAGER: How old were you at that point?

MARTIN: That would have been about seven and a half or so. The device was fairly large, it's about the size of the desk, but more tall and it was on rollers. This was the portable lung, the new device.

BAYLES-YEAGER: It's still about six feet wide.

MARTIN: Yeah. Then it got down to the size of a suitcase. It was at that point that I got to use that to go home. So it was technology that was critical for my ability to function more independently and it was waiting for technology to catch up, that-- In fact, quite a lot of the rest of my life has been--

In the office, I am a high-technology person and I'm always waiting for technology to make the next move. And each time it does I'm really liberated. The better the power wheelchair and the better the breathing device-- I still use a breathing device every night.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Oh, you do?

MARTIN: Oh, yes. I have to. I can't sleep without the device. I never recovered enough pulmonary function to breathe on

my own while I was asleep.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So how big is the apparatus now?

MARTIN: Well, right now, it's about a cubic foot. So they've shrunk it down. It's about twenty-five pounds or so, something like that. And I don't use the tortoise shell device anymore; I use a mouthpiece. It's become really streamlined and it's very portable and I can take it anywhere that there is electricity, including twelve volt. So you can use it in the car. I've travelled long distances and it doesn't really restrict me as much anymore.

BAYLES-YEAGER: But you're out of the device altogether during the day?

MARTIN: Yes. I've been able to--

BAYLES-YEAGER: For how many hours?

MARTIN: Well, I get tired after I've been without it for twelve hours or so. Usually ten hours or so a night is enough. You know, you work at breathing, but if you're awake, you can do it. But you can't fall asleep without this device. You begin to fall asleep and you stop breathing and then it wakes you up. You get exhausted very quickly. So I can't go without it more than about twelve to fourteen hours. Oh, now and again, if I need to stay up a long period I can do it once, for maybe eighteen hours. That would be about the max. After that I've got to have air.

BAYLES-YEAGER: At the time that you went home, then, with this portable device, you were able to stay out of it for how many hours?

MARTIN: Well, there were a couple of technological advances. One was this portable device, which wasn't so portable. And the rocking bed--

BAYLES-YEAGER: The rocking bed?

MARTIN: --which was a successor to the iron lung, for some people. I was one of those that could use it. It's a bed on rollers and it has under it a motor and gears. Then, the bed itself is on a platform and the mattress is attached and you lie on it and you were strapped onto it. And it raises alternately the feet and the head at about thirty times a minute. It's a wild ride, but the purpose is to use gravity to make you breathe. If you go down on your head and you're at an angle of, let's say, thirty degrees with your head tilting downward, the diaphragm pushes and the internal organs push up toward the ground and push against the diaphragm and push the air out your lungs. And then, when you alternately tip thirty degrees above horizontal with your head, the internal organs and the diaphragm fall and the lungs expand. And it's physics that air has to come into your lungs.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So this is a way of strengthening your own body?

MARTIN: And you begin to be able to use the rocking bed a little more and a little more and then a long while. And the lung does all the work for you. With the rocking bed, you get a boost from the gravitational help, but it's not enough to do everything, but you can add to it. And maybe you can eventually slow down the rate or be out of the lung for longer and longer periods.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So was this really frightening to you, though, at first when they started you on these different things?

MARTIN: More frightening was actually learning to breathe without the lung before the rocking bed was around. And learning to go a minute or two minutes.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So you were doing that before the rocking--?

MARTIN: Right. And I'd already built up the ability to be out of the lung thirty minutes or an hour without any assistance, but would have to go back into the lung. The rocking bed allowed me to be out of the iron lung the whole day, maybe even all night. And in fact, as time went along, I got from the lung completely onto the rocking bed.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Could you sleep very well on this?

MARTIN: You know, remarkably, yes. It had a lulling effect. If you needed to breathe and you couldn't without some assistance and you would feel yourself moving-- It was being

like on a ship or a boat, I suppose. You learn and finally when you get to land you miss the motion. When I would get off the rocking bed-- You would feel the sea, you know.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Your sea legs, yes.

MARTIN: Yeah. So I had my rocking bed legs I guess you would call it. But at night-- Finally I was sleeping on it all night. Then during the day they would simply turn it off and make it level and you could be on this bed without any assistance for a while and then they'd turn it back on. You didn't have to be moved in and out, or transferred somewhere else. You could use it as a bed or you can use it as a breathing device.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Well, when you went home did you have one of these rocking beds at home?

MARTIN: That is right. Yes. My parents found an apartment. Of course, they wanted to get one close to Children's Hospital and there were not a great many places available, so we had to take one-- The only thing we could find was one with steps. We moved all of these things in. The rocking bed is what I was using at that time, and I had this portable lung device.

What I would do is at night I'd use the rocking bed. In the daytime the rocking bed would be off, but I'd have this chest shell and the other portable device working. So I could be stationary, because it's fine if you're asleep,

but if you are awake and want to be active, you can't do anything on the rocking bed--like eat, for example, or watch television, or talk to people because you're-- You know, you're in their view, you're out of their view. You know, if you want to keep eye contact, it's pretty difficult. So this was all-- So using the chest shell during the day and the rocking bed at night-- We had a lot of equipment there. And, I was using this manual wheelchair.

BAYLES-YEAGER: But was it a great thing just to be out of the hospital?

MARTIN: That's right. It was an extraordinary relief when we got home

I should mention one other kind of transitory phase that was about six months, where I went from Children's Hospital--at the end of this three-year period, when I was able to use these other devices finally--to St. Joseph's Rehabilitation Center in Omaha, which was just that. A place for people who were well enough--again, mostly old polio--who, like myself, did not recover significantly for a long time. We went there and had another period, in my case about six months, of rehabilitation in a much less clinical setting, much more oriented to socialization. There was no restriction on when your parents could come. And again, there were wards of patients. But there were people with other kinds of disabilities, too,

not just polio.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Spinal cord--

MARTIN: Yes, yes, that's right. And cerebral palsy and other things. So they were all learning-- And we were doing occupational therapy and exercising and doing things with our hands to improve manual dexterity and do whatever with whatever they had. If people could paint with their toes, they were with painting their toes, whatever was possible.

In my case, I liked making things with my hands. Maybe that's part of being on the farm and always being exposed to tools and repairing things; I used to do that. My grandfather was very good with-- And had a lot of tools, a lot of nuts and bolts. I used to take his tools and take apart his dining room table when I was there. Then they would find out about it the next time when they wanted to open up the leaves and they would fall. I was always tinkering with things. So that was a good thing to be back to doing something, making something.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So they had a crafts program and things for the kids. Were they teaching you how to do things like feed, dress yourself?

MARTIN: Yes. That was a big part of the whole effort. As much as we could do.

BAYLES-YEAGER: At that point, how much could you do?

MARTIN: Well, not much. It was a big deal when I buttoned

a button. I was able to do more and more, but it was gradual. Some of that wasn't all completed when I went home. But I was able to do enough. My mother stopped working so that she could be home and my father continued at the macaroni factory. They got the apartment and we were there then until I didn't need the rocking bed anymore.

BAYLES-YEAGER: About what time did this happen?

MARTIN: That would have been--let's see--'56. It was thought that with the portable device that I could return to our farm.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So you were able to finally go really home.

MARTIN: Right. However, we decided-- Actually, my parents thought that it might be best if we were in town, because of the difficulties of being out on the ranch. So they didn't go back to the farm. We moved in with my mother's parents, who had a house in town. They were retired ranchers themselves. They had a big Victorian house.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Lots of steps.

MARTIN: Lots of steps! Lots of upstairs rooms. Lots of inaccessible bathrooms.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Which town was this, though? Was this Lynch?

MARTIN: In Naper.

BAYLES-YEAGER: In Naper.

MARTIN: Lynch is just where the hospital was where I was

born. Other than that, I really had very little to do with Lynch. But Naper was the community for our surrounding area.
BAYLES-YEAGER: Well, were they able to make it any more accessible for you? Were they able to put in ramps at least?
MARTIN: My grandfather had been having more and more problems with arthritis and so he had made some changes in the place, that certainly were not to today's standards by any means, but with all the help that we had around there made it possible at least to function. And I was living on the ground floor. Not on the level of the ground; there were several steps. But there was a fairly large first floor, so I could get around all of the different rooms. Going in and out wasn't really something I did, but shortly after we got back to Naper my parents set about building a house for us.

It turned out that my father discovered that he had an aptitude for carpentry, which actually was not exactly strange to him because he built and repaired most of our farm buildings over the years anyway. If he wasn't doing that when they got the farm, he was doing it for other people that he worked for as a hired hand. And in those days, to be a hired hand, you did roping and branding and carpentry--fixing fences, fixing the barn, repairing the roof--whatever it took. You didn't hire carpenters from another area of the county or a big city or something to come and do something--or a plumber

was unknown. You know, these things were done-- Fixing the farm equipment-- You couldn't call in a repair person from Illinois to fix your John Deere.

BAYLES-YEAGER: You had to be a jack-of-all-trades.

MARTIN: He was; he was. And he built this house from scratch.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So he was able to design so that you would be able to--?

MARTIN: That's right. That's right. So we had temporary quarters that were useable.

BAYLES-YEAGER: How long were you in this?

MARTIN: We were there, I guess, about eight months or so. We moved in on December 7, 1956, to our new home. That was an easy to remember date. It was, you know, a single level and had an accessible bathroom and all of the things that nobody had even heard of in those days. But because he was so good at it and because we thought about what would be good-- It had a large area cemented in front of the house. It had something unheard of in those days, in that area, an attached garage, so that you could drive in and unload without being out in the elements and go into the house. That helped a great deal for me because I was subject to enormous difficulties with my pulmonary system in that I was very susceptible to cold--and to contract the common cold and having that turn into pneumonia-- And that is always, of course, a problem

with people who have had polio that has affected their lungs.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Well, Nebraska has very harsh winters.

MARTIN: Indeed. For the first time we were able to come and go from the house to--if there was anyplace else you could get close to--go without too much exposure, at least. It was a great improvement.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So you were able to--

MARTIN: And we had air conditioning. Another thing unheard of in that place in that time. We did have it in Omaha, just before I returned back to the farm. Of course in Omaha and places like that, it was not unusual, but in our rural area these things were still coming and-- Indoor plumbing was a relatively new idea when I was a child. You know, there was the house on the prairie and then there was the house behind the house on the prairie.

BAYLES-YEAGER: The "Chic Sale."

MARTIN: Now, when I was growing up on our ranch, we had indoor plumbing at that time, but we didn't have electricity in the form that we now do, but rather the-- At that time it was wind chargers and batteries. Of course, we had a lot of wind on the prairie, so we had a wind charger in our yard and there were batteries that my dad maintained that ran everything on thirty-two volts. Our radio and our mixer and all those kitchen appliances all ran on thirty-two volts. But

interestingly enough--I think about this often-- The idea of getting back to energy self-sufficiency by the individual-- We had all that.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Yes.

MARTIN: And it went away because of the rural electrification program. We were generating our own electricity, had our own storehouse of energy, and it was wind power. Now I go out to the desert and I see all these windmills-- Every farm had these. You know, of course, we were in an area that had a lot of wind, but now that's not even used as a source of energy. The wind's still blowing. You could think how much energy could be produced.

BAYLES-YEAGER: We have to get back to--

MARTIN: There were a lot of things that, you know--some of which--

BAYLES-YEAGER: Worked just fine.

MARTIN: --worked just fine. And that was one of those things that-- Then indoor plumbing, as I say, we had it when I was growing up, but just-- I think it was only a few years. The telephone was one of those things that you crank and six people can hear what you're saying to your neighbor: a long and short or two longs and a short, all that. That's the kind of phone we had. So there were no dial phones. But we got our new house. We had-- The REA had finally-- Again, one

of those things from the New Deal. The countryside had been electrified, luckily, in this regard, because I could use my respirator. Thirty-two volts wouldn't have been compatible.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So the REA stands for?

MARTIN: Rural Electrification Administration. It came out of the New Deal to bring electricity to the rural areas. I think they installed the lines in early '56 or late '55, so we'd just got our home wired with 110 volt.

Just in time to be able to use my equipment. So technology, again, the advance of these things, all dovetailing just to make it possible for me to exist in that environment instead of being stuck in Omaha waiting for a way to be able to go elsewhere.

BAYLES-YEAGER: But you're still in a manual wheelchair. Now, were you able to operate it yourself at all?

MARTIN: Inside on a smooth, level floor, I could push myself room to room--not, you know, easily. I could move enough to be somewhat self-sufficient around there. Then, we had a grade school program, that the local school district arranged, for one of the teachers to come to our house. There was a state law, something about if students couldn't attend there was a minimum of I think forty-five minutes a day that they had to have a tutor.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Home schooling.

MARTIN: Right. And so one of the teachers in the local school, which by the way again was new-- A new schoolhouse had been built in our town and this district had been formed. Before that, country schools, as I said, were out on each group of four or five square miles. Anyway, they unified the district and built a modern building.

The old schoolhouse was a multistoried, totally useless, inaccessible place. They tore it down about the same time that I got to go back home and built this modern, one-level high school and grade school combination, with one step in the front door so I could use that with assistance. And they had-- The only problem was that I wasn't well. I was constantly ill because of getting pneumonia and things like that. So they had this tutor come to the house and she tutored me for a couple of years, until I was through the eighth grade.

But my parents felt that I really needed to have-- One, that I had an aptitude, a potential to develop and that I wasn't likely to get exposure to all that I might without a better arrangement. So they happened upon a teacher from Chicago who was looking for something to do outside the big city schools. He felt rather frustrated with inner city-- I think he worked with inner-city schools and he was wanting to do something out in the rural areas for a change. So he

put an ad in the paper and our local area found out about him.

When he was brought around for interviews, my parents knew that he was in town and they talked with him and he said that he would-- Yeah, he'd be glad to do the forty-five minutes after school. He was going to be the science teacher. He said, "But actually I don't think forty-five minutes is going to even let me get warmed up. So why don't we do as much as Doug can tolerate?"

He had dinner with us one night and he said, "Your only hope is to get the most education that you can." And he said, "I can help you with that." And, you know, "You are going to be able to go on to do some real interesting things if you have a solid foundation." He said, "I'd love to be your tutor. And I think you've the potential."

BAYLES-YEAGER: What was this man's name?

MARTIN: His name was Robert Titus. Robert V. Titus. And he was the ultimate influence on my life.

TAPE NUMBER: II, SIDE ONE

APRIL 17, 1998

BAYLES-YEAGER: Dr. Martin, we left off a wonderful interview on Monday by introducing someone who was evidently very, very important to your life at this time, and that was your tutor, Robert [V.] Titus.

MARTIN: Yes.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Can you tell us some more about him?

MARTIN: Well, Robert Titus is probably the reason I am where I am--probably the single most important reason, other than my parents, since they were the ones farsighted enough to believe that I had some potential, but only if I had opportunity for developing what he called a "trained intelligence."

They were very, very concerned--being in a small town, a rural area--that I would, after grade school, not be exposed to enough intellectual stimulation and enough teaching to prepare me for college. And they were not at all sure how this was going to work out, but the teacher that I had, which I had mentioned, for grade school came about thirty to forty-five minutes a night and gave me the basic readers and books and would ask me some questions. But it would be a very short session and it was not in-depth. The person, well-meaning and a very good person generally, was just not prepared to do in-depth work [for] the long range--especially at an advanced

level or for college preparatory work. She was proficient at grade level, but-- Nor was there anybody else who could do it in the high school. It was an unaccredited school, a very small school.

BAYLES-YEAGER: What was the name of this school, now?

MARTIN: Naper Public High. But being so small, it didn't have the requisite number of books in its library to rank for accreditation. It didn't have a big enough science laboratory. There were a whole variety of criteria it didn't meet, for the state to give it accreditation. So it was not a-- I would think-- Now, I wouldn't call it disadvantaged, in the sense of lacking utterly, but being in a rural area, of course, it was hard to find teachers that had any background. Most of the teachers went to the local teachers college, the small teachers college nearby, and got their minimum amount of accreditation just to teach. It was not exactly a hotbed of intellectual activity. The big deal was our football and basketball teams from our high school. And believe me, Nebraska has taken their football very seriously.

BAYLES-YEAGER: This is what I hear.

MARTIN: Yeah. Even high school football. In those days, no exception. Now they've made it a religion, even above and beyond what it used to be. So that was a very, very intently watched area. But there was not a great emphasis on scholastic

achievement.

My parents felt, I think keenly, the lack of opportunity for them[selves] that they would have liked-- And they have said often, commented often, that they would have liked to have gone to college, wished that they could have gone and they couldn't. It just wasn't possible and they were determined, if I had any aptitude, to see that I would be able to do so. But they were very concerned, as the eighth grade came to an end, about what to do.

By some remarkable happenstance, Robert Titus tired of the big city school and decided that he wanted to strike out for rural America to see if he could make a mark there--bring something to places that probably hadn't had much in the way of people with in-depth, advanced study. So he saw an ad in the paper and applied-- It was an ad for principal of the school. Of course, the principal was also going to be the science teacher. He was a remarkably well-rounded, kind of Renaissance man, the kind that he always suggested would be a good model to follow in our studies. One of his goals was always to impart knowledge about a great many endeavors and areas, not just a particular, narrow focus-- Even though he taught science, he was equally at home in English literature or social studies of one kind or another. He studied, at one time, medicine. He was mathematical. He could do, without

really much preparation, courses in calculus. All these things just flowed from him--

BAYLES-YEAGER: He sounds like an excellent role model for you.

MARTIN: He was deeply reflective and philosophical, as well. And he had, at one time, toyed with the idea of becoming a priest. But he, instead, went into the navy during World War II and saw action and-- He was a medic in the navy. Then got out, was a radio personality in Chicago. He had this great, sonorous voice. This deep-- It would be perfect for radio. I never heard his show, but before he got to us he was an announcer on the radio in Chicago and studied at a variety of places, including Loyola [University of Chicago] and at University of Chicago, then taught in urban schools for some while and then he--

As I say, he felt-- He told us once that he felt that he was really looking for somebody that--or somebodies--that he could impart more to. He felt the urban schools were so large. The classes were so big and there wasn't enough personal time with students and it was much harder. A rural area might offer a chance to become much better acquainted and have a lot more he could impart in a small class. Indeed, he found just the general teaching in our small school to be very satisfying. But he had this great, sonorous voice and I can

see him being quite good as a radio announcer.

BAYLES-YEAGER: How old was he when he decided to make this change in his life?

MARTIN: Let's see. He must have been around forty, I suppose, when he arrived in town for the interview. My parents understood that he would be there. He was selected and my father saw him downtown, at the local store there one day, and they said, you know, "That's the new principal." My father looked at him and he said, "Oh, my goodness," because he was a very slight man and not very tall. In fact, he had--unbeknownst to us at the time--a very serious case of diabetes. And probably this was evidence of the condition that-- He later passed away. He didn't live terribly long after he left our town; he lived a few more years. So he died, I think, in his fifties, early fifties.

In any case, one of the problems that they'd had with our high school--I suppose not any more than most, but nevertheless--was the general rowdiness of students who thought that there wasn't really a strong hand, and having a principal that could command authority was something that the school had been looking for and couldn't seem to find. There were other principals that were there and quit and were either-- They had other opportunities or they decided in disgust or in frustration that they couldn't carry on. But they weren't

terribly well treated by the students. If the students thought that they might persuade them to go elsewhere, they would even be more difficult.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Well, of course. These are teenagers and these are a bunch of farm kids. They're not going to--

MARTIN: That's right. That's right. They didn't do anything terrible, when you think about it, by all kinds of other standards--

BAYLES-YEAGER: Compared to today.

MARTIN: Well, you know, it was general horseplay, but aggravating enough that sometimes these people would move on. Mr. Titus-- And my father had thought, "This man just doesn't have a chance. He's not large. He's not muscular. He's not commanding. He doesn't appear to be--" He didn't speak with him. He just saw him from afar.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So he's not an ex-football player.

MARTIN: No. He had very penetrating, very intelligent eyes. You could see the light of intelligence in his eyes, especially once you got to know him. But he would make very little of an impression if you saw him on the street and didn't talk to him. He was very slight of build and so on. He wouldn't really make much of an impression.

So we invited him over to dinner--my parents--with the idea in mind that, given that he was the only person in the

school that had any major academic qualifications, we'd check him out and see what he was like. He came in and he-- From the first moment he spoke, not only was he very impressive in terms of just the quality of his voice, which I think sets a tone and makes an impression that you can't ever forget. But then, from the philosophical, thoughtful, reflective things he would say, how he would say them, it was clear that this was no ordinary, run-of-the-mill teacher's college graduate. Here was a man that had been around a lot, that had a great deal to offer, that knew an extraordinary amount. As I recall, our first dinner [he] quoted from Shelley's *Prometheus Unbound* and [Shakespeare's] *Richard III* and several other things with facility--

BAYLES-YEAGER: What an impression this must have made on you.

MARTIN: --and I was thinking that this could be really good-- And he said, "Forty-five minutes-- I can't even get started. I'll come until he gets tired." And the folks were ecstatic. He said, "Plus, I won't accept any compensation." So what a deal! But he talked a bit about his background and he said, "You know, I've been at University of Chicago and I have been quite influenced by Robert Maynard Hutchins and Mortimer [J.] Adler and their ideas about the Great Books [of the Western World] program," which they had developed, it must have been

the late fifties. This was now, I think, 1961 or '60, when he first started teaching me. That would have been the beginning of my freshman year in high school. What year would that be, '60?

BAYLES-YEAGER: That would be '61, '62.

MARTIN: Yeah. Right. He had studied and become very interested in the Great Books program at the University of Chicago and convinced the Naper high school to buy the books--the series of books, the Great Books of the Western World, with Hutchins and Adler--and had it in the library. He said, "You know, I think you have a lot of capability. And in the next several years, what we should do is take the Great Books and use that as a foundation for your preparation for college. We will start with the ancient Greeks--" He said, "And you'll remember that Shelley said that 'We are all Greeks.'" He said, "We will start with the Greeks. The ancient Greek tragedians and then Aristophanes, the comedian, and we'll work our way up to the present time over the next four years." That's what we proceeded to do.

He was also a very cultured man--I should say--in that he knew a great deal about the classics, not only literary classics, but opera and music. And he insisted that I start listening to the Saturday afternoon opera, Texaco opera broadcast.

BAYLES-YEAGER: On National Public Radio.

MARTIN: And then every Monday he would ask me, "Well, tell me about the opera. What did you think of--?" And he'd listen to it, of course. And he would often go-- He had friends-- I think he had a rather-- He never talked much about his personal life, but I understand that before he went in the navy he married someone and had twin girls. Then when he was in the navy, he, like some other men in the navy, got a "Dear John" letter that said, "I've found somebody else." She took the twins and moved to California and I think he was never quite-- He never really quite recovered from that. He never married again.

He had good friends, though, in Kansas City, so he--on the weekends--would drive to Kansas City. He'd say, "You know, I do miss the city. I need to get to a place where there are cultural things happening."

BAYLES-YEAGER: Theater and museum.

MARTIN: Right. Right. And so he would take this long drive on a Friday night, get there Saturday, come back Sunday. Everybody wondered how he was able to do this, week after week, especially in the weather that we had. In fact, there's a story--I hope I don't forget--about him being lost in a blizzard for several days and thought dead. And miraculously-- It's a remarkable story. I've got to tell you about that,

but not yet. This was later on in our--

So that first night was very impressive. We had dinner and he said, "Well, there's no reason that you can't go to university, but you've got to be prepared and I'm just the person to do it." I said, "Well, let's go. Sounds good to me. You've got a lot of interesting things to tell me about." So we started out with the idea of the Great Books and then he said, "We'll also have music appreciation." And so we would have sessions with--

Depending on the day of the week, we'd have a session of mathematics and one of history and one of literature, and then we'd have music either in the background-- And he said, "Now--" He'd put on a record and he'd say, "Now what is this?" He'd play some symphonic piece and he'd ask me to identify it. Of course, I had been listening during the day. He'd got these records for me to keep around and listen to all the time.

BAYLES-YEAGER: And what was your favorite?

MARTIN: Well, of course, I was partial to Beethoven quite a bit--that and Verdi--the operas, *La Traviata*, especially. Mozart's *The Magic Flute*-- It's one of my all-time favorites; I just saw it recently. Those are the things that make an impression that lasts a lifetime and enriches one beyond belief. He set them all out for me.

I wasn't brought up in a family that knew much about those things. As much as they would have-- They supported fully the whole effort, but no one really in the family was literary or was cultural or had much of an academic background ever. My father had a lot of native intelligence and always felt, I think, that had he had a college education, he could have been in some profession. My grandfather had a great deal--as well as my grandmother--just the ability to know how to do things. But my grandfather also had this facility with people. He was a very affable man and everybody loved him. So when he ran for office, he got elected and reelected. So he was a political person. But it was not a-- He had a political sense, but not-- He never studied political science.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Well, this wasn't an area where it was very easy--

MARTIN: Not at all. No.

BAYLES-YEAGER: --to get a good education, and also during your parents' time, it was the Depression.

MARTIN: That's right. But they felt that it would have been great had they been able to do this, but they couldn't. So I wasn't exposed to that until he came, but on the other hand, it was entirely welcome in our house. They were always getting me books before he arrived. But the music part was an additional bonus.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So your education at this time didn't really follow the traditional course that it would have if you had gone to high school--

MARTIN: No, not at all. But you know--

BAYLES-YEAGER: --the freshman, sophomore, junior, senior sequence.

MARTIN: Right. One of the things he said at the outset was "I believe in the tutorial method, that it, rather than classroom teaching-- The tutorial method can have great impact." He said, "Don't forget that it was Aristotle who was the tutor to Alexander the Great." And he said that the tutorial method goes back to the ancient Greeks. He said, "You know, the Socratic method, properly applied, is still a very powerful method of teaching. Let's strive for excellence." And he said, "I'm not always going to tell you things, but I'm going to ask you things and you're going to find out how much you already know." He would frame these questions and draw out of me an answer that I didn't know was in me. It was very much like Plato's *Dialogues*. So it was-- But he really was a deeply instructed man. And I still marvel at his depth of learning and his sensibilities.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So this course of education took place over the course of the four year period that--?

MARTIN: Well, actually it was three years, because the end

of my junior year-- And there's some things to fill in in the middle there, but he didn't really make a commitment-- He said, "One year at a time and we'll see how it's going." By the end of the third year, well, something really changed--I think--sadly for him, with the assassination of John [F.] Kennedy. Prior to that, we had kind of an idyllic, an almost idealized kind of existence, being in this rarified environment of the noblest and the best--

BAYLES-YEAGER: A Camelot--

MARTIN: Not only in the country, but in our day-to-day existence of talking about, listening to Mozart, reading Sophocles, studying Newton or whatever the subject was at the time, and that was all shattered, really. Both our personal lives would never be the same after that. It just was a wrenching experience. And it was wrenching for him. He called up and he said, "I can't-- I don't know when I'm going to be able to come back to teach." When the assassination happened, he said, "I need time." It was a couple of weeks and we resumed, but he somehow was a different man. The sparkle there, the optimism that was so overflowing, was now lacking.

BAYLES-YEAGER: I think this happened with a lot of people at that period of time.

MARTIN: It was devastating.

BAYLES-YEAGER: It was the end of our innocence.

MARTIN: Right. And of course, you know, it was a formative time for myself at that age. But he had, I think, felt like [JFK] was somebody very close to him. So it was really tragic. It was really devastating.

At the end of the junior year, he said, "You know, I just feel like I need to do something else." He said, "You know, you've got the rest of the reading list. You already know enough to go ahead and read it. You'll do fine on your SATs. If I stay around another year, then it's going to be that much harder to--" He said, "I don't want to become too much of a-- I don't want you to become too dependent on me for your future activities." And he said, "I think it would be better if I do other things." So he left the school and he left our area.

I saw him a couple of times after that. But once I moved here--

BAYLES-YEAGER: Where did he move on to? Did he go back to--?

MARTIN: He went to-- I think he went back to Chicago and taught again in a school there for a few years. Then his diabetes became very serious. He knew he was not a well man for a long while. This may also have added to his, kind of, introspective or philosophical approach to things.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So did you have to continue alone or did they assign you someone?

MARTIN: Well, this is also interesting. Just as one door closes, another opens. This seems to all somehow be a repeated experience in my life. But another remarkable man appeared on the scene from--of all places--Arkansas. Yes. But not a person who had been out of touch with things. His name was MacLaughlin. We called him "Mac" for short. Everybody called him-- His first name was Dennis, but everybody called him Mac. He was a relative, a distant relative, of one of the people who lived in town, and they told him, "We have the principal's position open: Why don't you come on up? And he'd been studying at UC [University of California] Berkeley prior to his-- In this little tiny town, we had two of these remarkable people just by a fluke. And since the time I'd been there, they've never had another person like this. But when-- I guess when you're living right, you're living right.

BAYLES-YEAGER: It was needed.

MARTIN: It was needed and I was very fortunate. He came and he took the job. He said, "This could be fun for a while." He liked to be in the outdoors. And he said, "This will be great." He had studied with Curt Stern, a geneticist at UC Berkeley. He was exceedingly good in the sciences. I had my last year with him, at home, and then by that time I was better able to go to the classroom once a week for laboratory

work. He taught chemistry, so I got my high school chemistry from somebody who went to Berkeley.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Can't do any better than that.

MARTIN: Not really. And he said, "If you're thinking about going to college, you ought to go to the UC system because it's warmer; it's a lot easier to get around. You'll do a lot better." University of California. This was before the problem, even, with the University of Nebraska. He was just sold. He said, "Berkeley, of course, my first choice-- But UCLA, either one, you can't go wrong." I thought, well, that's interesting, you know, but never thinking in a million years I would ever get to Berkeley or UCLA. I was thinking the big step was Lincoln and the University of Nebraska.

If I can just back up a little. When Bob Titus was still with me, we would have these sessions in which we would take different plays-- And because of his great voice, he could do all these parts really well. It was great. We'd do *Oedipus Rex* and I'd take one part and he'd read the other. And we worked our way through those. Then in the summer he would give me a reading list and I'd have to write a report on each one of these things-- Like the plays of Aeschylus or Euripides. I'd do a summary. Of course, one of the first things he gave me was the *Odyssey* and the *Iliad*; he had me read those. And we did it chronologically, so obviously, when you get to Freud

and he talks about the Oedipus complex, the Electra [complex], and all the other references to mythology, I understand the reference. We did *Bulfinch's Mythology* as well. He would ask me penetrating questions about our readings. They were the kind of penetrating questions that I later got here at UCLA.

BAYLES-YEAGER: I was going to say, this really sounds much more the college education beginning already.

MARTIN: It was. It really was. Well, he said, "You're going to be at least well through your freshman year before you get to your freshman year." But it wasn't difficult. I think one of the great things about it was that it was fun. It was a great deal of fun. It was so much fun that it didn't seem somehow right to be learning that much and not having to struggle. Because the other students that I knew in my high school were just distinterested.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Were not enjoying their classes?

MARTIN: Not at all. No. Not enjoying their classes.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Maybe they would have if they had had a different approach.

MARTIN: I think this says a lot for the approach and how it's done, because it never turned me off. The joy of learning was never dampened in me, as it might have been in some others, depending on what-- Doing things by rote or-- It's drummed

into you and you have no interest in it. But that wasn't it. It was very lively and it was very interesting. Of course, I think personal tutoring was and is a really great method.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So Mac--Dennis MacLaughlin--was able to carry this on and give you more of a personal--

MARTIN: Right. He too was quite an interesting guy. He had not married at that time. He was itinerant. He had a real interest in physiology and other things. The last I heard, he was a specialist in cardiology. But he had studied with some of the great biologists at Berkeley. I got the advantage of that last year in the sciences. Now, before that I'd had some, but I couldn't get to the lab. We had more than one close call in my mother's kitchen, where Bob Titus would do an experiment and it went a little awry and some chemicals would get on the ceiling.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Your mother must have been a very understanding woman.

MARTIN: She was. But it kind of-- Although this put a chill on experimentation in the house, you understand. Getting to the lab at the high school in my senior year was probably a good thing, because I got to do a lot more of the experiments without the dangers.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Well, how did the other students react to

you coming into their lab?

MARTIN: Well, it's a small town, so everybody knows everybody anyway. All their children know all the other children. And even though I didn't get out much--in fact, I got out very little--but those first three years they knew me and I knew them. It really wasn't that big a problem there. I missed a lot of the other social activities, I think, more than the actual class time. You know, the social activities that went on between the classes and what high school kids do together afterwards, including going to those ball games.

BAYLES-YEAGER: You didn't go to the football games and join in this mania?

MARTIN: What was it Robert Maynard Hutchins said? What was it? "Whenever anybody says that I should exercise, I lie down until the urge goes away." Whenever I get the urge to exercise, I lie down-- I guess I-- You know, athletics-- It was an area that others seemed to enjoy more than I did.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Well, was there any social activity in the town that you were able to take part in that you did enjoy?

MARTIN: Well, there were occasional things at the town hall. Like we had our junior and senior class play; I did have a role in that. I provided the sound effects, because I couldn't actually do very well on stage the way the thing was built. But I could run the sound effects, so I did that.

BAYLES-YEAGER: What play was it?

MARTIN: I can't remember. It was something about moonshiners. Beyond that, I can't remember--

BAYLES-YEAGER: I was wondering what kind of sound effects you had to come up with.

MARTIN: We had thunder and lightning and explosions.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Well, that would be great. That would be great fun for high school.

MARTIN: Plus I got to run the music before and after. So I got to pick this classical music that nobody else usually heard. I played that and introduced the play. Grieg's Concerto in A Minor [for Piano and Orchestra] was the opening. So I introduced them to a little symphonic--

BAYLES-YEAGER: How did your neighbors take to Grieg?

MARTIN: Well, they said, "That's good, but we like Buck Owens better." [laughs] But that was pretty good. There was no rioting. It was okay.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Well, now we're starting to get into your leaving high school. You're thinking about-- It's time to move on out of this closed atmosphere where everybody has known you all of your life.

MARTIN: Yeah. I knew that a couple of the people from my class were planning to go on to college. One of them was thinking about the University of Nebraska, in Lincoln. But

anyway, Mac said, "Yeah. You ought to think about Berkeley." But I never really gave it any thought because it was so far. We had pretty deep roots there.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Now, nobody at this point in time ever said to you, "Well, being in a wheelchair is going to make it really difficult. Maybe you shouldn't even consider it." Did anybody ever try to put a damper on--?

MARTIN: Going to the University of Nebraska?

BAYLES-YEAGER: Or just going on.

MARTIN: Oh, going on. Well, they didn't really say that. Mac was the one who said, "It would be a lot easier for you if you went to California," thinking there wouldn't be the climate to deal with. It was very hard for me to get around, and he saw that. But other than that, nobody ever said, "No it isn't possible." Although clearly, it was going to be difficult. There wasn't any illusion about that, I think, on anybody's part, but-- No, there wasn't any thought that--

Yeah, you know, for the most part we were in an environment where people had been self-reliant so much and had done whatever they needed to do and usually were used to doing it just by themselves. As I said, when you're on a ranch, you learn to do a lot of things. And you learn to do whatever you need to keep things going. It's along the lines of, "Well, we'll just have to learn what we're going to have to do now."

BAYLES-YEAGER: I think it makes a big difference when you're not growing up with the feeling that people think you shouldn't be or can't do things. If you're growing up with this idea that, "Yes, it might be difficult, but I can figure out a way to do it--"

MARTIN: But it's also possible. Of course, my tutor assured me that intellectually I had what it took to compete.

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APRIL 17, 1998

BAYLES-YEAGER: We were just talking about the fact that you were finishing up your senior year at home and getting ready to go off to college. I made the remark that you would be going from a community that knew and accepted you, had know you all of your life, and you would be going off to a large community that maybe--especially at this period of time in the sixties--hadn't had experience with people who were severely disabled. Can we start in there and can you tell me, first of all, a little bit about getting ready to leave home and getting ready to go off to [University of] Nebraska?

MARTIN: Yes. Well, starting with the beginning of my senior year, the new tutor really continued the work that I'd been doing to prepare me. So all of my high school years were geared at getting me ready for college. So it wasn't any big change of mind-set, that suddenly now, "Oh my gosh, I've got to get ready for college." I'd been preparing a lot and the idea that-- As I went along there seemed to be a big world out there that was real exciting and I wasn't in on it. I was on the sidelines, way out in the rural areas, and it would be a lot of fun to get to the university. Then, I'd tune into the news and the campus at Berkeley. There was a thing called a Free Speech Movement that was starting.

And my tutor said, "You know, Berkeley is a really interesting place. It really is. UC is great. One of the best systems there is." He was always talking that up. But I thought, "It's impossible, it's beyond the moon. One step at a time. University of Nebraska, undergraduate-- Who knows about graduate school? But, got to get that first step." So anyway, there was such a thing as--I think there still is--a statewide competition called the [University of Nebraska] Regents Scholarship competition for the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. High school students in their senior year can take a competitive exam, and if they score high enough they are admitted with a full scholarship for undergraduate study.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Full scholarship!

MARTIN: Right. The idea was--that Bob Titus had and Mac had--when the day came for this test, I was going to--

BAYLES-YEAGER: Ace it?

MARTIN: --it was almost like *How Green Was My Valley*. But this is how it is. I was going to be prepared for this exam so that I can get the scholarship and then go on to the university. It was held in December of one's senior year. Then some months later--two or three--they would notify the winners.

There had never been anyone in our little unaccredited school that had ever won or even placed an honorable mention on this test. So a bunch of us took it. We had to go to the

schoolhouse one morning very early, and it was very cold, I remember, in the dead of winter. And we were bundled against the Arctic blast. You know, there's an old saying: There's nothing between Nebraska and the North Pole but barbed wire. And that morning was like that. I got there, and again, it was a long series of tests. I thought, "Well, this is familiar. Familiar stuff." But, I really couldn't guess how well I'd done because I thought maybe it was more familiar to somebody else.

I finished the test and went home and forgot about it and didn't really think about it too much, until one day, I guess it was about early February, a thin letter came from the university. It said, "Congratulations, you've won the regents scholarship and on such and such a date there's going to be an orientation," and "We look forward to having you; a distinguished entering freshman will be a great asset to the university" and so on and so forth. And, you know, "There are certain things that you need to do to get ready." So there was something--I think it was in March, February or March, I think later in February--that we needed to go to the university. This was much to the delight of Mac, of course. And of course, Bob, whom we told and--

BAYLES-YEAGER: And your parents.

MARTIN: Well, of course. And they said, "It's no surprise."

Bob said, "Oh. I didn't do anything. You did it." You know there's such a thing as--I think-- One has abilities, but you need a good coach. And Bob was a great coach and so was Mac. One can have aptitude, but you have to avoid bad habits. I think you can get into bad scholastic habits, too, as well as any athletic endeavor. I think Coach [John] Wooden really understood that, probably, as well as anybody else, that you have native ability, but then you've got to have a good coach and you can really speed things along.

So I was the first person to win this scholarship in our whole area. That was nice in and of itself. But I assumed then--of course, there's always a danger, I suppose, of assuming--that now I was officially admitted, or that there wasn't any doubt, that it would be just a matter of relocating and going to class. But I still had the senior year to finish. Now, when Bob Titus left, we tried something new, which was when Mac started. We got--thanks to our friends at the local phone company--an intercom system in the school and in my house so that I could listen to the classroom and participate in the worst of the weather and join in, almost like being there the last year. Before that, it had been entirely a one-to-one tutorial. So I had this intercom hookup.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Technology has--

MARTIN: Right. Technology arrived again on the scene. And

I would listen to what was going on in class and I had a switch so that I could interject something. I could hear everybody. And they would unplug this thing from each room and move it to the next room. It was a speaker/ microphone that they would take around all day long to different places where there were classes and activities. So getting around the worst of the weather-- That was an improvement.

It was my thought that perhaps this would even be possible at some of the big courses at the university. We could have a-- In the worst of the weather--because I was always concerned about not being able to get around to the classrooms every single day if the weather was really bad. It was a thought, anyway. It was working well in high school.

So we went to the orientation in February, and I recall we got in between two blizzards. We started out-- We got to Lincoln before the blizzard hit. It stormed ferociously and I thought, "This is really going to be hard to get to class like this. This hookup is really, maybe, the only way to do some of the things. But it's hard, because the place is much bigger. How can you hook up all these rooms?" It wasn't clear to me, but the weather was a big problem.

In those days, of course, we didn't have such things as accessible vehicles with lifts on them for wheelchair users or designated parking spaces or ramps in the buildings. So

that added another dimension. How do you get, just physically, get in and out of the buildings even when the weather is good? At my high school, where we had just one step, I still had to be lifted, but there were always guys from the football team around there. And when I would go to class for those lab sessions and we'd go outside for whatever, break or something, they'd lift me up and down there.

So I thought, "Well, there are big guys at the University of Nebraska. Lots of them, you know. So we can-- I can commandeer some of these people to help me--and have them probably in my employ. Get them as roommates or whatever," as I read about other people doing--not necessarily there, but other places like-- I remember reading about the Champaign-Urbana campus of the University of Illinois, which was famous for having disabled students and wheelchair users on campus starting in the late forties and was one of the leading programs in those days. So it could be done at universities; I knew that, but you had to be pretty resourceful.

We got to this orientation and the director of admissions and other people were there--a lot of the scholarship winners. And they were quite surprised that they had one winner who was a wheelchair user.

BAYLES-YEAGER: How many winners were there?

MARTIN: Well, I think there was one from every county, I

believe is how they did it. So there would have been around sixty. I think there are sixty-three counties, so yeah. Probably sixty-three.

BAYLES-YEAGER: But nobody else there in a wheelchair.

MARTIN: No. No. They were all severely able-bodied. I thought that they were thinking, "Well, uh, hello. You're going to have an interesting time here." They didn't say anything untoward necessarily, just-- It was obvious that they were quite surprised, because I had taken the exam and they had no idea who the winners were until they showed up.

BAYLES-YEAGER: But nobody was outwardly hostile at all to you?

MARTIN: No, no. Not at that point. As part of the orientation there were a variety of things that you needed to do. One was to meet with some academic counselors and they would tell you about what the requirements are and what things you had to do at the beginning. Now, in those days, there was ROTC [Reserve Officers Training Corps] and it was mandatory for every male. You had to take a course in ROTC; you had to take a course in physical education. So immediately I had to start petitioning or talking to people about, "ROTC?" They said, "Yes. Every able-bodied male." I said, "Well, maybe I don't fit in that category." And they--

BAYLES-YEAGER: Well, surely at this point they had had veterans

who were disabled coming back on the GI Bill?

MARTIN: I think vets that were disabled had legislation that kind of smoothed the way. But non-vet disabled persons at major institutions were very rare. Veterans, yes. They had the GI Bill and that's where the University of Illinois and others got their start, I think. And the disabled programs that were around in those days were really disabled-vet programs. But beyond the vets, the non-vet disabled really just-- There weren't any services and there wasn't any requirement. It was just a foreign concept. I finally got the physical education requirement dropped. I got the ROTC waived. But then the issue came up of the physical exam.

In those days, every student had to have a physical and pass the physical. Well, I didn't pass the physical. So the doctor sent his report to admissions and admissions informed me that I didn't pass the physical, so I wasn't eligible to be a student. I said, "But I have a scholarship. Is that not guaranteeing me eligibility here?" They said, "Well, here's how it is. You have to be a student in good standing to use your scholarship. A student in good standing passes their physical. So your scholarship doesn't guarantee you admission unless you are also a student in good standing."

BAYLES-YEAGER: So basically, you're not a student in good standing, because you can't stand.

MARTIN: That's right. I have no standing! I have no standing because I can't stand.

BAYLES-YEAGER: And the fact that you're one of the brightest people in the state really doesn't make a difference.

MARTIN: They weren't interested. So when this news came-- I had also been in a discussion with them about what are some of the ways--? Well, they brought up the issue of in loco parentis, which was the concept, in those days, of [how] the university acts in place of the parents and is obligated to protect the students from harming themselves. And consequently they couldn't let me go to the university because I was so disabled that I might catch pneumonia and die and that would be a problem for them. So there was that issue. Then there was the issue of making accommodations, such as some sort of intercom system in some of the key places. And again, they said that that was beyond anything that they had ever done or ever would do and that was not something that they intended to do. So after-- We were there for this orientation. We got these things started, went back home, and got word that the physical didn't work out.

We went to our local legislator. And in Nebraska it's a unicameral legislature, so there are only representatives; there are no senators. It's just one house. In fact, I think it's the only unicameral legislature in the country. It's

essentially a house of representatives, all based on districts, not on-- You know, just population of the district. So these representatives that-- Ours, from our local area, we contacted him and he said, "Well, I think this is really not the sort of thing the university ought to be doing. And I know the governor and why don't we talk to the governor."

So we got an appointment with the governor and went back down to Lincoln. I guess it was probably in March. [We] met with the governor--and the governor, of course, was head of the [University of Nebraska] Board of Regents--and explained my story to him.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Now, do you remember the governor's name?

MARTIN: Frank Morrison. Governor Morrison explained the story. He asked one of his aides, who was there in the meeting with us, to look into the matter. He said he thought it was something that the university ought to do more about and that he would do what he could. And the university's response was, "Absolutely not, no way are we going to do anything further." So we talked to attorneys and they said, "Well, there really isn't anything that can legally be done about this because there are no laws that protect you."

BAYLES-YEAGER: We should say at this point that this is 1965 and the first laws for disabled didn't start coming in until the seventies.

MARTIN: 'Seventy-three, right, '73. And this made a profound impression, because when I realized that-- And it was only the year before that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 had passed, and it was not long before that that federal troops were used to protect African American students in entering the University of Mississippi. I realized, and at that moment it clicked in my head, that what we have here is a civil rights issue, pure and simple. That there had to be a civil rights act for people with disabilities. If there was no recourse-- And should this not happen to others like myself it would require a civil rights act. I had that idea. I didn't know how I was ever going to do anything about that, but I also resolved that-- And when we were coming back from that meeting with the governor and things-- He was optimistic, but the university's response was, "Not interested." He continued to put pressure on them. But I remember before all that was resolved, on the way back, thinking, "Well, if I can't get to the University of Nebraska, then I'll go elsewhere and I will get an advanced degree and I will use that to make sure that we create protections for people with disabilities." You know, "I'll do whatever I can to make that happen."

BAYLES-YEAGER: Well, surely at this point too, you had been to the campus, you've been there in the worst possible weather, and it probably dawned on you that maybe this was not the

best place for you.

MARTIN: I was thinking that, you know, the political and the intellectual environment was probably not as welcoming a one as I would probably benefit from anyway. In fact, in retrospect, it was a very good thing.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Now, what was your declared major at this point?

MARTIN: Well, at that point, I was interested in physics.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So how was the University of Nebraska's physics department?

MARTIN: Well, we went through the physics department on our first visit, and it was old and it was full of steps.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So obviously this was not the place for you.

MARTIN: It was not very welcoming. Just to contrast-- Fast-forward, fall of '65, I'm on the patio of Knudsen Hall [at UCLA] on a brilliant sunny day with an Erlenmeyer flask filled with lemonade and the honors school of physics surrounding me; I was in my height of glory a few months later in the California sunshine.

BAYLES-YEAGER: But at this point, you were--

MARTIN: In an accessible building, so it was quite a--

BAYLES-YEAGER: Yes, you had no idea that this was going to work out so well for you.

MARTIN: No, no, no. I wasn't, but--

BAYLES-YEAGER: But now, your parents must have been absolutely crushed, too.

MARTIN: Yeah, they were. They were very-- But, you know, they didn't give up on the idea that something could happen. And Mac kept saying, "Hey, the University of Nebraska doesn't want you? That's good! You know, there's an opportunity here. 'Go West, young man.'"

BAYLES-YEAGER: How did your family feel about you leaving and going so far away?

MARTIN: Well, like I said, it was *How Green Was My Valley*. But I guess it had to be. They knew better than to think-- They knew that there was no future in sitting and looking out a window at the bad weather and being ill a lot when I could be better.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So you got, then, nothing out of this regents scholarship. There was no way you could transfer it or get any--?

MARTIN: No, no. Not a thing. Nothing.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So you had to give it up.

MARTIN: There was one bit of good news in that after the governor continued to work on this the university finally agreed to a compromise. And this was their final and last offer and the governor said, "I can't do anymore." It was basically [that] they would allow me to enter and to take

one-half of the required load, maximum. That would have been eight years for an undergraduate degree. Then they had some other stipulations, which I don't recall. No intercom hookup--

BAYLES-YEAGER: You had to be on campus then.

MARTIN: You had to be on campus. No note takers; they wouldn't provide any. If I wanted to hire people, well-- But there were no services. Now, of course, they're all mandated, but in those days, nothing. Nothing, absolutely nothing. Nor any attempt, nor any interest. The idea of having people with a variety of life experiences didn't even enter their minds. It was very homogenous.

BAYLES-YEAGER: "You can't play football; we're just really not interested."

MARTIN: "You can't be in ROTC, you know. If you don't meet these very strict requirements you don't belong." It was a very homogenous group. So I didn't fit.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Well, all this time spent, though, in working with this puts you pretty late in the season to be thinking of other scholarships.

MARTIN: Yes, that's right. Exactly right.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So when you did start trying to decide what you were going to do next, did you have a problem because you were starting so late?

MARTIN: Well, it was probably part of the reason why I'm at UCLA today and not at Berkeley. In fact, by the time the university made its offer and we realized that we were at a point where half of the typical load was going to be all that I would be allowed to do, even if I were capable of more-- This is what was really-- I think the thing that bothered the most was there was no reason for a limit on the number of units if I were capable of doing more. Not to relegate me to eight years of undergraduate study. But I think that the decision came in April, finally, when we realized that it just wasn't going to be possible and we had to find something else.

So I looked at University of Illinois, the Champaign-Urbana campus, a very famous one. I looked at Berkeley, as a result of my friend Mac. And there was one other that was also known in those days for some services. Now, it turns out, of course, Berkeley was-- It had not yet got the reputation it would get, you know--become the birthplace of all these disability rights issues. But by the time that I sent off all my applications it was April, May. Very late. And I hadn't anticipated doing anything but going to the University of Nebraska with a full scholarship from the previous year, or early in the year when I won the scholarship. So I didn't send off applications. I just didn't think I wanted to go

that far from home.

But anyway, as it turned out, I sent them in at the last minute and Berkeley was full, but UCLA had openings. I don't know exactly what the process was, but if there were campuses that had the maximum amount of admits, that they would then send it on to other campuses or something.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So you did not apply directly to UCLA. You applied to Berkeley and, being full, they sent it on?

MARTIN: I don't believe they sent it. I think they said in their letter, "We're sorry it's so late, but we've already accepted all the class. However, there are other campuses of UC that still are accepting." It mentioned [University of California] Riverside and UCLA, and I applied to UCLA. I was admitted and I got this admission letter, I think it was in about July. It was from Clark Kerr. I remember this. It said congratulations.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Well, now, how about funding, though?

MARTIN: Well, all right. I didn't get my scholarship, but the University of Nebraska-- While they didn't do anything to help, the state of Nebraska has a rehabilitation department for disabled individuals [Nebraska Health and Human Services] to get them back to work--or get them to work, if they have a disability. One of the things that they do for people that are disabled in youth is to send them to college if they are

eligible. So the state of Nebraska was required under state law--since it had no facilities that could serve me--to send me outside the state and pay for it.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Oh my goodness!

MARTIN: So I got my out-of-state fees to UCLA, which was very hefty. And they are very high, considered comparatively with those individuals who are residents of California. They paid the first year. Then, of course, I was a resident the second year and then I got the resident's fee amount.

BAYLES-YEAGER: By that time, were you able to get fellowship or scholarship money?

MARTIN: Well, the state Department of Rehabilitation in California-- I became a client of theirs. They did the same for me in-state that Nebraska did the first year.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So this has worked out pretty well for you. You're in the sunshine and you're ready to start a wonderful career, so I think we ought to stop here even though the tape hasn't run out, because this is going to take a while, once we get into talking about you moving to California.

MARTIN: Yeah. I just wanted to wrap up by saying that as I was making this move to California, I was thinking that I really was going to have a chance to go to a good school and I was going to use that to somehow make a difference with respect to the rights that I didn't have when I needed them,

to try to do something about that whole issue. That was in the back of my mind as I went along. I expected I would go to graduate school and go on and then try to apply that. I've always been possessed with a passion for reforming the world, but that's from reading *Prometheus Unbound*.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Yes. Also coming of age in the sixties--

MARTIN: That's right. And the Civil Rights Act of 1964. But, you know, that *Prometheus Unbound* is a very powerful story indeed. I was reading that before some of the most notable civil rights stuff was happening. But as I was dealing with that, the backdrop of--in the newspapers--all of those things happening with the African American students in Mississippi and Alabama and federal troops getting them into university. I was thinking, "This is a civil rights issue and something has to be done about it someday."

So it set the stage in my mind for that. Then, of course, being in California, being at the UC in the sixties, you just got all the more training for that political activity. Of course, I have a personal connection with political activity anyway, with my grandfather.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Well, why don't we take a minute and backtrack a little here and talk about the fact that your grandfather was a political animal. He did pass this on to you, so you were coming to a political climate in California that was

absolutely right for revolution and you were coming with the spirit of a reformer. Why don't we talk about that a little?

MARTIN: My grandfather was not a schooled man, not a man of letters, but he had a lot of native intelligence and was also a very affable person whom people immediately liked. He found he had an aptitude for politics on the local level--I guess "Tip" [Thomas P.] O'Neill [Jr.] reminds us that all politics is local-- In the county that he resided in, he was active and he was a kind of Prairie Populist--a good Prairie Populist who was for a lot of social reforms and built his political career on a reformist approach.

He was involved or supportive of the Farmers' Union, and the initiative process, and a variety of other reforms that would make the political process more open. He was very concerned about social issues, the social conditions that people lived in, especially people in poverty in the county, and initiated efforts to get them jobs or provide them with housing of various kinds, especially in the worst of the Depression. The man was very bighearted, and anybody's suffering was his own.

BAYLES-YEAGER: We should get his name in here.

MARTIN: Oh! His name was Gus Weickum.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Gus Weickum. And Gus was short for--?

MARTIN: Gustav.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Gustav. And your grandmother's name?

MARTIN: Lena.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Lena. And what was her maiden name?

MARTIN: Becker.

BAYLES-YEAGER: I understand your grandmother was also pretty exceptional--

MARTIN: Yes, she was, in her own right. She was a really remarkable pioneer woman who, at a very young age, lost her mother to appendicitis--at the age of twelve--and with her father raised the other children. Then she left home and homesteaded, by herself, a tract of land in Indian territory in South Dakota--what was the Dakota Territories in those days, not the state of South Dakota, but the Dakota Territories--and under the Homestead Act, established a homestead on her own. Then she met my grandfather, who was also homesteading nearby. They married later, but she had done this before she married and--

BAYLES-YEAGER: So you came from true pioneer stock here.

MARTIN: On my mother's side. And on my father's side, they were also immigrants. My father was actually born in Russia to a colony of people who were descendants of Germans who lived around the Volga [River]. The Volga German colony. My grandmother was German-Swiss. Grandpa Weickum, his people, were from the area of Jena, Germany. My father was actually

born near the Volga and emigrated at the age of six months. He came to Ellis Island, with eleven other brothers and sisters and my grandparents, who passed away before I knew them. They had some relatives or people they knew who emigrated before that to the Midwest. The big difficulty was there wasn't food in Russia, you couldn't afford to have land. You tilled somebody else's land and had barely enough to eat, hand-to-mouth-- They heard about the homestead of the prairie and there's at least a chance that you could get your own place to grow your own food and your own land, sometimes lots of it, compared to-- You couldn't have anything like that in Europe.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So you come out of the real story of America, with family coming here--

MARTIN: Yeah. All of them. All of them. My father actually not being born here. The others were, but he was six months old when they sailed from Liverpool [England]. It's interesting, one of our family members is a genealogist, so I have a good bit of information on some of this now.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So they came to an inhospitable climate, but certainly a country that was more hospitable.

MARTIN: You know, I always say that they left an inhospitable country; they crossed oceans; they traveled for miles in wagons--until they reached another inhospitable country.

[laughs] But you know, in some respects though, the land around those areas that they left was familiar to them, in the place that they came to. So, in some respects, I think it's not accidental you find people that left northern Europe ending up in the northern plains, because it's very familiar. You know, the climate, all the things that they dealt with--

BAYLES-YEAGER: The Scandinavians that ended up in--

MARTIN: In Minnesota and all those places.

BAYLES-YEAGER: --Minnesota. Yes.

MARTIN: It's cold and it's all those things you're familiar with.

BAYLES-YEAGER: But this is an area that you were not sorry to leave for sunny Los Angeles.

MARTIN: You know, the idea of going to L.A. in 1965 was exciting-- You know, the most popular song was "California Dreaming." Between that and "California Girls," by the Beach Boys, you just couldn't get away in the popular culture from the idea that this was going to be the greatest time of your life.

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MAY 4, 1998

BAYLES-YAEGER: Dr. Martin, we left you just having been accepted to UCLA. I'd like to backtrack a little bit here and go back now to Nebraska. You've been accepted. You're going to come to California. What are your preparations?
MARTIN: Thanks to the urgings of my senior-year tutor [Dennis MacLaughlin], it was suggested--since he'd gone to UC [University of California] and especially [University of California] Berkeley--that I consider California and UC. In fact, I did apply and was accepted at UCLA. I remember very distinctly that thin letter that comes in the mail from the University of California, after I had, of course, pinned pretty much all of my hopes in that eleventh hour on something turning up somewhere in a better climate-- And by climate, I mean not only weather but in many ways a better climate. I got this letter from Clark Kerr, who informed me that I had been accepted. Studies would be rigorous, as I recall him saying in this letter, but that it would be an invigorating experience. It seemed as though the whole world was open before me now. All of the things that I could only have heard about and read about, I might be in the middle of, including these interesting developments in California, the Free Speech Movement, all kinds of other things.

BAYLES-YAEGER: The California scene.

MARTIN: The California scene. And of course, just about everything in popular culture was-- California was the place to be.

BAYLES-YAEGER: In the sixties it certainly was.

MARTIN: Yes, the Beach Boys and everything else led up to this idea that there couldn't be a more exciting place to be going. So I was ready; I was very much ready.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, what were your physical preparations now that you were going to have to travel?

MARTIN: Well, there were a lot. Luckily, there were some people from the town that I lived in who had moved to California some years before. They were very good friends of the family. One of the parts of the preparation was to call them up and kind of talk with them about the logistics. They offered to meet me at the airport and get me to a lodging place. They helped find a spot in Westwood. Actually, right at the corner of Wilshire [Boulevard] and Gayley [Avenue] at that time was an apartment building. Now it's high-rises, but they found an apartment building there which was in reasonably close proximity to the campus. So that was a big help.

We started working on this as soon as I got the acceptance letter, which, I guess, was somewhere around June of '65. We had been at it for a while and things were pretty well

coming into focus. But suddenly I turned on the news and saw this footage of the Watts riots that had broken out--

BAYLES-YAEGER: Oh, that's right.

MARTIN: --in August and I was unable to get through on the telephone lines to people here in L.A. for a while. Then, of course, all of the people around the countryside knew that I was going to L.A. [laughs]--

BAYLES-YAEGER: And started worrying.

MARTIN: --saying, "Are you sure you want to do this?" And of course, people in the rural Midwest don't particularly care for cities larger than two thousand. Five thousand, that's a pretty big place. They don't like to go to Omaha or Lincoln [Nebraska], because it's already too big. So going to any metropolis like L.A. already is probably a suspect endeavor. I think they thought that it would be impossible, just on the logistical, physical side of things, let alone all of the other upheaval that was going on here at the moment. I distinctly remember, though, the impact that that made, in just seeing that and--

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, how did you feel about that? Did that make you feel a little--?

MARTIN: Well, from what I understood, the problems with the unrest were largely not in the area of UCLA. It didn't give me cause to believe that I shouldn't be here.

BAYLES-YAEGER: You were too ready to move on.

MARTIN: Right. There were too many other things that seemed to be pulling me that it didn't dissuade me. But other people certainly were dissuaded pretty quickly and they tried to say, "Don't you think you'd rather go somewhere else?" And I said, "No, I'm not going to spend another year inactively--until I find something else or this passes over--and I think this is not something that should be the thing that stops me."

BAYLES-YAEGER: So when were you ready to actually--? Did you fly or did you go on a train?

MARTIN: I flew out. First time I had ever been in a big plane. Went to Omaha--it was the second of September--and boarded--At that time they had nonstop flights between Omaha and L.A. That was before deregulation. You could actually fly places without having to stop. It was only a couple of hours' flight--it was about three hours, I guess. So it was pretty easy, much easier than I thought it would be.

Our friends were waiting at the airport. I remember going down this long, moving sidewalk, much like in *The Graduate,* where at the beginning of the-- I saw the film later--it came out later--but they had this picture of him coming down this long, moving sidewalk. I felt like I was in another world. It was really-- You know, LAX [Los Angeles International

Airport] had just opened. It was a space age kind of place at that time, all these moving sidewalks and streamlined architecture. I remember coming down and looking out the window and seeing the palm trees, as we were about to land, and realized that I really was "not in Kansas anymore, Dorothy."

BAYLES-YAEGER: Not hardly. Well, how about the--? In the trip, now, you had to transfer from a chair to an airplane seat--?

MARTIN: Right.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Did you have someone going with you that transferred you or how--?

MARTIN: Well, the airline personnel were very good about that and they routinely do that. I had, of course, my portable respirator which I took as carry-on [luggage]. My chair went in the baggage compartment. They transferred me to an aisle chair, which is specifically made to fit between the aisles. Then they roll you down the aisle and transfer you into your seat that way. And then the reverse on arrival here, so it was really not too difficult.

BAYLES-YAEGER: No, not for 1965, it wasn't.

MARTIN: No, luckily, we were in the jet age by then, so--

BAYLES-YAEGER: It's easy for us to forget that a lot of things that make it easier to get around in a wheelchair just didn't exist.

MARTIN: They didn't exist much before that. Again, technology, as I've often said in our discussion, evolved to the point where, again, I was able to do a lot more. Propeller planes-- That would have taken many hours to get from various points around the country. It would have been very difficult, if not impossible, for me to use.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Now, the apartment that was waiting for you, were you able to get around in it?

MARTIN: Well, it was pretty good, because they'd scouted it. It had no steps and it was fairly roomy, actually. It was an older building which was, in a few years, replaced by this new high-rise. But at the time, it was pretty congenial, certainly not by design, but only by chance. And, of course, finding a place around the campus that wasn't on a hill or too far away--

BAYLES-YAEGER: Or that didn't have steps.

MARTIN: --or that didn't have steps is very rare. Looking south of [Westwood] Village a bit and south of the campus was the area which is flatter and had a number of apartment buildings along Wilshire, in those days, which are now only a memory. But it turned out to be very good. So it was just across the street into the Village, which had everything, including a couple of grocery stores. There's people that have been wanting to get back ever since, but--

BAYLES-YAEGER: That's right. There's no close grocery store anymore to the Village.

MARTIN: There were, you know, a couple of those: Safeway and A & P, and only a couple of movie theaters, like two, I think. So it was a nice, quiet-- You could cross in the middle of the street, there were no big crowds or cars coming along that you had to worry about too much. It was very congenial.

I remember, though, one striking thing when I arrived here, I think, the second of September. Labor Day was that weekend. Labor Day weekend was the weekend I arrived, I believe. But it rained, an unbelievably rare occurrence. And it rained an inch, perhaps, you know, no threatening clouds, no potential of tornado, no hail, no wind, just rain. I have never heard such an outcry in all of my life. I couldn't believe it. I didn't understand why people were so upset. They said, "the [San Fernando] Valley is flooding" and I'm thinking, you know, "It's only, what, it's only an inch of rain." This is like-- People would die for this in the Midwest, you know, for the crops, an inch every now and then, and nothing would happen. It would go onto the ground and soak in, and-- But to think that there were areas flooding with an inch of rain, this was a whole new introduction to California.

BAYLES-YAEGER: You want to bring Los Angeles to its knees,

you put just a little bit of water on the pavement. MARTIN: That's right. So I discovered that desert environments can't handle much rain, they're not made for it. The Valley, I heard a lot about that that day. It was like the day or the next day after I was here that this happened. And then, people were exceedingly upset that it rained on the three-day weekend.

BAYLES-YAEGER: How dare it?

MARTIN: Yes, which was unheard of. And, of course, since I've been here, it's never rained again on Labor Day, so now I know why everybody was so upset. Now, if there's the least cloud in the sky for Labor Day and I want to go to the beach-- You know, it's like the last gasp of summer; you just don't want anything to interfere with that. But at that point I thought it was pretty funny that these people-- I didn't have the word "weather wimp" at that time, but if I had had it, I probably would have used it.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Did you call home and tell the family about that?

MARTIN: I said, "You know, you won't believe how much of a mess an inch of rain has made here." And they said, "What?" They couldn't believe it then. You know, we'd never heard anything about how that sort of thing affected California, Southern California. But that was a real introduction into the ecosystem and the environment of Southern California and

the environment of metropolitan Los Angeles--how easily impacted it could be by a small climatic change.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, if you got here on Labor Day weekend, that means that school was starting, like, in a couple of days. You didn't have much time to get acclimated.

MARTIN: Not a lot.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Did you have someone here to help you?

MARTIN: Well, our family friends took me-- Actually, when we first arrived at the airport, I got my luggage and we got into the car, and they brought me directly here to [parking] lot A at Murphy Hall. At that time there was a speaker system that you could drive up to and announce yourself, if you had a disability, and someone from the Office for Students with Disabilities [OSD] would come out and help you. You wouldn't have to get out of your car. This is before accessible parking or before accessible vehicles--vans with lifts or anything else.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So they actually had the Office for Students with Disabilities?

MARTIN: In those days it was called the Office for Special Services and Veterans Affairs.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Yeah, it wasn't given the name OSD until sometime later.

MARTIN: No, that's right. That was in the eighties when that

changed. Office for Special Services. We drove directly from the airport here and got my registration materials. I talked to them about my class schedule and they helped with preregistration and getting the schedule of classes I wanted. That was one of the great services. So I took care of that immediately and then went to my room--the new apartment--and settled in there the same day.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So you were all set from about two hours out of the airport. You were ready to go.

MARTIN: Really, that's right. One of the first conversations I had was with this person from Special Services and they were talking to me about the registration packet. Then talk turned to the war in Vietnam, almost immediately, and how it appeared in '65 that it was going to be much more of an involvement by the U.S. and how people were really concerned about that. This, again, was something that struck me as--Having not heard any kind of expression of that where I came from, any concern. It was just assumed that that was a natural course of events and no one even thought to question the trend or this policy. Even to suggest that somehow the government might not be making the right choice was just probably not in the general experience of a lot of people where I came from. So I guessed I was going to be hearing a lot more opinions about a lot more things expressed that may not be along the

lines of the majority. There's a lot more--just within those first few minutes--of--

BAYLES-YAEGER: California was on the cutting edge. So you're being hit with a lot of different opinions and a lot of different impressions, right off the bat--after spending your whole life in Nebraska. This is like Alice through the looking glass, isn't it?

MARTIN: It was an expanding experience, very quickly. Of course, you know, I was very much like a sponge, though. I didn't resist or feel like I needed to push any of that away. I wanted to hear more about all kinds of things. I wanted to hear everybody's opinion, learn everything about everything.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So a couple of days later you're actually on campus and you're actually going to classes.

MARTIN: Yes.

BAYLES-YAEGER: What was that like?

MARTIN: Well, the first day I was in, I think, what is it? One of those introductory courses, Physics 1, or-- I was thinking it had more people in it than I had in my hometown. It was about twice as big, actually. If everybody had been rounded up in the whole place, it would have been two to three times smaller than the class I was in. So I was sitting in this big lecture hall--I think it was over in CS [Courtyard

of the Sciences] 50 or one of those rooms which are still there--which looked pretty big to me. But, you know, it wasn't-- It was exciting. I had anticipated being in a setting like that and it really wasn't overwhelming. It was pretty invigorating, really.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Did you have any problems with going into these classes? I mean were there any problems with the instructors? Or how about the--?

MARTIN: You know, Special Services was very good. UCLA was one of four major institutions to have services for students with disabilities after World War II, and they had had them around for a while. Then the Korean War had added to that. So they had-- Because it was Special Services and Veterans Affairs, it had quite a number of wheelchair users on the campus. There hadn't been the attention paid to architectural modifications. But UCLA, in those days, was still far ahead because, coincidentally, it was a new campus, relative to many of the other major institutions. And being only built in the late 1920s, a lot of the buildings were still accessible by some route, even if it was a back route or a freight elevator.

BAYLES-YAEGER: I want to show you what I found in the archives. I'm showing you a UCLA campus guide for the handicapped. It was actually put out in 1975, which was ten years after you arrived. But I went through it and

I was amazed at how many buildings have no accessible rest room. For example, Powell Library-- If you went in Powell Library, the closest place you could use a rest room in a wheelchair was Ackerman [Student] Union. And there wasn't a single building, actually, around Powell Library that you could even get into easily in a wheelchair. You're right, it was freight elevator or back entrance.

MARTIN: The main issue in those days was could you physically get into the building?

BAYLES-YAEGER: Yes.

MARTIN: It was beyond conception that there would be drinking fountains, telephones, bathrooms and seating areas and a lot of other changes that we now have as a matter of course. The issue was, in those days, at most institutions, you couldn't even get into the building, couldn't get into the classroom. Consequently, you wanted to find a place that you could. So even though it was difficult--and there were a few buildings you couldn't get into at all on the campus--but most of them, most of the critical ones with the classrooms that I needed, I could use. Of course, not by any means conveniently, but nevertheless, it was possible to actually get in there and listen to the lecture.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, I think six of the buildings on campus, according to that, where you could get into the building,

were multilevel buildings that had no elevators.

MARTIN: Right.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So if you got in, it had better be on the ground floor.

MARTIN: That's right. You'd better hope that your classroom was on the ground floor. There was no requirement or any, even, awareness of the need to relocate a class. Basically, if a class ended up in a place that wasn't accessible, you found another class and hoped that someday, if you needed that class, it would be relocated and held somewhere else. So you played this kind of game of selection and avoidance and re-registration so that you could find a place that would work.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So Section 504, which actually said anyone who's handicapped has the right to be anywhere anyone able-bodied can go, didn't--

MARTIN: That recipients of federal funds would have to make their programs accessible.

BAYLES-YAEGER: --did not come about until you actually were in your graduate work.

MARTIN: Right. I had motivation to work on that, because I knew how difficult it was: first of all, because I'd been denied access to an institution that did receive federal money and then secondly, I came here and it was usable, but still

lacking in many ways. It was the Rehab[ilitation] Act of 1973 that contained Section 504, but it wasn't implemented until many years later when we organized. That, of course, is another story. But it was a long experience of on the one hand being very happy that I was able to do as much as I could do, but on the other hand seeing how much more there was yet that could be done.

If buildings were renovated or built new, and we could require a certain standard, it would cost next to nothing and assure usability for the life of the building. In fact, that's what we're about now, but in those days, of course, there was no such thing and it seemed impossibly far away to consider.

Largely, in those days, individual disabled students didn't have any organization or forum or group that they were members of or that acknowledged anything, so--

BAYLES-YAEGER: This is surprising, because you're right, this is the time of free speech when everyone was talking about civil rights for all kinds of minority groups.

MARTIN: Disability wasn't in there.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Why was it that they didn't organize?

MARTIN: I think it was partly because disabled persons, themselves, didn't feel that they wanted to be associated with other disabled persons. That was very common. We'd see

each other on campus, but there wasn't really any sense of being part of a group or even necessarily wanting to be. I think we avoided each other for those earlier years. It was around 1970 that that changed, about five years after I began.

BAYLES-YAEGER: But that seems to be a common thing with a lot of minority groups.

MARTIN: Right. They don't identify.

BAYLES-YEAGER: In the beginning they don't want to be identified, yes.

MARTIN: Our movement is no different and, in fact, parallels, if you look at the history of other civil rights efforts-- Only ours is a much quicker movement. Its results have been much quicker, but I think it's only because they're built on the foundations laid by other groups: the women's movement, the black civil rights movement, certainly. We're kind of a legitimate inheritor of the benefits of those or an offspring of those efforts, and it gave us a lot more momentum.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Already, the thinking was getting away from the 1950s cookie-cutter kind of American mold.

MARTIN: That's right, that's right. Well, and there was a very important shift--I think we'll talk about this more--in our own consciousness, as the Free Speech Movement, as the antiwar movement, as the consumer movement-- You know, Ralph

Nader-- His influence on our movement really can't be diminished. It's interesting. You wouldn't think that necessarily, but I make a connection between those other civil rights movements and also the consumer movement. That is, consumers should have something to say about the goods and services they are given: their safety, their usability, their appropriateness. That finally transformed itself into the notion, in our consciousness, that disabled people are being taken care of, but nobody ever asks us and we're not involved in the policy-making process that so directly affects our lives.

BAYLES-YAEGER: It was a very paternalistic attitude--

MARTIN: It was rehab[ilitation], hospitals, doctors--

BAYLES-YAEGER: "You are not capable of taking care of yourself, so we will take care of you."

MARTIN: That's right. It was a medical model that assumed that people with disabilities were sick and needed to be cured. If they couldn't be cured, then they needed to be rehabilitated. And in those days, rehabilitation, for the large part, meant adapting yourself to the environment you find yourself in, not expending energy advocating to change the environment to fit your needs or to make it more accessible to your needs. Rather, the emphasis was on pull yourself, in your wheelchair, up that step, up that curb. Bounce up the curb, bounce down the curb. If you could walk on crutches, walk up the flight

of stairs, even if it was tiring, even if it was painful. But, you know, the effort was fit in, adapt and make--

BAYLES-YAEGER: It's your responsibility.

MARTIN: Yes. Society had no responsibility.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, now, did you find an attitude here on campus? Did you ever find that kind of attitude from anyone? You said that Special Services was very good about paving the way, but did you find individuals that had--?

MARTIN: Oh, individual professors who didn't-- There were no obligations to make accommodations or academic adjustments. Many, for the most part--most--were not a problem. But some weren't interested. They didn't have to be and there were no consequences if they weren't. And you just found another one.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Because you didn't have the right to say--

MARTIN: There was nothing that could be done about it. But the Office for Special Services also would occasionally work with--it was interesting in this case--I guess it was the Office of Environmental Health and Safety that did this survey-- But the Office for Special Services had a limited ability to impact some of the architecture on campus. If there was a particularly troublesome problem that was minor, like the lack of a grab bar or something of this nature, they would attempt to get it changed.

It was as a result of my going to them and asking if we could have some sort of ramp built to bridge a curb that went from the sidewalk to the street over by what is now Circle Drive South and Westwood Plaza--the steam generation plant--because I lived in that area of the Village and I came up Westwood Plaza-- I'd have to get out on a driveway into the traffic on Westwood [Plaza] every day and it was very harrowing. This was about a year, I guess, after I had been doing this. I talked with them and they had the campus facilities people build a ramp, which is still there. It's not used, because now we have one on the corner, but it was built around on the other side, the back of the walk. And as far as I know, it was the first curb ramp that was ever installed anywhere. This was 1966, probably, so it was long before-- It wasn't until 1975 that curb ramps were generally required or being installed.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So every day you had to come from Wilshire and Gayley in a power wheelchair. You had to come--

MARTIN: Well, actually not in a power chair, in a manual chair.

BAYLES-YAEGER: You were in a manual chair.

MARTIN: Yeah, right. That was before power.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And so you were going uphill.

MARTIN: Yes. I learned rather soon that what you did was

go up Westwood Plaza to the [UCLA] Neuropsychiatric Institute and in that west entrance to the nearest elevator and took that elevator up to the third floor, which would get you to a corridor that led out, eventually, if you knew the maze, to what is now the Life Sciences entrance that leads to the Bombshelter [Food Facility], only there was no Bombshelter in those days.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Courtyard of the Sciences.

MARTIN: Courtyard of the Sciences. You'd come out there without any steps. You still had that hill there, but it was much less than the longer pull all the way up to Ackerman.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And since you were a physics major, most of your classes would have been in that area, so you didn't have to go all the way up to North Campus very often.

MARTIN: No, that's right. So that worked pretty well. You know, there's always a way. You'll find that you need to be resourceful. I did a lot of scouting and found these routes that were not posted, not known, in fact. No one would ordinarily need to have this kind of knowledge, so it wasn't even available. You just sought it out on your own and were able to find a lot of different routes and back entrances to buildings and to the classrooms--that I didn't know existed right away, but you'd find better ones.

BAYLES-YAEGER: You must have had arms of steel in those days,

going uphill every morning.

MARTIN: Well, I had-- It was about a year. It was hard. It was very hard, because I didn't have a lot of stamina, and as I say, I have never been one for exertion if I could save my energy for other things. But it was about a year later and a major thing happened.

Again, it was a technological thing. It was obtaining the power chair. But what was so wonderful about it was that it was the UCLA Medical Auxiliary, in those days, that had a program to provide individuals with certain disabilities, significant disabilities, with adaptive equipment to help them be more independent. I don't even remember how I found out about this opportunity. I don't know that it was a particularly large effort or advertised in any way. I think I was talking with someone and they said, "You know, I think the med center auxiliary might be able to give you a hand with this." Now, this was before Medi-Cal or any other providers that would pay, and these power chairs were very expensive.

BAYLES-YAEGER: They were very new then.

MARTIN: Very new. And actually they were the first models that were available. They were largely intended for indoor hospital use--smooth, level floors--to get you around the hospital or inside your home. They weren't designed to be-- Again, the idea was that people--

BAYLES-YAEGER: Weren't going outdoors.

MARTIN: If you needed a chair like this, you weren't going to go out and go all over. But I quickly adapted it to my own use. They were remarkably helpful in approving the purchase of this chair in very short order. I got it, and it seemed-- It was really a liberating experience.

BAYLES-YAEGER: I would say. It must have been just wonderful to--

MARTIN: It was. I used it to explore all the other places that I hadn't explored before that. It was slow, to be sure, but it saved a lot of my energy to do other things. I could do a lot more on campus in a day. It was still pathetically inadequate, compared to today's models, but still a giant step forward. So I had advanced.

BAYLES-YAEGER: How long did that chair last you?

MARTIN: Well, it lasted several years. By then there was Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal bought the next model. So I was never without power after that, never without--

BAYLES-YAEGER: So now you're able to travel more.

MARTIN: So I was really independent, yes.

BAYLES-YAEGER: You're able to get around Los Angeles more.

MARTIN: That's right. But, you know, as your expectations rise, you begin to see barriers that you hadn't noticed. You become more and more aware of "We really do need those

little-- The ramp by the steam plant needs to be on every corner." Now, that seemed to be an unbelievably remote idea to put into practice.

As I was doing this, I felt-- Physics had always interested me intellectually, but I was very inclined-- I always have been possessed of a passion for reforming the world. Of course, in those days, the environment was very conducive to being involved in reforming the world in a lot of ways. I had a shift in interest to do something, to pursue studies that would allow me to make an impact on those things that I had so directly experienced.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So you changed your major, did you?

MARTIN: Right, right. Well, I was undecided for a while and then I was interested in the built environment and the physical environment. So I got more interested in the social sciences and eventually settled on geography, because it was also an area where you could be a generalist. I had a wide range of interests, so even though I was interested in the potential for changing things, you really couldn't study architecture unless you were a graduate [student], so you had to declare something and geography seemed to be a way to go into planning.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Because public policy didn't exist at that time.

MARTIN: Public policy, no it didn't, nor did Perloff [Hall].

So it had a possibility to get involved in public policy and in planning, which is really what I was interested in. Because the built environment and its impact--the urban built environment, but built environment in general--was a concern and I thought with an advanced degree I could use that to make some changes in policy and in practice in how we build the environment.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So you actually got your bachelor's and your master's in the same year, didn't you?

MARTIN: Yes, I became a departmental scholar and consequently was allowed to pursue, concurrently, both the bachelor's and master's degree. Being a departmental scholar is something that is an honor that one has to be accorded. They ask you, you don't ask them. So it was very nice.

BAYLES-YAEGER: When were you accorded this honor? What year? Do you remember?

MARTIN: I'm not sure entirely. It must have been around 1970, I guess. Something like that.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So what year did you actually get your--?

MARTIN: I got them both in '72, I think.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Actually, I knew that, because I went into archives and looked up your graduation photo in the old yearbook.

MARTIN: Oh really? Is it in the old yearbook? Really?

BAYLES-YAEGER: Yes.

MARTIN: That's interesting.

BAYLES-YAEGER: I meant to bring a copy with me.

MARTIN: Good.

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MAY 4, 1998

BAYLES-YAEGER: Let's just pick right up where we left off. You are a departmental scholar, you've just gotten your master's, and you're on your way to your Ph.D.

MARTIN: Right, and I was--

BAYLES-YAEGER: Now, in the meantime, while all this is happening, you haven't just been going to classes all the time. This is an exciting era.

MARTIN: An exciting era, and--

BAYLES-YAEGER: In the last five years now, what have you been doing besides just getting straight A's?

MARTIN: Well, one thing I should mention, I suppose, is that I was encouraged to apply for a Rhodes Scholarship. It was, you know, unthinkable to me to even suggest doing such a thing, but after I got over the initial shock, I thought, well-- The point was that the Rhodes Scholarship [Trust] needed to be expanded a bit, in their thinking. This was before they were accepting women as Rhodes Scholars. So the idea was that we-- There were women who wanted to put themselves forward as candidates or there were people who wanted to put women forward as candidates. A diversity in those days, without the term, but to diversify that.

Of course, [Cecil J.] Rhodes' will was rather

restrictive--not rather, it was very restrictive--about the selection manner. So at the time, it was suggested that it would be good to nominate some people, at least. So far as I know, I was the only person with a disability to be suggested. But that was in, let's see, it had to be 1969. I met with the Rhodes representative here on campus, who was a Dr. Maxwell in the Medical Center, a medical doctor, who himself had gone to Oxford [University].

They required, essentially, a statement of interest. One had to write something for them and why you wanted to go and it had to discuss your interests. Of course, they were very interested in avocational pursuits, things that you do outside of academics to show your leadership. I had been involved a lot with the disability issues. And of course, they were also very interested in athletic accomplishments, which I didn't have a great deal to say about. But nevertheless, I went through the process. It was a very interesting process and Dr. Maxwell was most gracious despite, I think, my unlikely prospects. But these days I think it's entirely feasible that somebody might, indeed, eventually-- It still hasn't happened, that I know of, although women certainly have broken the barrier and that's no longer an issue. Oxford, though, is just a beastly inaccessible place.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And the weather is probably worse than

Nebraska.

MARTIN: On top of -- Right. In some respects, it was an exercise for diversifying and raising consciousness, but the idea of going to Oxford was certainly perfectly okay with me. Had it been something that would have happened, I would have tried it.

BAYLES-YAEGER: I'm afraid that you would have found it extremely inaccessible there--

MARTIN: I think for my health reasons--

BAYLES-YEAGER: --England, in general, is.

MARTIN: For health reasons, it would have been hard. You know, I had a hard time considering going to Washington with the current administration for climatic reasons. But in any case, it was a really exciting thing to be a part of and to try to raise awareness about.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, you mentioned that one of the things you were considered for was your outside leadership work with matters of disability, so what was happening at that point?

MARTIN: Well, some exciting things. Berkeley had become not only the center of the cyclone for antiwar and other civil rights kinds of issues, for women and for blacks, but also there was an emerging awareness of disability rights as an issue. As I was saying, we kind of independently here at UCLA and at Berkeley-- There were just people whose life

experiences were leading them to the same conclusions. That is, that people with disabilities were themselves an excluded group and needed the protections of civil rights and needed to be included in a broader way than they had been. We didn't have too much in the way of organization yet, but I traveled. Any person inclined to be activist and having a passion for reforming the world would inevitably have to find themselves traveling to Berkeley. So in the summers, especially, I would go to Berkeley. On the first trip that I made, which was perhaps '68, '67--

BAYLES-YAEGER: Oh my goodness. What a time to be there, the Summer of Love.

MARTIN: Yeah, right, it was. It must have been '67, I guess. I arrived on Telegraph [Avenue] and had just gotten out of my vehicle and was proceeding down the street. I was near Moe's [Books], when coming the other way was a person in a much larger power chair than I had, a much stronger-looking power chair. He came up to me--and this is in the days when disabled persons didn't talk to each other, even if you saw each other on the street--and he immediately engaged me in a conversation.

He said, "You're new in Berkeley."

I said, "Does it show?"

He said, "Well, I know just about all the 'crips' in

Berkeley."

And I said, "You do?" You know, crips? It was a term of community and I hadn't heard it before. And so I thought, "This is interesting," and I said, "Yes, in fact I am. I just got here."

He said, "Where are you from?"

And I said, "L.A."

He said, "Well, we won't hold that against you." And he said, "What are you going to be doing?"

I said, "Well, you know, I'm here on my itinerant Jack Kerouac adventure."

And then he said, "Well, if you want to have some adventures, why don't you come on over to my place. We've got a lot of interesting things happening here. We are organizing a group to get our civil rights."

And I thought, "That sounds really good. You know, I've been thinking that we need those." I said, "Where do you live?"

He said, "Just go down Parker Street until you get to the house with the bathtub in the front yard."

BAYLES-YAEGER: Can't miss it. [laughs]

MARTIN: I said, "Well, I think I can handle that." And I thought to myself, you know, "Berkeley's going to be different. This is real interesting." So I eventually, one

of the days when I was there, made my way over. The person I had met was Ed [Edward V.] Roberts.

BAYLES-YAEGER: I thought it had to be.

MARTIN: Yeah, that's right. You know, classic Ed Roberts style, he was warm, ingratiating. A tremendous spirit of a person and you knew immediately you'd met somebody unique. You know, he's revered as the Martin Luther King [Jr.] of the disability rights movement.

BAYLES-YAEGER: He started the [Center for] Independent Living.

MARTIN: That's right. He started the [Center for] Independent Living in Berkeley. This was before all that, but the ideas were germinating, and I had the good fortune of meeting him and getting involved.

I went to his house and there were other people there: John Hessler and Hale Zukas--the person that uses the helmet with the stick on it to drive his chair--who is still active in Berkeley; I see him all the time when I'm there. John since passed away, but he was an early founder of the movement with Ed. They were, at the time, students who were facing graduation or were going into graduate studies, but who expected, before too long, that they were going to be leaving campus. They had been part of what was known as the Cowell [Memorial] Hospital residency program [Physically Disabled Students

Program].

Ed himself, as a result of having had polio, used an iron lung. Of course, I use a portable version of that, but he had to have the iron lung much of the time. He could be out a bit during the day with a portable version on his chair, but in the days-- I think he started at Cal [University of California, Berkeley] in '61, and at that time there was no place in the country that a person in an iron lung could attend a university.

But as luck would have it, Cowell Hospital had built--I should probably say overbuilt--some rooms and they weren't using everything in the hospital. With an appeal to, I guess, some of the administrators-- It's kind of a shame that some of this isn't written down more because-- I think Ed was the first person admitted to Cal that needed the iron lung. They put him--instead of in the residence halls--in the wing of Cowell that was currently not used. Along with him John Hessler came and then a few more persons after that: high-level quadriplegics who either used ventilator equipment, iron lungs, or spinal-cord-injured individuals who were very high level--Christopher Reeve kind of level, by today's standard--that really couldn't function independently, typically. But in this environment, they were able to go and come on campus to their rooms as any other person would.

While they were not integrated into housing as we now would have, it was the beginning of the Berkeley disabled students grouping. Because they were grouped in the same living quarters, they really began to think about what they saw on campus, to bring that back and talk among themselves, and for the first time the ideas started to gel. Luckily I got to be around--

BAYLES-YAEGER: There was a cohesive group there that you could fall into because--

MARTIN: So they had done a bit of work already on this leading up to the time-- So after my initial discussions with Ed--and immediately hitting it off with the people there and with the ideas--

He said, "We've got to form groups like this and spread the word to other places."

I said, "Yeah, Ed, we really need something like that in L.A. When do you think you could come down and work on it?"

And he said, "Oh no. I'm not going to do that. You are."

I said, "Me?"

He said, "Sure. You have to do that. You're going to do all the stuff in L.A. that we're doing here. You're just going to-- We've got to have people to carry the message. You're going to transplant it. So you've got your work to

do."

And I said, "Well, I'll tell you what, when I get done with my degree"--because that was the whole point of my being at UCLA, was to get that advanced education--"I'll devote all my time to the effort."

He said, "I'm going to hold you to it."

When you make a promise to "Martin Luther King," you'd better fulfill it, you know.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Yes.

MARTIN: It was years later, but we kept in touch--very close touch--over the years.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So in the meantime, though, you're still in touch with his movement and you're keeping track of what's going on?

MARTIN: And then after that formative experience, I eventually got together with a couple of other students here. We started the Disabled Students Union in 1970.

BAYLES-YAEGER: I was thinking that the fact that he and his group at Berkeley were just attending classes made it at least a visible reminder to people that changes had to be made in the physical--

MARTIN: Right. One of the most powerful impacts of meeting Ed was not just the ideas, but seeing him as a person. I didn't know if I was going to be able to do all the things

that he already had done. So seeing him already doing these things, at a much greater level of disability, was a tremendously powerful thing for me as a role model. Without him saying anything other than-- Just by doing what he was doing every day convinced me that there was a lot that I could do.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Yes, he certainly proved that point with a lot of able-bodied people--

MARTIN: Yeah, right.

BAYLES-YAEGER: --who would not have thought that someone as severely disabled as he was could--

MARTIN: No, they wrote him off. He always said, you know, "The tragedy is not being disabled. It's being excluded because you are disabled."

BAYLES-YAEGER: And the physical accessibility was such a huge issue at that point, like I keep thinking, we don't think about it now, because we're so used to seeing curb cuts on every curb, but--

MARTIN: Well, you know, somebody said that we should build a monument to Ed after he passed away. I said, "You know, that'll be great." We're working on a thing called the Ed Roberts Campus--I'm on the board of directors of the group that he started--which would be a collection of disability rights and other groups under one roof. It's actually going to be located at the Ashby [Avenue] BART [Bay Area Rapid Transit]

Station. We have the property now--that's being offered to us at a very generous price--and it's a very exciting idea.

BAYLES-YAEGER: That's a wonderful area, too.

MARTIN: That's a memorial. Somebody said, "We're doing that," but I said, you know, "Remember, on every corner of every curb in cities all across this country, there's a memorial to Ed Roberts, and that's a curb ramp." He started it, you know, along Telegraph.

BAYLES-YAEGER: I picked up a book called *The Quiet Revolution: The Struggle for the Rights of Disabled Americans* [by James Haskins and J.M. Stifte, 1979].

MARTIN: Oh, yes.

BAYLES-YEAGER: I thought it was beautiful. It opened with part of a [W.H.] Auden poem:

Dreamed I saw a building
with a thousand floors
A thousand windows and a
thousand doors
Not one of them was ours
my dear
Not one of them was ours

MARTIN: Wow. That's great. I love that.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And I thought that was such a great sentiment, because there was a time when that was absolutely true. You see a big building, and--

MARTIN: [laughs, looking at book] This is great. Oh my gosh, I remember some of these. This looks like the 504 [sit-in]

thing.

BAYLES-YAEGER: The photo on the cover. Yes.

MARTIN: Yes, this is wonderful. Yes, it is. She's got a button on here that says, "Sign 504." I remember these. It looks like some very familiar faces here.

I saw this cartoon in the editorial page in the [*Los Angeles*] *Times*, at the time that the Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA] was signed, that had this person at the Lincoln Memorial, at the foot of the steps, and they were in a wheelchair and they were looking up and they said, "I, too, have a dream." And that's the spirit of it.

Anyway, concurrent with a lot of the studies that I was doing-- And my shift in focus to the study of things that I hoped could help alter the built environment enabled me to be more informed about the matters relating to planning and policy.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So now you're working on your Ph.D. and you're getting these ideas. How are you shaping your doctoral program so that you can take advantage of some of these new ideas?

MARTIN: Well, I'd done some special studies, independent studies with some professors who-- One, I recall specifically, on housing and in planning. By then Perloff Hall [which housed the Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning] had been established, but it was in a building that wasn't terribly

accessible. So I decided to stay on in geography but to have courses from other departments like sociology and planning and political science. There were aspects of planning in all of those. I did work on accessible housing and designs for accessible housing, which later came in handy when I was appointed a state building standards commissioner and one of the issues was housing and the new standards that we developed for making newly constructed apartments and town houses accessible. So a lot of these things did find their way into my future work.

But I was also interested in quantitative methods. The scientific, mathematical, physical side of me never went away, so my dissertation ["Geographical Matrix Filtering"] is largely a mathematical treatise on--

BAYLES-YAEGER: Yes, I could vouch for that. I tried to read it. [laughs]

MARTIN: It was an analysis of applying some advanced techniques in data analysis to planning problems, to use things like Fourier transforms to uncover hidden patterns in data, spectrum analysis and other methods that were used in physics, perhaps, or chemistry, and in remote sensing--a lot of these techniques were developed for remote sensing, used on probes to Mars and the moon and other planets, and they had not been applied much to physical planning data. They had been more focused

on other phenomena, so I was interested in applying that.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So we're in the seventies now. You're working on your Ph.D. How have things changed here on campus?

MARTIN: Well, we did establish the Disabled Students Union in 1970 and that got us together and started us talking. There were just a handful of us at the outset, but several of those people went on to become well-known in the effort. In fact, I hired a good many of them at the [Westside] Center for Independent Living that I started later. Yeah, so we kind of all got our start at UCLA and now they're all doing other things, but it's all disability rights related. Even though they came from--one was an English major, one was an econ[omics] major, myself, one was an attorney--we all went off to-- But we all kept involved in disability rights.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, you were all in the right place at the right time, that's for sure.

MARTIN: Yeah. And of course the developments in Berkeley were influencing us a lot.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So were you going back and forth between L.A. and Berkeley quite often?

MARTIN: Yes, quite often. Not to mention that along with Berkeley being the place for disability rights-- But Berkeley also had the Keystone [Corner], which had some of the best music around.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Yes, that's very true and it's not there anymore, I'm sorry--

MARTIN: It's not there anymore, but while it was it was a great spot, so that was always a-- You'd go to the Keystone and then, you know, you spend time around--

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, how did you get to Berkeley?

MARTIN: Drove usually. Well, I managed as a result of-- I received a Chancellor's Fellowship and that covered both my master's and doctoral studies, and I was a teaching assistant, a chancellor's teaching assistant. So I was awarded this very prestigious--I'm very honored to say--scholarship that provided for two years of teaching assistantship, and then another period of time for the work on the master's thesis and then also paid a stipend for work on the [doctoral] dissertation. And, of course, paid for my fees as well.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So financially, you were pretty well set up.

MARTIN: Yes, and I was able to buy a van that was accessible for the first time. That was in 1970 or so. Then that gave me the opportunity to go back and forth a lot, to be a lot more mobile, given that I could ride in the van in my power chair and have my respirator in there and go basically anywhere.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Did you have someone driving for you?

MARTIN: Yes. I couldn't drive.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Did you have an attendant this time who was--?

MARTIN: Right. I had a personal assistant who helped me with my personal needs and would drive me. Once I'm up, you know, I'm pretty independent during the day, but I need help being driven places. But once I was on campus, I really didn't have people following me around too much. But going back and forth, yeah, I always had an assistant. BAYLES-YAEGER: Now, did you have any problems finding appropriate attendant care?

MARTIN: Well, I probably hired and fired more people than most employment agencies. [laughs] I consider myself something of an employment agency. UCLA is a good source of people in a lot of ways, because students are needing to find work. They need to have jobs or part-time things or whatever. I've had a lot of people, but the problem is that they also graduate and do other things.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Yes, they move on.

MARTIN: They move on and so you're having a lot of turnover, but it's been a good source.

BAYLES-YAEGER: But it also takes quite a bit of training to get someone comfortable with--

MARTIN: Well, another reason why it became apparent that-- For those of us who were in school and had things like the Office of Special Services, or at Berkeley, the Disabled Students Program that had evolved since Ed and those people

had started at Cowell, it was services that were evolved to help them on campus. We were looking at--in a few years--graduating and there was nothing in the community.

BAYLES-YAEGER: That's right.

MARTIN: So the independent living idea came from, "Let's try to duplicate in the community and even expand on what we've got on campus that has allowed us to function independently," like a ready source of attendants, like finding accessible housing, like accessible transportation when there were no lifts on any buses.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And there was no paratransit then.

MARTIN: No paratransit, no accessible parking spaces, no ramps on curbs. None of that existed. And the independent living centers would be a force in the community to promote advocacy, but also be an integrated service delivery system that was designed by the people who use it--again, the emphasis on consumerism.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Yes. You weren't having somebody take care of you. You were trying to find ways to take care of yourself.

MARTIN: We were trying to become more in charge of and in control of our own lives, yes.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And that was a very hard attitude for a lot of people to accept.

MARTIN: You know, including many, many people in the helping

professions who had been trained with the notion of taking care of and helping, of course, and not expecting to find out that the people they were helping were saying, "You know, I have something to say about this." You know, because whatever your background is, you don't necessarily know the disability experience totally. But one of the premises of the independent living movement was that we were the experts in disability.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Christopher Reeve just said this, that as soon as he was handicapped, one physical therapist began treating him like he was three years old and he finally said, "I'm a grown man. Either treat me like a grown man or leave my room." But that's a very common experience. In fact, I think it was Ed Roberts who said he went to a convention one time to speak and people patted him on the head.

MARTIN: Yeah. I'm sure that's true. On the other hand, Ed was not a guy-- Ed had the great ability to be a tremendously forceful advocate but at the same time not alienate people. He could stick a finger in the eye, one of the only fingers he could use, he could stick that finger in the eye of people that he would disagree with and still not make them upset. He had this enormous ability to make just tremendously powerful advocacy statements, but do it in such a way that he could disarm his opponents. And he had many. He had many detractors who thought that he was creating all kinds of--going the wrong

direction and so on. But actually, he was able to work with them and carry the day, so a lot of his vision has really been borne out. There wouldn't be an ADA or any of those things without what he did.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, what happened when--? You were saying that the picture on the cover of this book reminded you of the Section 504 controversy?

MARTIN: Yeah, that's an interesting thing that happened and I suppose there's a bit of preface that needs to be said here about-- After I was going along and we had started the Disabled Students Union and I was in touch with Ed-- I was finishing my doctoral dissertation and I spent the last summer working on my dissertation in Berkeley, writing it, because I had access to the library there, which had a great mathematical collection. And it was so focused mathematically that I thought it would be good to do that and to spend quite a bit more time absorbing a lot of what was going on, because I had thought--and as I had promised Ed--to devote my time full-time to this after graduation. This was in '75, so it was the summer of '75.

I was in Berkeley and I had finished the dissertation, at least the draft, and had been in touch with Ed about this, and he said, "You know, we've got to do something about the Rehab Act of '73," which [Richard M.] Nixon had delayed but

eventually had signed. In it was this Section 504, a paragraph of a few lines that said, "Recipients of federal funds shall not discriminate against persons with disabilities." This is a very, very large piece of legislation. Hubert [H.] Humphrey had a lot to do with getting that in there. Ed had worked with Hubert and his staff, and with Congressman [John] Brademas in the House [of Representatives], and Ed was just--

You know, Ed had majored in political science and had taught, was a teaching assistant in political science from his [iron] lung. People would come to his house, students, and he would conduct the class from the lung.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And interviews. I saw an interview done with him while he was in the iron lung.

MARTIN: Did you? Yes, yes. Was that the recent *People in Motion* [PBS] series? Way back when?

BAYLES-YAEGER: No, it was about six or seven years ago that I remember that. It was great.

MARTIN: He would either have the lung rolled out in the yard and they'd have class in the backyard--and a barbecue sometimes--or inside. But in any case, he was very knowledgeable about the political process and how to be involved in it to promote these matters. So he said, "You know, we're really going to have to focus on this." I said, "Well, I'm going to have time soon."

After I graduated, which was November--I got the dissertation filed--it was practically the same week that he was appointed by Governor [Edmund G. "Jerry"] Brown [Jr.] to be director of the state Department of Rehabilitation, which had been one of the agencies that had, of course, helped pay for my tuition, but also had been generally focused on the rehabilitation of individuals with less severe impairments. That is, if you had someone who may have had the loss of a forearm and could be fitted with a prosthesis and gotten back to work-- They looked at the numbers of people that they could rehabilitate and say the case was closed. People like Ed or myself-- It really was very hard to say when-- And it seemed like an endless process and they hadn't focused--

Well, Ed's first order of business was to make rehabilitation of individuals no longer dependent strictly on production numbers or on the process of picking those that might have seemed to be easy closures, but rather to also focus on the needs of the severely--

BAYLES-YAEGER: Long-term.

MARTIN: --long-term and severely disabled persons. He established a variety of things that gave us a lot more in the way of resources to go into the workforce. One of the very first things he did, with John Hessler, who was put in charge of this project, was to create independent living centers

like the one that they had developed at Berkeley, that I had been so involved with in its formative stages and seeing how it had to come about. John contacted me and said, "We're planning on having hearings around the state and Ed has asked me to head up this initiative. We'd like to have you come and testify about the need for independent living services in your area, and anybody else you know from any parts of L.A., get them out there."

By that time I had met a really important person in this effort by the name of [Russell] Sherman Clarke, who was a doctoral student here in history, who had a progressive bone disease that fused his joints together so that he couldn't move. I had seen him around campus when he was still mobile. I didn't know who he was, but through a series of kind of serendipitous discussions about the independent living center-- When I had graduated, we had our first organizing meeting in December of '75, and I got Sherman's name. I knew a couple of other people on campus who were interested who were in our Disabled Students Union, and we had about seven or eight people there to talk about starting the [Center for] Independent Living. I said that John Hessler had indicated they were going to have hearings and I had hoped that we could make a presentation. Consequently, we did and--

BAYLES-YAEGER: What were these hearings called? Did they have

a title?

MARTIN: Well, they were kind of a forum on independent living, the need for independent living services in the community, or something along these lines. It was held at the state Department of Rehabilitation offices downtown, and--

BAYLES-YAEGER: And it was open to the public?

MARTIN: It was open to the public and any interested person could talk about-- Now, in those days not many people knew too much about what an independent living center was or what it was about unless they had actually been at Berkeley. Several of the people that I was working with had subsequently been there as well.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, some people might not know now. Would you like to give a short description of an independent living center?

MARTIN: Well, a center would be a comprehensive service center--community based, consumer run--that has persons with disabilities at least in the majority on the board of directors and has hired a staff with disabilities wherever and whenever possible. The services would be designed and developed by those who needed them--those with disabilities--and, insofar as at all feasible, conducted by those with disabilities with the purpose of providing an array of services that would allow individuals to maintain or gain greater independence living

in their own homes.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Like attendant care--?

MARTIN: Providing things like a registry of individuals who could act as personal attendants, personal care providers, personal assistants--that could provide personal assistance. A survey of housing of the area that was made to identify apartment buildings at least free of barriers to the entrance. Interior access was still probably an individual matter of renovation.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So you were not actually providing housing or attendants, you were providing information about how to obtain these things?

MARTIN: Right, we provided--so that a person wouldn't have to drive around endlessly looking for an apartment building without a step.

BAYLES-YAEGER: But the [Center for] Independent Living, itself, didn't have apartments that it rented out. It would give you lists.

MARTIN: No, in fact we avoided such things. It was one of the tenets of the independent living centers not to get involved in developing housing that would segregate people from the community, even if it was an independent-living-center-owned congregate housing facility. The idea really was getting people in those apartments integrated in the community. The

key was integration, full integration into community life, and that meant just giving them the information with which they could find and keep their independence.

We did provide the service of a lift-equipped van at the outset, before paratransit and before regular city buses were lift-equipped, because there was no other way, really. We did have that for a number of years. We also had a counseling program made up of people with disabilities counseling others, peer counseling on adapting to, dealing with, disability issues in their lives, in their personal lives. We had an advocacy department, which helped people go through the maze of Social Security, Medi-Cal, Medicare, and state Department of Rehab regulations to get the benefits that they were entitled to.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, this is a good place to stop, because I was hoping with the next tape we could actually go into what a difference the independent living centers made in a lot of people's lives.

MARTIN: I'd also like to talk a little about our rather difficult beginning of the center here and how we survived numerous major setbacks.

TAPE NUMBER: IV, SIDE ONE

MAY 18, 1998

BAYLES-YAEGER: Dr. Martin, when we left off we were just finishing up your years as a student at UCLA and I told you that I had found your picture in the yearbook-- And there it is, from your master's [degree]: look at that young man, he's ready to go out now and change the world. So what happened after you completed your Ph.D. here?

MARTIN: I went out and changed the world. [laughs]

BAYLES-YAEGER: All right, let's talk about it.

MARTIN: Well, as I think I mentioned, I had promised Ed [Edward V.] Roberts that I would devote my time to starting an independent living center, since I opened my big mouth and said that's what we needed in L.A., and he suggested that that would be a great thing for me to do. It never occurred to me that I could do that, but when he said it-- It seemed like I couldn't very well say that it was impossible, since he had already done it--he and a bunch of other people that I worked with and admired and had been keeping track of and who actually had very significant disabilities, considerably more significant than my own.

So he was a tremendous influence, role model and leader. He was also extraordinarily--even though the word has been used maybe overmuch--charismatic. When you met Ed, you knew

that you had met somebody that was different from probably most people you'd ever meet. He had a spirit about him, a quality that you just had to-- He got you involved. Despite yourself or your priorities or what you thought you were going to do, before long, you were hooked. He could just get people to get involved and get active. He made a lot of connections that were not articulated. That is, the idea that individuals with disabilities were also a minority and it was a civil rights issue for them, not a medical issue.

There was a new way of looking at it, a new paradigm. The independent living model was the new paradigm, not trying to fix or cure the individual, but to alter society to allow them to participate, nothing less than full participation, equal rights; the same alternatives and choices as others had that were nondisabled; the idea that disabled persons were experts themselves on disability and should participate in the development of policies that directly affect their daily lives. All of those were things that had never been articulated, I think, in that way before. It really focused on saying responsible risks should be taken by the helping agencies and in the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities--including the most severely disabled--and that those individuals themselves had a role to play in their own rehabilitation, that it wasn't decided all for them by people

who thought they knew best what was good for others, some of whom had never been disabled. [They] may have had a clinical background, but there was an element of expertise and a perspective that came with the disability that others didn't have. That needed to be added into the rehabilitation process.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, he certainly had a way about him. I only met him once, on the campus at UC [University of California] Berkeley, and he was zipping around with a film crew trying to keep up with him to do some kind of interview with him, and he stopped and we talked for a while. He was, oh, he was just-- You're right, charismatic, that was the word.

MARTIN: Warm, open, engaging--a delight, you know, and people loved being around him. He was like a magnet and everybody would hang out at his house. He had a tremendously big heart. He was generous, extraordinarily.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, every movement seems to have its leaders and I know he was one of the big ones. He and Justin [W.] Dart [Jr.].

MARTIN: Another man I admire enormously, yes.

BAYLES-YAEGER: I have the *Mainstream:* [*A Magazine of the Able-Disabled*] with Justin Dart on the cover. Just as the civil rights movement had Martin Luther King [Jr.] and Malcolm X, these were some of the leaders of this movement.

MARTIN: You know, Justin said recently, in an article--it

might be in that article--that Ed Roberts sent him to kindergarten about these issues. That's a tremendous tribute because Justin has been one of the great leaders, crusaders, visionaries in this--tireless, extraordinary man in his own right, and I have the greatest regard for him.

BAYLES-YAEGER: He seems to be an activist's activist.

MARTIN: He is a model. It's an extraordinary story about his life, which is, in its own right, fascinating. One of the great things has been just to have been able to work with him and Ed and other people, because-- Again, Justin is one of those people that you meet that you know is not like, probably, a lot of other people that you're ever going to meet. You know, if one would have ever had the great opportunity to meet, say, Mahatma Gandhi, or to have known Martin Luther King or others, the suffragettes, perhaps, I'm sure that it would be an experience like that, that they would stand out.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, I look through this magazine, and I see all these pictures of all the marches in the [San Francisco] Bay Area and everything at the time. I can't help looking in the crowd for you. Are you in some of these marches that he's talking about leading?

MARTIN: Yes, yes, indeed.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Can you remember which ones you went to?

MARTIN: Let's see, we had an anniversary. Let's see, it was,

I think it was the tenth anniversary of the [Section] 504 [of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973] regulations and we had a march through the city.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Through San Francisco?

MARTIN: Yes, right-- I'm trying to remember where the exact starting point-- Let's see, I think it was we started at Golden Gate and ended up at the United Nations Plaza and had an enormous rally there. It was tremendous. One of many. Justin-- I ended up in a march with him in Nashville one time about more federal funding for rehabilitation and other things.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Do you remember what year?

MARTIN: Let's see, the tenth anniversary would have been '87 for the 504 rally. Then we've had annual ADA rallies and marches, often in San Diego. Justin's come out for those. We have marched down in Balboa Park, often. Then, of course, there was the great 504 sit-in, but I was here in L.A. sitting in at the Federal Building on Wilshire [Boulevard] and Veteran [Avenue].

BAYLES-YAEGER: When was that?

MARTIN: That would have been in '77, in April of '77. I do want to talk about that, because that's right after I graduated and I started the [Westside] Center for Independent Living [WCIL].

BAYLES-YAEGER: I remember reading about that. People were

chaining their wheelchairs to gates.

MARTIN: [Health, Education, and Welfare] Secretary [Joseph A.] Califano [Jr.] was being called upon to issue regulations implementing the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This was 1977. It had been four years of regulatory development. There was a draft of the regulations that had been developed during the [Richard M.] Nixon administration. Hubert [H.] Humphrey and others had a lot to do with that--the law itself--and then their staff were working on trying to get these regulations going and Nixon wasn't particularly-- In fact, he vetoed the Rehab Act itself, twice. Finally it was passed and it had this one little paragraph about no entity that receives federal money can discriminate on the basis of disability. Really the most important thirty or forty words that the law had anywhere in it was this about disability, the first real disability rights, civil rights. The first time that civil rights was actually acknowledged, that the U.S. government would not lend its funds to programs or activities that discriminated or excluded. Now, this is a major departure.

Ed was very involved in that whole issue, too, Ed Roberts. He was telling me about it and he said, "We've got to get these regulations. We've got to have centers to focus people, to organize them, to give them the services they need to be independent and active, and then we've got to focus our energies

on getting access to mainstream life and getting our rights."

So we started the [Westside Center for] Independent Living in 1975, myself and a good friend or two here from UCLA and some other people that we knew, but basically a core of people from UCLA: a blind quadriplegic [Russell Sherman Clarke], who was a doctoral student in history; a very significantly disabled woman who was in biostatistics and was a graduate of UCLA, whom I had known, not well, but I had known--Linda Knipps-- I started calling people I knew after I graduated, which was-- Actually, the dissertation was done in the fall of '75 and Ed was appointed [California Department of] Rehab[ilitation] director by [Edmund G.] "Jerry" Brown [Jr.] in '75, in the fall, about the same week.

I called him to congratulate him and he said, "Okay, I'm going to hold you to your word, here. You're going to have to do this."

I said, "Well, what can I do?"

He said, "Well, you know, now that I'm rehab director, I plan to take some of their innovation and expansion funds," of which I knew nothing, but he knew. "They have innovation and expansion grant money"--it was called I and E money--"that typically is used to fund [tax] sheltered workshops and other things of that nature." He said, "We're going to divert some of that money to starting new centers like the Center for

Independent Living in Berkeley. Give some seed money for start-up. We're going to have hearings around the state and I want you to testify about needing a center in L.A."

Actually, because L.A. was so big, we ended up, I think, with three or four different groups. There was one from the [San Fernando] Valley, one from South Central, one from Orange County, one from East L.A. At that time, people represented these various sections and of course the Westside, which I represented. We went to the hearings, which were chaired by John Hessler, one of, again, the pioneers of this whole movement. The late John Hessler, who I first met in Ed's room in his house that first day in Berkeley. Little did I think that it would all lead to that. Little could I even imagine what might come yet.

But we had these hearings and we submitted a proposal, our group. We had it incorporated. We finally got our official incorporation in March of '76. We applied in the fall and we were awarded a grant from rehab, as was the Valley and as was Orange County and South Central, for start-up in July.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And how much was the seed money?

MARTIN: About $98,000. It required, the first year, a 10 percent match--this was a matching grant, in increasing amounts--the next year, 20 percent, the third year, 40 percent. Then, of course, at the end of three years that was the end

of the grant. You had to be 100 percent at four years. So it was really a start-up seed money grant and you had to really go out and aggressively get support, get funds.

That seemed like just an unbelievable task, because none of us had any experience, background. We were five or, well, actually, we had seven incorporators in March of '76. A couple of the people had full-time jobs and the rest of us, basically, couldn't afford to go to work. We were in school. We were graduates from school, and because of the Social Security rules of the time, if you worked even a little bit you'd lose your personal assistance services and Medi-Cal. In my case, Medi-Cal meant a respirator to breathe with, and the respirator cost about $1,200 a month. So I had to make many times more than that at any job offer I ever got to even start working. It was a bad catch-22. Consequently, I ended up focusing a lot of the efforts of our independent living center [Westside Center for Independent Living] on reforming the system and removing barriers in the Social Security system to work and return to work and marriage and education.

There were some bad, bad policies in there about education and the penalties you get for being a student and getting a scholarship, being threatened with losing Medi-Cal and losing your attendant, the very things that help you to stay in school. It's not a good national policy. We still are working on

that, twenty years later. We've had some success.

In any case, Sherman, the blind quadriplegic, Sherman Clarke-- Because he-- Like myself, he was still working on his doctorate, but he had this tremendous work penalty; he couldn't do anything in the way of entering into remunerative work-- He and I had a lot of time, so we became-- He had a house in Palms which was--

He was quadriplegic; he had a progressive arthritic condition. I'm afraid I can't say the name, but it resulted in the freezing of the joints so that at some point the calcification would stop the movement and he became rigid. When I met him, it also affected his vision. It was an autoimmune problem. The body was attacking itself. He lost his vision. When I knew him he was blind already. Prior to that, though, I had seen him years ago on campus using an electric golf cart to get around and walking with difficulty. He finally ended up in a wheelchair, but was able, with high technology, [though] it was rudimentary in those days, [with] a large screen-- He still had partial, very limited vision, but could, with enlarged print on a screen, a TV monitor, read and could write some.

He was tremendous help. He had a great, great spirit and people just gravitated to him. He was, as much as anybody, I think, responsible for keeping the interest and recruiting

people and making-- He had a phone growing out of his ear when he worked. I'd go over to his house in the day and we'd spend the day, but he'd work on the nights, the weekends, and, you know, with me. We did most of the development of that original grant in his house, and he actually had-- You know, his wife Sue [Clarke] helped a lot. We got it typed, and he and I went to this hearing.

Other members of the incorporating group had, you know, jobs, families, and various things; but in a way, some of the independent living movement's birth is a direct outgrowth of governmental policies which enforced idleness among us. One thing I have taken away as a lesson from this has been, if you have government policies that on the one hand educate individuals and then on the other hand deprive them of anything to do, you're going to have a movement.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, it makes no sense anyway. No practical sense at all.

MARTIN: Don't educate people and give them nothing to do, because then they'll cause an uprising.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Then they have a chance to choose their own work in life, which is what you did.

MARTIN: That's right. And we made our own work. We made our own work. We made our own niche. We developed this whole place when there wasn't anyplace for us. So it was like Ed

was saying, "Look, we're going to be graduating"--this is some years before that--"We've got all these services on campus. We're going out in the community. There's nothing. The Independent Living Center is going to let us live independently off campus, when we're no longer students, as the Disabled Students Program did when we were on campus. We can't live in Cowell when we graduate, the Cowell [Memorial] Hospital. We're going to have to get apartments that are accessible."

BAYLES-YAEGER: So you're out there fighting and by '77, you're at the Federal Building. I really want to hear about that, because like I say, that's something that was in the news all over.

MARTIN: Well, I just want to, yeah, just a couple of points on our-- We got the start-up grant in early July of '76. We had a meeting that Ed called, in Sacramento, of all the awardees.

That's where I first met Judy [Judith E.] Heumann, who was another great leader, now assistant secretary [in the Office] of Special Education [and Rehabilitation Services] in the [William J.] Clinton administration. She had gone to Berkeley from New York and was a real activist there. So anyway, that started a long, established involvement with her that I value very much to this day. She's still one of my mentors.

In any case, we had a discussion on how to administer

the grant. The big emphasis was on, "You've got to be able to raise funds." In our grant, one of the things that I think, helped approve our grant was-- They had a question, "What are your strategies for raising funds?" And not knowing anything more than just, it would be a nice idea, I put down that we have in our region some fairly affluent communities--Beverly Hills, Bel Air, Brentwood--and they had been generous in-- They have, you know, a history of generosity for groups and issues and so on, if one can promote that. So our plan for the future about how we were going to survive after three years was, well, "We're just going to fund-raise."

Now, you know, everybody who is already known as a philanthropist is besieged by worthy causes, so I knew that it wasn't going to be easy. In fact, I thought it was going to be very difficult. After the first few meetings of our board of directors, after March and after our grant was approved, we had some meetings in the summer. One of the friends of one of our founders knew a person by the name of Helen Levin and, actually, the Levin Foundation. There was a Levin Foundation and this person suggested to Helen that there was this new group, this fledgling--

She herself had polio and was quadriplegic. She lived in Bel Air with her husband and she had children, but she contracted polio as an adult and was in the iron lung most

of the time in her adult life. She could be out a short while, but only with difficulty. But she led the most remarkable life and designed their home, from her iron lung, when she was still in the hospital, because it would have to be accessible and so on. Jack Levin was a successful businessman and they built this marvelous home in Bel Air that was fully accessible. We used to, once we got to know her, go up to-- She would have these dinner parties for us and bring her friends, who were Abigail Van Buren and all kinds of amazing people, Senator [Alan] Cranston. We got the most amazing support that just came from this casual introduction.

She came to one of our board meetings, heard what we were doing, heard some of the issues, and said, "You know, this is really something that nobody's done before. Here's a chance to make a difference." We needed $10,000 for this match, to match $98,000, we needed $9,800 We mentioned that at the board meeting. We did not know who Helen was, other than a friend of this person.

I'm in the office a few weeks later. I had one staff person, this secretary, and we're in this little office--one-room place with a phone and a letterhead and a typewriter. This is what we have. And the mail comes and I'm involved with looking at, doing whatever, and I hear this kind of noise. I look around and here is my administrative

assistant with this envelope in her hand slumped over the desk passed out, mocking having fainted. I said, "What is it?" And she was speechless. We opened it and it was a check for $10,000 from the Levin Foundation. Then I knew that at least our first year was assured.

Before that, we were able to get nothing from anyone. It was, like, we anted up money of our own and our relatives and friends to get enough to get a phone and rent an office.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And your letterhead.

MARTIN: And a letterhead, right, and rent an office. So then we signed a lease for a place on Barrington [Avenue] and National [Boulevard], where we would move in in September. Well, this is kind of the history of WCIL and what we survived.

In August, then, after a really good beginning in July, Sherman contracted pneumonia and was gravely ill for a couple of weeks. He passed away the first part of September. So that was an enormous loss to us. He had agreed to be the executive director of the program and I was going to be his assistant. That's how we'd been operating, given that we had time. We were day-to-day. He wasn't able to come to that little office so much, but he was doing a lot of the directing and I was helping out. So we had a wake and we had a board meeting. And basically, people looked around and said, "Well, who can take over as director?" And somebody

said, "Well, you know, I'm working." And this and that, and "I can't." I said, "Well, I'm free." So they said, "Yes, you should be director." And I said, "But I can't take any pay, because I can't afford to lose-- I have to be a volunteer." They said, "Well, you're a bargain."

BAYLES-YAEGER: Yeah. What a deal!

MARTIN: And then unbelievably the very night that Sherman passed away, there was a fire at the building that we were going to be moving into the next week and it burned down. So we had no place. We had this bit of office space temporarily, just until we could get into the new building. We had been mostly working out of Sherman's house. But there was no way to hire a staff, there was no way to-- Because we had no place to put them. The building had to be rebuilt. It was April of '77 when we moved in, finally.

So we ran the operation, thanks to the United Cerebral Palsy [UCP] offices on Venice Boulevard--which are now occupied by In and Out Burger. In those days they had a small office there. They heard about the disaster and said, you know, "If you could use our facilities, you're welcome," to come in certain days and certain hours--they were quite restricted, but when they weren't using them. And we did, because we were desperate. They were very gracious.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, that's nice to hear.

MARTIN: It kept us going.

BAYLES-YAEGER: I used to work for United Cerebral Palsy.

MARTIN: They saved us, because we just didn't physically have a place. Then with Sherman's passing and the fire all the same day-- You know, I got called and they said, "Are you with the Westside Center?" I said, "Yes." And they said, "Well, I think you should know that there was a fire at the building that I believe you were going to be a tenant at. It's a total loss." We were just-- So we didn't know-- That night was really a very long night for me, because Sherman had passed away, and we had lost our building. Although we had identified a good source of support, you just can't carry out a program without some--

BAYLES-YAEGER: It always seems like you take two steps forward and one step back.

MARTIN: It was, but, you know, it did not-- For several months, people from rehab would come to visit us in our little office at UCP and they would say, "How much longer before the building's ready?" and, "Have you hired any staff?" I said, "Well, we're doing the best we can, but we have no way to hire staff, because we only have a couple of hours here two or three times a week. We're lucky to have a telephone number with our own line in there." So we ran it on a shoestring until April of the next year, in '77. We moved into the new place.

Just as we moved in and got our first CETA people--Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, which in those days was a [President James E.] Carter initiative that gave us a major boost in staff--we went from two people, that had just the bare-bones thing that we were doing at UCP [United Cerebral Palsy], to about thirty people within a month or so. We had a full complement of people doing our van transportation. We bought a van. We had it delivered. It came, I think, in May. We had all these things and all these new people. So overnight, we kind of mushroomed from being on hold to really starting up in a big way.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Full speed ahead, yes.

MARTIN: And then we got some additional good news. The city of Los Angeles agreed to fund us, that is, all of the independent living centers in the city, with 10 percent of their budget as a matching fund. So now we ended up with 20 percent, which already 10 percent would go to the next year, so our future looked really bright. And then that was the time when the Section 504 issue really came to the front burner.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And it was a good time for you. You're in a position now to work on it.

MARTIN: And we were in place; we had our staff. In fact, it was very interesting. The first staff that we hired had a very diverse group of individuals, who also had many different

kinds of disabilities. They were ethnically, racially diverse. There was gender equity. There were all kinds. You know, it was really exciting.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Can you name some of them?

MARTIN: Well, gosh, yeah. Well, certainly Penny Styles was in there, and Carlos Gomez, and we had Josie Reynoso, and we had Harriet McMullen, and we had Leonard Abrezia and, oh gosh, there was Bob [Robert] Zimmerman and his faithful dog, Rasta, short for Rastafarian, who was allowed to have the run of the place. It was a great community sense; it was community centered. Oh, Jerry Arakawa, Carl Shiigi, and Rose Castro, we just had-- It was a whole spectrum of what L.A. is. Most of those individuals, I would say just about every one of them, had a disability at one time in their lives. So we made an effort to find and promote and employ people with disabilities.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And you were certainly practicing what you were preaching, then.

MARTIN: It was exciting. Then we got this call from Ed, and he said, "We've really got to put the pressure on Califano. Nixon stalled, and now we've got a new president, and I think the time is right, and I've been talking with others around the country. There are people in Denver, and there are people in New York and there are people all over who-- And we've got the independent living centers started around California.

I'm hoping that everybody can really join in the effort to put pressure on."

Then Judy Heumann, who was still working at the Center for Independent Living--she was the deputy director there--was the person that became the organizer of the Bay Area effort to have a demonstration to force the issuance of the 504 regulation. We had seen the draft and it looked pretty good. We were afraid it was going to get watered down in the process if we didn't do something, and we didn't want to lose what seemed to be a good draft. So there was an effort to have a sit-in on the same day, starting the same day in as many different federal buildings as possible, urging the secretary to sign the regulation to issue the regulations. It turned out, in the Bay Area, to be the longest-running occupation of a federal building for any reason in history.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Oh really?

MARTIN: Yes, it's still a record to this day. I wish I could remember the number of days, but--

During the occupation of the Federal Building, Judy Heumann flew to Washington [D.C.], found out Secretary Califano's address, and led a group of people to his house one night for a candlelight vigil. In his memoir later, Califano mentioned the 504 issue and said that he had always been a supporter of civil rights and he felt that it was unfortunate

that somehow it was suggested that he wasn't supportive. But he said, "My worst nightmare was that my dog would somehow get lose and bite Judy Heumann and the next day the *Washington Post* would read, 'Califano's Dog Bites Crippled Woman.'" [laughs] So he said, "It got my attention and that was--" Yeah, he mentioned it in his memoir, it was pretty amusing. So he learned a lot about 504. Anyway, it went on for some weeks before the secretary did sign, but he did.

It was a tremendous victory and a tremendous sense of empowerment. We paralleled people in Denver and New York and Atlanta and other places all around the country [who] were having these demonstrations. And we had one. WCIL was the main group; I took a lot of the people over from our area here and got them over there. We were in the quarters there, outside of the HEW--now HHS [Department of Health and Human Services]--but in those days [Department of] Health, Education and Welfare offices. We were there all day. There were deaf people, there were wheelchair users, and there were blind people. They were walking around the aisles and rolling around the aisles and signing to each other. These people in the offices were looking very, well, confused. They had no idea what it was about, you know. Then the news came, the local news reporters and TV news cameras.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Were you carrying signs?

MARTIN: We had a few signs, we had a few signs. But see, they were rather touchy about that when we arrived, so they would only let us have things that were a certain size. So we had to lose a lot of them. But people were allowed in. As long as we were assembled out in the hallway and not blocking the traffic, they would let us be there. They had a lot of security in those days. I think you've got even more now; we probably couldn't even get in there to have a demonstration today. As the day wore on and we had the interviews-- And we were in touch with Ed and Judy and other people. They said, "This is happening all over the country and it's really tremendous." And we didn't know that it was going to take as long as it did. We were there for a number of days.

But I think the dramatic moment that I remember the most--that also was a very wonderful turn of events--was at five o'clock the building was going to close. The federal marshals came and said, "You have to disperse--it's closing time--or you'll be arrested." And you know, we had thought we were not necessarily going to be there for weeks. We didn't know anything about how long this might last, but we weren't going to go home either. We didn't really have a plan B if we were arrested except, I guess, call up our friends and try to get bail. But it kind of crossed my mind that if we decided to stay and we got arrested, that they'd have a hard

time finding a way to get us to the jail.

BAYLES-YAEGER: I was thinking of that. [laughs]

MARTIN: First of all, no accessible paddy wagons, and two, there are no accessible cells.

BAYLES-YAEGER: What a news--

MARTIN: Yeah, what news. So we had the press and I thought, "Well, this could be interesting, so we're just going to stay." We're going to stay and we're not going to move and we'll just see what happens. That's before anybody had ever done any civil disobedience that I know of, so it was totally unknown territory. It was enormously empowering, in a way, to say that the same nonviolent tactics that Gandhi and King had used, we could use to make a statement and to get our issues considered. It only takes, as Gandhi showed, a simple act-- This is really more profoundly revolutionary than other methods.

So in any case, we're confronted with the marshals and we had these German shepherd guide dogs for people that are blind. I don't know what's going to happen, but just-- It was really quite dramatic, because just as they were telling us what's going to happen and what we have to do, and we're saying-- "Well, we're not going to do that. No, we're here. We're here for the duration. You know, we're not going to resist arrest, but we're not going to be passive," and so forth.

All of a sudden, a person [Kay Slavkin Van Horn] arrived on the scene who was an aide to Representative Tony [Anthony C.] Beilenson, whose office was in the building and had heard about this on the news. And they came and said, "What's going on here?"

And the officer was saying, "Well, you know, they have to leave the building."

And we were saying, "We're here to get our civil rights. There are demonstrations all over the country, and it's time that Califano and the Carter administration do something. After four years of delay and foot-dragging, we're just not going to wait any longer."

And she said, "You mean, you're going to arrest these people?"

And they said, "If they don't leave now, then yes."

She said, "Well, I'm here to let you know that they are personal guests of Congressman Beilenson and they're welcome to come into his office and to stay the night." He heard about it and he invited us into his office and gave us not only the place to sleep in, on the floor, and rescued us from being carted off the first day, but they said, "Use the phones and be in contact with-- We think it's tremendous."

BAYLES-YAEGER: This is hospitality at its best.

MARTIN: It was really what saved us from the thing fizzling

out, or being diverted, or our energies being taken from being there and keeping the issue alive to trying to get out of jail and really being sidetracked. So we were able to stay.

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MARTIN: So we were able to stay and we stayed for a number of-- It must have been a couple of weeks and it looked like there were going to be some results, so we had a smaller group that stayed around longer, but a lot of us were-- It was getting hard.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Were you taking turns leaving and going home for a bath or something?

MARTIN: Yeah, we'd come and go. The thing was, during the night, if you left they wouldn't let you back in. During the day we could come back, so we'd kind of come and go and make shifts. So in L.A., we had our federal building sit-in, along with the Bay Area and with the other places around the country. We were really involved, for the first time in making policy, affecting the course of events ourselves, not just being cared for--a big revelation. Once that happens, I don't think people ever go back that have experienced that.

I think Goethe said, "Being free is nothing. Becoming free is everything." If you ever have not been afforded opportunities or choices or have options, and you suddenly get them, it's exhilarating. It's ecstasy, you know.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So you were there at least two weeks, three weeks?

MARTIN: Yeah, about. We didn't outlast the people in the Bay [Area], but--

BAYLES-YAEGER: Do you happen to know how long they were there?

MARTIN: I wish I could tell you. It was, I think, over a month.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Over a month.

MARTIN: I think it was many, many days. They had a real network of people bringing them food. A lot of the groups in the city got together and supported them. You know, like churches and other activist groups of one kind or another. There were, like, labor unions that joined in there. They just had this enormous coalition, an outpouring of support from every other group, civil rights groups. It was tremendous. It was great.

I never was able to be part of that activity, because I was here doing the activity here in L.A., but it was great. We had a twentieth reunion [504 Sit-in Twentieth Anniversary Celebration and Commemoration] a couple of years ago, all the people that were around. We had it in the Bay Area. It was great to see some of the people that made that happen. That was last year when we had that. It was great.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So the upshot of all this activism was that--?

MARTIN: We got the 504 regulations, in late April of '77. From then on things really-- We started to make progress because the federal funds meant that education had to be

accessible and cities that got funds-- Now, this was actually a contentious point, but there was, in those days, revenue sharing money. The question was, did revenue sharing money constitute federal financial assistance or not for 504 purposes? Because most cities with five thousand people or more got revenue sharing money, if it did, it meant that just about all the places in the country had to comply with 504. The cities, of course, the League of Cities, said, "No, revenue sharing money doesn't count."

Anyway, so there was a lawsuit. It was *Martin* v. *Bell*. One of the issues was-- Actually, there were a couple of lawsuits. One, the issue was-- I had the good fortune of having the assistance of a great disabled attorney named Stanley Fleishman--who still practices here. He in those days heard about our cause and was a noted constitutional attorney and said he wanted to represent our issues-- The first thing that we did was sue the federal government for not requiring the other agencies of the federal government to bring out their 504 regulations.

The HEW regulation was the model that was to be used by the other ninety-three agencies of the government when they developed their own, and they were supposed to do it within a certain time. Well, it was a couple of years later, and they still hadn't done it. Stanley, the Westside Center,

the Paralyzed Veterans of America [PVA], and some other groups, together sued for the promulgation of the regulations for every other federal agency.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, first of all, Stanley-- In what way was he handicapped?

MARTIN: He had polio and he walked with crutches.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And *Martin* v. *Bell*?

MARTIN: That was one of the cases. Griffin [B.] Bell was the [United States] attorney general. It was about bringing out the 504 regulations. It was in conjunction with the PVA and with the Westside Center for Independent Living. So we won on that. The federal judge ruled that, in fact, they had to bring them out and bring them out within six months. And they did. So everybody in the government was then covered. Now, again, none of this stuff happens without a push. You know, it was all-- Maybe it would have happened eventually and maybe not, and you know--

BAYLES-YAEGER: I do know from what I've been reading that it seems everyone thought they had an excuse for being exempt, including UCLA.

MARTIN: Yes, that's right. Much litigation was devoted to clarifying that they're not exempt. That case and then another, in which I was a plaintiff as well--one of a number of plaintiffs--on the issue of revenue sharing. Again, Stanley

represented us. That was in the early eighties. This was the late seventies, the one about the government agencies being covered. But revenue sharing, we litigated it starting in about 1980, but it was not until '83 that the decision was handed down. Again, revenue sharing money did count as federal financial assistance, which meant that all cities, municipalities, getting revenue sharing money had to have accessibility, but also, they were required to have a responsible employee to monitor compliance with the act.

Culver City got a lot of revenue sharing money and they had a position that was actually a paying position. I had been working on a change in the law that would allow people to go back to work and keep their Medi-Cal and keep their attendant. It had been passed in 1980, and then--

BAYLES-YAEGER: What was the name of that act?

MARTIN: Well, it was the Social Security [Act] amendments of 1980 that, for the first time, established a demonstration program for three years that allowed individuals with permanent and significant disabilities to work and to have a continuing eligibility for Medi-Cal, Medicaid actually--Medi-Cal in this state, Medicaid nationally--and personal assistant services, wherever they were provided as part of governmental benefits, and a sliding scale for cash payments and that individuals could have this up to the equivalent value of the services

they were getting. So even though it was not a permanent law, it was the best advance.

There's a really significant story with WCIL and my efforts in that area which I want to touch on, but as a result of that changing, that's how I ended up at Culver City eventually, with a paying job.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And what was your title?

MARTIN: Disability services coordinator. I started in the fall of '83. It was as a result of that lawsuit that I was a plaintiff in. I never thought it would lead to that, but they were unique in that they were creating a full-time position in city government to do that. It could have been designated--The law didn't require that there be a separate person hired to do only that. It said that there would be designated a--

BAYLES-YAEGER: A full-time staff person?

MARTIN: --a person to monitor compliance. Usually what happened in most places--cities, universities--was they would designate a dean or a provost at a university or a college. At a city they would have the affirmative action officer or personnel officer designated their 504 officer. But Culver City went beyond, and again, largely because there were a lot of activists around. They went to the city council and said, "You need a full-time office on disability and compliance, and you've got a lot of revenue sharing money, and you're

not doing anything." So they really made an issue and the city created this.

I must say, I've got to mention, there's a guy that really made that happen, two guys really--Sidney Kronenthal, who was the director of the Culver City department of Human Services [Administration] and Don Rogers, who was his assistant, and they were committed
to--and really had developed over a long period of time--some really great community services in the city. They were really committed to making sure that disability was-- They have a very active senior center. They have a lot of other things for the community and they wanted to have disability issues be taken--

Sid had been involved for, like, fifty, sixty years, going way back to the formation of the President's Committee on Employment of [People with Disabilities, formerly known as President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped], when I think [Harry S] Truman was in office. He was one of the founders of wheelchair basketball. He did all kinds of things. In Culver City, when he was director there-- He just retired recently; he's still a force to be reckoned with, and he was just a powerhouse for getting the city to do things. So he made that into more than just letting it go to somebody in the city government as another duty when they weren't too

busy. It was, "Let's get somebody in and do it full-time and make Culver City a leader."

BAYLES-YAEGER: So you come in there and this must have been kind of a shock to their system in '83, because they're not--

MARTIN: It wasn't, you know-- Sid was really very far-sighted. He worked with lots of disabled persons for a long time and he just really thought it would be a great thing. Getting somebody with a Ph.D for what they were paying was also something. He said, "We can't afford not to have you," you know. So anyway, they knew of the Westside Center for Independent Living, because we weren't very far away. So anyway, after having been volunteer director for over three years, I moved over to Culver City, and--

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, now, did you move physically? Where were you actually living at this point?

MARTIN: Still living here in the Westwood [Village] area.

BAYLES-YAEGER: You were still living in Westwood and commuting?

MARTIN: Yeah, because of the accessibility of the local environment here, being able to get up to campus and in the Village and being able to do kind of a lot of things independently, without driving, without a lot of the logistical stuff, you know, weekends, nights, after hours, all the entertainment stuff, all the rich life of campus. I continued to come to

campus for events and to keep in touch with people that I knew here. That's how we started the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Disability in '82. I was a community member, then at Culver City working, and I knew some students; I knew some faculty, some staff, and there were a couple of community members and we said, "Let's start an advisory committee to the chancellor, try to get them aware."

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, I know it was just about this point in time when the California Association of the Physically Handicapped [CAPH] was lobbying for that, in fact, coming onto campus and saying, "You know, we've heard a lot of talk and a lot of promises. We've been keeping track of it, but we don't really see a whole lot being done."

MARTIN: That's right.

BAYLES-YAEGER: I saw your name pop up in a couple of these things, so were you officially linked to that organization?

MARTIN: Yes, I was. There was a meeting-- I wish I could remember the year. It must have been around '81. It was a small group meeting, as these things always start out, it seems, of about six people at a professor [Harlan Hahn]'s home--a professor at that other institution across town--who, however, was disabled and was well-known in the community. The desire was that-- What is now Californians for Disability Rights, in those days [it was] California Association of the

Physically Handicapped [CAPH]. There was a mechanism by which you could form chapters and there wasn't a West L.A. chapter. The idea was that a few individuals said, "We ought to have a chapter. Why don't we get together a meeting and see if we can--" I think we had to have five people and pay two dollars each or something and register and have an election and so forth. So we had this meeting and there were-- Seven or eight people probably showed up. We decided that we will be the chapter and we'll be duly authorized. And the issue then, after we discussed all of the mechanics of getting the chapter going, one of the issues was, "Okay, what are going to be some of our advocacy goals and projects?"

I said, "I suggest we make UCLA one of the focuses of the effort here. They're under 504 and they don't have a designated employee that we can tell. There's no visible change in the last four or five years since the act took effect. There's no accessible parking but, I think, two or three spaces on the whole campus." Many buildings had major access deficiencies, such as not being able to get in them, let alone-- We're not talking now about small things such as, you know, there only being one rest room or something. There were just no rest rooms, no drinking fountains, no telephones, nothing that was accessible. If it happened to be, when the buildings were built long ago, there was a route taken by delivery people,

that's usually where you could get in. That was, as I say, when I came here, being able to get into a building at all, even by a side entrance or a back entrance, was still far ahead of most other major institutions, which were older and were never even built that well, so--coincidental, though, coincidental access, and usually backdoor, backstage--

BAYLES-YAEGER: A freight elevator.

MARTIN: Freight elevator access. And so I said, "You know, it hasn't changed since I'd been a student. It's still backdoor access," and the group was really quite unanimous in the sentiment about, "Yeah, you know, it's a public institution, but apparently there are not mechanisms from within that are going to drive this process. We need to do something." So CAPH started to focus on UCLA.

Well, about a year or so before this CAPH meeting, there was the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Disability which began. I co-founded that with a number of other people. Nadia [D.] Powers, an anthropology student, had a lot to do with bringing that forward. She wrote a paper on the disability experience at UCLA and it was really useful in chronicling some of the issues. So I worked and we worked together to keep that committee going.

Then the CAPH issue came along, and the committee really was able to use their outside comments. But there was then

a period of another year or so where there was an effort from both inside, through the chancellor's committee, and outside to move things along. And the chancellor's advisory committee had wanted a full-time office on 504 compliance, not a dean or a provost, but much like the Culver City model. I said, "This really works." In the three years I was at Culver City we went from no curb ramps and no accessible parks to curb ramps on all the main streets and all the city buildings and all the parks, except the old city hall, which was torn down and is now rebuilt, fully accessible. We did all that because we had one centralized location to coordinate. It wasn't happening a lot of other places.

We knew that UCLA could benefit by that, but there didn't seem to be any leadership in the administration. So eventually, out of feeling like there were very few other alternatives, our tried-and-true method of the 504 experience was to gather together a group and to have a demonstration.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And when did this take place?

MARTIN: Oh my goodness. It must have been about '83. I have a paper that I have written with a kind of background overview of these things. I'd have to consult it. The dates are lost in my immediate memory.

BAYLES-YAEGER: I think it was '83. I've done a lot of research on this and what I think is interesting is on the one hand,

I'm reading what the administration is saying publicly, and on the other hand, I'm reading the internal memos, and you get a drastically different view of what's going on in this whole process by reading both sides.

MARTIN: You know it's funny. I think Einstein supposedly said once, "All of my life, I have questioned authority, and now to teach me a lesson, God has made me one."

BAYLES-YAEGER: Yes.

MARTIN: I kind of think sometimes about the differences between being on the outside and advocating and being on the inside. Somebody said to me, shortly after I assumed the position here, "Well, you're now a bureaucrat." And I said, "Well, my aim is to be an 'advocrat.'" I still like to think that I'm an advocrat. I've never lost that, never want to lose that kind of awareness of those issues firsthand.

BAYLES-YAEGER: I was very astounded when I read that at practically the same time that they were trying to issue [damage] control on how they were building up accessibility to classes for disabled people, they actually cancelled one class, because it was either cancel it or lose money on giving the class because of the services they would have to give a disabled student who wanted to attend it. They said they actually consulted legal counsel and found that if they simply cancelled the class, everyone was at the same level of losing out.

They were not discriminating against the one disabled student. This was one way to handle the situation.

MARTIN: That's one way. That's the meat-ax approach, but nowadays, we make sure that people are included.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And this is why they need the position.

MARTIN: That's not a tactic that--

BAYLES-YAEGER: This was at a time when they did not have a position where there was someone.

MARTIN: That's right. So UCLA was very helpful to me and very formative and very-- It gave me a lot of opportunities and then, after I was graduated in '75 and I come back in '83, eight years later it doesn't look any different and yet we've struggled during those eight years to get all of these things on the books. My old alma mater wasn't leading the pack anymore. When I got here in '65, it was one of the best places in the country. In '75, it was still pretty good. But in those eight years a lot had changed in society and UCLA was far behind the cutting edge.

Berkeley became the premier institution of inclusion and accessibility, in the mid-- You know the Center for Independent Living being right on Telegraph [Avenue] within a few blocks of Sather Gate, that spillover and that interchange between the community and the campus, with the active, independent disabled persons who were living there--

BAYLES-YAEGER: Which always struck me as being funny, because UCLA would use its geography as one reason for not being able to make it accessible and yet Berkeley was just as bad.

MARTIN: We had it a lot easier than Berkeley. Yeah, that's right. They had it, actually, worse. They had it worse. And they were older and they had older buildings, and they were not coincidentally as accessible. But in those days, again, I think I was saying that some of the first curb ramps-- We had one here at UCLA, and then some of the very first ones at Berkeley within a few years of each other. In those days, any way to get from the street onto the sidewalk was a tremendous improvement. It was a quantum leap. Today, if you look at those curb ramps and how they're designed, they're terrible. The standard--

BAYLES-YAEGER: Yes, they're too steep.

MARTIN: Yeah, they're too steep. They're too narrow. You have a danger of tipping over. The traction's awful. You know, there's a lip. There's all kinds of things about them that is just to be avoided today, but it was great in those days. So Berkeley was off to a great start and they did some of these changes that nowhere else had done. UCLA didn't do that. And we felt, again, you know, "They're the Bears and we're the Bruins. Why should we always be second-rate here? Why don't we get some leadership on this issue and

move it forward?"

So if we couldn't do it inside through the process, we'll do it outside. We'll have a voice. So we got together our grand demonstration and it was a big success. We had buses full of people that showed up; we pulled them in from all over. Enormous work went into this and within, I guess, a few days of hearing that this was planned there were remarkable amounts of work that occurred on the campus. The press, of course, was interested. We had a press release and they were coming. Signage was put up and updated and changed. Blue curbs were painted.

In fact, one of the things that we commented on when we had our rally and our speeches out in front of Murphy [Hall] on the west entrance here was, "Be careful, don't step too far back because you'll get blue paint on you," because it was just that fresh, you know, and people would say, "That wasn't there yesterday." We'd say, "That's right." So we were saying, you know, "UCLA has been a leader, has been a guiding light. It was one of the first to have disabled student services in the country, and now it's time the era of 504 is fully implemented here and to take the lead--"

The chancellor-- We then went to the chancellor's office and said we needed to see him. He was busy, but, you know, we stayed a while.

BAYLES-YAEGER: How long?

MARTIN: Oh, it was a few hours.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Not a couple of weeks, just a few hours.

MARTIN: No, it was an hour or two. He found time. Chancellor [Charles E.] Young was able to meet with us and said that he-- We had a number of things that we wanted him to commit to. I wish I had my list. One of them was making a statement at commencement--I think this is about May of '83--that UCLA was going to commit itself to becoming as accessible as possible within the constraints of its topography.

BAYLES-YAEGER: You also requested tickets to the commencement, so that you could be there to hear it.

MARTIN: That's right. You have the list of these things, okay. So anyway, there were a variety of other things that were asked: a certain amount of money would be set aside for access, barrier removal, and so forth and so on. To be sure that this happened, the chancellor was really quite-- I think he hadn't been directly involved or given focus to this issue. Other intermediaries had been talking with the committee and it didn't seem as though-- But when he personally was confronted with the matter, he said, "We'll do it. We'll do it." And he made good on everything that he said. He did do exactly that and even more and wanted to create a full-time 504 office, that was the other-- He wanted to reorganize the

Office of [Special Services and Veterans Affairs] to make it a purely disabled student services group instead of dividing its time and resources with other--

BAYLES-YAEGER: I'm a little confused because I also found a letter that was written, I think, a year or maybe even two years later from the organization to Chancellor Young saying how disappointed they were that they had come and heard him give his speech at commencement, but after having waited a suitable period of time, they didn't think that many of the things he had promised in his speech were being done.

MARTIN: Well, the committee was meeting actively at that time and putting forward recommendations, and some people were more impatient than others about the rate of progress. But it seemed as though things were happening, and then that's probably right, because it was in 1986 that--

BAYLES-YAEGER: The position was finally created.

MARTIN: Yeah, right. That the office was created and that was another kind of-- The initial commitment was made and some of those things did happen sooner than others. The parking situation changed radically, because parking designated all these spaces in lots all over. The chancellor said, "If you need to, convert the entire area of Dickson Court into designated accessible parking," which was, of course, the core of the old campus and the center of campus. In fact,

that's what was done. If you go out there today, it's almost all reserved for individuals with disabilities to minimize the amount of distance to get to the main classroom buildings. So that was a major change almost within a few months. Other things, like the development of the office, was considerably longer in coming.

There was a move to get a disabilities and computing project underway, because information technology was becoming so important and access to technology was as important as access to buildings, or we thought it would be. In fact, we were really very much ahead of the time on adaptive equipment and devices that could blow up print for people with partial sight, or other keyboard programs that would allow quadriplegics to type with one finger instead of-- If you couldn't hold down two keys at once to do these commands--

BAYLES-YAEGER: "Sticky keys."

MARTIN: Exactly. All of these things. But there was not a centralized place to coordinate computing and disability adaptations, so that was another recommendation. That came to pass, eventually, but the office took a while, and I think people were getting impatient, particularly the CAPH. At that time, I was one of them. I thought, "What is taking so long?"

BAYLES-YAEGER: It sounds like there were some rather volatile

meetings over here with some of the administrators.

MARTIN: There were, there were, there were. And it came to the point that after we had our demonstration and we got a commitment and some things were happening, but other major things still seemed to be taking a lot of time and little discernable progress was being made, we decided that we needed to do something more. So we went to the state legislature.

What really sparked the whole thing was-- One of the things we had asked for was a ramp that would make Bruin Walk accessible. This was developed and put in place in time for the [1984] Olympics. However, it was only the lower portion of Bruin Walk. It was done by '84; the upper portion--from the area between Kerckhoff [Hall] and Moore [Hall] to the top of the hill, at the southwest corner of Powell Library--was not fully accessible by ramp. There were steep areas and someone put up a sign that had the international symbol of a wheelchair user and the "no smoking" red circle with a slash through it over this wheelchair. We were aghast because this was-- Although it was intended to say, "This is not a safe route, don't take this route," instead of having signage that said, "Caution, this slope exceeds--" or, you know, an accessible route with an arrow-- It just created a--

BAYLES-YAEGER: "You are not welcome here. No admittance."

MARTIN: Yes. "No wheelchair users welcome here." Just what

we were concerned about--being this exclusionary kind of mind-set, or lack of sensitivity, lack of awareness, coming out in these ways. We were just aghast. Some unknown person, in the middle of the night, apparently, unfastened the sign from its post. It somehow found its way into the hands of members of CAPH, who took it to the [California State Assembly] Ways and Means Committee hearings on the UC budget and said, "This is what they think about 504 and inclusion and access and so on at UCLA, and we want--"

BAYLES-YAEGER: When was this?

MARTIN: That would have been around '84, late '84, fall of '84. We testified at that hearing and asked that the legislature, the Ways and Means Committee, suspend or impound UCLA's funds for construction until they set aside a certain amount annually for access. And we asked the legislature to require an annual report on progress made toward removing barriers. We had a nonprofit group that we knew, run by an expert at access. We asked that they be-- In fact, I think this was sooner. This was when we had our demonstration. We asked that a survey be made of the campus. It was and it showed a lot of deficiencies, of course. Then when we went to the legislature we asked that out of all the things that were identified, very few-- Some had been done, but there's no systematic set-aside, there's no monitor--

BAYLES-YAEGER: But on the survey, a lot of the little places had asterisks that in effect said, "But we're working on this."

MARTIN: Well, there was a lot of being worked on and not a lot of being done, not being finished, not being completed. So after a while, you work for so long, you know, let's figure out if there's a better way to do this. The legislature was very concerned, and we had-- By the way, at the time when we had our demonstration, we had letters to Chancellor Young from Tony Beilenson. We had letters from Herschel Rosenthal. We had--

BAYLES-YAEGER: Yes, I have copies of all of them. They were very blunt about it, "We are concerned--"

MARTIN: Yeah, that's right. Well, you know, Tony was concerned. He was concerned because he knew what already had happened to get civil rights, to get 504, and to think that it was just being flagrantly disregarded or that it was a law that didn't catch on [laughs]-- It just wasn't acceptable. So the legislature required an annual report and a certain amount of set-aside for barrier removal and the 504 [Compliance] Office was created, I guess it must [have been] a while after that then.

BAYLES-YAEGER: In 1986.

MARTIN: Yeah, in '86. So you know, the--

BAYLES-YAEGER: Actually, the post was officially announced about one week after they got a letter saying, "This is it. You're not stalling any longer. We're cutting off your funds."

MARTIN: I haven't seen that letter, but that's--

BAYLES-YAEGER: And amazingly enough, almost immediately--

MARTIN: Yeah. We did also lodge a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, [United States] Department of Education, and they investigated it, again issued letters of finding to UCLA having to do with a variety of things. This would have been early. This was when we started the CAPH chapter and said, "What should we do for an activity?" and UCLA was one that we said, "Well, we should file a complaint." So the complaint found a number of deficiencies. That's when they had the access survey. But eventually, finally in '86, the UCLA 504 Compliance Office was established.

But there was, you know-- The chancellor became aware of this and things really did begin to move in a positive direction. But there were fits and starts. You know, if he wasn't, I suppose, focusing directly on it or hadn't met with somebody in six months, that other things were kind of left on-- I don't know what happened or where that-- We always had good support and he would ask for things to be done, and sometimes they weren't even done. I don't know how many gears and mechanisms--

BAYLES-YAEGER: There, again, I think you would have to read

some of the internal affairs that were going--

MARTIN: Yes, you know, things with which I'm not even familiar.

BAYLES-YAEGER: At this point it's all water under the bridge, but it certainly is a good historical perspective to have this.

MARTIN: You know what, though, today if you talk to those very people now, they'll say--even five years ago or ten years ago--looking back, that yes, there were starts and fits, but the chancellor made good on his overall commitment to keep that. He created the 504 Compliance Office; he funded the DCP [Disabilities and Computing Program], reorganized the [Office for Special Services and Veterans Affairs]. Parking was completely changed and improved. We did allocate funds. About the time I assumed the position [of special assistant to the chancellor] we were starting to get annual funds for barrier removal.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, let's go back to the very beginning of the office itself. The very first person to take the office was someone who was already here on staff.

MARTIN: Yes. Someone who I actually had known. Robert Wellman, who himself was a paraplegic wheelchair-user as a result of polio in his youth. I had seen him around campus for years, when I was a student. I didn't know who he was, but I got acquainted with him as a result of our committee meetings and his assuming the new position as 504 compliance

officer.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Now, what had been his position before, again, because he had been on staff for quite a while?

MARTIN: He had been on staff in a variety of things to assist administration and special projects.

BAYLES-YAEGER: He was in the [Office for] Special Services [and Veterans Affairs]?

MARTIN: Yeah, I believe--No, he was not connected with disabled student services. He was an administrator and worked with the chancellor's office, and I believe did special projects for them, whatever it might be. I'm really not clear on what his exact role was before, but he agreed to take the position at the time when they were really anxious to get going. We were anxious to have him get going.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Do you know what his background was? Had he been a student here at one time?

MARTIN: I believe he was. I think he came from the Central Valley. I believe he grew up in Fresno or somewhere, but I don't really know too much of the details about his-- But I saw him around campus and I knew he worked in Murphy, and it always occurred to me that here's a guy who has a real job and works in a real office and he's disabled. He was one of the few people that I ever saw working in Murphy that was disabled. And I said, "You know, it's possible."

BAYLES-YAEGER: It's not often you see a wheelchair on campus at that point, so--

MARTIN: Right. Not at all. He was noticeable by that fact. So I didn't know much about him, but he was a kind of a peer role model, in that I saw him actually having a full-time job and working on campus. I always thought that I'd love to be back working on campus someday.

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BAYLES-YAEGER: We ended our last conversation just talking about the organization of the office that you now hold, and I did say I wanted to go back and talk a little more about Robert Wellman, who was your predecessor in this office [Chancellor's ADA and 504 Compliance Office], because, as you know, Dr. Wellman just died last August. I thought it would be nice if we could give a few words about the fact that he took this office on after already serving thirty-two years at UCLA as administrative analyst to the chancellor.
MARTIN: Yes, he did a number of special projects. I really don't know that much about his previous work history, but I came to know him well at the time that we became involved in our advocacy efforts to create a full-time office, as is required under [Section] 504 [of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973]. That is, the 504 requirement at the time was to have a designated employee in charge of compliance matters.

We thought it would be good to have an office, not just--as in many, many other major institutions--an individual who's usually a dean or a provost or some other person who has got a full-time job, and they have a hat they put on for 504--and now ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act]. Very often they're not full-time, committed individuals to that issue, and

consequently, I think it suffers a great deal in many places. I think our idea was a good one, of creating a full-time office with a direct connection to the chancellor.

Little did I know what it might lead to for myself, but I thought that it needed its own staff and budget. I'd seen the requirement for 504 being used in most places, as cities-- They would have their affirmative action officer or personnel director be the 504 officer. They just generally didn't have a lot of time to devote, so--

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, actually, this is something that everyone had been lobbying for, practically from the time 504 came into being. It was suggested at that time, in the research that I did, that they create an office.

MARTIN: Create a full-time independent--

BAYLES-YAEGER: People were lobbying right up until it was promised, I think, in-- Finally, by '82, '83 it was promised, but by '86 it still hadn't happened.

MARTIN: It seemed endless from the time that we-- We thought we had made some significant progress in '82, '83 when we created our Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Disability [CACD] and actually got official status for that, after we'd continued to meet without any official status for a year or more. We got established and we really began to do some work to create awareness and pulled in a lot of people from the

campus.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Now, this was the task force, right?

MARTIN: This was the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Disability, not to be confused with the task force, the campus task force, the Disability Compliance Task Force, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs, Winston C. Doby, which was set up later to respond to the outgrowth of the demonstration and other issues that we had in 1986, a compliance task force.

BAYLES-YAEGER: We were talking in 1986 about the infamous handicapped sign with the slash across it and the fact that that kind of served as a catalyst for all of these.

MARTIN: It did. We felt very frustrated after a couple of years in the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Disability that many of our recommendations, including the creation of a full-time office on 504 compliance and a reorganization of disabled students services, which at that time was the Office of Special Services and Veterans Affairs-- We didn't feel that it focused enough on disabled students and that it should be devoted entirely to that. There were no services for the deaf on the campus at that time, for example, coming out of that office. So there were many gaps in service that we were concerned about. But we had made recommendations for a period of two or three years and almost nothing had

happened.

So out of frustration, a number of individuals from the community, largely-- In fact, I guess I should say exclusively community members on the CACD--myself and others--were involved in the formation of this new advocacy group, Chapter 50 of the California Association of the Physically Handicapped [CAPH], in those days. We had identified UCLA as our number one advocacy effort, since we were all based here in West L.A. and most of us had gone to UCLA or had frequented UCLA as members of the community. We knew it well. I guess they all-- Considering that we had people like Barry Atwood and we had others who had been around a long time, probably we had a hundred years of experience with UCLA among the members of this group of about ten people. Harlan Hahn, professor from USC [University of Southern California]--we didn't hold that against him--who was a key member at the outset.

In any case, we identified the advocacy issues, but not much happened for a while. We had these meetings of the chancellor's advisory committee. At least we had a forum that we felt like we were making a contribution, but the recommendations languished.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, last week, we had just started talking about the demonstration that took place in--it started late May and early June of 1986--called "Why are these gates closed?

Can it be that UCLA doesn't want anyone who is 'different' on its campus?" This was a reaction to the sign that you said you saw with the slash across the handicapped symbol. I found a copy of this flyer in the records attached to a memo dated the second of June, 1986, and it had been sent to one of the administrators, "Enclosure is for your information," and the administrator sent it back with a note attached, "So what am I supposed to do? Send this to Alan [F.] Charles. He'll handle everything." And I'm thinking, this kind of sounds like the attitude that was prevalent at the time.

MARTIN: I think no one really knew what to do about these issues. One of the reasons is there was no disability-related expertise in the institution.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, now, who was Alan Charles that they said send this--?

MARTIN: He was a vice-chancellor. I'm not sure at this moment what his additional area of responsibility was--vice-chancellor of [public relations]

BAYLES-YAEGER: So was this someone that your group was dealing with on this issue?

MARTIN: No, I didn't know him until I began working here.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Okay.

MARTIN: He was apparently involved, but not directly with

us. There was Allen Yarnell. We dealt a lot with Yarnell. In any case, he's no longer around, nor is Charles.

BAYLES-YAEGER: It goes on to state on this flyer, "These discriminatory policies have led us to file complaints under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and to take these complaints to the California legislature. Now we must show public support for education access for all. Help us open these gates." You were saying that you did take this complaint, finally, to the California legislature in '86.

MARTIN: Yes, at that time, we filed a 504 complaint with the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights in San Francisco, Region IX, and they did an investigation. I'm sure a lot of people here didn't know what to do because they weren't familiar with the requirements. And 504 did apply to them; it did require all of the things we said it did, but I can imagine the lack of ability to grasp what was happening, or even to know that it was necessarily that important.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, evidently they got the idea, because three days after that memo was written, on June 5, 1986, Chancellor [Charles E.] Young received a letter from the [Los Angeles] City Council saying that it has come to their attention that a discrimination complaint has been filed against them. Now, did you know that some of this heat was starting to

come down?

MARTIN: We had a network of people that were concerned and involved with us, and were interested in what was happening. We exchanged information and it was a growing tide of support that we gathered from the city, from state and federal legislators, and different groups, official bodies of one kind or another that dealt with disability matters. So yes, I can imagine that there was something from the city, because we had some real close ties with people involved in the city. At some of the initial meetings, they made some very strong statements on our behalf.

BAYLES-YAEGER: The state senate wrote in July that they are concerned that the campus isn't taking the necessary steps to remove barriers for disabled students, but now by this time Chancellor Young has given in and has created, officially, the position of the office for Robert Wellman to take over.

MARTIN: That would have been the 504 Compliance Office, yeah.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And he begins answering on July 10-- He is answering some of these letters with the logo of the new office. So I'm thinking, gee, it didn't take them very long after dragging their heels for--

MARTIN: Well, it's like those blue curb parking spaces that appeared the day before the demonstration of June 6 on the steps of Murphy [Hall]. They appeared overnight and signs

went up, and other things happened that we had been talking about. So yes, the office was really created quickly out of whole cloth, almost.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Actually, two weeks after the letter came from the city council, the office was officially announced; it was being created. Two weeks after that they had a letterhead and they were at work. So you must have really hit a nerve on that one.

MARTIN: Well, I think the prospect of the elimination of federal funding to the campus or even the suggestion of it, because of our complaint with the [Department] of Education-- There were a lot of major shortcomings on the campus under the 504 requirements, so there was not a debatable matter. It wasn't a matter of fine points of interpretation. It was rather egregious oversights and violations, one of which being that there was no designated employee to monitor compliance with 504. So I think that helped the formation of the office a lot. It was going to be given a priority and connected with the chancellor's office in a dotted-line fashion that would give it appropriate status to assure that it had the credibility and the authority to assure that things were going to be more in compliance than they had been.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Another name I thought we should also get into the record is Nadia [D.] Powers.

MARTIN: Yes, that's right, an anthropology student that I met when she wrote a paper about disability on the campus for her class work. She and I became acquainted. That's where the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Disability began, with her energy and her interest in the issues. Then she and I became acquainted and we got a few other people together and started that whole effort. Then she was a very involved leader as chair of the committee for years.

BAYLES-YAEGER: I have the complete physical access paper that she wrote. Dr. Wellman adapted it and used it kind of as a springboard, it seems like, and sent copies out to several of the people who had made complaints with a note saying that now an office had been created and many of these issues were being dealt with. So was Nadia Powers disabled herself?

MARTIN: Yes. She had a vision impairment and she's now blind. It's deteriorated over the years. It was deteriorating and she was partially sighted at the time, but legally blind. It's worsened considerably since then.

BAYLES-YAEGER: I know our Office for Students with Disabilities has a Nadia Powers Award that they give out yearly.

MARTIN: That's right. She did give an amount for an award for the best paper on disability issues annually. So we have a legacy that CACD is still an active campus entity from our beginning of it and in addition she has the award that bears

her name.

BAYLES-YAEGER: This was why I was hoping to get some of these names read into the record, because these are the pioneers. You and these--

MARTIN: Right. Well, she's a key person and, as I say, people who were interested, either on and off campus-- But her paper got it started on the campus. And she was a dynamo; she had endless, boundless energy and the ability to follow through, to keep things moving even when it was frustrating and not much was happening. But the committee kept meeting and what we couldn't do in the committee, community members and advocates did outside the committee.

BAYLES-YAEGER: It seemed to have worked very well.

MARTIN: And, you know, well, the committee had been putting UCLA on notice for two or three years, so there was a long history of documentation about, "You're really not doing very well here at all and you've got a lot of problems. In fact, you've got a lot of violations of the law." So they were put on notice a long time with the committee's work.

Of course, many of the members of the committee were staff persons who, I think, were less able to speak out; but we community members, the community members like myself who had no involvement directly with the campus, other than we had been here years as students and were very concerned about

the fact that-- We also came back on campus for a host of activities all the time and nothing had changed since we graduated, and that was ten years before that, so--

BAYLES-YAEGER: You were free to be activists now.

MARTIN: I had been doing all of the work in the community to make it accessible, so just use those skills for UCLA's benefit. And Culver City allowed me the time to be a representative of the community on this chancellor's advisory committee.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So you did have an official position in your job at Culver City, so that you were representing an organized group?

MARTIN: That's right.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And which leads us rather well into the fact that that puts you as a prime candidate then for--

MARTIN: Well, that was a really serendipitous affair entirely. I had known Bob Wellman from a distance since I was, probably, a freshman or sophomore here--'65, '66--and I had seen him wheeling around. He was paraplegic and used a manual chair and had a lot of upper-body strength. He was a very athletic type and was able to roll himself around the campus, and even get up and down some of the slopes that my power chair wasn't too good at in those days. I would see him often in the summers, when I frequented the Sunset Canyon Recreation Center. He

used to swim in the pool a lot, apparently as a part of his physical fitness regimen to keep in shape. He had polio and it was not unusual for such individuals to be encouraged to do water therapy.

So I would see him often and we would have an occasional word, but it was just general pleasantries. But it occurred to me that he worked in Murphy, and I could see that-- He was one of the only people I knew of who was visibly disabled and had a job on campus. Not only that, but he worked in Murphy Hall. I knew he did something important. I didn't know what it was, but it occurred to me that there was a chance, possibly, that somebody with a disability could actually have a job, a career on campus, and not only that, but in administration, although he was the only one of his kind in it. In those days, it was pretty remarkable.

I understand he had polio as a child in the Central Valley, I believe, and came here himself as a high school graduate and went to UCLA and then got involved in administration. But I didn't know a lot about him until '86, when the office was formed, and we began to have a-- Well, I shouldn't say '86, but-- The chancellor's advisory committee began to meet in '82, '83, and he would be involved and come to the meetings again. We began to have contact, and--

BAYLES-YAEGER: He would be an obvious choice for the chancellor,

since he was here already and he was disabled himself. Was he himself lobbying for the position to be created? Was he active in the movement?

MARTIN: I don't know, you know, internally. I don't know a lot internally about what happened in the response, except that I got the impression he was always supportive and favorable and disposed to telling people, "You know, you really have a bigger problem than you think you do if you're going to ignore or not pay attention to these matters; that's a mistake."

I think he was trying to educate people. He knew and he'd done enough work and he'd heard enough about what was being said, that this wasn't an issue that was going to go away and it wasn't an issue that could be ignored, legally, and that the consequences for ignoring it would be very serious, in terms of cutoff of federal funds, the ultimate thing under 504, or certainly being directed by the Office for Civil Rights to do a whole host of things. I think he was proactive on that point, certainly, and he always had a-- Despite all of the sometimes intense discussion about issues and disagreements about the pace of progress and so on, he himself was very supportive behind the scenes. There was no rancor, really. Although he, you know, oftentimes was on the front line for the administration.

When he got the office and then began working in the

office, then, of course, there was a focus on him for, "Okay what's been done this month and what's happened in the last year" and so on. But he was very diplomatic and he was very good. I think he did not know a lot about disability issues, didn't know about 504, didn't know about the access codes particularly. But he agreed to take this on and establish the office, and he did that, and he was very helpful to us.
BAYLES-YAEGER: It's amazing that you would say that he wasn't well-versed in 504, being disabled himself. It reminds me of what you said earlier about people of that period of time who were disabled not associating themselves with disability issues and trying to be as able-bodied as possible.
MARTIN: I think Bob was in the mold very much of-- This isn't to cast aspersions by any means, because I highly regarded the man and knew him as a friend as well as a colleague, subsequently, but he was a product of the environment and the time that he grew up. Having polio earlier than I did, he got even more of the rehabilitation ethic, which was, "You have to fit into society whatever it takes. If it's effort, if it's pain, if it's inconvenience, if it's being excluded, that's all part of the game, but society doesn't have to adapt to you. Don't even think about advocating for changes socially or for rights, because your duty is--" In rehab, the idea was we make the peg fit the hole.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, this was kind of brought on by Franklin [D.] Roosevelt, who had polio and even though he wasn't able to walk afterwards had to keep the illusion up.

MARTIN: The grand tradition of FDR overcoming. This was the era of the overcoming disabled person in the mold of Roosevelt. He set the tone and rehab followed that model.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And if you didn't overcome it, you weren't trying hard enough.

MARTIN: You were a failure and obviously there was something wrong with you.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Yes.

MARTIN: Not wrong with society, not wrong with the built environment or the social environment, not wrong with people's attitudes about you, but was wrong with you. You weren't trying hard enough. So it was overcoming and it was a model of not associating particularly much with disabled individuals or disability issues, except for paralyzed veterans who had returned after the war and needed to go to school and do that. They're the ones who really started organizing for some architectural change in society.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Because these were heroes.

MARTIN: Right. And they had an enormous reserve of social empathy that allowed, I think, them to make gains that were impossible for individuals disabled by other means.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Yes.

MARTIN: Consequently, Bob, I think, was not particularly informed, aware, or-- I don't even know that he had much of an interest in these issues way back in his life.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, as you said, he did take on this role at the end of his career.

MARTIN: But he did it very, very well.

BAYLES-YAEGER: In the letter that he wrote, as a matter of fact, a month after taking on the job, he requests that the chancellor hire an assistant for him that might later become a replacement when it came time for him to retire. The fact that he says this so soon after taking the office makes me think that he knew he was only there to open the office. Someone younger and more aware of the issues was going to have to come in and take over and he was hoping that he could have this person on hand right from the get go.

MARTIN: Yes. I had no idea that he thought that his retirement might be that soon or that he was thinking in those terms. He took it on, and from all outward appearances it seemed as though his age was such that one would not necessarily have expected him to leave in a year or two or so. Apparently, then, he must have had some thoughts in that direction. At the time that the office was created, as a result of our California Association of the Physically Handicapped Chapter 50 "D for

Disability Day" protest [June 6, 1986] and subsequent complaints and so on with the Office for Civil Rights--

Just before that, we had a meeting with Vice-Chancellor Winston Doby, whose staff, particularly Marilyn Alkin, became very involved with the issues surrounding the outgrowth of the complaint that was registered with the Office for Civil Rights. Marilyn began attending our meetings regularly and, of course, Bob was there. But one of the things that Winston asked that we do-- This was a small group meeting that we had, Nadia and I and Winston and just a couple of other people, I don't remember who
exactly now. But we had it in the new LuValle Commons, in what were the downstairs meeting rooms. I remember it very well. Winston said, "Well, you want an office. Why don't you write up a job description for us of what a coordinator position would be like?" Nadia and I and people looked at each other, "Well, we can do that." He said, "Because we want to move forward, and I think it would be useful if we had a good outline about what would be an ideal position from your point of view."

So after the meeting, Nadia and I discussed it and she said, "Well, you're already disability services coordinator to Culver City and you've been doing 504 compliance for the city. I think you're the one to write this description."

So I said, "Well, okay." So I took my job description and added on all-- And you know, she said, "Let's make it the best description you can think of, including all of the things that you'd like to do but can't do because you don't have staff and budget and all the things. But if you had the ideal thing, what would it be?"

So I ended up writing this job description that we gave to Vice-Chancellor Doby that eventually found its way to-- First of all, Bob was hired under that, but it later became the job description that was issued when Bob retired.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So you were writing your own job description.

MARTIN: And little-- But then like three years later, it came around so--

BAYLES-YAEGER: I'm curious, did you come up with the budget for the office at the time? Did you estimate an opening and then a permanent operating budget?

MARTIN: That already was something Bob had done. It wasn't something that we had given dollar figures or said it has to be such an amount, no. It was just that the office needed to have staff support. Full-time support was another thing that we urged, but we didn't specify dollars, that I can recall.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Because they opened up with the administrative analyst position, a full-time administrative assistant, and then a part-time clerk, a 50 percent position. The opening

budget was just over $98,000, with $87,000 a year operating expenses in '86. I'm looking at the opening budget and it was actually pretty modest.

MARTIN: Yes.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Travel allowance and equipment facilities, everything that they needed to open it up.

MARTIN: Well, it seemed like a lot. [laughs]

BAYLES-YAEGER: Oh, I'm sure it did, especially at the time.

MARTIN: Because, as far as I know, there were no other full-time 504 offices in the UC [University of California] system or the [California] State University system at that time. We really moved UCLA from back of the rank to front of the rank very quickly just with the creation of that office alone, and with somebody in there who was committed.

Bob was committed; there was no doubt that he got the idea. Then he got very excited about the ADA as time went on. He kept asking me, "What kind of progress are you making?" and, "How's things going in Washington?" Because he didn't travel a lot. I didn't know this, but I think, subsequently as I've discovered that his-- He was thinking about retirement. I think he had post-polio problems and health problems that he knew about that weren't apparent at that time; he felt he was being more and more restricted. So he didn't travel a lot in the last years that he was involved in this office,

but he did an awful lot on the campus. He was here, but I would be in Washington working on the forerunner of the ADA, the initial drafts and report to the committee, and he took me aside, and he'd say, "What's going on?"

Of course, the bill was being fashioned--quite actively--in '89 at about the time he was leaving, but he kept in touch about that. He became vitally interested just in the idea of a comprehensive civil rights act, which was, I'm sure, something that a lot of people from a generation that was so focused on fitting in and taking things as they were couldn't imagine.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And so restricted.

MARTIN: So restricted. Shut-ins, what current people termed shut-ins, but what I would actually term shut-outs.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Well, he sounds very much like my own father--who was a paraplegic and at that same age--who was always amazed that he had lived to see so many changes, even though most of them, of course, came too late to benefit him, but just the fact that he had never believed society would be as open to people with disabilities.

MARTIN: Well, that's it, and you know-- But we had the sense--I guess it was a group of people obviously steeped in sixties activism and the desire for reforming the world, that had disabilities, and used that to bring about the civil rights

movement for people with disabilities. We learned from the other groups. So anyway, the fruits of our labor became more and more apparent.

As the office was created--and I didn't know that Bob had had these plans or had this health problem-- But as the years went by, I was very happy at Culver City, being very busy and making a lot of progress there with the projects in the city for access--

BAYLES-YAEGER: In '88, there's still kind of a problem, evidently, because the university is being told by William B. Baker from the--

MARTIN: [University of California] Office of the President.

BAYLES-YAEGER: --that they meet with the California Association of the Physically Handicapped by February 1, 1989 and report to the legislature on the progress made in solving the problem of lack of services. So at this time, they've created the office, they're under way. They're not there yet, but now a date has been set. February 1, 1989--everyone gets together and reports to the state legislature, "Yes, we have solved these problems." Just about this time, it's guess whose time to come into the picture. You've probably heard by that time that Bob Wellman is thinking of retiring; the position is going to be open. I'm not sure exactly when they put out the opening of the position; it was sometime

in '88.

MARTIN: Bob announced that he was going to retire at one of the meetings and that the position would be open. So I thought, "This sounds like a really interesting position." I looked at the job description and I said, "I couldn't have done better if I had written it myself." [laughs]

BAYLES-YAEGER: Gee, how amazing!

MARTIN: So it was exciting to think about the prospect of coming back to UCLA. Having gone out, off campus, to make things better, having done some of those things, made some requirements that now affect the university--and come back and try to help the alma mater do better.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Did you know that you would be taking the position just before this deadline had been created? Did you know this deadline existed?

MARTIN: No, no I didn't.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Because I'm reading here that you were recommended for the position in November of '88.

MARTIN: That could be. I think I had some interviews around that time.

BAYLES-YAEGER: I think you were actually selected. You were offered the position on January 20 of '89.

MARTIN: I think I was ill with the flu or something at the time, though. I felt miserable.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, January 20, '89, you were offered the position, and the deadline that had been set for them earlier was February 1 of '89.

MARTIN: What a coincidence.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Yes, you're coming in just in time for the fun. So first of all, let's backtrack a little. You've heard that the position was open. You obviously thought that you were qualified for the job, because the job description sounds vaguely familiar, and you've applied. Can you tell us a little about the interview process?

MARTIN: The interview process was interesting, because there was a committee that was established. It involved some key people on the campus that had dealt with a lot of the issues. There was Mark [J.] Stocki, who is now director of transportation services.

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BAYLES-YAEGER: Back to the search for a replacement for Bob Wellman. I have here a letter from Congress, the United States House of Representatives, very official. And it is someone expressing their strong support for Dr. Douglas Martin's candidacy for the job of special assistant to the chancellor.

MARTIN: Oh, my. [laughs]

BAYLES-YEAGER: This is from Anthony [C.] Beilenson, member of Congress. So you had friends in high places campaigning for you.

MARTIN: Well, as I mentioned, I met Tony when we were sitting in in the Federal Building trying to get [Health, Education, and Welfare] Secretary [Joseph A.] Califano [Jr.] to promulgate the 504 regulation. His office saved us and he made a gesture that prevented us from being carted off to jail, by inviting us into his office. We became fast friends. It's my pleasure to have worked with and known him for a long time, and to have made a lot of progress because of his help on our issues in so many ways, from that time until his retirement, some twenty years later--and his staff, by the way, as well--Outstanding people like Kay Van Horn.

BAYLES-YAEGER: He certainly couldn't have written a more glowing letter.

MARTIN: Well, it was awfully nice of him. I tell you, one thing that was very impressive to me about that--and somewhat unexpected--is having known Tony for a very long time when that letter was written, I know it to be his practice that he didn't write letters, generally. It was very rare that he would write a letter of recommendation. And yet, when it was known that a position was open at UCLA, they were kind enough to say, "Tony doesn't usually do this, but if you would like a letter he will be glad to write one." So I really have to say that it was great. I think he even wrote something in his own hand on the letter, in addition to the letter itself.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Yes, he did, and I have it highlighted--

MARTIN: And, again, that's something new.

BAYLES-YAEGER: --saying, "I like him very much," underlined, and "I recommend him highly," also underlined. Well, you're obviously a shoo-in. You have the position. You find out, you said, when you had the flu? This must have made you feel better.

MARTIN: I did. It did make me feel better. I was really suffering. I had gone to a conference at Stanford [University] on employment issues, because I was working so much on the Social Security reform, reforming SSI [supplemental security income] and SSDI [social security disability insurance] to allow people to work and retain their medical coverage, to

remove the work penalties in the programs. We were having this major conference at Stanford. I went there and contracted some really horrendous thing and was ill for about three or four weeks. Bob said, at one point--

You know, we had these interviews, which I was mentioning. Mark Stocki, transportation services, and Don [Donald E.] Hartsock--I'm trying to think who else was in this group--Nadia Powers, and a couple of other administrators from UCLA. It was a five- or seven-member group that interviewed the candidates. I remember that they were asking questions about, "Are you familiar with 504? Are you familiar with the [Office of the] State Architect's regulations?" Well, at that time I was on the [State] Building Standards Commission and we'd developed them. First of all, I had advocated for them in the early eighties, and we were doing a revision to them as a state commissioner. So I worked on the development of 504 and I worked on the development of the access requirements for the state and I'm a building commissioner.

So there were a lot of things that, I suppose, helped put me in good stead, because in many cases people could say that they had studied the regulation, but it happened that I was in a place to have been able to also be involved in development of most of the requirements from the outset of the movement. Yeah, I guess I would say that in some respects

this was a position that offered to use a lot of my expertise fully.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So this was a perfect fit. You came in and took-- Do you remember the day you officially came into the office?

MARTIN: I believe it was February 13, 1989. I do remember that. However, it was kind of bittersweet, because having worked with Bob for so many years--and to think that his health, apparently, wasn't good-- But I told him when I arrived and-- You know, he took me on a tour that day of the building, behind the glass doors on the second floor and I got to meet all the vice-chancellors and key people around and all the staff--Gloria [K.] Stypinski and others who worked closely with the chancellor. He introduced me and said that I'd be his replacement. I insisted that there couldn't be a replacement for Bob, because he was such a part of UCLA. He was just a true Bruin altogether.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Thirty-four years of serving the university.

MARTIN: Thirty-four years, yeah. But he really was a model for me and gave me the notion that, in fact, I might someday work on campus. It always had been a desire in the back of my mind to return, because I always liked it here so much.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So you find yourself here in February of '89.

MARTIN: You know there's that film with Robert Redford called

The Candidate, where he plays a candidate for the senate in California. He goes through all these unbelievable efforts to get elected. He finally wins, and at the end of the movie he's leaving his victory celebration, and he turns to one of his aides and he says, "Now what?" [laughs]

BAYLES-YAEGER: The fun's over. Now the work begins, because now just a few months after this, you're the one having to write to people saying, "As special assistant to the chancellor, I am responding to the concerns you raised."

MARTIN: Well, you know, I don't know if I've said this before on the tape, but there's an old saying that I harken back to often that is purportedly attributed to Einstein, "All of my life, I've challenged authority and now to punish me," or actually I think he said, "now to teach me a lesson, God has made me one."

BAYLES-YAEGER: Yes.

MARTIN: I think that's what he said, or so is reported to have said. So I guess I'd have to say this is what happens when you--

BAYLES-YAEGER: You are in the hot seat.

MARTIN: Wasn't it Oscar Wilde who said, "There are only two tragedies in life: not getting what you want and getting it."

BAYLES-YAEGER: And getting it, yes. Beware of what you ask

for.

MARTIN: Beware of what you ask for.

BAYLES-YAEGER: You may get it.

MARTIN: So I guess I very quickly learned what it's like on the other side of the table.

Actually, I have also to mention one other thing, though. After we had the interviews, I was called in, some week or two later, to Vice-Chancellor Elwin [V.] Svenson's office. He said that the interview committee had indicated that I was their choice and he said that he'd looked at my materials. He said, "You're the best candidate that we've had from anywhere in the country. The job is yours if you'd like it." And I said, "Well, only if I can keep the staff that Bob had." He said that that was certainly the case. That kind of began--

For the purposes of budget and personnel matters, I reported to Sven--as he was known--Elwin Svenson. He would have weekly early-morning breakfast meetings in his office, at which some of the people that reported to him would share information. So it was through his tutelage that I became much more familiar with the workings of the university. But also, it was fortuitous that I ended up being part of Sven's office for the purposes of daily contact, because he was vice-chancellor of institutional relations. He's now retired, but for about four years I was reporting to him and working

with him.

He is an extraordinary man, the likes of which I had the opportunity to meet only a few. He has a very wide-ranging knowledge and interest in international affairs and also political matters. He'd worked a long time on Capitol Hill, in various positions, advising [R.] Sargent Shriver [Jr.] among others, on the creation of the Job Corps and done remarkable, interesting things internationally, some of which, even to this day, I think people speculate more about. He's been involved in a lot of things, in a lot of places. Anyway, he had a lot of contacts with foreign governments and heads of state and knew the Washington political process better than anybody I think I've ever met that wasn't an elected official, but he was remarkable. I was working on the ADA and he was able to share with me a lot of knowledge and insight that he had on strategy technique: who to go to, who to avoid, what to do, what not to do--

BAYLES-YAEGER: You're lucky to find a mentor like that right here on campus.

MARTIN: Remarkably, critically important to one. First of all, he was very knowledgeable about the campus. He had been here a long time, but he'd traveled extensively throughout the world, and he knew Washington politics like the back of his hand and was an enormous source of information. Plus,

he opened a lot of doors for me to get to see people in Washington, to talk about things like the ADA and other changes we wanted to make. He knew the right people, the right staff people, or knew somebody that knew just about everybody.

So he gave an enormous boost to the work that I did on the ADA with Justin [W.] Dart [Jr.] and others. You know, Justin and Evan [J.] Kemp [Jr.] and Pat [Patricia] Wright were really like the mothers and fathers of that effort. But I was involved in the support there of that, and one of the things that we needed to do was-- This was in '89 when the bill was starting to shape up, and of course it was passed in July of '90. I came on in February of '89. There was no ADA at that time, but I was very deeply involved in helping to create it. I talked with Sven at length about a number of things that we might do to foster the bill.

I was also in touch with Tony Beilenson a lot on that, and he was very helpful because he was on a key committee--the Committee on Rules--of the House [of Representatives] and when it came down to the final debates on the floor of the House, in early July of '90, Tony was able to get us a very favorable rule on those debates that permitted us to defeat several weakening amendments that would have taken a lot of the heart out of the bill.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And that is something to read into the record

here, that at the time you took this office the Americans with Disabilities Act had not been passed, so the office was the 504 Compliance Office. Then after the bill was passed it became 504/ADA.

MARTIN: It did require that there be a designated employee for ADA compliance as well, since the ADA was based in very-- Or I should say, the ADA hewed closely to the regulations of 504, appropriately.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And the fact that ADA had not been passed yet points out the fact that there was still a lot of work to be done, even here on campus, because in March of '89, the California Association of the Physically Handicapped is still finding a few things. Now you're the one who is having to deal with them. They are giving a list of improvements needed at UC [University of California] Santa Cruz and number one on the list for UC Santa Cruz is, "Appoint a qualified 504 compliance officer, like UCLA."

MARTIN: It worked before.

BAYLES-YAEGER: But further down it says, "At UCLA, the following steps need to be taken," and they have four suggestions. One is to use a $60,000 mandate from the budget to adequately fund the personnel section dealing with disability hiring and adaptation. Then in capital letters, "THIS HAS NOT BEEN DONE." Now, was this the Office for Students with Disabilities

that they're talking about?

MARTIN: Well, there was an effort to create the Disabilities and Computing Program [DCP], which subsequently did happen. So some of that adaptation may be related to that. Then there was another office which was the disability outreach program for personnel [Staff Affirmative Action Office], in which an individual was placed very much around that time. Very close to that time. So there were a couple of things that it may be referring to there, but they didn't have the names that they later had.

But there was a person who was appointed to do disability recruitment for openings for the university, and also then the Disabilities and Computing Program, which focused on adaptive technology being made available with the new emergence of high-tech stuff, that you could have things like a print enlarger on a screen that would allow a person like Nadia, who had partial vision, to read what was written that they otherwise couldn't read--or type with one finger, one hand.

BAYLES-YAEGER: This is the time all of this is coming to the forefront--in the computer age. So this is the time to be setting money aside for some of this.

MARTIN: And it was done and that was a good investment, because our Disabilities and Computing Program--which is just now ten years old--started back in those days, but was fledgling

about '86, '87. It also came out of our demonstration, but it had not had a lot of funds and we got it a permanent budget. I worked on that. It now has a permanent budget and it's going onward.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Oh, good.

MARTIN: It's been serving a lot of people, with the very latest stuff, including the new voice recognition systems that you can talk and have the words put on the screen, instead of having to enter them by typing. That has helped a lot of quadriplegics and people with carpal tunnel syndrome and other things.

BAYLES-YAEGER: There are wonderful things on the horizon for assistive technology.

MARTIN: Yes. In fact, my comment has been--in supporting the DCP's work and urging that it be given the appropriate amount of attention--that access to technology is going to be the new issue, as important as access to buildings once was, because now access to buildings is guaranteed in new construction.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And now access to the Internet is going to be--

MARTIN: And if you can't get access to those things, you're going to be shut out again. So people with disabilities--You know, technology is the key to the future and access to

technology.

BAYLES-YAEGER: The wonderful thing about the Internet is that working on it, no one ever knows what your disabilities are. If you're able to access and work in that medium, there can be no discrimination. No one is aware of the physical problem, so yes, that's wonderful money was set aside for that at that early time. All right, so now we have ADA is just being passed and you go to Washington [D.C.] for the signing ceremony.

MARTIN: I was invited to the signing ceremony, which was a great moment, to get a call from the White House. But interestingly enough, I got this call, which I really didn't know-- You know, there were so many people that worked on it and I made the rounds on the hill, but I was one of dozens of people that when we went in groups, I was by no means a person like Justin Dart or Pat Wright, who were just unbelievable crusaders who lived there and worked there every day and were tireless. You know, it was a long way from here, but I did what I could with the process, but it was--

Luckily, I knew a congressman on the Rules Committee who managed to help us defeat those really horrible amendments. We had such a great rule from Tony that they didn't have a chance to debate them and they were all voted down before anything could come of them. So there are--

And, you know, this was an interesting story, too, because we were getting close to the hearing of the ADA in the House. I had gone to Washington to lobby on the issue and had hoped to get a chance to meet with Tony and talk with him about a strategy for getting a good rule on the bill.

I called his office and they said, "You know, he's going out of town with the family and he's not going to be able to see you at this time."

And I said, "Well, okay, we'll just have to-- But we've got this really important rule to fight and we've got to have a good rule on this to keep these amendments from passing."

"Well, we'll get him the message when he gets back."

And so I--this was in the morning I called his office--went up to the hill and I'm on the corner by the Cannon [Office] Building at the steps. I'm just crossing the street and who should come down the steps with his wife and grandchildren in hand but Tony Beilenson.

And he said, "Doug"--we could not have arranged this meeting better--he said, "What are you doing?"

I said, "Well, I just called the office, and they said you were going away."

He said, "Yeah." He said, "Tell me, what's up?"

So I said, "We've got this-- The ADA is going to come before the House and there are a number of bad amendments

that people want to add to this. We need a rule that is going to protect us from that. A very favorable rule."

He said, "Well, I'm on the right committee for that, so I'll be sure to do what I can."

And he did. I have a tape of the debate from C-Span and if you watch, they take all these amendments-- They have a two-minute clock and it runs out and they go-- So that didn't give a lot of room for consideration by the House for this. So it was great to see all the-- And they were bad amendments. They would have taken so much out of the bill. It would have made it very ineffective.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Can you just, for the record, say what some of the worst of these were--?

MARTIN: Well, they would have extended the deadlines for compliance, or the effective dates of many of these things, for ten years, twenty years--like the accessibility of transit systems would have been longer. Some areas would have been exempted altogether from the requirements that are now covered. There were a lot of different-- There were things about employment, setting dollar amounts on how much an employer had to spend versus what was reasonable. There were all kinds of-- The National Federation of Independent Businesses had sponsored amendments and private companies--Greyhound [Bus Lines] and others--had wanted amendments that would extend

considerably the length of time they had to make changes. Anyway, all of those weakening amendments were defeated.

So in any case, Justin and others, I suppose, thought about me when the time came, but that was one issue that--I had a call from Justin. He said, "We're having a problem with the House rules. You know, there are these bad amendments. We understand that your congressman is on the committee. Do you know him?"

BAYLES-YAEGER: Serendipity.

MARTIN: Right. "Do you know him?" I said, "Do I know him? He called me in Washington at my hotel room when I got there. Yes, I know him and I'm trying to get ahold of him to talk to him about this very thing." He said, "Great."

BAYLES-YAEGER: I was his guest at the [504] sit-in.

MARTIN: I think, yeah, I said, "Well, there's a story there, Justin, about 504 I could tell you. Yes, you could say that--" And I said, "I think we can count on him. I just need to get connected with him." Then, just as good fortune would have it, I got ahold of him and got to tell him about the issue.

You know, I still think--having worked the Hill now a long time--there is no substitute for personal contact. You can call, you can fax, you can write. If you don't show up on people's doorsteps and engage them and by your very presence

make a statement, it isn't as effective. So I always like to get with the person or somebody who's directly connected with the person.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So you're still making trips back to Washington?

MARTIN: Yes.

BAYLES-YAEGER: How often?

MARTIN: Well, three or four times a year.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Oh my goodness.

MARTIN: And thanks to Sven, I know people at the UC offices there. I don't know if it's well known, but the University of California has a Washington office.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Why does UC have a Washington office?

MARTIN: Because what happens in Congress affects UC in a big way.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So this is for lobbyists?

MARTIN: It's for information.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Oh, it's not called lobbying. It's giving information.

MARTIN: No, that wouldn't be appropriate, but it is monitoring of legislation introduced, availability of individuals to advise if they're requested to do so on matters of concern to education, and clearly there's the national laboratories.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So it does also give kind of a home base for

people like you who have to go back and forth.

MARTIN: That's right, that's right. For example, they don't lobby and they don't try to influence, but they have been able over the years to provide me with up-to-date information about what is the status of a particular piece of legislation, where is it at, whose committee is it in, who is working on it, who are the key staffers. And when the ADA came along, they wanted to know from me what effect would this have on the UC system. So I met with people there and advised them on that so they could better understand the implications that would be coming their way.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, other than changing the name of the office to 504/ADA, can you think of some of the more important differences it did make when you brought it home to this campus?

MARTIN: Well, the ADA, you mean?

BAYLES-YAEGER: The ADA.

MARTIN: Yes, it was a very exciting time to arrive at UCLA, being involved in working on the ADA. Then, with Sven's excellent counsel and Tony's help, to have a hand in that, to shepherd the thing along to the point that only a little over a year later, I found myself flying to Washington for the signing of this momentous bill that has been unprecedented in, I guess, all of human history. Really, there's been nothing--

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, tell us a little about the signing. This is history.

MARTIN: Yes, well, as I say, I got this call from the White House. It didn't strike me at the time as being anything to take note of especially, but they said, you know, "This is the White House calling, and we want to invite you to the signing ceremony of the ADA. It's going to be on the South Lawn. It's going to be on the twenty-sixth of July, provided the president doesn't have some other--" I don't know how they worded it exactly. They indicated that providing that the president wasn't called away on some other matter, something very, kind of-- I thought, "Well, this is standard procedure. Clearly, if something happens the president can't be signing a bill, if there's something he's got to deal with of an emergency nature somewhere, a natural disaster or--"

I'm not thinking about war necessarily, but of course, I suppose-- This was a few days, a week before the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. Then the news broke and I realized probably what they meant was that the president might not be available. So we had that signing, I think, fortunately. It was a public signing and the president was able to be there. It could easily have been that he might not have been able to be there, and--

BAYLES-YAEGER: We should say this is President [George H.W.]

Bush.

MARTIN: Yes, President Bush and all the major members of the Senate and the House involved in this. Tom [Thomas R.] Harkin, senator from Iowa; Bob [Robert J.] Dole, of course, from Kansas; and Ted [Edward M.] Kennedy were there, and about three thousand disabled individuals from all over the country. By some good fortune, I got seated in the front row. The president came along and shook our hands, and the wirephoto happened to be just as he was coming along the line. I have a photo here on my wall which is of that, just as he was walking up the steps to the podium to sign the bill. So little did I think, one, that I'd even be at this event, let alone get in this kind of a--

BAYLES-YAEGER: Front row, center.

MARTIN: Right, right. It was very nice. So the whole thing was quite overwhelming. We had a very moving experience that day.

BAYLES-YAEGER: This had been a long, hard fight.

MARTIN: It was kind of the ultimate vindication for not being able to go to the university that I thought I would--or do a lot of the other things that I didn't think I would. I thought, you know, all that has just been wiped away. It's an extraordinary experience, too, to have in a lifetime and not a very long lifetime--only about twenty years, really--of

going from a kind of benighted state-- Twenty-five years, I guess-- To go from where there were no rights, no possibilities, nothing, and people only saw the disability and not anything else-- To go from that to this extraordinary piece of legislation that's going to open up a lot of doors, it just seemed to be the culmination of a dream. So I was elated. It was probably the happiest day of my life.

BAYLES-YAEGER: I was always very happy that my own father had lived to see that.

MARTIN: Yes.

BAYLES-YAEGER: It meant a lot to so many people.

MARTIN: And there were a lot of people that couldn't be there that day that should have been and I always think about. People were crying openly. It was very moving. And President Bush made a speech that was really outstanding. It was one of the better speeches I ever heard any person not utterly steeped in disability issues make. He had some very good--

BAYLES-YAEGER: I was going to say, he must have had good speech writers.

MARTIN: He had very good background on that. It was really excellent. All of our hopes and dreams were realized that day on the South Lawn.

BAYLES-YAEGER: As if this wasn't a big enough day, it's not too long after this that you are given the [President's]

Distinguished Service [in Encouraging and Promoting the Employment of People with Disabilities] Award from President Bush.

MARTIN: Oh, yes, right, right. Well, shucks. [laughs]

BAYLES-YAEGER: Can you tell us a little about--

MARTIN: Aw, shucks. Well, it was a good year. 1990 was a good year. [laughs] As I had mentioned, I had been working for years on reforming the Social Security disability programs to remove penalties for working. The President's Committee on Employment [of People with Disabilities] recognized that a lot of my work had dealt with civil rights, but also with these barriers to employment, and as a result of about a dozen of the pieces of legislation that I had helped develop--spearheaded--that tens of thousands of people were working that couldn't work before. It had to do more with our social policies, governmental disability benefits policies, than it did with discrimination in the workplace.

There are really a couple of issues. One is employers maybe sometimes are reluctant to hire and the ADA was designed to take care of that aspect. But the other side of the coin is if our benefits programs make it more costly to work than to stay on benefits, it doesn't take an economic genius to discover that they can't afford to go to work. They certainly can't afford to lose medical coverage.

So I guess as a result of the numbers of people that left, were able to work for the first time and leave the rolls, I was awarded that, plus the work on the ADA and starting the [Westside] Center for Independent Living, you know, being involved in that.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Well, how did you find out that you were being presented with this award?

MARTIN: I got a letter that said that, "Congratulations, you've been awarded--" I think it was from Justin, in fact, because he was chair at that time. I don't know if you have anything there.

BAYLES-YAEGER: No, only a copy of the notification from the chancellor's office.

MARTIN: I was informed by letter I had been awarded-- In fact, that's it.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And we should say on the record that hanging on your wall right here is a very beautiful plaque.

MARTIN: Yes, it's one of the great awards that can be given from the national level for anybody's efforts, so it was quite overwhelming. We had a dinner, an awards dinner at Century Plaza [Hotel] at which the award was presented to me. And yes, I do recall now very distinctly that Justin Dart Jr. was the chair of the committee and he was unable to come, but he had his son [Justin Dart III] present the award to me. He

was out of the country at the time, and so I got to meet his son. It was very nice.

BAYLES-YAEGER: How old was his son at the time?

MARTIN: I would think that he must have been a man in his probably late thirties, a very successful businessman.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So this was a big year, wasn't it?

MARTIN: It was a good year. It was a very good year. Bob Wellman called me up when he had heard the news and said, "By golly, we've done it."

And I said, "That's right, we have done it, Bob."

He said, "It's really happened."

I said, "Yeah, the House and the Senate have voted. It's all just a matter of-- It's a formality for the president to sign it. He committed himself to doing this when he ran for office." If somebody would send him a bill he'd sign it, he said, so we got him prepped right away, but the hard part was the House and the Senate. I said, "Yeah, it's all over but the formalities." But he was very excited himself.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And the fight to get people to actually adhere to the law, which is still going on.

MARTIN: Well, the law, yes. That will be the work of generations.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Yes.

MARTIN: But that's true. We have a lot of work to do on that

front.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So you go on to publish, then, *Social Security Work Incentives: Information for California Consumers with Disabilities*. It is actually published, I think, in 1991, and this is the work that you had done on the Social Security bill. This is for the [California] Governor's Committee for Employment of Disabled [Persons]. And then also in 1991, you've done all the testimony in front of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Disability [Policy]. Then, in 1995, you published [D. Martin and R.W. Conley] The ADA and disability benefits policies: Some research topics and issues [*Journal of Disability Policy Studies* 6], so this is--

MARTIN: My point being that the nondiscrimination provisions of the ADA, and Title I of the ADA, are working at cross purposes with-- Or rather, the disability benefits policy for the Social Security programs is working to undermine the goals of Title I of the ADA, because they restrict people from working, when the goal of the ADA is to get people to work.

BAYLES-YAEGER: So is this, though, a problem at this point, three years since this was published? Have you seen improvement in this? Has it started to--?

MARTIN: Glacial.

BAYLES-YAEGER: Glacial.

MARTIN: But after working on this since 1975, I take the

long view now.

BAYLES-YAEGER: That's true.

MARTIN: This is when we started, '75, when I got involved with starting the independent living center. I said, "This is going to be one of our major efforts, removing work penalties." We have a new bill, though, the Jeffords-Kennedy bill--Senate Bill 1858 [Work Incentives Improvement Act]--that was introduced in March. I've been deeply involved in that whole effort.

BAYLES-YAEGER: And that is going to do what?

MARTIN: The Jeffords-Kennedy bill. Jim [James M.] Jeffords is a senator from Vermont and Ted Kennedy-- Jeffords is a Republican; Kennedy, of course, Democrat. So we've got good bipartisan support for this. It would greatly enhance the medical coverage available for people who return to work: continuation of Medicare as long as you remained disabled and Medicaid in some instances, as well as personal assistance services--where the states will be given the option to develop their own programs waiving some of those very restrictive federal requirements that now exist.

BAYLES-YAEGER: I think most people don't realize how much it costs for some of the medical assistance that disabled people need. They think if you're working you should be under medical insurance from work or you should be paying for it

yourself, not realizing how high the costs can be. Is this true that most people don't realize exactly how much it does cost, personal assistance?

MARTIN: Yeah. It's a lot. What we wanted to do was either allow people to return to work and forfeit, or reduce on a sliding scale, their cash payments under the Social Security Act, but carrying Medicare, Medicaid, because they usually can't get this insurance anywhere. If they're getting personal assistance paid for by Medicaid, which is usually how it's done, they could take that with them as well. Or we could give some kind of tax credits to the individual, if they paid out-of-pocket for their personal assistance while working, and this could be forgiven on their taxes. So there are a couple of ways and we've been working on that. But one of the big inhibitors for people that have significant impairments is the threat of the loss of personal assistance on the job and not being able to afford to pay for it out-of-pocket.

TAPE NUMBER: VI, SIDE ONE

JUNE 1, 1998

BAYLES-YEAGER: When we left off last week, we had just finished talking about your work on the Social Security reform measures for the disabled. What I'd like to do this week is start out by quoting from an editorial [W.G. Strothers, 1998. Nobody said it would be easy. *Mainstream: A Magazine of the Able-Disabled* 22:38] that talks about the fact that in his town, San Diego, they are getting ready to celebrate the eighth anniversary of the ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act].

[He states that] "Eight years is hardly enough time to eradicate the [oppressive] habits of centuries" and that "The ADA, even with its flaws, is under attack." There seem to be people who want to water down its intent. It is all "a matter of political will. How else can we explain continued punitive rules that discourage disabled people from marrying and trying to earn income?" And if I could read just another paragraph down below, "President [William J.] Clinton has often stated that America needs all of its citizens. It is a noble sentiment. But we might wonder just what it is, exactly, that these people with disabilities are needed for. Does he mean that we are needed as productive citizens? Or does he mean that society needs us to be taken care of by a burgeoning health care industry?"

I think that's a very good point he makes, because even with all the work that's been done, as you so often said, so much still needs to be done. There are so many abuses.

MARTIN: And shortcomings and conflicts in existing law and regulation. The ADA provides the opportunity for nondiscrimination in employment and requires employers to provide reasonable accommodation to disabled employees that are on the job. But our benefits policies, Social Security policies, Medicare, Medicaid policy, penalize people for earning very small amounts of money and penalize them either with the loss of cash payments and/or, even worse, the loss of their healthcare coverage and personal assistance services in many states.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So why hasn't this kept pace with the ADA? The intent of ADA seems to be to eliminate all of this abuse. Why hasn't Social Security kept pace with it?

MARTIN: Well, probably a variety of reasons. It seems that, for one thing, Congress, in passing the ADA, did not have to appropriate any funds. There was a nondiscrimination law, a comprehensive nondiscrimination law, but it did not have an appropriation with it. The costs of implementation were passed to private businesses and public entities.

The Social Security reforms that are necessary require expenditures from the federal budget; they ought to be included

in the federal budget. They're not without cost, these changes. Ultimately, they will be saving funds, but there are initial costs that are incurred. Consequently, it's hard to get bills passed that cost money and it's harder now than it used to be.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Do you feel that there's a general feeling among some of the politicians that there aren't going to be those promised future savings?

MARTIN: There's skepticism. One of the reasons is the Congressional Budget Office has routinely estimated huge costs for our reform proposals when we questioned their methodology and their assumptions, but those estimates have been a real stumbling block for progress on the legislation. We've had to scale it back or revise it and amend it in ways that will address what we believe to be erroneous budget estimates, cost estimates.

For example, currently, if people don't work, they will stay on the Social Security system for a lifetime. They're entitled, then, to cash payments and to medical coverage without cost. If even 1 percent of the people currently on the rolls were to return to work, it would save about $3.5 billion--that's what it would be--over the lifetime of their working.

But the Congressional Budget Office doesn't accept the notion that that individual would contribute to the tax base.

It would seem logical that if they left the rolls of Social Security and they were earning wages and they were paying taxes, that they would still be saving the government money, because if they did nothing they would get all of these benefits without charge. If they worked, they would pay taxes and get fewer benefits. That is, a reduced cash payment. They would still keep their medical coverage.

So there is no way that it couldn't save money, except that the Congressional Budget Office methodology has repeatedly included the notion that they cannot, in their modeling, incorporate a factor for how much this would save, because in their view it's impossible to establish whether or not the disabled person leaving the Social Security rolls has taken a job that otherwise would have been taken by a nondisabled person in the economy. Therefore, there may be, in their view, no net gain in revenues.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Oh, I could see how they justify it, then.

MARTIN: That's right. So we have said that with an expanding economy--as we've had for many, many years now--the opportunities being missed to put people to-- And in fact, the welfare reform proposal that the president and the Congress recently enacted has at its core return to work. I've never heard one word from the Congressional Budget Office about people that are going from the rolls of welfare taking jobs

of others and therefore there would be no savings. The same Congress and the same president has beat the drum about-- Because I think that their focus groups and their opinion polls show that this is a very popular notion.

The welfare reform bill is very draconian. Our proposals are, in fact, considerably more favorable to the individuals involved in the programs. They're not punitive. But it is with great consternation that I have worked for over twenty years and find that we're still having so much difficulty with making progress in this area.

Part of it is the fear of a lot of people taking jobs. And that in itself I think is a questionable-- Not only economically questionable, but questionable about the suggestion that disabled persons should not somehow be in competing with nondisabled persons in the arena for job opportunities.

BAYLES-YEAGER: This editorial almost goes to the point of saying that it would be a liability if some of these disabled people became capable of caring for themselves or working, because it would destroy what has been built up as a very lucrative industry in healthcare--and warehousing many nonproductive disabled people in institutions, nursing homes. Do you feel that this is, maybe, a factor?

MARTIN: Yes, I think it is. There's been a long history of

profits to be made in these kinds of ways and a major industry has been established. There is another effort under way from our advocacy ranks to shift funds from Medicaid dollars that go to institutions that warehouse people to in-home care. Allow those dollars to follow the person to their own home and pay them what they would have been paid for-- Spend the funds that would have been spent on them in an institution in a community setting.

That bill is in the Congress at the moment. Again, it's been given considerable cost estimates and it's had to be reworked a bit and scaled back, but it is a beginning. And it's a beginning coming from our own disability communities saying, "Why are you spending billions of dollars as a national policy on keeping people out of the mainstream when--?"

BAYLES-YEAGER: Keeping us in a place that we don't want to be.

MARTIN: Right, almost everyone agrees it's not the place that they want to be. Instead, why don't we use those funds to get people home?

BAYLES-YEAGER: As you said, it's been a twenty-year battle. I think we were discussing, before we went on tape, the fact that in 1979, a *60 Minutes* segment was aired with Dan Rather commenting on this very problem, that people wanted to work. Can you tell us a little about that episode?

MARTIN: Yes, that was a very critical point in our successful effort to reform the law. As I mentioned, I started the Westside Center for Independent Living and one of our first goals, our first advocacy goal, was to try to eliminate the work penalties. We also wanted to work on the marriage penalties, but we thought the first thing to do was to do away with the work penalties. We began our efforts by looking around for congress members who might be favorably inclined to consider that. I put together a small group meeting in early 1979 with members of our staff who had various disabilities. There were three or four people--one of whom was blind, one of whom was quadriplegic, so on--and myself and a couple of other people; Shirley Koda [was one].

We identified a congressman in the San Fernando Valley, Jim [James C.] Corman. The reason that I actually got the idea of going to him was that I had read in the L.A. [*Los Angeles*] *Times* that Jim Corman was going to be carrying President [James E.] Carter's welfare reform proposal. The idea was that it would change the criteria for return to work and create incentives. It turned out that Corman was also the chair of the House [of Representatives] Subcommittee on Human Resources, which had oversight over the supplemental security income program, SSI.

So we arranged a meeting and went to his office when

he was in the district. I explained to him that I had recently graduated from UCLA with a doctorate, but I couldn't afford to take a job and the people that were with me could not, except for the one person who was blind. Because of differences in the law over a long period of time, blind individuals had considerably more incentives to return to work than nonblind disabled persons.

He was listening with interest about that and we were talking about the need to make it easier for people to retain their health coverage and go back to work. You know, he was quite receptive to the idea and he said, "Well, I'll certainly keep that in mind and I'll see what we can do in the future. Thanks for bringing it to my attention."

We had indicated that we knew of his work on the welfare reform. In fact, at the time--I found out some short while later--some of the concepts that were proposed in Carter's welfare reform bill would have actually made it harder for disabled individuals to leave the SSI rolls. They were going in the other direction in their thinking. I wasn't that familiar with what all the details of that proposal were. Now, as you may know, that proposal came to naught and never was realized.

But an outgrowth of that was that-- One thing that I told the congressman was if individuals ever get an opportunity to work or have an opportunity to work, they would rather

die than be prevented from being a part of mainstream society, that it was really that strongly held an issue in our ranks and that many were frustrated beyond description by these rules that kept people dependent and kept people, basically, shut-ins, [and] enforced idleness. It wasn't that the system didn't reward initiative, but it enforced idleness.

BAYLES-YEAGER: How did this get to *60 Minutes*?

MARTIN: Great shock. A few months later, a few months later, with great shock, I turned on the evening news and there was a story, I think it was by Henry Alfaro--he was a reporter for, I think, [NBC] Channel 4--in any case, reporting that there had been a suicide of a severely disabled woman in the San Fernando Valley. [She] had received a notice from the Social Security Administration that she had worked and earned a few hundred dollars a month and she was notified that she owed over $10,000 in back payments and that she was going to be losing her personal assistant, which was linked to the receipt of the SSI, all of the things that exactly were the problem and that could happen to people.

We did not know this person, but her name was Lynn Thompson. Not only had she taken her own life, but she left a tape recording saying that she didn't mean to do anything wrong. She actually had her picture in the paper with her employer, and in fact, that's how the Social Security Administration

found out about it. She wasn't trying to hide the fact. I think she was actually oblivious of how very harsh the rules were. At that time, I believe the amount--they've gone up--in those days it was around $275, or something like that, as a maximum that one could earn per month and be eligible for personal assistance and healthcare.

So she was informed that she was going to be losing her cash payment, she owed $10,000. She would also be losing her personal assistant that allowed her to live in her own place and she'd be losing her medical coverage. She would have to go to an institution. Once again, of course, the institutions were there and were paid for, but she couldn't be paid to stay at home if she were to earn this small amount. So she took a combination of barbiturates and alcohol.

She left this tape saying that the Social Security Administration's policies were the straw that broke the camel's back and she described some of the difficulties she had. She'd had hearings with them to try to straighten this out, but they insisted that she pay back this $10,000 and that, in the meantime, she wouldn't be eligible for any of these other benefits, which was the law. So I called the station and got some information about where she lived.

It turned out that her father, Sylvester Thompson, was very, very distraught, of course, by this whole tragedy and

wanted to do something to help in making sure this wasn't repeated. He agreed to give the tape recording to us. I watched the *60 Minutes* news program the next weekend and copied down the names of all the producers--there are three for each segment. I had a copy of the tape and a letter sent to each one of them and heard nothing for a couple of months.

All of a sudden, I get a phone call at the office one day, in the summer of '79, from Imre Horvath. He said that he'd been in London, so he hadn't gotten the materials until he got back to New York. He said, "As Edward R. Murrow said, 'The news won't wait.' This is a story I want to know more about." He heard the tape and he said, "I'd like to send a research person in advance. Can you arrange for some interviews with people that have similar problems?" And they did that, and we provided them with people from the center. Most of the people working there were people working just under the limits and just part-time because of this very problem. So we had no difficulty finding this.

I guess, one thing with the Lynn Thompson situation, it shows, though, the tragedy of not-- The need for organization, the need for networking, the need for-- I think a really concerted advocacy effort might have helped arrange something for her. She was alone and she felt utterly helpless to

deal with this overwhelming prospect of being returned to an institution, which she would rather die-- Most of us would rather die than to be in those positions. That, regrettably, was the outcome.

As part of the research, they also contacted the local political people in the area and it turned out that her congressman was Jim Corman. I got a call from Jim Corman's office, after the researchers for *60 Minutes* were visiting with his office, and he said, "You know, our previous discussion has been going around in my mind. I think what I'd like you to do is put together a group of ten people and I'll arrange for a luncheon at the Capitol with the [House of Representatives] Committee on Ways and Means members. We can sit down at a table at lunch and you can tell them your story. Maybe we can do something to make sure this doesn't happen."

Then as a result of this research, I got a call again from Imre, who said that Dan Rather was the person he wanted to do this, but--if you may remember--at that particular moment he was in disguise in Afghanistan.

BAYLES-YEAGER: I remember that very much.

MARTIN: You remember. Yes. He was doing a story and he was incognito. He said, "He's in disguise and he's in Afghanistan. As soon as he gets back, I'd like to do a segment.

Think about who might be good."

They filmed most of the segment at the Westside Center for Independent Living. We had Ed [Edward V.] Roberts, who then was head of [California Department of] Rehab[ilitation] and was working, but only got the ability to work because he went from SSI to a large salary and major health care benefits on the job. So he was very familiar himself with this whole-- And as head of rehab--

The whole object of rehab, in my case and a lot of other people's cases, was to train us, send us, even, to college to get advanced degrees, so that we could get employment. The theory is you do that and you invest in somebody's training and they'll pay back in taxes, except for one flaw in this whole idea. And that is the Social Security programs penalized everybody that came out of rehab just like everywhere else, and unless we got a job offer-- And who gets a job offer at the very beginning--when they get out of school--that's, you know, $78,000 a year plus medical? It just is pretty rare.

The name of the segment is called "Help Wanted" and it was aired October 1, 1979.

BAYLES-YEAGER: And this produced results, I take it.

MARTIN: It certainly did. It was like a bomb that had gone off. I've learned the power of the media, which, I must

say, came in handy in some subsequent dealings with issues and efforts to make some changes. We got the attention of some decision makers. It was really remarkable. You know, it smacked a little of some tales you hear of Davy Crockett going to Congress.

We, in our very, just, embryonic stage of development of our little independent living center-- Here we are all of a sudden on *60 Minutes* and lunching with the members of the Committee on Ways and Means in the House dining room--the formal--I'm not talking about the cafeteria. You know, people coming in and serving us, and we're sitting next to Al [Albert C.] Ullman and people like this. People that you only hear about and read about at a distance. They wanted to hear what we had to say. So we made a presentation.

We had also a very good thing-- Martha [E.] Keys, who was a congresswoman from Kansas, was doing some work on a piece of legislation that would have created some changes in SSI. We, working with her and with Jim Corman, were able to get a bill together. It wasn't successful, but it was a forerunner.

One thing that we had done, actually before the Lynn Thompson situation arose, a year or two before that, the independent living center and the California Association of the Physically Handicapped [CAPH]--that's what it was

called in those days--were working on and I was very involved in this bill, Assembly Bill 922 for California, which we were able to get passed. It allowed California, the state, to pick up the cost of Medicaid for those individuals who might lose Medicaid because of work activity. It turned out there were only hundreds of people that actually ever used this provision, but it was proof, number one, that it wouldn't cost billions, and it was already enacted, and it was on the books. Tragically, secondly, 922 would have helped Lynn Thompson, but the Social Security Administration, being federal, didn't know about the state provision to tell her about the state provision. So again--

BAYLES-YEAGER: Once again, it's a lack of communication and coordinated effort.

MARTIN: Right, right. Could we have gotten to her, had she been involved in a network, again, she probably might have known or found out about the provisions of the state law that would have allowed her to keep her attendant and her personal assistance. There still would have been a problem with the overpayments and that sort of thing, but at least the linkage wouldn't have been broken and the prospect of institutionalization would not have been a problem. In any case, 922 served as a kind of model for what came later, what is now known as Section 1619 of the Supplemental Security

Income [Program] provisions.

BAYLES-YEAGER: And what exactly did that do to change the situation for people like her?

MARTIN: It changed it considerably for the better, in that individuals no longer were limited to the very small amount of earnings for the month, what was known as "substantial gainful activity," but rather if they had continuing disabilities--that is, they had no medical recovery--they could work and earn up to the equivalent of what the value of benefits was that they were receiving. So that the theory being, our proposal was that, until somebody is earning at least as much as the value of their benefits, they can't afford to start paying out of pocket anything, because the loss is greater than any benefit. Even, still, there were taxes taken out of there, so it was even more.

But we got a state-by-state threshold based on the value of services that were available. For example, the per capita average of what it cost Medicaid in each state was added to what it cost for personal assistance plus whatever their SSI payment was for that state, and they vary by state. So the amounts were-- But it went from being two hundred and some dollars a month to $15,000 to $20,000 a year.

BAYLES-YEAGER: That's quite a jump.

MARTIN: And as long as you were under that threshold--and

it's now been incrementally adjusted for the cost of living, so it's increased--but if you were under this threshold amount for your state, you would have no share of cost for Medicaid or personal assistance. You'd get benefits as though you weren't working. However, you would have a reduction in the cash payment of one dollar for every two dollars earned. So it was a sliding scale, though, instead of an all or nothing. What we had always said was we need a flexible mix of cash payments, medical coverage, and personal assistance.

The Keys bill had in it those elements. It didn't succeed. We had really good support on that, but the following year, with Jim Corman and-- Unfortunately, Martha was defeated, so she wasn't able to carry on, but Jim was reelected. He had been a many-term congress member, in fact, and was in line to be chair of the Ways and Means committee had he been reelected, but as you may recall, there was the issue regarding busing. He was in favor of busing for school integration and he was defeated after about twenty years in office.

BAYLES-YEAGER: In what year was this that he--?

MARTIN: That would have been 1980, I think. But we were able to establish the groundwork for this bill, the Social Security [Act] amendments of 1980, and it was passed, but it was passed around the time just before elections and Jim

was defeated in the fall of '80. I've often wondered what might have happened if he had not been defeated, because he was a real champion and understood the issue and was in a very key position to make this happen. If we could have followed on with the rest of the reforms that we had been working on for another twenty years a lot quicker-- I think it was one of the real tragedies that-- In fact California and the Valley and all of Southern California, certainly in L.A. areas, really lost enormously because he had been in the Congress and was going to be chair of Ways and Means had he been reelected. We would have had an extraordinary opportunity.

BAYLES-YEAGER: A very powerful voice.

MARTIN: A very powerful voice. Whenever you lose a committee chair like that and it goes to some other state, and they don't know anything about the issues that you built, you really lose a lot of the institutional memory, and well, it was--

BAYLES-YEAGER: Has there been anyone that's come along in the twenty years since then that--?

MARTIN: There have been some very good people--Bob [Robert T.] Matsui, congressman from Sacramento, and Steve [Harry Stephen] Bartlett was a congressman from Texas. Matsui's still in office. Bartlett decided not to run again a few

years ago, but he's now mayor of Dallas, interestingly enough. I expect that maybe we'll still see him in some other position someday. I'd like to think we will, because he was a great ally. He was a very outspoken, strong supporter among the Republican ranks in favor of some of these reforms. And Bob Matsui was a great supporter in the Democratic Party. So the Matsui-Bartlett bills we worked on in later years were a great combination, a bipartisan coalition we got together. We educated, but they were really leaders in their own right. We're didn't have to do much educating. They really grasped this.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Well, you've mentioned Keys and Corman and Bartlett and Matsui as being champions in Congress. Can you think of anyone that's been a particular stumbling block?

MARTIN: Yeah, [laughs] I guess probably Russell [B.] Long.

BAYLES-YEAGER: What exactly has he done?

MARTIN: He was Huey [P. Long]'s son. Russell Long was the guy-- He and J.J. [James J.] Pickle were two of the people that really presented a lot of problems for us. Long was, in those days, chair of Ways and Means. If he didn't like something, subcommittees could propose it, but he'd bottle it up. His staff was absolutely intransigent about changing the Social Security system. They cited all kinds of dire predictions. It would cost billions, millions; hundreds of

thousands of individuals would seek out the rolls and attempt to become eligible so that they could get benefits and go back to work.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Terrible.

MARTIN: Yes, and of course, it was well-known that many people on the rolls were malingerers in the first place, and now all we'd be doing is making it more attractive for malingerers to get onto the program and then back on to the job they had before, but now they'd have Medicare or Medicaid. That would cost billions and so forth. So Russell Long delayed and obstructed things.

J.J. Pickle, congressman from Texas, was vociferously opposed to extending the work incentives into the social security disability insurance program, the SSDI program. We were working on SSI, and we proposed a parallel change in DI. His committee, the [House of Representatives] Subcommittee on Social Security--he was chair at that time-- He blocked our efforts to get a reform parallel, and to this day we don't have work incentives in SSDI like we do in SSI.

But the bill I'm working on right now--the Jeffords-Kennedy bill--establishes the very thing that in 1978, '79, '80 was defeated, blocked, so--

BAYLES-YEAGER: Now, is this bill--?

MARTIN: This goes to show you, you lose a key person-- People

really make a difference where they are and what they will be willing to do.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Now, this Jeffords-Kennedy bill that you're working on now has--

MARTIN: Senate Bill 1858 [Work Incentives Improvement Act] has many provisions like the ones in SSI, plus some others.

BAYLES-YEAGER: When will it come up for a vote?

MARTIN: Well, that's a good question. We're still waiting for the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] cost estimate on the revised version of this. We had a more comprehensive bill last fall, but CBO estimates at that time were over $5 billion. So we reworked it and we're waiting. It was introduced March 25 of this year and we're waiting for the CBO estimate, which we believe will be acceptable, but until we see it in writing-- And if it is acceptable, you know, we're already working hard on getting-- We want to get thirty cosponsors by the end of June, and we're concerned because it's an election year and we need to move this thing forward. But the CBO estimates-- We live or die by them, and at the moment we don't yet have the final word.

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BAYLES-YEAGER: Dr. Martin, we've established where the movement has been proceeding legally. Now I'd like to get your opinion of where the movement stands on a more personal note. I know that any movement is going to have its problems evolving and different personalities are going to help shape the movement. Can you tell us where the movement for the disabled stands, in your estimation, right now in the year 1998?

MARTIN: Well, it's certainly a different world than that of the South Lawn of the White House in 1990. It's only eight years later, but I think the movement is very much at a crossroads. The reason I say that is because we've lost, in the last three or four years, some of the major forces in the movement: Ed Roberts's very sudden and untimely death; Evan [J.] Kemp [Jr.]; Paul Hearn; John Hessler; William Tainter. The list just goes on and on, and all within probably four or five years, only a few years after the signing of the ADA. These were people either here in California or people nationally. Justin [W.] Dart [Jr.]'s still with us, thank goodness, but he's not at all well. You know, the initial generation, I suppose, of leaders-- The ranks are thinning considerably. That is affecting, I think, the vision of-- You know, there

were people that had vision, like Ed, that just aren't around now.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Do you see any younger people coming up that might be inheriting that?

MARTIN: It's encouraging to see-- It appears to me that-- It's interesting, but to some extent-- I guess it's one of those situations where the saying, "One more victory like that and we're undone," is just maybe applicable here, because the ADA opened up a lot of doors. Now individuals go to university and go to high school and find them accessible. They must be accessible, in some way or other. They go out in the public and to restaurants. All the places that used to be impossible to use are now required to be accessible. In the eight years since the ADA, we've seen enormous improvements in accessibility, just in the built environment.

I think also the changes in the Social Security laws that we have provided have allowed tens of thousands of people to engage in employment now. One of the reasons that there was a movement is because we had educated, inactive people forced into idleness. When you educate people and force them into idleness, they're going to cause you trouble. They're going to organize.

BAYLES-YEAGER: But if you give them a chance to go to work, then they have their own life to start considering and they

don't have time for a movement anymore.

MARTIN: The fact of the matter is that like so many movements that have opened doors, from which people have become successful, there is a tendency then for some of those people to forget, even not to know the history, but in fact in some cases turn their back on-- I don't want to name--well, maybe I do want to name [laughs]--but certain members of our [University of California] Board of Regents come to mind about movements and how this happens. Some individuals who have benefited from affirmative action seem not to know that they've benefited from affirmative action now, and bring up the--

BAYLES-YEAGER: Or would prefer not to admit it.

MARTIN: Or not to admit it. I think we see a lot of the same dynamic, that our younger people, whose expectation is very high-- The water that they swim in, the air that they breathe, is an open kind of environment that we simply didn't know even twenty years ago. It's remarkable, the speed with which we have actually changed things around. That's one of the gratifying things--is living to see the whole movement, to the point that we get a comprehensive bill and it's eight years later and see how much has happened, when most movements and most people involved in movements of this kind usually take generations.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Most movements also have the same problem,

that they complain later generations tend to take it for granted.

MARTIN: Yes. And I see that already. I see the younger people either really not being that concerned about access, because it's around-- It's getting better all the time and it's now institutionalized.

BAYLES-YEAGER: And they're able to demand the access if it's not there.

MARTIN: Right. That's right, and they have a basis now for claiming-- And this is all great stuff. It has devastated the ranks of the movement. It takes an edge off when you can go places and do things and get a job and work and you have a life other than thinking about "How am I going to go to school? Go to work? Get a life?" You know, the energies are devoted to other things. I see a lot of-- The people that are still active are still, largely, people that started in the independent living movement and others. They're still around, but the ranks are thinning. So I see that as one countervailing force, that mainstreaming is actually taking away some of the people that might otherwise be activists.

BAYLES-YEAGER: And yet there still seems to be quite a bit of activity and controversy here on the UCLA campus itself. Occasionally you'll read in the [*Daily*] *Bruin* that there are complaints being made by disabled students, even today.

MARTIN: That's right. It's interesting, though, that the

nature of the complaints is far different from what it used to be. It used to be that the issues before us--and that I was directly involved in--had to do with the built environment, just not being able to get into many places and to participate in the things that went on inside those places. Presently, as things have evolved, other kinds of issues have arisen, regarding services, largely, more than architecture. Also access to technology. These are the new, emergent issues, some of which are not specifically covered or are only covered in a way that is still open to interpretation. There's an expectation, I think, that services are going to be much, much better than they were ten years ago, twenty years ago; the level of expectation is pretty high, even beyond anything that's mandated, but individuals are feeling that they have a right to a considerable level of service that wasn't even considered or conceived of, even a few years ago.

The whole explosion in technology and distance learning raises all kinds of questions about what is going to be the nature of the university in the very short future, very near-term future, regarding distance learning. Does a person have to or need to actually be present in person? If they have a significant disability can they, are they entitled, in fact, to having everything [available] to them via the Internet or by E-mail? Can they attend class and never actually be

in personal contact with any class member?

BAYLES-YEAGER: Is this one of the issues that the students on campus now are petitioning for? Are they active in getting--?

MARTIN: There have been occasional requests. You know, it's a really murky area in terms of what is a requirement. There are requirements for reasonable modifications in policies or programs, but there is no requirement for a modification that would fundamentally alter the nature of the program that's involved. And if one, as is generally the case, believes that the course of instruction here at the university is part and parcel-- That personal participation and attendance is part and parcel of what that program is and not to have that would be a fundamental alteration--

BAYLES-YEAGER: But this almost sounds like a throwback to when you were having a monitor taken from class to class so you could participate long-distance in--

MARTIN: That's right, that's right.

BAYLES-YEAGER: And this was back when you were a high school student.

MARTIN: So we don't have any laws that require that, still. What we do have though is--

BAYLES-YEAGER: It was very helpful to you.

MARTIN: --nondiscrimination in selection and accommodations when you're on campus, but there's still-- The university's

role of teaching has yet to expand, I think, the concept to-- But it's being pushed in this direction by technology, now, so that there are going to be many cases, I think, where this is going to be a request in the future. I'm sure there will be litigation and there will be case law, which now really doesn't exist.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Even for able-bodied students, who have problems getting to campus because of the Los Angeles freeway system--

MARTIN: There are all kinds of--

BAYLES-YEAGER: --saying that there are many undergraduate classes that you really don't need to be present in person to take, but I'm sure--

MARTIN: I'm not sure if there aren't even graduate students that would say the same thing, but--

BAYLES-YEAGER: --the regents, I'm sure, don't look on this favorably. Are they--?

MARTIN: Right, that's right. So this was certainly an issue before, and it still is, although it's now taken a-- In those days, the two-way voice amplifier, the telephone kind of speakerphone hookup, was rudimentary by today's standards. So now you can really get huge volumes of information. I would think it will be possible to do this stuff on the Internet live, with TV cameras in every room and all this stuff. It

will evolve to that. Then the question's going to be: Is participation on campus, not just for persons with disabilities but for everybody--? To what extent is that no longer part of a scholarly community? But that's still a strongly held belief that it should be required and it's part of the fundamental--

BAYLES-YEAGER: It's part of tradition.

MARTIN: Yes, it's very traditional. So there's some conflict between the traditions of academia and technology, those traditions which are generally centralized in a place, a campus, a university, and technology, which is decentralizing and dispersing.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Well, we were talking about the affirmative action issue and I was just wondering-- I know there has been so much controversy lately about affirmative action with some of the recent revisions in the law, and I noticed that the regents have been trying to balance that out with a concerted effort to do outreach to different high school populations that might otherwise be not really aware of their chances to come to UCLA or not understand what's needed. Do you know of any outreach program like that, that has been for disabled--?

MARTIN: Well, our Office for Students with Disabilities [OSD] does some outreach, but not specifically at the behest of an act of the regents, or something of that formal a nature,

like other underrepresented groups are having.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So the regents don't consider the disabled to be a minority population?

MARTIN: No-- Well, in terms of Proposition 209 that has not been the case, because the proposition did not specifically include people with disabilities in the first place. One of the reasons is that there were never affirmative action laws for admission or requirements for people with disabilities. So nothing has been taken away by 209, because there was nothing for people with disabilities in that category to start with, in the same way as some of the other groups. So in a kind of backhanded manner nothing was lost, because there was nothing. So people with disabilities never had some of the things that--

BAYLES-YEAGER: But we've often remarked how close these movements are to the civil rights movements in racial matters. I thought if they're going to start setting up programs where they're trying to use university resources to reach underrepresented minority groups, that certainly does apply to disabled high school students.

MARTIN: Except that disabled individuals have not been defined as an underrepresented group that way. But our Office for Students with Disabilities has, for a number of years now, been doing outreach efforts to high schools and participating

in events that bring high school students here to the campus. Actually, the numbers of disabled students that have indicated their intent to enroll hasn't changed markedly, as have other groups, and I would think probably that's because there were no provisions previously.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Well, we haven't really talked too much about the Office for Students with Disabilities. How is that connected to your own office?

MARTIN: Well, they're a service provider for students with disabilities. They're mandated by state and federal law to provide a variety of services like notetakers and interpreters for the deaf and all kinds of other arrangements to allow people--

BAYLES-YEAGER: Does it work in coordination with your office? Is your office in control of their office or--?

MARTIN: No, we're completely separate.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So you're separate entities.

MARTIN: We're completely separate entities. They're service providers. What we do is, if there is an issue that a student believes they're not getting an appropriate level of service or they've been denied a service in violation of the ADA or Section 504 [of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973], they may file a complaint with our office. So insofar as there is any issue alleging violation of the requirements, we get

involved.

BAYLES-YEAGER: So you have to be separate from their office, because you might sometime sit in judgment.

MARTIN: Right, that's right. We do, in fact, have issues and we facilitate their solution.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Have there been any issues recently, that you can think of, that pertain to the level of service here on campus?

MARTIN: Oh, there have been a number. Some of them have involved some of the-- One of the things I mentioned was the evolving nature of the issues and how it used to be built environment that was the major issue. I think to some extent that has diminished, as we have been doing an extraordinary amount of work here, unprecedented among other major institutions, so that's a very happy circumstance. I'm glad to say that that is fading as an issue. But the strongly voiced concerns now seem to be regarding things like level of service, and not just level of service in terms of what's minimally required, but an expectation of some very high level of service, above and beyond anything.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Can you give us an example?

MARTIN: Well, yeah, for example, we have a Disabilities and Computing Program which, again, was an outgrowth of a lot of our advocacy efforts here, ten years ago now. It's been

around ten years. It provides adaptive equipment, because we thought, even then, access to the new, emergent technologies, access to computing, was going to be critical. It provides equipment to learning-disabled students to do their work. They have spellcheck and other things. Blind students, because they can voice what's on the screen-- Quadriplegics, because they can use things like drag and dictate and talk into a microphone and have that go on the screen, instead of having to type it in-- All these things are enormous improvements and critical. That has been around and
been functioning for ten years, but as it has gone along--

The first issue was, let's get some computers that are available that are adapted or can be adapted. Or we can help people adapt their own computers at home, but there will be somebody knowledgeable. Now, it's becoming not only, "Adapt that equipment," but "bring it to my house and set it up and train me on how to use it. And by the way, I just read something somewhere where there's a new bit of software that's the latest, and you don't have that right now? But I can't do my work as well as if I had it. And by the way, you know, my computer isn't the fastest one, and now I want--" So there are questions about--

BAYLES-YEAGER: And technology is changing so rapidly that--

MARTIN: Technology is such a moving target. Individuals with

various kinds of impairments need this equipment and even need the very best that there is to do some of those things for the first time. But they also want a level of service, as I say, almost custom, personalized service, where they don't want to come to campus anymore--

You know, in the past, it was expected and it was practiced that individuals had to, one, make themselves known and come to offices like OSD to get services, or to arrange for the services, at least. Now it seems to be more a matter of, "I couldn't come in today, could somebody bring this to where I live?" or "The hookup between my home and here isn't right, and I need somebody to come out." Well, at present anyway, that is an area where that's evolving, the interface.

BAYLES-YEAGER: And this is extremely expensive, you should say, too. Some of this technology is very--

MARTIN: High technology stuff is very-- And it changes so fast that it's obsolete--

BAYLES-YEAGER: Now the people who are running OSD, do you feel that they're doing the best they can under the present circumstances?

MARTIN: You know, the OSD has gone through major changes in the past where it became-- Veterans affairs was taken out of that and it became strictly focused on disabled students. Then there were some state laws that added mandates about what they needed to do. Actually OSD is one of the larger programs in the UC system. It serves just under a thousand disabled students annually and is doing, probably, more than just about any other campus around, including the state universities.

It's not that they're short of resources. It's oftentimes an issue or debate about individuals now saying not so much, "I can't get into my classroom," but rather, "I want only interpreters that know American sign language. I don't want any interpreter that was trained with a background in signed English." Very, very specific requests that are not required, that there's no precedent for. There may be suggestions that there's a lack of interest on the part of staff fielding some of these requests that are largely-- In some cases there just isn't much basis to them.

BAYLES-YEAGER: And others feeling that there's a lack of gratitude for what is there after all of the work that has been done. I think that could also lead into the issue we've talked about before, of the backlash. Every movement that has had victories is going to have some kind of backlash and we've talked before about the disabled backlash.

MARTIN: If I might just mention one other thing. There have been a couple of areas that have really evolved a lot. One is the technology area and now the expectation, a very high level of expectation, about, "Why didn't you tell me that there was some new piece of equipment or software?" Even though it's out and it's so new that we don't even have it.

But the other issue is that there has been a huge increase in the number of individuals identified as learning disabled, so we're serving them. We have now, in OSD, a specialist that deals just with learning disabilities. We also have a specialist in OSD that deals just with individuals who are deaf, or hard-of-hearing, and knows all the technologies and all the sign language interpreter services. But we have seen cases where these individuals have questioned or suggested that they were getting an inappropriate level of service or being denied services. In those instances, as I say, where someone

requests American sign language only, those are very specific

personal preferences. Those are not rights. You know, I think there's a difference.

Then, of course, there is a sense, I suppose, of people who have been around in service provision for ten years saying, "Gee, you know ten years ago--"

BAYLES-YEAGER: They would have been glad to get any kind of interpreter.

MARTIN: Ten years ago, there were no interpreters. So there's a lot on the other hand, so it's evolved.

Then there's the learning-disabled persons, many, many of them now being served. We have our own specialist and that's great. One of the big problems comes in that sometimes individuals don't know they're learning disabled until they reach the end of high school, or they find out in college. Once they're diagnosed--they're not doing well and they're diagnosed and they discover they have a learning disability--then the issue becomes-- For those that find this out in high school, it's senior year and they have a grade point average of 3.0, or 2.0 whatever, the issue becomes "I want to go to UCLA. I discovered that I was learning disabled the beginning of my senior year. Since I've been getting accommodated tests, I've been getting A's. My senior year is 4.0, but before that it was 2.0. I want to just be judged on the last year of my high school. UCLA, when

you decide to accept me, look at my 4.0 and realize that I didn't know I was learning disabled and I couldn't have performed any-- I could have done a lot better." The question that arises is, how do you evaluate individuals who discover they're learning disabled before they're admitted? Or, in fact, they're in a professional school, like law school, and discover they have a learning disability during the time they're there. They haven't done that well before--

BAYLES-YEAGER: And there is always the potential for abuse in a system like this. We know in recent times there has been a lot of abuse of the system--people claiming to be disabled who really weren't--and this contributes to a lot of the backlash issues.

MARTIN: There's a sense that some people are using accommodated testing to get better scores, even when they're questionably disabled; learning disabled, in particular, has been a focus now. Then, of course, there's the whole issue of environmental illnesses--multiple chemical sensitivity--which has emerged in the last few years and how to accommodate individuals that believe that they have these conditions. The scientific opinion is divided on whether or not these are legitimate

conditions, or are they forms of some sort of hysteria? They may be a psychological disability instead of a physiological, but it's still not clear what-- Something is happening with some people and it's not clear what it is.

BAYLES-YEAGER: With so much debate in the medical community about what is and is not a disability, it's no wonder the average person on the street is confused and sometimes a little annoyed at some of the accommodations that are made that they don't feel are really legitimate. Have you experienced any of this firsthand?

MARTIN: Well, a request from a student to stop the use of all chemicals on campus is met with some consternation among those whose job it is to control vermin and abate noxious weeds and do a variety of things--fumigate, you know, control mold and other things of that nature--many of which require chemicals. Even the use of cleaning agents in facilities is often suggested to be offending, causing problems with the person's-- They have reactions to these things. So yeah, it's a real issue and it's not clear yet.

The ADA, there haven't been many-- Because the ADA is relatively new the case law is not there to clarify it for us. But we assume without finding that individuals who contend that they have these reactions do, and we attempt to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, procedures.

We have not been able to cease the use of all chemicals. That's a fairly wide range of things. It's not just pesticides, you might think, but it's even common things like perfumes that individuals may want to wear to class, and their colleagues sitting next to them who have these conditions are made ill. We can't require individuals not to use perfumes and other scented or unscented chemicals on themselves. Hair spray--

BAYLES-YEAGER: But are we going to start designating all these things as being disabilities, some of these allergies, and--?

MARTIN: Well, I think some of these cases are ripe for judicial review.

BAYLES-YEAGER: This is going to be a big problem in the future.

MARTIN: It's a real open question. That's where, again, I think the backlash is also given more fuel. There's a perception--rightly or wrongly--that some individuals have these imagined conditions or are overreacting or whatever, and are claiming to be disabled when in fact they're maybe not disabled within the meaning of that.

But you know, interestingly enough, the ADA-- Our effort under 504, to start with, and then the ADA, was to be an inclusive civil rights act. You don't really have civil rights acts that aren't inclusive of the category of-- To protect the individual. You want to draw them in such a manner as to

be as broad as possible. So there was never a list of disabilities developed, because it wouldn't be flexible enough. For example, AIDS was not known when 504 was promulgated.

BAYLES-YEAGER: That's true and many medical issues have come up just recently, because people are living longer with disabilities like the post-polio syndrome.

MARTIN: Right. So we needed to have a very expansive definition and a flexible definition of disability in the law, and that is a substantial limitation in a major life activity, to put it very briefly.

Then you get into the discussion of what is substantial. What is a substantial limitation versus nonsubstantial limitation? Does a person who has a reaction to perfume count as a disabled person? Is an obese person disabled? That was never entirely clarified. It appears that, at least through the EEOC--the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission--there are grounds to believe that morbidly obese individuals are, or could be considered, disabled. But if they're not morbidly obese, they're probably not. Is pregnancy a disability? There are many issues.

BAYLES-YEAGER: There's going to be a lot of argument about these for years to come, but--

MARTIN: Well, I think, as I say, they're ripe for judicial review. Of course, in our lawmaking process, in our

policymaking process, the ADA is not somehow the whipping boy that people make it out to be, because with just about every major piece of civil rights legislation, there have had to be years of clarifying, litigation, court rulings, Supreme Court decisions, agency rulings that eventually work out and explain and draw lines that are not in the law. Not possible to draw in the law even. BAYLES-YEAGER: We were discussing AIDS as being something new that came up that would be classified under ADA and also--

MARTIN: And it took some Supreme Court decisions and other court decisions to make it clearer. Even now, there's a major case before the Supreme Court, that will be heard this year, about whether or not somebody without symptoms of AIDS--that is, HIV positive but asymptomatic--is disabled. If you aren't symptomatic, do you have a substantial limitation in a major life activity? And then the issue becomes, is reproduction a major life activity?

BAYLES-YEAGER: And there's also the issue of people like yourself who are living longer with polio, who are experiencing post-polio syndrome and might possibly need other things in the future.

MARTIN: Yeah, there are those. You know, there is no such thing as a--

BAYLES-YEAGER: A static disability?

MARTIN: Right, or a protection in law against double jeopardy. When it comes to disability, you can have one impairment in one part of your life and you can gain another, or more than one more, so-- These things are also--

BAYLES-YEAGER: And people who do live longer with ALS [amyotrophic lateral sclerosis], multiple sclerosis, and polio do usually need more help.

MARTIN: That's right.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Have you noticed any problems yourself?

MARTIN: Well, yes. I find that my stamina isn't what it was. Fortunately though, again, there seems to be a thread in this-- My experience has been that technology has been evolving at a pace that every time I've needed some additional assistance, it's usually been technological. It has allowed me to continue to be active, productive. It used to be that, you know, my old power chair got me around slowly, with difficulty, around the campus. Now I can, with the new chair, go much quicker and go up and down hills that I couldn't before. So I can get places much more directly than I used to. BAYLES-YEAGER: In these last few moments, let's just take a look at where you are, personally, right now.

MARTIN: Well, I guess on the one hand I'm very pleased to have been involved in what was a whole new movement and the expansion of our conception of humanity--to quote Justin

Dart--that we've altered people's conceptions of people with disabilities and that they are, indeed, a part of-- Disability is a natural part of the life cycle. As a society, we're beginning to recognize that it can be taken into account and it doesn't mean that having a disability is a tragedy, but being excluded is. So that's really good. Enlarging our conception of humanity has been great.

BAYLES-YEAGER: And this whole fight has pretty much been your life.

MARTIN: Yes, it has.

BAYLES-YEAGER: You're not married, are you?

MARTIN: No. You know, the movement is a harsh taskmaster and often I have promised myself more time for other matters. So I guess I find myself at a crossroads with the movement as well, that I'm pulled in the direction of wanting to do some of the things I promised myself that I would do personally. I'm reminded by the passing of so many good friends and colleagues that, you know, carpe diem is not a bad philosophy, either.

BAYLES-YEAGER: This hopefully, then, gives you some ideas for the next fifty years of your life.

MARTIN: Well, I'm certainly still going to be involved with the reform of Social Security as long as possible, because once I've taken it on, I can't let it go. The implementation

of the ADA is the most gratifying thing that I've been able to-- I'm really glad to be able to do it here at UCLA, where I know a lot of the problems firsthand. I get an awful lot of gratification out of solving some of the problems. But I think the movement itself has to redefine itself. And I'm concerned about the backlash, and--

BAYLES-YEAGER: Because there have been hate crimes against the disabled on the street and--

MARTIN: Yeah. There are. I would say that one of the issues we've got to deal with is getting some hate crime legislation. That's one of the-- Also some major requirements for access to technology. Access to technology is more important than access to buildings for the future. And some protection against hate crimes and the backlash.

But ultimately, it's going to take a lot of work to make sure that what we got in the ADA is, one, implemented and, two, isn't rolled back. There are hate crimes and then there are also just trends in society that want to cut back on a whole lot of things. That movement concerns me of, "We don't want the government involved in anything, and we don't want regulations and requirements. Shrink everything, and don't require anything of anybody." Then, we're back to where we were thirty years ago.

BAYLES-YEAGER: Well, to quote the editorial I mentioned at

the beginning of this session, "Nobody said it would be easy," but you sound like you still have a lot of work to do.

MARTIN: I do, but I have an ultimate optimism that once this was begun it can't be turned back. Movements progress sporadically. They move forward, then there's a period of reconsolidation or reappraisement or even sometimes retrograde--and then another jump forward. But I think it's forward movement ultimately.

BAYLES-YEAGER: I think optimism is a good place to end the interview. I want to thank you very much, Dr. Martin, for the chance to talk to you on these issues.

MARTIN: Thank you. It's been a pleasure.

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