

William Jefferson Clinton History Project

Interview with

Paul Leopoulos
Little Rock, Arkansas
11 June 2002
Session II

Interviewer: Michael Pierce

Michael Pierce: This is Michael Pierce. I'm here with Paul Leopoulos for our second session in the Clinton History Project. Our first session was April 3, 2002, and this session is on June 11, 2002. We're here in Little Rock. In the first session, we went up through your days in the army in Italy and Bill Clinton's days at Oxford [University]. We were just beginning to talk about the Vietnam War.

Paul Leopoulos: Okay.

MP: Did you and Bill Clinton talk about the war and the draft?

PL: I remember about talking about the war. I had been in ROTC in college, and of course was in that so I didn't get drafted. Everyone was avoiding the draft as much as they could in the way that they could. No one agreed with the war, and stuff like that. President Clinton and I—in summers and holidays when we got together during those years, we discussed. It wasn't a major conversation. We were against it. I was in the army when I got out of college and served a couple of years, but never went to Vietnam. I had orders to go twice, but it just didn't work out that I went. I would have gone if I'd had to. We discussed it and as

most of our conversations always went, he would philosophize from his point of view. Then, I would agree or disagree or argue or whatever. I remember being on the same wave length with him. We thought it was a political war and they weren't trying to win it.

MP: I think I read somewhere that one of your good friends from high school served in Vietnam.

PL: Oh, several. Several were killed. One guy named Mike Thomas; and there was another guy, I can't remember his name. In fact, when Bill was president, he went to the wall and traced their names. Burt Jeffries was the other guy. I can't believe I remembered that. They were good friends of ours, and it was sad, very sad.

MP: When you visited Clinton at Oxford—one of the things I've read is that when he was at Oxford there was this transformation of his appearance. You're laughing. Do you remember this?

PL: Yes, it was really funny. I went up there for a very sad reason. My mom had been killed, and it was a crime, so I wasn't in a very good mental state.

MP: That was in Hot Springs?

PL: Yes. It was in Hot Springs. He was concerned about me. The night she was killed, I was at work at this big computer site that handled messages for the army. Anyway, the first phone call I received after my dad called me was Bill. It was amazing how he found that phone number—I'll never know how he found it—but it was a couple of months later, and I wasn't doing too well mentally. My dad wasn't doing too well, and I was over here in Italy and he was back in the United

States. Bill invited me to come to Oxford, just to get away, take some leave, get out of there and relax. I took a train to Oxford, and there he was. I didn't recognize him because he had a full beard and his hair was long. It was funny.

MP: After Oxford, he went to Yale to law school. Did you have much contact with him while he was at Yale?

PL: Just through letters. Where was I? I'd gotten out of the army and went back to school back in Arkansas. He was busy up there doing that. We corresponded a lot. Like everyone else in the world, I didn't save any of the [laughs] correspondence. I really knew he'd be something great someday, but I'm not the kind of person to look ahead and contemplate all this stuff. We communicated through letters. I got married during that time, and he came down for my wedding.

MP: Tell us a little about your wife, where you met her and so on.

PL: Actually, I got transferred from Italy to Pine Bluff arsenal to be near my dad, because one of the rules of the army is that if you have a tragedy in your family like he had, one of the sons—My brother was not in the army, but I was allowed to be transferred down. I can't remember what it was called, but it was a reason that you could transfer near your parent. I was transferred to Pine Bluff. That's where I met Linda, my wife. We've been married thirty years this year. She was working for someone there, and I was working for someone there, and we met each other. Actually, I didn't date her until after I got out of the service. It was a great time in my life.

MP: What was her maiden name?

PL: Linda Hankins. It's funny, because the president would call the arsenal. He called me David because that's how I grew up. That's my middle name. But Linda and everyone else called me Paul because in the army they put your first name and last name on your uniform, and I couldn't get them to call me David. It got really confusing, because my old friends who called the arsenal would call me David. Bill would call, and the operator would say, "We don't have a David Leopoulos here." He'd say, "How many Leopouloses could you have?" We finally got all that worked out. We got married. I didn't know he could have been my best man. I would have, but he was 2,000 miles away up there. So, I just didn't bother him. We got married on December 27.

MP: What year?

PL: 1971, I think. We weren't expecting him at the wedding, and there he was at the back of the room. It was nice to have him there.

MP: Do you remember talking to him at your wedding?

PL: Oh, yes. He'd always wondered the kind of person I'd marry, and I always wondered the kind of person he'd marry, and we had a nice conversation. It was kind of hectic. He brought a friend with him. I can't remember who it was, but I think it was someone from the east who had come home with him for Christmas.

MP: Was it male or female?

PL: It was a male. Short, skinny guy and I can't remember who it was. He came to the reception afterwards. We didn't see each other much during those years. He was pretty busy with law school and all that.

MP: When was the first time you met Hillary Rodham?

PL: That's kind of a neat story. Really, it was after he got married. He knew I didn't have any money and was in Florida, so he didn't invite me. Well, he invited me, but he knew I didn't have any money to come up there. I went home for Christmas, and it was the year they moved to Fayetteville to teach law and all that. First thing I did when we hit Arkansas and said "hi" to my parents, was to get in the car and drive to Fayetteville. I hadn't seen him in a long time, probably a year or two. I walked into that little, teeny house that they had. I knocked on the door, and Hillary answered. I don't know, it was funny because I could just never imagine Bill Clinton being married. Well, I could imagine it, but who I could just not . . . I walked in the door. I found out she was a lawyer as he was. I was selling to lawyers in Florida. This product I was selling to lawyers were word processors. I was not fond of lawyers at the time. I was just getting into sales. They treated me terribly, I didn't know how to sell, and I was frustrated, so I was mad at lawyers at the time. I walked in the door, and I said, "I know you're both lawyers at this point and I don't like lawyers right now, so you tell me what you're going to do with your law degree." Hillary said, and she was very serious—Well, she laughed about my attitude toward lawyers. She said, "I want to work for women's rights. I want to work for abused spouses and children." It was amazing, because as I watched her as first lady, that's exactly what she did. She raised money for the Dorcas House here. She represented and worked, and has as long as I've known her, for those issues. It was really neat, because we sat and talked and reminisced. Bill and I told all this crazy stuff we'd done as kids,

and she shared a little bit with us. She was very friendly. It was a wonderful experience.

MP: Much has been made of the fact that Virginia Clinton wrote that Hillary was not what she expected. Do you know what Virginia meant?

PL: I think so. I think Virginia probably expected a really nice—and this has nothing to do with Hillary not being nice—but a really nice beauty queen kind of person who is more, or less serious [laughs] about politics and those things. More serious about probably—and I'm not saying this against Hillary, who is a wonderful mother, they've raised a wonderful child—but probably more like . . .

MP: A traditional one?

PL: Absolutely. Thank you. More traditional. It's not that Virginia was that traditional—everyone knows that. She was ahead of her time in the way she lived her life and things. I think Bill wasn't real serious about girls, as far as getting married, for a long time. He dated nice girls who were more traditional.

MP: I once read somewhere that Hillary and Virginia both came to realize that they were very similar in ways. Do you think that's the case?

PL: I didn't read that and I don't know that for a fact, but I can imagine that. Virginia had her way of doing things. What a wonderful lady! She was like my second mom. And, Hillary has her way of doing things and they're both, I think, very strong-willed. A lot of women are, I think. [Laughter] I imagine there were similarities there. I think that the fact that they were so similar—if they had friction—was because of that.

MP: When did you come back to Arkansas?

PL: I got out of the army, went back to school and got a degree in Speech Pathology. I worked in that a year. My ultimate goal was to get a master's in Counseling. My grades were so bad that I had to go back and get that degree in Speech Pathology to show Henderson that I could make good grades. Then they let me in grad school and I got my master's. So, I was here right after the army and got a couple more degrees, then I left and went to Florida and practiced counseling at a community college down there. Then we moved back after about four years. We just missed Arkansas. I gave up quite a huge business opportunity down there, but I don't look back. We love it here.

MP: When you came back, was President Clinton already involved in politics?

PL: Yes, he was. I believe he was attorney general, or he might have been governor. I visited one year when he was attorney general, and that was my first time to see him as an elected official. That was interesting. I came home, went up to the capitol and found his office. He was attorney general for sure. I walked in and he was on the phone. His face was all red and the veins were sticking out on his neck. I knew he was mad about something. Sure enough, he was talking to one of the big—it had to be AT&T. It had to be, because they weren't broken up yet. They wanted to raise the rates on the pay phones to a quarter from a dime. He didn't want them to. I remember this as clear as a bell. He said, "You all make enough profit. The people who use these pay phones are typically people who don't have a car and who need to call a cab, and you're going to almost triple their rates!" That was my Bill. That's who he was. That's who he is today. He cares

about the person who needs help. Anyway, I came home for that. When we moved home, I believe he was governor. That was 1974 or 1975 or something.

MP: Or later. He was elected governor in 1978.

PL: Oh, 1978. Okay. Then he must have been attorney general still.

MP: Do you remember the birth of Chelsea?

PL: I do. I wasn't that involved, although we went to see her and all that. But, they were busy parents and I left them alone.

MP: You moved back when he was attorney general, and was then elected governor. Did you play any role in his campaign?

PL: No. You know, I never helped in one of the campaigns until the Frank White campaign. I knew he didn't need any help. Of course, he lost that first one, but once he got going, it was pretty much slam dunk. I'm not some big political expert, but I'm a guy living out there in the economy and I listen to people talk. People were believing the lies that Frank White and others were talking about Bill. Bill asked me one day, "Do you think people believe this stuff?" I said, "Absolutely they believe it. You need to fight back." But, of course, that wasn't Bill Clinton at the time. He never would fight back.

MP: This was the first campaign against Frank White?

PL: Yes. The one that he lost. I didn't know he was going to lose. But, I knew that people were listening to them saying all these things about Bill. You know, blaming the Cubans on him and the car tag thing and everything else. He wouldn't answer those, and so he lost. Plus, I think the people—and this is well documented—felt he was a lawyer, and he and his administration were a little

arrogant, and a bunch of people from out of state, and they didn't like that. I think the people of Arkansas taught him a lesson.

MP: Did you talk to him after his defeat?

PL: Yes. In fact, I went up to the governor's office to see him the day after, and he wasn't there. He was still at the governor's mansion. I went into his office and sat at his desk and called him from his desk! He said, "Hey!" I was sadder than he was. I mean, I know that he was upset, but I think he was upset at himself and not at anyone else. Yet, he bolstered me that day. He said, "Don't worry about it. We're going to be fine. Everything's fine." I'll never forget that. I'm thinking, "What?" I'm sitting in the doldrums and everything else.

MP: Did he know he was going to run again?

PL: He didn't say it, but oh, please! Oh, yes. His destiny from the time he was born, was to be president of the United States. That wasn't him saying that, that's Paul David Leopoulos saying that. When you've known him as long as I have, you know greatness when you see it and you know character when you see it. He was supposed to be president. He just was.

MP: In the two years when Frank White was governor, what did Bill Clinton do?

PL: [Laughs]. Well, he practiced law for the Wright, Lindsay, James law firm. He was appalled with what they were charging. One day he got in the car to go to lunch and he said, "Do you know that they charge \$200 for my time? Doesn't that sound like a lot of money?" He's so humble, you know. He was sort of a fish out of water.

MP: One of the things that has been suggested is that President Clinton has always been oblivious to his work, in the sense of how much money he could make . . .

PL: Oh, yes.

MP: . . . and that that was Hillary's responsibility.

PL: Oh, I'm sure of that. He does not value money. It does not drive him. That's why he was such a great president. That's why he could vote on both sides of an issue. That's why, when he became president, he wasn't a multi-billionaire after having been in politics for so long. A lot of politicians, after they've been in politics for so long, are real rich. I wonder how they get that way? Bill wasn't. The only money they had was what she earned in the law firm, and I know it was a couple hundred thousand. It seems to me that someone said their net worth was about \$200,000. How many other people who become president of the United States are not millionaires? No, he doesn't place much value on money. I love that about him because he cares about people and what happens in the world.

MP: These two years, you saw him regularly?

PL: Oh, yes. We had lunch all the time. You know, it's funny. We didn't go out to shows or out to eat all the time, but we'd usually have lunch, or parties at holidays. That kind of thing. We spent a lot of time doing that.

MP: Is your oldest son the same age as Chelsea?

PL: I think he's one year ahead of her. He's twenty-three, and I think she's twenty-two now.

MP: I just see all this jet setting she's doing.

PL: Oh my gosh. They never became good friends. We went over to the mansion and they played together when they were younger, but they went to different schools until junior high. Then, they both went to Horace Mann, which was a magnet public school. We just weren't together all the time so they'd become good friends.

MP: But they knew each other?

PL: Yes.

MP: David Marina has suggested that at this time, President Clinton was contemplating divorcing Hillary?

PL: I never really had a sense of that. No. I'd go up to the house now and then. He'd be on the floor with Chelsea playing. She was this long-haired, cute little thing. One day, we were sitting up there playing on the floor in the living room, and he said, "You know, I've got to get a new watch." I said, "What do you mean?" He said, "It's not working any more." I said, "Why don't you just put a new battery in it." He said, "Oh!" Anyhow, no, I never got a sense of that. I just didn't. I don't know who said that in his book but I guess someone must have.

MP: Was that the house up in the Heights?

PL: It was this nice house way up this hill at the very top edge of the Heights. I knew it was temporary for him. He was going to back in the governor's mansion. It was real obvious. I mean, I did not get a sense of that.

MP: Did you help out in the 1982 campaign?

PL: I did. I campaigned a little bit in Maumelle, where I lived. But Maumelle's [unintelligible] was Republican, and I just got beat up in every house I went to. But, I had fun doing it.

MP: Did you go door to door?

PL: Oh, yes. I didn't work real, real, real hard, because I just knew that he was going to win this time. But, I did go out and help. When I really, really got involved was in New Hampshire in 1991. I never really worked hard on a campaign until I drove to New Hampshire that weekend and stayed a week. They didn't ask me to go, I just went. I was so mad.

MP: Were you an official Arkansas Traveler, or did you just show up?

PL: No. I was just David Leopoulos. I went to headquarters one day, and I told them I was going to New Hampshire. They said, "Are you sure you want to do that?" Because they were just breaking this Gennifer thing, you know.

MP: Who did you talk to?

PL: I told, oh my gosh, who was running the campaign? David . . .

MP: Stephanopoulos?

PL: No, I did tell George about it.

MP: Oh, George. Right.

PL: Another guy. David somebody who ran the campaign initially.

MP: Oh. Wilhelm.

PL: Wilhelm. They didn't know if I had the ability to talk intelligently, I guess, to a reporter on the radio or television, or whatever. I think they actually tried to discourage me from going up there. It was when the Republicans, you know,

marched Gennifer out. I knew that his friends needed to be there, if not for the campaign, then for him. My wife and I were so mad when we watched TV, and upset about the way they were sabotaging him. My wife said, “Take money out of savings and just go.” So I told the guy I was working for that I was taking a week off, and I just drove up there.

MP: Was anyone else up there from Arkansas?

PL: That’s the magical story. I got there, and it was snowing like crazy. It was just beautiful. I didn’t know anyone, and no one knew me. I checked into a little Super Eight motel where I heard people from the campaign were staying. I didn’t know anyone. There was this event in Nashua, New Hampshire, that was supposed to go on that night, and he was supposed to be there. I drove over there to this little high school gym. All the news on TV was, “Clinton is dead.” “He’ll never come back.” “He was thirty points up, now he’s thirty points down.” All this stuff. I got to that little high school, and it was packed with people. I was thinking, “He doesn’t have a chance?” I looked up on these risers on this stage, and there were about 100 or 150 people who I knew from Little Rock and Hot Springs. I couldn’t believe it. Now, some of them were Arkansas Travelers, a good many of those. But the others just dropped what they were doing and drove to New Hampshire.

MP: You knew some of them?

PL: Oh, yes. [unintelligible] and her husband Bob. Byrd, the lawyer—I’ve gone blank. Alan Byrd. Hedda Cryner. A bunch of people.

MP: The usual suspects?

PL: The usual suspects. I had a bunch of pictures from our parties in Little Rock and I made these little handouts to show him as a middle class, regular guy. It's him and Hillary and us, and so on and so forth. These people in New Hampshire could not believe it. When we came walking up, they'd say, "Where are you from?" I'd say, "From Arkansas." "What?" "Yes. It's because I've grown up with this guy from the time I was eight years old, I love him and they're trying to destroy him. They don't want you to know who he really is." Boy, people just—that resonated. We went to shopping centers. I did radio all over the place. I did radio up in Boston. I did TV all over the place. I had a ball. Of course, what was really magical was the night they asked me to speak to the campaign headquarters because they were real demoralized with these headlines and all this stuff. They didn't even know him. He hadn't even been up there, I don't think, to get to know the campaign staff. They asked me to speak about him. They called everyone in. A lot of them were getting ready to leave the campaign, and all these things. I got up and started talking about us as kids, and all the stuff we did. Then, us growing up, and that he's always been the first person there when I needed him. You know, when my mom was killed and this and that. Just how loyal he is to a friend, doesn't expect anything in return, how forgiving he is to people who go after him and all these things. Everyone ended up crying. They were mesmerized by the humanity of this man. They got so energized, they went out and went nuts campaigning for him. They could see, "Well, wait a minute. What's the truth here? He's a scummy old guy or he's a guy who keeps his friends for thirty or forty years whether they can give him money or a job or

anything else. He's just a loyal person." That was a magical moment for me to be able to help him there.

MP: Did you talk to him much up in New Hampshire?

PL: I called him, because he hadn't been up there yet. I said, "What the hell? Why aren't you up here to get to know these people? They don't know you. I had to tell them who you were!" "I'm coming, I'm coming. I'll be up there, I'll be up there." I let him have it. That night, he called me. No, the night that he and Hillary taped and they played the "60 Minutes" . . .

MP: After the Super Bowl.

PL: Yes. That was the same week I was there. I got a call and it was him. He said, "Do you want to come over?" I said, "Sure." I went over to where he was staying and we spent several hours talking, asking my advice on a lot of stuff. One thing was, "Should I take the secret service protection?" I said, "Of course you should take the secret service protection! You have to think about that? You've got people out here now trying to make you look like an awful person. You're going to need that. Never mind when you're more popular." Then we talked about a lot of things. It was wonderful.

MP: Did you talk about Gennifer Flowers?

PL: I did not say, "Did you do it?" and all that stuff. I just don't feel that it was my place to do that. At the time, I didn't believe that he had done it, and I still don't believe he did anything with Gennifer Flowers. It's obvious he and Monica had something going there. I knew who he was as a person, I knew all of the people he'd helped all of his life. I had years of history to go on. So, I'm sorry, a

friendship is a friendship. Now, if I thought he did something illegal — Now, that's immoral, obviously. I don't want that either, and I was not very proud of him when he admitted his episode with Monica. But, I just didn't believe that and still don't believe that about Gennifer. That was Sheffield Nelson and all those people doing those things. I wanted to be his friend.

MP: I read somewhere that you did over 100 interviews during that 1992 campaign.

PL: Oh, I did more than that. Probably, it seemed like I did two or three a day for a month or so. I'd meet people at the Mexican [laughs] place. See, the way I could get free lunch—those who say, “There's no such thing as a free lunch” are wrong. When you're doing interviews, you can get a free lunch. [Laughter] No, I did several hundred. Then, when I went to the Democratic National Convention in New York, my gosh! It was nonstop for those four days.

MP: What did you learn about the press?

PL: Well, I'm still very disgusted. I learned that they really don't care about the “truth” truth. They care about a story, and if that story happens to be something really saucy, they'll print it in a second, whether it's right or wrong. But when there's something to balance it, they don't want to hear that. They really don't. I did a two hour interview over the phone with *Time* magazine, the big *Time* magazine now. I was thinking, “Man! I'm going to be able to get something in *Time* to really show his character from the perspective of a friend who's known him all these years.” I got through talking with this lady, and she literally was in tears, hearing all this stuff about the truth about Bill Clinton. She was so touched. I said, “Can you print that?” She said, “Well, I don't think my editor is going to

consider this news.” I said, “Why have we talked for two hours? You’re going to print all this stuff about Gennifer that someone else said that someone else said—all this innuendo—but a person who grew up with him from the time he was eight years old isn’t relevant?” She said, “Well, that’s the way it is.” That’s pretty much the way it was for ten years, or up to now. They just don’t want the truth. If it’s nice and good and fluffy and moral, they don’t want that.

MP: Were there any reporters who you thought did a better job?

PL: Yes. There were some. I said that and I made a generalization, which is wrong. You shouldn’t do that. There were some good ones. David Marinas, I thought, on balance did a pretty good job in his book. I think he went beyond, but I think the publishers made him do it in a couple things that he did, because they want the same things the reporters want. I think that Bill Nichols, from *USA Today*—wonderful guy. Wonderful guy. What he told you and what you told him was a pact, and it was honest. He reported it that way. The guy, my very first interview, was with a guy from CNN, a Jewish fellow. Wonderful guy. I’m so upset I can’t remember his name. He was another good, honest person. But I didn’t meet very many. There were a few others, but I just can’t recall their names right now.

MP: You went to New York for the Democratic National Convention. Can you describe your experience?

PL: It was really fun because there was a lot of celebration, and the people from New York embraced the people from Arkansas. It was really neat. People were very nice. I dispelled that awful rumor that New Yorkers are mean, vicious people and

all that. Bill and I went jogging in Central Park one afternoon with an entourage of a billion people and it was a wonderful experience. Except, at the end of the jog, this fellow came up to shake hands with him and he had a fetus in his hand, and Bill didn't know it. One of those gross people. You can't get away from semi-insanity, you know.

MP: How did he respond to the fetus?

PL: Well, he just had this horrified look on his face, like "How could you do that? What are you doing with a fetus if you believe in it so much?" I'm not sure it really, really, really was one, but he said it was, the guy who played the trick on Bill. So, there were a few things like that, but on the whole, it was really magical. I did a lot of interviews. I did interviews in major markets all over the country and really got a lot of experience. I really sort of enjoyed it. It was very tough to have a microphone here and here and not be able to see who you were talking to, looking into a camera. A lot of it was that sort of thing. But then, I also did a lot of personal interviews. I did a wonderful thing with C-Span that they played a bunch during the convention. Steve Scully from C-Span said that they had more response to that interview than they had ever seen, and it was a compliment. I just rambled about Bill. People want to get inside and know a person, so people enjoyed that. I had a wonderful experience. Chicago wasn't quite as neat, but it was still good.

MP: You say you went jogging with Bill Clinton. That's one of the big images of Bill Clinton from the 1992 campaign. He's always portrayed as sort of an inept jogger. Do you think that was fair?

PL: I don't think it fair to relate anyone who jogs as inept at doing it. Everyone is sort of doing at their own level. My wife runs marathons. That's something she wants to do and loves it and all that. I thought he was a pretty damned good jogger because I could not beat him. We always had this thing when we played Hearts, Canasta, when we were kids, Monopoly. No matter what we play, even when we played miniature golf when he was governor, it was one guy wanting to beat another. It's just innate in us to have a competitive thing.

MP: Who was the better miniature golfer?

PL: He was. I beat him now and then, but it really pissed him off. He was a little better than I was. Now, he'd be a lot better than me because he plays all the time and I don't play at all. When we were jogging in New York, he was getting in pretty good shape by then, and I just couldn't keep up with him.

MP: During the regular campaign against George Bush—George senior—did you play a role in the campaign?

PL: All I did was—that was the first one—when I saw it being unfair, whenever it was piling on with Gennifer and all that junk, I just swung into action and tried to tell as many people as I could about who I think he really is.

MP: Did the campaign headquarters line up these interviews for you?

PL: At first, the campaign, I have to officially say, never asked me to do anything. Until they realized how good I was at it. Bill never asked me for help. Ever. He would never have said, "Come and help me in New Hampshire." I wanted to. We all wanted to. At first, the press finds you if you're a friend of the guy who's going to be president. They find you. So, they found us. Then, one guy reads an

article by another guy. They find you, and so on and so forth. I had done a lot of interviews before I went to New Hampshire, starting early in 1991. With CNN, that was the first interview. Matthew Saul. Matthew Saul! Hey, it came back to me! Wonderful guy. Wonderful guy. He's not with them anymore. Then, I went to New Hampshire on my own. No one asked me to go. Did all that work, and the night before the campaign, I flew out the day of the election in New Hampshire. I mean drove out! Flew out? Ha! My three and a half day drive by myself. The campaign, Will [David] Wilhelm and those guys came up and said, "Thank you." It made me feel so good because I think my little motivational speech to the campaign people early in that week had an effect. Because then they had something to put their teeth into, they sort of knew this guy better than they had and sort of believed in him more.

MP: One thing I've read, and maybe you'll disagree with this, is that early on there was quite a bit of friction in the campaign between the national political advisors and the Arkansans.

PL: I didn't see that, but I wasn't in a place to see that. I stayed away from all of that junk. But I'm sure there probably was. You had strong personalities there. You know, you had all those guys—you know who I'm talking about—from Louisiana . . .

MP: Carville?

PL: Carville, Migalla, and George. When Stephanopoulos joined the campaign—and I mean this was at the very first—Bill hired him. He came in there and his eyes were like this, and he didn't know from Adam. I walked up to him and said,

“George, let me tell you something. Bill Clinton is not trying to get his name out for 1996. Bill Clinton will be the next president. So, don’t take this job expecting just to play around and get his name out.” He looked at me like I was crazy.

Then, about two weeks before the election, he came up to me at the campaign headquarters and said, “How did you know?” I said, “George! If you grow up with Bill Clinton, you know.” Officially, I have to say this, but I am very disappointed in George in what he ended up doing to his “friend” and the guy who made him what he was. Very disappointed.

MP: You say that you knew that Clinton was destined to be president, and that you knew he was taking 1992 seriously. Was there a moment when you knew for sure that he was going to beat George Bush?

PL: I’m telling you, and people don’t believe me, but when he announced, here in Arkansas, that he was running for president, I looked at my wife and said, “It’s over. No one knows it yet, but when he gets to New Hampshire and he takes the lead and people see the kind of prowess he has campaigning and communicating, they’re going to go after him. But he’s going to win this thing.” Ask Carolyn Staley. She had the same attitude about him. You just know him.

MP: During the summer and early fall of 1992, did you have any conversations with President Clinton in which he talked about, “I’m really going to be elected president?”

PL: Oh, no. I didn’t talk to him very much. He was so busy. I saw him in the campaign headquarters just flashing by. He was so busy then. I bet I saw him personally maybe four or five times that whole year. I saw him in New

Hampshire, before I drove out. I saw him a few other times. Of course, at the Democratic Convention. He wasn't even here, he was all over the world.

[End of Tape 1, Side 1]

[Beginning of Tape 1, Side 2]

MP: Did you go up to the Old State House on election night?

PL: Oh, absolutely. I wouldn't have missed that for the world. That was an interesting evening as well. First of all, I was supposed to do an interview with C-Span that night. We were staying in what used to be called the Camelot Hotel, and the Excelsior was just a block down the street. The crowds were so huge that I left an hour—this was a block—before my interview and I never made it there. I could not get there for my interview. The people were packed so tight that my young son—how old was he?—about four years old or something. I had to pick him up. He was so scared because people were so compacted. It was incredible. I didn't see him that day. He was out of the state. Of course he was in a [unintelligible] two hour deal, and I had made these buttons, called “Billy Clinton for President; Paul Leopoulos Endorsement” buttons [laughs] and it had a picture of us when we were ten years old on there. It was really a neat button. I just gave those, not to everyone, but my favorite people in the campaign whom I knew worked their butts off. One of them was at the airport when Bill got here. He saw the buttons on several of them, and he said, “Oh man! I want one of those.” They offered him one, then he said, “No, I'll get it from David.” He didn't get it. I didn't see him all day. He came out to give his speech. We're standing out in front and it's freezing cold. We're standing on top of these shrubs in front of the

Old State House. We listen to his speech. It's chaos. You have to understand. That night was chaos. His close friends couldn't get close to him because security wasn't set up right. So, we kind of waited for the crowd to disperse after his speech. It finally dispersed, and there was hardly anyone out there. We started walking back to our hotel across that lawn, and this door opens inside the old statehouse, and someone yells out, "Is David Leopoulos out here?" I can't believe, I still can't believe it to this day. I mean, I wouldn't have been there. What are the odds? So, our little group went inside there. I haven't seen him yet, and he's, what? President-elect. I hadn't seen him and didn't, didn't. He came out and they had us in this little room. He still had his big coat on, and I'll never forget it. Goosebumps just went all over me. It was different. He is now a very different person as far as who he is. Not who he is, but what he is. He walked up to me and gave me this big, old hug. Everyone in the room was crying. It was just a wonderful moment. He whispered in my ear, "Where's my button?" I'd kept my button in my pocket, had it waiting for him, and I pulled it out and he put it on his coat. I was so tickled.

MP: Was it hard going from calling him "Bill" to "Mr. President?" Or did you?

PL: I was very proud to do that. It wasn't hard at all. It wasn't hard at all. He deserved that respect. But there were times when it was Bill, but only when we're by ourselves, totally by ourselves. When we were out jogging in Washington or up in the Oval Office or wherever we were, playing Hearts up in the third floor of the White House, he didn't want me to call him Mr. President. I don't think he did. [Laughs]

MP: Did you see him much between the election and his inauguration?

PL: Oh, yes. He was home picking out his cabinet and doing all those things. You know, he had his planning staff here in Little Rock. In fact, we were having a party, I guess it was a New Year's or Christmas party, one of those, and he came over. He was a little late getting there, but he wasn't about to miss it because he'd never missed one of them. Even being president he wasn't going to miss it. He was telling us who he'd picked for different things, you know, how excited he was, why they'd picked them. It was a wonderful time. In fact, the day after the election was a magical moment too. He came down to Carolyn Staley's house the next morning. We'd all been up until about three in the morning at the party at the Camelot where he was, and Hillary and Virginia and everyone, all of our old friends. We decided that we'd have breakfast the next morning at Carolyn's house. He said, "Sure, we'll be over." Well, we were watching the news and he tried to get out of the governor's mansion and walk to Carolyn's house, which he used to do. He was swarmed by people and the press, so he had to get in his car to get to Carolyn's house. By the time they got to Carolyn's house, which is just a couple of blocks, maybe five or six blocks, the press had lined up across the street from Carolyn's house. When Bill got there and got out of the car, of course, the cameras were going nuts and then he was walking up the steps. My two youngest kids Nicholas and Thea went running out to meet him. They were the only ones who went out there. He hugged them. He picked them both up, and he turned to the national press, and they all took those pictures. Then, as he was leaving, we all went out there. It was a bunch of his Georgetown roommates and

friends—Hot Springs friends—we were all there at this brunch that we had. We all went outside and we took this picture, a very famous picture that an *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* reporter took. It was in *Newsweek* and a trillion newspapers all across the country.

MP: On the steps? And Virginia is there?

PL: She's laughing. Jerry Staley, Carolyn's husband, was taking a picture of all of us, and they took a picture of him taking a picture of all of us.

MP: And you're right over Clinton's shoulder?

PL: Yes. It was a wonderful picture.

MP: Do you remember what you talked about during the . . .

PL: We were joking during that. Bill was doing what he normally does, talking about what happened. Why he won, you know, and all this. He tried to tell us "Oh, it won't be any different. We'll be able to see each other and stuff. We're going to have a lot of fun and work out butts off." He was like Knute Rockne, you know. He was fired up and ready to go. Our kids came in there. He picked them up and put them on his lap. He was just Bill that day. He didn't want to be, you know, he wasn't yet really—when he left, we actually allowed one reporter to come in and write about it, and that was David Marinas. At that point in time, we trusted him and felt that he would do a fair and honest representation. And I think he probably did about that. That was a neat day. People couldn't believe the president would go and see his old friends. "What?"

MP: When he was recapping the election, do you remember what he said won it for him?

PL: I think everyone knows that George Bush relied on the war. He thought that fighting a war that, of course, we're going to win. Duh. It was decided as soon as we decided to fight it, that we were going to win it. That popularity is shallow-lived I think, and I believe he knew that. The economy and everything else, they just did what the public wanted. Bill had what the public wanted and George Bush didn't. It really wasn't very complicated.

MP: Did you go to [Washington] D.C. for the inauguration?

PL: That's another hilarious story. We drove up there. We're not big money people, so we can't afford \$3000 in plane tickets, and thousands of dollars in gowns and tickets and such. Although we were afforded tickets free to get into a lot of the stuff because we were close to him, that's just how they do things. That was pretty much paid for. But our room and our trip and everything—we had to do it. We drove and “Larry King Live” I believe—Was it Larry King? No, it was—Oh, my gosh! I am so embarrassed. “20/20” or one of those covered us. They covered us. They covered us packing for the trip and doing it and getting to Washington and going to the events. They played it inauguration night, and they were at the Arkansas Ball and they interviewed us live while he was talking. It was a real magical, neat thing. We were like the Clampetts come from Arkansas, a little bit. We did some funny stuff. We got lost in Washington. We didn't close the door on our U-Haul thing that we packed on our van, and we drove off. It was just hilarious.

MP: Was all of this caught on tape?

PL: Yes. Then I jogged with Bill inauguration morning. I met him at about 6:00 at that house, Blair House. Is that what it's called?

MP: Yes.

PL: Yes. We jogged together and there were some other friends of his from Georgetown and they jogged with us. It was freezing cold that morning. I had a microphone on. It was a lot of fun.

MP: One story I heard from Taylor Branch is that he'd been up all night with Clinton going over his inauguration speech and that Clinton never went to bed. The inauguration ball had come, and Taylor Branch said, "He's ready to go to sleep." And he looked over and saw President Clinton as fresh as ever.

PL: That's him. He's been doing that ever since we were in high school. When he needs to, he can stay up a couple of days. I wouldn't be able to sleep if I'd just been elected president. How would you do that? You might lay down, but you wouldn't sleep. He just stayed up and used that time wisely. He must have slept a little. Maybe not. I got there at 4:30 to meet him. We were supposed to go out at 5:30.

MP: In the morning?

PL: In the morning. He didn't get out there until 6:00 or 6:15. Either he was working on his speech or he caught an— He's the kind of guy who can sleep on demand. He can say, "I'm going to sleep for thirty minutes." and wake up and [snapping fingers] then go on.

MP: When was the first time you talked to him after the inauguration?

PL: That's hilarious too. It was a Sunday morning, and my whole family was sitting there in my living room doing stuff. The phone rings. I answered and he said, "Dave, it's Bill." I said, "Hey, how are you doing?" He said, "Guess where I am?" I said, "I don't know." He said, "I'm in Air Force One and we're over Arkansas." He was on his way to California for some thing. He was so mesmerized. That was the first time he'd flown in Air Force One. He was just blown away. He said, "It's got a full kitchen." I said, "That's the first thing I would imagine you'd notice." He laughed and we talked a little while. We had a good time. Not long after that, I went to Washington for my first trip up there. That was the first time I stayed in the Lincoln Bedroom. I had a few hilarious moments there.

MP: What were they?

PL: Again, the Clampetts go to Washington again. The first time I went up there, Hillary and Chelsea were gone on a trip somewhere, and Bill was busy that day. I was working with the Greeks up there, talking with and learning stuff about the Greeks, Greek issues and things. I got a note on my pillow in my bedroom there, the Lincoln Bedroom. I can't believe I can say that. It said, "The president would like to take you out to dinner tonight." He'd never been out to eat before. He'd always eaten in the White House as president. I thought that was neat. So, it was 7:30 and I went down there. We met and got out to the limousine and were motorcaded over to—I think it's called The Peasant restaurant or The Pheasant—one of those two. It's a popular place there in D.C. We ate there and that friend of his from Fayetteville who died of cancer was there.

MP: Diane Blair?

PL: Diane. I hadn't seen her in a while. She just loved Thaddeus, my oldest son who had volunteered that summer in the campaign. She was there and Janet Reno was there. Bill was going to interview her the next day or had interviewed her that morning, or whatever, for attorney general. We all had dinner. It was surreal. He talked about my family almost the whole time. Janet Reno asked a bunch of questions about Linda and my kids. Diane talked about how great Thaddeus was, what a good volunteer he was. It was just really neat. It was all focused on me! I'm going, "Wait a minute!"

MP: I've heard that presidents go out to dinner. What are the mechanics?

PL: It seemed simple. When we got in the limousine and left the White House and "bzzzt" there you are. There's no red lights, of course. [Laughter] When we got out, there were secret service agents about every twenty feet down the sidewalk. There was no one around. No one on the street, no one on the sidewalk. This was downtown Washington. We went in the side door and there were about three sections of the restaurant. In the last section, there were about three or four tables that were empty, so they'd cleared that last section. Everyone else was still doing their thing. So, when he came in, there was a bunch of clapping and stuff. It was really neat to watch all that. We just went and sat down to eat. It was really simple. Probably it wasn't simple. I'm sure it took a lot to get all that done. Later that evening we went back, and we went up to what's called the solarium, which is this glassed in room. It's just gorgeous. You can see the Washington Monument and the Jefferson Monument and so on. The whole deal. There's a

couple of couches and a nice dining room table. It's a small room but it's very homey. That's where we ate a lot. That's where we would eat. They had their own dining room but when guests were there, they'd come up and eat there. We'd go up there and play cards. He said, "I've got this meeting, and it's going to run a little late." This was about 10:30 or 11:00 o'clock. He said, "If it's not too late, I'll come get you." Which meant, "If it's before 3:00 o'clock in the morning . . ." So, I went ahead, but we were right outside his living quarters. On that second floor of the White House, his living quarters were at one end and the Lincoln Bedroom was at the other end. There was the little kitchen, and he took me in there and showed me where the milk was and the bananas and peanut butter. We love to make peanut butter and banana sandwiches. That's what we eat when we're together. He said, "Just come in here anytime during the night, because you can't go anywhere else. You can't go down to the main part of the White House when it's closed." So, about 2:00 o'clock in the morning, I get up. I had this old raggedy t-shirt and these jams, sort of like shorts, but they're real colorful and not in too good of shape. I'm thinking, "It's two o'clock in the morning." So, I'm walking down the hall and all of a sudden I hear these voices, and I look up and remember seeing the president, Vice-President Gore, Sam Nunn and several senators sitting down there on the couches right outside of his living quarters. I heard the word "Russia," and I thought, "Oh my God!" I just didn't hear them. I was half asleep. I was halfway down the hall, and Bill sees me. And here's this Thing, this idiot friend of his, and he looked and started smiling and he says, "Come on down!" He was going to introduce me to these people. I

said, “No, no, no.” I turned around and went back to my room. He didn’t care.

You know, he was going to introduce me. I could have gone in there and gotten a banana and gone back to my room. I just couldn’t do it. I just couldn’t do it dressed like that. They were all in suits.

MP: How many times did you visit the White House?

PL: I didn’t count. I probably stayed there seven or eight times. We went up one time for our high school reunion. We had our celebration up there.

MP: You had the high school reunion there?

PL: The high school. Well, they had two things. They had a deal in Hot Springs where the high school is, which he came to. Then, a little later in the year, he had everybody up to the White House. That was a neat trip. Our family drove up [laughs] again, and we stayed in the White House. The day that we got there, the butlers rushed us in and said, “Quick!”—because we were just in old clothes—“The president wants you to meet Mandela.” Mr. Mandela was in—President Mandela—whatever his title was—was there visiting, and was having a press conference with him. They wanted us to come to the press conference. We got dressed real quickly and ran down there and met President Mandela. We have a really nice picture of him introducing him to us. What a wonderful, gracious man he is. We went up there for that trip. We went up there again when my wife ran the Boston Marathon in 1996. We stayed there. Two days before the Boston Marathon, he and Linda ran together out at this military base. She could have kicked his butt, but she didn’t. She stayed right there with him. He was so excited for her trip. In fact, the Boston committee sent him these very special

stamps and things in this leather bound—it's about the Boston Marathon. About a month after the marathon, we got this package in the mail. And it said, "Here, Linda. You're the one who ran the Boston Marathon. You deserve this." So we have this beautiful, leather-bound collector's item.

MP: Did you talk to him about the death of his mother?

PL: Yes. I spent that whole week with him. When she died, I went to Hot Springs and met him there. We stayed—I forget if I drove back and forth, or what—but I was there every night. He was there. Bill is not the kind of person to just sit here and unload all of his feelings and all these things. He just doesn't do that. But, we had enough conversation. I could have a better one now that I've been through what I've been through in my life, but I wasn't able to really give him a lot of knowledge about "What now?" You know?

MP: Yes.

PL: But he knew her suffering. He knew that she had blood transfusion after blood transfusion and all that she went through just to stay alive, and she finally succumbed to it. He knew what a gutsy person she was, and I know he was pleased with what she was able to see and experience before she died. I think he would have been real upset if she hadn't seen him do what she wanted him to do, which was to excel at politics and do well. He was okay. He was sad, and everyone thought, "Oh, he's going to fall apart because that was his mom." But that's not true. Yes, he missed and loved her and was upset from that perspective, but she taught him well. I know he said, "She's here with me. She wants me to do this, and I'm going to do it."

[Door opening]

Woman's voice: I'm sorry.

MP: Did you have this reserved at 6:00?

Woman's voice: At 6:00.

MP: They told me we might have to find a different room.

[Recording pause]

MP: Did you talk to President Clinton in his last few months in office about what his expectations were for his post-presidency?

PL: You know, I did. I was up there, oh gosh, about the time — it was in the fall of last year. A lot of reporters had asked me during the last half, the last part of his last term what I thought he would do when he was out of office. There was never any doubt in my mind that he would still try to help people. I told everyone, “He’s the kind of guy who cares about people. He’s not just acting like it to be president. He cares and he’ll do it the rest of his life.” Sure enough, that’s what he’s been doing. He’s been raising money all over the world for starving kids, and kids with no water. All kinds of circumstances. Even though I believe that in the depths of my heart, when we were together that last time up there—we were in the little solarium there in the White House. We were getting ready to play some games, and I said, “They’re asking me what you’re going to do when you get out.” He said, “I’m not going to throw it down. I’m going to do what I’m doing now. I’m going to find the issues out there that need to be worked on. If I can work on them, I will. If I can’t, then I won’t be able to.” He said, “I’ve got to start making some money.” [Laughs] He’s going to work on that and build his

library. His library is very, very important to him. That's where he can continue educating the young people about the good side of politics and the good side of working for people and making a difference in the world and those kinds of issues.

MP: We skipped over the period of his governorship.

PL: Okay.

MP: Do you mind if we head back and talk about his governorship?

PL: We can. I was not around for the first one, I don't think. There's been so many years [laughs]—just pick one. But, we spent most of our time at lunches, celebrating holidays and those kinds of things. Hillary and he had their sort of everyday friends who, you know, they did stuff with. I'd go to some events, but not very many.

MP: He came close to running for president in 1988.

PL: I was a little disappointed that he didn't. But, I'm glad he didn't.

MP: Did he talk to you about running for president?

PL: Actually, he didn't talk to me on that first one in 1988. That was just totally his thing. In 1992, that was a different thing. He and Hillary came to Carolyn's house, and sat all of us down, his close, close, close friends, his old friends. He said, "If we were to run for president, what would your issues be? What would you want us to do?"

MP: What did you tell him?

PL: All that stuff. I was having problems with health care—extensive health care. The challenges of retirement, and switching—although I didn't have that issue,

but somebody else did—switching over to one retirement deal from another.

Another was education, that the schools were all shabby. It was probably stuff that he already knew. He just wanted to hear it out of our mouths—sort of gauge maybe what he was believing. If he believed what we believed, maybe he felt more confident.

MP: Who was at the house?

PL: It was Glenda Cooper, Carolyn and Jerry Staley, it was their house; Linda and myself, and John Newman. Hillary and Bill. And I believe one of the Staley kids. It wasn't that large a group, it was rather small. We talked for a couple of hours. We talked and said, "Why is that an issue?" He tried to get a lot out of us on what the specifics were about those issues. I [unintelligible] impressed with that, but, "Hmm. I think he really is going to run this time." This was before he announced.

MP: Did you think he was going to run in 1988?

PL: No. I heard it one day. Who did I hear it from? There were a few rumors and things. I'd hoped he would, because I was ready because I knew if he ran for president that he was going to win. When he announced, you know, I didn't feel that good about it, when I finally realized that he really is [unintelligible]. I mean, when he—it seemed like he was serious about it, but between that time and when he announced he wasn't going to run, I was starting to say, "Well, I think it's too soon. I think he needs a couple more years of maturity."

MP: I think I read someplace—and correct me if I’m wrong—that after he announced that he wasn’t going to run, he met with a group of friends over at Carolyn Staley’s house. Were you a part of that?

PL: Oh, yes, I was. You know, I’d totally lost that. I don’t remember everything that happened, but I remember sort of saying, “You know, it really would have been neat.” He said, “It’s just not time. It’s just not time.” He really didn’t give any reasons why, but I really think he was worried about Chelsea being too young. He would shelter Chelsea whenever he possibly could. To a friend’s house—he wasn’t supposed to, but he’d get in the car, the police car that they had in the mansion there, and take her to things, and try to be as much of a father figure on all kinds of things. You know, that politician’s [unintelligible]. I think that deep down he thought, “You know, another couple of years isn’t going to hurt me.”

MP: You know David Marinas has suggested that the reason that he didn’t run is that Betsy Wright confronted him with a list of women with whom he’d had relationships, and that’s why he decided not to run.

PL: I’ve heard that, but I don’t know. I just don’t know. Back in those days, I would have bet everything I owned if he’d never had a problem like that. If that was the case, I guess, logic would say, “So why run in 1992?”

MP: Yes [laughs].

PL: I was never in a position with him, and we’d been out at times at night for one thing and another. I’ve never seen him flirt with a woman. I’ve never seen him go, “Oh, wait a minute.” So either I’m totally blind or whatever. I think all these things that were manufactured here in Arkansas, I would have to have total proof

before I believed most of it. The Jennifer—I mean, the other one in Washington, you know?

MP: Did he ever talk to you during the Monica Lewinsky ?

PL: Well, he didn't come to me for advice. I talked to him. I called him one day, and I said, "I'm very upset about this and I'm very disappointed. It really hurt, because I've defended your character. And I would defend your character when it comes to never taking advantage of your office for financial or any other reason that I would really be mad about." It's bad enough not being loyal to Hillary as he wasn't in that situation, but he did not—plenty of other presidents, in my estimation, have done this, and they did not have to pay that price. And people knew they were doing it. They changed all the rules for this president. It didn't make it right, it did not make it right. I still have this little hole in my heart about that. But, I still know who he is, but if he isn't above sin, I'm not going to judge him. I think he's cleaned his act up. I think he's fixing those problems. All the other capacity that he has and had, and all he's done for people in life and will do, is incredible. And that doesn't [unintelligible]. That's how I feel about it. I think all of his friends who know him are disappointed in what he did making that wrong decision, or those—if he did it another time or two. I don't know. All I know, if you read this book that is out, *Blinded by the Right*, you really understand that a lot of this stuff is set up. So, what do you believe? What do you believe? And all those people who were putting him down for doing what he was doing, and they were doing it at the exact same time. Gingrich, walked out

on his wife while his wife had cancer, and all these other people. The [unintelligible] Gingriches [unintelligible] found out in a real hurry.

MP: [unintelligible]

PL: I mean, please. If those guys had been investigated like Bill was, they'd be in jail probably. All these things can get all mixed up. All I know is that he made a wrong decision, and he paid a hell of a price for it. It's a good lesson for people to learn. But he did not perjure himself as president with the things that he was doing as president. He did not steal money. He did not do the kinds of things that I would want him totally impeached about. If you're going to impeach one president for having a moral problem in life, then all of them should be impeached. Take them all out of the history books. Let's take Eisenhower, all the rest of them, Kennedy, all of them. If we're going to play that game, let's be complete about it.

MP: There's one other thing I want to ask you about and that is how President Clinton dealt with his brother's drug problem?

PL: He will never talk to anyone. You can talk to Caroline Clarey, you can talk to his local friends, and none of us have ever talked. He will not come to you and say, "Man, I've got this problem with my brother, and you've got to help me through this." They're a close family who solve their own problems. What he did was he let the state police pick him up and put him in jail and convict him, because he knew that him fixing this for him wouldn't make him any better. He wouldn't do that anyway, because that's illegal. Then they sought family counseling through a professional. They did it, and they did the best they could. I was proud of him

for not rescuing Roger, and I was very proud of him for the awful pain he put himself through and his brother through for the love of his brother. It took a lot of guts. Not a lot of people would have done that. I'm proud of him for being honest since he's been in office and not being a multimillionaire because he's a politician. That shows an honesty. That's another thing the press wants to accentuate. They want him to look like this awful, immoral, unethical person. Yes, he was immoral when he made that decision, but as for his office, I don't think so.

MP: Is there anything I haven't asked you about that you'd like to talk about?

PL: Well, his hours out of the limelight would have been a good question. I've told this to *Time*; I've told this to the Associated Press; to *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*. I've told this to CNN, *USA Today*, although they printed some of it because [unintelligible] Nichols is a moral man. I've told this to a lot of people. People thought, "That's not news. So what?" But, every Christmas Eve when we would have our party over at Carolyn Staley's house, every Christmas Eve, Bill would be late because he would sneak out of the governor's mansion, not to have an affair, but to take his daughter Chelsea to deliver "Letters for Santa" to poor people all over Little Rock. We have this thing in town where they'd get these "Letters for Santa" on Channel Four, and kids, poor people would write them. They'd go get several of them. They'd go down to Channel Four—Bill, Hillary and Chelsea. They'd go out and buy the presents. They'd come back and wrap them. They'd go out and buy food, and then they'd deliver it to these people unannounced. The state police didn't go with them. They'd just do it by

themselves. Then he'd come to that party and his face would be so bright. His face would be lit up about the experience of the people he'd met and how tickled they were. "The Governor came!" Not that, but just that someone cared about them. He would never tell the press about it. He would never tell anyone about that. One of his friends got divorced. I'm sure a lot of his friends have been divorced, but one of his friends told me, "You know what? He called me once a week for two years just to check on me." This is just a guy, just a middle class guy, who is not some big corporate president to give him \$100,000. Just a friend.

MP: Do you want to share the friend's name?

PL: I don't remember his name. This was one of the Georgetown people. He was there for me when my mom was killed. She had been murdered. I was in Italy. He found me where I was. He was at Oxford at the time. I was pretty much out of my mind, and he brought me down to earth. He was there when my daughter was killed just recently. He was the first person to call me that day. He stopped a trip to go to Tokyo and came to Arkansas. Hillary joined him. He does this all the time. I was just at a funeral last week. A lawyer friend of his—Bobby Hargraves, from Hot Springs. He ran his campaign from Garland County against Hammerschmidt, where he lost [unintelligible]. Bobby died of a heart attack at our age, fifty-five. Bill delayed a trip to come down and give a wonderful speech. He didn't have to come to that. He could have written a nice letter and da da da. He is a loyal person who stands by his friends. My little twelve year old daughter, no, I guess she was fifteen, had a little heart problem. It wasn't a fatal kind of a problem, but it was scary. He heard about it. We were driving home from a

soccer game one day and he called me in my car and talks to Thea for about a half an hour on the phone. A fifteen year old girl. I mean, “What?” Here’s a guy, the president of the United States, busy as hell, but he has time to care about his friends. And not only his close friends. If he saw you on the street, and you were in trouble, he’d do something about it. When we were jogging one day, and he was president—it’s when they allowed him to jog in downtown D.C. They stopped him because he had two close calls. We were jogging and we’d just gotten past the Capital Building, or back down the steps. We were coming back across this big four lane right in front of the Capital, and there’s this median kind of thing with a bunch of trees. When you go around it, you can’t really see where you’re going. The secret service was in front of us and behind us, but they weren’t beside us. This guy comes around, and he’s headed right for he and I. In the median. He pushes me out of the way. He pushes me out of the way! I said, “What are you doing? You’re the president of the United States!” He looked at me like I was crazy. He couldn’t understand it. That’s who he is. He’d do the same thing for you. He’d push you out of the way. [Unintelligible] and Sheffield Nelson and these other scumbags around here take him [unintelligible] and put him down, to get him out of the election. I was really badmouthing them and everything, and he’d be mad at me for saying that. I’d say, “I can’t wait for you to win the presidency so you can flip it in their face.” He’d say, “David! No, no, no, no. Don’t talk like that. Those people have their own problems. They’re doing that for some awful reason. Don’t be mad at them, and don’t be a mad person, because it doesn’t do you any good. Just forgive them and go on.” That

was a total, a totally intimate conversation by ourselves. That's who he really is. The last conversation I had with him in the White House, we talked about [unintelligible]. I asked him, "What do you think about [unintelligible]?" He said, "I knew it was going to be part of the job. I didn't realize it was going to be that orchestrated against me, and I didn't realize that it was going to be everyone after me. You know, the Supreme Court, everyone lined up." "You can get the president!" He didn't say that about the Supreme Court out to get him, I said that. But, he said, "Hey! If you're going to play in this circle, it's a tough game. I'm not mad at anyone. If I get mad, it will destroy me and I'll be a negative person. I don't want to be like that."

MP: Thank you very much. I've really enjoyed this interview. Thank you for taking some time to share your thoughts and memories of President Clinton.

[End of Interview Session II]

[End of Interview]